

**51st GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022
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. JEFF 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. SAM ZIRAFI	PRESENT

COMMUNICATIONS

President of Council said there was one communication, and it was from council. He said he would yield to Lily regarding this letter. Councilwoman Martuccio said that this was a letter she was wondering if everyone would want to sign to their State Representative, Mike Loychik, asking him about outages that we've had of recent that they've had their president and first ward and the mayor on tv and they even showed the school on that little blurb, but anyhow, they need to start asking questions and getting some answers and so this is a reach out to our State Rep. to see if he has looked in to it and keep us informed whether he has or hasn't. President of Council gave the letter to Cosmo to pass around for everyone to sign and give to Monica to take care of from there.

Councilman Schubert said as they reiterated on the news they would just like some answers and the power did go out again last week. It flickered on and off three or four times and to their point they don't get a straight answer and in today's day and age in his opinion it shouldn't be doing that.

President of Council said reliability and accountability is what they are not getting from them.

Attorney Kren said that the last power outage his cable box failed to reboot and come back on so he had to go through Spectrum and Ohio Edison so he got double whammied. President of Council said he has heard washing machines and computers. They are not going to quit. They are not going to give up.

Councilwoman Martuccio said if anybody has a chance to do a deep dive into House Bill No. 6 which is where First Energy, Larry Householder is being held accountable for, Ohio Edison is a subsidiary of First Energy so July 21st almost two years ago FBI arrested Householder on Federal RICO charges and four other persons in connection with the \$60 million bribery case involving the financial rescue of First Energy's two nuclear plants in Ohio. The Davis Bussie and Perry plants. Martuccio continued, there is a lot of information to be looked at and to be deciphered and she thinks if everybody were to pay attention and at the end of it all she just wants to say that our representatives from this area that did not vote for that bill were Gil Blair, Michelle LePore Hagan, Mike O'Brien and Sean O'Brien. Also, just a couple of facts to keep in mind when they are told oh they're working on it there's no monies this or that keep in mind where the monies are going. Martuccio said like someone says follow the money. The Ohio House of Representatives unanimously removed Larry Householder as a speaker on July 30, 2020. In November of 2020 Householder won reelection to his seat in the Ohio House of Representatives but he was expelled from the House on June 16, 2021. Martuccio said please everyone go out and vote and vote with knowledge. Do your research. Pay attention to what is going on. Vote with the best information you can find. There is a lot more on there so look up House Bill 6 when you can.

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND SCHUBERT TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF JULY 25, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA PASSES 7-0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND SCHUBERT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR Abstain
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 1
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 6-0

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND MARTUCCIO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY Abstain
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 6-0

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR **JAMES MELFI** **PRESENT**
Mayor Melfi said he had just one item. As usual at this time of year by July they start catching up with high grass and you can see that. The grass is slowing down and the warnings are starting to be heard here and there. It is very frustrating meeting with a couple of folks. Justice moves very slowly in the Municipal Court for zoning, a chronic problem throughout the city in various places. It just doesn't move as fast as we'd like in the courtroom but we'll just keep hanging in there. The Mayor said they'll just keep pushing away.

COMMENTS:

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES **JERRY LAMBERT** **PRESENT**
Mr. Lambert said he had a couple of things. They did talk about the parking in downtown. All of the signs are up. Lambert said they have people wanting to know when it is going to be effective. They do have a way that the Police Chief was explaining on how to chalk the tires with their apps, which is amazing. They did talk to the Chiefs and they would like to see them bring in legislation to increase the fees from \$5 to \$30. A \$5 fee they are just going to pay it or throw it away. \$30 they'll at least think twice about it. If they could as for that legislation tonight that would be good. Mr. Lambert said the only other thing is if they could consider bringing in legislation for the no smoking in the park. Lambert said he has copies of legislation that was passed in other communities. He said that is the only two things he has.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Kay said he has gotten several calls from business downtown about the times that they have for the no parking. The one hour parking, the 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the fact that it is one hour and some ladies go in to get their hair done and they are there for two hours. If someone stops at the Black Horse at 5 o'clock to have dinner and they are there for an hour and a half. Kay asked if they are giving tickets on that? He asked why it is going until 8 o'clock at night is his question. Mr. Lambert said they are

following the legislation that was passed at the time. They do follow that stuff. Mr. Lambert said what they are looking for is the people who are habitual parkers down there. There will be leeway for people down there. Café Olgun, Lambert said he talked to him this morning. He was wondering the same thing. Mr. Lambert said if you are in an establishment like that they'll watch it. They are going to see what goes on. They have been watching the cars lately and some of the cars are just sitting there. They will watch that particular part of it. If they have a problem Lambert said they could call him or talk to the Chief and see what is going on.

Attorney Kren said that Jerry stated that that is what the existing ordinance said.

LAW DIRECTOR **BRIAN KREN** **PRESENT**

Attorney Kren said he did speak to Walter Drahne, handles the publishing and he forwarded them the information. Hopefully when council comes back from recess he'll have the quote from them to codify the zoning ordinances.

COMMENTS:

AUDITOR **JULIE COLEMAN** **PRESENT**

No report.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Standohar said that he didn't get a chance to speak with the Auditor regarding 51-31 and the phase II of the street paving. He stated that he heard from the chairman that the Auditor had reupped her support for that 51-31 from a financial standpoint that it would not cause any stress on the City's finances. Do you feel that it can be handled without causing a problem financially? Ms. Coleman replied that it is the same thing that she said at the last meeting. \$400,000 was the budget for this year and there was \$150,000 for the salt barn that is not going to be done that can be used towards the streets. She stated she did also say that part of this is going to have to be used out of those ARP funds but it is not very much. Coleman said she thinks it is a maximum of \$65,000.

Councilman Zirafi asked even with this number she is still going to use ARP money? The new one. \$550,000. Ms. Coleman responded yes. Well a part of it. She stated she didn't think it went down that much money. Coleman asked how much is the second one? Mr. Lambert said if we are going to talk about it now. If you see the legislation, the legislation does have that it has been reduced from \$380,000 and they got it down to \$213,000. The \$213,000 could be even lower by about another \$30-\$40,000 because this price includes two streets that Girard Machine does not want paved. Lambert said that by the time they get started if Girard Machine's job is not done they will put that on next year's and that will reduce the \$213,000 down to about \$180,000-\$170,000 so the most they are going to ask for is \$180,000 worst case scenario. Councilman Zirafi said his concern is he believes that they discussed this before. He is not in favor of using ARP monies for streets. That's one thing. Number 2, in your legislation you have three funds listed and ARP is not one of them. Ms. Coleman said well if it went down from \$380,000, the second, plan b, is what this is only correct? Just \$213,000? They answered in the affirmative. She said if it went down that much money than they would not have to use ARP funds. Zirafi said he just wanted clarification. Councilman Grumley asked if they were going to amend the ordinance before they vote on it to bring it down from \$555,000 to \$213,000. Mr. Lambert said the \$555,000 is for a and b.

TREASURER **MARK ZUPPO** **PRESENT**

Mr. Zuppo said the period 6 distribution report \$2,171,545.45 vs prior year to date \$2,057,810.52.

COMMENTS:

FIRE CHIEF **JAMES PETRUZZI** **PRESENT**

Chief Petruzzi said their total calls to date are 1,155. Their smoke detector program that they have had in place a little over a week now is going pretty well. They have installed approximately 60 detectors so far and he encourages all of our residents to take advantage of this free program.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF **JOHN NORMAN** **ABSENT**

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno stated that they had a good meeting tonight with both the Auditor and Treasurer there answering question. There were some additional questions asked that will be answered at the next finance committee meeting which won't take place until the second Monday in September. They may have a visit from their friends at RITA also which it would be nice to have them there.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

No report. Councilman Kay asked if they had to do any kind of legislation as far as paying Lucia you just need to know where the money is coming from? The Auditor said she needs to know where to pay her from because we'll be here in September. She hasn't been paid yet but should she be paid in August. The Mayor said they had their first meeting last week so its not a problem. Ms. Coleman said she'll get with Lily and discuss it with her. The Mayor said just to touch base very quickly, they met with her last week and had a lengthy meeting about various subjects. The Mayor said it is important to note that the five year anniversary of the death of Justin Leo is upcoming this October and she is working with the Police Chief and the Leo family on that and there were other subjects as well that they discussed so the starting date would be some time last week. That is when she came in and they spent some time together. Councilman Moliterno said just a suggestion at some time maybe the Law Director can do some agreement with Lucia so they have something on record. Whatever date the Mayor puts in is just fine.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

No report.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Grumley said they met this evening. The Police Chief was there and they discussed the parking ordinance. They are trying to work out a plan from there. They are looking into a future meeting about it.

COMMENTS:

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

Councilman Standohar said in light of the discussion regarding 51-31 he would respectfully ask for council's support for that ordinance and to suspend the rules. As Jerry pointed out, that figure is likely to go actually below \$200,000 in the range of approximately \$180-\$190,000. That is not much at all and as the Auditor followed up after Sam's question there will be no ARP funds used.

COMMENTS:

Mr. Lambert said they were waiting for tonight to see if this passed but they are going to mobilize August 1st. They are thinking it should only take a few weeks.

Councilman Kay asked Jerry how he was able to get that number down from \$230,000 to \$180,000. Mr. Lambert said the finance chairman asked him to use his abilities and he managed to work that out.

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi wanted to thank Lily for the letter. She did a very good job. Secondly, when Ohio Edison was there they were going to make some changes to feeds. Zirafi asked if that has been done and instituted yet? Mr. Lambert read a letter that he received from Ohio Edison regarding upgrades and said he would get them a copy of that.

COMMENTS:

Council President asked the Mayor if we had a new aggregate for electricity. The Mayor began to respond and Paolone interrupted that it was gas he wanted to know about. The Mayor said the gas contract ends in October. That was a three year term at \$3.06 per mcf. He said we will be struggling to meet that number or anywhere near it in this contract. He said remember this was a three year contract and they locked in the longest term they could get because they knew it was the lowest price maybe in history. They may look at a short term number to see if the market continues to go down. It is up in the air right now and he will have more on it at the Septembers meetings. The Mayor said we all know what goes up must come down and vice versa. Paolone asked about electric again. The Mayor said electric we were locked in but they got taken over.

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

No report. Councilwoman Martuccio said she had a couple of announcements. The city yard sale August 5, 6 and 7th. The end of summer parade August 13th. She said she hopes to see everybody in their cars in the parade. There is a block watch meeting at the library Thursday, August 18th at 7:00 pm.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

51-29

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A RENEWAL OF A TAX IN THE FORM OF A FIVE YEAR, 1.0 MILL LEVY TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE OR REFUSE IN THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND ZIRAFI TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE NO. 51-29.

SCHUBERT 1
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2

SUSPENSION PASSES 7-0

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-29.

SCHUBERT 1
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2

ORDINANCE 51-29 PASSES 7-0

51-30

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A RENEWAL OF A TAX IN THE FORM OF A FIVE YEAR, 1.1 MILL LEVY TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE COLLECTION AND ISPOSAL OF GARBAGE OR REFUSE IN THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT FOR SUSPENSION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 51-30.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1

SUSPENSION PASSES 7-0

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-30.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO No
ZIRAFI 1

MOTION FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-30 PASSES 6-1

51-31

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LINDY PAVING, 225 N. SHORE DRIVE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15212, FOR THE PAVING OF CERTAIN STREETS FOR

A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS AND 98/100 (\$213,440.98).

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND ZIRAFI FOR SUSPENSION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 51-31.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
SUSPENSION PASSES 7-0

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-31.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-31 PASSES 7-0

NEW LEGISLATION

Mr. Lambert said he would like to make a comment. If they could have another safety committee meeting he and the Chief have a couple of other things they would like to go over with the committee.

Mr. Zuppo said that he meant to mention in his report that he and Lucia have talked twice and they are going to get together and he is going to try to help her get together a business list. Zuppo said he also wanted to sing some praises. He has been around the valley and seen a lot of cemeteries and he thinks no one's looks better than ours. He thinks Craig Rose deserves praise for that.

Mayor Melfi said that to make a comment about the cemetery and only include one employee is really an insult. Craig Rose is a good employee and does a fine job but for many years that cemetery has had the efforts of many employees. Union employees, part-time employees, volunteers, veterans' groups, council's actions and administration's action. So for over 20 years, and it is a good topic to talk about if you want to brag, over 20 years ago citizens in this community could not buy two lots together. When he became Mayor there were only a half a dozen lots and they were all singles. Couples could not be buried together. The Mayor said they put a plan together in order to bring income in because that cemetery did not bring in much income as well. So if you recall the councils past and maybe some present here purchased a mausoleum which is now sold out and we are now looking at placing another one at the cemetery which is quite expensive but they are looking at it as they speak. A columbarium was built. Parcels of land and demolition of houses occurred. Removal of asbestos. Those houses were full of asbestos. And development of those lands where now our citizens can buy as many lots as they want and be buried in Girard. The cemetery looks fantastic, but it is not the efforts of one employee, it is the efforts of two decades of a lot of people and the spending of a lot of money and it shows. The Mayor said to the chairman that the cemetery is beautiful but lets not exclude dozens and dozens of others and councils and administrations to make it what it looks like today.

Mr. Zuppo said he did not mean to demean anyone else that works at the cemetery. Craig Rose is the lead guy at the cemetery. That was all it was meant to be.

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND SCHUBERT TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO INCREASE FINES FOR DOWNTOWN PARKING.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND SCHUBERT TO PREPARE LEGISLATION FOR SMOKE FREE PARKS.

SCHUBERT 2

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY 1

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI

MOTION PASSES 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF JULY 25, 2022.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO

MOLITERNO 1

ZIRAFI 2

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT PASSES 7-0

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL

**REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF
COUNCIL**