

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**April 3, 2023 Meeting**

Jim Velas, Council President  
Don Vincenzo, Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward  
Kristi Lipscomb, Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
Terra Butler, Council, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Linda Jordan, Council-At-Large  
Beth Oprisch, Council-At-Large  
JC Thrash, Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Mike Smith, Council-At-Large

Kathryn Thalman, Mayor  
Jeremy Greenwood, Public Service/Safety Director  
Don Smithberger, Super. of General Services  
Annette Whealdon, Finance Director  
Matthew Arbenz, Chief of Police  
Tom Murphy, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Elizabeth Glick, Law Director

The meeting was called to order by Council President Jim Velas at 7:00 pm. President Velas led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the public were thanked for their attendance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Butler	HERE	Smith	HERE
Jordan	ABSENT	Thrash	ABSENT
Lipscomb	HERE	Vincenzo	HERE
Oprisch	HERE		
	Five (5) Present		Two (2) Absent

**MINUTES:** President Jim Velas confirmed all Councilmembers received the minutes from the March 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve the minutes from March 20, 2023, Council Meeting; motion seconded by Councilwoman Lipscomb.

**ROLL CALL:**

Butler	YES	Smith	YES
Jordan	ABSENT	Thrash	YES
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	YES
Oprisch	ABSTAIN		

Roll Call Vote: Four (4) YES Zero (0) NO One (1) ABSTAIN Two (2) ABSENT

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**CITIZEN HEARING:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS:**

**Mayor Kathryn Thalman** thanked Brandon Evans of RCAP for attending the Utility Committee Meeting and explaining the recent water rate study. Moreover, the Mayor thanked all the City workers for keeping the lights on during the recent storms. Mayor Thalman reported that she has met with the Attorney General's Office regarding a new initiative for police interactions with veterans. Lastly, Mayor Thalman announced that she was selected to participate in the John Glenn Leadership Training.

**Service/Safety Director Jeremy Greenwood** reported that the Gas Aggregation Program's opt-out letters had been sent to residents. The water tank inspection has been completed; once the report is available, it will be shared with Council. Spring Cleanup for fallen brush will occur the

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week of April 17th, ward by ward. The Street Department is looking at potential streets for paving this season. Furthermore, the lining for the I-70 Waterline Project culvert is ordered and needs to be manufactured; as to when the lining will be complete, there is no timeframe. The starting point for the Water Distribution Project will be on the east side of the City in the Spring Park area. Moreover, the Electric Department has two openings for linemen. The Street Department has ordered an asphalt crack machine that will be in the week of May 8th. Lastly, Mr. Greenwood introduced the new Water Department Superintendent Mike Reed to Council.

Councilwoman Oprisch asked why the City needs to order more salt if they already have a lot in storage. Mr. Greenwood noted that the City must order salt from the ODOT program to be in the program in the future and will only be ordering 200 tons for this year, which could be use in one bad snow storm.

**Police Chief Matt Arbenz** reported that in March, there were 511 calls for service, 14 crashes, 47 arrests, six warrants served, and 154 traffic stops. St. Clairsville School District has offered to pay for the Juvenile Jeopardy Program, introduced into the school last year.

**Finance Director Annette Whealdon** reported attending the Ohio Municipal League training, which provided great information.

**Planning & Zoning Administrator Tom Murphy** provided the Council with the official report regarding the rezoning request on the 17.5-acre property on the City's west side. The report reflected that the Planning Commission voted 2-1 to recommend rezoning the 17.5-acre property. The next step requires the Council to instruct the Planning and Zoning Administrator to set up a Public Hearing before Council. Mr. Murphy noted that a motion and vote would be necessary. Due to the time required for public notice of a hearing, the Council Meeting on May 15th would be the date for the Hearing.

Councilwoman Lipscomb made a motion to direct the Planning and Zoning Administrator Tom Murphy to advertise and set up a Public Hearing before the Council regarding the proposed rezoning of the 17.5-acre parcel on the City's west side. Councilwoman Butler seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL:**

Butler	YES	Smith	YES
Jordan	ABSENT	Thrash	ABSENT
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	YES
Oprisch	YES		

Roll Call Vote: Five (5) YES    Zero (0) NO    Zero (0) ABSTAIN    Two (2) ABSENT

Motion Carried

Lastly, Mr. Murphy reported that the Zayo group had started their project on the alley across from PNC Bank.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Chair Don Vincenzo** announced that the April 17th Finance Committee meeting would be canceled and that the next Finance Committee meeting would be May 15th at 6:00.

**Utilities Chair Terra Butler** reported that there was a Utility Committee meeting before the Council Meeting. The Utility Committee granted four sewer requests. Moreover, the Utility Committee reviewed the March billing report. Furthermore, the Utility Committee discussed various topics involving rates and usage. Lastly, the Utility Committee will have a Special Meeting on April 17th at 6 pm.

**Police Chair Mike Smith** No report.

**Streets – North Side Chair Mike Smith** No report.

**Streets – South Side Chair JC Thrash [ABSENT]** No report.

**Safety Chair JC Thrash [ABSENT]** No report.

**Buildings and Grounds Chair Beth Oprisch** reported that the Building and Grounds Committee met on March 15th, where they toured various City properties. The next Building and Grounds Committee meeting has yet to be scheduled and will be announced when a date is picked.

**Planning Commission Chair Kristi Lipscomb** No report.

**Fire Chair Linda Jordan [ABSENT]** No report.

**Recreation Chair Kristi Lipscomb** reported that there are 15 spots open at the Community Gardens. The next meeting is on April 20th at 4:30 pm.

**Park District Chair Linda Jordan [ABSENT]** No report.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS: Law Director Elizabeth Glick**

**FIRST READING**

**Resolution No. 2023-11 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Oprisch that the rules requiring three separate readings be suspended on Ordinance No. 2023-11 and that the Ordinance, be passed on an emergency basis; seconded by Councilwoman Lipscomb.

**ROLL CALL:**

Butler	YES	Smith	YES
Jordan	ABSENT	Thrash	ABSENT
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	YES
Oprisch	YES		

Roll Call Vote: Five (5) YES Zero (0) NO Zero (0) ABSTAIN Two (2) ABSENT

Motion Carried

Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-11, the motion was seconded by Councilman Smith

**ROLL CALL:**

Butler	YES	Smith	YES
Jordan	ABSENT	Thrash	ABSENT
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	YES
Oprisch	YES		

Roll Call Vote: Five (5) YES Zero (0) NO Zero (0) ABSTAIN Two (2) ABSENT

Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to come before Council, Councilman Thrash made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Butler. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 3, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. All Councilmembers will be present at the City Building for the next meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the meeting in the Council Chambers.

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Jacob DeBertrand, Council Clerk

  
Jim Velas, Council President