

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Tuesday, September 5, 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, President Pro-Tem Bruce Abens, Martin DeVries, and Georgia Awig.

Also present were Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Law Director Brian Moriarty, Director of Finance April Wilkerson, and Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani.

Excused was Councilman Clifford Winkel.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the City Council Meeting Minutes dated August 21, 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 August 24, 2023

Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated August 28, 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 the 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 City Services

Greg Fanning of 6025 Havencrest CT addressed the City of North Ridgeville about the North Ridgeville Police Department. He wanted to acknowledge the Department's selfless sacrifice and service to the city. Mr. Fanning emphasized that it is crucial for the city to recognize and applaud the exceptional dedication

shown by the men and women of the North Ridgeville Police Department. He continued by expressing his appreciation for the department and thanking them for their unwavering service, commitment to the community, and daily efforts to keep everyone safe.

City of North Ridgeville City Services and Grant Money Request

Nancy Kubiak of 5725 Mills Creek thanked the North Ridgeville Fire Department for saving her life in December 2023. Ms. Kubiak, the pool trustee from Mills Creek Pools, mentioned their swim team includes students from across North Ridgeville. She expressed that they need new starting blocks, estimated to cost \$25,000, to replace the 52-year-old blocks. Ms. Kubiak requested that City Council and administration direct her to funding resources to help pay for the new blocks.

Ms. Kubiak also asked for clarification on the Police Chief's recent investigation and its outcome. She believed the Chief should have been placed on administrative leave during the investigation. Ms. Kubiak went on to express her concerns regarding ongoing issues in the police department.

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to allow Nancy Kubiak an additional three minutes to speak.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 5 No – 0

Ms. Kubiak added that she believes the Mayor has a conflict of interest because his wife works for the North Ridgeville schools.

Ms. Kubiak also requested more information about the court case involving Jeff Armbruster and whether it impacts the City of North Ridgeville.

Sidewalk Concerns

Larry Nolan of 7900 Root Road addressed issues regarding sidewalk safety. Mr. Nolan explained that children are walking up and down the hill and over the railroad tracks in the area. He noted there are currently no sidewalks, making it dangerous. Mr. Nolan requested that City Council consider adding sidewalks, a wall, or a guardrail along the railroad tracks to improve safety for all, especially children, walking in the area.

City of North Ridgeville City Services

Shellie Kearsey of 37886 Stoney Lake Drive addressed issues regarding Police Chief Mike Freeman and the Police Department. She referenced previous Civil Service minutes indicating the Fire Department recently lost four members, with a fifth retiring soon. Ms. Kearsey expressed concerns about recent changes to Civil Service rules like the rule of three. She mentioned an employee is suing the Mayor and City. Ms. Kearsey added that if Police Chief Freeman is not removed, the city would lack sufficient staffing to cover the city if the Mayor implements the rule of three, leading to an unfair labor practice lawsuit. Citing ORC 737.01, Ms. Kearsey asked who the Director of Public Safety is for the city. She argued that if Chief Freeman remains, there would be potential understaffing.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following.:

- Under first readings, he would be requesting emergency passage on several pieces of legislation - T 91-2023, T 93-2023, and T84-2023.
- Street Paving - The Service Department is scheduled to begin milling and paving Elyria, Frances, Helen, and Thelma on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. This is always subject to change depending on weather conditions or other extenuating circumstances. They've done an outstanding job this year working through the list of streets. Once these four streets are completed, there's one remaining street on the list - Lee Avenue which is top coat only. The list of streets is on the City's website.
- Summer Concert Series - the third in the series of Summer Concerts at South Central Park Gazebo is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with Funkology playing hits from Motown to country, disco to classic rock. This concert was previously canceled due to weather conditions. The concerts are free. He encouraged everyone to pack a picnic and their chair or blanket to enjoy the parks.
- Health Fair for Older Adults - the Senior Center is hosting a free health fair for older adults on Monday, September 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. There would be blood pressure, glucose, and vision screenings, flu shots, stretching demonstrations, and a host of vendors on hand.
- The Mayor invited everyone to his Coffee & Conversation on Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. This is a great way to get questions answered or just hear what others are asking and get updates on city projects and more.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

No report.

3. Director of Finance:

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

- T 90-2023 - Then and Now Resolution - The expense was budgeted by the Council during the annual appropriation process;
- T 94-2023 - Appropriation Amendment for 2023.

President Jacobs noted the following report:

July 2023 Financial Report

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following report:

August 2023 Building Division Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was none.

RECESS:

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with recess.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 5 No – 0

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 90-2023 A 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 DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for T
90-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to pay the invoice in a timely manner.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt T 90-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 90-2023 becomes
Resolution number 1604-2023.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 91-2023 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FEDERALLY APPROVED LORAIN COUNTY 2022
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for T 91-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to add the emergency clause to meet the Lorain County Commissioners deadline.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to adopt T 91-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 91-2023 becomes
Resolution number 1605-2023.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 92-2023 A RESOLUTION HONORING COUNCILMAN DENNIS J. BOOSE.
(Introduced on the floor by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to read T 92-2023 in its entirety.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani read T 92-2023 Whereas and Sections.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for T 92-2023.

All members of the City Council and the Mayor expressed their appreciation for Councilman Dennis Boose and his willingness to help others.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Abens to adopt T 92-2023.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried. T 91-2023 becomes

Resolution number 1606-2023.

Yes – 5 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 93-2023 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE TO PURCHASE FIVE NEW POLICE VEHICLES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE STATE BID LIST OR CO-OP, OR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AN OUTSIDE VENDOR ACCORDING TO LAW AND IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW, NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by DeVries to dispense with the second and third readings for T 93-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by DeVries to add the emergency clause to purchase the vehicles.

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

Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by DeVries to adopt T 93-2023 with the emergency clause.

Councilman DeVries explained that the \$250,000 that is in the legislation was appropriated and it is part of a program in which every year the City purchases five vehicles.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 93-2023 becomes

Ordinance number 6098-2023.

Yes – 5 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 94-2023 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 DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for T 94-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the Department of Finance with the necessary financial resources.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt T 94-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 94-2023 becomes
Ordinance number 6099-2023.
Yes – 5 No – 0

SECOND READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 84-2023 AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 867 MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE BUSINESS REGULATION AND TAXATION CODE.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 8-21-2023)

This ordinance was moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

T 85-2023 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5952-2022 PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS FOR THE USE OF LATERAL HIRES TO COMPLEMENT THE SAFETY FORCES AND FURTHER DEFINING LATERAL HIRE EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 8-21-2023)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Jacobs to dispense with the second and third readings for T 85-2023.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.
Yes – 5 No – 0

Councilman DeVries asked if the legislation being retroactive to January 1, 2023, would impact any current employees.

Mayor Corcoran responded with a yes.

Councilwoman Swenk inquired how many employees had been laterally transferred that would be affected by the legislation.

Mayor Corcoran did not have the exact number but estimated around 4 lateral transfers so far.

Moved by Swenk and seconded by DeVries to add the emergency clause to provide the necessary employment benefits and build morale.

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

Yes – 5 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to adopt T 94-2023 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried. T 94-2023 becomes
Ordinance number 6100-2023.

Yes – 5 No – 0

THIRD READINGS:

There was none.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

President Jacobs announced that the City Council has an open Ward 2 Council seat. According to Charter Section 3.7, “vacancies in Council shall be filled for the unexpired term by an appointment made by a majority vote of all remaining members of Council. Such appointment shall be made within thirty (30) days after the next regular meeting following receipt of official notification of such vacancy. “

The Ward 2 seat term ends on December 31, 2023. Interested parties, who must be a resident of Ward 2 in the City of North Ridgeville and a registered voter for at least one year prior to appointment, should send a cover letter and resume to the Clerk of Council’s Office via email at councilclerks@nridgeville.org by Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The council will then review the applicants and appoint a replacement per the prescribed Charter timeline.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Approval of minutes on September 18, 2023:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL