MINUTES
CANFIELD CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2025-5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Christine Oliver, President of Council, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll to which a quorum responded as follows: Mr. Dragish, Mr. Graham, Mr. Neff, Mrs. Oliver and Mr. Tieche.

Staff present: Christine Stack-Clayton, Finance Director; Charles Colucci, Chief of Police, Tyler Thorn, Zoning Inspector and John Rapp, Public Works Superintendent.

Under **PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**, there were none.

Under **MINUTES**, the Minutes of the Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting on March 19, 2025 were approved as presented.

Under **READING OF COMMUNICATIONS**:

MR. NEFF: I had a resident ask about street signs that were crooked around the Green. I haven't had a chance to see what he was talking about.

MR. TIECHE: What were they saying as far as crooked, vertical?

MR. NEFF: Well, actually a couple of them were the historical plaques. As you know, Jim Sabo installed those and he was meticulous about keeping them square. But he was talking about street signs. I just wanted to bring that up. We'll have to look at that.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT: Those historical signs are concreted like 3 feet into the ground.

MRS. OLIVER: F5 winds.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT: I'll make a note of it.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. I did have somebody ask me a question. It's kind of funny because I really never paid attention to it. Where our Welcome to the City of Canfield, the no soliciting sign. Someone asked me about that. We know that people go visit businesses. They were asking about repercussions of that.

ATTY. FORTUNATO: We have an ordinance for solicitors. They have to register. There are requirements that are imposed upon them, if they're soliciting. A sign saying, no solicitors might be a little bit inaccurate.

MRS. OLIVER: That's why I wanted to bring it up because it says, no soliciting right on it.

ATTY. FORTUNATO: I would say it accurate to the extent that there is no solicitors unless you are properly registered, etc.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. I appreciate it. Anyone else?

MR. DRAGISH: No. I just wanted to give a shout out to the crew again for doing such a good job with the properties and everything going on. I was almost worried, I thought we'd have to put the plows back on. I thought snow was coming but I think we should be out of the woods. I'm hoping that we're out of the woods.

MR. TIECHE: I didn't think we were allowed to say 4 letter words here. Snow is a 4-letter word.

MR. DRAGISH: It might happen next week.

MR. TIECHE: That's solid rain.

MRS. OLIVER: Remember, April showers bring May flowers.

Under **REPORTS,** of Committees, Boards, Mayor's Report, City Manager, Finance Director, Chief of Police, Zoning Inspector and Public Works Superintendent.

MR. TIECHE: We had a Parks Board Meeting but I don't think we have the minutes yet. So, we'll have to wait on those.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. Mr. Neff.

MR. NEFF: We don't have Planning & Zoning until next week.

MRS. OLIVER: Mayor Dragish.

MR. DRAGISH: I don't have a report. I won't have a report until next meeting.

MRS. OLIVER: Mr. Graham.

MR. GRAHAM: Design Review met last evening. I haven't seen the minutes yet. I don't know if they've been posted. There were a couple of items related to the historic district. There were a couple of new decks approved. The Hercules car wash made an application for a dog wash. That is to be located behind the car wash. We asked that they provide some greenery (Arborvitae) that will grow to protect visual from the street.

MR. TIECHE: Is that a permitted use? Car washes are.

ATTY. FORTUNATO: I've seen dog washes, a lot of times with the car washes. It's an associated use.

ZONING INSPECTOR: They consider it a piece of equipment.

ATTY. FORTUNATO: Yes, it is. You'll see it more and more, if you look. A lot of those car washes with bays.

MR. TIECHE: Could it be a standalone facility?

MR. GRAHAM: It is.

MR. TIECHE: No, I mean a standalone facility as just a dog wash.

ATTY. FORTUNATO: I'll have to look at that.

ZONING INSPECTOR: It's only 8x12. It's just a drop down and they connect it to water.

MR. TIECHE: I understand what you're saying. I guess I'm playing semantics with the way that the ordinance reads.

MR. D'APOLITO: At staff meeting we equated it to a vacuum. When you pull in and vacuum out your car. A piece of equipment similar to that.

MR. NEFF: Is Hercules the new car wash?

ATTY. FORTUNATO: Yes.

MRS. OLIVER: For the Fire Board, I do not have an update from Chief Hutchison for March yet. We did get to see our two new ambulances that came in. They are state-of-the-art, absolutely wonderful. I wanted to share that. We're very, very blessed in our community to have the equipment that we do at our fire department. That's all I have to share for that. Let's move onto our Public Works Superintendent, Mr. John Rapp.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT: Good evening. I'll start off with a reminder about the Limb and Stick Pick-Up. It will be starting Monday, April 7th, that will start in quadrant 1. That will go all week. Quadrant 2 will start April 14th. Quadrant 3 will start April 21st and Quadrant 4 will start April 28th. Each quadrant will have 1 week of limb and stick pick-up. All of the information including a map and the listing of streets in each quadrant will be listed on the city website. Crews have been out fixing miscellaneous drains and catch basins. They're doing a lot of work in Fair Park. They just planted 15 new trees for the K9 Memorial. They also did a lot of trimming over there and removal of some older trees that were dead. Another crew is out fixing up flower beds and spreading mulch. That's about it for now.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. Our Finance Director, Mrs. Clayton.

FINANCE DIRECTOR: I'm currently working on receivable spreadsheets and capital assets spreadsheets for our 2024 GAAP Report. All of the other spreadsheets for 2024 have been sent out to Julian & Grubb, the CPA firm that completes our GAAP Report. The March check register was posted today on the website. Last but not least, we are busy processing income tax returns. The filing deadline is April 15th.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. Our Zoning Inspector, Mr. Thorn.

ZONING INSPECTOR: For the month of March, we issued 2 bee keeping permits, 1 demolition permit and 9 zoning permits. Last night, we had Design Review, we had 4 permits issued there, like you said, 2 decks and 1 was the dog wash and the other one slipped my mind.

MR. GRAHAM: The new signage. Wes Banco that acquired Premier Bank.

ZONING INSPECTOR: Yes, it will now have Wes Banco Signs. Next week, we have Planning & Zoning on Thursday at 5:30. At 5:15, there will be a public hearing for conditional use for DQ's drive thru. We're still working on getting everything approved for them, so they can move forward. That's all I have.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. I was going to say, I understand the home on Pine Cone is completed and sold, I believe for $819,000, that's a nice plus for our community.

MR. TIECHE: Where are the beekeeping permits located?

ZONING INSPECTOR: One on W. Main and one on S. Broad. The same guys does both properties. One is at his home and one at his buddy's home.

MR. TIECHE: In any discussion, was there anything about neighbors or anything like that?

ZONING INSPECTOR: I didn't have any discussion with him. He's had the same permits every year for the last 6 years.

MR. TIECHE: So, he's had permits before?

ZONING INSPECTOR: Yes. He's had permits for the last 6 years now.

MR. TIECHE: Thank you.

MR. DRAGISH: With the bees, that's a yearly reoccurrence?

ZONINIG INSPECTOR: Yes, once a year. I checked the permits from the past years and he pretty much does it the same couple of days apart each year.

MRS. OLIVER: Do you still have one near you?

MR. DRAGISH: Well, the unit is there but I'm not sure if there are any bees left in it. I was just making sure it wasn't that one.

MRS. OLIVER: Mrs. Bernat.

CLERK OF COUNCIL: The Arbor Day celebration is going at CH Campbell on Friday, May 2nd at 10:00am. We usually hold it on Arbor Day; which is April 25th but the school is on spring break. Civic Day will be May 9th this year, here in council chambers. Concerts on the Green, I sent the schedule to the printer and it will be on our website soon.

MRS. OLIVER: Our City Manager, Mr. D'Apolito.

MR. D'APOLITO: Thank you, Mrs. Oliver. A couple of things to report. The city, as far as I know, held our first surplus auction. Our IT Department did a great job in finding a program for us with a timer, bid by a certain time and then everyone else is shut out. We sold a 2008 Ford Focus, a 2009 Explorer and a 1999 dump truck. Everybody has already paid and they've been picked up. It was very successful and no auction fees. It all goes to the city.

MR. DRAGISH: Beautiful.

MR. D'APOLITO: I also want to draw attention to Fair Park. I wanted to give some accolades to our Public Works Department. They cleaned it up so well. The Police Dog Memorial looks fantastic. We have some of the nameplates already there. I also want to get a couple of statues made of police dogs, so people understand exactly what they're looking at.

Yesterday, I along with our Public Works Superintendent and our Zoning Inspector, paid a visit to MSC. I didn't want our citizens to think that we've lost sight of that. We paid some impromptu visit yesterday. I spoke to the project manager today on the phone. They're telling me that everything is progressing well. Everything is being captured.

Finally, I want to put out an announcement that we're looking for some part time summer help, for weed whacking, grass cutting, for Public Works. If there are any high school or college students, anybody that's interested contact me at the city bldg.. We'd love to have some city residents working for us. They would be our preference but everyone is eligible. That's all I have.

MRS. OLIVER: Very nice. Our Police Chief, Chief Colucci.

CHIEF OF POLICE: A couple of things, we received word last week that we received a JAG Grant for a total of $15,500. The JAG Grant is Federal money through the state. Our officer who just left to go to Colorado, he was the one that initiated this grant. It's for breaching tools. So, we won't have to call the fire department, we will have tools in the cruiser that will allow us to make entry into the house without damage, thanks to Tim Coler. Tim Coler worked his last shift two weeks ago. We had a little going away party for him. We wish him the best. He did an amazing job. I encourage all of the new officers that we have to follow his lead. He took initiative and proactive steps, he's responsible for the setup of the back of our cruisers. A lot of forward thinking and we appreciated that. I found out yesterday, after the city manager saw it in the Vindicator, we also received a body worn camera grant. We applied for that grant through the State of Ohio. Several agencies applied for that grant, it 's very competitive. A lot of agencies that received the grant were agencies that never had body cameras before. We applied for it. Our cameras are already approaching 5 years old. We approached it from an upgrade standpoint. We submitted a grant for $129,000, we were approved for $30,000. IT, I spoke to them this afternoon and they're looking at options, we can slowly transition to it. We might not be able to get all the cameras at once but we might be able to do it slowly over time. It was a grant that we received. Also, yesterday, April 1st, Officer Chad Debarr was promoted to Sgt. He has his first shift as Sergeant. The department, Chadd and his family are very excited. Hopefully, we can swear him in here soon. Thank you.

MRS. OLIVER: Thank you. Last but certainly not least, Atty. Fortunato. I had a request for an executive session. We probably should go into that before we conduct any business.

I can state the content of a motion, if somebody wants to then, so move. It would be to adjourn into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (g) (1) to consider the compensation of a public employee.

MR. NEFF: So, moved.

MRS. OLIVER: Do I have a second?

MR. TIECHE: Second.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION: 3 Votes-No
2 Votes-Yes
Motion fails.

Under **PERSONS DESIRING TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL**: there were none.

Under **OLD BUSINESS**, there was none.

Under **NEW BUSINESS:**

ITEM A: An Ordinance Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing its Disposal

MRS. OLIVER: As per the provisions of Section 4.05 of the Charter of the City of Canfield, I move that Council dispense with the requirement of two readings of the proposed Ordinance and authorize adoption of the same upon its first reading.

MR. DRAGISH: Second.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION: 5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Motion passes.

MRS. OLIVER: As per the provisions of Section 4.05 of the Charter of the City of Canfield, I move that Council dispense with the requirement of a full reading of the proposed Ordinance and authorize reading by title only.

MR. TIECHE: Second.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION: 5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Motion passes.

MR. DRAGISH: Madam President, I have an Ordinance Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing its Disposal. I move for passage.

MR. GRAHAM: Second.

MRS. OLIVER: What surplus property do we have this time?

MR. D'APOLITO: Zero turn mowers, backhoe/loader and another tractor

MRS. OLIVER: Any questions from Council?

MR. GRAHAM: I had a question. Do you know what a normal fee we would pay, if we were to have an auctioneer auction this property off? It made me think about it when you were talking about the other property.

MR. D'APOLITO: I don't know definitively but I believe it's around 10%. I'm sure it's negotiable.

MR. GRAHAM: It's something we're avoiding paying.

MRS. OLIVER: Any other questions?

MR. NEFF: Is this going to be auctioned the same way as the vehicles?

MR. D'APOLITO: I'm talking to Public Works about it. They seem to think that there is a municipal auction.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT: Which one are we talking about?

MR. D'APOLITO: The loader.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT: The 3 John Deere's are being traded in on new zero turns. The New Holland will be determined whether we do the auction ourselves or take it somewhere to have it auctioned. It's actually a backhoe. It should bring some pretty good money.

MRS. OLIVER: Any other questions? Hearing none.

ROLL CALL ON ORDINANCE:
5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Ordinance passes
Ordinance 2025-11.

ITEM B: An Ordinance Requesting Participation in Purchase Contracts of the State for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) and Declaring an Emergency.

MRS. OLIVER: As per the provisions of Section 4.05 of the Charter of the City of Canfield, I move that Council dispense with the requirement of two readings of the proposed Ordinance and authorize adoption of the same upon its first reading.

MR. DRAGISH: Second.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION:
5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Motion passes.

MRS. OLIVER: As per the provisions of Section 4.05 of the Charter of the City of Canfield, I move that Council dispense with the requirement of a full reading of the proposed Ordinance and authorize reading by title only.

MR. TIECHE: Second.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION:
5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Motion passes.

MR. GRAHAM: Madam President, I have an Ordinance Requesting Participation in Purchase Contracts of the State for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) and Declaring an Emergency. I move for passage.

MR. DRAGISH: Second.

MRS. OLIVER: Any questions? Hearing none. Residents, any questions? Hearing none.

ROLL CALL ON ORDINANCE:

5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Ordinance passes
Ordinance 2025-12.

ITEM C: A Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Apply for F-1 and F-2 Permits as applicable from the Ohio Department of Commerce/Division of Liquor Control for Family Fun Night on August 4, 2025 and Fall Fest on October 4, 2025.

MRS. OLIVER: As per the provisions of Section 4.05 of the Charter of the City of Canfield, I move that Council dispense with the requirement of a full reading of the proposed Motion and authorize reading by title only.

MR. DRAGISH: Second

ROLL CALL ON MOTION:

5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Motion passes.

MR. TIECHE: Madam President, I have a motion to Authorize the City Manager to Apply for F-1 and F-2 Permits as applicable from the Ohio Department of Commerce/Division of Liquor Control for Family Fun Night on August 4, 2025 and Fall Fest on October 4, 2025. I will not be moving for passage. If somebody else wants to.

MR. DRAGISH: I'll move for passage.

MR. GRAHAM: Second.

MRS. OLIVER: Questions?

MR. TIECHE: For these permits, will our police officers be selling liquor? Are they the one's that are going to be selling it?

MRS. OLIVER: We as council.....

MR. TIECHE: We are authorizing an organization to participate and sell the liquor on the village green.

MR. D'APOLITO: Last year, we had members of council. I didn't want any police officers to be involved in that. I know that has happened in the past but last year, I did not want that to happen. I thought that was a bad look.

MR. TIECHE: That is my concern.

MR. DRAGISH: We didn't even actually sell the liquor. We sold tickets and the people took the tickets and went to purchase it.

MR. D'APOLITO: It's not liquor, it's beer.

ATTY. FORTUNATO: Spirits.

MRS. OLIVER: Donny, Mark and I, sold tickets and they took them over to, I think it was Birdfish and they purchased it from them.

MR. TIECHE: Okay. My other issue related to that is, how close you are to a couple of churches; which is contrary to liquor control standards as well.

MR. D'APOLITO: They receive a map.

MR. TIECHE: I understand.

MR. D'APOLITO: It includes the business and churches. They are aware of it. They approve it. We don't hold it without the states permission.

MR. TIECHE: I understand what the state is doing. I've been in this situation before. I just don't approve of it.

MR. D'APOLITO: I appreciate that and I respect that. But don't think that we do it without the states approval.

MR. TIECHE: I understand.

MRS. OLIVER: Any other questions? Hearing none. Public comments? Hearing none.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION:

4 Votes-Yes
1 Vote-No (Mr. Tieche)
Motion passes.
Motion 2025-03.

ITEM D: A Motion Amending the Employment Agreement of the City Manager.

MRS. OLIVER: As per the provisions of Section 4.05 of the Charter of the City of Canfield, I move that Council dispense with the requirement of a full reading of the proposed Motion and authorize reading by title only.

MR. DRAGISH: Second.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION: 5 Votes-Yes
0 Votes-No
Motion passes.

MR. NEFF: Madam President, I have a Motion Amending the Employment Agreement of the City Manager. I'm not going to be voting for this, so I'd like someone else to move for passage.

MR. DRAGISH: I'll move for passage.

MR. GRAHAM: Second.

MRS. OLIVER: Any questions from council?

MR. NEFF: I would like to state my position on this. This is why I wanted to go into executive session. It would have made this a little more private. I'm not for, at this point, without discussing it more with council in executive session, allowing for holiday pay. Most people know, we had to come up and extend the salary range for our new city manager, who is doing an excellent job. We're paying him significantly more than we had in our budget. I think that, even though he's doing a good job, there are several things that I object to or that I've asked for that haven't happened. That is the ability to attend city manager meetings, staff meetings, for someone on council to observe. I think that would be a great thing for us to do. I think there are additional efforts that could be made for the Red Gate Project. Specifically, a lot better communication to council, without having to call and ask what's going on. There should be, I feel, be a written memo twice a month. That is why I'm going to be not voting for the holiday pay for our city manager.

MRS. OLIVER: I'd like to also address this and I'd like to rebut Mr. Neff. First of all, it's not appropriate for city council members to attend the city staff meetings. We are not W2 employees and we shouldn't be present at staff meetings. It has never been that way. Nor should it be. Second of all, with Red Gate, we have no interest in Red Gate. We have had so many times where Mr. D'Apolito has tried to promote Red Gate but we don't have developers that want to pay to develop it, there is nothing more that can be done there. Third, council communications, Mr. D'Apolito always communicates with us when there is anything new going on. He does update us twice a month. We are updated here at council as well. I believe when you have memos go out then those become part of a public record. It depends on what's in the memos. You're not going to send out a memo to people, like you would an email. Our emails

are all subject for the public to see. There isn't anything that we have to hide in those and anybody can see them. I do not believe that Mr. D'Apolito is compensated outside the realm of other city managers, when you do comparisons around Ohio, he definitely is not. Mr. Calhoun, our previous city manager was compensated quire well, just like Mr. D'Apolito. Also, I remember, Police Chief Colucci, at one time, had to pick up those duties and he was compensated on top of his chief's pay for that. I do not see anything out to the ordinary there. When it comes to holiday pay, from what I understand, any job that I've ever been in, somebody who is a salary employee does get holiday pay like everybody else. That is my position on it. Does anybody else have any comments that they'd like to make?

MR. DRAGISH: I agree with you Christine. It was an oversight in the original contract and I think that putting it in there is well deserved. I think he's doing a fantastic job as city manager.

MRS. OLIVER: He was gracious enough that it should have went retroactive to 2024 and he has said, I don't want it to go back to 2024, only 2025. For that we thank you, for the oversight and you were gracious enough to do that. Second of all, the job that he's doing, I have never seen more participation on our green by our residents, than I have since he's taken the reigns. I believe we had like 1,000 people out there for one show with exotic animals. The magic shows and all of the other things that he has done. This man is out at 3:00am with our Public Works Department and he doesn't have to do this. He does, because he cares about our city, he cares about our residents. I want to applaud you. I think you have done a fantastic job. Thank you, very much for your service to our city.

MR. GRAHAM: I would agree with that. In my opinion, historically that's always been in the city manager's contract. I echo the same thing. I believe that he's done an outstanding job to date.

MRS. OLIVER: We thank you. You have not embarrassed our city. You have done a fantastic job. If I don't have any other comments, do I have any comments from the public? Hearing none.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION:

4 Votes-Yes
1 Vote-No (Mr. Neff)
Motion passes.
Motion 2025-04.

Under **COUNCIL COMMENTS**:

MR. TIECHE: I'd like to make a comment to Mr. Rapp and the City Manager for a good job as far as the dog memorial at Fair Park. It looks nice. You mentioned it at Parks Board. I went over and took a look and it looks sharp. Nice job, on maintaining all the stuff there.

MRS. OLIVER: I'd like to say thank you for indulging me because I didn't write anything down, I just went with what I think. So, thank you, very much, to all of you. We appreciate everything that all of you do.

MR. DRAGISH: The only thing I want to say is, I think you're doing an outstanding job, I really, really, do. I have to say, I've been on Council since 2014 and we have went through a couple of different city managers. I have never seen the City of Canfield humming like it's humming right now. I hold that to you because I think you're doing such a great job. We have a great team and we have to keep that going.

MRS. OLIVER: I'd like to thank you for giving up the bench to come here.

MR. DRAGISH: I'll motion to adjourn.

MR. GRAHAM: Second.

MRS. OLIVER: We are adjourned.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CLERK OF COUNCIL