

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 6, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

President DeVries called the Tuesday, July 6, 2021, Council meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Led by President DeVries

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by President DeVries

ROLL CALL:

Present were Council members President Martin DeVries, Holly A. Swenk, Dennis Boose, President Pro-Tem Bruce Abens, Clifford Winkel, Jason R. Jacobs, and James R. Maleski.

Also present were Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Safety-Service Director Jeff Armbruster, Law Director Brian Moriarty, Auditor April Wilkerson, Engineer Dan Rodriguez, Clerk of Council Nancy Linden, and Assistant Clerk of Council Shari Ma.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President DeVries asked if there were any corrections to the City Council meeting minutes of June 21, 2021.

With no comments or questions, the meeting minutes of June 21, 2021, stand approved.

President DeVries noted that Council received the following meeting minutes:

- Board of Zoning and Building Appeals meeting minutes of June 24, 2021.

LOBBY:

President DeVries opened the lobby session. He asked anyone that would like to speak to come to the podium and state their name and address for the record. He further added each person will be given three minutes to speak. He requested anyone that wished to speak to fill out a lobby sheet located in the back of the room.

Lieutenant Colt Eberling, North Ridgeville firefighter, stated “Firefighters local 2129 have patiently observed over a year, the debate to which emergency system the Fire Department would operate on a day-to-day basis. Although we have never been asked our opinion as the primary users, we feel it is important for Council to understand our perspective. Portable radios provide our members their only link to the outside. This is important because firefighters depend on quick and clear communication between the incident commander and the members operating in those hazardous zones to quickly and safely perform essential tasks. There are a few times this has not happened and not because of human error but because of communication equipment failure. On May 1, 2021, the North Ridgeville Fire Department was called to a Center Ridge Road address in Westlake for a mutual aid fire. Lieutenant reported to IC for an assignment and was told to take his crew inside overhaul in the ventilated structure. The Lieutenant asked which MARCS channel to turn his radio to. The IC took the radio from him and turned it to the proper

channel. While working inside, the Lieutenant fell through the floor that collapsed under him and ended up in the basement. As for protocol, he called mayday over the MARCS system three times, and each time he received a busy signal. He was not heard by anyone on scene and realized that no one was coming, so he ended up self-extricating despite his injuries and reported his situation to Westlake's IC. On May 7, 2021, North Ridgeville's Fire Department responded to a very large, very old home in the community. The home was occupied with residents with issues of hoarding, and the conditions were treacherous. Fire Chief was on the scene immediately and had command of the incident. Our members followed protocol and entered the structure with hose lines to perform a search and rescue and extinguishment. Inside the home, visibility was zero, and firefighters were confronted with seven dogs in need of rescue. Within minutes of entering the home, all radio communications between the IC and the members were lost. A runner was needed to relay information into the scene and to the members inside. All of the dogs were rescued, and the fire was extinguished, and no one was injured. On June 18, 2021, North Ridgeville Fire Department was called to Wendell Street in Avon for a mutual aid structure fire. Although the fire was minor and the place was in staging, the Lieutenant in charge could not communicate with the IC over the current VFHF five-city radio system. Other units on the scene were able to communicate with one another, but our unit was unable to."

President DeVries announced that the 3-minute time limit had expired.

Moved by Councilman Winkel and seconded by Swenk to allow an additional 3-minutes of speaking time.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Lieutenant Eberling stated thankfully the incident was under control quickly, and no other units were needed for essential operations. He continued, "The point of me informing you of these incidents is that we are not just telling you something dangerous is going to happen; it's already happening. Our members unnecessarily are being placed in dangerous situations of what should be routine calls. These types of calls are what we handle on a daily basis, and we depend on our communication system to work for over four thousand calls a year. The National Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) firefighter fatality report cites on-scene communication issues between firefighters as a factor in firefighter deaths. The inability to rely on an emergency communication system also makes it difficult for members to save the lives of our residents. Teamwork and organization are crucial to our success during fire rescue emergencies and a dependable communication system is essential. Our hope is the information that I have provided you, along with the endorsement of all the other fire chiefs in Avon, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village, as well as their unions, will be sufficient to convince City Council that the contract proposal presented by Cleveland Communications is the best and financially responsible solution to our Fire Department Communication issues. The legislation was presented by Mayor Corcoran and it is obvious that this communication is as superior or potentially more functional and financially [responsible] to the MARCS system and a great improvement to the Fire Department's operations and my members' safety. We are asking that it be recommended."

President DeVries thanked Lieutenant Eberling for his comments as well as his patience. He went on to explain several initiatives Council has implemented for the safety of the Fire Department and stated Council will continue to make the safety of firefighters a priority.”

President DeVries asked for other questions or comments.

Lieutenant Richard Knowlton, North Ridgeville firefighter, stated “I’ve worked for the North Ridgeville’s Fire Department for almost 28 years. I would like to expand on a mutual fire aid in Westlake on May 1, 2021. I am the Lieutenant who went through that floor. What Mr. Eberling read to you is correct, but what I want is you to have a better understanding of what it means to be in that situation. We train all of the time. We respond to house fires on a regular basis. In an environment that is dangerous to our life or health, things can go south on you in an instant. That staircase was checked for stability three times before I stepped onto it. As soon as I stepped on it, the entire staircase including the structural supports underneath collapsed beneath me and I went into the basement. When you fall through the floor of a burning building that is burning around you two things happen: number one, your training kicks in, and number two, your life truly flashes before your eyes past and future. My wife Jenny and I have six beautiful daughters, and in an instant, I saw our whole lives together. I also wondered if I would get to attend graduations or walk them down the aisle. I wondered if I would get to see those beautiful faces smiling at me ever again. This all occurred to me as I fell. Then you hit hard, and the reality of the moment sets in. I was separated and injured with no apparent way out. Following my training, I immediately attempted to call a mayday. The MARCS radio failed me. I tried two more times, both times with absolute failure from the MARCS radio. No one heard my calls for help. My crew made contact with me eventually but were unable to get to me. I wound up crawling through the basement which was still on fire, and finding a way to self-extricate. I then reported to Incident Command what had happened and he was not aware of the situation. As firefighters, we have a code that we try to live by- everybody goes home. Without communications, this could have been a much worse outcome; we’ve seen it happen before. The MARCS radio I carried that day was not able to transmit a mayday, the single most important call on any fire ground. And I was one floor below where everybody else was working. I urge you to do the right thing here give us the best tools to not only save lives but to protect our own. The MARCS radios have proven to fail when I needed it most and they will cost lives.”

President DeVries thanked Lieutenant Knowlton for his comments and assured him that Council hears his words.

President DeVries asked if others had questions or comments.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

A. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran stated he didn’t care which system the City goes with, but if it is not built the City cannot switch to it.

President DeVries stated that everyone here is looking to keep everyone safe.

Mayor Corcoran asked Council to consider dispensing with the second and third readings and adding the emergency clause to T 86-2021, an Ordinance accepting grant funds from ODNR for S.B. 310 Capital Improvement Community Recreation Grant for the Mill Creek Conservation and Flood Control Project, Round 3. Mayor Corcoran stated the emergency passage was necessary in order to continue the progress on the project.

Mayor Corcoran asked Council to consider dispensing with the second and third readings and adding the emergency clause to T 87-2021, an Ordinance cooperating with ODOT to perform concrete and asphalt repairs on SR 10 from I-480 into a portion of Elyria. The work includes resurfacing the roadway, paving of the interchange ramps, and bridge maintenance work. This project will be at no cost to the City and serves as consent for ODOT to perform the necessary work. Mayor Corcoran stated emergency passage was necessary in order to complete and return to ODOT the necessary paperwork by their noted deadline.

Mayor Corcoran stated the Summer Concert Series continues Sunday, July 11, 2021, from 6-8 PM at the gazebo in South Central Park.

Mayor Corcoran stated the third in the series of Free Movies in the Park will be held on Friday, July 16, 2021, at South Central Park. The featured movie is Onward, which is a Disney movie.

He then went on to explain, both the Summer Concert Series and Free Movies in the Park are subject to cancellation because of weather conditions. For updates during the season, you can visit the Parks & Recreation Department Rainout Line tab on their webpage or call the Rainout Line at 440.210.6226.

Mayor Corcoran stated the next Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 8:30-9:30 AM in Council Chambers.

Mayor Corcoran stated Discover the Ridges will take place on Saturday, July 17, 2021. The time of this event is from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The event kicks off at Danbury Senior Living on Bagley Road at 10 AM, with the VFW providing the opening ceremony. There are 20 locations along the way. You can stop by City Hall or Chamber of Commerce Office to pick up a brochure highlighting this year's event. You can also find the brochure on the City's website at www.nridgeville.org

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Boose to go into Executive Session during the recess portion of the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Mayor Corcoran stated he would like to move into Executive Session prior to concluding his report.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Boose to go into Executive Session immediately.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:22 PM

Reconvened into the Regular Council meeting at 7:31 PM

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Councilman Boose for the approval of hiring Emily Lockshine as the Director of the Department of Older Adults.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Emily Lockshine thanked Council for their approval. She went on to say that she brings to this position 15-years of administrative and programming experience in the health and human services arena focusing on employment training, child welfare, home-based and community-based services dedicated to increasing family functioning, and senior and adult services. She has a strong familiarity with senior center programming, operations, and practices, including OAC rules and regulations. Ms. Lockshine stated she believes in research and incorporating best and promising practices into older adult programming. She has professional and personal relationships with other center directors, and it is her intention to further develop her relationships and professional growth. She looks forward to listening to and working with the Senior Advisory Board and key stakeholders. She sees this opportunity as a two-fold mission. First, to provide innovative and transformative experiences for the older adult population so that they may continue to remain vibrant, engaged, and active citizens; and second, to build a premier senior center for the community of North Ridgeville.

B. Safety-Service Director:

Safety-Service Director Armbruster stated he hopes everyone enjoyed the 4th of July celebration. Safety-Service Director Armbruster was excited to see fox 8's live broadcasting of North Ridgeville's fireworks display. While he could not be at Victory Park, he enjoyed watching them from his cellular device. Safety-Service Director Armbruster stated he has not received all of the information from Victory Park; however, he knows the event was successful and looks forward to next year's fireworks display.

C. Engineer:

Engineer Rodriguez stated the City received five bids for the Paint Striping contract. The contractor has completed all Catch Basin repairs in their contract; however, some items that require additional work. Once all of the remaining items have been addressed, the project will be 100-percent complete.

Crossroads Asphalt has completed 95-percent of the work in their contract. Engineer Rodriguez stated he anticipates the project will be completed within the next week or two.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the contractor for the Chestnut and Alternate 83 Roundabout has placed the asphalt concrete base pavement. Progression with concrete placement is moving forward appropriately. The concrete will be colored and stamped to match the other Roundabout located throughout the City.

D. Auditor:

Auditor Wilkerson advised the new vendor electronic payment option the City implemented this year is a success. She further explained that any vendor who wishes to sign up for electronic payments can do so by emailing apinvoices@nridgeville.org to request an ACH authorization form to participate.

E. Other Reports:

President DeVries noted that Council received the following reports:

- May 2021 Police Department Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

RECESS:

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

President DeVries asked for questions and comments.

No questions or comments were offered.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 85-2021 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT, ACCORDING TO LAW AND IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE 2021 FULL DEPTH CONCRETE PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT AND OTHER APPURTENANCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FUNDING ROUND 35, NOT TO EXCEED \$700,000.00.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Councilman Boose stated in the past, this type of funding was time-sensitive. He asked if T 85-2021 was time-sensitive.

Engineer Rodriguez stated it is not necessary to pass T 85-2021 by emergency at this time. He anticipates having more discussion at the July 19th Council meeting after receiving bids.

President DeVries asked for any additional comments or questions.

No comments or questions were offered.

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 86-2021 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE OFFER OF A GRANT OF STATE FUNDS IN A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00 AND APPROVING THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE S.B. 310 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY RECREATION GRANT FOR THE MILL CREEK CONSERVATION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT, ROUND 3.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Maleski to dispense with the second and third readings for T 86-2021.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Maleski to adopt T 86-2021

Moved by Boose and seconded by Maleski to add the emergency clause to T 86-2021 in order to complete the project in a timely manner for the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

President DeVries asked for further comments or questions.

No comments or questions were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption with the emergency clause and the motion carried. T 86-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5839-2021**.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 87-2021 AN ORDINANCE COOPERATING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM A MINOR REHABILITATION PROJECT ON SR 10 FROM SLM 0.00 (US 20) TO SLM 5.23 (CLOSE TO IR480) AND ON USR 20 FROM SLM 15.92 (SR10) TO SLM 16.93 (CHESTNUT RIDGE RD.) IN LORAIN COUNTY. THIS PROJECT'S LIMITS ARE WITHIN THE CITY OF ELYRIA ON USR20 AND WITHIN THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE ON SR10. THE WORK INCLUDES CONCRETE AND ASPHALT CONCRETE REPAIRS, RESURFACING THE ROADWAY FULL WIDTH, PAVING ALL OF THE INTERCHANGE RAMPS, BRIDGE MAINTENANCE WORK AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for T 87-2021.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to adopt T 87-2021

Moved by Boose and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to T 87-2021 so that without delay, the State of Ohio can move forward with repairs.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

President DeVries asked for further comments or questions.

No comments or questions were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption with the emergency clause and the motion carried. T 87-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5840-2021**.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 88-2021 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1240.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING CODE ORDINANCE, TO REZONE THE FOLLOWING LAND LOCATED AT 36068 LORAIN ROAD; PARCEL NUMBER 07-00-025-106-060 AND OWNED BY TIMOTHY TESMER FROM A B-3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL TO AN R-1 RESIDENCE DISTRICT.

(Introduced by Michael Tully)

President DeVries referred T 88-2021 to the Planning Commission and the Building and Lands Committee.

SECOND READINGS:

None

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 64-2021 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF N.R.C.O. CHAPTER 1444.04 (A).

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran & Councilman Clifford Winkel; First Reading 5/3/2021; Referred to Administrative Committee on 5/3/2021; Administrative Committee meeting on 5/18/2021; Administrative Committee report accepted by Council on 6/7/2021)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Maleski to adopt T 64-2021.

President DeVries asked for questions or comments.

No questions or comments were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried and T 64-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5841-2021.**

Yes – 7

No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 65-2021 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF N.R.C.O. CHAPTER 1444.05 BY ADDING TWO SUBSECTIONS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran & Councilman Clifford Winkel; First Reading 5/3/2021; Referred to Administrative Committee on 5/3/2021; Administrative Committee meeting on 5/18/2021; Administrative Committee report accepted by Council on 6/7/2021)

Moved by Maleski and seconded by Swenk to adopt T 65-2021.

President DeVries asked for questions or comments.

No questions or comments were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried and T 65-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5842-2021.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 66-2021 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF N.R.C.O. CHAPTER 1444.12 BY ADDING TWO SUBSECTIONS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran & Councilman Clifford Winkel; First Reading 5/3/2021; Referred to Administrative Committee on 5/3/2021; Administrative Committee meeting on 5/18/2021; Administrative Committee report accepted by Council on 6/7/2021)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Maleski to adopt T 66-2021.

President DeVries asked for questions or comments.

No questions or comments were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried and T 66-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5843-2021.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 70-2021 AN ORDINANCE INCORPORATING THE CURRENT POSITIONS OF ENGINEER, TREASURER, AND PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR INTO THE CURRENT DEPARTMENT HEAD ORDINANCE NO. 5596-2018 AND INCREASING THE SALARY RANGE FOR THE ENGINEER.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 5/17/2021; Referred to Finance Committee on 5/17/2021; Finance Committee meeting on 5/24/2021; Finance Committee report accepted by Council 6/7/2021)

Moved by Maleski and seconded by Swenk to adopt T 70-2021.

President DeVries asked for questions or comments.

Councilman Abens stated there were discussions to amend T 70-2021 to add additional funding.

President DeVries stated the Ordinance was amendment in Section 2.

President DeVries asked for questions or comments.

No questions or comments were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried and T 70-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5844-2021.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

T 81-2021 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF A PROPOSED PROPERTY SPLIT FROM 5463 MILLS CREEK LANE.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 6/7/2021; Second Reading 6/21/2021)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Maleski to adopt T 81-2021.

President DeVries asked for questions or comments.

Councilman Boose stated, as he suggested during the Finance Committee meeting, he would like to see public property be utilized by the City instead of being sold.

No other questions or comments were offered.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried and T 81-2021 becomes **Ordinance No. 5845-2021.**

Yes – 6

No – 1 (Boose)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

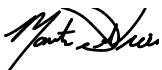
The next regular Council meeting will be on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

There will be a public hearing regarding the final plat approval for Meadow Lakes Subdivision Phase No. 19 in a PCD, R-1 District on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

President DeVries adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Approval of minutes on July 19, 2021:



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



CLERK OF COUNCIL