

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 10, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Jacobs called the Monday, July 10, 2023, 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, Dennis Boose, President Pro-Tem Bruce Abens, Clifford Winkel, and Georgia Awig.

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

Excused was Councilman Martin DeVries.

**MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:**

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the City Council Meeting Minutes dated June 19, 2023. No discussion was offered.

The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs noted the following minutes:

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 24, 2023

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2023

Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated June 26, 2023

**LOBBY:**

President Jacobs opened the lobby session. He reminded everyone that the lobby session is not meant to be an interactive question and answer session, but it is an opportunity for the public to address City Council and the City's 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.

**City of North Ridgeville Police Chief**

Shellie Kearsley at 37886 Stoney Lake Drive, addressed the issue with the Police Chief, Mike Freeman, and the Police Department. She continued to express negatively towards Police Chief Mike Freeman and remarked that employees have left the Police Department in the past because of Police Chief Mike Freeman. Ms. Kearsley asked that the Police Chief be put on administrative leave and return after a complete psychiatric evaluation, Counseling for anger management, and the finding of the investigation is completed.

**Truck Driving On Residential Roads**

Albert Krage at 37903 Sugar Ridge Road, addressed the issues with the ongoing illegal truck traffic in the city. He understood some roads are closed causing trucks to drive on other streets. He added that there are even trucks driving through school zones while school is letting out. He asked for more police coverage on the streets to address this issue. The roads are not built to hold trucks and the city needs more police officers.

**Issue One**

Genevieve Flieger at 32797 Chestnut Ridge Road, urged the City Council and the Mayor to issue a formal statement in opposition to Ohio's Issue One in the special election in August. Ms. Flieger added that Issue One is a direct attack on every Ohioan. Issue One makes it harder for regular citizens to have any say in the laws. She added that other cities have issued statements to vote "No" on Issue One.

*{Clerk notes: The draft Statement of response to the City of North Ridgeville citizens and City Council was not submitted to the Clerk of Council's office to be noted in its entirety.}*

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:**

**1. Mayor:**

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following.:

- Requested an emergency passage on T 70-2023, an ordinance authorizing the disposal of vehicles and equipment no longer needed for municipal purposes. The emergency clause is in order to send the vehicles to the Great Cleveland Auto Auction and remove them from our inventory.
- Requested an emergency passage on T 71-2023, T 72-2023, T 73-2023, and 74-2023.
- City Signage Program - The City advertised and received bids for the City Signage Program as part of the new branding. Ellet Neon Sales & Service was awarded the contract coming in lower than anticipated. The cost for new signage is \$202,559. The work should be completed by the end of 2023.
- Soccer Complex Name Change – Mayor Corcoran thanked everyone that participated in the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department survey to rename the Soccer Complex located on Root Road. Based on the feedback received, the Parks & Recreation Commission voted to rename the Soccer Complex to Root Road Park.

- Full-Time Patrol Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic Competitive Exams - The City is hiring patrol officers and firefighter/paramedics through an open competitive examination. Interested parties could visit the city's website at [nridgeville.org](http://nridgeville.org) for more details including entrance exam application packets. These applications are accepted through July 24, 2023, through the National Testing Network.
- Employment Opportunities - In addition to safety service positions, the City is also looking to hire an Information Technology Manager, Assistant City Engineer, Resident Project Representative (Engineering Inspector), Laborer in the Service Department, Administrative Assistant in the Fire Department, and School Crossing Guards. Employment details are on the City's website.
- Street Paving - The Service Department is finishing up paving on Downing Avenue. Next up on the list would be Lear Nagle Road between Center Ridge Road and Mills Road. The plan would be to close this section of the roadway for the safety of drivers and crew during the hours they'll be milling and paving. Milling is scheduled for July 25, 2023, and July 26, 2023, in which the road will be closed from approximately 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. to thru traffic, local access only. A second closure would be necessary when the road crew returns to resurface the roadway. These dates are yet to be determined and would be posted on the City's website and Facebook page. These dates are subject to change based on weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances. Suggested detour route is Jaycox Road, detour signs would be posted.
- Coffee & Conversation - The Mayor invited everyone to the next coffee & conversation on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at City Hall in Council Chambers. This month's coffee would be an evening event from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This is a great way to get questions answered or just hear what others are asking and get updates on City projects and more!
- Ready to Imagine Pop-Up Party, July 20, 2023 - The City is undertaking a planning process, Ridgeville Ready, to create a master plan that would capitalize on the community's potential. As the city continues to change, it is important to have a guide by which decisions are made. As part of this planning process, a future Town Center is currently being envisioned.
- On July 20 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., the City is hosting a community event, which would include free pizza and ice cream, kids' activities, music, prizes, and more! Bring your family and friends and participate in Town Center input-sharing stations. Learn about other important community initiatives from our partners including Parks & Recreation, Senior Center, North Ridgeville City Schools, North Ridgeville Branch Library, North Ridgeville Veterans Memorial, and North Ridgeville Heart and Sole. Visit [RidgevilleReady.com](http://RidgevilleReady.com) for more information.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to go into executive session to consider the purchase of the property.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                  No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular Council meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

**2. Engineer:**

City Engineer Christina Eavenson provided the following project updates.:

- The Center Ridge Road Ohio Department of Transportation widening project is moving along;
- Center Ridge Road Repaving Project has some outstanding items like sidewalks replacement;
- The Engineering Department has identified all the areas in the city that needs to be repaved;
- TC Energy has completed its work on the Stoney Ridge roundabout;
- The Engineering Department recently requested bids on the concrete replacement project. The contract was awarded for \$480,000; and
- The turnpike bridge - Race Road Bridge - is on schedule for repairs.

**3. Director of Finance:**

Finance Director April Wilkerson requested the emergency passages for the following.:

- T 71-2023 - Transfer and Advance Resolution for acceptance of grants;
- T 72-2023 - Then and Now Resolution;
- T 73-2023 - Appropriation Amendment for appropriating the grant transfer, insurance policies, and salary benefits; and
- T 74-2023 - 2024 Tax Budget to the Lorain County Auditor by July 20, 2023.

**4. Other Reports:**

President Jacobs noted the following reports:

June 2023 Building Division Report  
June 2023 Parks and Recreation Division Report  
June 2023 Fire Department Report

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):**

BUILDING & LANDS COMMITTEE REPORT dated June 19, 2023 – The committee reviewed and considered T 60-2023. The Committee made a motion to send T 60-2023 back to City Council for consideration.

(Council action required)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Abens to accept the Building & Lands Committee Report dated June 19, 2023.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                  No – 0

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

New Liquor Permit Request:

A request from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new permit request from Aahanna LLC DBA Batternut Food Mart at 34885 Lorain Road.

**(Council action required - move to not request a hearing so that this permit can be sent to the state for final disposition by July 31, 2023)**

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Abens not to request a hearing so that this permit can be sent to the state for final disposition by July 31, 2023.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 6                      No - 0

**RECESS:**

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

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 6                      No - 0

**FIRST READINGS:**

**Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)**

**Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:**

T 70-2023            AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES.  
**(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)**

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for T 70-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 6                      No - 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to get the vehicles sold at the highest value possible.

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

Yes - 6                      No - 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to adopt T 70-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 70-2023 becomes **Ordinance number 6082-2023**.

Yes - 6                  No - 0

**Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:**

T 71-2023                  A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUND TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES.  
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for T 71-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 6                  No - 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to provide the Department of Finance with the resources necessary to meet its obligations.

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

Yes - 6                  No - 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to adopt T 71-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 71-2023 becomes **Ordinance number 1599-2023**.

Yes - 6                  No - 0

**Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:**

T 72-2023                  AN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATES  
BY THE CITY FISCAL OFFICER AND THE PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS DUE FOR VARIOUS  
PURCHASE ORDERS.  
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for T 72-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 6                  No - 0

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

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

Yes - 6                  No - 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to adopt T 72-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 72-2023 becomes **Resolution number 1600-2023**.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

**Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:**

T 73-2023                      AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 6031-2022 OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023.  
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for T 73-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to provide the Department of Finance with the resources necessary to meet its obligations

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

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to adopt T 73-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 73-2023 becomes **Ordinance number 6083-2023**.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

**Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:**

T 74-2023                      AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR.  
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for T 74-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Swenk to add the emergency clause to meet the county's deadline.

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

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Swenk to adopt T 74-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 74-2023 becomes **Ordinance number 6082-2023**.

Yes – 6                  No – 0

**SECOND READINGS:**

T 69-2023                  AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1292 NONCONFORMING USES OF THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE ZONING CODE.  
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 6-19-2023; Public Hearing on 7-10-2023)

This Ordinance was sent to third reading.

**THIRD READINGS:**

There was none.

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Councilman Boose remarked that he is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He thanked everyone for completing the survey for changing the park name from, “Soccer Park” to “Root Road Park”. Hundreds of people gave input. Mr. Boose explained that the City is looking into forward thinking for all the city parks. He explained that parks could change its purpose, but it would always be a park for residents to do activities. Parks and Recreation recommended that the park signs should have a changeable plaque to recognize a soccer league.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Approval of minutes on July 24, 2023:



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Jason Jacobs  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



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Nicholas Ciofani  
CLERK OF COUNCIL