

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Monday, September 16, 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, Cliff Winkel, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

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

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes dated September 3, 2024. No discussion was offered. The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs noted the following minutes:

Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 3, 2024

Civil Service Commission Special Meeting Minutes dated September 9, 2024

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 9, 2024

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes September 10, 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.

There were none.

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. 2024-104, RES. NO. 2024-105, ORD. NO. 2024-106, and ORD. NO. 2024-107.
- Street Paving—The Public Works Department, Streets Division, is currently paving Aurenson Road and Noll Drive this week. Once they finish these two streets, they plan to move on to Shady Drive.
- Events of Interest:

Medicare Information Session -

The Senior Center is hosting a Medicare Information Session on September 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. There will be significant changes to Medicare in 2025. Debbie Hamilton from the Lorain County Office on Aging will present an informative update. Please RSVP by calling the Senior Center at (440) 490-2056.

Active Transportation Plan Public Meeting -

The community is invited to attend the third and final public meeting for the North Ridgeville Active Transportation Plan on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the NRAC Community Room, 34620 Bainbridge Road. The planning team will present recommendations to improve connectivity in North Ridgeville through sidewalks, trails, and other safety and mobility improvements. The presentation will also include priorities for Safe Routes to School improvements at ECLC, Liberty Elementary, Ranger High Tech Academy, and NRAC.

Spaghetti Dinner -

The North Ridgeville Senior Center is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday, September 27, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Tickets are available in advance at the Senior Center or at the door on the day of the event: Cost: \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for children 10 and under. Dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, side salad, and bread. Pop and dessert are available for \$1 each. Dine in or take out. Proceeds benefit programs at the Senior Center. Thank you to the North Ridgeville Lions Club for sponsoring the event.

Safety Fair -

The Safety Fair will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Fire Station #1 and Police Station campus on Ranger Way. This popular family-friendly event gives residents the opportunity to learn about healthy living and best safety practices in and around the home. There will be safety demonstrations, building tours, food trucks, touch-a-truck, a DJ, a bounce house, face painting and so much more.

Road Improvements –

The Chestnut Ridge bridge replacement project has begun and traveling on Chestnut Ridge is restricted. The project is expected to take about 75 days

The Intersection of Stoney Ridge, Mills, and Avalon is closed for 95 days for the peanut roundabout.

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, and Conferences with the public attorney concerning pending and imminent court action.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular Council meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adjourn the executive session and return to the regular City Council session.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson provided the following update.:

- The intersection of Stoney Ridge, Mills and Avalon will be completely closed for 90 days starting Tuesday, September 17, 2024.
- The Chestnut Ridge Road bridge replacement has started and is expected to close the road at the bridge. Chestnut Ridge Road just east of Root Road may be closed for up to 90 days. The contractor will be working on the relocated water main first and will require a water shutdown in the coming weeks to tie the new watermain back in.
- Set in Stone, Full Depth contractor, has started at Oakwood Dr. in the Mills Creek subdivision and then plans to move on to Main Avenue.
- Posted detours and updates to all road projects can be found on the city's website.
- Ordinance 2024-106 is for the application to NOACA for a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Implementation Grant. This grant is specific to projects that have already been identified in a TLCI planning study which the Steering Committee is currently working on finalizing. One of the locations identified within the study that currently has no sidewalk is Bagley Road. Bagley Road would benefit from the addition of sidewalks as

there are multiple residential subdivisions including the Danbury Senior Living Community which currently has no connectivity between them. Additionally, it is the City's understanding that there is a good amount of foot traffic to the Discount Drug Mart at the corner of Lorain and Bagley. Another reason why the City chose Bagley Road over some of the other areas targeted for sidewalks is that there are no other planned utility improvements for this area which would warrant a much larger project and additional funding other than the small amount that is customary with this grant.

- Ordinance 2024-107 is a request to amend Ordinance 5996-2022 which was established for the construction cost to extend Cypress Avenue from its existing termini which is approximately 0.50-mile east of Lear Nagle Road to the proposed connection point on Lorain Road in North Olmsted. Engineering is requesting to amend the appropriations from \$1.4M to \$3.3M to cover additional costs. The additional costs include the increased cost of materials, the traffic signal at Lorain Road and Cypress Avenue, the necessary repairs and resurfacing for the 25-year-old section of Cypress Avenue, and the addition of a box culvert. The addition of the box culvert is part of the Mills Creek Flood Control project and is part of the rerouting of the Mills Creek stream. Since the Cypress Ave. project will be moving ahead of the Mills Creek stormwater project, the City did want to upend any of the new pavement and can facilitate this work as part of the Cypress project.
- The City received a \$700,000 grant from the state from their One Time Strategic Community Investments through House Bill 2.

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 necessary to reach its financial obligations for the following legislation.

Ordinance No. 2024-104 – Amending 2024 Annual Appropriations.
Resolution No. 2024-105 – Authorizing Fund Advance.

Finance Director April Wilkerson concluded her report.

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following report:

July 2024 Parks and Recreation Division Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

UTILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT dated September 3, 2024 – The committee reviewed and considered ORD. NO. 2024-88, 2024-89, 2024-90, and 2024-91. The Committee motioned to send ORD. NO. 2024-88, 2024-89, 2024-90, and 2024-91 back to the City Council for consideration.

(Council action required)

Moved by Abens and seconded by Winkel to accept the Utilities Report dated September 3, 2024.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT dated September 9, 2024 – The committee reviewed and considered ORD. NO. 2024-81, and 2024-82. The Committee motioned to send ORD. NO. 2024-81, and 2024-82 back to the City Council for consideration.

Committee Action:

ORD. NO. 2024-81: Vote of 0-3

ORD. NO. 2024-82: Vote of 3-0

(Council action required)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by DeVries to accept the Safety Committee Report dated September 9, 2024.

Councilwoman Swenk noted that the committee held discussions with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Lieutenant, and the Mayor regarding Ordinance Number 2024-81. She indicated that the legislation is not yet ready for presentation.

Councilman Abens stated that two individuals opposed the legislation. Mr. Abens expressed that the two individuals had flawed reasoning in their arguments. He expressed his belief that the Committee overlooked the safety implications associated with the legislation. Additionally, Mr. Abens warned that failing to advance the legislation could restrict the enforcement of the "No Parking" signs in North Ridgeville.

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

Yes – 6 No – 1 (Abens)

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

The North Ridgeville Planning Commission took action on the following items at their Regular Meeting of September 10, 2024:

1. Century Tavern, 33312 Center Ridge Rd, PPN 07-00-008-114-008

Owner: Thomas Kelly, 33256 Center Ridge Rd, North Ridgeville, OH 44039.

Proposal consists of site improvements for the bar/tavern. Property is zoned B-3 Highway Commercial.

PC ACTION: Conditional use Approved by a vote of 4-0

Development Plan Approved by a vote of 4-0, subject to the inclusion of lot lines, potential lot consolidation and water easements shown on plan.

Moved by Abens and seconded by Senk to approve the Planning Commission's approval for the Century Tavern project with conditional use and the development plan.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

2. Elmer Ave Street Vacation, PPN 07-00-045-109-007

Applicant: Cynthia Perry, 7313 Dyke Ave, North Ridgeville, OH 44039. Proposal consists of vacating a portion of Elmer Ave. Property is zoned R-1 Residence District.

PC ACTION: Approved by a vote of 4-0, subject to lot consolidation and applicants agreeing to maintain the existing drainage.

Moved by Abens and seconded by Swenk to approve the Planning Commission's approval for the Elmer Ave Street Vacation.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

(Council approval is required for all plans and recommendations from Planning Commission.)

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:

O 2024-104 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 2024-104.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the Department of Finance with the necessary resources needed to meet the City's financial obligations.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-104 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2024-104.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

R 2024-105 A Resolution authorizing Fund Transfers.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings
for 2024-105.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the
Department of Finance with the necessary resources needed to meet the City's
financial obligations.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by DeVries and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-105 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Resolution Number 2024-105.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2024-106 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Ridgeville to make
application to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for a
Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Implementation Grant for the
Bagley Road Sidewalks Project.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and
third readings for 2024-106.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to
apply for the grant funds before the deadline.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-16 with the emergency clause.

Councilman Abens expressed that his residents on Bagley Road are happy about this project and, he advised that the sidewalk be as wide as the grant funds allowed.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2024-106.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2024-107 An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 5996-2022 authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract according to law and in a manner prescribed by law with the lowest and best bidder for the construction and inspection of the Cypress Avenue Extension, by increasing the not to exceed amount to \$3,300,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

This Ordinance was moved to second reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

R 2024-108 A Resolution approving the settlement agreement with the City of North Ridgeville and a former employee to resolve claims/charges made by the former employee.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-108.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.
Yes – 6 No – 1 (Swenk)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2024-108.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Resolution Number 2024-108.
Yes – 6 No – 1 (Swenk)

SECOND READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2024-80 An Ordinance vacating a portion of Elmer Avenue.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on August 5, 2024; Planning Commission on 09-10-2024; Public Hearing on 09-16-2024)

This Ordinance was moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

- O 2024-95 An Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, to provide amendments to Traffic North Ridgeville City Code Sections 402.077, 402.37, 404.991, 452.04; to provide for penalties; to provide for codification; to provide for severability; to repeal conflicting Ordinances; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 09-03-2024)

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the third reading for 2024-95.

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

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to allow the codifier to update the City's code.

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

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-95 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2024-95.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

- O 2024-96 An Ordinance to amend the Code Of Ordinances, City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, to provide amendments to General Offenses North Ridgeville City Code Sections 624.01, 624.14, 624.141, 630.11, 636.20, 666.02, 666.03; to provide for penalties; to provide for codification; to provide for severability; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 09-03-2024)

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the third reading for 2024-96.

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

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to allow the codifier to update the City's code.

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

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-96 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2024-96.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2024-102 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the State of Ohio for the use of real property owned by the City for the purpose of installing, operating and maintaining a self-supporting communications tower and shelter building.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 09-03-2024)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the third reading for 2024-102.

Mayor Corcoran noted that the state is moving forward with the improvements in the area.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to install the tower for the safety and welfare of the community.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to adopt 2024-102 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2024-102.

Yes – 7 No – 0

THIRD READINGS:

There was none.

President Jacobs noted the following:

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

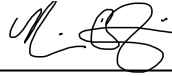
ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Approval of minutes on October 7, 2024:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL