

MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2023 – 7:30p.m.

Council of the City of Berea, Ohio, met in regular session in the Council Chamber on January 3, 2023 and the meeting was called to order by President of Council Jim Maxwell at 7:30p.m. Present: Mary K. Brown, Erika Coble, Chris McManis, Rick Skoczen and Lisa Weaver. Leon R. Dozier Sr. was present via Zoom. Absent: Gene Zacharyasz. Also present: Mayor Cyril M. Kleem. Present via Zoom: Director of Public Works Tony Armagno, Director of Law & Public Safety Barb Jones, Director of Finance Andrea Morris and Police Chief Dan Clark.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

This meeting was held in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 109 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Berea. The certificate of compliance is on file in the Clerk's office.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Skoczen, that the minutes from the December 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting be approved. Vote on the motion was all ayes and no nays. The motion carried.

MAYOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT AND COMMENTS

Mayor Kleem had no report but wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Brown referenced an email regarding the BCDC that she had sent to Mayor Kleem, and Mayor Kleem responded that he will provide her the information she requested.

REPORT AND COMMENTS BY THE OFFICERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION:

Andrea Morris – Director of Finance:

Mrs. Morris had no report.

Barb Jones – Director of Law & Public Safety:

Mrs. Jones had no report.

Mr. Skoczen stated that there continues to be speeding issues on Prospect and some nearby side streets, and Mrs. Jones responded that the City will hopefully be able to purchase a third speed sign that would be more readily accessible to Council Members, but for the meantime she will add the area to the list of recurring spots the current speed signs are placed.

Tony Armagno – Director of Public Service:

Mr. Armagno informed Council that Columbia Gas has completed the underground pipe work in the Pearl and Beech Street area, and while hardscape improvements, sidewalks and aprons will attempt to be completed over the winter months, grass and treelawns will be addressed in the Spring.

Mr. Armagno continued by noting that Phase I of the Barberry project is complete and the next phase which includes Barberry, Woodlawn and a portion of Maple will begin on Monday. Residents in the area have received this update.

Mrs. Coble asked if the extremely cold weather was responsible for sewer back-ups, basement flooding, watermain breaks, or anything similar, and Mr. Armagno responded that crews were out due to snow, but there were not many watermain breaks, and while the City received some calls about sewer back-ups, they were not consolidated to one area. Typically, if the calls come in from one street, it could be contributed to a sewer issue, but in this case most were due to roots on private property.

Mrs. Coble next asked if the treelawns on Waverly are the responsibility of the City or the property owner, because a neighbor noticed that the trees on the treelawn of a Fairground owned property were being trimmed by the City, and it was her understanding that property owners must maintain their own treelawns. Mr. Armagno said that she is correct, but added that the City has a pruning program, which may be what the resident witnessed.

Mrs. Weaver stated that along Prospect between Baker and West, the sidewalks do not have treelawns and the aprons are, therefore, difficult to clear of snow and ice, as are the sidewalks. Since this creates a safety hazard for both residents and pedestrians walking in the area, she requested that the City maintain the snow and ice on both sides of the street, for the benefit and safety of everyone. Mr. Armagno replied that he thinks the City already maintains this area with small equipment and plows, but it is not listed as a priority, so roads will be handled first and it is possible that the ice will melt before the City gets a change to address these situations.

Mrs. Weaver stated that she does not recall this area being maintained by the City for some time now, and said that Prospect used to be two lanes, but when it was expanded, frontages were taken away from the properties in question, so she would like to see the City take care of the issue.

Mr. McManis thanked Mr. Armagno for information about a burst pipe.

Marty Compton – Director of Recreation:

Mr. Compton was not present.

COMMENDATIONS: NONE

PETITIONS: NONE

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Davidson asked Mr. Maxwell to pull his microphone forward when he speaks because it is difficult to hear him in the back of the Chamber. He also wished everyone a Happy New Year!

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Southwest Health Care System Board of Directors – Chris McManis**

Mr. McManis informed Council that he received the Health System's year-end overview which addressed its appreciation to hospital workers and community members, provided an update on Covid numbers and care, announced a new culture of Zero Harm to patients which has helped drop the level of inpatient infections, publicized the Stop the Bleed partnership with local high schools, addressed the opening of the Level II Neonatal Maternity Ward, revealed that employee rates are still low but the health system is working to keep retention rates up, proclaimed excitement at both welcoming St. Vincent in to the fold and expanding outpatient rehabilitation with another provider, and proudly declared that they received several awards and recognitions including the Berea Chamber of Commerce's Legacy Award, and two Nurses were named Top Nurses in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. McManis continued by stating that the hospital thanked the City's Veterans Outreach Office for working closely with Veteran patients, and noted that the Community Health Foundation raised \$1.6 million, which reflects the heart of our community, as well as surrounding communities.

Mr. McManis concluded by stating that operating expenses are up, and finding new talent is difficult, but those issues are being confronted.

In response to a question from Mr. Skoczen, Mr. McManis stated that with regard to the insurance negotiations, there is no new information.

Mr. Skoczen asked if Southwest is concerned about the new Cleveland Clinic facility in Middleburg Heights, and Mr. McManis responded that competition is very fierce in the field of healthcare right now, and the Clinic's facility is not full service. Southwest is focused on highlighting the services not offered at the Clinic facility, as well as other things that give them a competitive edge. In addition, Southwest is working to offer multi-year contracts to good employees in order to garner long-term commitments, reaching out to high schools in hopes of finding those interested in a career in healthcare early on, offering signing bonuses and maintaining its reputation as a Top Workplace in the Country.

LEGISLATION – THIRD READING:**ORDINANCE NO. 12-1: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FINISHED WATER GROUND STORAGE TANK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

The Clerk read the title of the Ordinance.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Skoczen, that Ordinance No. 12-1 be adopted. Vote on the motion was ayes: Brown, Coble, Dozier, McManis, Skoczen and Weaver. Nays: None. The motion carried.

LEGISLATION – SECOND READING: NONE**LEGISLATION – FIRST READING:****RESOLUTION NO. 1-1: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2023 CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

The Clerk read the Resolution in full.

Mr. Davidson asked that, in the future, the title of the Resolution reference “Dr.” Martin Luther King Jr.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Skoczen, that Resolution No. 1-1 be approved. Vote on the motion was ayes: Brown, Coble, Dozier, McManis, Skoczen and Weaver. Nays: None. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 1-2: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT IN CONCERT WITH THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, CITY OF BROOK PARK, CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, CITY OF OLMSTED FALLS, OLMSTED TOWNSHIP AND THE CHAGRIN VALLEY DISPATCH COUNCIL, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A COMPUTER ASSISTED DISPATCH SOFTWARE PROGRAM FROM MOTOROLA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The Clerk read the title of the Ordinance.

Mrs. Jones stated that the City purchases a computer aided dispatch system on a yearly basis, but from a different vendor. Southwest Dispatch out of Strongsville would like to take advantage of the buying power of Chagrin Valley and move all Cities listed in the title of the Ordinance on to this new Motorola Premier One System. The cost to the City would be \$250,000, paid out in annual installments of \$25,008.90 over the next 10 years. The current system costs about \$22,000-\$23,000 a year.

Mrs. Jones noted that Chagrin Valley requested payment by January 10, 2023, but the City was just informed about Strongsville’s decision to move forward with this system around December 21st, thus suspension will be requested on second reading so that payment can be made by the end of January 2023.

Mr. Maxwell asked if the system will be housed at the Strongsville Dispatch location and confirmed that the transition will be seamless for residents. Chief Clark responded that there is mostly software, but the hardware will be in Strongsville, and the transition should be smooth, although there is always a slight risk when changing equipment. Chief Clark noted, however, that the program looks impressive and large metropolitan areas are already using it with success.

Mr. Skoczen asked what the biggest incentive of this new system is, compared to what we have now. Chief Clark stated that the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system will make it easier to pinpoint the location of calls, offers more features, is more modern, and will provide maps and street views, which will be helpful since Google will not provide Police with turn by

turn directions. The mapping software is also vital because of mutual aid, whether Officers unfamiliar with the City are coming to Berea, or our Officers are going out.

In response to another question from Mr. Skoczen, Chief Clark replied that with regard to our current Police and Fire vehicles, both Departments feel minimum specifications are met and the system will be compatible immediately. Mrs. Jones noted that technology is always improving, thus the Departments routinely update hardware.

General discussion commenced concerning changes to the Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs), as well as the price lock, which is an incentive to get Cities on board.

Mr. Maxwell confirmed that the price per City is based on volume of usage, and Mrs. Jones responded in the affirmative.

Proposed Ordinance No. 1-2 stands on first reading.

REPORT AND COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Maxwell had no report.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mrs. Weaver had no report.

Mr. Zacharyasz was not present

Mrs. Brown wished everyone a Happy New Year and referenced the recent injury to an NFL football player, asking that people come together and make it a better 2023.

Mrs. Coble had no report.

Mr. Dozier announced that he met and welcomed the new owner of Polish Village, Frank Edmonds III, to the City, and encouraged everyone to patronize local business. With regard to Mt. Zion's Prayer Breakfast on the Dr. King holiday, Mr. Dozier noted that the guest speaker is Dr. Reverend Pat Hunt, and all are welcome to attend.

Mr. McManis wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Mr. Skoczen wished everyone a Happy New Year!

CORRESPONDENCE

The December 15, 2022 – December 29, 2022 Correspondence is available in the Clerk's office.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Esson wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Mr. Maxwell reminded everyone of the January 9, 2023 Work Session which will begin at 7:00pm.

There being no further business before Council, it was moved by Mrs. Brown, and seconded by Mr. Dozier, that the Regular Council Meeting be adjourned. Vote on the motion was all ayes and no nays. The motion passed and President Maxwell declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Jim Maxwell
President of Council

Alycia Esson
Clerk of Council

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The regular meeting of Council of the City of Berea, Ohio, held on the 3rd day of January, 2023, was conducted in compliance with Codified Ordinances Section 109 and Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

Alycia Esson
Clerk of Council