

Minutes of July 18, 2024 Council

Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio City Council
Clayton Government Center
July 18, 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

Debbie Stahl gave a presentation on the Northmont Community Table and what their organization provides to the community.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Seim presented the minutes of the June 20, 2024 Council work session. Motion by Gorman, second by Kelly to approve the minutes as presented. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-yes, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-abstain. Motion passed 6-0 with one abstention. Seim the presented the minutes of the June 20, 2024 Council meeting. Motion by Henning, second by Farmer to approve the minutes as presented. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-yes, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-abstain. Motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Michael Mihojevich asked about activity in his neighborhood at a rental house, stating they are proposing turning it into a troubled home for youth. Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager, advised our code does allow for residential care facilities in residential neighborhoods. The City is working with the property owner on whether or not they want that facility to be located in that home, they were not aware of the fact that was the plan for the rental.

Scott Grimes shared his concerns with the City not performing the fall leaf pickup this year.

Kyle Aughe also shared his concerns with the City not performing the fall leaf pickup.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance No. O – 06 – 24 – 08 An Ordinance Authorizing the Submission, Acceptance, Acquisition, and Purchase of Specified Parcels from Montgomery County, Ohio for an Amount Not to Exceed \$15,000.00 and the Subsequent Disposition of Same in Connection with the Expedited Tax Foreclosure Program. Second reading, no further discussion. Motion by Gorman to approve the Ordinance, second by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. O – 07 – 24 – 10 An Ordinance to Repeal Current Clayton Codified Ordinance Chapter 1519 (“Fireworks”) and Replace with Updated Version of Clayton Codified Ordinance Chapter 1519 (“Fireworks”) Appended Hereto as Exhibit A. Motion by Henning to Table this Ordinance so we can amend it to control some type of distance from a structure, motion was second by Merkle. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 07 – 24 – 43 A Resolution Requesting the State of Ohio Director of Transportation Modify the Speed Limit to 35 MPH on Main Street within the City of Clayton, Ohio from Greenview Drive at SLM 20.039 to the End of the Corporation Limit at SLM 21.028. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution as read, second by Kelly. Randy Sanders, Public Service Director, clarified that SLM stands for Straight Lane Miles. Voting: Farmer-no, Henning-no, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-yes. Motion passed 5-2.

Resolution No. R – 07 – 24 – 44 A Resolution Requesting the State of Ohio Director of Transportation Modify the Speed Limit to 35 MPH on Garber Road within the City of Clayton, Ohio from Westbrook Road to Main Street. Motion by Merkle to approve the Resolution as read, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 07 – 24 – 45 A Resolution Requesting the State of Ohio Director of Transportation Modify the Speed Limit to 35 MPH on Westbrook Road within the City of Clayton, Ohio from 0.37 Miles West of Salem Avenue (State Route 49) to Main Street (State Route 48) and to Further Modify the Speed Limit to 45 MPH on Westbrook Road within the City of Clayton, Ohio from Diamond Mill Road to 0.37 Miles West of Salem Avenue (State Route 49). Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution as read, second by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager, advised as part of the 2024 budget we were going to limit or not do leaf collection this year. After discussion, Councilman Henning made a motion to have at least one leaf pickup on streets with storm drains. No second was heard, motion failed. After further discussion it was decided to not have leaf collection this year but advertise options for residents for leaf disposal. The street light control box at SR49 and Westbrook was hit and the person responsible was not able to be identified. The unit has malfunctioned four time and needs to be replaced, it will be costing the City over \$36,000. We are looking at installing guard rails to protect the boxes at SR49 and Westbrook and SR49 and Union with the total cost being \$112,000. We will have the guard rails in next year's budget. We welcomed a new employee this week, Police Officer Jack Anderson. Just a note to Council, we are still operating two officers down in the police department. In June of 2023 Council approved a resolution that allowed staff to enter into a lease agreement with Enterprise for two vehicles for the fire department. We have received the first of the two vehicles, and the Chief's vehicle has been transferred to the Police department. Republic is slated to have all their totes removed by July 15th, that has not happened. We do have a MOU with Rumpke that they can now dispose of the Republic totes. There is a new requirement for fraud reporting and training. The Auditor of State has issued a bulletin that County, City, Village and Township employees and elected officials are required to complete the training by September 28, 2024.

Councilwomen Kelly asked for an update on the Talmadge Road Church issue we discussed earlier. Zimmerlin advised the Church that sits at the corner of Spring Street and Talmadge operated as a Church for many years. During the time it operated as a Church there is an alley that runs parallel to Talmadge Road, that alley continues as a paper street all the way to Spring Street. However, the Church allowed people to use their drive to access the alley. The City does not maintain the section of road that is technically the Church properties driveway. When the

private resident moved into that Church building and began using it as a private residence rather than a Church, they made the decision that they no longer wanted to allow people access to their private property to access Plum Street. They have placed a sign on their property telling people that it is private property and in turn, the City has placed a sign on the other end of Plum Street at Mill Street, not saying that people can't access alley, but that there is no outlet.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Farmer thanked everyone for coming tonight and those residents who commented. Mr. Grimes I appreciate your comments, you made the case for what I brought up earlier this year about prioritize budgeting in terms of lining things up to our values to create some consistency. Right now the evidence I've seen is our decision making has some inconsistencies. I'm asking that when we look at the next year's budget we pause and look at what our priorities are and create some consistency. This will help us with our residents, to say this is why we're paying for this and not this, why we're cutting this and not this. Henning stated July 13th was a dark day in our Country's history. No matter who your candidate is, political violence is not how we go about changes in our country. I was glad to see that former President Trump was okay and prayers were answered, we would have felt that way for any candidate running for office. In regards to Ohio Senator JD Vance, in regards to Ohio I think it is very good for us to continue to be on the spotlight in national news, and we will see what happens with that race. I think he will make a very good Vice Presidential candidate. Everyone tonight saw where I stand on fireworks and leaf pickup. I do think that storm drains are going to be clogged, and there are going to be a lot of issues that stem from this. Merkle stated to Chief Hamlin, I appreciate the work that you and your officers provide. I have never known you to be apathetic to anything that's been needed in terms of public safety and providing service to the community. I know there's been times when I, my family, my Dad and his business needed service, it was provided very timely and was always appreciated. Kelly stated I also want to send my appreciation to the Police department for everything that your department does with limited staff, I know that is tough and I don't know how things could be policed or followed through if we did ban the fireworks. That would be a hard situation with the number of roadways that we have, but I also understand resident's concerns. I also want to thank Debbie Stahl from the Community Table for coming tonight and to discuss what this program is about. It's very much needed for the Northmont community with students going back to school. This is a great program and everyone now knows where to donate monetarily or with donations. Stevens thanked the residents for coming this evening and voicing your opinions, and I do appreciate everyone's interest. I also want to say thanks, not only to our police department, but also to the rest of the staff. We are running short staffed, and we've put off some hiring due to budget restraints and to this point but we have not missed a beat.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.