

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Monday, May 6, 2024, 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, Eric Shaffer, Bruce Abens, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

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

Councilman/President Pro-Tem Clifford Winkel was excused.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated April 15, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes dated April 15, 2024, and the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated April 22, 2024. No discussion was offered. The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs noted the following minutes:

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated March 27, 2024
Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated April 22, 2024
Board of Zoning and Building Appeals dated April 25, 2024

LOBBY:

President Jacobs opened the lobby session. He reminded everyone that the lobby session was not meant to be an interactive question-and-answer session. However, it was an opportunity for the public to address the City Council and its 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.

Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation Project

Kim Stermole, residing at 37872 Sugar Ridge Road, mentioned that she received the study for the Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation project. She had some inquiries regarding the project, including the possibility of shifting the road for a sewer project, the type of concrete base for the bike paths, the inclusion of a third lane and turning lane, and the implementation of a 5-foot swale for drainage and a 5-foot sidewalk.

She pointed out that the estimated cost for the project, which included paving Sugar Ridge Road, constructing bike paths, sidewalks, a roundabout, and removing curves, amounted to \$8.2 million in the March 2023 study. She questioned the justification for such a high cost and requested clarification from the administration and City Council.

Sugar Ridge Road Truck Issues

Albert Krage, residing at 37903 Sugar Ridge Road, voiced his concerns about the ongoing truck issues within the neighborhood. He pointed out an incident involving a bus rollover on Sugar Ridge Road. Mr. Krage expressed that it could have easily involved a fuel tanker truck instead. Mr. Krage emphasizes the urgent need for increased attention and action to address the problem of trucks on “No Truck” roads.

Flooding and Drainage in Backyard

Jo Ann Smith, residing at 34593 Sugar Ridge Road, has raised concerns about flooding in her backyard. She stated that she had previously relied on the Service Department to clear her drain, but when she contacted them on January 25, 2024, regarding the worst flooding she had experienced, they informed her that it was not their responsibility and could not help. The flooding reached over 3 feet in some areas. Ms. Smith feared that it was getting closer to her house. She mentioned that the Service Department had previously jetted her drain for the past 8 years. Ms. Smith had Mr. Abens look at the issue. Ms. Smith remarked that she had not heard any updates regarding the issue for three months.

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to give Mrs. Smith an additional three minutes.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Mrs. Smith inquired about inspection plans for the area and why the drains are not draining.

Sugar Ridge Road Corridor Project

Bradley Baker, residing at 37801 Sugar Ridge Road, expressed gratitude to the council president for sharing information about the Sugar Ridge Corridor. However, he voiced his disappointment with the administration's lack of communication to residents about the Corridor. Mr. Baker suggested minimalist recommendations instead of a maximalist approach, expressing his dissatisfaction with the City's intention to be maximalist based on the rehabilitation plan. He raised concerns about increased traffic on Sugar Ridge Road.

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to give Mr. Baker an additional three minutes.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Mr. Baker further suggested that the administration and City Council should consider the traffic from the companies on Race Road as a contributing factor to the increased traffic on Sugar Ridge Road. He recommended the purchase of some properties so that Taylor Street could connect to Race Road, allowing traffic to flow onto State Route 57.

Additionally, Mr. Baker raised concerns about the poor design of the intersection of Bender Road and Sugar Ridge Road, which has led to numerous accidents in the Northeast area. He emphasized that a minimalist approach rather than a maximalist one could help address these issues more effectively.

Sugar Ridge Road

Jeff Perul, residing at 37740 Sugar Ridge Road, expressed his frustration at not being informed about the City's decision to acquire a portion of his property for the Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation project. He recently learned that his property would be reduced by 20 feet from the street. Mr. Perul asked for clarification on the specific plans for his property and expressed concern about the fate of the sidewalks he had paid for as per the City's requirements.

Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation Project

Jim Stermole, residing at 37872 Sugar Ridge Road, expressed his frustration with the City Council's lack of knowledge regarding the information reported in the City's newsletter about the Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation Project and Grant. According to Mr. Stermole, the newsletter stated that the money for the project was raised through a congressional earmark. However, Mr. Stermole discovered that earmarks no longer exist, as informed by Congressman Bob Latta's office. He further pointed out that while the City received \$2 million, an additional \$7.3 million is required to fully fund the Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Stermole voices concerns regarding the ongoing and future of the trucks. He understood that the City plans to connect to Taylor and the issues of why the project is being held up. Mr. Stermole raised concerns about the planned corridor for industrial and residential users.

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to give Mr. Stermole an additional three minutes.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Mr. Stermole expressed his concerns about the current and future situation regarding trucks in the area. Mr. Stermole raised concerns about the planned corridor that would accommodate both industrial and residential users, questioning the potential impacts on the community.

Sugar Ridge Road Rehabilitation Project

Rudy Ringwall, a resident at 31966 Center Ridge Road, voiced his concerns about the drainage issues when connecting to sewers. He shared that both he and his son experienced a similar problem as Ms. Smith, where the drain was incorrectly installed at a higher level. This mistake cost them nearly \$5,000 to fix. Mr. Ringwall was informed by the City's engineer that there was nothing they could do due to the lack of records and the fact that the drainage was on private property. However, he was able to persuade the City's Engineer's office to assume responsibility for the ditch, as it affected multiple residents.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following.:

- Under the first readings, he requested an emergency passage on several pieces of legislation that would need the emergency for ORD NO. 2024-49, ORD. NO. 2024-50, ORD. NO. 2024-53 and 2024-44.
- Abandoned Gas Station Program - As part of the grant from the State of Ohio's Abandoned Gas Station program, The City's consultant will be proceeding with a second remediation at the

southwest corner of Center Ridge Road and SR 83 in order to treat petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater at the site between May 13, 2024, and May 17, 2024. Some of the work will take place within the Center Ridge Road right-of-way, resulting in partial lane closures. On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, from approximately 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the eastbound lane on Center Ridge at SR 83 will be closed. Drivers traveling eastbound on Center Ridge will not be able to access SR 83 southbound during this time. Suggested alternate route, take Maddock Road to Sugar Ridge Road to SR 83. A sign will be in place alerting drivers of this work.

- Street Paving - The city has appropriated \$550,000 this year for street paving materials. The Public Works Department, Streets Division, will be paving the following ten streets: Aurensen Road, Barres Road, Cadet Drive, Glen Drive, Laurel Circle, Manning Circle, Meadow Creek Oval, Noll Drive, Shady Drive, and Sugar Ridge Road from Bender Road west to the Elyria border.

As each street is scheduled to be milled and/or paved, information including dates of construction will be added to the city's website. These dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

- The city has also appropriated \$900,000 for concrete pavement repairs. This work is performed by an outside contractor. The full-depth concrete replacement project will be bid later this year.
- The Mayor's Coffee & Conversation is on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.
- Lorain County Beautiful Day is Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 9 a.m. until noon. This is a great opportunity to play an active role in improving our community and parks. Residents are encouraged to clean up, fix up, paint, and spruce up our community. Interested organizations and individuals should contact Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Fougrouse at (440) 490-2051 or via email at kfougrouse@nridgeville.org.
- Discover the Ridge - The North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau is hosting the annual Discover the Ridge on Saturday, May 18, 2024. This is a family-friendly open house event throughout the city. Free admission.

Visitors would start at the Discover the Ridge kick-off celebration at the North Ridgeville Branch Library with the opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m. with the VFW Color Guard followed by a fun-filled day of carnival games, tour of the newly renovated library, experience the Spring Mist Farm's petting zoo (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), Twister Girl Balloon Company balloon artistry (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.). Visit all 26 participating businesses/locations highlighted in the brochure. Interested parties could pick up a brochure at City Hall or view it on the city's website.

- Notice of Examination: Full-Time Patrol Officer Class "D" AND Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic Class "D" - The Civil Service Commission is offering open, competitive written examinations to establish an eligibility list for both entry-level Patrol Officer Class "D" and entry-level Firefighter/Paramedic Class "D" positions. Testing and applications will be accepted through May 27, 2024. To obtain the application packets, visit the city's website at nridgeville.org.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk into an Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular Council meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Awig to adjourn the executive session.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

No report was provided.

3. Director of Finance:

Finance Director April Wilkerson:

April Wilkerson, the Finance Director, requested the inclusion of an emergency clause to ensure that the Finance Department has the required resources to reach its financial obligations for the following legislation.

Ordinance No. 2024-51 – Amended the 2024 annual appropriation.

Finance Director April Wilkerson concluded her report.

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following report:

March 2024 Parks and Recreation Division Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were none.

RECESS:

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

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-49 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to purchase hydrants and appurtenances for the Service Department.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-49.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to purchase the hydrants.

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-49 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-49.**

Yes – 6 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-50 An Ordinance authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2024.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-50.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to enter into an agreement with ODOT that had a deadline of Friday, May 3, 2024.

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-50 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-50.**

Yes – 6 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-51 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Number 6121-2023 of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, providing appropriations for the period commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-51.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause in order to provide the Department of Finance with the resources necessary to meet its obligations.

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-51 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-51.**

Yes – 6 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-52 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Ridgeville to enter into a cooperative agreement with Lorain County for the replacement of the Chestnut Ridge Road Bridge #0531, the relocation of the city watermain and other appurtenances.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2024-52 moved to second reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-53 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Bob Ternes for the lease of real property for farming purposes.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-53.

Mayor Corcoran announced that the administration had acquired a property previously used for farming and intends to engage in a lease agreement with the farmer to allow them to continue farming for their planned harvest.

Councilman Abens raised a question regarding the duration of the lease with the farmer.

Mayor Corcoran that the legislation is a one-year term.

Councilwoman Swenk asked if there was a possibility for the lease term to be renewed.

Mayor Corcoran clarified that there is a potential for the lease term to be renewed.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to add the emergency clause in order to settle a real estate transaction.

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to adopt 2024-53 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-53.**

Yes – 6 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-54 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2024-22 Exhibit "A" by creating the position of Recreation Services Administrator.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2024-54 moved to second reading.

SECOND READINGS:

There were no second readings.

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-44 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contracts according to law and in a manner prescribed by law with the lowest and best bidder(s) for the Avon Belden Road (SR 83) and Chestnut Ridge Road Roundabout, also known as LOR-83-11.19 ODOT PID 114797, for construction, inspection services, and associated work, in an amount not to exceed \$440,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 04-01-2024; Second Reading on 04-15-2024)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by DeVries to adopt 2024-44.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause in order to start the project as soon as possible.

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to adopt 2024-44 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-44.**

Yes – 6 No – 0

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. A City Council Public Hearing will be on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss Ordinance Number 2024-48.
2. The next Regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Approval of minutes on May 20, 2024:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL