

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Monday, June 3, 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 F. Abens, Clifford Winkel, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

Also present were Mayor Kevin Corcoran, City Engineer Christina Eavenson, Finance Director April Wilkerson, Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani, and Assistant Clerk of Council Fijabi Gallam.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the City Council Public Hearing Meeting Minutes dated May 20, 2024, and Regular City Council Meeting Minutes dated May 20, 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 April 24, 2024

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 14, 2024

Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated May 20, 2024

Board of Zoning and Building Appeals dated May 23, 2024

LOBBY:

No discussion was offered.

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. 2024-561 - a resolution supporting the efforts of becoming a Dementia-Friendly Community and declaring the month of June 2024 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

A Dementia Friends Presentation was presented by Theresa Lanham and Emily Lockshine to announce how the City of North Ridgeville became a Dementia-Friendly Community. Dementia Friends is a global movement that was initiated in the year of 2013 in the United Kingdom by the Alzheimer's Association. The movement is to bring awareness about dementia. North Ridgeville is the first in Lorain County to be designated as a Dementia Friendly Community.

- Street Paving - Public Works, Streets Division, will kick off asphalt paving projects this week. They are scheduled to begin milling Glen Drive and Meadow Creek Oval on June 4, 2024, with paving to follow. For the complete list of streets and schedule, visit the city's website at nridgeville.org.
- Citywide Garage Sale Days - Expect increased traffic due to the citywide Garage Sale Days sponsored by the North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau. The event starts Wednesday, June 5, 2024, and runs through Saturday, June 8, 2024. The list of participating homes is available on the Chamber of Commerce website and the City's website. For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce/Visitors Bureau at (440) 327-3737.
- Touch-A-Truck - Parks & Recreation will be hosting Touch-A-Truck this Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Shady Drive Complex. This is a free event. The first two hours of this event will be sensory-friendly.
- Summer Concert Series Lineup Kicks Off, June 9, 2024 - The free summer concert series at South Central Park Gazebo. Concerts are subject to cancellation because of weather conditions. For updates during the season, visit the Parks & Recreation Department Rainout Line Tab on the webpage or call the Rainout Line at (440) 210-6226. The first concert of the season is Sunday, June 9, 2024, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. with Disco Inferno (70's Music).
- Coffee and Conversation – Mayor's monthly coffee and conversation is Friday, June 14, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Each month there will be a special guest. The June coffee is Emily Lockshine, Administrator of the Office for Older Adults/Senior Center.
- Shred Day at North Ridgeville Branch Library - The North Ridgeville Branch Library is hosting a community shred day on Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Bring sensitive documents such as tax forms and medical records to be shredded onsite in the library parking lot. Each household may bring up to five grocery-size bags of documents. Staples are fine, but no paper clips, binder clips, binders, spiral-bound notebooks, other metal objects, batteries, or electronics. This free event is provided by the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District. The event may end early if the truck is full.
- Freedom Festival and Fireworks - Victory Park Ohio will once again be hosting the annual Freedom Festival and Fireworks on July 3, 2024. The schedule of activities and ticket information is available on Victory Park Ohio's website at victoryparkohio.com. Net proceeds from the event will benefit three non-profits: North Ridgeville Community Care, Canine Superheroes Foundation, and Save 22.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson provided the following updates:

- Beginning today, notable changes have been made to the Engineering permitting process with the new Ordinance. Some of the highlights include new applications that have been created for various improvement reviews including residential, commercial, industrial, and water services. The City will no longer collect engineering deposits with the Planning Commission applications unless a separate application is made for the final review of the improvement plans. The calculations for the review deposits have also changed. Individual new dwelling engineering permits must now be accompanied by a \$425 plan review fee. Additional information can be found on the City's website or call the Engineering or Building office for additional questions.
- Norfolk Southern will be working on their three at-grade crossings starting with the Chestnut Ridge Road crossing. Upon completion they will move to the Root Road crossing and finally the Race Road crossing. The first of the crossings is expected to start next Monday, June 10, 2024.
- Backflow prevention devices, including those on lawn irrigation systems, need to be tested every year and those reports need to be submitted to the Engineering Office. by June 15, 2024. Call the Engineering Office with any questions.
- The City received multiple bids for the Stoney Ridge Road roundabout and Engineering is reviewing those now. The bid is higher than had originally appropriated in 2023. Additional funding is needed. The Engineer's Office also awarded the crack seal project to Scodeller Construction.
- The Sugar Ridge Road Preliminary Engineering Report background to the study - Back in 2021, it became quite apparent that much of the western portion of Sugar Ridge was in disrepair and need of rehabilitation. It would be expensive and it was not a project the City could finance. Therefore, to make the project more attractive to our local planning agency for funding which is the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the City needed to invest some effort into the preliminary study, so that our application would convey the city's interest, effort, and commitment.
- A consultant performed a thorough survey and geotechnical investigations. The consultant reviewed the current alignment, drainage, signage, utilities, and striping of the existing conditions and made recommendations. Specific items that NOACA looks for in an application include creating roadway capacity and/or reducing congestion, providing mobility, creating economic development, and improving the quality of life. Therefore, the City decided to include design items that would address these needs - for instance, roundabouts can reduce congestion and pollution by minimizing idling while sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bike lanes improve our quality of life.
- To get NOACA to support the engineering for the roundabout NOACA pulled the funding citing that funding could only be used for construction and the City was not currently eligible without having the engineering complete. The City was encouraged to submit again next year. Engineering will continue to work with NOACA to find the funding so that we can perform the necessary rehabilitation. In the meantime, the Service Division will be resurfacing the worst of the areas in the summer of 2024.

City Engineer Eavenson concluded her report.

3. Director of Finance:

Finance Director April Wilkerson:

April 2024 Financial Report is available on the City's website.

Finance Director April Wilkerson concluded her report.

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following report:

April 2024 Parks and Recreation Division Report
April 2024 Fire Department Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

RECESS:

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

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-61 A Resolution supporting the efforts of becoming a Dementia-Friendly Community and declaring the month of June 2024 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in the City of North Ridgeville.
(Introduced by Councilman Jacobs)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to read 2024-61 in its entirety.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-61.

President Jacobs expressed gratitude to Theresa Lanham and Emily Lockshine for their presentation on the dementia-friendly designation. He added that it is very important for the members of the community. He expressed how it could feel to be with dementia and living with someone with dementia. Mr. Jacobs added that he is very proud to support the initiative.

Councilman Shaffer inquired if Dementia and Alzheimer's were the same thing.

President Jacobs remarked that Alzheimer's is a form of dementia.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to designate the month of June 2024 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in the City of North Ridgeville.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-61 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-61**.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-62 An Ordinance adopting the attached Title VI/Non-Discrimination Policy as required by the Ohio Department of Transportation.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

This Ordinance moved to second readings.

SECOND READINGS:

There was none.

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-45 An Ordinance prohibiting adult use cannabis processing, cultivation, retail dispensaries, or other North Ridgeville business intending to process, provide, or sell cannabis as defined in Sections 3780.01 through 3780.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 04-15-2024; Committee of the Whole on 05-06-2024; Second Reading on 05-20-2024)

Moved by Abens and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-45.

Councilman Shaffer noted that at the last meeting, he suggested that the City Council remove cultivation processing and make the legislation specific to dispensaries. He asked if anyone had any comments on his suggestion.

Councilman Abens remarked that the State of Ohio is confused about what is going to be allowed, so it is easier to ban marijuana and remove the ban in the future when more regulations come out from the State. He added that he is not a big supporter of marijuana.

Councilwoman Swenk agreed with Mr. Abens.

Councilwoman Awig agreed with Mr. Abens and Mrs. Swenk.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-45**.

Yes – 6 No – 1 (Shaffer)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. The next Regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

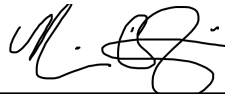
ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes on June 17, 2024:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL