

Monday March 14, 2022

Tree and Landscape Commission Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: March 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ROLL CALL:

- Jason Whittle
- Ralph Waszak
- Lois Czekaj,
- Sheila Schreiner
- Alicia Woods

Review of January 31, 2022 minutes – Approved Unanimously

MAYOR'S REPORT

Good evening everyone,

Please welcome our new Service Director, Scott Waldemarson, who was approved and sworn in at a special Council meeting on Monday night February 21, 2022. Scott's first day was yesterday and I know he will do very well.

I finished a course given by the State of Ohio Local Technical Assistance Program in road sign reflectivity. Fascinating stuff. I learned a lot about the aging effects on the visibility of our road signs, how test, repair and when to replace them.

Scott Waldemarson and I will be attending a 4 hour seminar in downtown Akron on LEVERAGING AVAILABLE INFRASTRUCTURE. The director of AMATS will be the guest speaker.

The Right-of-Way Stewardship Council has named FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE:FE) a Right-of-Way Steward Utility, an accreditation received by just eight electric utilities in the country. The national recognition is awarded to utilities who demonstrate standards of excellence and leadership in managing vegetation along transmission rights-of-way – the parcels of land FirstEnergy uses to build, repair, and maintain the transmission facilities that serve as the backbone of the electric grid.

AARP's national Livable Communities team is distributing \$3 Million in grant funding to support quick-action projects to make communities more livable and jump-start long-term change. The application deadline is approximately 4 weeks away, March 22nd at 5:00pm. We are looking into what projects might qualify for some of this grant money.

Through February 24th, we collected \$4,392,009 of the \$35,454,212 budgeted for all funds revenue, or 12.4% of the budget, with just a couple of days to go. On the expenditure side, \$5,111,854 was expended overall by the Village through February 24th, or 11.6% of the \$44,143,258 budgeted for expenditures. We paid out \$795,154 for the new fire engine. The expected rate at the end of February should be approximately 16.7% of the budget being expended. Looking only at the General Fund, 12.3% of the revenues have been collected and 17.0% of the budget was expended.

This will end my report unless someone has questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Reviewed Clean up Richfield Day and Tree Give Away April 23, 2022. We discussed operational procedures for the day. We will meet at 8:00 am and park in the Senior Center parking lot.
- Reviewed Adopt a Spot program. There will be a \$250.00 annual sponsor fee. The fee pays for the plants and a party in the fall after all the work is completed. We need to get a list of plants for sponsors and stewards so they can make choices in April. Some of the areas need top soil. This needs to be done so we can plant in May. Walt Dorsey stated the spots need to have water accessible. Lois Czekaj said John Constantine will help pick the flowers and plants. Laura Toth said we went on a day and picked the flowers we wanted on that day depending on what was available. Jason Whittle suggested we put lists together that incorporate native species and stated he would help with that list. We discussed putting together posters for Earth Day that would show invasive species that have become problems in Ohio. Whittle also wants to help put that list together.
- Tree City USA: tentatively June 9, 2022
- Community Garage Sale June 4, 2022

NEW BUSINESS:

- More service department employees maybe needed for the projects
- Discussed planting suggestions for 2022:
- The flower bed on route 21 (Welcome to Richfield sign) needs attention
- Discussed the Village Green, possible clock and various plans for the area.

AGENDA REQUESTS:

- Review Tree Give a Way
- Update on Tree City USA celebration
- Next Meeting Date: April 18, 2022 6:30 pm

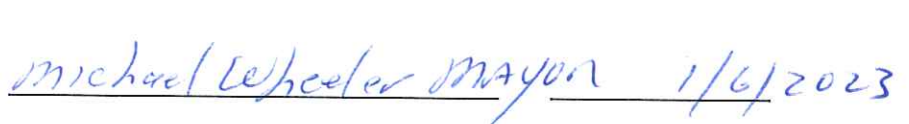
THANK YOU FROM THE CHAIR

COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT 8:30 pm



Signature



Name and Title

Date

