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FEBRUARY 3, 2025 – REGULAR MEETING

Tiffin City Council met for its first meeting of the month in accordance with Codified Ordinance Section 121.03. In the absence of Council President Bridget Boyle, Cheyane Thacker acted as President Pro Tempore and opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The invocation was given, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

MINUTES: The January 21, 2025 Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.
No additional Committee of the Whole was scheduled.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

MAYOR LEE WILKINSON:

The Mayor reported that last week he attended the two-day Tree Academy training with Councilmember Snay, which was very enlightening. He said the City is in very good shape with our ordinances and planning.

He was able to observe Tiffin Fire and Rescue water rescue train that afternoon at The Willows.

He reminded all residents that the continuation of the Road and Bridge Levy will be on the ballot this May. It was first passed in 2018, and has since allowed the City of Tiffin to leverage our monies to secure an additional \$7.7 million in federal and state grant dollars to help us out. This goes a long way in getting all of the work done that needs to be done. He thanked the residents of Tiffin for their support on the levy.

CLERK OF COUNCIL ANN FORREST: No report.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE KATHY KAUFMAN:

Director of Finance Kaufman explained that she had asked for suspension of Ord. 2025-14 to get funds received for a Police Department training grant and a donation to the Fire Department into the Budget as soon as possible.

DIRECTOR OF LAW ZACHARY FOWLER:

Regarding the proposed Road & Bridge Levy issue, Director of Law Fowler reported that he had just received approval from the Ohio Secretary of State for the ballot language draft submitted to them. A draft of the ballot will be available to us in early March. The petition for the city/county boundary line change has been delivered to the county commissioners, and they are waiting to meet with the county prosecutor to draft the resolution. He also has met with the Public Works superintendent who has asked for modification of the City's codified tree ordinances based on recommendations from the ODNR, and he is working on this together with the Tree Commission as well.

Proposed Ord. 2025-10 was sent to the federal General Services Administration for their input since we are working with them on the sale of the Louisa K. Fast Park. They asked the National Park Service be inserted in the fourth "Whereas" clause.

Included in the packet is a series of resolutions and ordinances that are repealing the series passed at the end of 2022 for the Tiffin River Front Development property. They are no longer asking for these tax incentives, so the TIF and the Energy Special Improvement District for the PACE loan so those six pieces of legislation need to be repealed so they can move forward with private financing.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor's Request for Legislation #25-08 – SEN-US 224 (PID 1206160) Urban Paving Project

Referred to Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers Committee

Mayor's Request for Legislation #25-09 – General Fund Carryover Balance Policy

Referred to Finance Committee

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Finance Director's Request for Legislation #F24-2 to appropriate funds into the Police and Fire Budgets.
(\$32,474.97 + \$500.00)

On file in Clerk of Council's office; legislation prepared under Ord. 2025-14.

Ohio Div. of Liquor Control – New permit for Dolgen Midwest LLC dba Dollar General, 235 N. Sandusky St.
Referred to Streets, Sidewalks & Sewers Committee.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

MOTIONS:

- A. Councilmember Snay moved to amend Ord. 2025-10 to include “National Park Service” in the fourth paragraph; Councilmember Jones seconded.

Discussion: Councilmember Snay explained that the Law Director received this request from the GSA.

Roll call vote was taken and motion was approved 6-0.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-14, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

A RESOLUTION repealing Resolution No. 22-34 which approved a Petition, Articles of Incorporation, and Initial Plan for the City of Tiffin (Seneca County), Ohio Energy Special Improvement District.

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

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

Resolution 2025-15, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

A RESOLUTION repealing Resolution No. 22-35 which declared the necessity of acquiring and constructing certain public improvements in cooperation with the City of Tiffin (Seneca County) Ohio Energy Special Improvement District.

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

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2025-6, introduced by Cheyane Thacker and read for the second time.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts awarded in 2025.

Ordinance 2025-9, introduced by John Kahler and read for the second time.

AN ORDINANCE to authorize and direct the City Administrator to solicit qualifications from and enter into a contract with a professional design firm for professional design services for maintenance of the City's Sandusky River Wall and Rock Creek Wall.

Amended Ordinance 2025-10, introduced by Dennis Snay and read for the second time.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the sale of municipal real property on North State Route 101 known as the Louisa K. Fast Park by a public auction.

Ordinance 2025-13, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Administrator to apply to and receive from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) the 2025 Energized Community Grant, and declaring an emergency.

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

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension, emergency and passage, and each was approved 6-0.

Ordinance 2025-14, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2025 Budget Ordinance 24-94 to appropriate funds into the Police Department and Fire Department Budgets.

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

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Discussion: Councilmember Roessner stated that suspension was requested in order to put the donation and grant funds into the Budget as soon as possible. He thanked the Ohio Attorney General for the Fire Department training grant and Lori Sharpe for her donation to purchase fire equipment.

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

Ordinance 2025-15, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Ordinance No. 22-104 which created the River Front Commercial Municipal Public Improvement Tax Increment Equivalent Fund.

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

Discussion: Councilmember Roessner said that this and the following ordinances unwind the PACE loans for the Tiffin Riverfront property because they are going to move forward with private financing. Law Director Fowler also explained that this ordinance in particular rescinds the TIF because there has been no progress on the project and it is no longer of use.

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

Ordinance 2025-16, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Ordinance No. 22-105 which authorized the City's participation in financing special energy improvement projects.

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

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

Ordinance 2025-17, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Ordinance No. 22-106 which determined to proceed with the acquisition, construction and improvement of certain public improvements in cooperation with the City of Tiffin (Seneca County), Ohio Energy Special Improvement District.

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

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

Ordinance 2025-18, introduced by Kevin Roessner and read for the first time.

AN ORDINANCE repealing Ordinance No. 22-107 which levied special assessments for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving certain public improvements in cooperation with the City of Tiffin (Seneca County), Ohio Energy Special Improvement District.

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

Roll call votes were taken on the suspension and passage, and both were approved 6-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmember Thacker polled the Streets, Sidewalks and Sewers Committee regarding the need for a hearing on the new liquor request from Dolgen Midwest LLC for Dollar General on N. Sandusky St. There being none requested, Thacker directed the Clerk of Council to return the notice as no hearing required.

President Pro Tempore Thacker reminded everyone of the Special Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. when Council will be taking information from applicants to fill John Kahler's at-large position. She reiterated that to qualify for this position you must be over 18 and a Tiffin city resident for at least one year. Their self-nominating letters and resumes must be sent or delivered to the City Administrator by February 5th at 4:30 p.m. The interview process and vote will take place on Monday, February 10 at 5:30 p.m. If no decision is made at that meeting, it will be done at the next regular meeting. The suggested agenda to follow was the invocation and pledge, roll call, written communications, oral communications with the introduction of the candidates who will have three minutes each for their presentations, questions and the voting and other business. She suggested we also allow time for comments from the public as well. She confirmed that the appointment is until the end of 2025.

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Councilmember Thacker announced a Streets, Sidewalks and Sewers Committee meeting to be held Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss Mayor’s Request for Legislation #25-08 on the SEN-US 224 Urban Paving Project, and any other business that may come before them.

City Administrator Dutro reported on the Rumpke 2024 trash and recyclable versus 2023. He said that in 2024 Rumpke collected 5,905.99 tons of trash and 928.92 tons of recyclables. This does not include the 141.47 tons picked up during June’s bulk pick up week, which had a marked increase from 2023 at 108 tons. He added that the 2023 numbers were 5,363.98 tons for trash and 941.4 tons for recyclables.

Dutro also reported that four years ago the City received funding for the EV charging station on City Lot 7, which covered back end costs for the logistics, maintenance and the unit itself. The City has been paying for just the electricity for the past four years. The grant has now expired for us, so we now have an expense that would be paid on the front end for both the maintenance and the back end logistics where they collect the funds and send them back to the City. For the substantial amount they are requesting, he would like to have further discussion with Council to see whether or not we want to continue this service for the community and whether or not it makes fiscal sense. He noted that there was an ordinance when it first came in, and in speaking with the Law Director it would be good to codify that ordinance as well as to make some changes to it.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Forrest, Clerk of Council.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2025

Presiding Officer of Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council