

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL

Monday, June 22, 2020

**Call to Order:**

Medina City Council met in regular session on Monday June 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:44 p.m. by President of Council John Coyne who led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

The roll was called with the following members of Council present E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and J. Hazeltine.

Also present were the following members of the Administration: Mayor Dennis Hanwell, Keith Dirham, Greg Huber, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Chief Kinney, Kimberly Marshall, and Kathy Patton.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Shields moved that the minutes from the regular meeting on June 8th, 2020 as prepared and submitted by the Clerk be approved. The roll was called and the motion passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

Finance Committee: Mr. Coyne stated they met prior to this evenings Council Meeting and will meet again on July 13<sup>th</sup> before summer break.

Health, Safety & Sanitation Committee: Mr. Simpson had no report.

Public Properties Committee: Mr. Shields had no report.

Special Legislation Committee: Mr. Lamb had no report.

Streets & Sidewalks Committee: Mr. Heffinger had no report.

Water & Utilities Committee: Mrs. Hazeltine had no report.

Emerging Technologies Committee: Mr. Rose had no report.

**Requests for Council Action:**

- 20-131-6/22 – Increase Expenditure – P.O. #20-571 – Goodyear Tire - Sanitation
- 20-132-6/22 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Drug Mart Job Creation Grant Payments
- 20-133-6/22 – CARES Act Resolution
- 20-134-6/22 – Refinancing Existing Debt and Possible New Debt Issue
- 20-135-6/22 – Resolution Against Racism
- 20-136-6/22 – 2020 Codification Update
- 20-137-6/22 – MCRC Summer Special Membership Sale Extension
- 20-138-6/22 – Grant Application – Medina Municipal Airport Obstruction Removal Study
- 20-139-6/22 – Task Order #5 Delta Airport Consultants – Obstruction Removal Study
- 20-140-6/22 – Railroad Emergency Repair – Then & Now
- 20-141-6/22 – Accept Donations to Keep Memorial Pool Open
- 20-142-6/22 – MCRC / Partner Marketing Contract Extension

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20-143-6/22 – Bids, Project #947: Medina Municipal Airport: Detention Basin  
20-144-6/22 – Increase Exp. – P.O. #20-1160 – Rocco Masonry – Public Bldgs.

**Reports of Municipal Officers:**

**Dennis Hanwell, Mayor,**

- A. **Covid-19-** Thank you to public for helping reduce the spread by following guidelines of social distancing, wearing masks in public, and avoiding large gatherings. Updated information on business openings, safety protocols, etc. are on the city and Medina Co. Health Dept. Website. Please continue to support our local businesses.
- B. **New Parking Deck/TIF-** The new parking deck being erected was supplemented by a \$1m capital grant from the State of Ohio. The deck is progressing well and expected to be completed near the end of June, weather dependent.
- C. Please complete the **U.S. Census.** Important that all residents are counted. We qualify for state and federal grants based on the reporting.
- D. **The original Medina Square Farmers Market** opened its 15<sup>th</sup> season on the Medina Square on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and will run through October 17<sup>th</sup>. The market will be open from 8-9am for guests over 59, and immune compromised shoppers, and from 9am to 1pm for regular shoppers. (optional: The market is presented in partnership with the City of Medina, and sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital)Due to social distancing requirements and concerns for the safety of guests and vendors, the market has been reduced to roughly 20 full time vendors, and another 6-8 part time vendors. A full selection of products will be offered. For more information, and to see customer shopping guidelines, please visit [medinafarmersmarket.com](http://medinafarmersmarket.com), or Medina Farmers Market on Facebook.
- E. **July 4 parade and fireworks** are cancelled due to restrictions by OH State Health Director on large gatherings.
- F. **July 4 – World Day of Prayer to God-** “For the repair of the world, of the COVID virus and other health concerns, along with the equality of all people. To guide us to peace and love in our world. God help us all.”

**Keith Dirham, Finance Director,** stated there are a couple of things that originated with the Finance Meeting and he will address them.

**Greg Huber, Law Director,** had no report.

**Chief Kinney, Police Department,** absent.

**Kimberly Marshall, Economic Development Director,** reported that on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> the Economic Development Team kicked off a new initiative called Vocal for Local. Collectively with other local communities decided to have one voice to support our small business community and that is how we came up with Vocal for Local, basically put your money where your mouth is. We are asking people who can support our businesses to go out and shop and dine whether it is online or in person based on your level of comfort on going out. The website is [vocalforlocalmedinacounty.com](http://vocalforlocalmedinacounty.com) where we have done interviews of the businesses, list of business

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directories, we will be doing more promotions as we continue to move forward.

**Jonathan Mendel, Planning Community Director**, absent.

**Chief Painter, Fire Department**, absent.

**Mike Wright, Rec. Center Director**, stated they need to request to add to the agenda the acceptance of donations for the Memorial Pool. Mike thanked all the community and organizations who donated to the pool opening.

Mike stated starting tomorrow morning the Medina Rec will start the opening of the outdoor Memorial Pool. Aiming for a July 6<sup>th</sup> opening and will post any updates regarding hours and restrictions this week on our website and our Facebook page.

**Jansen Wehrley, Parks and Recreation Director**, absent.

**Dan Gladish, Building Official**, absent.

**Patrick Patton, City Engineer**, updated the South Broadway project stating they are almost done with the underground work and expect to begin pavement removal in the next week or so.

Plans are to begin placing the concrete pavement in mid-July which is much sooner than we expected. We will advise the residents as this requires a 5 day period where they will not be able to get to their driveways.

This week they will begin their sidewalk program where they remove and replace deficient sidewalks and property owners will be assuming the costs for that work.

**Nino Piccoli, Service Director**, had no report.

**Notices and petitions:**

There were none.

**Unfinished Business:**

There was none.

**Introduction of Visitors:**

Mr. Coyne read these comments into record for Ralph Jocke:

REQUEST TO CEASE EXPENDITURES ON THE COURTHOUSE PROJECT

Ralph Jocke, 523 E. Friendship Street, Medina

In these difficult financial times it is ill-advised for the City of Medina to continue to spend its dwindling taxpayer dollars in pursuit of the joint City - County Courthouse Project.

The City Council has the ability to withdraw from the Project and cease all further expenditures through a majority vote of Council. I encourage Council to immediately take up this matter for a vote.

I also urge all voters in the City of Medina to sign the Courthouse Petition which will give the people a vote on the Courthouse Project. People wishing to sign the initiative petition can find

information at [www.saveyourcourthouse.com](http://www.saveyourcourthouse.com) or may call 330 722 5567. Thank you.

**Introduction and Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:**

Motion to suspend the Rules requiring three readings on the following ordinances and resolutions: Ord. 114-20, Res. 115-20, Ord. 116-20, Ord. 117-20, Ord. 118-20, Ord. 119-20, Ord. 120-20, Res. 121-20, Res. 122-20, Ord. 123-20, Ord. 124-20, 125-20. The roll was called and the motion to suspend passed by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and B. Lamb.

**Ord. 114-20:**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Job Creation Grant Agreement for Carlisle Brake & Friction, Inc.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 114-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mrs. Marshall stated this is for Carlisle Brake & Friction to consolidate a portion of their headquarter operations from Solon to Medina. Project entails office renovation and addition of a mezzanine to accommodate 48 employees at the 920 Lake Rd. facility. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 114-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, and P. Rose.

**Res. 115-20:**

**A Resolution accepting the Technology Grant award from the Ohio Supreme Court for the Medina Municipal Court.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 115-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 115-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mayor stated on behalf of the Medina Municipal Court and Judge Werner this is a grant that they received for \$62,950 through the Supreme Court to enhance the servers at the Municipal Court. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 115-20 passed by the yea votes of D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

**Ord. 116-20:**

**An Ordinance adopting three amendments to the city of Medina Section 125 Plan.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 116-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 116-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Dirham stated there are 3 amendments to our Section 125 Plan, one of them is not related to COVID it is just a periodic thing and that is to increase the amount of roll over that is permitted in the FSA. The FSA is a flexible spending account and is pre-taxed dollars. Previously this was limited to \$500 and we would like to increase that to \$550 in accordance with the IRS. The other two changes are related to COVID, one is to allow midyear changes to FSA and DCA accounts. The IRS is allowing us to do these changes because a lot of people have a reason to have a midyear change due to COVID. The third change is to extend the FSA and DCA grace period for 2019 dollars in 2020 all the way to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Rose stated for those that do not know the Section 125 Plan is not city funds. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 116-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

**Ord. 117-20:**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make certain fund transfers.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 117-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Dirham stated this is a repayment of funds that were loaned from the special projects fund to the software fund. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 117-20 passed by the yea votes of E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and J. Hazeltine.

**Ord. 118-20:**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GIS Group, LLC for GIS asset Management software and services for the City of Medina Water Department.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 118-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Piccoli stated this proposal will provide GIS asset management and software services for the Water Department and will allow for the planning in the management and maintenance of our water system. Some examples of the assets of the pipeline, the valves, hydrants and so on. The Street Department will be able to utilize this data base as well. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 118-20 passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

**Ord. 119-20:**

**An Ordinance amending Sections 31.02(B), 31.05 and 31.07 of the Salaries and Benefits Code of the City of Medina, Ohio relative to the Street department, and accepting the job description of Sign Technician.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 119-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Nino stated several years ago the city purchased a sign making machine which has benefited the city greatly in the last few years. The tasks of making signs has been taken on by a seasonal laborer, it is a unique position with necessary computer skill sets. A current fulltime union personnel in the Street Department had been offered the position. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 119-20 passed by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and B. Lamb.

**Ord.120-20:**

**An Ordinance amending Section 31.05 and 31.07 of the Salaries and Benefit code of the City of Medina, Ohio relative to the Water Department and abolishing the job description of System Testing Technician.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 120-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Piccoli is asking to abolish the current fulltime position that has been vacant for almost 8 years. The duties have been performed by other people in the department. Abolish this position and add a fulltime laborer which is lesser cost to the department. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 120-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, and P. Rose.

**Res. 121-20:**

**A Resolution adopting the Tax Budget of the City of Medina, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and submitting the same to the Medina County Auditor.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 121-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 121-20,

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seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Dirham explained that the Tax Budget provides the basis for the revenue estimate that we operate on with our budgets. Emergency clause is requested is it needs to be turned into the county by no later than July 20<sup>th</sup>. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. -20 passed by the yea votes of D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

**Res. 122-20:**

**A Resolution affirming that all funds received from the County Coronavirus relief Distribution Fund pursuant to H.B. 481 be expended only to cover costs of the City of Medina, Ohio consistent with the requirements of Section 5001 of the CARES Act as described in 42 U.S.C. 601(d)** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 122-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 122-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Dirham stated they need to pass this in order to receive the funds from the Coronavirus Cares Act pass through. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 122-20 passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

**Ord. 123-20:**

**An Ordinance to approve, adopt and enact current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Medina, Ohio.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 123-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Coyne stated that this is just an annual update of their codified ordinances that have been passed for the City of Medina. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 123-20 passed by the yea votes of E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and J. Hazeltine.

**Ord. 124-20:**

**An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 55-17, passed April 24, 2017, relative to the temporary extension of the Summer Special Membership sales for the 2020 season at the Medina Community Recreation Center.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 124-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 124-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Wright stated that this is to extend their summer membership to August, September, & October to allow the patrons to get more comfortable with coming back to the Rec Center. We are asking for the emergency clause so this can start before August 1st. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and B. Lamb. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 124-20 passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

**Add to agenda:**

Mr. Shields moved to add Ord. 125-20 to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Simpson, motion passed

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by the yea votes of J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, and P. Rose.

**Ord. 125-20:**

**An Ordinance accepting donations for the Memorial Pool.** Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 125-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 125-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Wright stated this is to accept donations for opening the outdoor Memorial Pool. Plans are to open by July 6<sup>th</sup> and need to accept those donations before the opening. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 125-20 passed by the yea votes of D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, and J. Shields.

**Council Comments:**

Mr. Simpson thanked all who raised donations for the Memorial Pool. Dennie feels this will benefit a lot of our residents. Dennie also gave praise to his colleagues on council and the administration for addressing the delinquent water accounts that have occurred due to COVID. Praises to all that have been patient with the restrictions caused by the virus, it does feel good to get out and about. Please remember to use social distancing and masks whenever possible. Be kind to each other.

Mr. Rose stated since the last meeting he and his wife has had the opportunity to eat at 3 restaurants in town, they really want your business back. They felt very safe at all three places. Employees were all trained well to deal with any issues.

Mr. Lamb thanked Jess Hazeltine for her work on Coffee with Bill and Jess, they had 2,700 views on their last program. Roger Smalley gave a great presentation about the restoration and preservation in town. Mr. Lamb read the following statement:

The Medina County fair should be a welcoming experience for all who attend. Since our county apparently is suffering an absence of leadership on the issue of the confederate flag at our fair, I want to thank Leah's Nichols for filling that void by organizing an online petition drive to ban the sale of that symbol of racism at the fair.

The state murder of George Floyd made us witness to the targeted racial injustice that is all too real and prevalent in our nation, leaving us now with a choice: ignore the cry for racial equality allowing its evil effects to go on... or finally step up and commit to fulfilling the promise made 244 years ago that "all people are created equal"....then all people should be treated equally.

Of all the work we have the opportunity to do, I would think that the removal of racist symbols would be both the obvious and easiest...that's why I so appreciate the efforts of Leah Nichols to step in on the side of good to ban the confederate flag from our fair - since our local officials have either remained silent or choose to align themselves with the false and discredited excuses of "it's part of our history for heaven sakes", or "I don't have a stance".

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The history of that battle flag is a history of treason in the name of maintaining a state system of human slavery....a war that caused the death of 750,000 combatants, 2.5% of the US population in 1861.

Soldiers who fought under the confederate flag were killing United States soldiers. Today that flag has been appropriated by white supremacists.

After the Civil War the flag all but disappeared except in regions of the South. Then beginning in 1948 the flag made a resurgence when it was popularized by South Carolina Governor, Segregationist Strom Thurmond when he ran for president, then used as a banner for the Ku Klux Klan, White Citizens Councils and segregationist mobs becoming a symbol of white supremacy that it is today...often seen carried with the Nazi flag and anti-Jewish symbols.

Leah Nichols has taken a leadership position on the side of good, ban the flag....

Symbolic statements are significant, the removal of a symbol related to treason and white supremacy is meaningful and can serve as a beginning to fix the structural inequalities that continue to exist in our society.

As a community we need to condemn the use of white supremacy symbols anywhere and everywhere and demand a County fair that recognizes the importance of banning the vile flag of traitors and racists...anything short of a ban is unacceptable and indicative of complicity.

Leah's online petition has collected 4,301 signatures

Fair office:

Phone 330-723-9633

Email [medinafair@gmail.com](mailto:medinafair@gmail.com)

Mr. Huber stated it is nice to see all of council back in the building, these meetings have cohesion and direction that is missing in virtual meetings.

Mrs. Hazeltine read a statement that was issued by the Medina County young Democrats about the confederate flag at the Medina County Fair.

The Medina County Young Democrats are elated that the Medina County Fair Board has reconsidered their previous decision to cancel the fair and has decided to hold the 175th Medina County Fair. The fair is an important event for our community and residents. Over the years, the fair has allowed everyone to come together to celebrate the agricultural and livestock achievements of Medina County. The fair originated as a celebration and has undergone many changes throughout the years.

We believe that it is time another change takes place at the fair. For many years, the Confederate flag has been displayed by vendors and sold during the fair. However, it is time that the Medina County Fair Board prohibit the sale and/or display of these items moving forward. The Ohio State Fair voluntarily disallowed the practice in 2015. It is time Medina County made the same choice.



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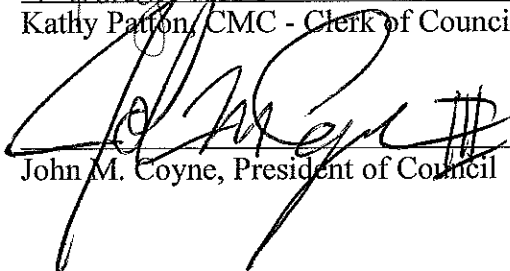
We are not trying to erase American history or change it. The flag represents a time in our history that we were at war with one another, and that people of color were thought of as property. The Confederate flag is associated with historical revisionism and glorification of the Civil War, racism, slavery, white supremacy, treason, and attempted intimidation of people of color. It does not belong at the Medina County Fair, which is a time for people to come together and celebrate. As stated in our Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that among those are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." How can our neighbors pursue a life of happiness when by constantly having to view a hate filled and racist symbol at a celebration?

Until such a time as the Medina County Fair Board sees fit to ban the display and/or sale of the Confederate flag and return the fair to its origins of a community celebration of agricultural and livestock achievements, the Medina County Young Democrats will not participate in the fair or any fair sponsored events.

President - Ed Isabella  
Vice President - Jessica Hazeltine  
Secretary - Drew Burge

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
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Kathy Patton, CMC - Clerk of Council

  
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John M. Coyne, President of Council

