

## **Minutes of March 7, 2024 Council**

Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio City Council  
Clayton Government Center  
March 7, 2024

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stevens at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Stevens and Councilmembers Farmer, Henning, Gorman, Merkle, Kelly, and Bachman.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Mayor Stevens performed a swearing in ceremony of Police Officer Jacob Filbrun.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Seim presented the minutes of the February 15, 2024 Council work session. Motion by Gorman, second by Kelly to approve the minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried. Clerk Seim then presented the minutes of the February 15, 2024 Council meeting. Motion by Gorman, second by Henning to approve the minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Elaine Wittman, Assistant to the City Manager, advised you may recall in January Amanda sent out information about the stucco, and the overhang by the Pro Shop and stairs outside disconnecting from the metal beams. Fortunately, the balcony is sound but because of the water damage it did disconnect and fall, so we do have to get that fixed. We can not do that inhouse. We received two quotes, we're happy with one of them, so we will be moving forward with that work. Also, at our February 15, 2024 meeting, Council approved the purchase of a 2024 police cruiser. We received notice that Ford stopped production of 2024 cruisers. The order was switched to a 2025 cruiser which we should receive in the fall.

Councilman Merkle asked last Wednesday at the Town Hall session the question came up regarding the 100% credit, and whether or not there was any action by Council that in the future could it be rescind like it was done previously. Councilman Henning stated Kevin Schweitzer, Finance Director, did reach out to the Secretary of State's office to figure out what was in statue in regards to if Council would have the ability to reduce the tax credit that's on the ballot. On the Questions and Guides resource that's listed on the Secretary of State's website Chapter 4A states an election is required in all cases where Municipal Corporations seeks to tax income at a rate in excess of 1% and then it states ballot language for the question a municipal income tax is prescribed by a majority of those voting on the issue is required for passage. So, the guidance that's listed in the Ohio Revised Code states Council cannot change the income tax credit without voter approval. Law Director Dillon stated what Mr. Henning is saying, if it's approved

in March then that is effectively “tying” Council’s hands, it would take a vote from residents to change it from that point forward.

Councilman Merkle asked for a status on North Clayton and Windsor Development in terms of what was happening with the development. Ms. Wittman stated she will ask the City Manager Zimmerlin to address this question at the next City Council meeting.

#### **VISITOR’S COMMENTS**

There were a number of Northmont High School students in attendance for their Government class requirement. Mayor Stevens asked each student come to the podium to give their name and why they were in attendance tonight.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Farmer advised the next time we meet we will have already had the election, so be sure on March 19<sup>th</sup> you go out and vote, taking on issues 4 and 5. Get informed and make an informed decision. On March 12<sup>th</sup> there is a Soil and Water review for the Hoke and Wenger section at the Janice Ward Center. I’m particularly interested in the regional watershed problem we have, so I’m going to listen and hope to learn something. Henning stated for all the students here today, last Friday was the Northmont Education Foundation’s annual auction. It was a very successful event, tens of thousands of dollars were raised, and 100% of that money goes to scholarships. So, when you graduate make sure you apply for these scholarships. On March 21<sup>st</sup> is the Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon. I want to thank Fire Chief Garver for his role in obtaining a grant for the MARC radio system, \$10,000 was received. I would encourage you to vote no on Issue 4 and vote yes on Issue 5. Gorman welcomed Police Officer Jacob Filbrun to the City and wished him luck in his new career. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day. I hope you all go out and vote and vote no on Issue 4 and vote yes on Issue 5. Merkle stated I want to congratulate Officer Filbrun on joining the Clayton Police force and wish him well going forward. And, yes, make sure you get out and vote. Kelly congratulated Officer Filbrun. Welcome to the City of Clayton one of the safest cities in Ohio, and we want to continue that by your vote that is coming up. To the students here tonight, speak to your Counselors as they are responsible for giving you information on all of the scholarships available. Happy St. Partick’s Day to everyone and celebrate responsibly. Bachman welcomed Officer Filbrun, we are one of the safest cities in Montgomery County and the State of Ohio because of our great Police department and the great leadership we have. We have a large number of students in attendance here tonight for their Government class. I know what you saw tonight, I’m sure you all are just riveted by it and we’ll be up all night with this very exciting government meeting. I just want to say, boring government is good government. Stevens welcomed Officer Filbrun, we’re so proud to have him here. I also want to thank the students for coming this evening. As I try to say every meeting, thank you to the staff, Council and residents. We’re one community here and I want to thank everyone for all that you do in your respective roles. We wear a lot of hats here at the City, and our staff does a lot of things. We have a small staff for a medium sized City and that means everyone does a lot of jobs and everyone does a fantastic job.

Motion by Gorman, second by Henning to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.