

Record of Proceedings

Regular Council Meeting

June 13, 2019

Presiding Officer, Mayor Nicholas Molnar called the June 13 regular meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Present: Council members Shane Barker, Kevin Bilkie, Jessica Brandt, Jan Tulley and Vini J. Ventura; Law Director Mark Guidetti and Council Clerk Josephine Arceci.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chaplain Tom O'Brien of Nordonia Hills American Legion 801.

MINUTES Ms. Tulley moved, Mr. Ventura seconded and motion carried unanimously on a voice vote approving the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2019.

FINANCIAL REPORT Mr. Bilkie moved, Ms. Brandt seconded and motion carried unanimously on a voice vote acknowledging receipt of Financial Report dated May 31, 2019.

PROCLAMATIONS “**INDIA FESTIVAL USA EMBRACING DIVERSITY DAY**” declared for July 27, 2019 and on that day the second annual India Festival will be held from 1-8 p.m., on the grounds of St. Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church, 1252 E. Aurora Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

~**Tom O'Brien, Macedonia resident** and Macedonia's chaplain announced that July 14th is the 244-year anniversary of the United States Army and it is also Flag Day. All are welcomed to attend the unfurling of the American Flag by members of the local American Legion and VFW at 1:30 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Park. Friday, July 14th.

~**Tania Nemer, a Boston Heights resident** and magistrate announced in 2020 she is running for judge of Stow Municipal Court, the people's court as described by Ms. Nemer.

~ **John Cassmer, Macedonia resident** and president of Longwood Manor Society announced that the LMHS met with Derek Schroeder, the parks and recreation director for the city of Twinsburg to learn about Twinsburg's community garden. From that meeting Mr. Cassmer feels Macedonia can develop the same program and asked Ms. Brandt, Council's representative to Macedonia's Parks and Recreation Commission if members of the LMHS can meet with the P&RC at their next meeting on June 19th to discuss establishing a community garden in Macedonia. Mr. Cassmer announced too that the LMHS meets every Saturday morning about 11 a.m., at the Manor House (he called them work sessions) to perform various projects, currently its spreading mulch and planting flowers donated by the Nordonia Hills Garden Club. Mr. Cassmer announced the libraries in Twinsburg and Northfield Center now have copies of “This Place Matters” a book about Longwood Farm and the Manor House. Lastly, Mr. Cassmer asked Mayor Molnar if information about the LMHS and the Manor House may appear monthly in the *eMessenger*.

~ **Cathy Loya, 9186 North Bedford Road**, stated, “This week, 14 years ago my husband, Tom, and I moved to our home at 9186 North Bedford Road. We have learned many things since moving to this home and it mostly pertains to the impact of stormwater on our property. We have seen heavy stormwater infiltration to our land which has done significant damage due to erosion. We have also seen heavy stormwater infiltration into our basement which has severely altered the structural integrity of our home. We have also learned about what it means to be in a designated FEMA AE floodplain. We never

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anticipated all that we have learned since moving to this property. I first started re-approaching City Council back in January of 2015 regarding our stormwater issues. Over the years, I have insisted upon the fact that our stormwater issues are only going to continue to get worse and they are. I have never disagreed with FEMA's update to our property's floodplain status because our property is designed to hold and retain stormwater. My contention over these past four years has been that our home and my family should not be in the middle of it. Study upon study has been done of the Ledge and North Bedford area. Studies done indicated that a "fix" to our stormwater problems would be very costly and so our problems were taken on as a "regional issue" by NEORSD a few years back. I have been very skeptical of any beneficial solutions to our problems by NEORSD because these problems have been going on for decades and no one has ever been able to tackle the situation until now. Mayor Molnar - Thank you. Council president Tulley, Council vice president Ventura, Mr. Barker, Mr. Bilkie and Ms. Brandt - Thank you. Previous council members - Thank you and previous mayors beginning with Mayor Kuchta - Thank you. Since 2006 when my husband and I first approached the City of Macedonia about our stormwater problems you have listened and you have gotten us to this place in time.

My husband and I were informed in January 2019 that on behalf of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, NEORSD will be purchasing our property, demolishing the house, and utilizing the land for a stormwater project to provide stormwater relief to the City of Macedonia. A purchase agreement has been signed for the sale of our home and the NEORSD Board of Trustees is supposed to be voting on this sale at their July 18, 2019 meeting. It has been such a long road to this point and it is still very hard for me to believe that this is happening. Again to our elected officials, thank you for your assistance with getting us here. Please know that since this proposition was first presented to us that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and NEORSD are both aware of my desire to have our home demolished as quickly as possible. I do not want Macedonia visitors, residents or particularly my neighbors to have to deal with a vacant property for a long period of time. I am told that our home would be demolished by winter of 2019. Please trust that I will stay on top of this issue. My husband and I are not sure what the future holds for us. Staying in Macedonia would be great, but we just do not know where we may end up. Again, all of this has been quite overwhelming and hard to believe for my family. We are taking things one step at a time and just hoping for the best. I am very pleased for the City of Macedonia to be gaining open land to be utilized for much-needed stormwater retention especially in the North Bedford and Ledge area, and I only hope that the future project to be developed on this land will benefit many. Our property is not the only one NEORSD and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is looking to purchase, as others are involved as well. I just hope that the City of Macedonia continues its efforts with local stormwater relief as not all of Macedonia's stormwater issues fall under the regional umbrella of NEORSD. Thank you again for listening throughout the years to get my family to this point.”

Councilor Brandt thanked the Loya's for their patience over the years. Ms. Brandt said as a freshman member of council she personally has not been instrumental in effecting the positive outcome on their behalf. However has a longtime friend she recalls times of offering a helping hand during some trying times the Loya's experienced. The Loya's are a great asset to Macedonia Ms. Brandt added. Ms. Brandt hope is that the Loya's remain residents of Macedonia.

Mayor Molnar told Ms. Loya after far too many years he is so happy that the saga her family has endured is finally over, that they will longer have to contend with lip service.

READINGS & ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION

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ORD. NO. 46 - 2019

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 114-2018 RELATIVE TO CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019 was **offered** 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. Brandt authorizing the same carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Bilkie moved, Mr. Barker seconded, and motion **carried unanimously on a voice vote to adopt ORD. NO. 46-2019 and post same according to law. ORD. NO. 46-2019 declared adopted.**

ORD. NO. 47 -2019

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK TO FINANCE EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT was **offered** 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 Mr. Ventura authorizing the same carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Barker moved, Mr. Ventura seconded, and motion **carried unanimously on a voice vote to adopt ORD. NO. 47-2019 and post same according to law. ORD. NO. 47-2019 declared adopted**

ORD. NO. 48- 2019

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND CLARIFYING SECTION 1121.11 OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA REGARDING STREET TREES was offered by Mr. Ventura for its **first reading by title only**. A second not required.

Regarding ORD. NO. 48-2019, Law Director Guidetti explained that Macedonia's Codified Ordinances current regulations require that property owners trim maintain or remove dead trees on their property or in proximity of their property, i.e., tree lawns or within their property lines (dead or diseased tree limb hanging over property line). This amendment is meant to provide clarity regarding developers and their responsibility for planting new street lawn trees in new subdivisions. The City however still will maintain its option relative to street trees.

ORD. NO. 49 - 2019

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 909.04 OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA RELATIVE TO NOXIOUS WEEDS was **offered** Ms. Brandt 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. Barker authorizing the same carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Brandt moved, Mr. Ventura seconded, and motion **carried unanimously on a voice vote to adopt ORD. NO. 49-2019 and post same according to law. ORD. NO. 49-2019 declared adopted.**

Relative to ORD. NO. 49-2019, Law Director Guidetti explained that the amendment is merely providing flexibility, giving the building commission more leverage regarding the posting of the notice of the noxious weed ordinance.

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MOTIONS / OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

~ Mayor reported Mayor's Court revenue for the month of May was \$32,917.

~ Mayor reported Macedonia's Internet and email system has been down for days. City departments other than police have been handcuffed. Macedonia unfortunately has not kept up with the times regarding technology. But nothing of what just happened is a reflection on the current director of IT. It is simply that over the last 20 or so years Macedonia has put off major technological improvements and enhancements primarily because of a lack of funding. Given the extent and seriousness of the recent issues funds to be used for software upgrades is being diverted to hire a consulting firm to access Macedonia's issues. The consulting firm accessing the issues specializes in municipalities the Mayor added.

~ Mayor reported this year's Spirit of Macedonia Festival was a success in part because there was "a heck of a turn-out" compared to years past. The good weather and greater variety of venues had a positive effect on the long week-end. The Mayor thanked all the sponsors for their sponsorship and for helping the festival be successful.

Councilor Tulley thanked the Alzheimer Association and Chick fil A as well as Fleet Feet Sports for their sponsorship relative to the 5K run which was also very successful this year.

Councilor Brandt interjected regarding the race that according to her niece, "In a charity race, we're all winners!"

~ Mayor reported according to the Akron - Cleveland Association of Realtors in Summit County Macedonia ranks second in the shortest number of days a home for sale in on the market. The median number of days from listing to closing is 18-days. That message is clear the Mayor stated, Macedonia is a desirable place to live.

~ Mayor reminded residents to call OUPS @ 811 before any type of excavation work is performed on their property. When the utility company, whether water, gas or electric marks the area with flags do not remove those flags until the work has been completed. If after 10-days work is not performed the area must be remarked. Also, even if residents see utility flags marking an area that is not related to specific work on their personal property do not remove the flags. They have been placed there for a reason.

~ Mayor announced VFW Post 6768 and Rolling Thunder Ohio are sponsoring The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at the VFW Post, 8684 Olde 8 Road, Northfield Center from June 13-16. This is an opportunity for anyone who has not visited the permanent memorial in Washington D.C to pay homage to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country by giving their life Mayor Molnar stated.

~ Mayor quoted Ronald Reagan who had stated the following. "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit". This quote the Mayor said speaks volumes in his

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opinion about Macedonia's current leaders who are all on the same page of the same mindset to see Macedonia succeed as a community.

~Mayor Molnar reminded motorists as he has continues to do; do not drive distracted. Do not text and drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Commission Councilor Brandt announced the next meeting of the P&RC is Wednesday, June 19th at 6 p.m.

Finance Committee Councilor Bilkie explained that Council has not moved money at his point to pay the consultants the Mayor is contracting to access Macedonia's Internet and email issues. The money earmarked for software upgrade has the Mayor explained is being diverted to cover the initial costs.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Service Department Director Hnottavange reported that all five baseball fields are now in play. While still playable three still need additional top dressing. The vendor of laser grading system will be providing instruction on the use of laser on the fields. The lighting for Field B should be installed and operational in about two weeks. Mr. Hnottavange also reported free mulch is still available until the supply lasts.

Building Commissioner

Engineer Mr. Gigliotti reported this year's road work is taking place on multiple streets simultaneously. The largest project is on Melody Lane. Residents of that neighborhood should take note that Melody is northbound only, south bound traffic must follow detour. The bid opening for the work on Valley View Road that is being performed under separate contract is Friday, June 21st. The bid award is anticipated for the July 11th meeting.

Recreation Department Director Manley was not present.

Finance Department Director Veres reported 460 income tax refund checks have been issued for a total of \$113,836. The filing deadline for 2018 tax year is July 15th.

Fire Department Chief Ripley reported Macedonia's new aerial fire truck made an appearance at the Spirit of Macedonia festival. The logo of Nordonia Knights on the truck was a big hit, so much so that the logo may be affixed to other fire equipment the chief stated. The chief reminded residents that hydrants are being flushed so they may see some discoloration or perceive a different odor.

Police Department Lt. Vince Yakopovich in Chief Golden's absence asked residents to be mindful about school being out session and students being home for summer recess. Lt Yakopovich reiterated what Mayor Molnar stated earlier that the police department is on separate network than the other city departments and that there is also redundancy built into its network to ensure continued service.

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Law Department None

Unfinished business None

New business Councilor Brandt reiterated the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is on display at the VFW Post 6768 from June 13-16. In addition to viewing the Wall Veterans Services will be on sight help understand or arrange for applicable services and there is information about POW's and MIA's. Folks can make etchings of the Wall too. Parking for the event will be at the high school with a shuttle bus transporting visitors to and from the VFW. Ms. Brandt added it is personally important to her and her family that the younger generation respect and understand the gravity associated with the "police activity" that took place in Vietnam and that those veterans who lost their lives in war should never be forgotten.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of council was adjourned unanimously on voice vote at 8:10 p.m.