

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF AVON, OHIO HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
AT 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Council Members: 1st Ward – Jennifer Demaline; Council-at-Large – Tammy Holtzmeier; 2nd Ward - Dennis McBride; 3rd Ward -Tony 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/Economic Development Coordinator – Pam Fechter; Law Director – John Gasior; Finance Director– Steve Presley; Safety/Public Service Director – Duane Streator; Clerk of Council – Barbara Brooks

1. PROCLAMATION Mayor Jensen
Proclaiming the Hearts of Gold Redbud Cercis Canadensis as the Official Tree of the City of Avon

Mayor Jensen advised most of them remember that the City chose the sunflower as the official flower of the City of Avon. He said with the formation of a Tree Commission and an Arbor Day celebration this year that it would be appropriate to have a tree designated as an official tree for the City. Mayor Jensen invited the members of the Tree Commission and City Council to pose with him for a group photo with the proclamation.

Rick Varga, Arborist, advised the reason the Hearts of Gold tree was chosen is because it is a hardy tree that is native to the area and it was chosen for its coloring. He said the tree is purple in the spring and has gold leaves the rest of the year, hence the purple and gold for Avon. Mr. Varga stated this tree is a new hybrid, but it fits all the requirements.

Danny Gouge, Marketing/Key Account Manager of Willoway Nurseries, Inc. at 4534 Center Road, Avon advised he wanted to speak briefly about the Hearts of Gold tree. As mentioned, it is a native cultivar and has been researched to be root hardy. He said it is a tree short in stature of twenty feet or less so it could be used in landscapes, but also can be planted under overhead wires and the like throughout the City which makes it a very adaptable tree to a lot of landscaping needs. Mr. Gouge stated they have increased the production of this tree at Willoway Nurseries to make it readily available for the City of Avon projects and/or through the local market. He advised Pinehaven is a customer of Willoway Nurseries and that would make this tree available to the citizens here in Avon as well as other regional garden centers. Mr. Gouge said this is a good choice for a tree as it adds a lot of nice color and again it is a very hardy adaptable tree.

Mr. Witherspoon asked how long this tree has been around.

Mr. Gouge answered it is a new cultivar that came into the market about three years ago from NC State and they were doing research on root hardiness. He said there were many cultivars that were entered; however; the root hardiness was an issue on some, but this one has proved and was trialed in the Willoway Nursery beds here in Avon. Mr. Gouge stated he believes they will find success with this tree.

Mr. McBride inquired what that means when he says root hardiness.

Mr. Gouge advised at Willoway they trial them here in the nursery in Avon for several years to make sure that they are hardy. He said some of the introductions may have been introduced in a warmer climate and the wrong breeding was put into them, so they were not quite hardy. Mr. Gouge stated the Hearts of Gold has proved to be hardy at zone 5 so they have added that into their mix at Willoway and they have seen that it has been very hardy here.

Mr. Fischer asked about the size of the tree and the life of the tree.

Mr. Gouge said the size of the tree will mature out at about twenty feet high and fifteen to twenty feet wide. He said it is a native tree so he would estimate they would get at least fifteen to twenty years for a life span depending on where it is planted and cared for.

Mayor Jensen asked if it would be suitable for a curb lawn tree.

Mr. Gouge advised it would be a great curb lawn tree because it only gets to be twenty feet high so it could be planted under wires, and it is a very low maintenance tree. He said the tree has a more rounded head to it which adds to its beauty as it is a big round globular shaped tree. In the Spring, it has the small flower buds that cascade all the way up and down the stems and then in the Summer, the leaves go from green to that beautiful yellow/gold color.

Mr. Radcliffe inquired if the tree branches grow up or down because if one should be planted in the tree lawn, there is a requirement to trim those trees and at only twenty feet tall, where the lower branches were going to hang on average.

Mr. Gouge advised typically redbuds branch out to 4 to 4.5 feet and it has a slight upward habit, but the overall shape is more rounded.

Mr. Radcliffe suggested they may be able to partner with the schools or different group to do a fundraiser for one of the band or athletic boosters by selling the trees and he felt that with a purple and gold tree there would be a lot of support from the parents.

Mr. Gouge said Willoway just finished a fundraiser promotion with AT&T and the City of Avon, and the Crushers where they planted 31 trees on the stadium property. He stated they worked with everyone on that project, and he looks forward to working on other promotional items. Mr. Gouge advised Willoway Nurseries are here in Avon and they are glad to help where needed.

2. [ORDINANCE NO. 118-22](#) – TO AMEND THE RANGE OF COMPENSATION FOR THE CLASSIFIED, FULL-TIME POSITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN-IN-TRAINING FOR THE CITY OF AVON
Mr. Streator

Mr. Streator advised this Ordinance along with the next one is a housekeeping issue. He said they would like to make the ranges touch each other from one position to the next as currently there is a gap between the two positions. Mr. Streator stated they would like to raise the higher end of the pay range for the In-Training position and lower the salary at the low end of the IT Tech position so that they match. He advised in that way, when there is a person In-Training being promoted to IT Tech not in training there is not a gap in the pay range, and they can be moved without a huge increase in pay.

Mr. Gasior advised he would be checking with Ms. Szlempa, but Mrs. Demaline brought up an issue to him regarding exempt or non-exempt employees. He said he believes this is an hourly wage position from speaking with Ms. Szlempa last week, but he would like to confirm whether there is a pay range limit on exempt/non-exempt. Mr. Gasior stated he hoped to have an answer by the end of this week and let Council know next Monday.

3. [ORDINANCE NO. 119-22](#) – TO AMEND THE RANGE OF COMPENSATION FOR THE CLASSIFIED, FULL-TIME POSITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN FOR THE CITY OF AVON
Mr. Streator

Mr. Streator reiterated that this legislation is the match to be able to promote within the Information Technology Department and do so effectively.

4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MAYOR JENSEN advised Bendix held their Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony today and over the weekend Bendix held a family day for employees at their new Avon facility as well and both were a huge success. He said Bendix asked him to express to City Council their gratitude for all that the City has done for them and the Mayor felt that gratitude was reciprocated in that both the City and Bendix are grateful to have their American Corporate Headquarters in Avon.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MRS. DEMALINE, WARD 1 inquired if the Mayor had an update on the meeting that he had recently with the County Commissioners regarding some funding opportunities that he had previously mentioned.

Mayor Jensen advised he met with the County Commissioners, and he was not given a date of when they would decide on the request. He said he felt the initial response was a positive one, but he was not sure when they would vote on the request. Mayor Jensen stated he is also working with Mr. Cummins on some other areas the City can seek funding.

Mrs. Demaline reminded everyone that next Monday, September 24th a Service Committee meeting is scheduled to discuss the 2023 sidewalk program. She said she spoke with Mr. Cummins earlier and requested an updated map of where we are on our sidewalk installations with the 2022 program. Mrs. Demaline inquired of Mr. Cummins if he would be able to provide those updated maps by Friday so that the Committee and the rest of Council has time to review it prior to the Committee meeting.

Mr. Cummins advised yes; he had discussions with the Zoning Enforcement Officer to get an update on what has been installed this past week when he was out. He said he hoped to receive that information tomorrow and then the maps should be available by the end of the week.

Mrs. Demaline advised she appreciates that so that they can be prepared for the meeting on Monday night.

Mayor Jensen said they are running into some issues with getting contractors to perform work because they are so busy at the end of the season. He stated since these are smaller jobs the City is getting pushed back on the schedule. Mayor Jensen advised paving for Moon Road is scheduled for the first part of November and they are hoping that will not get delayed further. He said with some of the other sidewalk programs Mr. Loeser is saying that contractors are so busy with concrete work plus there is a shortage of materials and workers, so the City is still trying to get those sidewalks finished on the current list. Mayor Jensen stated he has talked with Mr. Radcliffe about sidewalks for the one street in the Red Tail Subdivision and that street is still on the sidewalk schedule, but the City is not in a great spot right now because of the overloaded schedules and shortages of contractors but they are still going to try to work through that as much as they can to get those sidewalks installed.

Mrs. Demaline inquired when the City would begin picking up the leaves.

Mayor Jensen advised leaf collection begins next Monday, October 24, 2022. He said the trucks are ready to go. Also, the Street Department crews are finishing up the stonework for the parking area at the new pickle ball courts.

MRS. HOLTZMEIER, AT LARGE had no comments.

MR. MCBRIDE, WARD 2 advised he was fortunate to attend the Bendix dedication today and it is an awesome facility, and he believes that Bendix and the City will be a mutually beneficial partnership as we move forward. He said they are definitely a class act at Bendix.

MR. MOORE, WARD 3 had no comments.

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 had no comments.

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

MR. GASIOR, LAW DIRECTOR had no comments.

MR. PRESLEY, FINANCE DIRECTOR had no comments.

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

AUDIENCE:

There were no comments made from the audience members.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to Enter Into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing the Purchase of Real Estate, 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.

6. RECONVENE: 8:03 p.m.

A motion made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mr. Moore to Reconvene the Work Session of Council, 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.

7. ADJOURN: 8:04 p.m.

There being no further business, the Work Session of Council was adjourned.

PASSED: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
Brian Fischer, Council President

ATTEST: _____
Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council