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JANUARY 13, 2025 – SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tiffin City Council met for a special meeting in accordance with Codified Ordinance Section 121.03. Council President Boyle opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m. in Council Chambers. The invocation was given, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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) and John Hays (At Large)); and John Kahler (At Large). Also attending were Mayor Lee Wilkinson, Director of Law Zachary Fowler, City Administrator, Nick Dutro, Director of Finance Kathy Kaufman, City Engineer Matt Watson and Public Works Superintendent Brandon Burner.

President Boyle asked for a motion to accept the Revised Agenda. Councilmember Roessner moved to adopt said agenda and Councilmember Hoernemann seconded. On a voice vote motion was approved 7-0.

SPECIAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: This is the notice, in compliance with Charter Section 3.09(B), to announce a Special Meeting of Tiffin City Council on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. The purpose is to consider legislation to support the Ohio Municipal League's challenge of AT&T's tariff application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the readings of Resolution 2025-02 and Ordinance 2024-105, and any other business Council may consider.

MINUTES: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS: None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

MOTIONS: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-2, introduced by Cheyane Thacker and read for the second time.

A RESOLUTION declaring the necessity of an election on the question of approving the passage of an ordinance to amend Sections 197.012 and 197.013 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Tiffin, Ohio, in order to provide for the continuation of an existing one-quarter percent (1/4%) municipal income tax increase for a continuing period of time to provide funds to pay certain costs of maintaining, repairing and improving public streets in the City, and declaring an emergency.

Resolution 2025-13, introduced by Aaron Jones and read for the first time.

A RESOLUTION supporting the Ohio Municipal League's challenge of AT&T's tariff application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

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

Discussion: Law Director Fowler explained that the city of Reynoldsburg had a local ordinance that the cost of the utilities they asked to be relocated would be borne by the provider but were told no, the city has to pay that cost. It went to the Ohio Supreme Court, and they said that even though the city was doing that through home rule, it cannot be done because the process for taking the tariff law through PUCO is a general law, and it supersedes local law. The Ohio Municipal League is trying to avoid a large precedent being set by a utility like AT&T, because if this went through, other large utilities would do the same. We have an ordinance from last year that addresses this on a small cell carrier, and in light of this we may have to look at again at some point. City Engineer Watson explained that on previous projects with AT&T we have had to submit a request to them, and then they provide us with an engineering fee that we have to pay up front before they even tell us what the cost is to do the extra relocation work. Paying for utility relocations would be very costly and would impact future projects if we have to pay out a substantial amount. It may prohibit some projects from being able to move

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forward. Councilmember Kahler commented on Section 3 and said he understood that he understood that this legislation would not obligate us to contribute any money towards the challenge of this tariff, although we could if we so decided. Fowler confirmed his understanding. At this time they are not asking for any financial obligations from League members as long as it stays within PUCO. If it goes higher than that they may come back and ask. Roll call votes were taken on the suspension, emergency and passage, and each was approved 7-0.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 2024-105, introduced by Cheyane Thacker and read for the third 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 Court Street Streetscape Project, and declaring an emergency.

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

Discussion: Councilmember Thacker said she wanted to have it read at this special meeting in order to give it the full three readings. It is a great project for downtown.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:27 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2025

Presiding Officer of Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council