

51ST GIRARD CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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	ABSENT
THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. JEFFREY KAY	PRESENT
FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. THOMAS GRUMLEY	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MS. LILY MARTUCCIO	ABSENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. JOHN MOLITERNO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. SAMUEL ZIRAFI	PRESENT

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MOLITERNO TO EXCUSE COUNCILMAN
STANDOHAR FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2022.

SCHUBERT - 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MOLITERNO - 2
ZIRAFI
PASSED 5 YES VOTES

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MOLITERNO TO EXCUSE COUNCILMAN
MARTUCCIO FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2022.

SCHUBERT - 1
KAY
GRUMLEY
MOLITERNO - 2
ZIRAFI
PASSED 5 YES VOTES

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND GRUMLEY TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF
SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT
KAY
GRUMLEY - 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI - 1
PASSED 5 YES VOTES

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND GRUMLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT

KAY

GRUMLEY - 2

MOLITERNO - 1

ZIRAFI

PASSED 5 YES VOTES

CITIZEN COMMENTS

MS. MERRICK: Teresa Merrick. 1011 Park Circle, Girard.

I work for the Trumbull County Combined Health District. I am a registered nurse, and I have the tobacco program. The Ohio Department has a tobacco use prevention and cessation program grant that I run. It's a statewide grant that has many deliverables focused on adults and youth that are around tobacco and vaping or use it.

This is an evidence-based program that is proven preventative to prevent youth from ever using tobacco and vaping products if we can keep them away from it.

The deliverable I am currently working on involves the signs that I am giving to the parks to ask people not to smoke around the playgrounds and the ballpark fields where the kids play. No matter what age, that's where they hang out with their parents. So the parents should respect the knowledge that these vaping products are very hazardous to children. So with these signs being posted, it's a reminder to them.

This grant wants me to focus on K through 12 school children, behavioral health facilities, housing, workplace, and public outdoor spaces. So I chose the public outdoor spaces this year.

This grant supplies monies for me to promote this program, and since I have my focus on the parks where the youth gather, again, I ordered these signs that I want to offer to cities and townships that pass resolutions, ordinances or policies. When young people are exposed to smoke, especially smelling vapors that are like cotton candy and mint and things that kids like to eat, they may be tempted to try these products. These products are very addicting. There are over 7,000 chemicals in vaping oils.

By eliminating exposure to these locations, we hope to leave a lasting impression for these children to stay healthy, active and not try harmful products that have a

negative impact on their health and activities.

The outdoor levels of tobacco smoke can be as high as indoor levels. If there is no wind, the tobacco smoke can rise and fall and flood an area with secondhand smoke. If there is a breeze, the secondhand smoke can spread in many directions. It depends on the weather and the airflow, of course. The secondhand smoke can be detected up to distances between 23 to 30 feet. And that's been proven. That's pretty far. Babies, young children and youth are even more at risk than adults because it now is a hazard to their health.

Electronic smoking devices -- aerosols -- are not harmless water vapors like people think. It contains variant concentrations of particles and chemicals with some studies finding that these particle sizes and nicotine concentrations are similar to, or even exceeding, conventional cigarettes.

Given the increase in prevalence of electronic smoking device use, especially among the youth and young adults, we're finding high numbers in high schools in Trumbull County where the kids are sneaking these and now they are getting addicted. So we're trying to prevent them and keep them healthy at the playgrounds and parks.

So the widespread nicotine exposure does result in addiction, and other harmful consequences pose serious concerns. Our health department refers people who smoke, and want to quit, to the Ohio Department of Health Quit Line if they are 18 and above. And if they are under 18 there is a program called My Life, My Quit that we like to refer the kids to. And they text the kids and things that like. It's very up to date with what kids like to do. And so they can just sit in their car or wherever and text if they feel like smoking. And then that helps them get some counseling right then and there. That's all.

MR. PAOLONE: Thank you for coming in. We appreciate it.

MS. MERRICK: Thank you.

MR. MOLITERNO: Have any other communities in Trumbull County acted on this yet?

MS. MERRICK: Yes, Lordstown has.

MR. MOLITERNO: Thank you.

MS. MERRICK: You're welcome.

MR. PAOLONE: Mayor, you have the floor.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR

JAMES J. MELFI

PRESENT

MAYOR MELFI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

One important item -- it will be important in about a month when you get your gas bill. I mentioned it at the last meeting, but I'm going to bring it back up today. You've heard by watching the news and the business news, natural gas is dramatically higher in just a few weeks for the citizens of Girard if you are in the Girard program. First of all, it's going to be higher for anybody in any program.

We locked in three years ago at \$3.06 per Mcf, which was the lowest that we have ever seen. That's why we locked in as long as we could. Unfortunately it's not going to be that. I want to give everybody an idea of what it is. We're going to base it on a variable off the New York Mercantile Exchange plus \$.53. So whatever the mercantile exchange strikes on Wednesday -- whatever that number is -- we're going to be paying that number plus \$.53. We had a citizen call today and thought they were only paying \$.53 per Mcf. That's not the case. It's going to be a rough, rough winter with gas.

Now, there is a bit of news in a positive way. It has dropped from 9 to \$7.00 here in the last month, month and a half. That doesn't mean it will continue to slide but that is what we are facing this year. So all citizens -- anybody with natural gas -- no matter what program they are in. There are about 500 Girard houses in our program, so that leaves about 55 homes -- 100 homes that are in other programs. But it's going to be a sticker shock for everyone.

Of course the electric program we know was rolled back over to First Energy. And that is a fair price of 6.88. That isn't really much to talk about as far as an increase. You've already been experiencing whatever that number is. But I guess that would matter if you had electric heat -- baseboard heat. But natural gas will be significantly higher for all of us.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for the mayor?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR JERRY LAMBERT PRESENT

MR. LAMBERT:

I have no report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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LAW DIRECTOR BRIAN KREN, ESO. PRESENT

MR. KREN:

Thank you. One thing, last year -- I don't know if council remembers -- but we had voted to join the opioid class action lawsuit, which I have been monitoring. And I don't have a timeline necessary when payments come in but I think we may be getting to that point. The auditor

and I will review the regulations, but it may require us to have a special fund for that money. So if we ever have an addition to the agenda about that, that's why. I know council doesn't like to rush anything but this might be something we may have to rush and establish to take the money.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for Brian?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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AUDITOR JULIE COLEMAN PRESENT

MS. COLEMAN:

I have nothing further than from the finance meeting.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for Julie?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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TREASURER MARK ZUPPO PRESENT

MR. ZUPPO:

Year to date cash distribution through Period 8, \$2,786,581.29 versus prior year to date \$2,577,686.91. Difference of \$208,894.38 or up 8.1 percent. Pending your questions, that concludes my report.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for Zuppo?

MAYOR MELFI: Mr. Treasurer, what is the quarterly report for us? This is monthly. I've been asking for some time for a quarterly report with the individual breakdowns for withholding and business and the individual. And I have been asking for quite some time. Do you have such a report?

MR. ZUPPO: I think at the last meeting two months ago I requested that you put it in the form of an email and then I would act on it. And I have checked my email everyday and I didn't see anything as of today.

MAYOR MELFI: But that's not a question that you can answer right now?

MR. ZUPPO: No, not off the top of my head.

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FIRE CHIEF JAMES PETRUZZI PRESENT

MR. PETRUZZI:

2022 calls to date for the fire department is 1,575. And the only other thing I have, we're happy to announce that Ronald Womack started with our department today. He is a firefighter/paramedic. He has previous experience in other full-time agencies. He was hired for the pending retirement of Captain Tim O'Brien and for the time being we are hoping to reduce overtime costs. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions for Jimmy?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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POLICE CHIEFJOHN NORMANABSENT

COMMENTS: No comments.

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COMMITTEE REPORTSFINANCES - MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

MR. MOLITERNO:

We had a brief Finance Committee meeting tonight. Reports both from our auditor and our treasurer. Things are moving along. We had a very good discussion about dollars and we're going to make some adjustments. I believe our auditor is going to ask for some legislation to make adjustments for us to look at at our next meeting.

MR. PAOLONE: Questions or comments?

COMMENTS: No comments.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

MR. KAY:

No report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

MR. SCHUBERT:

No report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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HEALTH & SAFETY - GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

MR. GRUMLEY:

We're going to be meeting with the law director and the safety/service director shortly to discuss the situation at Liberty Park Apartments and our rental property ordinance in general. And then we're also going to be talking on the subject of the parking signs in the downtown area. That's all I have.

Other than I'm going to recommend that we suspend and pass Ordinance 51-34, the recreation secondhand smoke policy.

MR. PAOLONE: I'm sorry, but we won't be able to suspend anything.

MR. GRUMLEY: Okay.

MR. PAOLONE: Do we need a special meeting?

MR. GRUMLEY: No.

COMMENTS: No comments:

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

MR. KAY:

No report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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UTILITIES - ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR
MR. ZIRAFI:

No report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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ZONING - MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT
MR. ZIRAFI:

No report.

COMMENTS: No comments.

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ORDINANCES

51-33 MOLITERNO SECOND 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 MOLITERNO SECOND READING
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A PARKS AND RECREATION SECONDHAND
SMOKE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO PURSUANT TO THE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S ANTI-TOBACCO CAMPAIGN.

51-37 MOLITERNO FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR OF
LAW OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

51-38 MOLITERNO FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

51-39 MOLITERNO FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE CITY AUDITOR
OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

51-40 MOLITERNO FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE CLERK OF
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

51-41 MOLITERNO FIRST READING
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR THE
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

NEW LEGISLATION

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DISTRIBUTION RATES FOR INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022. DISTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE GENERAL FUND 100, 97 PERCENT, AND GARBAGE FUND 204, 3 PERCENT, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2022.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND ZIRAFI TO PREPARE LEGISLATION PER AUDITOR'S REQUEST.

SCHUBERT

KAY

GRUMLEY

MOLITERNO - 1

ZIRAFI - 2

PASSED 5 YES VOTES

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MOLITERNO TO PREPARE LEGISLATION TO HAVE THE PARK AND RECREATION LEVY BACK ON THE BALLOT FOR MAY OF 2023.

SCHUBERT - 1

KAY

GRUMLEY

MOLITERNO - 2

ZIRAFI

PASSED 5 YES VOTES

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MOLITERNO TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.

SCHUBERT - 1

KAY

GRUMLEY

MOLITERNO - 2

ZIRAFI

PASSED 5 YES VOTES

REYNALD J. PAOLONE,
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

KELLY HAASE,
ALTERNATE CLERK OF COUNCIL