

**51st GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL**

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	ABSENT
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

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND GRUMLEY TO EXCUSE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL PAOLONE FROM THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

51-35 **FIRST READING**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE GREAT LAKES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF HINCKLEY, OHIO FOR THE LEATHERWORKS SOIL REMEDIATION AND AST CLARIFIER DEMOLITION PROJECT FOR A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$298,900.00.

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADD 51-35 TO THE AGENDA.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2

MOTION PASSES 7-0

51-36

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM BRIDGE INSPECTION SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF GIRARD.

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND ZIRAFI TO ADD 51-36 TO THE AGENDA.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND SCHUBERT TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AS AMENDED.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND KAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

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

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND GRUMLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 1
STANDOHAR

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Joe Kren, 1000 Gary Avenue, Girard, Ohio. Mr. Kren said this was for safety purposes and he hates to mention the street, Gary Avenue. Now what has been going on there and it is not only when kids are in school it goes on 24/7. He knows the police are doing a great job. They cannot be everywhere all the time, but they are speeding up and down Gary Avenue. Not 20, not 30, sometimes even 50 mph and there are a lot more kids that live there on Gary Avenue so he just wanted to take note and let them know because one of these days there is going to be an accident there.

Crystal Shorter-Hicks, 230 Elruth Court, Girard, Ohio. Ms. Shorter-Hicks said she lives in Liberty Park Apartments, and they are now talking with their Mayor and different people to express their concerns of their new owners so there is a lot involving that. She stated this is her very first meeting and she wanted to come and see how exactly the meeting is run and she'll have some questions and she thinks her councilman is Mr. Grumley. Councilman Grumley answered in the affirmative and Ms. Shorter-Hicks said she will talk to him later. Councilman Moliterno said this is how you see how the city is run and he appreciates her coming. He did not know those apartments changed hands and she said they did and there is a lot of stuff going on especially for the seniors. Moliterno said he appreciates that and knows she has made the Mayor aware of it.

Nancy Russell, Shannon Terrace Apartments. Ms. Russell said she is basically there with her for the same reason that what Dennison is doing to the residents of Shannon Terrace and Liberty Park. They are really making it difficult. Ms. Russell said it once was a nice place to live. Very nice place. They have basically done nothing to keep the property up. They have astronomically raised their rent to where it is just unbelievable. The residents are paying for water, electricity and gas throughout the hallways. Ms. Russell said the common areas. There are no submeters or anything for that to actually calculate what they should be paying. They have no formula. Councilman Moliterno said he appreciates the information and thanked them and said they made the administration aware of it and he is sure they will follow it up.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR

JAMES MELFI

PRESENT

Mayor Melfi said he will avoid a tantrum here but they are going to touch upon zoning once again. As they conclude the summer months, and it takes all summer to get some people to comply with being neat and taking care of their properties. The Mayor said he would like to have council consider, he would like to send it to their committee for their consideration, what he is noticing more and more is the covering of vehicles on residential properties. They cover it with a tarp, and it is starting to spread. Wilson Avenue is one example at the corner of Highland and Wilson, but it is other places as well. The mayor continued,

they cover it in the street and they've had that removed and now they cover them on their personal property. The Mayor said he would like to have council consider reviewing this and have it apply to all properties. If you are going to store a car store it inside not outside for your neighbors to have to view every day of the year. The Mayor said he had a few other items. Natural gas. He said he hates to be the bearer of bad tidings but when he brought the great news three years ago he might as well bring a little sadder news tonight. If you were in the city program, he said let him start there, the City of Girard makes no dollars from their city program. They offer their citizens an alternative to all of the other programs that are out there. Sometimes we're the lowest. Sometimes we are not. With natural gas the last three years we had a fantastic rate. One we have never seen before and one we may never see again. \$3.06 per mcf. Melfi said if you've been looking and reading the business sections and all of the things that go along with international news when it comes to energy you know that natural gas is high. The city's program, our \$3.06 ends next month and we have chosen a six month variable. Rates have been decreasing over the last few months so we are hoping that that occurs again and then we would recommend locking into a fixed rate when the time is right. The time is not right to lock into a fixed rate. He would advice our citizens not to tap into a fixed one year or more rate. Right now it looks like the six month variable rate will be whatever the NYMEX is plus \$0.62. That is as good as we are going to get. You could be looking at double what the last few years have been. The Mayor said he will give the same advice to everyone that he gave his wife. Just wear three sweaters this winter. What do you think that response was? It wasn't very good, but that's the way it works. The Mayor said electric we are not as bad off. It looks to be the 2 ½ year rate \$.0688. Electric will not be noticeable but natural gas will be. They will watch closely and they will make their recommendations as the market changes. 144 Pittsburgh. Melfi said you may recall it has been a very bad property for a very long time. The residents there have suffered a very long time with this property. The individual that owns it is in a nursing home. There are no funds that he has to remedy the problem. The city, as he announced to council a little while back, they remediated the asbestos. Now they are ready for demolition. There were two bids and the low bid is Holton at \$7,500 so they will have that property demolished. There is still one more property that is vacant there that they will have to address in the near future. The Mayor said that at this time there are no grants monies for demolition. Just a comment on the ladies being here for the first time. They have had meetings with them, the Law Director and him. They Mayor said he has met off premise with them to listen to their concerns. So far it has been very constructive. They have addressed some issues and the owners have acted on some. There is more work to do. The mayor said he thinks in the very near future they will bring legislation for them to review. The Law Director will bring legislation from other communities outside of Girard in Ohio and nationally that give more teeth to the rights of renters. The mayor said that is something they will be seeing down the pike here.

COMMENTS:

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

JERRY LAMBERT

PRESENT

Mr. Lambert said he had just one thing. The paving of the streets is completely done. They have done the sealing at the end of the streets. The only thing that is left right now is the crosswalks need to be painted. The administration has decided that since they have basically sealed all of 422 that they are going to they are going to paint all the lines from McKinley Heights all the way to Shell. They are making a deal with the paver because some of the paving responsibilities are also to do some striping at some of the crosswalks where they have done some of the paving. They are going to take some money off what we owe them for paving, and we will pay the guys we have done our striping before and they have done

good job in the past and that should be starting very shortly. Mr. Lambert said he thinks everyone is very happy with the paving job that has been done this year. They talked to a few people that it affected, and they were very happy with it.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Grumley asked if they will be doing the crosswalks around the schools and Mr. Lambert said yes that is going to be one or the other. If there was paving from the pavers, they'll take care of it around the school. If not, this company we are hiring is going to do it. Councilman Grumley asked if they could get Trumbull and Davis done where the kids get the bus every morning. Mr. Lambert said when it's done, they will probably address that at that particular time too. Right now, from what he can see they are a little bit ahead of schedule. Mr. Lambert continued; from his knowledge they got as far as Davis Street today. He knows Davis Street was closed at Trumbull Hill. They were only letting the busses through, but anyone that wanted to come south on Davis Street they had to go down Plymouth and across and back up the street so it's working. Knock on wood they haven't had too many complaints as far as he's aware of.

Councilman Schubert said he answered his question.

Councilman Zirafi asked how the new driving pattern is working around the school and Mr. Lambert said yes. Mr. Lambert said as quickly as they put everything together, he is very, very pleased he hasn't heard too many complaints if any in his office. It's been working. He has a couple of his daughters, his wife goes and takes the kids and picks them up. They said it is moving pretty smoothly. Lambert said he did hear about one slight backup on Wellman maybe for just a moment but everything is working fine again, knock on wood.

LAW DIRECTOR

BRIAN KREN

PRESENT

Attorney Kren stated as the mayor had said they had met with the Girard Tenant Association and their legal representative had forwarded some proposed legislation changes for our rental ordinance. Attorney Kren said he can give those to he assumes zoning, he is not sure what committee of council to assign that to but he has those samples to give for the committee to review. Secondly, before the meeting, the mayor and he were reviewing, and he had signed the lien paperwork for 15/15 ½ W. Liberty Street. That should be recorded tomorrow. Kren said once he does that and gets the title work back he will be able to proceed with the foreclosure and will try to reclaim that property that the city demolished to have that property put into the City's name. Finally, something that came up with zoning and it is not something he thinks a lot of us thought would become an issue in Northeastern Ohio, but council may want to consider whether we want any air bnb type restrictions. Attorney Kren said he knows in Columbus there is currently a bill that passed the House that would restrict cities from doing anything but that is not currently a law. Somebody had called zoning to see if we have any regulations on short term rental facilities where regular people can rent out their house. He is sure they can all imagine worst case scenarios that can happen from that, so something for council to consider and he will work with whatever committee takes that up.

COMMENTS:

Councilman Moliterno asked Attorney Kren if we have anything on the books and Attorney Kren said we just have a standard rental form. Attorney Kren said he thinks with this unique industry unless Columbus pulls the rug out from under them, we would want something tailored to that.

AUDITOR

JULIE COLEMAN

PRESENT

No report.

COMMENTS:

TREASURER

MARK ZUPPO

ABSENT

COMMENTS:

FIRE CHIEF

JAMES PETRUZZI

PRESENT

Chief Petruzzi said their total calls to date are 1,481. The Chief said he is happy to report that they are one of the numerous recipients of a federal grant for equipment. It is just short of \$40,000 and with that they will be purchasing a Lucas device which is essentially automatic CPR and a second set of turnout gear for all of the firefighters to have a clean set should their's be soiled in any type of incident. Gladly all of that equipment would cost about \$40,000 so they will only have to take \$2,000 extra.

COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Martuccio asked if they still have smoke detectors available for citizens. Chief Petruzzi said they ran out. The American Red Cross put a pause on the program because they ran out of their backstock. One of their representatives contacted him and they just got \$7,000 back in stock so as soon they get delivered they will be advertising for theirs.

Councilman Moliterno asked how many they have installed and the Chief said nearly in 70 homes.

POLICE CHIEF

JOHN NORMAN

ABSENT

COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno said there will be a finance committee meeting at 6:30 pm prior to the next council meeting on September 26, 2022.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

No report. Councilman Kay asked for a meeting before the finance committee meeting at 6:15 pm. Kay said he would like to ask Lucia present if possible. He said if she can't be there he would reschedule because he wants to talk to her about what is going on and coming up.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

No report.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

No report. Councilman Grumley said he would like to work with the Law Director through Health and Safety on the issues with the tenants. He said he will get with Mr. Moliterno and Lily and come up with a date that conforms with the Law Director's schedule. Grumley said he will make sure the Mayor is there also.

COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Martuccio asked if they can include the air bnb discussion also? Would that be under health and safety or ? Councilman Grumley said sure. He has been asking for a rental property (coughing) as the administration can contest to, for his first ten years on council they had a strict ordinance on rentals and since then has gone away. There was discussion among council regarding this.

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

No report.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

No report.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

No report. Councilwoman Martuccio said there will be a block watch meeting this Thursday, the 16th at 6:00 pm at the Girard Free Library. Special guest speaker Mr. Lambert. Reminder that this Sunday is the Justin Leo walk/run the 18th at 4:30 pm.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

51-33

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 351.15(D) ESTABLISHING THE FINES FOR VIOLATION OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

51-34

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A PARKS AND RECREATION SECONDHAND SMOKE POLICY THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO PURSUANT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH’S ANTI-TOBACCO CAMPAIGN. Councilman Grumley said he will be asking the Trumbull County Health Commissioner to the next meeting to discuss this ordinance also.

51-35

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE GREAT LAKES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF HINCKLEY, OHIO FOR THE LEATHERWORKS SOIL REMEDIATION AND AST CLARIFIER DEMOLITION PROJECT FOR A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$298,900.00.

There was discussion regarding whether it needed voted on quickly.

Councilman Kay asked if this was to clean up the soil at the Leatherworks. The Mayor said yes and he wanted everyone to be aware of something. They will not begin this process until November because of the Indiana brown bat. The foliage has to be off the trees. The Indiana brown bat is an endangered species and it nests this time of year so the leaves must be down and then they will begin the process.

Councilman Grumley asked because of the magnitude of the amount should they ask the auditor? The auditor said they have a grant for that money. Discussion continued.

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND KAY TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 51-35.

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

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND KAY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-35.

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

51-36

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM BRIDGE INSPECTION SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF GIRARD.

Mr. Lambert said this was for the three bridges they have. The one on Glendale, the one on Elruth across from the pony league field and the wooden bridge in the park. They would do all of the inspections and of course anything they found that is erroneous with them the city would have to pick up the tab, but it is a free service to the city.

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND MARTUCCIO TO SUSPEND THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE 51-36.

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

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND MARTUCCIO FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE 51-35.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO

ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0

NEW LEGISLATION

The Law Director said he wanted to add that he is not used to sitting through such a well-run meeting.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

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

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

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

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO PREPARE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE DIRECTOR OF LAW OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

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

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND STANDOHAR TO PREPARE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR 2

KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 7-0

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND KAY TO PREPARE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

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

Councilman Kay asked the Mayor, the one hour parking on Liberty Street, has he talked to the business owners about changing that. Jerry may have more to comment on that. The Mayor said he did talk to one or two business owners and it didn't come across all that bad. He spoke to Olgun's and he had some concerns but they haven't heard back from him and they have been monitoring it and looking at it nearly every day to see if there are any problems and there doesn't seem to be at this time. The Mayor said he will yield to Jerry. He has his feet on the ground with regard to this. Jerry said he has had three letters come back to him. Like the Mayor said, nothing really bad. They are close to enforcing it. John has the phone, the got the app, the whole shot. Jerry said they are going to discuss them but he thinks the problems that they say that they feel might take place, he doesn't think it is really going to happen because of the hours that it is restricted to. Like in Olgun's situation, they tried to explain to him the day that they talked to him, if someone is up there normally they are going to him and if they are a little bit over the police are not going to be watching him specifically. There are some trouble spots in that area and he comes to work every day down Liberty Street and between the fire station down Liberty there is nothing there anymore. The people are adhering to the rules and parking behind the buildings and they are off the streets. Jerry said downtown, again, doesn't seem that bad. The worst block is where Home Works is. From what he understands, the person who is the biggest offender owns like four cars and has no place to park them so he parks them on the street. They can't do anything until the app is on the phone, the legislation is passed, they've already talked to the Judge on how they are going to handle it. They are at a go right now. They will have some discussions with them if they want more before this all comes to place. Kay asked if they were changing the time to two hours or are they leaving it at one hour. He thought that's what they were talking about. Maybe changing it to Monday through Friday? Jerry said he doesn't think it is necessary. So far he hasn't really had any complaints. The letters addressed their concerns and the ladies getting their hair done. If they are down in those two or three parking spaces over an hour. He got a letter from Home Works because it is affecting him the most out of anyone. Someone wrote them and Gresley. He thinks it's basically because they want to park in front of their building. Jerry said go over on Market. He thinks there is a way to leave it the way it is and make

everybody happy. Jerry said we'll see. We have time. Councilman Moliterno said he agrees with Councilman Kay that they should make it two hours. Councilman Kay asked if the legislation would come to them before they right it. Jerry said if they want to change it. Councilman Moliterno said it is their legislation so if they want to make an adjustment council makes the adjustment.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MARTUCCIO SECOND MOLITERNO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022.

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL

**REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF
COUNCIL**