

Council President Vance called the council meeting to order.

From the Orrville Ministerial Association, Pastor Paul Simonsen, Orrville C&MA Church, led the prayer.

The pledge was recited.

Roll call: Handwerk, Aspiras, Shanklin, Lorson, Carr, Mosley, and Squirrell were present.

Council minutes of the September 5, 2023, regular meeting were presented for approval. Mosley motioned to approve those minutes; Lorson seconded. All ayes; motion passes.

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

Ordinance & Personnel – Lorson: President Pro-Tem nomination was made by Lorson to appoint Rick Aspiras and seconded by Carr. Vote: Aspiras abstained; all remaining ayes. Motion passes.

Transportation – Mosley: to meet with staff engineer regarding the 2024 streets master plan. Requested approval tonight of Res. 30-23, the OPWC grant. Requested a committee meeting Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to go over the 2024 master plan.

Health & Safety – Aspiras: Met Sept. 11 regarding the ladder truck purchase which will need to go to third reading and the staffing issues at the fire department.

#### **Administrative Reports**

Mayor Dave Handwerk: We were all saddened by the passing of our longtime former Fire Chief Bob Ballentine. Prayers go out to Linda and the Ballentine family.

Safety-Service Director Wheeler: Echo's the prayers for the Ballentine family. He was a great chief and a great guy, a great human. He loved to teach young people about become fire people and EMS. He will be missed. Trick or Treat, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 pm, turn on your porch light to participate. Service Dept. continues work on the pickleball courts and crack sealing begins. Question was asked about the street lines needing to be painted. Awaiting ODOT's approval on the grant for roads. This will include major corridors.

Utility Director Brediger: City's natural gas aggregate. Prices today in the \$3.50-\$4.50/mcf fixed for a year. Our current rate is at \$6.61 through next October. Typically a home uses between 70-90 mcf/year. If you save \$1/mcf could save you \$70-\$90/year. Pay attention to notify your supplier if you decide to switch back to the city next year otherwise they automatically reenroll you. The utility office can assist you with questions.

Finance Director Strimlan: The August 2023 fund balance report has been distributed. Requested a motion to approve subject to audit. Lorson moved to approve the report subject to audit; seconded by Shanklin. All ayes. Motion passes.

#### **Old Business**

**Resolution 29-23**, Lorson moved that it be placed on second reading. Shanklin seconded. All ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 29-23**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into an agreement and/or agreements with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc., to purchase through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program a Pierce 100 Foot Tower Ladder Truck with Enforcer Cab and Aluminum Body and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This was a main topic of the committee meeting. Proposal is to replace our 2000 truck. Discounts available if we purchase soon. We are working with the bond council and that legislation will be before you at the next council meeting. We would like

this to go to third reading. The company will honor the discount. We have asked Pierce for clarification on the PPI in the contract. Price currently stands at \$2.2 million with an increase in November around 1.7%, just under \$40,000. No guarantee of that rate. Ordering now, we expect it to come in early 2027 to mid-2027. Our existing truck is 23 years old now. This should be the last of the big purchases for the fire department.

### **New Business**

**Resolution 30-23**, Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Mosley seconded. All ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 30-23**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety – Service Director to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program for grant or loan funds and/or agreements as required to obtain said funds and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This is approval, as Councilman Mosely had mentioned, to apply for the grant. Plan is to do Bell from High to Market, McGill from Pine to Paradise, and Washington from High to Church. These are the three streets with the worst pavement condition rating (PCR) in the city. They are in the 60's which is still a pretty solid street. A testament to the amount of roadwork we have been able to get done. The grant application is for \$500,000 with engineer estimate is \$1.1 million which leaves us \$600,000 in cost share from the Capital Fund. We should hear about the grant in early spring. We cannot officially award a bid until July 1<sup>st</sup>. Work would begin after July 1<sup>st</sup>. No negatives to applying. This grant has helped us catch up on our streets. Last year we were not approved for the grant. Our average street used to be ratings in the 40's. It is not guaranteed we will receive it.

Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Carr seconded. All yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that **Resolution 30-23** be adopted as read. Squirrell seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**Resolution 31-23**, Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. All ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 31-23**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into a contract and/or contracts, without bidding, for professional landscape architectural services for Depot Park in the City of Orrville.

Discussion: "Depot Park" was the name that was used in order to apply for the grant. This allows us to enter into contract with Edge Consultants, who also worked on our park plan. The Depot area has received a grant for some greenspace and conversion the parking across the street and potentially a stage. This was in the capital budget.

Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Handwerk seconded. All yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that **Resolution 31-23** be adopted as read. Mosley seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**Resolution 32-23**, Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Aspiras seconded. All ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 32-23**, A Resolution establishing rates of pay for the Members of the Fire Department of the City of Orrville, on-call pay, and call-in; repealing conflicting Ordinances; and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: HR Manager Phil McFarren addressed the council. In 1855 the city developed the volunteer fire service. We have been using the same method since 1855, for over 170 years. The need for emergency personnel is growing and our workforce is aging. The volunteers are dwindling rapidly. Calls are increasing every year. In 2009 we were at 600-700 calls per year with currently over 1200 a year. Very few employers allow employees to get a page and leave their worksite. Many times the chief and assistant chief are the only ones reporting to a call. This change will come in phases. Phase 1 retroactive back to September 1<sup>st</sup>, when we began posting 12 hour day and night shifts with the volunteers signing up for shifts and making the calls, EMS only. They like the certainty and knowing they will be fully staffed and what their days off are. The first six months they will be classified as seasonal employees which gives us flexibility and time to figure out the long-

term plan. Seasonal employees can only be classified for 180 days. By the end of February, we will need to have a long-term plan for this which is Phase 2. It will last an indefinite period as we go from seasonal to a permanent part time workforce with a set schedule, benefits and pay structure. Phase 3 will be when we move to calling them a full-time department. We will then need living quarters and financing options to staff the department. This legislation gives us the opportunity to start with the seasonal workforce to establish wages based on their certifications and allows us on-call pay. We estimate this to cost \$135,000 which is in our EMS funds and our fire department wage budget. Those two also cover the balance for 2024. We surveyed other counties and based ours at about 80%. Councilman Aspiras requested passage this evening. The past three weeks have been very positive, well received. Average response time was 8-9 minutes, now about 4.

Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Squirrell seconded. All yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that **Resolution 32-23** be adopted as read. Mosley seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**Resolution 33-23**, Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Aspiras seconded. All ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 33-23**, A Resolution to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Orrville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This change was discussed at the committee meeting with an allocation for wages out of the EMS fund to cover anticipated wages through yearend. The balance right now is \$361,000. It will support these changes.

Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Shanklin seconded. All yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that **Resolution 33-23** be adopted as read. Squirrell seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**Good of the Order**

Lorson: Condolences to the Ballentine family and the Fire Department.

Squirrell: People have asked about signs directing people to the tennis or pickleball courts.

**Adjournment**

Lorson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Mosley seconded. All ayes; motion passes.

Our next regular meeting will be October 2, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2023  
Date

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Paul Vance, President of Council