

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE FOSTORIA CITY COUNCIL HELD (TUESDAY)
MAY 5TH, 2020 AT 6:00 O’CLOCK P.M.

Council President Kauffman called the regular meeting to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation by a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Councilperson Shaver and seconded by Councilperson Lake to excuse Councilperson Schuld; passed by six (6) votes, Councilperson Schuld was excused.

It was moved by Councilperson Cassidy and seconded by Councilperson Hopple to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting; passed by six (6) votes, minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

- A. FINANCE COMMITTEE:**
No report, next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2020 at 5:30 PM., via Zoom. Councilperson Cassidy will be the new Chairman of the Finance Committee.
- B. PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**
No report.
- C. LAW AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE:**
No report, the Committee will be getting together to discuss when the next Law & Ordinance meeting will be scheduled.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

A. MAYOR:

The City building is still closed to the Public, a buzzer system has been installed for people to be able to get in and out, Court is still operating but at a reduced case load. Employees are being separated in the offices. The Water offices are still open, the employees have been taking turns running the office as same goes for the Mayor and Safety Service Directors office. The Safety Service Director brought in computers for employees to be able to work from home.

Mayor Keckler also stated that a large amount of people have moved into new places since the Covid 19, therefore, the City has had a large increase in business in the water and zoning offices, which have been conducting business following the Government and CDC guidelines. There have been a lot of grass clipping and trash complaints with the Zoning Department.

Mayor Keckler also stated the City has been in conversations with the State via Zoom regarding how to help people due to everything being shut down, and basically the tax

receipts can be down as low as 10 to 30% for the year, it was agreed to continue going with the projected budget for this year. The City has scaled back on any city projects and/or any purchases for the time being and monitor all of the receipts for the month of May, June, July and into August, the tax receipts will be an issue into the years 2021 and possibly into 2022. Mayor Keckler stated that Renee Smith and Sarah of the Chamber have been trying out programs that our connected with the CARE act. The first week of shutting businesses down the Safety Service Director created menus on the City fakebook page with the restaurants that are open with pick up and/or delivery options. The Mayor named a list of Government offices the they have been in contact with and they have been updating the City. The city has encountered some expense to accommodate the Covid 19 virus which possibly could be funded to local Governments. The City has been doing good thru out this epidemic. The Mayor will keep up with all updates. Councilperson Cassidy commended the Mayor and SSD for dealing with this epidemic. Mayor Keckler commended the SSD as well as the Police Chief for all they have done to keep the City employees safe.

B. SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR:

Deb Hellman echoed the Mayors report regarding social distancing between the City employees also regarding new City projects and purchasing. Councilperson Logsdon asked about the City buildings roof project, Deb stated the roof is completed.

C. LAW DIRECTOR:

Stephanie Kiser requested that Council pass the (2) two pieces of legislation under new business.

- _____ -Personnel matters, specifically:
- _____ -to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official
- _____ -to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual
- _____ -Purchase or sale of property
- _____ -Pending or imminent court action
- _____ -Collective bargaining matters
- _____ -Matters required to be kept confidential
- _____ -Security matters
- _____ -Confidential business information of an applicant for economic development assistance

E. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Holly Cassady stated that the Mayor spoke a lot about what Holly was going to touch base on, she stated in the Auditor's office the computers that the SSD purchased for the girls to work from home with also the staff is staggering work hours and lunch hours so that everybody is not there all at the same time. Tax payments have been extended to July 15, 2020, the city will not see revenue or the impact of this until August or September of 2020, and possibly carry over until 2021. When the City building opens tax payments will be by appointment only, as to keep the hallways cleared from

overcrowding. Rita is also an option for taxpayers to pay, the website for that is ritaohio.com, phone number: 800-860-7482.

Holly also noted the books for March have not yet been balanced with everything going on, a lot of posting was behind due to an employee being off sick for three (3) weeks. The State Auditor Rep has been working to get this reconciled and balanced so the City can close the books for March, once it is balanced and closed reports will be sent out by email. The budget is a concern however the City is keeping it down by watching the spending of money. Councilmember Logsdon stated his concerns about the budget however he understands a lot of questions can not be answered at this time, the City is looking at the different ideas which have been given to them by Rita and the State Auditor then the City will have a better idea of where were at in the future. The Mayor also added that the City has somewhat of an idea of where cuts have been. The city is only doing necessities and being evaluated. Councilperson Logsdon was concerned about the ordinances regarding project spending would be affected by budget changes. Mayor Keckler stated the main pieces for the City will be affected from sales tax, this is why the City has temporarily halted City projects, some of the paving projects have already been earmarked in the budget for this year so some paving projects will still go as planned. Councilperson Logsdon was concerned about the passing of the Tax Incentive ordinance that needs passed, Holly stated that the ordinance will not impact the City, that in fact it is an annual thing between Kroger, Poet, and the CRC.

F. PUBLIC:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance No.: 2020 - **23**: Ordinance accepting the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Council and declaring an emergency to exist. This constitutes a first reading of said ordinance. It was moved by Councilperson Lake, seconded by Councilperson Logsdon to suspend the three-reading rule; passed by six (6) votes. It was moved by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Lake to adopt; passed by six (6) votes. The ordinance was adopted.

Ordinance No.: 2020 - **24**: To approve and adopt current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances and declaring an emergency to exist. This constitutes a first reading of said ordinance. It was moved by Councilperson Lake, seconded by Councilperson Cassidy to suspend the three-reading rule; passed by six (6) votes. It was moved by Councilperson Lake, seconded by Councilperson Logsdon to adopt; passed by six (6) votes. The ordinance was adopted.

