**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**

**May 20, 2024**

Mayor Sharon Lally called the meeting to order. The May Council Meeting was held in the Fairfax Municipal Building – Council Chambers. Those present were Hunter Boschert, Robert Ernst, Donald Kessel, Tracy Naticchioni, Jeanne Perkins and Christine Resnik.

**Reading of the Bills and Bank Reconciliation**

Mayor Lally asked for the reading of the bills and bank reconciliation. Mr. Kessel stated that the bills had been paid and bank statement had been reconciled for the month of April 2024. Ms. Resnik made a motion to approve the bills and bank reconciliation, and seconded by Ms. Perkins. All members present voted Aye.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Mayor Lally asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2024 Regular Council meeting. Mr. Ernst made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Boschert. All members present voted Aye. The April minutes were approved.

**Communications**

Ms. Heather Deters of the MHS PTO After Prom Committee thanked Chief Bronson and the Village of Fairfax Police Department for their support of the 2024 Mariemont High School After Prom event.

**Committee Reports**

The Planning committee is meeting with Hamilton County on Wednesday, June 5 to continue revising and updating the Village’s zoning code. The Parks Committee will meet Wednesday, May 22. The shelter is completed.

**Mayor’s Monthly Report**

$1,662.00 was received in Mayors Court fines, forfeitures and fees for the month of
April 2024. Mayor Lally asked for a motion to approve the Mayor’s Monthly Report. Ms. Naticchioni made a motion to accept the Mayor’s Monthly Report, seconded by Mr. Kessel. All present voted Aye. The Mayor’s monthly report has been approved.

**Mr. Bill Flaugher DeBra-Kuempel**

Mr. Flaugher stated that due to the growth at DeBra-Kuempel they need additional parking spaces and would like to purchase or lease the vacant space at lower Germania and Bancroft. Mr. Flaugher assured Council that access between the parking lot and their building would not impact or infringe on the residents on Germania. There should not be a lot of activity in the lot. The lot would be for employee parking, not for parking of any commercial vehicles. Council agreed to work on a lease agreement for the parking.

**Administrator’s Report**

**Virginia Avenue**: Paving work will begin the week of May 20th and if the weather cooperates, all work should be completed by week’s end. That project, which was several months long because of the water main replacement and upgrade through GCWW is finally coming to an end.

Prus has been repairing **curbs along Wooster Pike** in anticipation of ODOT repaving Wooster at some point. This work will again more than likely be in 2025 once the bridge rehabilitation is complete. The first project progress meeting will be held May 21st with ODOT and Ms. Kaminer will attend this meeting. If there are any updates that we don’t already know, Ms. Kaminer will email those to council.

The annual **Ted Shannon Jr. Memorial Golf Outing** was held on May 19 and we had 12 teams this year. It was nice sunny, although rather warm day. The event was a success and the next issue of the Forum will list team winners and thank our donation and hole sponsors.

We received word from Fuller Ford that our new maintenance trucks arrived at the dealership months before they were actually expected. They have been picked up and are currently out on the back lot. They have to be outfitted with dump bodies from a separate vendor, but it could be several months before those are in.

Ms. Kaminer has been called for jury duty starting Tuesday May 28 through Friday June 7. She will be sporadically in and out of the office depending on whether she is called to an actual case(es).

 **Police Chief Report**

Chief Bronson and Lt. Naticchioni attended a Legal Update at Xavier University. Light Up Blue Ohio will be May 8th – 18th. Officers will be attending various events. The Police Memorial Day parade is May 17th. Flying Pig Marathon had no incidents. Two vehicles were cited and towed prior to the race. Hamilton County Police Association and Hoxworth Blood Center blood drive will be during Police Week May 13th – 17th. Officers attended the Fundraiser for Police Unity Tour on April 22nd, hosted by Springdale PD at Full Throttle Adrenaline Park. Trump motorcade came through Fairfax on May 15th, traffic was maintained during the event. Maintenance department was also assisted during the event. The speed sign is back in working order and placed at Murray and Simpson. The PD received a quote for 10 Tasers at $51,000 over a 5-year lease. The PD scholarship was awarded to Isabella Mason.

**Fire Chief Report**

Mike Thompson attended for Chief Siefke. There were 57 calls for service in the district for April, 32 of those calls were in the Village of Fairfax. The Department will be working on fire hydrants and should be finished by the end of June. The next CPR training session will be on May 23rd at the Rec Center. The training will be halted during the Summer, but will resume in the Fall. Mr. Thompson thanked Mrs. Naticchioni for her efforts in assisting with the coordination of the CPR training.

**New Business:**

**Ordinance 5-2024**

Ordinance No. 5-2024 Amending and Supplementing the General Code of the Village of Fairfax, Ohio, which Prohibits the Cultivation, Processing, or Retail Dispensing of Marijuana for Medical Purposes in the Village of Fairfax, Also to Prohibit Adult Use Cannabis Operators in the Village of Fairfax. *First Reading*

Mr. Abes reminded Council that voters passed an initiative in the fall that allows adult use operators unless a municipal corporation takes action to prohibit them. If Council does nothing then adult use operators are allowed in the Village. If Council wants to prohibit adult use operators in the Village, they will have to adopt an Ordinance. Ordinance 5-2024 will prohibit adult use operators in the Village of Fairfax. Mr. Abes suggested that Council discuss the ordinance tonight to see if they can get some consensus about moving forward or not. After Council discussed the ordinance, a majority of Council, 5-1, decided to move forward with Ordinance 5-2024 to prohibit adult use operators. A second reading will occur at the June council meeting.

**Old Business: None**

**Council Discussion:** **None**

**Five minutes for audience questions/comments:**

Resident Dillon Higgons from Meadowlark asked Council what was the basis to prohibit the dispensaries. Was it economics or a social issue? Mr. Ernst stated that Council did not allow medical dispensaries, why allow adult use. He also stated that the law is very new, with too many unknowns. Economics was not a concern; Mr. Ernst is more interested in having a village where his children can grow up in without these types of establishments. Mrs. Naticchioni and Mrs. Perkins both agreed with the opinion of Mr. Ernst. They all want the village to remain family friendly. Mr. Kessel voiced concerns with traffic and uncertainty of the new law. Ms. Resnik didn’t feel this would be the type of business that would benefit the village and some people may speak about the economic benefit, but there are no guarantees of what the benefit would be. Ms. Gloria Daley asked why did council vote against the use medical marijuana. Mr. Abes stated that it was brand new and a lot of uncertainty. Council did not vote against the use of marijuana, they voted against having a business in the village that could sell it.

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Lally requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Resnik

Motion was seconded: Mr. Kessel

All present voted Aye.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Sharon Lally, Mayor Robert Doppes, Fiscal Officer