# 4210

**OCTOBER 7, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING**

Tiffin City Council met for its first meeting of the month in accordance with Codified Ordinance Section 121.03. Council President Pro Tempore Cheyane Thacker opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tiffin Boy Scout Troop #444.

**ROLL CALL:** Clerk of Council Ann Forrest recited roll call and seven councilmembers were present: Aaron Jones (1st Ward), Scott Hoernemann (2nd Ward), Kevin Roessner (3rd Ward), Dennis Snay (4th Ward), Cheyane Thacker (At Large), John Hays (At Large) and John Kahler (At Large). Also attending were Mayor Lee Wilkinson, Director of Law Zachary Fowler, City Administrator Nick Dutro, and Director of Finance Kathy Kaufman.

**PETITION:** Petition No. 2024-04 vacating an alley running north/south between Lot #62- George Fiege’s Addition on the west, and Lot #1 of the Appraiser’s Replat of Lots 63-67 of George Fiege’s Addition (formerly Lot #63 of George Fiege’s Addition) on the east in the First Ward of the City of Tiffin, Ohio.

*Referred to Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers Committee*

**MINUTES:** The September 16, 2024 Regular and Committee of the Whole meeting minutes were approved as written.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** No reports.

No additional Committee of the Whole was scheduled.

**REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:**

**MAYOR LEE WILKINSON:**

Mayor Wilkinson congratulated the Tiffin Police Department and volunteers for the successful Safety Week program held a few weeks ago. Also, after two decades of absence, the D.A.R.E. Program will be back in the Tiffin City Schools.

Wednesday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m. the Ella Street Bridge will be rededicated as the Rich Focht Bridge.

The Mayor introduced Boy Scout Troop 444 and Brook Edwards, district chairman for Hancock and Seneca Counties. Edwards explained that they were attending the Council meeting as part of their Citizenship Merit badge. He said there are four units in the Tiffin area engaged in community service such as doing cleanup at every flea market, Stuff the Bus for United Way, Eagle projects, etc. He said they have been recently engaged with the local park district at the county level and are looking for other opportunities to be of service. Edwards also explained that some ways citizens can help support the Scouts locally is through volunteering, popcorn sales and the Friends of Scouting campaign. The two Cub Scout packs that are currently co-ed; they are in the process of putting together a girls’ troop to be launched hopefully early next year.

Mayor Wilkinson introduced Jim and Kathy Oliver, whose son Max passed away by suicide in 2016 and left them a note and money urging them to support suicide prevention. October 5th marked the seventh year they have held Max’s Miles, an annual suicide awareness and prevention 5K walk held in his memory. This year there were over 400 participants at Hedges-Boyer Park. They thanked the Tiffin Fire and Police Departments and the Parks Department for their support

The Mayor then introduced Bryant McAfee of Omni Fiber, Mason, Ohio, for an update on this service in our area. He noted that installation in Tiffin has been challenging due to their difficulty in gaining access to telephone poles, since the utility provider in our market is not easy to deal with. They are investing $10 million into the city to expand world-class broadband capabilities here, and almost everything on the west side of the river is complete. Nearly all of the east side of the river is staged with one section pending. Completion is anticipated by the end of March 2025. Councilmember Roessner noted that some neighbors had complained about their doors being knocked on about five times in a short period; McAfee said it should be not more than once per quarter. City Administrator Dutro said that if there are any concerns, people could route them through his office.

Halloween will be held Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**4211**

**CLERK OF COUNCIL ANN FORREST:** Clerk of Council Forrest reported that the fees had been received from the petitioner for the alley vacation under Ord. 2024-66, and Council could proceed with the third reading.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE KATHY KAUFMAN:**

Director of Finance Kaufman noted that Ords. 2024-72, 2024-73 and 2024-76 were up for their third reading. She also explained the reasons suspensions were being requested for other ordinances being introduced for their first readings. Ord. 2024-81 amends the annual budget because an employee had been budgeted in the wrong department and funds are now being appropriated into the proper one. Ord. 2024-82 appropriates funds into the Police Budget because two employees changed insurance coverage into a more expensive plan. Ord. 2024-83 appropriates funds into the TMAC Wing Project from the Tiffin Community Foundations Tiffin Recreation and Beautification Fund. Ord. 2024-84 is for the Parks Department to purchase security cameras and sound equipment for Oakley Park. Ord. 2024-85 is for an insurance reimbursement for a lightning strike at WPCC and roof repairs.

**DIRECTOR OF LAW ZACHARY FOWLER**:

Director of Law Fowler followed up on the requirement that AEDs be placed in certain places such as barks, ball fields, courts and swimming pools becomes effective October 24, 2024. However, the Department of Health has not yet developed a final plan so it is still unknown at how many locations we will have to place them. The Parks & Recreation Board should then convene to come up with a plan.

The Thrive marijuana dispensary now has a dual license for both medical and recreational use cannabis sales. Council has 120 days to pass legislation if it wants to block the recreational use license. Sales will incur a 10% excise tax, 36% of which returns to the City for approved purposes. We are waiting for the State to determine if it is the City or the State that decides what these purposes would be.

The final steps of the northern annexation to the City are in process. The Revised Code states that the City’s boundary needs to match up with the township’s boundary. In order to do that, there is a petition that the City would need to send to the County Commissioners asking them to match their Clinton and Hopewell township boundaries. It has only been done once, back in 2005, when they did it for every annexation up until then from the late 1800s/early 1900s. Therefore, we need to go from 2005 up to current. He is working out the details with the County as to what they want included in the petition so that we have it for an ordinance similar to that of 2005 for all annexations since 2006. He explained that anyone in Hopewell Township that got annexed into the City still gets a vote in both the township and city elections until that happens. Most of these are industrial and commercial development projects and not really affecting voters.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Finance Director’s Request for Legislation #F24-49 to amend the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate

funds into the Street Budget ($41,000.00)

*On file in Clerk of Council’s office; legislation prepared under Ord. 2024-81.*

Finance Director’s Request for Legislation #F24-50 to amend the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate

funds into the Police Budget ($27,000.00)

*On file in Clerk of Council’s office; legislation prepared under Ord. 2024-82.*

Finance Director’s Request for Legislation #F24-51 to amend the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate

funds into the General Administration Budget ($11,000.00)  
 *On file in Clerk of Council’s office; legislation prepared under Ord. 2024-83.*

Finance Director’s Request for Legislation #F24-52 to amend the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate

funds into the Park Capital Budget ($17,500.00)

*On file in Clerk of Council’s office; legislation prepared under Ord. 2024-84.*

Finance Director’s Request for Legislation #F24-53 to amend the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate

funds into the WPCC Budget ($9,638.17)

*On file in Clerk of Council’s office; legislation prepared under Ord. 2024-85.*

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – New Permit for Danop Ltd., 1804 W. Market St. (west side building only)

*Referred to Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers Committee*

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**4212**

**MOTIONS:**

1. Councilmember Hays moved to amend Ord. 2024-78 adding “and declaring an emergency” in the title; Councilmember Jones seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Hays explained that the emergency had originally been requested by the Fire Chief in order to get the h changes in place as soon as possible.*

Motion was approved on a voice vote of 7-0.

1. Councilmember Jones moved to remove Ord. 2024-66 from the table; Councilmember Hoernemann seconded.

Motion was approved on a voice vote of 7-0.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 2024-40**, introduced by John Hays and read for the first and only time required.

A RESOLUTION approving Mayor’s re-appointment of Kade Rowe to serve a term on the Thomas Connor Memorial Commission from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027.

Councilmember Hayes moved for passage; Councilmember Roessner seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Hays explained that this commission has a partisanship requirement and that an independent moniker is legitimate especially in local politics. He said he knows Jose Arias is independent and his claim is legitimate. Councilmember Hoernemann said he understood having both sides represented, but these are local issues and political affiliation is not so divided.*

Roll call votes were taken on the passage, and it was approved 5-2 with Councilmembers Thacker and Jones dissenting.

**ORDINANCES:**

**Ordinance 2024-66**, introduced by Cheyane Thacker and read for the third time.

AN ORDINANCE responding to Petition No. 2024-03 vacating the alley off of Front Street running East/West between Lot No. 285 of Heming’s Resurvey and Lot No. 409 of the Western Addition to the City of Tiffin in the Fourth Ward of the City of Tiffin, Ohio.

Councilmember Hayes moved for passage; Councilmember Roessner seconded.

Roll call vote was taken on the passage, and it was approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-72**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the third time.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 143.05 of the Codified Ordinances.

Councilmember Roessner moved for passage; Councilmember Snay seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner said ambulance rate revisions were made. Councilmember Hoernemann noted the $1,000 specialty care transport rate, private care facilities $150, and a financial hardship policy put in place.*

Roll call vote was taken on the passage, and it was approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-73**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the third time.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 135.14 of the Codified Ordinances.

Councilmember Roessner moved for passage; Councilmember Hays seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner stated that this pertains to the City’s credit policy and increases department limits to accommodate higher spending needs. Law Director Fowler said this directly assists the Fire Department so that it can have a credit card. $15,000 is allocated to the Fire Department and $10,000 to the Police Department to cover rising costs, with a total City limit of $100,000. Councilmember Hoernemann noted the concern raised by the Police Chief about the multiple training and travel expenses, which this helps resolve.*

Roll call vote was taken on the passage, and it was approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-76**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the third time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate funds into the Street Budget**.**

Councilmember Roessner moved for passage; Councilmember Jones seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner explained that these funds were from an insurance reimbursement for a struck pole.*

Roll call vote was taken on the passage, and it was approved 7-0.

**4213**

**Ordinance 2024-77**, introduced by Cheyane Thacker and read for the second time.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing and directing the City Administrator to prepare plans and specifications, advertise for and receive bids, recommend and execute a contract for the 2025 Street Paving Program, and declaring an emergency.

**Amended Ordinance 2024-78**, introduced by John Hays and read for the second time.

AN ORDINANCE to amend the firefighter’s civil service entrance and promotion requirements by amending Sections 143.02 and 143.03 and Chapter 149 of the Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

Councilmember Hays moved for suspension of the three-reading rule and passage; Councilmember Snay seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Hays explained that changes were made to the entrance eligibility list and entrance exam for hiring into the Fire Department, reducing the minimum job advertising from 30 days to 14 days, and accepting applications year-round in order to have a list to contact if there is an opening. He thanked Chief Chappell for his work on this. The changes were approved by the Fire Department, City Administrator, Law Director, the firefighters’ union, Police Chief Pauley and the Civil Service Commission.*

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension, emergency and passage, and each was approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-81**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate funds into the Street Maintenance Budget.

Councilmember Roessner moved for passage; Councilmember Hays seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner stated that this would fix the Budget shortage in the Street Department regarding wages.*

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-82**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate funds into the Police Budget.

Councilmember Roessner moved for passage; Councilmember Jones seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner explained that changes in Police Department health insurances were made, and this covers the increases.*

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-83**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate funds into the General Administration Budget.

Councilmember Roessner moved for suspension of the three-reading rule and passage; Councilmember Jones seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner noted that this was for the TMAC Wing Project. Councilmember Hoernemann asked how this was being paid. City Administrator Dutro explained that the Tiffin Community Foundation, where the Squirrel Fund is located under the Tiffin Beautification Fund, approved the funding based on Council’s request and provided us with a check. This ordinance accepts the funding and moves the money to the right line item so the work can be paid for.*

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-84**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate funds into the Park Capital Budget.

Councilmember Roessner moved for suspension of the three-reading rule and passage; Councilmember Hays seconded.

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner stated that these funds were for security cameras and sound equipment at Oakley Park.*

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 7-0.

**Ordinance 2024-85**, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2024 Budget Ordinance 23-94 to appropriate funds into the WPCC Budget.

Councilmember Roessner moved for suspension of the three-reading rule and passage; Councilmember Kahler seconded.

**4214**

*Discussion: Councilmember Roessner explained that this was for an insurance reimbursement for a lightning strike at WPCC and roof repair on the maintenance building.*

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 7-0.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

As Chair of the Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers Committee, Councilmember Thacker polled members as to the need for a hearing on the new additional liquor permit requested by Danop Ltd. for 1804 W. Market St. City Administrator Dutro said he had not been made aware of any problems at their locations. With no hearing deemed necessary by the committee, Thacker asked the Clerk of Council to return the notice marked “no hearing required”.

Councilmember Thacker announced a Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to be held on-site at 254 E. Market St for consideration of Alley Vacation Petition #2024-04 and any other business that may come before them.

**ADJOURNMENT**: 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Forrest, Clerk of Council.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­\_\_\_\_, 2024

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Presiding Officer of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk of Council