Regular Session January 17, 2023

The members of Hubbard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, in council chambers with President William Williams presiding. Approximately 31 people were in attendance.

Roll call showed the following members in attendance:

B. Viele, R. Zambrini, M. Mogg, C. Cummings, M. Kerr, R. Hallapy, J. Crowe

It was moved by Ms. Viele with a second by Ms. Zambrini to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2023 regular session as presented to council. There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

Ms. Hallapy- Just one communication, it’s the Treasurer’s annual financial report from Treasurer Ruha – and that’s it.

It was moved by Ms. Viele with a second by Ms. Zambrini to accept the communications and place them in their proper files. There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES-**

**FINANCE**- Ms. Zambrini- Yes, I just have ahh – I always like to look and review the income tax collections for the month. And the one ending December 31st of 2022 shows that we were up 10 % year to date which is a very good thing. And if you look at all the previous months of last year, the number is on the plus side, not the minus side. So, each month did show an increase. So as far as the expenses and distribution amount that all aligns with the income that was generated through the income tax, so it looks to me to be, um, on the right track. Thank you.

**PARK & RECREATION**- Ms. Cummings- I have no report tonight Mr. President. They just had their first meeting of the year tonight. Thank you.

**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**- Mr. Mogg- I have no report Mr. President.

**PLANNING & ZONING**- Ms. Viele- Um, there’s nothing on the agenda for the zoning commission or the appeals board for February yet. Um, commission has an open position on the board. Contact the mayor’s office if interested. At our next meeting on February 6th, there will be a public hearing dealing with the property at 6105 West Liberty Street. Thank you.

**UTILITIES-** Mr. Kerr- Thank you Mr. President. I’ll have legislation tonight. The utilities committee would like to have a meeting on Tuesday, February 21stdue to President’s Day being on the 20th. So, we want a utilities committee meeting at 6pm on Tuesday, February 21st. In regards to the new utilities that will be going into play – if anyone, residents, have any questions on utility bills, please contact the utility department at 330-534-3054. Thank you.

**STREETS & SIDEWALKS**- Mr. Crowe- Yes Mr. President. The street department right now they’re doing cold patching and some maintenance. They showed me pictures. They picked up a lot of debris from the 50mph wind we had around Christmas. After the snow melted, there was – they showed me pictures. They had a lot of debris they picked up around the town. So, ahh, that was a good project for them to help keep the city looking nice. And that’s all I have. They had two truckloads of debris (inaudible) around. That’s all I have Mr. President.

**SAFETY**- Mr. Hallapy- No report Mr. President. Thank you.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES-**

**CEMETERY BOARD**- Mr. Mogg- Ahh, for the month of December, it was a very slow month. We had two burials, we sold one lot, and we poured one foundation. I did attempt to call a columbarium meeting today, but unfortunately there’s conflicts going on, so I have to get a hold of everybody again and figure stuff out. And, I will be calling a cemetery board meeting for the 1st of February. Thank you.

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**FIRE DISTRICT-**Mr. Mogg- We will be holding our first meeting of the year tomorrow night at the city township building at 7 pm. Ahh, the business at hand – we’re going to be swearing in the new board member, which is Erin Burns, the one that we all nominated to represent the city. We will be appointing all the committees for the members and we will be voting on – we’re going to move the meeting from the township to the city administration building here in, ahh, council chambers which is something we had planned way back, so we will be voting on that and approving that. And I believe they’re moving the start time of the meeting. We’re going to try from 7 to either 6:30 or 6:00, but, we’ll let you know. That’s all I have.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

**LAW DIRECTOR**- Mr. Villano- No report this evening Mr. President. Thank you.

**TREASURER**- Mrs. Ruha- Thank you Mr. President. Each of you received my annual report in your mailbox. Um, and as of every year, if any of you has any questions, you can certainly contact me. But I want to bring your attention to the last page in reference to total revenues versus expenditures. If you look at, um, the percentage of change – the revenues include the increase in income tax and also the recovery act money. The spread between those two is still only .57%, so, it sheds light on the fact that we still have to be very cognizant of our expenditures in relationship to what might look like accelerated revenues. And that’s all I have to say.

**AUDITOR**- Mr. Villano- Nothing this evening Mr. President. Thank you.

It was moved by Ms. Viele with a second by Ms. Zambrini to accept the reports of standing committees, special committees, and city officials.

There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

Thank you, Mr. President. The city has concluded its interviews with the candidates for mechanic. Hopefully we will be making an offer this week to bring someone in to be our city mechanic that not only services all of our regular vehicles, but also our police cruisers as well. We are still accepting applications for operator I at the wastewater treatment plant. So that time period will close here at the 20th of this month. Hopefully then we will be able to hire in somebody down at wastewater treatment plant as well. This morning I attended the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District informational grant session. The township and the city will once again do joint applications for not only the tire recycling that occurs out at the township, but also an electronics recycling again here at the city. Fortunately for us, our residents have been very willing to support our projects for recycling efforts. Not only with the drop off sites, but also the individual events that we do have. Um, we are looking for – or to – there’s additional grant applications where we can make improvements to the drop off site. Could it be cameras? Could it be fencing? Could it be additional lighting? Whatever it might be to – as we all know, stop illegal dumping and/or – you know – leaving of trash when it’s not supposed to be. So, we’re looking into those opportunities as well. As a note to the residents that the utility rates will be changing. The next time you get a bill, the adjustment to those rates will be in effect. If you have questions, as we’ve said for over nine months, and all the committee meetings, and all the public informational sessions – if you have questions, please call the utilities office for additional information, 330-534-3054. We continually try to provide as much information as we can so that everybody understands the adjustments to those rates and modernizations that will be coming. Our lead service line project is nearing its start date. The legislation that you do have tonight on the agenda provides our beginning of our replacement. So, a number of months ago when Governor DeWine made the allocation, we were one of the first five in the state – this now will put a shovel in the ground to be able to replace 23 lead service lines that were identified within the city – both the residential side and the city service side. We also received the lead service line mapping grant from the Ohio EPA and H2Ohio. That was passed at board of control. Money has been – will have to be outlaid and then we will be reimbursed that money that will be able to have overall assessment of the lead service lines within the city

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and be able to have a better understanding of what we have and also not only on the service side but also on the residential side as well. I also spoke with the township today. You know, we try to work in tandem to provide for the residents and one of the major things that I’ve said now – this is the third meeting in a row – is how our senior center is not being used. It needs to have someone in there that’s going to provide for our seniors. We were informed that the library is going to be losing the senior tax preparation. They’re going to be moving it to Liberty. There’s a number of things that we want to grow – we’ve lost our in-person food service for seniors. Office of Elderly Affairs doesn’t have the people to provide for them. They’re still doing the in-home delivered meals, but that’s a very small amount of people. We have our Silver Sneakers program from the pool that there’s a small handful of people that come in. We have our Thursday card playing group – yes, it’s still active and great – but every other day of the week, it’s being underutilized. And, as I have made mention that I have had discussions with SCOPE about having them operate the senior center where they can provide programs. I had a discussion last week with the senior service advisory group with – that’s the money that then funds SCOPE. Once again, as I had made mention that this is a great opportunity for city and township residents to be able to – if you’re a senior – get more, be able to get information and get tax preparation, and get information seminars on adult protective services. It’s not only about being active and social, it’s about providing for our seniors and giving them the information so that they can stay independent and it’s definitely something that has been on my mind and I think that it’s something that, um, if an agreement can be made with the city for our building back there and SCOPE where there is no cost to the city, I think it’s worth making that move to then seeing how it goes with the ability to cancel at either time where if it’s not working for them or if it's not working for us. I think at the end of the day, we’re going to be providing for our seniors and, and to me that’s important. That’s all I have. Thank you.

It was moved by Ms. Viele with a second by Ms. Zambrini to accept the Mayor’s report.

Ms. Zambrini- How many candidates did you have for the mechanic’s job?

Mayor- We had a total of five applications come in. There were three qualified that were interviewed – that we were very happy to see that.

Ms. Zambrini- Okay. Yeah, I was going to say sometimes it’s a little rough not getting qualified candidates. Okay, thank you.

Ms. Cummings- I have a question. On the senior center, do you think anything has to do with having some transportation – that it would be an issue or for them not being able to get to the senior center?

Mayor- We still have not had anyone else that wanted to volunteer for driving our senior van. We still just have the one person that we’re running it just one day a week for a couple hours, but maybe if we get some more activity, more people are going to want to volunteer, and we can help them get to the senior center because it would be something that would be operating every day of the week.

Ms. Zambrini- I have a question. So, SCOPE, you’re talking SCOPE. What would they provide? What would – would they provide meals?

Mayor- The ultimate goal is – they have centers all across Trumbull County. They would bring that model here.

Ms. Zambrini- What was here before though? Were they here before? Was the food service part of this?

Mayor- That was the Office of Elderly Affairs. Just another extension of your tax dollars.

Ms. Zambrini- So this is different agencies?

Mayor- So, they’ve run into some issues obviously. AARP was doing the tax preparation at the library. So, there’s been a number of things that have kind of fallen apart and I think we should

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**MAYOR’S REPORT**

try to build it back together where if SCOPE comes back in and they are able to have a sight manager where either they’re operating three or six hours a day – our in kind contribution is the use of the building, you know and everything that goes along with that – the lights are on and the water is running. There is a kitchen back there where there is the steam table that’s there that maybe they could work to provide some meals for seniors to come in – not only the exercise classes and interaction that seniors so desperately need, but there’s also so much – other benefits that they could receive as well.

Ms. Zambrini- So do you have any idea when this might take place or when you might have an answer or finalize anything?

Mayor- I would like to have a follow up meeting with Mike Wilson from SCOPE this week or next week, baring his schedule to then get something in place that – like I said – either side could exit if it’s not working out.

Ms. Zambrini- Okay. Interesting. Thank you.

Ms. Cummings- I have a question. I know transportation at some point when I worked for Job and Family Services – transportation was provided as being part of a Medicaid recipient. I don’t know if that’s changed since I retired, but that was something that certain people that were on Medicaid could get transportation.

Mayor- Everything that runs through the senior levy – we, you know – cuz one of the issues with the original Hubbard community van was Hubbard residents – city and township – staying within the city and township. That was always the intent. While sometimes people needed to go to a doctor and that doctor is not here, so we – over the years – encouraged everyone to utilize your tax dollars, which is part of the senior levy funds – that there are modes of transportation available. Now there’s the separate, um, aspect of money that was created for veterans or if somebody needs certain – like you brought up – um, you know, the Medicaid side of things for actual medical care, so, it’s been working out quite well, where there’s been a number of people that have gotten the transportation they needed.

Ms. Cummings- Thank you.

Mr. Williams- Mayor, with the senior center, with – it’s for the township and the city – what’s the township’s participation? What are they – do they help out with the expenses? Do they…

Mayor- Michael, is it still $100?

Auditor- That’s park and rec. The senior center is 50/50, so we bill them – of course we haven’t had that van running for almost three years now. So, they may have the gas bill. They don’t pay half the utility bill. But any expenses incurred back there (inaudible)

Mr. Williams- But we’re providing – so any upkeep for the building or anything like that …

Auditor- Correct. It’s our building, so… But any expenses that are incurred for running the van, or maintaining the van, or buying card tables back there, or whatever – that’s 50/50.

Mr. Williams- Yeah, but if the roof leaks back there, we’re paying for it. We provide the utilities, we - so it’s not 50/50. Okay.

Mayor- So, I did – what I did notice that um, – Trustee Colletta was listed in one of their committees that they have. He is the Hubbard Senior Center representative. So he was noted in the minutes of their most recent meeting, so I did speak with him and Trustee Hanley today just to give them an update that I’ve been doing a couple months’ worth legwork that – just to keep them up to date.

Mr. Williams- I mean, it’s always said, you know, whenever we discuss something it’s going to be city and township. It’s always brought to our attention that, you know, it should be 50/50 based on this or based on that but, it seems like we’re footing the bill for this and I want to do what we can for the senior citizens but this building and the people that elected me here to the

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city are the city tax payers and if we’re going to open that up to the township, we should truly split it.

Mayor- Thankfully last time we applied for a mini-grant, um, we were able to receive full funding when we bought some tables and things like that, so we got monies that came from the senior levy itself – that we were able to get some new items a handful of years ago.

Mr. Williams- But we had to buy the new air conditioners and heaters to heat and air condition – we paid for it. The citizens of the city of Hubbard are paying for the water, the electricity – kind of like they did for 40 years at the fire station. I would truly like to see it at 50/50, but I think it’s a great thing and if it’s something we can – and I hope SCOPE maybe can help us utilize that because it’s a waste of space right now – and it’s sad. So, that’s all I have. Anyone else?

There were no more questions or comments on the motion. Motion passed. Vote Unanimous.

**UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS-**

There was no unfinshed or old business.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Ms. Cummings- I have something Mr. President. I’d like to do a follow-up from our previous meeting regarding the proclamation for the student at Hubbard – in the middle school, Landon Lovey, who works with a program called “Sleep in Heavenly Peace”. Sorry, um, and I want to thank the council and the mayor for approving the proclamation and for Debbi Madeline for preparing it and for the school for giving us some background information and at this time, mayor, would you like to present - Landon, would you like to come up here please?

Mayor- Landon, we’re presenting you the City of Hubbard proclamation and it’s not only the mayor’s office, but all the members of council as well. In appreciation for everything that you have done – Landon has just celebrated his thirteenth birthday and for his, um, birthday, he wanted to continue on with his project, “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” and he’s provided over 60 – 60 bed sets to those people that might need some place safe to sleep. So, it’s quite an accomplishment that along with city council we deem it an honor and a pleasure to extend this certificate of recognition to Landon Lovey on his self-sacrificing and kind, heartfelt journey that he’s really taken on. Congratulations.

Mr. Mogg- I would like to say something. The reason I’m up here – Landon is my grandson. I want to thank Cathy for proposing this to city council. He deserves all the accolades in the world, but also his parents do. The kindness that Landon shows towards everybody is not something that you’re born with, it’s something that’s instilled and all the credit in the world goes to his parents because he is a great kid. All of their kids are great – all of my grandkids are great. Landon (inaudible) really proud of what he’s done. On top of the 60 bed sets that he’s had, he’s also collected $675.00… $740.00 in cash, so he’s really gone a long way with this and I’m very proud of him.

Mr. Williams- I don’t have a tissue, I’m sorry.

Ms. Cummings- I have one. Thank you. I cry (inaudible).

Mr. Williams- You know. Mike and I work together and we were discussing this the other day and it just struck me to think that someone doesn’t have a bed, and Landon for you to think of that and try to help these people, that’s amazing, and we’re all very proud. Okay, anything else under Miscellaneous?

There were no more questions or comments under Miscellaneous.

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**PUBLIC ADDRESS TO CITY COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS-**

The record shows that no one addressed council on agenda items.

**NEW BUSINESS & REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATION-**

It was moved by Mr. Kerr with a second by Mr. Hallapy to request that the law director draw up the necessary legislation for an ordinance authorizing the Board of Control to enter into a contract with MS Consultants, Inc., contingent upon receiving Ohio EPA water supply revolving loan account funding, for the 2023 waterline replacement project and declaring an emergency. There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

Ordinance 2-23 Second Reading

AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF CONTROL TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J.S. BOVA EXCAVATION, LLC. CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING OHIO EPA WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT FUNDING FOR THE 2022 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mr. Mogg with a second by Mr. Hallapy to suspend the second and third readings of Ordinance 2-23. There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

It was moved by Mr. Mogg with a second by Mr. Hallapy that Ordinance 2-23 be passed as read. There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

**PUBLIC ADDRESS TO CITY COUNCIL ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS-**

Mr. Williams- If there is anyone who wishes to address city council on non-agenda items related to city council business, when recognized please step forward to the microphone and state your name and address for the record you will have three minutes unless extended by council vote.

The record shows that no one addressed council on non-agenda items.

Mr. Williams- No one. I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mr. Mogg with a second by Ms. Cummings to adjourn. There were no questions or comments on the motion. Motion carried. Vote Unanimous.

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Marianne Hallapy, Council Clerk William Williams, President