

REGULAR

MAY 13

2024

Amherst City Council met in a Regular Session under full compliance of State Law with President Wasilk opening the meeting at 7:00 p. m. Roll call Ms. Harmych, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Janik, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Dembinski. Also present were Mayor Costilow, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys, Treasurer Ramsey, Law Director Pecora, and Auditor Phillips. Also present were adults and children, who were members of Boy Scout Troop 427 and other members of the public.

The prayer was invoked by Chaplain Janik. Then Boy Scout Troop 427 presented colors and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Consent Agenda: The Clerk read the Consent Agenda. Mr. Heberling motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Voice vote 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as read.

Acknowledgement of the Public pertaining to items on the Agenda: There was no one speaking.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

- (a) An Ordinance re-appropriating funds in the Auditor's Office of the City of Amherst, Ohio to cover part-time wages; and declaring an emergency. (A-24-23)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to suspend all Council rules so that this may be passed in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 7-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Heberling motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 7-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-24-19.

- (b) An Ordinance approving the continued operation of the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area previously established within the City of Amherst, Ohio in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.82 (A-24-24)

Mr. Winiarski said that last week there were some questions regarding the survey that was done, and he has provided that to everyone. There are people who make a living by reviewing and reporting what it take away from the surveys. He is not going to do that, but he asked everyone to review it and see him with any question. One thing that jumped out at him is that 21% of the people responding said they did not understand the rules for DORA. He is hoping with the QR coding that they will be doing will help out with that. It will be on the cups and on the signs he is preparing for DORA. Hopefully that will clean up some of the questions of how a DORA works as for the patrons: side of things. They will see how it goes. He will get together with the business owners in July. He asked Mr. Pecora if we are free and clear to move ahead with the DORA and Mr. Pecora affirmed that we are. Unless they are making changes, they are basically continuing to go on as they were. Mr. Winiarski asked if they can go three readings and Mr. Pecora said yes. Mr. Janik motioned to send this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Mr. Wachholz asked about the rationale of getting a new cup every time. He would like to see if there is some way to have less waste. Mr. Winiarski said his understanding is that it's required by law Along with having to be disposable, it has to have the name of the business that sold the liquor; first sip and last sip has to be outdoors and it has to be clear. He will double check on this. The City of Dublin is checking into using recyclable cups. Roll call vote 7-0 to pass to second.

- (c) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Company for the repair and upgrading of certain railroad bridges and related infrastructure; and declaring an emergency. (A-24-25)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to suspend all council rules so that this may be passed in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 7-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 7-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-24-20.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING: NONE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING: NONE

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: Mr. Nahorn thanked the Scouts for presenting the flag and being with us this evening.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

No Agenda Requests were provided so no committee meetings were called for on 5/20/24.

Reports of the Administration:

Auditor Phillips: The April reports have been completed and distributed.

Treasurer Ramsey: The April reports have been completed and distributed. He said last week he had a chance to meet with their investment advisor. Our investments look real good; we will make well over ½ million dollars on interest alone this year. He will circulate the information he is provided.

Law Director Pecora: No report

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report.

Mayor Costilow: Said he likes when groups like tonights attend meetings. The Pledge of Allegiance has never sounded so good. It is so nice to see so many people here, especially the young folks. He has also hosted all the third grade groups that came up here. He said some of the questions were incredible. When they come in this room, he explains who everyone is; explains what their positions entail. He asks them what they would wish to discuss or vote for and typical answers such as more recess, free food, movies during school time were typical answers. He had called on one young lady and to his question, of what she would vote on, her answer was "water rates." The timing of that was incredible since we are in negotiations with our water wholesalers. He does not think we will have to raise our rates but to hear that coming out of a third-grader's mouth was pretty impressive. So he appreciates having the youngsters coming out like they are tonight. He is impressed with our youth.

Mrs. Wasilk said in reference to the Mayor speaking about our water rates, our city is in a very unique situation. We get our water both from the cities of Lorain and Elyria. This is very unusual. The city fathers years ago made the decision that we would set our "plumbing" up so that the city could get water from either one of the cities. The two cities bid against each other so we have the lowest water rates in the county, or close to that because the mayor can actually negotiate with those two cities.

Mr. Heberling motioned to accept the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 7-0 to accept the reports.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the monthly April Auditor and Treasurer Monthly reports:

Mr. Nahorn motioned to acknowledge the receipt of the April Auditor and Treasurer Monthly reports. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Voice vote 7-0 to acknowledge the receipt of the April reports.

Mr. Wachholz motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Olga Sivinski, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wasilk, President of Council