

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio, City Council Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices, 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

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

Staff present were as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager; Dalma Grandjean, Law Director; and Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Deputy Mayor Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to excuse Mr. Brown. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Williams stated that every year at the first meeting they take a moment of silence for two important individuals of Riverside. He read a statement of remembrance for Corporal Derek C. Dixon and for Private First-Class Lavern C. Ullmer.

MINUTES: Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve the December 7, 2023, council business meeting minutes. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ESTABLISHING DATE AND TIME FOR MEETINGS: Mayor Williams stated that their typical meeting days and times have been on the first and third Thursdays of the month for business meetings and on the second, and if needed fourth, Thursdays of the month for a work session. Council discussed the calendar supplied to them listing their dates and the Thursdays that they will not be able to meet. Deputy Mayor Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to approve the 2024 calendar with the following Thursdays omitted: April 18, May 16, July 4, July 11, and September 5. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR: Mayor Williams called for nominations for deputy mayor. Mr. Joseph nominated, seconded by Mayor Williams, Mr. Maxfield as deputy mayor. No further nominations were made. Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Ms. Lommatzsch, to accept the nominee, Mr. Maxfield, by unanimous acclamation. 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.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

- I) **Ordinance No. 23-O-845 – An ordinance to amend Chapter 720 of the City of Riverside Administrative Code. (2nd reading, public hearing, adoption)**

Mr. Rausch stated this is the second reading of the rental registration program; this requires registration and self-inspection to make sure the city has a better idea about which properties are for rent and what condition they are in.

Ms. Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maxfield, to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 23-O-845. The clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 6:17 pm. No one came forward to speak on the ordinance. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing at 6:17 pm.

Roll call went as follows: Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; Mr. Maxfield, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Mr. Joseph, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

- I) **Resolution No. 24-R-2903 – A resolution appointing the City of Riverside's 2024 Representatives to the First Suburbs Consortium of Dayton, Ohio, Council of Governments.**

Mayor Williams stated this is for a council appointment of two members to the First Suburbs. Ms. Fry added they also need an alternate. Previously it was Ms. Fry and Mr. Joseph with Mrs. Franklin as the alternate.

Ms. Fry moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to appoint Ms. Fry and Mr. Joseph as the representatives and Ms. Lommatzsch as the alternate to the First Suburbs Consortium and to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2903.

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

- II) **Resolution No. 24-R-2904 – A resolution appointing the City of Riverside's 2024 Representatives to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC).**

Mr. Rauch stated this is for one council representative and an alternate to MVRPC. For staff, it will be himself and Mr. Kevin Miller as an alternate.

Deputy Mayor Maxfield moved, seconded by Mr. Jospeh, to appoint Ms. Lommatzsch as the council representative and Mayor Williams as the alternate along with Mr. Rauch as the staff representative for the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and Mr. Kevin Miller as the alternate and to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2904.

Ms. Lommatzsch stated it has been a privilege to serve, and she has been doing so since the 1990s. She has worked her way through the board positions. She looks forward to them attending the dinner on April 18, 2024; where she will take over as the chair of a 90-member board; 30-member staff covering five counties.

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

III) Resolution No. 24-R-2905 – A resolution by the Council of the City of Riverside, Montgomery County, Ohio, approving the city manager’s 2024 appointment of two members to the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC).

Mr. Rauch stated these are staff appoints of Nia Holt and Lori Minnich.

Ms. Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2905.

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

IV) Resolution No. 24-R-2906 – A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into final legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Urban Paving Program, PID No. 110194.

Mr. Rauch stated that this is the customary final approval before the project goes to bid. It has been budgeted in the 2024 budget with a buffer in case bids come in high.

Ms. Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Denning, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2906.

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

V) Resolution No. 24-R-2907 – A resolution authorizing the purchase of a replacement sign for the city facility at 1791 Harshman Road.

Mr. Rauch stated they received quotes on electronic signage that they wish to pursue.

Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Maxfield, to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2907.

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

Ms. Lommatzsch asked if Mr. Miller could contact someone regarding the large direction sign for Route 4 that has been laying on the ground. It is not in Riverside, it is Dayton, but needs to be picked up.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Two petitions to speak were received. Mayor Williams invited Mr. Brett Domescik forward to speak. He asked him to state his name, address, and keep comments to three minutes. Mr. Brett Domescik, 172 Orinoco Street, Riverside, OH, stated he has a curb, gutter, sidewalk assessment for 103 Meyer Avenue after the work was done there. His bill was rather significant, and while he was given an idea of what it would be, it came out higher than expected. He stated he was not able to make payment on that in a timely fashion that the city had established. He made a payment to the city in early November for the amount of the invoice, which was about \$6,408.80. It was accepted and cashed. At the Christmas party, the city manager brought him back a check indicated they cannot take payment (there was a previous conversation). The city had already sent it to the county. The county had assessed an additional \$733. He thinks that is a disproportionately excessive interest expense for two months. He doesn't want to pay \$733 for a two month period of time. He gave the city a check; Josh returned it, and he has since cashed the check. He does not want to pay that interest. He will pay the bill as he has already done so, and will do it again. He is asking for their consideration for that.

Mayor Williams stated he has a list of items it seems he wants to cover in three minutes. Mr. Domescik stated he wanted three minutes for each individual item. Mayor Williams stated he will permit it. Mr. Domescik stated he distributed a letter regarding parking on Orinoco Street north of Bayside, but he understands the south side has the same issue. He left a letter for each person on his street, hand-delivered, about the situation and how it has been set up. The street department has put up nine signs, one in front of each house, on the east side of the street. He stated it looks hokey and devalues the look of the street. He wants the signs removed. The reason it is being done is because of an individual who has several vehicles parked on both sides of Orinoco Street when it was possible, and it was very difficult for Republic Services to service that as well as the police, fire, or the EMTs that service that street. Anybody on the other side if they cannot get their vehicles down there then they aren't going to be able to do service in terms of the EMTs and fire. They don't get service when they can't get passed the vehicles. These guys can't get past these vehicles. The city did not send notification to the residents about the signs. He would have expected the city to come to them to indicate they need to do something whether by letter or email to address the issue. His letter discussed possible solutions with hours of no parking to be posted. In this case, if residents park there then they need to be fined or towed. He is starting to see residents park on lawns. That is a worse look. He asked they consider something else and give them a chance to solve their own problem on the north side.

Mr. Domescik stated his third item is asking about some type of leaf pick-up program. He

lives at the dead end of Orinoco and the entire fence, which is base property, has leaves that are knee high on that on that entire wall. They can't be burnt; he would love to do that as it is the fastest and easiest way to get rid of them. He stated he does not have the time to go down there and pick them up and bag them. He does not have the time and he is not going to do that.

Mr. Domescik stated his last item is fireworks. He has spoken to the city manager and wants to know what council's stance is on fireworks. He asked if they have had any discussion since Ohio has approved sales and shooting fireworks. Mayor Williams stated that they decided last summer they are going to follow the state law. There has not been an inquiry from a citizen or a work session discussion on that since. He is not aware that anyone's position has changed. Mr. Domescik stated he is not trying to stir the pot; just trying to find out the situation. Mayor Williams stated they are following state law on that topic.

Mr. Bo Domescik, 182 Orinoco Street, Riverside, OH, stated that unlike his father Riverside is all that he knows. He bought his home from his father to remain close to his parents. He was proud to call Riverside his home and to contribute his tax dollars to Riverside. He stated for the first time in 39 years he is no longer sure about his residency in Riverside. The decision makers and the governing bodies of the city and municipality without any forewarning threw up these no parking signs in front of every home on the east side of the street. He holds the city just as accountable as the individual that's responsible for littering the street with a bunch of garbage vehicles that drove the city to make this decision. He stated the individual that resides in 201 Orinoco Street is not the homeowner; he is a live-in. The sense of entitlement and complete disregard for his neighbors prompted the city's kneejerk reaction. He added that if the City of Riverside continues to value citizenship, he hopes that the city finds it a new solution to the parking situation on Orinoco Street.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: Mr. Rauch stated that there was a post on the website regarding a grant from the US Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets 4 All program that's going to look at the Woodman corridor from Springfield Street down to US-35 with the idea of making safety and corridor improvements. As part of that, the city is setting up a task force according to the terms of the grant to perform and look at the recommended improvements. They are searching for someone with a disability, a member of the public preferably a resident, to serve on that task force to provide some different perspective from folks who may use the corridor in different ways and maybe have different constraints or different ways of looking things. The idea is to get that input so that they can pass that along to the engineers and other folks who are helping with the design. Anyone who knows someone who may be interested in that, there is a link on the website to send an e-mail to the city manager along with a little bit of information about yourself. He stated he intends to bring a resolution to council at the next business meeting that formally sets up that task force as part of the terms of the grant, and is needed when requesting reimbursements.

Mr. Rauch stated he received an email from SOPEC today regarding natural gas aggregation informing him they are in the market this week and next for pricing. They will be in touch with staff over the next two weeks to discuss next steps.

Ms. Lommatzsch asked when storm water would be coming back for discussion. Mr. Rauch stated it would probably be closer to the end of the first quarter. He spoke with the engineer this morning about a peer review and is speaking with someone else on how to structure the fee. They want to double and triple check the numbers before initiating a fee. Discussion was held on the previous studies and what they are currently doing. Mr. Rauch added that they have not had a lot of staff capacity in the middle of the new finance software and doing the budget. Discussion was held on how long this has been a topic of discussion and implementation.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Denning welcomed everyone back from the holidays. Mr. Joseph wished everyone a Happy New Year. Deputy Mayor Maxfield thanked them for the nomination of deputy mayor and that he looks forward to serving this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Ms. Lommatzsch, to go into executive session for the following reason: 103.01(4) Preparing for, conducting or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees and officials of the City concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. Council entered executive session at 6:43 p.m.

RECONVENE: Council reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

A. RESOLUTION

I) Resolution No. 24-R-2908 - A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into collective bargaining agreements between the City of Riverside and the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #161, for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.

Mr. Denning moved, seconded by Ms. Lommatzsch to approve Resolution No. 24-R-2908. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to adjourn; council adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Pete Williams, Mayor



Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council