

Record of Proceedings
Regular Council Meeting
August 24th, 2023

1 Presiding Officer, Mayor Nicholas Molnar called the August 24th, 2023 regular Council meeting to order
2 at 7:30p.m.
3

4 **Present:** Council members Jessica Brandt, Dave Finley, Jeff Garvas, Jan Tulley, and Vini J.
5 Ventura. Also present: Law Director Mark Guidetti and Clerk of Council Jon Hoover.
6

7 **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
8

9 **PRESENTATION:** Keri Newman of the Summit County Department of Community & Economic
10 Development provided a summary of some current programs the County has to offer residents, including
11 home improvement project assistance to increase energy efficiency for residents below a specified income
12 level. Ms. Newman provided pamphlets detailing these services to the Clerk of Council.
13

14 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
15

16 Ms. Brandt moved, second by Mr. Garvas, to **approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 13,**
17 **2023 as received from the Clerk of Council.** The motion carried by a majority voice vote. Councilors
18 Brandt, Finley, Tulley and Ventura voting in the affirmative. Councilor Garvas abstained.
19

20 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
21

22 ~**Joe Skarupa, 8199 S Bedford Drive,** questioned why the radar speed sign that was placed on South
23 Bedford earlier this year was taken down two weeks later. He was appreciative that the sign was put up
24 in the first place, but questions why this one is moved when there are several others that remain in the
25 same place. He thinks with school starting it would be a good idea to have the sign returned to South
26 Bedford. The Mayor indicated that he would instruct the radar speed sign to once again be placed along
27 South Bedford.
28

29 Mr. Skarupa then turned to the topic of the MetroRTA bus route that was recently added along South
30 Bedford, and lamented why the residents impacted by the decision to add the route were not asked for
31 their feedback. He added that the bus routes add to traffic congestion and with there not being a paved
32 area at the stop in front of the high school, people boarding and disembarking would have to stand in the
33 culvert, which could be problematic when the weather turns to rain and snow.
34

35 The Mayor stated he believes the bus has been a benefit to the community as it provides transportation to
36 employees who work within the City. Mr. Skarupa questioned if the point of the buses was to bring
37 employees to the City, would there not be more stops along Route 82, where more employers are located?
38

39 ~**Dawn Distler, CEO of MetroRTA,** was originally asked to speak during the Mayor's Report, but given
40 Mr. Skarupa's comments above, the Mayor invited her up at this point in the meeting. Ms. Distler shared
41 an overview of "Reimagine Metro", which was the first redesign of the MetroRTA system in
42 approximately 20 years. She shared that every resident in Summit County was sent a flyer that included a
43 solicitation of feedback for proposals on the network redesign. Ms. Distler also shared that the bus stop
44 in front of the American House on South Bedford is in the top four of highest ridership in Macedonia.
45 She further stated the importance of an open dialogue with the City and continued evaluation of routes
46 within the City.
47

48 The Mayor echoed a concern Mr. Skarupa brought up, which was that riders at the stop in front of the
49 high school might have to stand in the ditch while waiting. Ms. Distler asked for time to evaluate the stop
50 with school starting.
51

52 Ms. Tulley expressed concern over there being no sidewalks along South Bedford for these bus stops, and
53 that she did not receive a flyer from MetroRTA until after the routes had already been decided.

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54 Mr. Ventura asked how many trustees are on the MetroRTA Board and their location in Summit County,
55 to which Ms. Distler replied there are 12 trustees with six being appointed by the City of Akron, three by
56 the Summit County Executive, and the remaining three by the Cities of Stow, Barberton, and Cuyahoga
57 Falls. Mr. Ventura asked if there could be representation from northern Summit County the next time
58 there is an opening, to which Ms. Distler responded the Summit County Executive can pick three from
59 anywhere in Summit County, whereas the other seats are mandated by the Ohio Revised Code and the
60 bylaws of the Board. When asked by Mr. Ventura how one would express interest in a trustee position,
61 Ms. Distler suggested contacting the Summit County Executive.

62
63 Mr. Garvas asked Ms. Distler if there are reports that can be shared which would show how often people
64 ride the bus and what stops they use to address the misconception some might have that nobody rides the
65 bus. Ms. Distler responded that they can do that, but Ms. Brandt suggested waiting until further into the
66 school year to assess the data.

67
68 Mr. Skarupa was allowed another comment by the Mayor and said to Ms. Distler that the marketing and
69 survey attempts were deficient since they did not include feedback from the residents affected by the new
70 routes.

71
72 **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

73
74 **INTRODUCTION, READINGS & ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION**

75
76 **ORDINANCE NO. 50-2023**
77 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF
78 MACEDONIA A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 11.01 OF THE CHARTER REGARDING
79 THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF ZONING AND BUILDING CODE APPEALS was offered
80 by Mr. Garvas for its **third reading by title only.**

81
82 Dir. Guidetti stated this Charter Amendment adds two BZA alternates to help serve in the event a regular
83 member is unable to attend a meeting.

84
85 Mr. Garvas moved, second by Ms. Tulley, to **adopt ORD.NO. 50-2023 and post the same according to**
86 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 50-2023 declared and adopted.**

87
88 **ORDINANCE NO. 51-2023**
89 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF
90 MACEDONIA A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XIII OF THE CHARTER REGARDING
91 PARKS AND RECREATION was offered by Mr. Garvas for its **third reading by title only.**

92
93 Dir. Guidetti stated this Charter Amendment reorganizes a portion of the Charter to reflect the current
94 operations which are structured around the Parks & Recreation Department as opposed to the Parks &
95 Recreation Commission.

96
97 Mr. Garvas moved, second by Ms. Brandt, to **adopt ORD.NO. 51-2023 and post the same according to**
98 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 51-2023 declared and adopted.**

99
100 **ORDINANCE NO. 62-2023**
101 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF
102 MACEDONIA A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8.04, 8.05 AND SECTION 12.01 OF
103 THE CHARTER REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS
104 was offered by Mr. Garvas for its **third reading by title only.**

105

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106 Dir. Guidetti stated this Charter Amendment clarifies the Charter to reflect current operations of the
107 Police and Fire Departments by stating which full-time members are in the classified civil service versus
108 the unclassified civil service.

109
110 Ms. Brandt reminded residents that these first three ordinances on the agenda are to put these questions on
111 the ballot and came from the Charter Review Commission for the electorate to decide and is not Council
112 making changes to the Charter. These votes are simply to decide whether the proposed Charter
113 Amendments will be placed on the ballot in November.

114
115 Mr. Garvas moved, second by Mr. Finley, to **adopt ORD.NO. 62-2023 and post the same according to**
116 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 62-2023 declared and adopted.**

117
118 The Mayor thanked Mr. Garvas and members of the Charter Review Commission for their time in
119 deliberating and suggesting these Charter Amendments.

120
121 Mr. Garvas moved, second by Ms. Brandt, to **conclude the Charter Review Commission for 2023.**
122 Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

123
124 **ORDINANCE NO. 70-2023**
125 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 909.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY
126 OF MACEDONIA RELATIVE TO WEEDS was offered by Ms. Tuley for its **third reading by title**
127 **only.**

128
129 Commissioner Rodic explained this ordinance would reduce the amount of time a party has to remedy
130 weeds and tall grass when cited from seven days to 72 hours and from eight inches to six inches. The
131 City contracts private firms to remedy the cause of the citation if the property owner does not, with the
132 expense applied to the property owner. There is also an additional penalty for repeat offenders.

133
134 Ms. Tuley moved, second by Ms. Brandt, to **adopt ORD.NO. 70-2023 and post the same according to**
135 **law.** Motion carried by a majority voice vote. Councilors Brandt, Garvas, Tuley and Ventura voting in
136 the affirmative. Councilor Finley voting in the negative. **ORD.NO. 70-2023 declared and adopted.**

137
138 **ORDINANCE NO. 77-2023**
139 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 67-2022 RELATIVE TO CURRENT EXPENSES
140 AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY
141 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023 was offered by Mr. Ventura for **first, second and third readings by**
142 **title only.** Seconded by Ms. Tuley. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

143
144 Dir. Veres highlighted the largest dollar amount change being a removal of the Empire Parkway project
145 until economic/job-related activity is seen.

146
147 Mr. Ventura moved, second by Ms. Tuley, to **adopt ORD.NO. 77-2023 and post the same according**
148 **to law.** Motion carried by a majority voice vote. Councilors Brandt, Garvas, Tuley and Ventura voting
149 in the affirmative. Councilor Finley voting in the negative. **ORD.NO. 77-2023 declared and adopted.**

150
151 **RESOLUTION NO. 78-2023**
152 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A 2023 DODGE DURANGO PURSUIT
153 POLICE CAR TO THE CITY OF STOW was offered by Ms. Tuley for **first, second and third**
154 **readings by title only.** Seconded by Mr. Ventura. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

155
156 Chief Yakopovich stated the Police Department received its last pursuit vehicle to replace the Ford Fusion
157 that he had previously driven as Lieutenant. A Stow police officer was involved in a crash and totaled
158 one of their vehicles, so Chief Film called and inquired about pursuit vehicles. Macedonia's Police

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159 Department currently has enough pursuit-rated vehicles to allow for this transfer, and Chief Yakopovich
160 explained that he thinks this is the right thing to do.

161
162 Ms. Tulley moved, second by Mr. Ventura, to **adopt RES.NO. 78-2023 and post the same according to**
163 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **RES.NO. 78-2023 declared and adopted.**

164
165 **ORDINANCE NO. 79-2023**

166 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A
167 CONTRACT WITH M. CAMPBELL CONTRACTING, LLC FOR THE IROQUOIS TRAIL STORM
168 SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT was offered by Mr. Garvas for **first, second and third readings**
169 **by title only.** Seconded by Mr. Ventura. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

170
171 Dir. Gigliotti explained this project is to correct a reoccurring drainage problem on Iroquois Trail by
172 replacing and upsizing the pipe, and the project is completely funded from the NEORSD community cost-
173 share fund.

174
175 Mr. Garvas moved, second by Mr. Ventura, to **adopt ORD.NO. 79-2023 and post the same according**
176 **to law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 79-2023 declared and adopted.**

177
178 **ORDINANCE NO. 80-2023**

179 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A
180 CONTRACT WITH SIGNARAMA CLEVELAND FOR THE MACEDONIA MONUMENTAL
181 SIGNAGE AND DIGITAL DISPLAY PROJECT was offered by Mr. Finley for **first, second and third**
182 **readings by title only.** Seconded by Ms. Brandt. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

183
184 The Mayor shared this would be a new digital sign installed east of the Wendy's on Rt. 82, and is the first
185 of many planned throughout the City. Currently, a Service Department worker creates and installs signs
186 by hand, and this would allow that individual to address other tasks and the City to change information
187 displayed on the sign quickly via computer.

188
189 Mr. Finley moved, second by Ms. Brandt, to **adopt ORD.NO. 80-2023 and post the same according to**
190 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 80-2023 declared and adopted.**

191
192 **ORDINANCE NO. 81-2023**

193 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, BUILDING COMMISSIONER, SERVICE
194 DIRECTOR, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR AND ENGAGE IN
195 THE PROCESS OF LETTING ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS WITH ONE OR MORE QUALIFIED
196 ENTITIES FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE BUILDING AS SET FORTH
197 WITHIN THE OHIO REVISED CODE RELATED TO DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTING FOR THE
198 PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION FOR A NEW SERVICE BUILDING AND SALT
199 DOME, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BIALOSKY
200 CLEVELAND TO ASSIST THE CITY AS ITS CRITERIA ARCHITECT TO ACCOMPLISH THE
201 SAME was offered by Ms. Brandt for **first, second and third readings by title only.** Seconded by Mr.
202 Finley. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

203
204 The Mayor stated he has been wanting to improve the Service Department facilities since entering his
205 role. After purchasing the building at 9150 Valley View Rd. and hiring a criteria architect this is the first
206 step to get there for what will be a long process.

207
208 Dir. Guidetti explained the statutory process required to move ahead with this project.

209
210 Ms. Brandt moved, second by Mr. Finley, to **adopt ORD.NO. 81-2023 and post the same according to**
211 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 81-2023 declared and adopted.**

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ORDINANCE NO. 82-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES WITH O.R. COLAN ASSOCIATES, LLC AND SMITH & NEJEDLIK, INC. FOR THE HIGHLAND/VALLEY VIEW ROAD PROJECT – PID NO. 113161 was offered by Mr. Ventura for **first, second and third readings by title only**. Seconded by Mr. Garvas. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Dir. Gigliotti shared the City is required to hire a right-of-way consultant service to perform the acquisition task for this future intersection improvement.

Mr. Ventura moved, second by Mr. Garvas, to **adopt ORD.NO. 82-2023 and post the same according to law**. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 82-2023 declared and adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 83-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW “TITAN PRO PLUS” LEAF VACUUM LOADERS AND FOUR “SPARTAN-STYLE” LEAF CONTAINMENT BOXES FROM BELL EQUIPMENT COMPANY THROUGH THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR USE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT was offered by Mr. Garvas for **first, second and third readings by title only**. Seconded by Ms. Brandt. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Dir. Wilson stated this ordinance would allow for the purchase of two pull-behind style leaf vacuum units and four leaf collection boxes that would fit the new roll-off style trucks, which will increase efficiency during leaf removal. The current units are 25-30 years old, and if this purchase, which is part of the 5-year capital plan is approved, the units would be expected to be ready to use for the 2024 Fall season.

Mr. Garvas moved, second by Ms. Brandt, to **adopt ORD.NO. 83-2023 and post the same according to law**. Motion carried by a majority voice vote. Councilors Brandt, Finley, Garvas and Ventura voting in the affirmative. Councilor Tulley voting in the negative. **ORD.NO. 83-2023 declared and adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 84-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY VIEW PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, L.L.C. FOR A SENIOR GUTTER CLEANING PROGRAM FOR THE FALL 2023 SEASON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE SAME was offered by Ms. Tulley for **first, second and third readings by title only**. Seconded by Mr. Garvas. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

The Mayor stated this and the following two pieces of legislation are for providing services to seniors under a certain income level.

Ms. Brandt added that these services are being contracted out to private entities and not performed by City Service Department employees.

Ms. Tulley moved, second by Mr. Garvas, to **adopt ORD.NO. 84-2023 and post the same according to law**. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 84-2023 declared and adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 85-2023

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND AUTHORIZING A REFUSE COLLECTION SUBSIDY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR THAT SUBSIDY was offered by Ms. Brandt for **first, second and third readings by title only**. Seconded by Mr. Finley. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

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265 Ms. Brandt moved, second by Mr. Finley, to **adopt ORD.NO. 85-2023 and post the same according to**
266 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 85-2023 declared and adopted.**

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268 **ORDINANCE NO. 86-2023**

269 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM FOR THE 2023-
270 2024 WINTER SEASON was offered by Mr. Finley for **first, second and third readings by title only.**
271 Seconded by Mr. Ventura. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

272
273 Mr. Finley moved, second by Mr. Ventura, to **adopt ORD.NO. 86-2023 and post the same according to**
274 **law.** Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. **ORD.NO. 86-2023 declared and adopted.**

275
276 **RESOLUTION NO. 87-2023**

277 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING H.R. 3372, A U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL TO AMEND
278 TITLE 23 OF THE U.S. CODE TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM CONCERNING CERTAIN 6-
279 AXLE VEHICLES OPERATING ON THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM was offered by Mr.
280 Ventura for **first reading by title, paragraphs four and five, and sections one and two only.**

281
282 Mr. Ventura shared that the roads in the State of Ohio received a ‘D’ grade from the American Society of
283 Civil Engineers in 2023, and Ohio is rated 43rd in the nation for weight enforcement of commercial
284 vehicles. Mr. Ventura reported Gov. DeWine is in favor of this pilot program, but warns the public that
285 proponents of the measure will lead one to believe that only interstate highways and turnpikes will be
286 affected, but those trucks will need to exit onto smaller streets and highways such as in Macedonia to
287 make their deliveries. Mr. Ventura stated that these heavier vehicles will put those that live and shop in
288 Macedonia in jeopardy.

289
290 **MOTIONS / OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** Mr. Garvas moved, second by Mr. Ventura, to
291 **accept a donation from Judith Johnson in the amount of \$45, and a donation from Kodi Pride in**
292 **the amount of \$10, to the City’s Police Department to be used for Police Department purposes.**
293 Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

294
295 **MAYOR’S REPORT**

296
297 ~The Mayor forfeited his time to the MetroRTA discussion that took place during public
298 comments.

299
300 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

301
302 **Parks & Recreation Commission:** Ms. Brandt reminded everyone not to text and drive and reported the
303 Parks & Recreation Commission met on August 16. Discussion included various maintenance projects,
304 revitalizing an old field, and the success of Touch a Truck. Looking forward to the events scheduled in
305 the Fall.

306
307 **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

308
309 **Service Department:** Director Wilson – Thanks for passage of ORD 83-2023. The City offers table and
310 chair rentals, and the pickup and drop-off location is changing from the auxiliary garage near the City
311 Center to the Service garage at 9000 Valley View Road.

312
313 **Engineer:** Director Gigliotti – Thanks for passage of ORDs 79 and 82-2023.

314
315 **Parks and Recreation Department:** – Director Chadock – Aquatics and Fitness Supervisor John Doyle
316 resigned to pursue an opportunity with the City of Shaker Heights. Candidates to replace Mr. Doyle are
317 being evaluated now. September 9 is the start of Fall sports seasons. The mini shutdown for repairs and

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318 cleaning at the Recreation Center went well, with next year's shutdown scheduled to be for two weeks.
319 FallFest will be Saturday, September 23 in Longwood Park with the anticipated time of 4:30-9:30pm.
320

321 Mr. Ventura commended Dir. Chadock and his staff for the spectacular events this year.
322

323 **Finance Department:** Director Veres – Thanks for passage of ORD 77-2023.
324

325 **Fire Department:** Assistant Chief Celinski – Staff and equipment moved into the new building located in
326 Northfield Center Township during July, and an open house took place on August 12. Thanks to the
327 residents for providing a state-of-the-art facility. National Fire Prevention Week will be October 8-14,
328 with more information to come on events planned.
329

330 **Police Department:** Chief Yakopovich – Thanks to Ms. Johnson and Ms. Pride for their donations. The
331 Police and Fire Departments will be participating in the Rotary's Kids & Family Health Fair that will take
332 place on Saturday, September 9 from 12-4pm at Nordonia High School.
333

334 **HR Department:** Director Smith – No report.
335

336 **Building Department:** Commissioner Rodic – New businesses that have opened recently include
337 Wholly Frijoles and Panda Express. The Montessori Life school will be opening at the Faith Fellowship
338 Church the first week of September. There are 12 homes currently under construction in Spruce Hill
339 Crossings Phase III, with Ryan Homes currently marketing Phase IV.
340

341 **IT Department:** Director Collins – 42 help desk tickets were closed since the last meeting. Projects
342 include an on-premises backup of Office365 and a digitization of paper records to free up space.
343

344 **Law Department:** Director Guidetti – No report
345

346 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None
347

348 **NEW BUSINESS:** The Mayor wished Councilor Tulley a happy birthday and congratulated Councilor
349 Finley on the birth of his son Bennett.
350

351 Ms. Brandt welcomed the students back to school, wished them luck and reminded everyone to be on the
352 lookout for students as they resume going to and from school. Ms. Tulley thanked the Police Department
353 for their presence at school letting students know who to call for help. The Mayor referenced information
354 in the latest e-newsletter for what motorists should do around school buses, and reminded everyone to put
355 their phones down and drive.
356

357 There being no further business, Mr. Garvas moved, second by Ms. Brandt, to **adjourn the meeting**. The
358 motion passed **unanimously** pursuant to a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at approximately
359 8:40p.m.
360

361 **Date:** _____
362
363

364 **Attest:** _____
365 Jon Hoover, Clerk of Council
366
367

368 **Mayor:** _____
369 Nicholas Molnar
370