

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF AVON, OHIO, HELD MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
AT 7:30 P.M.**

The Chairman, Council President Brian Fischer, called the meeting to order and Boy Scout Jake Bowman of Avon Troop 462 led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:

Council Members: 1st Ward – Jennifer Demaline; Council-at-Large – Tammy Holtzmeier; 2nd Ward – Dennis McBride; 3rd Ward – Anthony Moore; 4th Ward – Scott Radcliffe; Council-at-Large – Craig Witherspoon; Council-at-Large and Council President – Brian Fischer; Mayor - Bryan Jensen; City Engineer – Ryan Cummins; Planning and Economic Development Coordinator – Pam Fechter; Law Director – John Gasior; Finance Director – Steve Presley; Safety/Public Service Director – Duane Streater; Clerk of Council – Barbara Brooks

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Work Session of Council held Monday, April 3, 2023, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, April 10, 2023, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 52-23 – AMENDING §256.98 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AVON TO REVISE THE CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF POLICE CAPTAIN

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 52-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §256.98 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF AVON TO REVISE THE CLASSIFICATION
SPECIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF POLICE CAPTAIN
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to suspend the rules and act on Ordinance No. 52-23, and the vote was: Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to adopt Ordinance No. 52-23, and the vote was: Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 53-23 – AMENDING §256.98 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AVON TO REVISE THE CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 53-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §256.98 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AVON TO REVISE THE CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to suspend the rules and act on Ordinance No. 53-23, and the vote was: Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to adopt Ordinance No. 53-23, and the vote was: Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 54-23 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONCESSIONS AGREEMENT WITH THE BIG SHOW LTD. TO ACT AS THE CITY’S CONCESSIONAIRE FOR THE AVON MUNICIPAL AQUATIC FACILITY

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 54-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONCESSIONS AGREEMENT WITH THE BIG SHOW LTD TO ACT AS THE CITY’S CONCESSIONAIRE FOR THE AVON MUNICIPAL AQUATIC FACILITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe and seconded by Mr. Moore to suspend the rules and act on Ordinance No. 54-23, and the vote was: Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe and seconded by Mr. Moore to adopt Ordinance No. 54-23, and the vote was: Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 55-23 – AMENDING SECTIONS 1262.03, 1264.03, 1270.03, 1274.03, AND 1278.03 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS THEY PERTAIN TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK IN THE CITY OF AVON

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 55-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1262.03, 1264.03, 1270.03, 1274.03, AND 1278.03 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AS THEY PERTAIN TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK IN THE CITY OF AVON

The Chairman declared this to be the first of three readings of Ordinance No. 55-23 and a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:05 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 56-23 – AMENDING SECTION 1280.04 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH LOT AND YARD REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS AS APPLIED TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 56-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1280.04 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH LOT AND YARD REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS AS APPLIED TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK

The Chairman declared this to be the first of three readings of Ordinance No. 56-23 and a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:10 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 57-23 – AMENDING SECTION 1280.05 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH LOT AND YARD REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES IN NONRESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 57-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1280.05 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH LOT AND YARD REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL USES IN NONRESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS APPLIED TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK

The Chairman declared this to be the first of three readings of Ordinance No. 57-23 and a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 58-23 – AMENDING SECTION 1280.06 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR CERTAIN USES AS APPLIED TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 58-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1280.06 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES DEALING WITH SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR CERTAIN USES AS APPLIED TO FARMS AND LIVESTOCK

The Chairman declared this to be the first of three readings of Ordinance No. 58-23 and a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:20 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 59-23 – AMENDING SECTION 1222.02 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO DEFINE TERMS RELATED TO FARMING AND LIVESTOCK

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 59-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1222.02 OF THE AVON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO DEFINE TERMS RELATED TO FARMING AND LIVESTOCK

The Chairman declared this to be the first of three readings of Ordinance No. 59-23 and a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:25 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 60-23 – TO ACCEPT IMPROVEMENTS IN FIELDSTONE LANDING SUBDIVISION NO. 1

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 60-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT IMPROVEMENTS IN FIELDSTONE LANDING SUBDIVISION NO. 1 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Chairman declared this to be the first of three readings of Ordinance No. 60-23.

Mr. Streator advised they were still working with the developer to finish up some things before they do a final walk-through of the development.

ORDINANCE NO. 61-23 – REAPPROPRIATIONS

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 61-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 132-22 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to suspend the rules and act on Ordinance No. 61-23, and the vote was: Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to adopt Ordinance No. 61-23, and the discussion was:

Mr. Presley asked Mr. Fischer if he would like him to review these supplemental appropriations and Mr. Fischer said, yes, please.

Mr. Presley said that, up for consideration is an appropriation of \$175,000 transfer from the General Fund over to the 2023 Road Improvement Program Fund. We have the \$30,000 appropriation for the TIF Fund to pay for miscellaneous contract services of MAS Financial Advisors. There is a reappropriation in the Capital Improvement Fund of \$195,000 for the signage project up near the Police and Fire buildings and

the Aquatic Center, and then we also have the appropriation in the 2023 Road Improvement Program Fund for the additional streets that will be considered later this evening.

Mayor Jensen said that, just to clarify, this is an appropriation for the improvement of asphalt resurfacing on Carleen over in Northgate and also on the short stub of Old Colorado as you go into Northgate. The Mayor said that he had talked to most of Council over the weekend so he thinks everybody is aware of what we are doing in terms of road improvements there. We were talking to the contractors, too, and all their schedules are being filled up right now where they are not taking any more bids, so we thought it would be prudent to do this resurfacing early. We also decided not to go forward with the lane markings this year and Mr. Streater can address that. We are going to watch it early next year for bid but we will be rejecting the one bid that we got in this year that was over what we anticipated. But that money will go back into the General Fund then to offset this cost of the road repair.

Mr. Streater said that we did put out a bid for the lane markings this year and the bid came in higher than the engineer's estimate. We also internally had discussed the condition of the striping and since we did have a mild winter and salt is what usually causes the deterioration of the paint lines in the roads, they seem to be in pretty good shape and we believe we will be able to make it through another year. Most of our major roads, including Rt. 83 and Detroit Road, have been done not too long ago so we should be in good shape and if we need to do a couple intersections we will look at doing those separately.

Mayor Jensen stated that he just wanted Council to know that the reason the resurfacing is on the agenda tonight is the fact that Barbicus Construction Co. is ready to move right over there to Carleen and Old Colorado because they are here in Avon now doing the road improvements off from Nagel. If we would have waited a little longer, the Mayor was not sure they could have set back up and come right back out. But as we talked to them they are ready to go over there and start working on Carleen and so we wanted to make sure we gave them enough time. Otherwise, we would have waited until next week and put it on a Work Session and talked about it further, but it was important to get it in now and their schedule allowed it and we do not think their schedule weeks from now would allow it.

And the vote was: Mr. Moore, "yes"; Mr. Radcliffe, "yes"; Mr. Witherspoon, "yes"; Mrs. Demaline, "yes"; Mrs. Holtzmeier, "yes"; Mr. McBride, "yes"; Mr. Fischer, "yes".

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 62-23 – TO AWARD A BID FOR THE WILLIAMS COURT PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 62-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AWARD A BID FOR THE WILLIAMS COURT PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to suspend the rules and act on Ordinance No. 62-23, and the vote was: Mr. Radcliffe, "yes"; Mr. Witherspoon, "yes"; Mrs. Demaline, "yes"; Mrs. Holtzmeier, "yes"; Mr. McBride, "yes"; Mr. Moore, "yes"; Mr. Fischer, "yes".

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to adopt Ordinance No. 62-23, and the discussion was:

Mr. Cummins stated that this bid was opened on February 9th. We received only one bidder, Specialized Construction, a well known firm and we actually have two projects going on with them currently in the City. The Administration took some time to consider moving forward with this and evaluated another option in order to get the road resurfaced. This is in conjunction with the agreement made with the Mass Estates Subdivision where they widened the road, put in drainage on the east side of the road, and put in curbs, and the City would come in and do the resurfacing after the fact. Mr. Cummins thought that what it came down to is that the process that is involved with this project provides a very stable new base under the roadway. Given the condition of the road before any work started in the area, then with the construction work that went on in building the subdivision and the widening, Mr. Cummins said he thinks it makes a lot of sense to proceed with this procedure to get the much stronger roadway. There are more homes to be built along Williams Court in this area and there is certainly the potential for more development further to the south. So having a good roadway base there is very important. So after considering all those things, the decision was made to come before you and ask to award a contract so that we can proceed with the project as originally vetted.

And the vote was: Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 63-23 – TO APPROVE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER FOR THE CHERRY STREET, PEAR STREET, WILLO ROAD AND JENNIE STREET PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ASPHALT RESURFACING ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CARLEEN AVENUE AND OLD COLORADO AVENUE

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 63-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER FOR THE CHERRY STREET, PEAR STREET, WILLO ROAD AND JENNIE STREET PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ASPHALT RESURFACING ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF CARLEEN AVENUE AND OLD COLORADO AVENUE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to suspend the rules and act on Ordinance No. 63-23, and the vote was: Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to adopt Ordinance No. 63-23, and the discussion was:

Mr. Cummins stated that this is a change order to the Cherry Street, Pear Street, Willo Road, and Jennie Street resurfacing project and was identified to very similar type of improvements along Carleen that was desirable for this year. It is really the exact same type of work that we are doing over on Cherry, Pear, Willo, and Jennie. We did have the bid prices from that and we talked with the contractor and he was

willing to entertain doing the extra work and, as the Mayor mentioned, it worked out with his schedule very well. All of the work will be done at the same bid prices that were established for the Cherry, Pear, Willo, and Jennie project and we ask for approval for that to be done at the earliest possible time.

And the vote was: Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-23 – WAIVING CERTAIN FEES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL HOME IN THE RED TAIL SUBDIVISION BEING BUILT BY NORTH STAR BUILDERS & MANCUSO HOMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

The Clerk read Resolution No. R-22-23 by title only, entitled:

A RESOLUTION WAIVING CERTAIN FEES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL HOME IN THE RED TAIL SUBDIVISION BEING BUILT BY NORTH STAR BUILDERS & MANCUSO HOMES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Radcliffe to suspend the rules and act on Resolution No. R-22-23, and the vote was: Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to adopt Resolution No. R-22-23, and the vote was: Mr. Moore, “yes”; Mr. Radcliffe, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MAYOR JENSEN asked Law Director John Gasior to speak about the City’s involvement with NOPEC and the aggregation program.

Mr. Gasior advised that this all began in 2000. Council passed legislation to place the issue of joining NOPEC on the ballot and the voters of Avon passed it on November 8, 2000. After they passed that initiative on the ballot, the City then joined NOPEC on behalf of its residents and that is the way things have remained. So clearly we are a city that is following the statutes of the State of Ohio to aggregate our electric and gas. He said, but he thought the most important thing right now is the electric and what had happened last summer was that rates went through the roof. He thought that NOPEC wanted to go out and bid their next contract and their timing just was not very good and as a result of that, the lowest price that they could afford to give their customers was higher than the standard price that First Energy would be charging. So knowing that and knowing that First Energy would be able to hold that price through May of this year, 2023, NOPEC turned everybody loose and everybody went to the First Energy price. However, there is still an agreement in place and he believes that everybody just received notice from NOPEC that they are putting everybody back in automatically. So if you do not

want to be a part of NOPEC, you have to opt out, just as you have to do in any year if you decide you want to watch the market and select your own electric provider. So the letters that everybody has seen are pretty straight-forward. It says that First Energy's rate is going to go up and NOPEC now has a contract at least through December of 2023, that will be lower. What happens in December of 2023 is still a mystery. But as of now we know that nobody has to really do anything; everybody is in NOPEC unless they opt out and will see that they are getting a lower rate than First Energy will be charging. Mr. Gasior said that he saw that the First Energy rate is going to be around 10 cents a kilowatt hour and NOPEC's members are going to be at around 6.5 cents a kilowatt hour.

Mayor Jensen stated that covers the basic. So if anybody calls Council and complains, they can let them know also that he was talking with NOPEC representatives this Thursday and Friday. No one has to worry about there being a rush to opt out because in the NOPEC agreement, there is no penalty if they opt out at any time. Some people from IGS have been going around telling people that once they sign the contract with them, they have to opt out. That is not true in the fact that if they did it last week IGS goes ahead and lets the PUCO know that that customer is now with them and when NOPEC goes to opt them back in, they will be rejected because they have a supplier. If you do not have a supplier, you are automatically in with NOPEC. IGS was also telling everybody there was a \$200 penalty if they did not opt out but that was also incorrect. The Mayor said what he was told on the phone on Friday was the fact that NOPEC's rate will be 6.45 cents come June 1 through December. If someone wants to go online they can do that and lock in for a year and the Mayor thought that rate was 6.7 cents, and if they want to lock in for two years, that may be at 6.85 cents. We are recommending, as the City, not to make any rash decisions today because again, if you find another carrier or someone cheaper, you can always opt out with no cost to you. He thought that being in NOPEC, you are at least safe for right now to watch things. The City does not recommend a supplier; as he has told people personally, if you just kind of want to be safe, he thought that NOPEC is a safe bet right now but if you find someone else and you want to do the due diligence each year, he thought that you can always get a better rate going with someone else, but you will be consistently close to that rate if you stay with NOPEC. Anybody who has any questions can call City Hall and we will answer them. The only difficult part is if you want to opt back in; you have to watch for those dates when you can opt back in, but you can opt out any time you want to do that and there is no penalty.

Mayor Jensen said that, in hindsight, last year when the rates went way up, we probably should have looked at putting word out that we all opt out and not wait for NOPEC to opt us all out at the same time when they did that because they waited probably six months later. But most of us did not realize that we had that option at that time when the rate was going up to 11 or 12 cents. There are three different ways right now that NOPEC allows you to opt out. You can make a phone call, send a FAX, or send by mail. They are also working on trying to get an email so you can have that option.

Mr. Fischer noted that awhile ago when the rates first went up and Mr. Logan was still here as Finance Director, there was mention of doing an aggregate with Avon Lake, N. Ridgeville, and others. He said that he knows there are companies other than NOPEC that are available that we should be able to get a good rate even if we did it ourselves or if we combined with some of these other cities. He asked if that was something that is being looked at.

Mr. Presley said that he and the Mayor could discuss that. He said that the difficulty in that is getting an entity to come in at a determined date to actually lock in the rate but they can discuss some of those options.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MRS. DEMALINE, WARD 1, had no comments.

MRS. HOLTZMEIER, AT LARGE, said that since we are at that part of the year where sometimes potholes are becoming more of a nuisance or known, could they just do a reminder of how residents can let the City know about reporting potholes? Mr. Streater said that when residents call in about potholes, the Service Department takes care of them right away but we will put something out on social media. Mrs. Holtzmeier said, so it is all through the phone and she asked if there was any form. Mr. Streater responded that there is no form for that online as yet but they are working to upgrade their site.

MR. MCBRIDE, WARD 2, stated that it is spring and that time of year where illegal signs on the tree lawns are starting to multiply. He said it would be nice if the City would do a sweep a couple times a week, including once on the weekend. He thought that if we could do that for three or four weeks in a row, we may get ahead of the game. He knows that community organization signs would get taken along with all the trashy signs, but that is a small price to pay.

MR. MOORE, WARD 3, said that he would echo Mr. McBride's comments. He sees signs way up on telephone poles and that is getting ridiculous.

MR. RADCLIFFE, WARD 4, had no comments.

MR. WITHERSPOON, AT LARGE, had no comments.

MR. FISCHER, AT LARGE, had no comments.

DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATION:

MR. CUMMINS, CITY ENGINEER, reminded everyone that Main Street and Middle Road will be closed starting Wednesday of this week and asked everyone to bear with them. He said that they investigated the removal of the piece of the center island. There was a small amount of 5 ft. in there to be removed previously but that has since been increased to 10 ft.

MS. FECHTER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COORDINATOR, had no comments.

MR. GASIOR, LAW DIRECTOR, reported that he saw on the State Budget Bill that the Legislature is proposing an increase in the competitive bidding threshold to \$75,000 and he thought that is going to be a nice thing and then they also have added a 3% escalator every year. He hopes that stays in there and survives the final vote but that is good news.

MR. PRESLEY, FINANCE DIRECTOR, had no comments.

MR. STREATOR, SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTOR, had no comments.

AUDIENCE:

Len Lieber, Commander of the 1,000 member American Legion Post 211, in Avon Lake, stated that he was pleased to announce that they have made time available beginning June 8, 2023, for arguably the first self-help support group for military veterans, their partners, and their families who are suffering

from PTSD. In fact, it is possible that this may be the first program of its type in the country from some contact that they are getting now as a result of an article that was posted online in a national American Legion publication that ran last week. As they know, it has been more comfortable for the public to talk about mental health issues in the last few years and Congress has made it more available for military veterans to receive services through the VA via some legislation that was passed but what we want to point out is that the history between veterans and the VA over the last 50 – 75 years has been less than marvelous. The symptoms of PTSD make it even more difficult for vets to make themselves available to the VA for services for what they continually suffer whether they are from WWII or from service in Afghanistan.

Mr. Lieber said that the VA offers vets an hour a week; they offer vets hospitalization to confirm what the vets already know: that they are really in trouble. The period of time that they offer services is limited, the services are in a rather cold waiting room, the vets are getting a diagnosis which they already know, they are given a case record and they are treated as a client among hundreds. What we are going to be seeing in our program is help to vets to deal with very low self-esteem with their sense of guilt, the sense of why they survived when people on either side of them were killed. They are quick-tempered, paranoid, have a lack of trust, an inability to form and maintain personal relationships, abuse their children and spouses, and with every conversation that he has had with a law enforcement officer or other first responders, they talk about the most violent circumstances they walk into very often involve someone who has served in combat in the military. They are still dealing with the demons that they encountered in service and cannot get rid of them or deal with them adequately in civilian life. What we are going to be seeing at the Post is an extended family where a vet, a partner, other family members and maybe even children's treatment groups, will have a meeting, a couple hours, on a weeknight. They will have access to each other 24/7 when they need to talk to someone who knows exactly what they are going through. They will have access to a local coordinator who has experience dealing with PTSD. In this case, it would be him and he will mention his background in a moment in treating people with PTSD for a period of 50 years.

Mr. Lieber said that we are going to make this involvement for them open-ended. They can be a participant in this extended family for vets for six months or six years or whenever; there will be no end to it. It will be vet-owned, vet-operated and there will be absolutely no charge ever for anything they receive. It will be consumer-led, consumer-operated, and the support from surrounding communities has been very, very decent. He added that 72 hours ago, he spent an hour in the home of a disabled Master Sgt. from the Air Force who had a remarkable 26 years and he was so happy that someone from the Legion took time out to just come over and chat with him and we compared our own experiences.

Mr. Lieber then said, that he was **Sgt. Leonard L. Lieber** and he enlisted on his 17th birthday in 1955. He signed up to drive tanks but after active duty training, unfortunately for his ego, he was sent to to the U.S. Army Finance School. But the good part was that he finished his active service to the military in an infantry reserve unit in southern California and they enjoyed him there because he was able to do their payroll and fire a rifle and in the event that they did have to go into active duty, and they were expecting to in 1956 -57, he was prepared with the rest of his comrades. Also, for their information, he was one of the first child protective service workers in the U.S. in 1966. It was a pilot program funded by the federal government and he would say that of all of the children and adults he worked with over a long period of time within a governmental agency and private practice, probably 99.5% of them suffered from PTSD. He said that he would also tell them that with the group that they are forming, not only will he be a coordinator but he also will be a participant with his own issues. He has made it to this age of 84 and found ways of dealing with demons and will be passing on some of his wisdom to some of the younger folks.

Mr. McBride congratulated Mr. Lieber and thanked him. He asked if this was the American Legion Post that is on Walker Road and Mr. Lieber said, yes, it was. He said that they have members who are from Avon, Avon Lake, Westlake, Bay Village, and N. Olmsted. He said that he wanted to mention that they already have interest from two other Posts in Lorain County to start a group and they are going to work with us when we get ours growing. What we are planning on is to have a group available for vets and their families from the Indiana border all the way to the PA border. He received an email today from a Post 200 miles south of here because of the publicity we have been getting.

Ms. Fecther asked when the group would be starting and Mr. Lieber said on June 8, 2023, Thursday night, at 7:00 P.M. at the Post. Ms. Fecther asked if someone needed to sign up or can they just show up for the meeting? Mr. Lieber said that they do not need anybody to do anything but present themselves, their partners or family members if they wish. They are hoping that they have people who just want to see and hear what we are going to be doing. Mr. McBride asked for the address of the Post and Mr. Lieber said it is 31972 Walker Road, Avon Lake.

Mr. Fischer stated that it sounds like a wonderful service that they are providing and much needed. Mr. Lieber said that we all need it and he must say we owe veterans, who have given themselves completely to defend and protect this county, a debt of gratitude and beyond that a complete willingness to do whatever they need to be healed.

ADJOURN: 8:16 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council, and the vote was: Mr. Radcliffe, "yes"; Mr. Witherspoon, "yes"; Mrs. Demaline, "yes"; Mrs. Holtzmeier, "yes"; Mr. McBride, "yes"; Mr. Moore, "yes"; Mr. Fischer, "yes".

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chairman declared the motion passed.