

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Monday, February 5, 2024, Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Led by President Jacobs.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by President Jacobs.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Council members President Jason Jacobs, Holly A. Swenk, Eric Shaffer, Bruce Abens, President Pro-Tem Clifford Winkel, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

Also present were Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Law Director Brian Moriarty, Finance Director April Wilkerson, City Engineer Christina Eavenson, Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani, and Assistant Clerk of Council Fijabi Gallam.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

1. President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the City Council Meeting Minutes dated January 16, 2024. No discussion was offered.

The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs mentioned the minutes as follows:

Board of Drainage and Flood Control Meeting Minutes dated April 25, 2023
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated December 6, 2023
Building and Lands Committee Meeting Minutes dated January 16, 2024
Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated January 22, 2024
Board of Zoning and Building Appeals Meeting Minutes dated January 25, 2024

LOBBY:

President Jacobs opened the lobby session. He reminded everyone that the lobby session was not meant to be an interactive question-and-answer session. However, it was an opportunity for the public to address the City Council and its administration. He asked anyone who would like to speak to come to the podium and state their name and address. He further added that each person is allowed three minutes to speak.

General Comments

Mr. Gary Chopcinski, residing at 33699 Browning Drive, noted that he is donating platelets and invited everyone to join him. He added that he is Assistant Voting Manager at the North Ridgeville VFW and advised everyone to vote.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following.:

- Under the first readings, he requested an emergency passage on several pieces of legislation.
 - 2024-15, 2024-16, 2024-17, 2021-17. 2024-18, 2024-19, 2024-20.2024-21, 2024-22,2024-23, and 2024-24.
- Residents could sign up for the monthly eNewsletter by visiting nridgeville.org. Residents could sign up for the city newsletter and the Parks & Recreation communications.
- Coffee & Conversation – February’s Coffee and Conversation is on Monday, February 12, 2024, in Council Chambers from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- City Hall Closure – Reminded everyone that the City Hall offices will be closed for Presidents’ Day on Monday, February 19, 2024. The next Council meeting is on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, because of the holiday.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to go into an Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official; to consider the purchase of property or to consider the sale of property; conference with the public body’s attorney concerning pending or imminent court action; and compering for conducting or reviewing collective bargaining strategy.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular Council meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson provided the following updates:

- The Ohio Turnpike planned to replace the bridge deck, install new parapets and safety fences, and address other incidentals for the Bagley Road bridge over the Ohio Turnpike. Therefore, Bagley Road will be closed from April to October this year. Exact dates are to be determined. The detour directs traffic to Lorain, Cook, and Sterns Road.

- The Ohio Turnpike planned also to replace the bridge deck and parapets for the Turnpike mainline bridge over Lorain Road. The work requires intermittent temporary lane closures on Lorain Road and intermittent closures of the Turnpike Acceleration East Bound Ramp and Turnpike Deceleration West Bound Ramp. This work is expected to occur over two seasons, the first running from April to July 2024 and April to July 2025.
- Root Road is expected to have a lane closure on Thursday, February 8, 2024, Friday, February 9, 2024, and Friday for utility work St. Peter's church is doing for their new maintenance garage off Root Road.
- The Hydrant Replacement project was recently awarded to Diggers of Ohio, and Engineering is anticipating that the project will start in March.
- Engineering's new bridge inspector was recently tasked with inspecting all the midsize culverts, which ODOT does not include in their annual inspections. This included everything in the four-to-10-foot span range and amounts to about 40 of them in total. His findings did include one culvert that was in poor condition. This 8'x6' concrete and sandstone block culvert over the Phelon Ditch on SR 83 at the southern Corp limit was initially built in 1955 and has been found to have missing and displaced sandstone blocks. This will likely need a bridge replacement soon.
- Engineering has recently seen an uptick in telecommunication requests to work in the right-of-way for fiber replacements and upgrades, including regional projects from Frontier and Windstream.

City Engineer Eavenson concluded her report.

3. Director of Finance:

April Wilkerson, the Finance Director, requested the inclusion of an emergency clause to ensure that the Finance Department has the required resources to reach its financial obligations for the following legislation.

- Resolution No. 2024-19 – Authorizing fund transfers.
- Ordinance No. 2024-20 – Amended the 2024 annual appropriation.
- Ordinance No. 2024-21 – Allowing ACH and Electronic Transactions.

Finance Director April Wilkerson concluded her report.

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following reports:

December 2023 Parks and Recreation Division Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

BUILDING AND LANDS COMMITTEE REPORT dated January 16, 2024 – The Committee reviewed and considered 2024-13. The Committee motioned to send 2024-13 back to the City Council for consideration.
(Council action required)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Swenk to accept the Building and Lands Committee Report dated January 16, 2024.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Director of Finance April Wilkerson issued a memorandum dated January 24, 2024, regarding the notification of the 2024 water rate increase in accordance with City of North Ridgeville Ordinance No. 2665-92 (Codified Ord. 1046.05(d)).

Mayor Corcoran pointed out that the increase would not impact the rate increase because the percentage was so small.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was none.

RECESS:

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Swenk to dispense with recess.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-14 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT(S) FOR A TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD, ACCORDING TO LAW AND IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW, FOR THE PURCHASE OF CHEMICALS TO BE USED BY THE FRENCH CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

This Ordinance moved to second readings.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-15 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 2129, AFL-CIO.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-15.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to add the emergency clause to allow the contract to go into effect immediately.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to adopt 2024-15 with the emergency clause.

Mayor Corcoran thanked the union negotiating team for cooperating in reaching an agreement so quickly. He added that the agreement would address firefighters' retention and attraction issues. This legislation would also allow the City to provide first-class services to the residents.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-15.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-16 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITIES OF AVON AND AVON LAKE FOR THE JOINT PURCHASE OF A Lenco BEARCAT G3 ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE; THE TOTAL AMOUNT WILL BE \$375,000.00 WHICH WILL INCLUDE MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS AND EQUIPMENT AS NEEDED.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-16.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the SWAT team uses the vehicle, and it affects their ability to save lives.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to add the emergency clause to place and purchase the equipment to provide services for the residents' and officers' health and safety.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-16 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-16.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-17 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STEFANIK IOSUE & ASSOCIATES FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND CONSULTATION, NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to amend 2024-17 by substitution with the version submitted to City Council before the meeting.

Mayor Corcoran explained that there were wording conversion issues and a change to the renewal of the exhibit. The contract is renewed annually for five years, but the price would lock the price in for five years.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-17 Amended.

Mayor Corcoran explained that three firms were selected. One of the firms was in Indiana, and two were in Ohio. The firm selected in the legislation had a comprehensive offering and could send an employee to the City for one day a week for 7 hours. There were deficiencies with the other firms. The search for a Human Resource firm started in October 2023 due to the many Human Resource issues.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to start providing Human Resource Services to the employees immediately.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-17 amended with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-17** with amendments.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-18 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE A DRONE FOR THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT A COST ESTIMATED TO BE \$3,412.98.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-18.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the tool is lifesaving for the Police Officers to use when servicing the public. The purchase would come from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

Councilwoman Swenk wanted to know if the designated person would have training on how to use the drone and the cost of the training.

Mayor Corcoran explained that there would be training for the designated person operating the drone, and the cost is included in the legislation.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to place and purchase the necessary equipment to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-18 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-18.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-19 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUND TRANSFERS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-19.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the necessary resources for the Department of Finance to meet its financial obligations.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-19 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Resolution Number 2024-19.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 6121-2023 OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Abens to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-20.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause to provide the necessary resources for the Department of Finance to meet its financial obligations.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Abens to adopt 2024-20 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-20.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-21 AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING ACH AND ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-21.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the necessary resources for the Department of Finance to meet its financial obligations.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-21 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-21.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBITS A, B AND C OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 6065-2023.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-22.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to provide the necessary resources for the Department of Finance to meet its financial obligations.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-22 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-22.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ORCHARD, HILTZ & MCLIMENT, INC., DBA OHM ADVISORS FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-23.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the Engineering Division with the resources necessary to meet its obligations.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-23 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-23.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-24 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GO2IT FOR NETWORK COMPONENTS AND EQUIPMENT WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$160,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to amend 2024-24 with the substitution submitted to City Council before the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-24 Amended.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to purchase and place the necessary equipment to meet the Police Department and the City's obligations.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-24 with the emergency clause.

Mayor Corcoran explained that this Ordinance requests not to bid on the project due to the emergency need for the equipment. He added that the administration researched to get the best price they could find.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-23** with amendments.

Yes – 7 No – 0

SECOND READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-7 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE ULTRASONIC WATER METERS AND APPURTENANCES FROM BADGER METER, INC., NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 01-16-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-8 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1062 CEMETERIES OF THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO REVISE REGULATIONS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 01-16-2024; Amended on the floor on 01-16-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 215 LIEN PROCEDURES OF THE NORTH
RIDGEVILLE ADMINISTRATION CODE.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 01-16-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-3 AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF PLEASANT AVENUE.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; Formerly known as T 146-2023 for referral to Planning
Commission on 12-12-2023 and First Reading on 12-18-2023; Second Reading on 01-02-
2024; Tabled on 01-02-2024 until the 02-05-2024 meeting; Public Hearing on 02-05-2024)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-3.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-3.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. A Public Hearing will be on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss 2024-4 (Rezone Request).
2. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Approval of minutes on February 20, 2024:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL