

Lyndhurst, Ohio  
October 23, 2023

The Council of The City of Lyndhurst held its Regular Meeting on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:40 P.M., Vice Mayor Stephen C. Grushetsky, presiding.

Members Present: Council Representatives J. A. Marko, J. Price, J. A. Gambatese, L. A. Schlessel, D. A. Frey, C. A. LoPresti.

Others Present: P. A. Ward, Mayor;  
J. P. Luskin, Director of Law;  
R. J. Schmidlin, Assistant Director of Law;  
P. A. Rhode, Chief of Police;  
M. A. Kovalchik, Director of Finance;  
K. L. Miller, Assistant Clerk of Council.

Absent: M. J. Carroll, Chief of Fire;  
J. Maichle, Building Commissioner;  
T. Fioritto, Director of Service.

\*Due to military duty assignment, Mr. LoPresti was present remotely via the Zoom meeting application. Mr. Schlessel and Mr. Marko also attended the meeting remotely.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday, October 2, 2023, copies of which were distributed to all Members, be dispensed with, and said minutes stand approved as circulated.

The question was put to a voice vote and passed with Mr. Frey abstaining.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, October 2, 2023, copies of which were distributed to all Members, be dispensed with, and said minutes stand approved as circulated.

The question was put to a voice vote and passed with Mr. Frey abstaining.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Ward shared that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trick or Treat Trail event held this past Friday was extremely successful. He remarked the key to the evening was the employees, spouses, and other volunteers which he is incredibly grateful for!

Mayor Ward spoke about the Fording 5K race that was held on Saturday at Brush High School, noting they raised over \$35,000 for the Fording family and cancer research. He mentioned the fall Community Shred event and food drive that was also held on Saturday. Mayor Ward aired that it was a busy weekend in Lyndhurst and expressed his gratitude to all those who were able to help!

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Grushetsky had no formal report; However, he mentioned there is a Finance Committee meeting scheduled on Monday, February 12, 2024. Mr. Grushetsky commented to be on the look out for the 2024 Capital Budget Committee Meetings.

**PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE** – Mr. Frey reported the committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss 2024 Capital Budget requests.

**ROADS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Price reported the committee will meet on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss capital budget requests.

**SERVICE & SEWERS COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Price stated the committee will meet immediately following the Roads & Utilities Committee on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss capital budget requests.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Gambatese had no formal report at this time; however, he shared the committee will meet on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm to discuss the 2024 Capital Budget.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Schlessel was absent and a report was not given.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Council member Schlessel was absent; however, Mayor Ward mentioned that the Commission has not met since the last meeting.

**SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST BOARD OF EDUCATION** – School Board Stefanie Rhine delivered the following report:

Prior to her report, Mrs. Rhine distributed a packet to Council Members, including Mayor Ward, regarding the results from the State Report Card. She noted the state is now using a star system rather than a letter grade. Mrs. Rhine highlighted a few areas of improvement. She shared that the district as a whole scored 3 ½ stars with Gap closing and Progress being the most exceptional areas of improvement with 4 out of 5 stars; the Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for their most vulnerable students, while the Progress component looks at the growth all students make based on their past state performance. Mrs. Rhine explained the significance of each of these components as well as the struggles the district faces in these areas. She aired that there was a 10 point increase in achievement over last year.

Mrs. Rhine provided a comparison on where the district was in 2001 and how far they have come. She also spoke about financial stability, the report card, teacher support, administration, and compensation. Mrs. Rhine remarked that she has been a member of the school board for the past 16 years, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration of the strategic plan.

Mayor Ward commented on the graduation rate component of the state report card, by stating that when the district is committed to the student, and the family is willing to stay committed to the education for the ultimate success of the student, there is no recognition or credit given by the Ohio Department of Education, which he feels is a disservice

There were no requests for additions to the Agenda.

The floor was opened for public comment, with none being heard.

**Confirm decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals:**

Recommendation made to Council to confirm the decision of the Board in Case No. 2023-07 to grant requested variance to Mr. Alan Yost of 1359 Gordon Road, for an area variance from Chapter 1160.09 (a)(1) and 1160.05 (a) to construct a one hundred and ten (110) square foot entrance landing with steps in lieu of the allowable maximum size of thirty-five (35) square feet. The City’s zoning map requires a setback distance of forty-seven point five (47.5) feet to the right of way; the home’s existing setback distance is thirty-three (33) feet. The proposed new landing would extend ten (10) feet into the front setback for a final setback distance of twenty-three (23) feet from the right of way.

The findings in Case No. 2023-07 as recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals held October 9, 2023 were read by Mrs. Miller.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Council confirm the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals in Case No. 2023-07 and grant the requested variance with conditions.

The question was put to a voice vote and passed with Mr. Gambatese abstaining.

It was moved by Mr. Gambatese, seconded by Mr. Price, that the meeting be adjourned.

The question was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03P.M.

Approved: November 6, 2023

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Mayor