

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Monday, April 1, 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, President Pro-Tem Clifford Winkel, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

Also present were Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Law Director Brian Moriarty, City Engineer Christina Eavenson, 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 March 18, 2024, and the City Council Meeting Minutes dated March 18, 2024. No discussion was offered. The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs mentioned the minutes as follows:

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2024

Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated March 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 Repair and Trucks

Albert Krage, residing at 37903 Sugar Ridge Road, expressed his concerns regarding a grant to improve Sugar Ridge Road. The grant illustrated specifications to improve Sugar Ridge Road for a truck route. He added that he does not want Sugar Ridge to become a truck route.

Sugar Ridge Road Repair and Trucks

Alan Silac, residing at 38068 Sugar Ridge Road, expressed his concerns during the meeting regarding a grant to improve Sugar Ridge Road. He mentioned the potential increase in traffic due to Dayton Freight's plan to have 140 bay terminals. He also wanted to know when is Mr. Becket going to keep his word regarding Taylor Sreet. Mr. Silac remarked that the city does not need any more semi-trucks.

Sugar Ridge Road Repair Grant

Brad Baker, residing at 37801 Sugar Ridge Road, expressed his concerns regarding a grant to improve Sugar Ridge Road. He is concerned that Sugar Ridge Road might become a truck route. He hoped that the City Council and the Administration would do the right thing. Mr. Baker is not interested in having a multi-corridor in their neighborhood.

Sugar Ridge Road Repair Grant

Kim Stermole, residing at 37872 Sugar Ridge Road, voiced her concerns regarding a grant to improve Sugar Ridge Road. She expressed that she would like the road to stay as residential and not a truck route. Ms. Stermole stated that if the road is widening, she will lose property value.

Sugar Ridge Road Repair Grant

Pam Madalone, residing at 38390 Sugar Ridge Road, voiced her concerns regarding a grant to improve Sugar Ridge Road. She illustrated that there are several farms in the area and rather the neighborhood remains country.

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.
 - 2024-43, an ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2024 Energized Community Grant.
 - 2024-33 is for the purchase of roadway materials and ordinance
 - 2024-34 is for the rental of equipment and related services for road repair and maintenance to be used by the Streets Division
- Active Transportation Plan Meeting – The City of North Ridgeville, in partnership with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), is embarking on a public engagement process to gather community input for a citywide Active Transportation Plan. This plan builds upon recommendations from the recent Master Plan process in regard to connectivity and safety. The goal is to develop an interconnected trail and sidewalk network that links residents and workers to local and regional assets. It would help prioritize future trail and sidewalk connections

within the City by participating in the survey, available on the City's website, through April 15, 2024.

- Solar Eclipse - The solar eclipse will take place on April 8, 2024. In the city of North Ridgeville, the following precautions are being taken in preparation for the anticipated number of visitors and expected traffic volume:
 - North Ridgeville City Schools, Lake Ridge Academy, St. Peter School, and LCCC, along with many other schools in Lorain County, will be closed on Monday, April 8, 2024.
 - North Ridgeville's City parks will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning Friday, April 5, 2024, until Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Residents and visitors are welcome to enjoy the parks throughout the weekend; however, vehicles will not be permitted in an effort to keep the parks safe and clean.
 - Ranger Way will be closed on Monday, April 8, 2024, to vehicular traffic. Access to Kensington Drive will be maintained.
 - Additional road closures may occur before, during, or after the eclipse, and local traffic may be rerouted based on traffic conditions.
 - All North Ridgeville city services will be fully functional during this period. The City is taking special measures to ensure that the safety of the community will not be compromised during the event. All such measures are subject to change.
- Coffee & Conversation is on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. This month's coffee is an evening event from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson had no report.

3. Director of Finance:

No report was provided.

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following report:

January 2024 Fire Department Report
February 2024 Parks and Recreation Division Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stock Liquor Permit Request:

A request from the Graced By Nashville LLC DBA Smoking Marys for a Stock liquor permit request at 34173 Center Ridge.

(Council action required - move not to request a hearing so that this permit can be sent to the state for final disposition by April 15, 2024)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to move not to request a hearing so that this permit can be sent to the state for final disposition by April 15, 2024.

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

Yes – 7

No – 0

RECESS:

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Swenk 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:

2024-43 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2024 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S).

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-43.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the NOPEC grant is requested every year.

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 accept the funds.

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 2024-43 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-43.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

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 \$440,00.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

This Ordinance moved to second reading.

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)

This Ordinance was referred to the Committee of the Whole for review.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-46 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION MADE BY MAXWELL KUCHENRITHER AND MIA RADER TO HAVE CERTAIN LAND OWNED BY THEM DESIGNATED AS BEING LOCATED WITHIN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

This Ordinance moved to second reading.

SECOND READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-26 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1444 BUILDING PERMITS AND FEES OF THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CHAPTER 1010 ENGINEERING PERMITS AND FEES IN THE STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran, Building and Lands Committee on 03-04-2024, Committee Report on 03-18-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-33 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND NEGOTIATE CONTRACT(S) FOR A TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD, ACCORDING TO LAW AND IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROADWAY MATERIALS TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the third readings for 2024-33.

Mayor Corcoran remarked that the materials are needed to start the roadway repairs.

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 obtain the materials to start roadway repairs.

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 2024-33 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-33.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-34 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT ACCORDING TO LAW AND IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR THE RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES FOR ROAD REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE TO BE USED BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2024-34.

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 obtain the pieces of equipment to start roadway repairs.

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 2024-34 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-34.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-35 AN ORDINANCE 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 2024 TRAFFIC PAINT STRIPING AND OTHER APPURTENANCES, NOT TO EXCEED \$180,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-36 AN ORDINANCE 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 2024 CATCH BASIN REHABILITATION PROJECT AND OTHER APPURTENANCES, NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-37 AN ORDINANCE 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 2024 CRACK SEAL PROJECT AND OTHER APPURTENANCES, NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-38 AN ORDINANCE 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 2024 FULL DEPTH CONCRETE PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND OTHER APPURTENANCES, NOT TO EXCEED \$900,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-39 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RIDGEVILLE READY 2024 MASTER PLAN.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 03-18-2024)

Councilman Shaffer expressed his concerns that the Master Plan does not address the traffic problems. He wanted to know if the Master Plan could be postponed to address current traffic congestion and the consequences of bicycle lanes.

President Jacobs explained that there were many discussions for about 15 months regarding the 2024 Master Plan. The process and planning consisted of a group of residents, community members, and stakeholders. There were several rounds of opportunities for the public to provide input and suggestions. Mr. Jacobs added that he believed the 2024 Master Plan is a comprehensive plan that shows the values and aspirations of the community. Postponing the 2024 Master Plan is not needed.

Councilman Shaffer noted that he heard from residents that the Master Plan was created without consideration of traffic planning. Mr. Shaffer reiterated that he would like more information on the traffic planning.

Mayor Corcoran added that there was never a suggestion to reduce the number of traffic lanes if there was traffic that would dictate having additional lanes. The suggestion to add bicycle lanes to roadways is not a requirement. Mayor Corcoran explained that the 2024 Master Plan is not supposed to be a vehicular traffic plan. The City is conducting and planning traffic studies in several locations.

Councilman Abens explained that there are plans to put bicycle lanes that are not part of the road itself. He expressed he does not believe in sending the 2024 Master Plan back for consideration.

This Ordinance moved to third reading.

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

2024-31 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1268.02 OF THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ELIMINATE TRUCK TERMINALS FROM THE LIST OF CONDITIONAL USES IN THE B-3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading 03-04-2024; Planning Commission on 03-14-2024, Second Reading on 03-18-2024)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adopt 2024-31.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2024-31.**

Yes – 7

No – 0

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. The next Regular Council meeting will be on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Approval of minutes on April 15, 2024:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL