
CITY OF CARLISLE COUNCIL – WORK SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
CARLISLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CARLISLE, OHIO

Mayor Winkler called the Carlisle, Ohio City Council Work Session of Tuesday, June 14, 2022, to order at 7:10pm in the Council Chambers at the Carlisle Town Hall building, 760 Central Avenue, Carlisle, Ohio with the following members in attendance:

Council Attendees:

Mr. Tim Humphries
Mr. Chris Stivers
Mr. William Bicknell

Mrs. Debbie Kemper
Mr. Michael Kilpatrick
Mr. Randy Winkler, Mayor

Staff members present: City Manager Julie Duffy, Finance Director Ryan Rushing, Police Chief Will Rogers, and Law Director David Chicarelli

Discussion Items:

Police Funding Campaign – Council

Law Director David Chicarelli provided Council with an overview of what council members could and could not do to promote a possible November ballot-issue to increase revenue for the Carlisle Police Department.

Key points made regarding social media posts included:

- All posts regarding a public issue should follow applicable public record policies. This applies to both official and personal accounts. All such posts should not be erased.
- Any opinion by a member of Council – whether pro or con about an issue – should include a disclaimer indicating that this is the personal opinion of that member and not reflective of the City of Carlisle or any of its respective members of Council.
- As a general rule, it is okay to publish, post, or say any factual information about the levy such as the pros and cons or what the consequences might be should it pass or fail. However, any statement to sway voters to support or oppose the issue would need to be made as a personal opinion and not representative of the position as a council member on behalf of the city.
- General reminders to vote are acceptable. Any statement to vote for or against the levy is a personal opinion and should have a disclaimer whether on a designated Council or personal social media account.

General discussion was made regarding the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School lawsuit regarding alleged inappropriate use of public dollars to promote a school ballot issue. Discussion included an overview of the alleged violations by members of the school administration and elected officials and the potential charges and fines each may face.

General discussion was made regarding public meetings. Key points made included:

- Any meeting of four or more members of Council would constitute a public meeting. If this meeting is not properly advertised and conducted, it could be a violation of the Ohio Sunshine Law. The Law Director indicated that if members of Council wanted to form an independent campaign committee as private citizens, no more than three members could meet as it may violate the Open Meetings Act.

- Discussion was made regarding what constituted public notice of a meeting. Law Director indicated that Council would need to follow the rules of such notice as indicated in the City's charter and adopted rules as well as State law.
- The Law Director indicated that the city's website and Facebook page could advertise an informational meeting regarding the ballot issue so long as such meeting presented facts and did not tell people attending to vote yes or no.
- Discussion was made regarding the possible use of staff's time to post such meetings on the city's pages. The Law Director indicated that staff's time could be used to either attend an informational meeting and/or provide factual information about the issue. Staff's time could also be used during the normal work day to advertise on the city's pages about such informational meeting.
- The Law Director indicated that during the normal workday, members of staff – including the Police Chief and Finance Director – could attend meetings and provide factual information about the levy.
- The Law Director indicated that city property – such as Town Hall – could serve as a meeting place for informational-only meetings. No meetings that are conducted solely in support or opposition of a political issue or candidate should take place in city-owned buildings.

General discussion was made about political signs. Key points made included:

- No signs either in support or opposition of the ballot issue can be placed on public property.
- Council members could put up such signs on their personal property – but not any city-owned property.
- No public dollars could be used to print the signs. Any campaign-related material would need to follow the rules of general campaign finance laws by the individual and or group running the campaign.
- The Law Director indicated that it would be up to the committee to follow all applicable election laws and campaign finance regulations. He indicated that he did not see anything wrong with members of Council personally buying signs so long as they followed the appropriate election laws.

General discussion was made regarding the timeline and process of placing the income tax increase on the November ballot. The Law Director confirmed that the proposed ballot-language appeared correct and advised that the City Manager provide to the Board of Election for their review. Mrs. Duffy stated that the ordinance to place the 0.5% tax on the November ballot would be before Council for a third and final reading on June 28th. She indicated a resolution would be presented to Council for adoption as an emergency at the July 12th meeting. She explained that this resolution would include the actual language to be placed on the ballot as well as provide formal direction to staff to submit to the County Board of Election.

Food Trucks

General discussion was made regarding food trucks and what role the city had in last year's Thursday-night event. Key points made included:

- The city issues permits allowing food trucks to set-up as a business within the city so long as they followed the applicable regulations that were adopted by Council.

- Staff confirmed that no food truck permit applications had yet been received in 2022. Staff had received an inquiry about the process at the beginning of the year and provided the application to the individual. However, no official application was submitted for processing.
- Last year's Thursday night event was coordinated by certain citizens in town and occurred on the former Pizza Hotline property. Discussion was made that the future use of this property was in question due to a pending development.
- General discussion was made regarding that the city's role was to review and issue the permits. Discussion was made regarding the ability for food trucks to be placed on several parcels in town as outlined in the regulations and that they would need to receive permission from those property owners as well as obtain a current permit before conducting business.

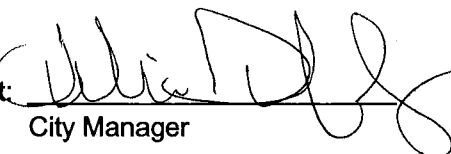
Casey's General Store – update

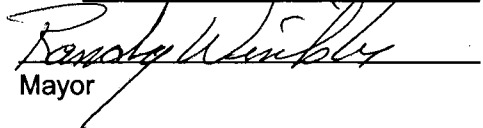
Mrs. Duffy provided a status update regarding the permit review for Casey's General Store. Initial plans had been submitted and reviewed by city staff. Additional information was requested and had been earlier in the day.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Council adjourned the meeting by voice vote with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Attest: 
City Manager

Date: June 18, 2022

Mayor