

Record of Proceedings
Regular Council Meeting
March 23, 2017

Presiding Officer, Mayor Joseph Migliorini called the March 23 regular meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Present: Council members' Kevin Bilkie, David Engle, Sylvia Hanneken, Nick Molnar and Jan Tulley; Law Director Mark Guidetti and Council Clerk Josephine Arceci

Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION led by City Chaplin Commodore Tom O'Brien of Nordonia Hills American Legion Post 801

MINUTES Mr. Molnar moved, Ms. Tulley seconded and motion carried unanimously on a voice vote to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 23 and March 9, 2017.

FINANCIAL REPORT Ms. Tulley moved, Mr. Bilkie seconded and motion carried unanimously on a voice vote acknowledging receipt of Finance Report dated February 28, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

~~~ **Julie D'Aloiso, Shepard Road**, announced that this summer she is producing a short feature film which she said she hopes to be a community project. Explaining, Ms. D'Aloiso stated Russell Emanuel from Los Angeles, California will direct the mini horror film entitled The Dollhouse. Revenue is needed. Fund raising has begun. Donations, even at the corporate level can be made via [www.Nordoniahills.news](http://www.Nordoniahills.news) Ms. D'Aloiso stated. Ms. D'Aloiso encouraged everyone in the Nordonia Hills area to participate in this unique experience. Positions include cast, crew and extras. Ms. D'Aloiso added that once permits are granted filming will take place at the high school and Longwood Manor.

**INTRODUCTION, READINGS & ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION**

**ORD. NO. 19- 2017**

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR SALARIES /WAGES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2017 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017 was **offered by Ms. Tulley for its third reading by title only**. Second not required

Ms. Tulley moved, Mr. Engle seconded **to adopt ORD. NO.19-2017** and post according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Bilkie, Engle, Molnar\*\* and Tulley

Nays: Hanneken\*

The motion passed, **ORD. No. 19-2017 declared adopted.**

Relative to ORD. NO. 19-2017 and during roll call Ms. Hanneken\* stated that she did not offer an amendment to the appropriations because she know it would not be supported. However in her opinion more focus should have been given to the most critical needs of the City during this year's budgeting process. At the very least Ms. Hanneken stated the roads should be maintained this year. This could have been accomplished for about \$425,000. This money could be garnished Ms. Hanneken suggested by reducing department operations by about \$200,000 and reducing the legal department litigation fund by \$30,000, the latter reduction because 84% of the cases from last year specific to this fund have been eliminated. Ms. Hanneken rationalized too that about \$200,000 of the \$400,000 Water, Maintenance and Emergency Fund (WM&E Fund) could be reallocated for use on road maintenance. Ms. Hanneken also

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proposed using the permissive tax fee (currently about \$200,000) to repair one of Macedonia's six county roads. These reductions result in additional capital funding for 2017 of \$430,000.00 which could have been spent this year Ms. Hanneken added

Council President Molnar\*\* stated cutting operations by \$200,000 more this year as Ms. Hanneken suggested is not viable because the operational budget is already lean. To reduce operations by \$200,000 means reducing personnel; ultimately reducing the safety forces which means reduced safety which in Mr. Molnar's mind is never a good compromise. Also, eliminating litigation expenses as Ms. Hanneken proposed is not prudent. The City should keep funds readily available for untimely, adversarial legal situations. Additionally, money from the WM&E fund is specifically earmarked for water and water related issues. Mr. Molnar explained that Council majority recently authorized that a percentage of the WM&E fund be allocated for leaf removal purposes because leaves cause serious drainage problems. When storm drains block-up, flooding results. Therefore this allocation was a legitimate use of the WM&E fund, where road repair without water damage is not he added. Mr. Molnar mentioned there was a proposal to increase the percentage of employees' contribution to their health care coverage. Since this is a negotiable item under collective bargaining this proposal was not easily viable this year Mr. Molnar added.

**ORD. NO. 24 – 2017**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO MUNICIPAL JOINT SELF INSURANCE POOL FOR LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD was **offered** by Mr. Molnar and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings and waive the 48-Hour Rule of Council**. Second by Mr. Engle carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Molnar moved, Mr. Engle seconded, **adopt ORD. NO. 24-2017** and post according to law.

Roll call:           Ayes:   Bilkie, Engle, Hanneken, Molnar and Tulley  
                          Nays:   None  
                          The motion carried, **ORD. NO. 24-2017 declared adopted.**

Relative to ORD. NO. 24-2017, Finance Director Hall explained last year's annual premium was \$116,995. The new coverage remains under the Ohio Municipal Joint Self Insurance Pool. The new annual premium is \$99,531; about \$17,000 less than the City previously paid and is guaranteed for three-years. Ms. Hall added the City will no longer be dealing with the agent from Canal Fulton but a local agency, Nixon-Laurianti Insurance of Macedonia. Ms. Hall stated that she particularly liked the fact that this policy, unlike another she reviewed provides for a \$15 million claim per building, instead of aggregate claim of \$15 million for all the buildings.

Mayor Migliorini, having no vote in the adoption Ordinance No. 24-2017 disclosed that the Nixon-Laurianti Insurance Agency is a tenant in Center Point Plaza; a building Mayor Migliorini owns and that the agency has been a tenant since relocating from Northfield Center years ago. Mayor Migliorini added the Nixon Insurance Agency had been Macedonia's agent since the 1980's up until about 2001.

**ORD. NO. 25 – 2017**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF CLIFFORD BENDER TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Ms. Tulley and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days,

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instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mr. Molnar carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Tulley moved, Mr. Molnar seconded, motion carried unanimously on a voice vote **to adopt ORD. NO. 25-2017** and post according to law. **ORD. NO. 25-2017 declared adopted**

**ORD. NO. 26– 2017**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF MATTHEW DUPLAGA TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Mr. Bilkie and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Ms. Tulley carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Bilkie moved, Mr. Molnar seconded, motion carried unanimously on a voice vote **to adopt ORD. NO. 26-2017** and post according to law. **ORD. NO. 26-2017 declared adopted**

**ORD. NO. 27– 2017**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF RYAN NUTTER TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Mr. Molnar and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mr. Bilkie carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Molnar moved, Mr. Bilkie seconded, motion carried unanimously on a voice vote **to adopt ORD. NO. 27-2017** and post according to law. **ORD. NO. 27-2017 declared adopted**

**ORD. NO. 28 – 2017**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DANIEL EDWARDS TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Mr. Engle and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mr. Molnar carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Engle moved, Mr. Molnar seconded, motion carried unanimously on a voice vote **to adopt ORD. NO. 28-2017** and post according to law. **ORD. NO. 28-2017 declared adopted**

**ORD. NO. 29 – 2017**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF ROBERT WOLF TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER IN THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Ms. Hanneken and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Ms. Tulley carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Hanneken moved, Ms. Tulley seconded, motion carried unanimously on a voice vote **to adopt ORD. NO. 29-2017** and post according to law. **ORD. NO. 29-2017 declared adopted**

**ORD. NO. 30 – 2017**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF DAVID SMITH TO THE POSITION OF PART-TIME FIRE INSPECTOR IN THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Ms. Tulley and moved Council waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days,

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instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mr. Molnar carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Tulley moved, Mr. Bilkie seconded, motion carried unanimously on a voice vote **to adopt ORD. NO. 30-2017** and post according to law. **ORD. NO. 30-2017 declared adopted**

Relative to ORD, NOS. 25-30-2017, each newly appointment firefighter/paramedic thanked the Mayor and Council for their appointments and each introduced their respective families. Fire badges were affixed to each new appointment by of member of their respective families.

**MOTIONS / OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

~Ms. Tulley moved, Mr. Molnar seconded and motion carried by majority vote to cancel regular council meeting of April 13 in observance of Holy Thursday of Easter week. Ms. Hanneken dissenting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Service Department** Director Hnottavange branch chipping throughout the city has been completed and that the mechanics have begun prepping service vehicles and equipment for use this season. Mr. Hnottavange reiterated what he has stated previously, that the service department is compromised of only 15 full-time employees and only 10 which are responsible for every, day-to-day operations like ditching, driveway culvert installation, although he added the department is only completing those already commented to, road patching, berm rehabilitation, catch basin repairs for which there are over 30, crosser repairs (six currently), sink hole investigations, city property and building maintenance, roadside mowing, excavation of the soil south of Great Escape and planting street trees within five subdivisions .

Mayor Migliorini interjected that when the service department employed 22 full-time employees far more work could be accomplished.

**Building Commissioner**

**Engineer** Mr. Gigliotti reported that the ODOT, Route 8 resurfacing project will tentatively begin May 30<sup>th</sup> and will take about six weeks to complete. Resurfacing is the stretch of Route 8 between Route 82 and Ledge Road. Mr. Gigliotti also reported that N. Bedford Road at the 480 bridge will be closed for a period of three nights next week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9pm until 4am. N. Freeway Drive is the detour. Mr. Gigliotti added that the developer of the new North Woods residential subdivision has received permit to clear trees.

**Recreation Department** Ms. Manley thanked Council majority for passing the 2017 annual appropriation because necessary purchases have been in a holding pattern until funds were available. One of the immediate expenditures Ms. Manley explained is upgrading software that has not been upgraded since 2007. The upgrade will allow online registration and renewals that

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members have been asking for Ms. Manley stated. Ms. Manley mentioned that steam room generator failed. The \$10,000 generator was original to the building and was not repairable. Because the generator is not standard it is being built to specifications. Ms. Manley announced that this year's annual Aquatics Easter Hunt is Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration is required.

**Finance Department** Director Hall thanked Council majority for passing the 2017 appropriations. Ms. Hall reported that this year's General Fund budget increased by only 4.07%, less the money allocated to fire department services contracts with the townships of Northfield Center and Sagamore Hills. The 2016 budget was reduced by 13.09% from the 2015 budget which had increased from the prior year's spending by 20.25%. This means Ms. Hall continued that the 4.09% budgeted increase amount is considerably lower than in previous years. Income tax revenue for March Ms. Hall reported was \$579,765.32, down by \$164,564.00 from last year this is time of \$744,334.30. Accumulatively receipts are down by 89,174.18 for the year. Ms. Hall added R.I.T.A officials feel the shift in tax receipts may in part be due to mandated changes in the income tax laws; employers' due dates, filling deadlines and frequency of fillings. Ms. Hall announced that the WM&E billing is forthcoming. Ms. Hall is attempting implementing a more accurate billing list. Finance department staff are comparing and updating Macedonia's list with the list provided by the City of Cleveland Division of Water.

**Fire Department** In Chief Black's absence Captain Ripley thanked Council majority for adopting the 2017 appropriations and for approving the appointments of six new part-time firefighters. Captain Ripley reminded residents to annually change batteries in their smoke and Co2 detectors.

**Police Department** Chief Golden thanked Council majority as well for passing the appropriations.

**Law Department** Law Director Guidetti had no report

**Unfinished business** Councilor Engle asked Finance Director Hall the status of Ohiocheckbook.com to which Ms. Hall answered that she has spoken with Mr. Guidetti over the online program and Mr. Guidetti advised a plan must first be developed. Ms. Hall stated she has also spoken with a representative from the office of the state treasurer to learn more of the specifics of the program. Ms. Hall said her goal is to implement the online program after she resolves billing of the WM&E invoices.

Mayor Migliorini interjected that the City's budget is already on the City's website.

Councilor Tulley interjected the cost of the online program may have to be considered, if not now then at the end of the year.

Councilor Hanneken added that she too spoke with someone at the treasurer's office who indicated that the state program runs with the CMI program (the City's current program). The representative indicated the time to run a report is five to ten minutes. However there is about a thirty minute workload during the initial set-up.

Ms. Hall interjected that former clients whom she previously audited and who use the CMI program have indicated to her that facilitation of the online checkbook program is not as efficient as has been indicated.

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Regarding another topic, Ms. Hanneken asked Mayor Migliorini how much has been spent on marketing relative to the tax levy to which the Mayor answered, "It is not marketing, it is public education to dispel all of the lies you put out to the community."

Ms. Hanneken questioned why purchase order was been issued for \$49,700 to an impact group located in Hudson, Ohio company when the City has not money.

Mayor Migliorini responded, "I take full responsibility. It is incumbent on this mayor and this administration to educate the general public about the truth of the issues. This City is in a fiscal crisis. The City has a \$41 million dollar problem over the next five-years and \$20 million dollars in immediate road repairs."

Ms. Hanneken criticized that a booth was at the Expo were information and "chache" were handed out about the levy to which Melissa Granke, a Macedonia resident who was in the audience responded, "To correct the record, private citizens like myself volunteered time at the Expo. The booth was not sponsored by the City. Resident Jessica Brandt who was also present responded by telling Ms. Hanneken that Ms. Brandt personally purchased the "chache" Ms. Hanneken criticized.

Councilor Tulley interjected that at the last Expo every candidate had a booth. Why then would Ms. Hanneken question volunteer citizens having a booth for the purpose of educating other citizens about the levy?

Mayor Migliorini told Ms. Hanneken, "This City is in a fiscal crisis. You want to play that down because you have an ax to grind with anything that this administration or the prior administration has done. You have run twice for mayor, you are a scorned woman; you just want to screw the City."

Ms. Hanneken responded, "Isn't that a clever statement by our mayor once again."

**New business** Councilor Tulley thanked the maintenance department for installing directional signage relative first floor restrooms.

Regarding another topic, Councilor Hanneken opined that Issue 3, the ½% tax levy to increase the tax rate to 2.25% is not justified. Ms. Hanneken agrees the City cannot sustain with a tax rate of 1.75%. However she does not advocate a rate of 2¼%. Consideration instead should have been given to a 2% continuing tax rate she stated. Ms. Hanneken reasons the City can function at this rate because the debt service on the City Center and Recreation Center has expired. NEORSD is aggressively providing financial assistance in the amount of over \$300,000 this year for the Sioux Lane culvert and the Iroquois project. Ms. Hanneken feels Macedonia is a good position now to get more grants like the interest free grant/loan the City received relative to the Ledge Road improvement project in conjunction with Northfield Village. Ms. Hanneken stated in the past year the administration has made three unsuccessful attempts at raising the tax rate; reducing the tax credit and ballot issues twice. She opined that long term plan has to be developed before increasing the tax rate unrealistically. Ms. Hanneken complained that the Recreation Center concept proposed by one of the ballot issues was going to cost ¼% of the tax rate and another then there was another ¼% for roads. Ms. Hanneken said she will be providing her viewpoints about the forthcoming levy on her personal website.

Council President Molnar asked Ms. Hanneken how she could be anti-levy after admitting the City cannot sustain on a tax rate of 1.75% to which Ms. Hanneken answered that she is just not for this particular levy. Addressing the public, Mr. Molnar said look at the conditions of the roads, many are hazardous to

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drive and many that are unsightly and very close to being hazardous to drive. A resident wrote Mr. Molnar he said to complain about damage done to the tires and rims of the resident's car because of the street where he lives. This is not a fabricated. Macedonia's is in trouble. City roads are in terrible condition and continuing to put off the inevitable only results in more damaging conditions. Paving the roads, keeping property values up is not an outrageous concept and under this levy proposal, residents currently paying 2% will continue to pay 2%. Mr. Molnar added during the last levy attempt, a prominent Macedonia business owner contributed to Ms. Hanneken's group who opposed the levy. This is the same business owner whose letter to the editor appeared in this week's NewsLeader. Look at the irony, look at who Ms. Hanneken is protecting Mr. Molnar stated. It is not the residents but the businessman. In Mr. Molnar's way of thinking a prominent businessman giving money gives the appearance of lobbying he said. Sadly, Macedonia residents are not Ms. Hanneken's first consideration, the businessman is Mr. Molnar stated. Mr. Molnar stated it's the residents who should come first and then the businesses second. Mr. Molnar mentioned that a business with a \$1,000,000 payroll will only pay \$2500.00 dollars in additional income taxes.

Ms. Hanneken asked Mr. Molnar if he was aware that CVE Engineering was the exclusive contributor to the last ballot levy to which Mayor Migliorini interjected and asked Ms. Hanneken if that is why she voted against Mr. Gigliotti.

Mayor Migliorini added that what is being proposed is truly just a band-aid. The City has lost over a \$1,000,000 in revenue between state reductions and elimination of tax revenue. Twenty-million dollars is needed now so that many of Macedonia roads that rated badly can be repaired to drivable conditions. Ms. Hanneken's negative and purposely misleading information is damaging to the future of Macedonia. The public education relative to the levy Mayor Migliorini stated is for the residents to understand and discern more reasonably what is at issue, what is a stake? There is no other reasonable way Mayor Migliorini added to get Macedonia out of the fiscal crisis that it is in. Mayor Migliorini chastised Ms. Hanneken for her attempts at derailing Macedonia. Mayor Migliorini told Ms. Hanneken that he will take personal exception and take personal action against her if she disseminates wrong, inaccurate or misleading information on her personal website. This is not a threat Mayor Migliorini told Ms. Hanneken, this is a fact.

Councilor Bilkie asked Ms. Hanneken where is the logic in anything that she said. Mr. Bilkie told Ms. Hanneken that her vision is so short-sighted. She plans for 2018 but what about 2019 and thereafter he said. Where is her long term plan for revenue to fix the roads he asked? The City cannot afford taking revenue from the WM&E fund every year. The City cannot afford cutting personal by 5% every year. Officials have the responsibility of looking to the future Mr. Bilkie stated. Being short-sighted is damaging for everyone.

Relative to the topic, Councilor Tulley recognized the Nordonia high school students: wrestlers, bowlers and swimmers who qualified for state competition this year.

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned unanimously on voice vote at 8:45pm