

CITY COUNCIL

September 16, 2024

The September 16, 2024 City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, President. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. City Council members present were Scott Moore, Kate Niederkohr, John Walker, Kenneth Wessler, Tom Karcher, and Julia Lemire. Aaron Korte was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Ben Buckland, Law Director; Michelle Minehart; Daniel Barth; Ellen Karcher; Paul Berger; Jay Gottfried, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the September 3, 2024 City Council meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the September 3, 2024 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the September 3, 2024 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the September 9, 2024 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the September 9, 2024 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the September 10, 2024 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to place Ordinance No. 243-13 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NOS. 195-11 AND 121-12, ESTABLISHING NEW RATES FOR SANITATION SERVICES.”, on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 5-1 vote. Mrs. Lemire read Ordinance No. 243-13 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 243-13. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 5-1 vote and Ordinance No. 243-13 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Walker, to place Ordinance No. 244-13 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF MEMBRANES AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND DECLARING THIS ACT AN EMERGENCY.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. Mrs. Lemire read Ordinance No. 244-13 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to suspend the rules of the Municipal Charter calling for separate readings on different days. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 244-13 on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. Mrs. Lemire read Ordinance No. 244-13 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 244-13. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 244-13 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 245-13 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 215-13, TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING THIS ACT AN EMERGENCY.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. Mrs. Lemire read Ordinance No. 245-13 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to suspend the rules of the Municipal Charter calling for separate readings on different days. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 245-13 on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. Mrs. Lemire read Ordinance No. 245-13 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mr. Walker, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 245-13. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 245-13 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mr. Walker, to place Resolution No. 246-13 entitled, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND DECLARING THIS ACT AN EMERGENCY.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. Mrs. Lemire read Resolution No. 246-13 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mr. Walker, to suspend the rules of the Municipal Charter calling for separate readings on different days. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Resolution No. 246-13 on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. Mrs. Lemire read Resolution No. 246-13 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wessler, for the adoption of Resolution No. 246-13. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 246-13 was duly adopted.

Discussion was again held regarding the possibility of banning cannabis businesses within the City. Mrs. Lemire indicated that she invited Mrs. Michelle Minehart, owner of Ohio Cannabis Company Dispensary located in Harpster, Ohio, who explained that currently the allowable number of cannabis dispensary licenses within the State have been issued by the State of Ohio and the chances of a dispensary license being issued is very unlikely until at least 2026 or 2028. Mrs. Minehart indicated that only two cannabis dispensary licenses within the State of Ohio are located within the downtown area of communities with almost all cannabis dispensaries located along highways. Mrs. Minehart estimates that 75% of revenue for the Ohio Cannabis Company Dispensary comes from outside Wyandot County and from out of State. City Council members discussed the possibility of placing a temporary moratorium on cannabis businesses within the City of Upper Sandusky. Mr. Moore indicated that he is in favor of a twelve (12) month moratorium, and Mr. Karcher stated that it is important to know what the citizens of Upper Sandusky want in relation to this issue. City Council members agreed to further discuss this matter at the next City Council meeting.

Discussion was again held regarding the recommendation from the Downtown Committee at their August 12, 2024 meeting to the Safety Committee, Service Committee, and City Council to close the east/west alley in the 100 block of North Sandusky Avenue located along the west side, from North Sandusky Avenue west to the adjoining north/south alley. It was noted that with City Council's formal approval of the closure of this alley the Downtown Committee can begin to plan for this area.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to approve the temporary closure of the east/west alley in the 100 block of North Sandusky Avenue located along the west side, from North Sandusky Avenue west to the adjoining north/south alley as recommended by the Downtown Committee. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried.

Mayor McColly reported that he has contacted Pyrotechnics regarding the City's fireworks for 2025 and was informed that Friday, July 4, 2025 and Saturday, July 5, 2025 are already booked for firework displays. Mayor McColly indicated that he has reached out to Mrs. Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chambers of Commerce Director, regarding the possibility of having the City's fireworks on Thursday, July 3, 2024 potentially being the same day as the Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce's 1st Thursday event in July 2025, but he has not yet received a response from Mrs. Walton. City Council members agreed that Mayor McColly should go ahead and schedule the City's 2025 fireworks to be held on Thursday, July 3, 2025.

Mayor McColly reviewed the City Auditor's Finance Report for August 2024 with the members of City Council.

Mayor McColly also reported that as of Wednesday, September 11, 2024 the City's new landline phones were installed.

Mayor McColly further reported on the status of the East Wyandot Avenue Repaving Project noting that the project was broken down into four phases with Phase 1, from Wendy's (1750 East Wyandot Avenue) to Burger King (1583 East Wyandot Avenue), already approved and the construction to be done in 2025. Mayor McColly stated that it was recently announced that the State awarded \$1,320,000.00 for Phase 2, from Burger King (1583 East Wyandot Avenue) to Fourth Street, with the construction of this project to take place in 2028, and the City's share of this project will be 5%.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, President