

Minutes Approved
as circulated
Jan. 17, 2023

January 3, 2023
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on January 3, 2023 at 7:04 p.m. by President Stewart. President Stewart opened the meeting with a moment of reflection, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Kimberly Ashton, Senior Patrol Leader of American Legion Post 12 Scouts BSA girl Troop 1122.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Lipian, Simmons, Schneider, Stewart

ABSENT: Corbin, Davis

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell to excuse the absences of Ms. Davis and Mr. Corbin

MOTION CARRIED

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Whitfield, Safety Service Director Lundy, Asst. Service Director Calvert, Finance Director Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Chief Pelko, Fire Chief Pronesti, Superintendent Korzan

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Mitchell moved, Mr. Schneider seconded to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the December 19, 2022 as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Whitfield:

Mayor Whitfield extended a welcome to the new Safety Service Director, Mr. Matthew Lundy on his first day of employment with the city of Elyria. The Mayor wished everyone a great 2023. He expressed this is a critical year for the city of Elyria, as there are unprecedented opportunities and threats that exist. Unique opportunities for transformational investments exist that will last for decades. Mayor Whitfield spoke to a critical safety levy that needs to pass this year that protects first responders and residents. Everyone is invited to the MLK program on January 16th. The day will begin with the commemorative march from city hall ro Elyria High School at 10:30a.m. The program with Ms Consultants and community partners which is a comprehensive planning effort will begin at 11:00a.m. all residents are encouraged to participate.

Safety Service Director Lundy:

SSD Lundy expressed his appreciation for being back in the city of Elyria. He shared about his sixteen year journey as an elected official and that if he had never gotten elected he would still be employed with the city of Elyria. Director Lundy expressed that he would ensure the residents

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED

receive the services expected and needed. He expressed his confidence in the ability to work well with council members and thanked Mayor Whitfield for his confidence in him. He vowed to show up each day dedicated to moving the city of Elyria forward.

Mr. Lipian welcomed Mr. Lundy to City Hall. He shared that he had been witness of his leadership and effectiveness on past committees and he is certain he will bring those skills to his role at City Hall.

Finance Director Pileski: No report

Law Director Deery: No report

Police Chief Pelko: No report

Mr. Tollett asked a question regarding Governor DeWine signing into law a bill regarding texting and driving. Chief Pelko explained from what he understands it will be an offense if officers witness people texting or on the cell phone, officers can pull residents over for a primary offense. Chief Pelko stated he needs to look into more specifics of the bill. Mr. Tollett stated that just recently in the state of Ohio, allowing guns in the classroom by school teachers, through resolutions passed by local school boards, with less than twenty four hours of training, that was reduced from seven hundred hours. Mr. Tolett asked Chief Pelko if he could provide an opinion. Chief Pelko provided his personal and professional opinion that he does not believe guns should be in schools. He stated training hours would need to be increased and he would be against a resolution locally.

Mr. Mitchell provided information as a point of clarification regarding the bill that was signed into law by Governor DeWine. She stated the bill was regarding distracted driving, not just texting.

Fire Chief Pronesti:

Chief Pronesti provided an update on the recent winter storm. He shared that fire crews were busy from two o'clock a.m. the morning of December 23, 2022, when the storm began until midnight Christmas December 25th. The fire department ran eighty-eight calls, five structure fires, one in the city of Oberlin, all others, in the city of Elyria. Due to the freezing temperatures, they also ran a lot of water calls. The fire department experienced numerous water bursts in apartment complexes and homes. Chief Pronesti shared that as a community, landlords have to do better with retrieving emergency contact information from tenants. Chief Pronesti stated the response to motor vehicle accidents was minimal.

Mr. Callahan asked about the timeline for the radio system that the Commissioners passed. The Chief shared that the timeline starts once legislation is passed, however possibly by June 2023.

Assistant Service Director Calvert:

ASSD Calvert explained to council members that she and Chief Pronesti will have a post-storm re-cap to cover what went well, what can be improved. They will review rental registry. Ms. Calvert thanked city staff for an outstanding job with the winter storm. Mr. Oswald inquired

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED

about cost of salt, expenditures for the season. Mrs. Calvert will provide information. Ms. Calvert invited everyone to the MLK Day event and the land use plan kick-off for public feedback. Ms. Calvert shared information regarding less informal ways for receiving feedback during the holidays at Finwood with a winter pop-up board.

Ms. Calvert referred from the floor the matter of entering into contract with Cleveland Communications, Inc. for radios. President Stewart confirmed the referral to both Utilities and Finance committees.

WWPC Superintendent Korzan: No Report

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

1. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with ODOT to perform guardrail upgrades.

REFERRED BY: Engineer McKillips

REFERRED TO: Finance Committee

2. The matter of allowing the Mayor to enter into a 5-year lease agreement for the acquisition of a new CCTV truck and equipment.

REFERRED BY: Superintendent Korzan

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

3. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with CT Consultants for engineering and project management for the Phase 3 Lead Service Line Project.

REFERRED BY: WTL Samuel F. Jacob

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

4. The matter of allowing the Mayor to advertise and accept bids for the purchase of a new HVAC system for the WWPCP admin. building.

REFERRED BY: Superintendent Korzan

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

5. The matter of the purchase of a new Ford F-350 4x4 extended cab pickup truck.

REFERRED BY: Superintendent Korzan

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

6. The matter of the purchase of a new Ford F-550 service truck.

REFERRED BY: Superintendent Korzan

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES: CONTINUED

7. The matter of the purchase of a new Case 580 SN backhoe.

REFERRED BY: Superintendent Korzan

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

8. Received and Placed on file in the clerk's office:

8. Denied clam for damage: Michelle Ventura

9. The matter of entering into a contract with Cleveland Communications, Inc. for the purposes of access to the CCI public safety simulcast.

REFERRED BY: ASSD Calvert

REFERRED TO: Finance/ Utilities Committee

7. PETITIONS--COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

8. PETITIONS--LOBBY:

Lise Day introduced Jim Vanderpool from the Lake Erie Council of Boy Scouts of America, Jesse Grabowski, Manny from American Legion Post 12 and Arriannah Adkins. Mr. Grabowski was hiking with his daughter during the pandemic. A situation that involved Ms. Adkins required immediate first aid and calmness. Mr. Grabowksi was presented with a certificate of Merit as well as a proclamation from the city of Elyria for his heroic rescue. Mr. Grabowski was also presented with a life-saving knot from the Boy Scouts. Arriannah provided her sincere appreciation to Mr. Grabowski for saving her life.

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS--FIRST READING: None

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: None

14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READING: None

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 1/09/2023 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

JOINT CD/FINANCE 1/09/2023 Following CD All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

FINANCE 1/09/2023 Following Joint All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Auditor, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT 1/11/2023 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/SSD, Law Director, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING 1/17/2023 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Auditor, Solicitor, Engineer

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The matter of accepting the council meeting calendar for the year of 2023.

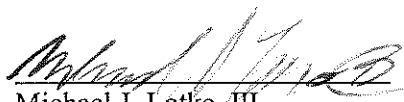
Ms. Mitchell moved, seconded by Mr. Lipian.

MOTION CARRIED

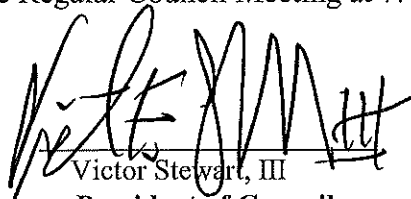
18. ADJOURNMENT:

Cerra moved, Mitchell seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:42 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED



Michael J. Lotko, III
Clerk of Council



Victor Stewart, III
President of Council

RLP/

ELYRIA

Council moves to upgrade firefighters radio system

Kevin Martin
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — Elyria City Council will get a chance to take a step forward in implementing an upgraded radio system for firefighters next week.

On Tuesday, Assistant Safety Service Director Dawn Calveit signaled the administration's intentions to connect Cleveland Communications Inc. with council's utilities and finance committees next week for consideration.

In December, the Linn County Board of Commissioners voted to spend \$4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to upgrade radios for police and fire departments across Linn County, with

the goal of getting every community in the county on the same system.

To do so, Elyria and other communities need to approve separate contracts with Cleveland Communications to pay for the monthly fees on the radios.

Elyria Fire Chief Joe Prosser said Wednesday that Elyria will receive 51 radios and some auxiliary equipment.

If approved by council, the city will pay approximately \$7,000 annually for the countywide connection for each radio, which amounts to \$16 per month each.

"The radio units themselves, paid for by Linn County, came at a price tag of \$5,500 each and would have cost the city more than \$300,000.

On Tuesday Prosser said he expects to see movement around June for cities and townships to begin receiving radios and implementing the associated upgrades. Once each city and township have ordinances in place, they can begin ordering the radios and get the process of implementing the integrated countywide system.

"I hope it's earlier but if I had to bet that's what I'd bet on. It's gonna help the city. It's gonna help your firefighters, it's gonna help the citizens too. It's a good thing," Prosser said.

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Elyria scout leader honored for life-saving efforts

Kevin Martin
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — An Elyria scoutmaster was honored Tuesday for his actions that helped save the life of a young woman.

Jim Vanderpool, third growth officer and field director of the Boy Scouts of America's Lake Erie Council, presented Scoutmaster Jesse Grabowski with a certificate of merit and a life-saving award, recognizing him for saving the life of a young woman at Cascade Park in 2020.

Grabowski, scoutmaster for Elyria BSA Troop 1122-G, was hiking with his then 13-year-old daughter, Alyssa, on June 2, 2020, when they came upon then 20-year-old Arianniah Adkins who had fallen off a cliff, fracturing and dislocating her spine.

Jumping into action, Grabowski intervened, calling for first responders and keeping Adkins and everyone else calm in a traumatic situation.

Speaking before Elyria City Council, Adkins recounted her journey, thanking Grabowski for his actions that day.

"Without Jesse Grabowski, I couldn't have a name on an

obituary or a tragic news report about a 20-year-old falling off a cliff and not making it," Adkins said.

Adkins said when the accident occurred she had recently enrolled in the U.S. Navy with hopes of becoming an aviation rescue swimmer and was taking her one last hike before shipping out to boot camp.

"There isn't much I remember about after the fall due to the shock that set in, but the crazy thing is I remember the entire encounter I had with Jesse and his daughter. Jesse had seen me struggling to get up. He'd asked if everything was OK and he knew it wasn't so he started coaching the other two people I was with telling them what to do," she recalled.

Placed against a rock, she remembers having tunnel vision. She said all she could see was Grabowski's face.

"He had asked all the questions you could think of to help the rescuers take care of me once they had arrived. Even during my emergency surgery and my rehab Jesse continued to check up on both myself and my family. Because of Jesse's actions to help a random

stranger in distress that day, I am actively recruiting in the United States Navy," Adkins said.

After what she called a lengthy list of swiftness and clearness, she will recruit on Feb. 23 and choose the career she desires.

"In my opinion, there could not be a better candidate for this recognition and the Boy Scout Troop 1122-G could not have a better scoutmaster. Thank you Jesse for everything you've done for me."

Vanderpool noted all the amazing things that come with Scouting. Including earning merit badges and taking part in community service projects.

He said that the commendation is one of the few things in the Boy Scouts you cannot earn. It was given in recognition of his efforts in not only saving a life but also upholding one of the core values of Scouting being prepared.

He was hiking. There was an emergency situation that required immediate first aid and calmness ... one of the basic values of the Boy Scouts of America is to be prepared. And Jesse was prepared. He was

calm, he got on the cellphone and he stabilized the young lady here that was injured, calmed her, calmed the people she was with, calmed his daughter. ... Because of that, she's here and she's smiling and she's joining the Navy," Vanderpool said.

Grabowski was also recognized by Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield with a proclamation from the city for his leadership and humility. Whitfield said as a person of faith it reminded him of the bible story "The Good Samaritan" about someone who was in his own path and sees someone hurting on the side, using the resources he had to help.

"It's a true testament and a reminder to us of our responsibility to one another as Elyrians. Americans that we should look out for one another. And sometimes that's taking a little step off of our own path to help someone out.

Elyria's new Jesse Grabowski has been a source of inspiration for the Chronicle-Telegram.

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Elyria recaps winter storm response

Kevin Martin The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA- City officials say Elyria fared better than expected in the aftermath of Winter Storm Elliott.

At Tuesday's Elyria City Council meeting, department heads took a look at the response for the storm that brought heavy wind gusts, wind chills of minus 25 degrees and some snow in the first major storm of the season.

Dawn Calvert, an assistant safety service director, said despite the forecast the city fared well given the circumstances. Calvert thanked city departments.

"We really have to thank the city staff for the outstanding job they did with the storm. And that is just about every department you can think of had some role in preparing for that storm or mitigating the outcome of that storm," Calvert said.

The combination of wind, snow and extreme cold created slick road conditions on a holiday weekend and had the potential for devastating impact.

"It could've been a lot worse than it ended up being," Calvert said.

The street department had crews on the road for 24 hours when the storm hit, with other departments pitching in where necessary.

"The salt was rendered, I'm not going to say ineffective but definitely challenging because of the extreme cold. So we had a strategy in place for that to time it just right so we had enough salt down and enough people on the roads to follow up and plow and make that as impactful as possible," Calvert said.

An additional crew came back in at 4 a.m. on Christmas Day to keep the roads clear for holiday travelers.

The city dealt with about 200 power outages with power being restored to everyone by the evening of Dec. 24.

Elyria Fire Chief Joe Pronesti said the department was very busy from around 2 a.m. Dec. 24 until around midnight Christmas Day, with 88 calls including five structure fires.

The biggest issue facing firefighters was burst waterlines in homes and apartments due to freezing temperatures. Pronesti said that in numerous cases the department had issues getting in touch with landlords.

"We have to do better in getting emergency contacts. We had several ... you're talking bitter cold temperatures and we could not get a hold of emergency contacts for a lot of apartment complexes in the city to let them know that we're shutting the water off," Pronesti said.

There were some instances where firefighters had to wait to provide lodging assistance to residents who could not return to their homes due to water damage.

"It's the holiday, I get it, they weren't around, but we still have to probably do something as a city a little more stringent in mandating some good contact information from our hotels, motels and apartments," Pronesti said.

The fire chief added Elyria firefighters did not respond to a lot of multivehicle accidents with injuries and traffic was lighter.

"People stayed off the road and we didn't have that problem, thank goodness," he said.

Calvert said the city will be conducting a post-storm analysis to take a look at what it did well and areas for improvement. The lack of emergency contact information, she said, is a problem and is an issue the city will look to address.

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Lundy takes reins as safety director

Kevin Martin The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA - A familiar face took his seat at Tuesday's Elyria City Council meeting as Matt Lundy reintroduced himself to Elyrians as safety service director.

"It's good to be back in the city of Elyria. Someone once said, 'Choose a career you love and you'll never have to go to work.' And I really believe in that," Lundy said.

Lundy was tapped for the job by Mayor Frank Whitfield in November. He returns to the city following a 16-year run as a state legislator and Lorain County commissioner. Lundy was defeated in November in a bid for a third term, falling 136 short of new Republican Commissioner Jeff Riddell.

Formerly an assistant safety service director for Elyria, Lundy returns to Elyria Council Chambers after leaving in 2007.

"I always told people during those years if I never got elected I would've loved to still be working for the city of Elyria. It was good seeing so many folks today as I made my way around City Hall, folks that I'd worked with before. I have to admit a lot of our hair looked a little different. I remember darker hair back then - but I always said some of the most professional and friendly folks you'll ever meet work for the city of Elyria," Lundy said.

The new safety service director said government is a people business and looks forward to working with residents to get the services they expect and need.

"I want to thank the mayor for the confidence he's placed in me. I will show up each day dedicated to moving this city forward," he said.

Lundy replaces former Elyria Safety Service Director Kevin Brubaker after his departure in November to become Avon Lake's public works director. Brubaker subsequently announced his candidacy for mayor of Elyria in December seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party.

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