

**City of Fairfield Minutes
Regular Meeting of City Council
January 13, 2025**

Council-Manager Briefing

None.

Business Meeting Call to Order

Vice Mayor Kraft called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Paullus led in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilmembers present included:

Councilmember, 1st Ward Leslie Besl
Councilmember, 2nd Ward Dale Paullus
Councilmember, 3rd Ward Debbie Pennington
Councilmember, 4th Ward Adam Kraft
Councilmember, At-Large Tim Meyers
Councilmember, At-Large Matt Davidson
Councilmember, At-Large Gwen Brill

Agenda Modifications

None.

Executive Session Requests

Councilmember Besl, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, moved for Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment or compensation of a public employee or official. Roll call vote. Motion carried 7-0.

Special Presentations

1. Fire Department Oath of Office

Vice Mayor Kraft administered the ceremonial oath of office to Firefighter/Paramedics Marcus Carpenter, Jake Hendricks, Sarah Markey, Austin Flannery, Brooke Owens, Chris Spinosi, Aaron Roesch, Colson Bryan and Zach Smith. Chief Lakamp introduced each Firefighter as they were pinned and welcomed them to the department.

Citizen Comments

Ed Grant, owner of AllGood Home Improvements, 275 Commercial Drive - addressed Council regarding safety issue with a trucking company on Commercial Drive. The trucks are parking on

Commercial Drive and blocking the line of sight up and down the road. There is an autistic school and a daycare on the street. He would like to see "No Parking" signs posted on both sides of the street. Some trucks have been parked for several days along the street because they lost the parking lot several months ago. Vice Mayor Kraft referred him to Ben Mann, Public Works Director, for more assistance.

Council Reports

Councilmember Brill welcomed Diana Davenport, the new city's Finance Director. She also welcomed Ray Kissinger to the meeting, her former hiring manager at GE.

Councilmember Kraft announced that the City is gathering public feedback regarding shared use path along Pleasant Avenue through the end of January; gave a personal thank-you to snowplow drivers for their hard work in the recent snowstorms.

Councilmember Pennington congratulated Diana Davenport for her recent promotion; also thanked the City staff and snowplow drivers for their hard work

Public Hearing(s)

None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2024

The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024 were approved as written and submitted.

Old Business

1. Development Services

- a. Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, Section 1130.01(B)(2), the City of Fairfield, Ohio, Zoning Map.

Councilmember Davidson presented the second reading of this ordinance.

New Business - Motion to Read All New Business by Title Only

Councilmember Besl, seconded by Councilmember Paullus, moved to read all New Business by title only. Motion carried 7-0.

1. Community & Public Relations

- a. Simple Motion: Formal recognition and/or approval of Council assignments and appointments dated January 1, 2025.

It is recommended that City Council recognize and approve the following Council appointments via simple motion of Council:

Vice Mayor - Adam Kraft
Community & Public Relations - Gwen Brill
Development Services - Dale Paullus
Parks, Recreation & Environment - Leslie Besl
Public Safety - Adam Kraft
Public Utilities - Matt Davidson
Public Works - Debbie Pennington
Finance & Budget - Tim Meyers

Board of Zoning Appeals - Gwen Brill
Community Improvement Corp - Tim Meyers & Dale Paullus
OKI - Dale Paullus
OKI Alternate - Mitch Rhodus
Emergency Management Agency - Mitch Rhodus
Cultural Arts Advisory Commission -
SELF Board -
Butler County Health Council -
Rt 4 Improvement Committee -

Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to Table. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Simple Motion tabled.

2. Public Works

a. Resolution declaring the necessity of repairing sidewalks (including aprons).

The City has completed the process of sidewalk inspection thereby requiring repair and/or replacement of sidewalks for 2025 by the abutting property owners.

This is an ongoing program that was implemented in 1994 to inspect sidewalks and approach aprons citywide. The program was designed to complete inspections of all city sidewalks on a four (4) year rotating basis. Marking of sidewalks and aprons citywide has been completed for the 2025 program year. There are approximately 351 property locations marked for repair or replacement that are resident/business owner responsibility. There are approximately 3,700 Square Feet of 4" (sidewalk), 6,900 Square Feet of 7" (driveway aprons) concrete, and 200 Square Feet of 9" (commercial driveway aprons) concrete marked for replacement. There are 248 locations currently marked for repair via the cutting method. The cutting method has been used for many years now as part of the sidewalk project and has proved an effective method for limiting damage to the adjacent lawn and inconvenience to the residents while also being a cost saving measure for the property owners.

In order to begin the assessment and notification process, it is necessary for City Council to pass a Resolution of Necessity to require repair of sidewalks and driveway aprons located in designated areas of all four wards that have not already been repaired by the abutting

property owners.

Notices are sent out to the affected property owners, giving them a minimum of 60 days in which to complete the replacement. The property owner has two options: either have the work completed prior to the end of the 60-day notice or have the city's contractor complete the work. Should the property owner have the city's contractor perform the work, payment is made via an invoice from the city or charged to the owner's property tax duplicate.

With this early notification, the property owner will have more than the 60-day time frame to complete the work, before the city's contractor begins work, if they so desire. Currently, the city's contractor is anticipated to begin work sometime during the early summer.

Councilmember Davidson presented the first reading of this resolution.

- b. Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Fishbeck for engineering for the Marsh Park Interior Trail

It is necessary for City Council to authorize the City Manager to enter into the attached agreement with Fishbeck to design the improvements to add a trail network component for the interior of Marsh Park. This trail will use the extension of the Great Miami River Trail (GMRT) which is currently under design to create a loop trail around Marsh Lake. The GMRT currently ends at Waterworks Park in Fairfield and will be extended with OKI funding.

This interior trail project would allow the path to circumnavigate the lake at Marsh Park and connect the trail through Marsh Park around the north side which will provide a route that will not be near residential backyards. The proposal includes if-authorized engineering for a connection to River Road at the south edge of the adjacent subdivision if construction funding is available. Construction is being funded through a 50% match State Capital Budget grant administered through ODNR.

The Public Works Department advertised the engineering for the GMRT on ODOT's website for consultant services and received multiple proposals. The Public Works and Parks Departments scored the submittals from each consultant and selected Fishbeck through a quality-based selection process. A second contract with Fishbeck is being recommended based on their selection for the GMRT engineering and coordination. Attached is the negotiated fee schedule.

A master plan for Marsh Park was completed by Kleingers and Associates for the City in 2016. The master plan included multi-use trail plans connecting Marsh Park to the Great Miami River Trail network. An updated master plan is being finalized now with Designing Local and planning efforts will include this trail as a key component.

With the approved State Capital funding, this project would be bid and constructed in 2026, ahead of the GMRT extension which will bid late in 2026 for 2027 construction.

The project will be programmed in the upcoming 2025-2029 CIP as 5PW30. The estimated

total cost of construction for this project is approximately \$600,000.00. The engineering for this project will be 100% local funding. The engineering for this project does include environmental review as required by ODNR for the entire site so that any future State Capital Budget requests would have that stage of work already addressed.

This trail extension is supported by the City's development of Fairfield Connects, the City's active transportation plan currently in development.

Councilmember Davidson presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Matt Davidson, seconded by Gwen Brill, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Matt Davidson, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1-25. APPROVED 7-0.

- c. An Ordinance of the City of Fairfield supporting the Ohio Municipal League's challenge of AT&T's Tariff Application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and declaring an emergency.

On December 18, 2024, AT&T filed a new tariff request with the PUCO to shift the cost for Right-of-Way moving of utility lines to municipalities. The OML has engaged the Taft Law Firm to challenge this proposed tariff. The Mayors Alliance has joined in this effort. To avoid any standing issues and to emphasize the importance of this cost shift to municipalities, the OML is requesting you recommend to your municipality to adopt an ordinance to include your municipality in this effort. Agreeing to participate does not commit your municipality at this time to financial support, although if the matter is not resolved at the PUCO level, a request may be made for financial assistance. Your municipality can decide at that point if you want to continue as a party to the proceedings. Time is of the essence in this matter since a challenge must be filed by January 17, 2025.

Councilmember Davidson presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Matt Davidson, seconded by Gwen Brill, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Matt Davidson, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to adopt. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2-25. APPROVED 7-0.

3. Finance & Budget

- a. Ordinance to establish salaries and hourly rates for certain salaried and hourly employees of the City of Fairfield, Ohio and to authorize and limit the numbers and types of certain employees, to repeal Ordinance No. 135-24 and all amendments thereto and declaring an emergency.

Labor Agreement

The labor agreement with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) provides for an adjustment of union members' hours of work beginning January 6, 2025 and a

corresponding wage increase. The Ordinance reflects the new wage rates established with the implementation of Kelly Days.

Ohio Minimum Wage

Ohio minimum wage increased from \$10.45 per hour to \$10.70 per hour effective January 1, 2025. The range of several part-time positions start at minimum wage, and this amendment to the Classified Wage and Salary Ordinance reflects the statutory increase.

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 3-25. APPROVED 7-0.

- b. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 158-24 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025."
Contractual Appropriations: \$1,175,215 total (see attached for detail)

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to adopt. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 4-25. APPROVED 7-0.

\$623,954 - Contingency Funds Restored/Established, Various Projects – Public Works

\$551,261 - Contingency funds restored, Various projects – Public Utilities

- c. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 158-24 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025."
Non-Contractual Appropriations: \$295,094 total (see attached for detail)

Councilmember Brill presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Gwen Brill, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-25. APPROVED 7-0.

\$20,000 - Wastewater Division Safety Equipment (Public Utilities)

\$20,000 - Water Division Safety Equipment (Public Utilities)

\$20,000 - Water Division Electrical Equipment (Public Utilities)

\$20,000 - Wastewater Division Electrical Equipment (Public Utilities)

\$38,000.00 - Water Division - Fire Hydrants (Public Utilities)

\$50,000 - Partial funding for 2025 Grounds, Entryways & Landscaping Program
(Public Works)

\$100,000 - Funding for 2025 Annual Drainage Program (Public Works - multiple
vendors)

\$27,094 - Personal Protective Equipment (Fire Department)

Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 27 - Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Monday, February 10 - Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Monday, February 24 - Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Clerk Wilson read the meeting schedule.

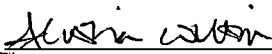
Executive Session of Council (if Needed)

Council recessed to Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

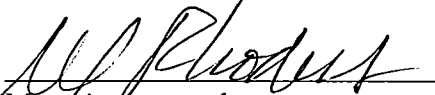
Adjournment

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council



Mayor's Approval

Date Approved: 1/27/25