

51ST GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
 MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023
 REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	PRESENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	PRESENT
SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. MARK STANDOHAR	PRESENT
THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. JEFFREY KAY	PRESENT
FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. THOMAS GRUMLEY	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MS. LILY MARTUCCIO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. JOHN MOLITERNO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. SAMUEL ZIRAFI	PRESENT

COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF GIRARD TO ENTER INTO THE PY 2023 CHIP PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITIES OF NILES, CORTLAND, AND HUBBARD FOR THE PY 2023 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS (CHIP) WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADD ORDINANCE NO. 51-64 TO THE MAY 22, 2023 AGENDA FOR FIRST READING.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO - 1

ZIRAFI - 2

PASSED 7 YES VOTES

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND KAY TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF MAY 22, 2023 AS AMENDED.

SCHUBERT
 STANDOHAR
 KAY -2
 GRUMLEY - 1
 MARTUCCIO
 MOLITERNO
 ZIRAFI
 PASSED 7 YES VOTES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND MARTUCCIO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
 MAY 8, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
 STANDOHAR - ABSTAIN
 KAY
 GRUMLEY
 MARTUCCIO - 2
 MOLITERNO
 ZIRAFI - 1
 PASSED 6 YES VOTES

CITIZEN COMMENTS

MR. EMERY: My name is Randy Emery, 102 West Liberty
 Street, downtown Girard.

First of all, downtown, over the last how many years
 -- you guys can all attest to it -- probably is not
 really appealing. A couple of things I would like to
 bring to light or find out if we have a plan, Number 1,
 the Wellman Theater plan. If we can get that going or if
 we're still going to do that. Where is the plan? What
 is the plan? How much are we spending? How are we
 spending?

Number 2, I'd like to see if somehow, somehow, you
 can get the downtown merchants energized a little bit by
 maybe fixing up some facades down there. And I know
 years ago we had grants that we were able to make
 improvements. So I would like to be able to see if we
 can -- I don't know if you can earmark funds. I don't
 know how it all works, but I'm sure you guys do. You
 know, for some of the camera money or somehow, the rescue
 plan money, percentages down the road where maybe you
 guys -- we apply for matching grants from the city and
 the tenant or the owner of the building matches the
 money. That's kind of the way that other grant went.

So I'm just here to say that, you know, we got to do

something about downtown. We can't wait eight months. We can't wait 15, 20 years, you know? And I know we point fingers at certain people who have done certain things and gotten away with zoning and gotten away with a lot of things.

All I know is that in 2014 I invested a lot of money into that building that I'm in. And I've worked as much as somebody living in Squaw Creek or wherever, you know? If not more. So I'm here to say that I'm not a rich guy. I had a good job, socked away some money and I've invested it in downtown. And I hope that -- not just me but I've got friends down there and other tenants and other owners and let's do something. Let's get something down. Let's start the process. So that's the main thing I want to say.

A couple other housekeeping things: I want to thank you for placing minutes on the website. I don't know who does it. I haven't been able to get here. I take care of my dad and I got all kinds of excuses and I fish a lot, too. But to me that's a lifeline to see what the hell is going on down here. And I've actually enjoyed -- you know, I don't know how many people read them but I've enjoyed being able to follow that to see what is going on. And I was shocked to see the surplus we had. I mean, it blew me away to see the surplus we had and the downtown the way that we have it. It just doesn't add up.

So I'm just hear to shine a little light on downtown to see if we can get some money reinvested. I know we got the project over there with the Ohio Leatherworks. What's the plan? That's all I want to know. Thank you.

MR. PAOLONE: Randy, thank you. Jimmy, go ahead.

MAYOR MELFI: A little information, Randy, I was going to share with council and I may as well share it right now is that tomorrow I will be on a Zoom call with CT Consultants out of Cleveland. And it's specifically about the Wellman Theater. As I have mentioned to council in the past is that the cities along the Mahoning River are in line to be able to garner considerable monies for downtown infrastructure. Believe it or not theaters and bike trails, which that's been our plan, although there is not funding in place at this moment for any of that. But the Appalachian Regional Grant is going to enrich a lot of communities in this area. Obviously you have to be in the Appalachian counties, which we are, and we know nothing yet on specifics. We know nothing. We don't know the amount that our city will get as compared to anybody else. But we will have an idea tomorrow of the direction, at least on Wellman, and the possible fundings for Wellman and with that grant in

mind. So it's in the pipeline. It's coming down. No one knows anything as far as the amounts yet.

As far as downtown, we worked hard in 2017. Was it 2017 that downtown revitalization grant? About a million dollars. Difficult grant to obtain. We even had to expand the footprint, if you remember, to make sure that we can secure it. We stretched it out to Second Street and beyond to Smithsonian. But it still gets down to -- and I share your pain. I'm a small businessman for 41 years. I understand it as well as anybody. I cut my own lawn over there. It's difficult -- small business today is very difficult. What enticements you use and where you get those funds to do that -- the funds that you -- the city is in great financial shape. Every fund is in the black. But there is not a pot of gold there. And there is specific uses for those monies and there are restricted funds as well.

But tomorrow I'll know a little bit more about the Wellman and possible funding sources, hopefully after this meeting. But that's all, at least I can offer at this time, from a financial standpoint.

MR. PAOLONE: Randy, and I would hope you stay involved. You're a doer.

MR. EMERY: I am not going to sit around and watch stuff go down the Mahoning River.

MR. PAOLONE: I understand. I appreciate you coming. Lily?

MS. MARTUCCIO: If I can add, too, to the mayor's comment, Julie Green and I, when we had that downtown community improvement grant, we knocked on every business door near and far that the scope covered and we got a lot more resistance than we did acceptance. Because when you get those grants you have to use who they want you to use and people had a problem with that. So they were many -- a few -- there were things done. We did end up using -- I think we did end up using most of the money. But it was a summer of pulling teeth to try and get people to use that for a door, on anything. And we were pleading with these people. So I just wanted to add that that yes we would love -- if we had that opportunity to do it again, I would knock on every door again.

MR. EMERY: The only thing I want to say is, a lot of the negativity around that, initially, was the fact that we had to come up with ourselves five, 10, 15, \$20,000.00, which a lot of businesses don't have that laying around to invest. So I can see that right away, we're going to give you a \$40,000.00 roof but you're going to pay \$20,000.00 for it. But that's not real attractive. You know what I'm saying? It's attractive if you have money set aside.

MR. PAOLONE: Anyone else? Sonny, name and address, please.

MR. PETRARCA: My name is Sonny Dominic Petrarca. I live at 316 East Kline Street, Girard. I have been here my entire life. I never thought I would find myself facing this committee. My wife and I live at 316 East Kline Street and our next-door neighbor is running a trash business there. I'm tired of it. I have had enough. He's done that ever since he's moved here about a year and a half ago and it has continued. He was brought into court already. People have allegedly been going there to straighten this out. It has not stopped anything.

I've got a fence between my house and his house and I've got critters coming out of that backyard of his where he's got lumber sitting around, rotten material sitting around and a garage full of junk. I'm tired of it. Something needs to be done. I don't care who does it. Somebody has to get off their keister, get out there and get that done.

The last time I was in here was about five months or six months ago and we sat down in here with the judge. They allegedly put a probation officer on this individual. It's never ever had any impact on this guy. I am worn out. People in here that I've talked to over that period of time know what I'm talking about. Something has to get done. That's all I have. I'm sure my wife has something to say.

MR. PAOLONE: Thank you. Fran, name and address.

MS. WILSON: Fran Wilson, 117 Ella Street. I would like to personally thank you, Mr. Emery. I think that he has done so much. He had that building in the very beginning when he took it and he redid it. He started the building. He started to try to help. He put the outside out there when he thought he couldn't use that block for something. He worked around it. He came to the second ward and talked about it. And when someone else took over and they were going to drop it, he took it over again. I don't think he gets as much support from all of us like he should.

And the other thing, I mentioned it before and I'll mention it again. Why we don't have an award for these businesses that do something to recognize them. Maybe if the others in town saw us doing that then they would step forward and try to do something. I've gone past the bank many times and I get very upset that you can't even walk sometimes in the wintertime, the snow is there. Now, who is responsible for that sidewalk? The sidewalks in Girard? I know they are but they are never going to do anything about it.

Now, we're going to see Rite Aid -- pretty quick

we're going to see those flowers blooming on those trees in front of Rite Aid. And I've never seen a little plaque saying, good job here, with the work that they do there. And I know they probably hire someone to do that. When they redid the beauty salon on the corner and brought that corner back to life, that was a great thing. They put a lot of money in there because a lot had to be done in there. Nothing went up to say, here is somebody that did something good.

So I'll ask you once again, when are we going to start recognizing the businesses like his that are doing these things? So the others can be, at least, shamed into looking at them and saying, there you are looking like that. We can't do a lot, I know, because of certain people in town that won't step up but we can sure embarrass them. Thank you.

MR. PAOLONE: Name and address, please.

MS. PETRARCA: Linda Petrarca, 316 East Kline. My husband was just talking about the person next door. And I just want to know, what do we do from here? We have done this for almost a year now. The judge made -- he told him that he has to clean it up. He was under probation. He's still under probation. I think the probation officer came one time. He said, you're doing a good job and then that was it. There is stuff all over the place. We have gone to every person we're supposed to go to, all the way up the chain. I just know -- where do we go from here? What do we do? Somebody please tell me what to do. We have gone to everybody and it still exists.

MR. PAOLONE: Go ahead, Brian.

MR. KREN: As a preliminary matter, I will follow up with the probation department but they are under the hospice of the court. So I can't say how often they go out. But I will follow up tomorrow on that. But any contingent violation would be a new charge that we can bring him back in to court. And I do want to thank you guys for coming because I do know that we have had other neighbors that refused to testify on that because they felt threatened with him. But we can keep hounding and pressing charges and I will follow up with the probation department tomorrow.

MS. PETRARCA: Thank you. Because he literally knows nothing will be done and he just continues to be out there doing it all day long, like, in your face. And I appreciate you following up on that. Thank you.

MR. PAOLONE: Thank you, Linda. Anyone else? Yes, sir. Name and address, please.

MR. PONZIO: Sal Ponzio, 1136 North Ward Avenue. Brian, this question is for you. I asked it before. Any follow

up on what is going on with the water rate increase with the City of Niles and the legal negotiations you're involved with? Can someone please tell us what the end result is going to be? Is it going to double our rates or just a small percentage with Niles? Thank you.

MR. KREN: Well, the administration and I have to arrange a meeting with Niles. If I wasn't tied up in court today I was supposed to call Jerry. I can't tell you what the end result is going to be. The negotiation hasn't occurred yet.

MR. PONZIO: I'm just asking for an update. So that's where it's at? We don't know yet what the outcome is going to be?

MR. KREN: Correct. I know what their position is. But we've expended significant money over the years to purchase water from them based on their own internal ability. I don't want to go too much into the legal part of it. We'll start buying our water elsewhere if need be.

MR. PONZIO: I appreciate that. Thank you.

MR. PAOLONE: Anybody else?

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR JAMES J. MELFI PRESENT
MAYOR MELFI:

Just one item, Mr. Chairman: Had some conversation about an informational sign for the city-owned lot. I just wanted to let council know that we are going to look into pricing and the possibility of doing that. Other than that, that's all I have tonight, Mr. Chairman. Other than -- I'm sorry, one other thing.

The Chip Grant is before you. I would appreciate council to suspend the rules and pass it this evening. It's just a matter of formality. It's the same grant that we have had in place with those communities. I think this is the third round now with those three communities. So I would appreciate council suspending the rules and passing that this evening.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for the mayor?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR JERRY LAMBERT PRESENT
MR. LAMBERT:

The bids for the Keefer Road project are just in and the streets that we're planning on paving this year. We open the bids on June 8 at 11:00 o'clock in the roll call room. So we'll have the prices and everything at the next meeting after that. That's all I have.

6.57 percent. Pending your questions, that concludes my report.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for Mark?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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FIRE CHIEF JAMES PETRUZZI PRESENT

MR. PETRUZZI:

Thank you. Year-to-date total was 921. And the only other thing I have is our inspectors are out and they are making progress for the city-wide fire inspections.

And I would also like to give special mention to Nathan Crank who just graduated from Girard High School. He spent his entire senior year with the department training with us and running calls with us. He's a fine young man and we wish him luck with all his future endeavors. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for chief?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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POLICE CHIEF JOHN NORMAN ABSENT

COMMENTS: No comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

MR. MOLITERNO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Brief Finance Committee meeting tonight with reports from both our auditor and our treasurer. We talked briefly about the ARP money and the dollars we would have available. And I know that Mr. Schubert is putting some pricing together on a number of the projects that we have encumbered dollars for that would be for various activities put together throughout the city, including the splash pad and some other things. It's a little trickier to be able to get a real number for it but Keith is working on it and I'm sure he'll have something for us by our next meeting. That's it.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

MR. KAY:

No report, but I would like to thank one of our local business owners for coming down and sharing his opinion about how he feels we should improve our downtown. So thanks for coming, Randy. That's all.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

MR. SCHUBERT:

No report. I'll do my best to have some accurate pricing on those items that Mr. Moliterno discussed. I would also like to -- I took part in Civics Day this year and it was very nice. I appreciate the school for running that. I think Jason Johnson runs that and I know Mr. Zuppo is involved. It was very nice.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

MR. GRUMLEY:

No report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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STREETS/SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

MR. STANDOHAR:

As the service director stated, bid openings for the street paving program for 2023, the bids will be open on 6-8 of 2023 and he'll get us that information at the meeting following that. As we've discussed at previous meetings, we're certainly not going to be approaching the amount of funds and number of streets that we have done in the last five or six years, certainly, but we will try to do the best we can working with the auditor to find a reasonable amount that we can still get accomplished.

And Jerry, again, the Street Committee feels strongly and I know you said things are going to be a priority, as far as the tar gun, to try to preserve the last five or six years of streets that we have done to try and extend the life of those as long as possible. We appreciate that as well. Thank you.

COMMENTS: No comments.

- - -

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

MR. ZIRAFI:

Two things: At the next meeting at 6:30 I would like to have a caucus with Dennis Meek.

MR. PAOLONE: That's on June 12, Sam?

MR. ZIRAFI: Yes. The first meeting in June.

MR. PAOLONE: That's the 12th.

MR. ZIRAFI: That's correct.

MR. PAOLONE: 6:30?

MR. ZIRAFI: Yes.

MR. PAOLONE: The clerk has noted it.

MR. ZIRAFI: So he'll go over the dam that we're looking at bidding and several other issues that he wants to talk about and get us prepared to do some type of ordinances going forward. Also, I want to ask for an ordinance to bid the upper dam engineering.

MR. PAOLONE: We'll get that under new legislation.

MR. ZIRAFI: Thank you.

COMMENTS: No comments:

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ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

MS. MARTUCCIO:

No report, but I would ask that Mr. and Mrs. Petrarca remain so I can get your phone number.

ORDINANCES

51-62

MOLITERNO

THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A ONE YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE TRUMBULL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE LEGAL DEFENSE FOR INDIGENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.

MR. KREN: I say this every time but because we house the court we have to provide for the public defender. And the total personnel budget for our court is 120,000. So our share is 3,500. But this is a cost that we have to do every year because we house them.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 51-62.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO - 1
ZIRAFI - 2
PASSED 7 YES VOTES

51-64

MOLITERNO

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF GIRARD TO ENTER INTO THE PY 2023 CHIP PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITIES OF NILES, CORTLAND, AND HUBBARD FOR THE PY 2023 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS (CHIP) WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE NO. 51-64.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO - 1
ZIRAFI - 2

PASSED 7 YES VOTES
**MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE
 NO. 51-64.**
 SCHUBERT
 STANDOHAR
 KAY
 GRUMLEY
 MARTUCCIO
 MOLITERNO - 1
 ZIRAFI - 2
 PASSED 7 YES VOTES

NEW LEGISLATION

MR. ZIRAFI: An ordinance authorizing the engineering of
 the upper dam.

**MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION
 AUTHORIZING THE ENGINEERING OF THE UPPER DAM.**
 SCHUBERT
 STANDOHAR
 KAY
 GRUMLEY - 2
 MARTUCCIO
 MOLITERNO
 ZIRAFI - 1
 PASSED 7 YES VOTES

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR
 MEETING OF MAY 22, 2023.**
 SCHUBERT - 2
 STANDOHAR
 KAY
 GRUMLEY
 MARTUCCIO
 MOLITERNO
 ZIRAFI - 1
 PASSED 7 YES VOTES

 REYNALD PAOLONE,
 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

 KELLY HAASE,
 ALTERNATE CLERK OF COUNCIL