

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Monday, June 19, 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, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

Also present were Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani, and Assistant Clerk of Council Fijabi Gallam.

Excused were City Engineer Christina Eavenson and Director of Finance April Wilkerson.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the City Council Meeting Minutes dated June 5, 2023, and Public Hearing Meeting Minutes dated June 5, 2023. No discussion was offered.

The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs noted the following minutes:

Board of Zoning and Building Appeals Meeting Minutes dated May 25, 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.

Noise Legislation

Robert Baumgardner at 6327 Stoney Ridge Road, discussed noise pollution problems and his feelings on why the majority of the City Council did not change the time restrictions for construction noise from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. He explained how the temporary inconvenience affected his life.

Mr. Baumgardner asked the City Council to allow him three extra minutes.

Moved by Boose and seconded by DeVries to allow Mr. Baumgardner up to additional minutes to speak.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Mr. Baumgardner expressed how he couldn't enjoy the outside due to the noise from the construction sites. He wanted the City Council to enforce noise legislation. He added his concerns about the emergency clauses being passed consistently without three readings, and how he felt about the Mayor.

State of City Affairs

Paul Wolanski at 6048 Opal Street, read a draft letter to the citizens of the City of North Ridgeville. Mr. Wolanski expressed his concerns about the personnel issues within the Department of Police making the front page of the Chronicle. He continued to explain why he believed there is leadership and trust issues in the City of North Ridgeville. He asked the citizens to vote for change in November.

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

City of North Ridgeville Police Chief

Shellie Kearsey at 37886 Stoney Lake Drive, apologize to the employees in the Police Department for the working conditions they had to face. She explained that many people should be outraged by the many officers that left the Department of Police. Ms. Kearsey continued to express her concerns about the Mayor and his plans for the investigation of the issues within the Police Department.

Opioid Settlement

Patricia Hart at 5535 Roosevelt Ave., wanted to know the plans for the opioid settlement that the City of North Ridgeville received. She expressed that she is a mother who lost her children to opioids. She also wanted to know what does the City have that helps residents with addiction.

City of North Ridgeville Police Chief

Jim Larkin at Sheffield Village, explained that he did not plan on speaking. He added that he resigned from the City of North Ridgeville Police Department recently because working under the leadership was exhausting. He explained that there has been an issue in the Police Department with the Police Chief for a while. Mr. Larkin expressed his feelings for the Police Chief and that police officers would leave if something does not change in the Police Department.

President Jacobs thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to share their concerns. He explained that the Administration has hired an outside firm to review the issues in the Police Department and they are waiting on the results.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Boose to appoint Amie Espinosa-Gonzalez to an unexpired term expiring December 31, 2025, to the Civil Service Commission.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the vacancy is due to William Holland moving out of the state. He also thanked Mr. Holland for his service and welcomed Amie with her professional experience.

Councilman Boose remarked that the Mayor sent Amie's resume to City Council, and she has excellent experience. Mr. Boose expressed that he looks forward to Amie starting with the Civil Service Commission.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 7 No - 0

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following.:

- Soccer Complex Name Change - The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department is looking for your feedback to rename the Soccer Complex located on Root Road. The City wanted to hear from residents regarding a potential new park name. The Mayor noted that residents could visit the city's website to "Take the Survey" by June 25, 2023. The results of the survey would be posted on June 30, 2023.
- Shred Day at North Ridgeville Branch Library - Mayor Corcoran advised residents to bring their sensitive documents such as tax forms and medical records to be shredded onsite in the North Ridgeville Branch Library parking lot on Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Each household may bring up to five standard-size copier paper boxes or five grocery-size bags of documents. Staples are fine, but no paper clips, binder clips, binders, spiral-bound notebooks, other metal objects, batteries, or electronics. This free event is provided by the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. The event may end early if the truck is full.
- Summer Concert Series - The second in the series of Summer Concerts at South Central Park Gazebo is held on Sunday, June 25, 2023, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. with sounds of Liverpool Lads, a Beatles Tribute Band. Then, the third in the series of Summer Concerts would be held on Sunday, July 2, 2023, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., with Disco Inferno performing music from the 70s. The concerts are free. Residents could pack a picnic lunch and their chairs or blanket.
- Freedom Festival & Fireworks - Tickets are on sale for this year's Freedom Festival and Fireworks at Victory Park Ohio on Monday, July 3, 2023. Gates open at 4:00 p.m. with activities, entertainment, food and beverages, and fireworks at approximately 10:00 p.m. Tickets are per vehicle and could be purchased online only at www.victoryparkohio.com. Fireworks are

sponsored by the City of North Ridgeville and Pepco Elyria. Net proceeds benefit North Ridgeville Community Care, Canine Superheroes Foundation and Save 22.

- City Hall Offices Closed - City Hall Offices closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Republic Services is expected to be closed - trash collection is delayed one day. Residents should have all items at curbside by 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.
- Full-Time Patrol Officer and Firefighter/Paramedic Competitive Exams - The City is hiring patrol officers and firefighters/paramedics through an open competitive examination. Visit the city's website at nridgeville.org for more details including entrance exam application packets. These applications are accepted until July 24, 2023, through the National Testing Network.

Mayor Corcoran expressed that he understood everyone's concerns regarding the situation at the Police Department. He added that the City is conducting a review of the Police Department. There was some information being shared that are misinformation. Mayor Corcoran explained that the review would continue to allow the process to proceed fairly. Once the review is complete, the City would take the next steps accordingly. He agreed with the attendees that the city supports the Police Department and the Police Officers. He added that they would provide the same excellent service to the community and remain a safe and prosperous community.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular Council meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

No report.

3. Director of Finance:

President Jacobs noted the following report:

May 2023 Financial Report

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following reports:

May 2023 Water Distribution and EPA Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

The North Ridgeville Planning Commission took action on the following items at their Regular Meeting on June 13, 2023:

1. **PPZ2023-0193: Veterans Memorial Park, 7565 Avon Belden Rd, PPN 07-00-022-101-059**
Proposal consists of constructing Veterans Memorial Park on land in South Central Park owned by the City of North Ridgeville. Property zoned R-1 Residence District.
PC ACTION: Approved by a vote of Yes-4 No-0 Abstained-1 (Smolik) with the condition of landscape approval by Parks & Recreation.

Moved by Abens and seconded by Boose to approve the Planning Commission's action to approve the Veterans Memorial Park.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 7 No - 0

2. **PPZ2023-0194: Elite K911 Dog Training, 31740 Cook Rd, PPN 07-00-004-110-038, 07-00-004-110-037**
The proposal consists of constructing a 1,130 square foot addition to the rear of the existing kennel and training building in order to provide dog grooming services. Property zoned B-3 Highway Commercial District.
PC ACTION: Approved by a vote of 5-0 for pool and deck only. (Applicant withdrew addition project)

Moved by Abens and seconded by Swenk to approve the Planning Commission's action to approve the Elite K911 Dog Training addition.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes - 7 No - 0

3. **PPZ2023-0195: Chase Bank, 34385 Center Ridge Rd, PPN 07-00-016-112-067**

Proposal consists of constructing a new 3,384 square foot drive-through bank at the corner of Center Ridge Road and Pitts Boulevard. Property zoned B-3 Highway Commercial District.

PC ACTION: Approved by a vote of 5-0 with the condition of providing cross access agreement.

Moved by Abens and seconded by Swenk to approve the Planning Commission's action to approve the construction of Chase Bank.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the driveway that currently exits going into the Giant Eagle Parking lot would be moved further south to eliminate the traffic issues.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 5 No – 0 Abstention – 2 (Boose and DeVries)

4. **PPZ2023-0196: BCubed Biggby Coffee, 35095 Center Ridge Rd, PPN 07-00-021-119-151**

Proposal consists of constructing a new 361 square foot drive-through coffee shop at the corner of Center Ridge Road and Ranger Way. Property zoned B-3 Highway Commercial District.

PC ACTION: Approved by a vote of 5-0.

Moved by Abens and Awig by Swenk to approve the Planning Commission's action to approve the construction of BCubed Biggby Coffee.

Councilman Abens explained that the construction would not interfere with the traffic on Ranger Way or Center Ridge Road.

Councilwoman Swenk remarked that there weren't any traffic studies for the area regarding the school's traffic. She expressed that she disagree with Mr. Abens.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the business would be inside the parking lot where the Aldi is located. The exits would be going onto Center Ridge Road or Ranger Way – the same exits that are used for the Aldi shopping center.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

5. **Zoning Code Update**

Proposed amendment of Chapter 1292 Nonconforming Uses

PC ACTION: Approved by a vote of 5-0.

Moved by Abens and seconded by Winkel to approve the Planning Commission's action to approve the Zoning Code Update.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Awig to change the Regular City Council Meeting from July 3, 2023, to July 10, 2023, and the Regular City Council Meeting from July 17, 2023,

to July 24, 2023, in observance of the July 4th Independence Holiday and to keep the meetings consistent with the regular bi-weekly meeting.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

RECESS:

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

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 69-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1292 NONCONFORMING USES OF THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE ZONING CODE.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

This Ordinance was sent to second reading with a scheduled Public Hearing on July 10, 2023.

SECOND READINGS:

There was none.

THIRD READINGS:

There was none.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. A Public Hearing will be on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss T69-2023, Zoning Code change to Chapter 1292.
2. The next Streets, Sidewalks & Bridges Committee meeting will be on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers.
3. The next Regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers in observance of July 4th, Independence Day.

Councilman DeVries congratulated the North Ridgeville Trap Shooting team which recently won the state championships.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Approval of minutes on July 10, 2023:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL