

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 17, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:30 p.m.

President Pro-Tem Abens called the Monday, August 17, 2020 Council meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:**

Led by President Pro-Tem Abens.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Led by President Pro-Tem Abens.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were Council members Holly A. Swenk, Dennis Boose, President Pro-Tem Bruce Abens, Clifford Winkel, James R. Maleski and Michelle Hung.

President Martin DeVries was excused.

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

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

President Pro-Tem Abens asked if there were any corrections to the City Council meeting minutes of August 3, 2020. No discussion was offered. The minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Pro-Tem Abens noted that Council received the Planning Commission meeting minutes of August 11, 2020.

**LOBBY:**

President Pro-Tem Abens opened the lobby session. He stated they are utilizing YouTube for people to type their questions. There are instructions on the City's website through the City Council tab on how to get questions answered at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org). He paused for comments due to the delay in the broadcast.

He asked Assistant Clerk of Council Peet to read any questions or comments from the YouTube Channel feed.

Assistant Clerk of Council Peet stated there were no comments or questions at this time.

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:**

**A. Mayor:** Mayor Corcoran stated Avon Lake will be hosting a free pop-up COVID-19 community testing event in partnership with Lorain County Public Health and the Ohio National

Guard medics on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Ellen Trivanovich Aquatic Center, 32850 Electric Blvd. Testing is for people age two and older. Please wear a face covering when you drive-thru or walk-up to get tested for COVID-19. In order to get tested, a person does not need symptoms, a doctor's order, an appointment, a medical or insurance card, or an identification card. It will take about three days to get COVID-19 test results from these events. Lorain County Public Health will follow up with all positive tests from people who reside in Lorain County, as they do with all local positive COVID-19 tests. Anyone who tests positive but lives outside of Lorain County will get contacted by their local health department. This is a PCR test (not an antigen test), which will tell people if they have COVID-19 at the time of the test. This is not an antibody test, so the results won't tell you if you've had COVID-19 in the past. Testing for COVID-19 is critical to helping stop the spread of this virus. When able to test more individuals in a community, it allows quick identification of infected individuals and they can be isolated. This helps contain and decrease the spread of the illness.

Mayor Corcoran stated the Service Department is currently paving on Root Road between Bainbridge Road and Chestnut Ridge Road. For the most up to date information, including the paving schedule, please see the City's website at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org).

Mayor Corcoran invited residents to attend his next Coffee and Conversation on Tuesday, August 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. These conversations will continue to be done virtually via Zoom because of COVID-19 and the restrictions on mass gatherings of more than ten. Visit the City's website for details on how to join the conversation via Zoom.

Victory Park Ohio will be hosting Field Day & Fireworks on Sunday, September 6. The City is co-sponsoring the fireworks display at this event. Tickets are available for purchase online only and will not be sold at the gate. All net proceeds will benefit North Ridgeville Community Care. For more information, visit the City's website at [www.nridgeville.org](http://www.nridgeville.org).

City Hall offices will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. The next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8 as a result of the holiday.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Hung to adjourn into executive session at the recess portion of the meeting to discuss the acquisition of property.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

**B. Safety-Service Director:** Safety-Service Director Armbruster stated the Service Department, over the past four years, has placed the digital speed signs throughout the City where complaints are received. When the City receives calls, they place the signs. The data is logged by the Police Department. There have been several requests for the signs. As the signs sit in place, people begin to ignore the signs. The City placed a cruiser in a driveway which

slowed traffic. He reminded residents that kids are learning remote and maybe out playing and to be careful.

Safety-Service Director Armbruster stated residents can obtain “watch your speed” signs from the Mayor’s office at no cost and they do not need to be returned.

**C. Engineer:** Engineer Rodriguez stated that the 2020 full depth concrete work on McArthur and Northwood has begun. Contract A of the OPWC Round 33 Project which includes Rock Point Circle and some work on Gatestone Circle full depth concrete repairs was awarded to D.L. Smith of Norwalk and that work will begin in the next few weeks. Currently, OPWC Round 33 Contract B includes Main and Pleasant repairs in different areas of those streets which are out to bid. Traffic striping bids are out for this year and should be back in the next week. Ranger Way should be finishing up.

**D. Auditor:** Auditor Wilkerson stated there were two pieces of legislation on the agenda this evening. T 95 is amendment to the 2020 appropriations which requests additional funding for outstanding invoices in the General Fund to pay GLW IT Broadband. They performed the 2019 telephone upgrade project. The purchase order was from 2019 and has been closed which removed the encumbrance so it needed reappropriated. In addition, in the special revenue fund there is an additional appropriation for clothing and expenses associated with that for the Fire Department. These costs were not factored in during the 2020 appropriation process.

Auditor Wilkerson stated there is a correlation between T 95 and T 96. The Exhibit A includes GLW Broadband because there was no purchase order in place and the invoice hasn’t been paid because the appropriation has to be put in place first. In addition, there is also an invoice for Jackson Dieken and Associates who is the City’s property and casualty insurance agent which is the 2020 renewal. The invoice has not been paid and in order to pay it, the emergency is needed for the then and now.

**E. Other Reports:** President Pro-Tem Abens noted Council received the July 2020 Building Department Report and the July 2020 Fire Department Report.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Pro-Tem Abens asked Auditor Wilkerson to speak briefly about upcoming Finance Committee meetings regarding the 2021 appropriations and then asked for some feedback from City Council.

Auditor Wilkerson stated she spoke to the Finance Committee this week. She stated she would like to send a binder out to all of Council in advance of the meetings that will give all the routine information they are used to seeing. She stated she would like to have a Finance Committee meeting to include all of Council, Finance and the Administration to review the binder, go through questions and just give a broad overview. Then a two day session would happen with department heads for presentation. The presentations will include what the department's business is, what they have accomplished in 2020 and goals for 2021 for one full day instead of the line by line approach. The next day would be questions, concerns and wrap up. The preliminary dates are Veteran's Day around 1:30 to review the binder for four to five hours. Then meet for two full days on November 18 and 19 in Finance Committee.

President Pro-Tem Abens asked for any comments or questions from Council.

Councilman Boose stated he felt this new process would be more efficient and gives the Committee an opportunity to review the line by line items in advance. It may mean not every department needs to come to Finance Committee if there are not major changes, but he stated he didn't want to deny any department who wanted to speak and present to Finance Committee. He stated he looks forward to the new process.

Clerk of Council Linden:

**Planning Commission action(s) taken at the August 11, 2020 meeting:**

**APPLICANT:** Ryan Schulthesis, Root Development & Construction; 36097 Westminister Ave., North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
**OWNER:** Root Development & Construction; 36097 Westminister Ave., North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
**REQUEST:** Final plat approval for Harvest Pointe Subdivision Phase 2  
**LOCATION:** East side of Root Rd. & South side of Lorain Rd.; Parcel No. 07-00-011-103-189  
**PC ACTION:** Approved by a vote of 4-0.  
(Council action required)

Moved by Hung and seconded by Abens to approve the Planning Commission action.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

**RECESS:**

The Council entered into executive session at 7:48 p.m.  
The Council reconvened into the Council meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**FIRST READINGS:**

**Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)**

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 95-2020** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 5690-2019 OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Abens to dispense with the second and third readings for T 95-2020

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Hung to adopt T 95-2020.

Moved by Boose and seconded by Hung to add the emergency clause to T 95-2020 in order to appropriate the funds before they can be spent.

On the emergency clause, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency clause, and the motion carried. T 95-2020 now becomes **Ordinance No. 5762-2020**.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 96-2020** A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATES BY THE FISCAL OFFICER AND THE PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS DUE FOR VARIOUS PURCHASE ORDERS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Boose and seconded by Maleski to dispense with the second and third readings for T 96-2020

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Moved by Boose and seconded by Maleski to adopt T 96-2020.

Moved by Boose and seconded by Maleski to add the emergency clause to T 96-2020 in order to pay the invoices for services already completed.

On the emergency clause, a voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

Councilwoman Hung asked that once the GLW bill is caught up and paid, is the City current in 2020.

Auditor Wilkerson stated yes.

Councilwoman Hung asked if that was current to June or July.

Auditor Wilkerson stated she believed up to June.

On the adoption, with the emergency clause, a roll call vote was taken and the motion carried. T 96-2020 now becomes **Resolution No. 1498-2020**.

Yes – 5                      No – 1 (Swenk)

**SECOND READINGS:**

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 77-2020**      AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2725-93, AND  
SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS THERETO, IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE  
THE WAGE INCREASE PARITY PROVISIONS FOR ALL NON-UNION  
MEMBERS.

*(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First reading 06/16/2020; Referred to COW on 06/16/2020; COW on 07/06/2020; COW on 07/20/2020; 07/06/2020 report accepted on 07/20/2020; 07/20/2020 report accepted on 08/03/2020)*

Moved by Boose and seconded by Swenk to amend T 77-2020 by substitution.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6                      No – 0

The Clerk then read the T 77-2020 Amended.

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 77-2020**      AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE WAGE PARITY  
**Amended**      PROVISION CONTAINED IN VARIOUS ORDINANCES.

Mayor Corcoran stated the parity clause has been discussed through various ordinances. It has gotten a little messy because of how many there are. The idea of this substitution is to pull everything together and put it in one spot. In the ordinances was the discussion of the permanent removal of the parity clause. The amended version is just suspending it for this calendar year for 2020. The union contract is still out there and the parity clause was to eliminate any issues with increases that would put the City in further debt. The City is still in a

deficit situation this year. Things are moving in the right direction, but the City is still in a hole. The City is trying to prevent the hole from becoming deeper. This amendment pulls everything together. If this moves forward, the others will be struck. He felt it should be done next meeting before anything is struck. Mayor Corcoran stated he recognized he put it out at the last minute and felt it needed a third reading next meeting. If it passes next meeting, a motion to strike will be needed for all the other ordinances.

President Pro-Tem Abens asked if the ordinance will cover any other ordinances not found.

Mayor Corcoran stated yes the language is built into the amending ordinance.

President Pro-Tem Abens felt it needed to have a third reading at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Hung stated she received this today. She noted that a few Council members in the past asked for a Finance Committee meeting to discuss the impacts of the pandemic and City finances. She asked if a Finance Committee meeting will be held to discuss where the City is at in terms of the hole and finances.

President Pro-Tem Abens stated unfortunately, the City still does not know exactly where it is at as far as revenue. He felt a meeting would not be conducive or productive.

Mayor Corcoran stated a few weeks ago he spoke to department heads and the City was about \$800,000 in the hole. The improvement comes from the taxes from the taxes filed on July 15. The money will not keep going and he was not sure how much further the City will go to cover the \$700,000 gap. He remains flexible and conservative in planning and spending. He stated if Finance met when the projection was \$1.1 million, the conversation would be different from today. Mayor Corcoran stated he does not have good direction at this point from R.I.T.A. He stated he is comfortable holding on at this point without making any harsh decisions. At the beginning of all this, department heads made \$600,000 in budget cuts. The City is getting close to the break-even point, but these are 2019 dollars, not even 2020 dollars. He stated the Committee can have meetings, but he does not have a clear direction or a clear path at this point. The tax collections for this year are based on what people made in 2019. This is strictly on the individual side. The other side is withholding and net profit taxes which are real time numbers for this current year. Next year will be tricky because businesses were closed in 2020. This will need to be taken into account during appropriations. With R.I.T.A.'s projections, the original number was not very accurate. After the initial projections, the numbers were a lot worse, but then changed a bit.

Councilman Winkel stated he likes that the amended legislation is just for 2020 and not open ended.

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 84-2020** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5596-2018 BY  
ELIMINATING THE WAGE INCREASE PARITY PROVISION FOR ALL  
NON-UNION MEMBERS.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; COW on 07/06/2020; First reading 07/06/2020; Referred to COW on  
07/06/2020; COW on 07/20/2020; 07/06/2020 report accepted on 07/20/2020; 07/20/2020 report accepted on  
08/03/2020)

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 86-2020** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5684-2019 BY  
ELIMINATING THE WAGE INCREASE PARITY PROVISION FOR THE  
POSITION OF TREASURER.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; COW on 07/06/2020; First reading 07/06/2020; Referred to COW on  
07/06/2020; COW on 07/20/2020; 07/06/2020 report accepted on 07/20/2020; 07/20/2020 report accepted on  
08/03/2020)

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 87-2020** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5485-2017 BY  
ELIMINATING THE WAGE INCREASE PARITY PROVISION FOR THE  
POSITION OF PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; COW on 07/06/2020; First reading 07/06/2020; Referred to COW on  
07/06/2020; COW on 07/20/2020; 07/06/2020 report accepted on 07/20/2020; 07/20/2020 report accepted on  
08/03/2020)

Clerk of Council Linden:

**T 88-2020** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5477-2017 BY  
ELIMINATING THE WAGE INCREASE PARITY PROVISION FOR THE  
POSITION OF CITY ENGINEER.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; COW on 07/06/2020; First reading 07/06/2020; Referred to COW on  
07/06/2020; COW on 07/20/2020; 07/06/2020 report accepted on 07/20/2020; 07/20/2020 report accepted on  
08/03/2020)

**THIRD READINGS:**

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next regular Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in City  
Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Pro-Tem Abens adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Approval of minutes on September 8, 2020:



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



CLERK OF COUNCIL