

CLYDE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session – December 21, 2021

Clyde City Council met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio. Mayor G. Scott Black called the meeting to order.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor G. Scott Black
Vice Mayor Jean Jackson
Council Member Bobbie Boyer
Council Member Steve Keegan
Council Member Brent Stanley
City Manager Paul Fiser (Not voting)
Clerk of Council Janet Dickman (Not voting)
Deputy Clerk Jackie Hoppe (Not voting)
Finance Director Craig Davis (Not voting)
Solicitor Zachary Selvey (Not voting)

Visitors signing in can be referenced in the Record Book Supplement.

The meeting opened with The Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 7, 2021 regular session of council were distributed for review prior to this meeting. There was one clarification.

Page 6, Council Remarks, last paragraph – Mr. Stanley would have liked to be notified of the time of the Investment Board meeting.

Motion: to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 regular session of council as clarified,

Action: Approve,

Moved by Council Member Bobbie Boyer, **Seconded by** Mayor G. Scott Black.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Mayor G. Scott Black, Council Member Bobbie Boyer, Council Member Brent Stanley, Vice Mayor Jean Jackson, Council Member Steve Keegan.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

Visitors:

There were no visitors who requested to speak at this time.

FIRST READING ORDINANCES

2021-61 AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS, INTER-FUND TRANSFERS AND INTRA-FUND TRANSFERS TO APPROPRIATIONS DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance No. **2021-61** was read in its entirety.

Mr. Davis reviewed these end of the year transfers. The first one is the Permanent Improvement allocating some money from the construction line to the charge back General Service line because General Service department did a lot of the curb and road prep for the paving project. The other two are electrical, for CL&P employees that we are now at full staff. \$21,000 had to be allocated to the CARES fund and \$24,000 to the American Rescue fund for the signs that were purchased earlier this year. The last two, related to Income Tax, this fund has jumped up considerably. December will be another record month and we need to appropriate more money into the expense line for the Income Tax so we can do the transfers to the PI and the General Fund, which is a good thing.

Mr. Stanley questioned what the FEMA CARES fund is compared to the CARES Act money (FEMA was the original fund line that we had, then we incorporated the CARES to it instead of creating a whole separate fund; it was relabeled FEMA CARES).

Mayor Black announced that this ordinance contained an emergency clause.

Motion: to suspend the rule preventing passage of an ordinance at a meeting at which it is first introduced, which is section 4-5 of the Charter, **Action:** Suspend rule,

Moved by Council Member Brent Stanley, **Seconded by** Council Member Steve Keegan.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Council Member Bobbie Boyer, Council Member Brent Stanley, Vice Mayor Jean Jackson, Council Member Steve Keegan, Mayor G. Scott Black.

By poll of Council, Ordinance No. **2021-61** was read by title only for its second reading.

Motion: to adopt Ordinance No. **2021-61**, **Action:** Adopt,

Moved by Council Member Brent Stanley, **Seconded by** Council Member Bobbie Boyer.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Council Member Brent Stanley, Vice Mayor Jean Jackson, Council Member Steve Keegan, Mayor G. Scott Black, Council Member Bobbie Boyer.

Mayor Black announced that Ordinance No. **2021-61** has been adopted.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES

There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-62 A RESOLUTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION NO. 2015-34; A RESOLUTION RENAMING CHERRY STREET PARK TO THADDEUS HURD PARK IN THE CITY

OF CLYDE; OHIO.

Resolution No. **2021-62** was read in its entirety.

Mr. Fiser noted he has always referred to this park as Cherry Street Park.

Motion: to pass Resolution No. **2021-62**, **Action:** Pass,

Moved by Council Member Steve Keegan, **Seconded by** Council Member Brent Stanley.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Vice Mayor Jean Jackson, Council Member Steve Keegan, Mayor G. Scott Black, Council Member Bobbie Boyer, Council Member Brent Stanley.

Mayor Black announced that Resolution No. **2021-62** passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Fiser gave the following report:

COVID Update – two employees who tested positive are off work and two employees in the same department are out for quarantine due to exposure. It is hoped they will be back to work next week and it is hoped the holidays will not bring on another surge. It's hard to believe another year has passed; it doesn't seem like we have gotten far on the COVID issues as it seems we are right back into it. We will keep moving forward and doing our best.

Highlights for 2021 – thanks were extended to Council for all of their support, also to the taxpayers and our staff. It has been a rough couple of years but we have gotten a lot done.

- US Route 20 sewer separation completion after about 4-5 years of trying to fund it; we got some good funding and the project is completed and working well
- In 2022 the town will be pretty tore up; the Mulberry Street bridge project will hopefully start in February as we are working on some scheduling for pre-construction meetings.
- The 2021 and the 2022 paving projects will all be done in the same year
- The above three projects have received funding from OPW
- In 2021 the Income Tax was passed overwhelmingly; this sets a new high water mark for the future as it was passed by 71%
- We seated the Charter Review Commission which made no recommendations to the Charter

Thanks were reiterated as Council's support makes it easier for what we need to do.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reviewed the financials for November 2021:

- Revenues are on target and in line with anticipation of expenditures
- General Fund is at \$2.9 mil, which is about \$882,00 higher compared to 2020; reason is due to Income Tax collections being at a record pace for the year
- Water Fund is at \$2.2 mil, which is a half mil higher than 2020
- Sewer Fund is at \$1.6 mil
- Electric Fund is at \$7.9 mil

- All those fund balances are pretty healthy right now, for projects for 2022
- Income Tax collections are at \$1.1 mil compared to about \$474,000 in 2020 which is an increase of about \$656,000, made up of net profit returns that we received, not withholdings; YTD we are at about \$5.4 mil, which is a record number, compared to about \$4.3 mil in 2020
- Interest Income is \$9,365 compared to about \$72,000 in 2020

An Investment Board meeting was held with Mr. Davis, Mr. Fiser and Mrs. Boyer participating. Discussion was a review of the cash balances on hand and placement of our account and investments from First Financial Bank following its closure. Discussion was also held regarding our investment advisory and the associated costs; we need an investment advisor who can follow ORC guidelines for municipal funds and follow our City policies. We received a new investment advisor proposal and will also look at the option of moving from CD's to the bond market. It was discussed to reach out to some of our peers and see who they are using for their investment advisory council. This will be re-looked at after the first of the year.

The Finance Office is very busy now, with end of year tasks, staff using vacation time and the office being closed for holidays.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Davis reported there were several calls during the recent windstorm that blew through.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Ms. Jackson offered a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all who live and/or work in Clyde.

Ms. Jackson wished well to Mr. Keegan as this is his final meeting as a Council Member. He will be missed. She has learned a lot from Mr. Keegan; his dedication to the City is commendable with his over twenty years on Council.

Mr. Keegan noted at this, his last meeting, that it was a good time and he learned a lot. He expressed appreciation to everyone who offered him support over the years.

Mrs. Boyer offered the following for her last remarks in her role as City Council member: I want to thank the citizens of Clyde that voted me into office four years ago, our City of Clyde employees that welcomed me and serve us every day; and especially Paul, Craig, Jackie, Janet and Ken for all their support provided to me. For the rest of my City Council members and those ready to sit in these seats, I have a few more thoughts to share.

When you take the oath of public office, every decision you make impacts more than yourself. When I took this oath, I came with the idea of giving all of myself, my gifts, my talents, and my experience to make a difference for the citizens of Clyde. To me being a public servant is giving my all.

However, it has been my experience, that this city council has embraced a closed mindedness

that impeded their ability to recognize that they had a national expert on their team and that stopped my ability to give it my all. The ignorance displayed, and the absence of good sense or judgment in my opinion contributed to four years of accomplishing very little compared to what we could have. For some in these seats, I am afraid it has been much longer than that.

I challenge each of you to take a good honest look and decide where you fit. As you are deciding for yourselves, the citizens around us are developing their own opinion. Public officials in the county and the region also have theirs.

Secondly, for me being a public servant is being honest and transparent in my communications and using the tools available for the public good. Social media can be a great tool to shape public opinion. In my day job, we use it every day to promote mental health and wellness and to help citizens of Ohio find the resources they need. However, social media can also be used to bring harm to individuals and communities. In my work, we look for opportunities to help parents stay involved with a listening ear and providing boundaries as a safety net for growing children and youth.

In this recent campaign, Mr. Shay linked with Dot Bliss and Bev Henson to create a coordinated social media attack on my integrity, the integrity of my husband, and the integrity of our business. This coordinated attack was also reinforced by Ms. Jackson in public meetings. All participants used blatant lies that were splashed all over social media and taken in by the public and its vulnerable low fact checking followers.

The impacts were many. I lost the election. Our business was affected. I am fine with losing the election. For me, the voters have spoken and I do not have to waste my time bringing ideas to a group that is closed and unwilling to look at future possibilities. Even though each idea is viewed as usual best-practices for running a city or any organization for that matter. The lesson here for me is not to overestimate the power of social media and the vulnerability of our citizens to believe what they read, even if it is a lie.

Chris Shay won his election. He has already shown himself as a person who lacks integrity and is willing to attack a local business in order to get his seat. This was seen loud and clear by public officials in our region and believe me, it is not a good look.

Our public officials in the county and in the region have noted for some time the lack of support our family business has had from city leadership. Now they have seen how one current public official and a new public official chose to attack a small business that is seen by leaders in the region as a huge asset.

The more lies you tell, the more votes you get. What a great formula for our future.

My question for the rest of you is, why did the rest of City Council stand by and say nothing when one of their members was being systematically attacked for simply trying to do a good job for the city of Clyde? And Doug, you also were silent. Let' see how that silence works for you in your future role.

Despite all of this. I still believe in miracles. As a public official, I am in the business of change. I believe in the power of individuals to change and grow in their mental health. I believe that organizations and communities can change. I don't see change as a bad thing. I am learning something new every day and am making powerful changes to support citizens across the state of Ohio.

Thirdly, I believe a good public servant is data-driven in decision-making. One of the hardest things for me was making decisions here without good data to support them. For growth and change to occur, we need good data to inform decision-making. That means asking tough questions and having conversations that are not always easy. That means a planning process that includes collecting the data to fully understand the issues and to fully form solutions.

A few of those questions that could be asked are:

- Why do small businesses feel such a lack of support from city leaders?
- Why does almost everyone on ClydeScope live outside of the city?
- Why do professionals that work in Clyde choose to live somewhere else?
- Why does Whirlpool put up their Execs in Perrysburg?
- Why is Whirlpool virtually absent in relationship to city leadership?
- Why is our reputation from local, regional and state officials, a city that does not support small business growth and is uninformed about economic development?
- How does the public, including our business community feel about customer service from Clyde Light and Power?
- What is the true cost of our infrastructure needs over the next 10 years?

These are a few data points that would be good to capture. There are many more. My hope for a strategic plan was always more about the process of creating the plan than the end-result. It is the collaboration that occurs, the relationships that are built, the information and perspectives that are shared that makes a vision for the future. Without that it is just another written document that gathers dust on a shelf. We need a living breathing influx of creativity that motivates our community to come together around a common goal. We need to ask the tough questions and find a way to get honest answers to inform that planning process. That is what a good consultant could bring to the table.

And lastly, being a public servant to me means a willingness to be teachable or learn from others; a trait that is really necessary in this role. One that is lacking by many that are sitting here. I hope that changes in the future.

I hope that in the future, people of character, experience and vision will begin to populate these seats. I hope the public officials that begin the New Year together will take stock and be open to others that just may have something you can learn. Perhaps my greatest achievement is supporting Brent in his journey to win his election and convincing Doug that he was needed and could win. I hope these next two years are different and I hope you will be able to bring all of who you are to make a difference for our community.

I hope all the best for this city and for the families that choose to live here.

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That concludes my comments.

Mr. Stanley offered thanks to those who are in attendance tonight and thanks to those who provide department reports to Council as these reports are helpful. Also thanks to Mr. Fiser and Mr. Davis for all they have done for another good year. This is appreciated.

Mr. Stanley offered a Merry Christmas to all in the City.

Mr. Stanley questioned if there are any results from the screw press they had down at the sewer treatment plant (they had two demos, the first one was more positive than the second, but it might have to do with being cold and in a trailer; there will be one more demo; Mr. Beamer observed the demo's and agreed with Mr. Fiser that the weather/cold may have impacted the demo).

Mr. Stanley noted it has been a challenging year due to COVID, although we have done well. He wishes all in the community a Happy New Year.

Mayor Black wishes everyone on Council, in the City of Clyde and the surrounding areas a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Black noted it is a sad time of year when we lose Council members. He noted that he did not know Mrs. Boyer prior to her joining Council, but she was open to anything he had to say and she definitely made Council meetings interesting. Mayor Black offered thanks to Mr. Keegan, noting that Mr. Keegan was already on Council when Mayor Black joined. Mr. Keegan will be missed.

By poll of Council the December 28, 2021 work session was cancelled.

The 2022 Reorganizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.

MOTIONS

Motion: To enter into an executive session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss the purchase or sale of property, **Action:** Enter Closed Session,

Moved by Mayor G. Scott Black, **Seconded by** Council Member Steve Keegan.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Council Member Steve Keegan, Mayor G. Scott Black, Council Member Bobbie Boyer, Council Member Brent Stanley, Vice Mayor Jean Jackson.

Mayor Black announced that no further action will be taken following the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:46 p.m., **Action:** Adjourn,

Moved by Council Member Steve Keegan, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Jean Jackson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Mayor G. Scott Black, Council Member Bobbie Boyer, Council Member Brent Stanley, Vice Mayor Jean Jackson, Council Member Steve Keegan.

Motion: to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:47 p.m., **Action:** Adjourn,
Moved by Council Member Steve Keegan, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Jean Jackson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Council Member Bobbie Boyer, Council Member Brent Stanley, Vice Mayor Jean Jackson, Council Member Steve Keegan, Mayor G. Scott Black.


G. Scott Black, Mayor


Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CITY OF CLYDE

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday December 21, 2021 Regular Session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. Chris Shay
2. Ben Brown
3. GARY BERMAN
4. Don McLaughlin
5. Gary Smith
6. Ken Winke
7. Justin LaBenne
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____