



COUNCIL WORK SESSION / REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Council Chambers

Mayor: Jody Carney **Administrator:** Haley Lupton
Director of Finance: Renee' Sonnett **Director of Law:** Paul-Michael La Fayette
Council Members: President M. Terry, J. Eudaily, K. Ferguson, F. Reed, J. Rucker, J. Sintz

Call to Order:

Mr. Terry called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: J. Carney, M. Terry, K. Ferguson, F. Reed, J. Rucker, and J. Sintz.

Absent: J. Eudaily.

Approvals:

Agenda: Council Work Session – January 4, 2022

Mayor Carney noted that the appointment category for the Communications and Marketing Advisory Committee needs to be added to the agenda. She also stated that staff is working on the formation of the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Terry said that he would like to add the formation of the Economic Development Committee as a discussion item to the agenda for tonight.

Ms. Ferguson motioned to approve the January 4, 2022 agenda as amended according to the suggestions listed above, seconded by Mr. Rucker. All in favor.

Minutes: Council Meeting – December 12, 2022

Mr. Sintz motioned to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Ferguson. Four yeas and one abstention from Mr. Terry.

Annual Reorganization: 2023 Appointments

Council President

Mr. Rucker nominated Mr. Sintz, seconded by Mr. Terry. Mr. Sintz accepted the nomination.

Ms. Ferguson nominated Mr. Terry, seconded by Mr. Sintz. Mr. Terry stated that he would be willing to serve as Council President again but believes Mr. Sintz would be a great fit for the role and, if Mr. Sintz would like to stay as a nominee for Council President, Mr. Terry would happily decline the nomination. Mr. Sintz said he would be honored to serve as President and continue with the nomination and thanked Mr. Terry for the kind words. Mr. Terry declined his nomination put forth by Ms. Ferguson.

As previously stated, Mr. Rucker nominated Mr. Sintz for Council President, seconded by Mr. Terry. All in favor.

Board of Zoning Appeals Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Mr. Rucker.

Parks and Recreation Committee Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Mr. Reed.

Personnel and Finance / CIP Committee Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Mr. Terry.

Design Review Board Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Mr. Eudaily.

Fire District Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Mr. Rucker.

Communications & Marketing Advisory Committee Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Mr. Sintz.

Economic Development Committee Council Representative: Mayor Carney appointed Ms. Ferguson.

Mr. Terry motioned to approve all Council representative appointments, seconded by Ms. Ferguson. All in favor.

Mayor Carney gave a brief overview of what the Economic Development Committee may look like once formed. From discussion with staff, this committee would exist to give guidance to the Economic Development Department. The Mayor stated that she and staff would like to have this committee formed as soon as possible and she hopes to have that as a resolution before Council within the next couple months. She added

that she strongly believes Ms. Ferguson will be an excellent fit for this committee as the Council representative.

Ms. Lupton added that Mr. Stanford will be attending a February Council meeting to update Council members on economic development in the Village and provide more details about the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Terry asked if Council needs to form this committee via resolution, Council responded in the affirmative.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Discussion Items:

Council Goals for 2023

Mr. Terry provided Mr. Sintz with a brief overview of how Council sets their goals each year. He stated that Council generally sets goals as rolling goals and reviews them once every six months.

Mr. Terry said that he would like to amend the Wastewater Treatment Plant goal to include verbiage as it relates to continuing work towards the 6119 plan. Mr. Reed voiced his agreement and stated that he would like to have monthly status updates on large projects if feasible. Mr. Terry acknowledged Mr. Reed's comments and concerns. He stated that those concerns and comments will be discussed at the next Personnel & Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Reed added that, ideally, he would like to have this goal slated for completion in 2023.

Mr. Terry asked Mr. Reed for his comments and opinions on the second goal which consists of the Parks and Recreation Committee forming a vision for the park system in Plain City. This includes the future layout and use of Pastime Park. Mr. Reed said that he understands this is a unique topic and one that is generally well debated among residents. He acknowledged that many people within the Village want to see different things done with Pastime Park and everyone may not agree on each suggested goal or use. Mr. Terry agrees with Mr. Reed's comments and added that he

would like to see the Parks and Recreation Committee provide a recommendation to Council about the future uses and plans for Pastime Park. He acknowledged that whatever recommendation is formed, it will affect the trajectory of not just Pastime Park but all parks, both current and future, within the Village. Mr. Terry asked Ms. Lupton if the Parks & Recreation budget has room for any studies to be completed. Ms. Lupton responded that there are some funds and that Ms. Granger is working on procuring additional plans and studies. Mr. Terry stated that he would like to see those studies completed in 2023 and feels that this goal should be amended to say “determine the future of Pastime Park by mid-summer, June or July, of 2023”. Mr. Reed agrees with this plan and said that these changes may warrant revision to the Parks and Recreation budget, if needed. He added that he will communicate Council’s wishes to the Parks & Recreation Committee accordingly.

Mr. Terry stated that the goal for completion of the Uptown Master Plan and Branding Initiative have been completed and should be removed from the goal list. Ms. Lupton asked if the Branding Initiative can be kept until the full rebranding has been implemented. Council agreed with Ms. Lupton’s suggestion.

For the goal of completing a connectivity study in 2023, Mr. Terry stated that he believes this should continue as a goal with the dates amended as needed. Ms. Lupton said that progress is being made.

Mr. Terry stated that he understands the Heritage Trail Feasibility Study goal has experienced some updates and changes. Ms. Lupton agreed and stated that she would prefer to have this completion date kept as TBD to prevent any unnecessary overlap with the Metro Parks and their feasibility study. Mr. Reed agrees and appreciates the priority of partnering with the Metro Parks. Mr. Reed asked, if the funds are not used towards a feasibility study, where those funds may be allocated. Ms. Lupton answered that Ms. Granger has several possibilities in mind but nothing has been determined yet.

For the goal of revitalizing the Plain City Events Calendar, Mr. Terry would like to have this kept as a goal for 2023. Ms. Lupton added that the website redesign prioritizes this and it should be completed in 2023.

Mr. Terry began discussion on the “Other Goals to Keep in Sight” section, beginning with the goal of reviewing Council goals in January. Council agreed that this has been completed and can be updated to review goals in six months.

Mr. Terry advises to have the Corridor Plan goal sent to the Economic Development Committee, once formed, and have that committee provide recommendations to Council. He also stated that this goal could be renamed to “create Economic Development Committee.” Mr. Reed agrees and feels that it makes sense to have that committee give recommendations to Council on the Corridor Plan.

Mr. Terry stated that the next goal, which is completing the Village Administrator performance valuation, will be completed this evening in executive session. Additionally, he asked Ms. Lupton what her thoughts are about the evaluation and goal-setting process for staff. Ms. Lupton responded that staff has performance objectives and evaluative criteria set for six month and yearly reviews. She believes that it is working well but is also continually looking for ways to improve the process. Mr. Terry said that is great and appreciates Ms. Lupton looking for ways to streamline that process where possible.

The next goal is completing the Uptown Streetscape Plan which Mr. Terry believes has been completed but would like to amend this to reflect the next step which would be phase 3. Mr. Terry would also like to include the old municipal building parking lot in this goal. Council and Ms. Lupton agreed.

Mr. Terry stated that the comprehensive plan does not need to be reviewed and therefore does not need to be included in the Council goals. Mr. Reed stated that he believes all the goals are in line with the comprehensive plan anyways and agrees with Mr. Terry's statement.

Mr. Terry asked Council if the zoning code update should be kept as a goal for 2023. All members agreed to maintain it as a goal until the updated zoning code is implemented.

Mr. Terry asked Ms. Lupton for a status update on the Certified Local Government, National Historic Registry, and CIC. Mr. Terry said that he would like the CIC goal given to the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Lupton stated that Mr. Dreier has completed significant research and administrative work on both the CLG and Historic Registry and feels that it is in the Village's best interest to pursue a consultant to complete the project. Ms. Lupton stated that it could be added to next year's budget and advised keeping this as a future discussion topic.

Mr. Terry noted that the salary survey study has been completed and may be removed as a goal.

The next goal includes topics such as defunct HOA's, Airbnb's, and other housing issues. Mayor Carney stated that these topics are on the agenda to be discussed at the next Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Rucker believes this should be kept as a Council goal. Mr. Terry agrees and said that this goal would be more appropriately titled as "Housing Ordinances".

Mr. Terry noted that the Citizen Recognition Policy is completed and may be removed as a goal.

Mr. Terry asked if the website redesign will have document storage options for retaining Council documents from previous meetings. He added that he would like the new website to include the ability for residents to look up previous Council meeting documents. Ms. Lupton responded that the new website will have document storage options and they are looking forward to implementing that option. Mr. Terry said that is great and believes this should be kept as a goal.

Mr. Reed asked Ms. Lupton if the website redesign necessitates communication with the public or if any work needs done in committees. Ms. Lupton answered that meetings are taking place with the website developer consistently. She added that this website developer has significant municipal website experience and they plan to have a first draft of the site map outline completed in the coming weeks. Ms. Lupton said that outline can be brought to Council if need be. Mr. Reed thanked Ms. Lupton for the clarification and information.

Mr. Rucker stated that a charter review may need set as a goal to give Council the opportunity to review potential updates or changes. The rest of Council agreed and Mr. Terry added it to the goal list. Ms. Ferguson asked if any changes would have to be voted upon. Mr. La Fayette answered yes. Mr. Terry said that currently there is a mandatory ten-year review period in place and he believes that may be too long. He stated that Council may need to, once a year, set a time for members to bring their suggestions and opinions about what may need changed. Mr. Rucker and Mr. Sintz agreed and stated that, if Council agrees, changes can be made when necessary. Mr. La Fayette echoed Council sentiments but cautioned against overloading the charter with too many details.

Mr. Terry spoke about the Council Chambers rental policy as a goal and stated that he believes this goal can be removed since the Village now has other rental space available. Mr. Reed asked Ms. Lupton about the status of the rental facilities policy for public use. Ms. Lupton responded that work is being done on that currently. Mr. Terry said that this should be moved to a future work session topic.

The next goal is the noise ordinance. Mr. Terry stated that he believes this issue has been taken care of and has been deliberated appropriately. Mr. Reed stated that, although he agrees, this topic will most likely come up again regardless. Mr. Rucker stated that he felt that this topic was put on hold until the zoning code update was completed since that may include noise ordinance language. Mr. Terry believes that, with the legal review and discussion that has already taken place, he doesn't feel that this is a topic to be put as a goal but is open to Council's opinion. Mr. Sintz stated that he is comfortable placing this as a future goal. Chief McKee added that there is currently an open court case now which is reviewing an issued noise ordinance citation. He stated that they are waiting to see how the noise ordinance holds up in court to determine what next steps would be, if any. Council agrees with waiting until a

later time to revisit this goal which would allow time for the court case to be processed and completed.

Mr. Terry stated that, for the last section of the goal list, staff will typically give a brief schedule for the next several meetings which he will leave to Mr. Sintz and Ms. Lupton for discussion.

Mr. Reed asked Council if they want to set a goal that pertains to the prohibition of the sale of menthol cigarettes and similar products, citing the recent ordinance passed by the City of Columbus. He believes that doing so may better protect the children in the community. Mr. Rucker said that he believes the sale of those products were already illegal in the Village. Mr. Reed believes that is for a different type of product. Mr. Terry stated that he does not have a problem with Council discussing this topic but also does not feel that the local government needs to legislate this since the state government generally covers these types of issues. Mr. Reed would like to have this issue added as a future discussion topic.

Mr. Terry asked all staff members who were present if they have any additional goals they would like to see added to the Council goal list. Ms. Lupton stated that she believes all the important ones have been mentioned and listed and believes that overall, everything is in a really good place. Mr. Terry thanked Ms. Lupton for her comments and said that if staff would like to add anything in the future to please let Council know.

Executive Session: Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1): To consider the employment and compensation of a public employee.

Ms. Ferguson motioned to enter Executive Session at 7:28pm, seconded by Mr. Sintz. All in favor.

Mr. Terry motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:08pm, seconded by Mr. Rucker. All in favor.

Adjourn

Mr. Rucker motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ferguson. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.