

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio, City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices, 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

ROLL CALL: Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Brown, present; Mr. Denning, present; Ms. Fry, present; Mr. Joseph, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Maxfield, absent; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present were as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager; Kim Baker, Finance Director; Jim Miller, Legal Counsel; and Katie Lewallen, Communications Manager/Clerk of Council.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to excuse Mr. Maxfield. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: No additions or corrections were made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to approve the agenda. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES: Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve the February 8, 2024, work session minutes and the February 15, 2024, council business meeting minutes. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

WRITTEN CITIZEN PETITIONS: Mayor Williams stated that anyone wishing to speak should fill out a form located in the back of the room and hand it to the clerk.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Williams presented Girl Scout Troop #3237 with a proclamation honoring Girl Scout week. Mayor Williams thanked Ms. Fry for her involvement in bringing “girl power” to important projects in the city like painting fire hydrants and clean-up days led by Girl Scouts. Ms. Fry stated the troop present did participate in the fire hydrant painting project. This troop has been active in the community and has taken a lot of opportunities available. She asked the girls if they were actively selling Girl Scout cookies. The troop leader, Ms. Olivia Kehl stated their goal is for each girl to sell 1,000 boxes to go to Camp Cookie. She stated they are also trying to do a little library and a food pantry. They will also be volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: No one wished to speak on an agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

- I) Ordinance No. 24-O-848 – An ordinance to establish the Unclaimed Money Fund, and declaring an emergency. (1st reading)**

Mr. Rauch stated this ordinance establishes an unclaimed money fund that is a requirement of the state. They want to make sure they have a fund specified for this.

Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve the first reading by title only of Ordinance No. 24-O-848. The clerk read the ordinance by title only. She added with it being an emergency, it will have its normal process of two readings, but rather than waiting the 30 days to go into effect, the ordinance will be in effect upon the date of passage.

No further discussion was held. Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Joseph, yes; Mr. Brown, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. Motion carried.

B. RESOLUTIONS

- I) Resolution No. 24-R-2921 – A resolution recognizing Fisher-Nightingale Houses, Inc. “All-American Evening” as a function that promotes the public health, general welfare, and contentment of the citizens of the City of Riverside.**

Mr. Rauch stated this resolution assists military families with a place to stay when in need of medical treatment.

Ms. Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2921.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

- II) Resolution No. 24-R-2922 – A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into an agreement with the State of Ohio Attorney General’s Office for collection of delinquent accounts.**

Mr. Rauch stated this allows them to work with the state for past due accounts.

Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2922.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

- III) Resolution No. 24-R-2923 – A resolution amending the personnel policy manual for the City of Riverside, OH.**

Mr. Rauch stated this is an update and clarification to the personnel policy for probationary period, tuition reimbursement, and vacation accrual for those not in a collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2923.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Mayor Williams stated that two forms had been received for comment on non-agenda items. He invited Mr. Jim Wellman to the podium and asked that he state his name, address, and keep comments to three minutes. Mr. Jim Wellman, 909 Beatrice Drive, Riverside, Ohio, presented photos to council. He stated there was a lighting district set up for streetlights on Beatrice. The pictures show that the post is about 6' – 8' from the telephone pole. He stated it has been years since anybody has climbed a pole unless in the back as they tend to use trucks. There also has not been anyone walking a route reading meters in a long time. He wonders why they could not put that meter on the post on the telephone pole. He has called both AES and Miami Valley Lighting and a few other organizations. He got the run-around. No one can tell him why they are doing this. He stated he thinks it comes down for a way for them to make money and buy extra wire and extra poles, then dig for placing the pole. He assumes that he is going to now be paying for that lighting district. Mayor Williams asked if he has an assessment on his property tax. Mr. Wellman stated that is what he is asking them. Mayor Williams stated he can continue talking while he looks it up. Mr. Wellman stated that 909 was his mother's home to which he is downsizing. He just wants to know why a meter on a new post was not just put on the telephone pole. No one seems to be able to tell him. Mayor Williams stated that the city manager and staff will look at this and find out who is paying for it. He added that he does not want to discuss his property taxes, but asked the city manager if it would show up as a lighting assessment. Mr. Rauch stated he has to do a bit of homework on this matter. He stated he did call Miami Valley Lighting and was told this is how the utility operates in the right-of-way and was not given a reason as to why AES is requiring this. He stated he can try to dig further to get an answer. Mayor Williams stated that the representative from AES is Ryan Brosey, and they will reach out to him.

Mr. Roger Ackley, 418 Pandora Drive, Riverside, Ohio, stated he has problems with a neighbor. Last time he was there he was in favor of the neighbor as he felt it was the right thing to do. He is now there because of the excessive noise in his neighborhood, the squealing of tires, and the speeding up and down his street. He stated they are uncooperative anymore. It has been going on for years and the oldest boy is now 18; he and his friends participate in this. Mr. Ackley stated he looked up the loud noise ordinances. In 331.36 talks about squealing tires, peeling and cracking noises along with no person shall unnecessarily race the motor vehicle and no person shall operate any motor vehicle except in emergency in such a manner that the vehicle is rapidly accelerating such a manner where starting from a stop position that exhaust system emits loud cracking chatter noise, and it goes on about squealing tires. His biggest complaint is the noise. When he moved in there four to five years ago, he did not want to move in by a drag strip, rock concert, and where teenagers get loud and belligerent. They have been compliant in the past until about two years ago. They would not take it seriously. The last discussion he had with them the young man told him they have a lot of money invested in the speakers, and they are going to

continue to play it loud and nothing is going to change. Mr. Ackley has talked to them personally for years with the police only being called a few times. The last time the police were called, he was not at home but came back to see the police talking to them in the street. From what he saw, they were not taking it seriously as the woman was laughing and pointing to his house. He stated he left a message in the past with Sgt. Jackson and with a major, but cannot recall his name. He has contacted an organization that helps with this but are not city officials. Mayor Williams stated this will give them things to look into. He asked what he came for when he was in favor of the neighbors. Mr. Ackley stated it was to put in another driveway, and there was an ordinance about two driveway aprons. It was a few months ago. Mayor Williams asked if he has called dispatch to make reports. Mr. Ackley stated he has called, not every time, but he has called. His wife has called the police; they have a different attitude with his wife. He has serious conversations with them, and they respond better. His wife gets no respect from them whatsoever. Mr. Rauch stated he would have the Chief of Police contact him. Mayor Williams stated he wants to give them the assurance they will follow up but does not want to litigate the items in a public meeting that may end up as an investigation. Mr. Ackley stated this all has started with squealing tires, but it is escalating. He listed pedestrians that have been hit nearby his home and close to St. Helen's Elementary School as well as Stebbins High School. He is concerned about the young kids playing in the street near his home. He does not want anyone to get hurt. He believes that if they are doing it near his home they are doing it in other places.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Rauch thanked all of the staff and partners in the community that helped during the recent tornado. Although it was not as severe as it could have been, there was a little bit of damage to the city as some trees were down. Staff were out right after it cleared to start moving brush and debris. Chief Miller and the fire department were out checking for gas leaks; the police were on several calls early in the morning as well. He received a call from the folks representing Airway Shopping Center thanking them for the response, especially given all the damage that they had on their properties. Mr. Rauch stated that they will spend time talking about the upcoming eclipse at next week's work session. Information from the County Emergency Management Authority is that a considerable number of people will be drawn to the county, around 350,000. It is anticipated that roughly between 20,000 - 30,000 will be at the USAF Museum on that day. This will pose some unique and substantial challenges for Riverside as the Air Force Museum is here and not in other cities. The goal is to keep the roads as clear as possible. He does not think ODOT will have the new bridge open early. There will be signs out to direct traffic. He just wanted to remind everyone that it will be busy and depending on the number of visitors and weather, it could be congested for up to 24 hours. They are expecting a lot of people.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS: Ms. Lommatzsch reminded residents to vote whether early voting, mail-in, or on the day of. She thanked the people involved in putting on the spaghetti dinner that Alex DiNino started 43 or so years ago. She said thousands of people

were there with dinner free to every school child. She added that she was elected this morning as president of MVRPC. She will take office at the dinner on April 18, 2024. She stated that all three of the elected offices are women; it is a first for MVRPC. She stated she took the opportunity to get with Mr. Brian Martin this morning and met with representatives of MVRPC and ODOT to discuss the Route 4/Harshman Road intersection. Many years ago, studies were done and there was a plan for redesign. They are going to reopen the plan and reevaluate it. With recent deaths at that intersection, it is a concern to her. She stated that MVRPC has the original plans and a gentleman from ODOT was aware of the original discussion. Mayor Williams congratulated Ms. Lommatzsch on her election as president of MVRPC.

Mr. Brown stated after the tornadoes he drove up and down Spinning Road and the base housing and saw the tree damage along with trampolines being torn up. He stated things were cleaned up very quickly and thanked those involved with the clean-up.

Mr. Joseph stated that the city offers an emergency alert service known as Code Red and all residents can sign up for this. Text "Riverside" to 99411 and there are also links on the city website. Code Red has a mobile application as well. It is for situations like severe weather, the eclipse, anything big. It is a valuable tool that is free to residents.

Mayor Williams echoed the city manager's recognition and admiration of the public safety staff who performed exemplary during the storms. He heard from Peggy Henthorn, managing partner of Airway Shopping Center, who expressed her high level of confidence in the public safety officials, firefighters, and police officers. It is reassuring to hear from people making investments in the city and impact numerous lives in the city share the level of confidence in the city's public safety. He asked people to keep this in mind when they are considering the replacement levy for the police department. He added that anyone who may be free tomorrow night can come and take in the fish fry happening at Carroll High School. Then, on Saturday is a kid's festival that is open to the public. He stated there is no reason not to vote and urged people to get out and vote. He thanked Ms. Fry once again for bringing in the Girl Scout troop/future leaders of the community.

Ms. Fry stated that it is serendipitous that Girl Scout Week comes so close to International Women's Day. She remembers as a young girl going to her brother's T-ball games and asking if she could play only to be told no that girls do not play that. She stated that her life has been impacted by so many wonderful women role models much like Olivia Kehl the Girl Scout troop leader; women who have exemplified what caring for your community and being a leader in the community looks like and the path to doing that as a woman. She thanked everyone in the community who are role models to young women. She stated that the blood drive will be on Monday, April 8, 2024, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at city offices.

Mr. Denning thanked the service department, police department, and fire department for their work during the recent tornado. He thanked Mr. Rauch for keeping council informed

on all the activities of the city departments. He also enjoyed the spaghetti fest and believes it was a record year. Mayor Williams thanked the school district for putting that on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Ms. Lommatzsch, to enter into executive session for the following: 103.01 (1) - Unless the City employee or official requests a public hearing; to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a city employee or official or the investigation of charges or complaints against a City employee or official; and 103.01 (3) Conferences with any attorney representing the City as counsel, concerning disputes involving the City, its council, boards, commissions, officials and employees that are the subject of pending or imminent court action or discussions of any matters which are properly covered under the attorney-client privilege as recognized by the law of Ohio. Roll call went as follows: Mr. Joseph, yes; Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; Mr. Brown, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.** Council entered into executive session at 6:45 p.m.

RECONVENE: Council reconvened at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to issue letters of appointment to Mr. Tim Cron and Mr. Martin Walling to the Board of Zoning Appeals. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

RESOLUTION: Resolution No. 24-R-2924 - A resolution amending the twelve (12) month moratorium on specific zoning and land uses in the City of Riverside, Ohio.

Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2924. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.



Pete Williams, Mayor



Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council