

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rausch at 7:00 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilwoman Richardson.

The invocation was given by Mayor Rausch.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nevin Taylor, Deb Groat, Tracy Richardson, J.R. Rausch, Alan Seymour, Mark Reams, and Henk Berbee.

OTHERS PRESENT: *City Manager Terry Emery, Finance Director Justin Nahvi, Law Director Tim Aslaner, Police Chief Floyd Golden, Fire Chief Jay Riley, Public Service Director Mike Andrako, City Engineer Jeremy Hoyt, IT Director Aaron Story, Economic Development Director Eric Phillips, Clerk of Council Rebecca Dible, Matt Stiffler, Chris Richardson, MJ Richardson, Chris Schmenk, Nancy Beals, Scott Zwiezinski, Shawn Hough, Stefanie Hough, Michael Page, Edward Page, Donita Page, Holly Zweizig, Scott Brock Josh Bochkor, Lauren Bochkor, Emily Clark, Adam Clark, Cheri Seymour, Lesley Bimonte, Anthony Will, Jim Vandre, Nieca Nowels, Will Channell, Andy Morano, Donald Boerger, Tim Schacht*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the December 10, 2018 were approved as presented.

LIGHTS, SIGHTS, AND HOLIDAY NIGHTS AWARDS:

Mayor Rausch presented the following awards:

Winners:

Joshua & Lauren Bockor - 1931 Creekview Drive – Ward 1, Holiday Décor Winner
Michael Page – 1242 Montclair Court – Ward 1, Deck the Halls Winner
Jason Rupcich – 1378 Park Meadow Drive – Ward 2, Holiday Décor Winner
John Kosich Jr. – 683 Corbel Drive – Ward 2, Deck the Halls Winner – Synced with 96.9 radio station
Memorial Hospital Entrances – Ward 2 Business, Holiday Décor Winner
Shaun Hough – 891 Wedgewood Drive – Ward 3, Holiday Décor Winner
Howard & Theresa Hall – 1647 Millington Way – Ward 3, Deck the Halls Winner
One Stop Shop Bridal – 118 N Main Street – Ward 4 Business, Holiday Décor Winner

Runner-Ups:

Shannon Zitter – 1884 Creekview Drive
Gray & Kristine Thomas – 1903 Chiprock Drive
Brian Pitzer – 342 Moss Court
Adam & Emily Clark – 1688 Adena Point Drive
Jason & Jacquelyn Schultz – 1619 Adena Point Drive
Eric & Nicole Kazmierczak – 684 Corbel Drive
Kevin Palumbo & Jamie Sybrant – 553 Corbel Drive
Eagle Strategies LLC – 804 W 5th Street
Worth Repeating – 138 E 5th Street
Plumm Home – 116 E 5th Street
Union Station – 109 E 5th Street
Debbie & Greg Stinemetz – 13700 Shortees Rd. *(Special Mention as they were not eligible due to living outside of the City limits, however they were nominated multiple times for their beautiful display.)*

BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

Jason Walters – Planning Commission – New Appointment
Matt Stiffler – Design Review Board – New Appointment
Barbara Taylor and Jason Moore – Board of Zoning Appeals - Reappointed
Andrea Weaver – Board of Income Tax Appeal - Reappointed
Kevin Gregory – Utility Claims Board of Appeals - Reappointed
William Sallee – Civil Service Commission - Reappointed

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mr. Emery reported the following:

Merry on Main – Ice Skating

Merry on Main Ice Skating received great reviews and attendance for opening weekend. We had 220 skaters on Saturday and 240 on Sunday.

Operating Hours (December 15 – January 1)**Regular Hours**

Weekdays 5:00 to 8:00 PM

Weekends 2:00 to 8:00 PM

Extended Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve: 2:00 - 8:00 PM

December 26 - 28: 2:00 - 8:00 PM

New Year's Eve: 2:00 - 10:00 PM

New Year's Day: 2:00 - 8:00 PM

Closed Christmas Day*City Offices Closed**

City offices will be closed Tuesday, December 25 in observance of Christmas Day and also on Tuesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

Mr. Andrako reported the following:

Leaf Collection

Sanitation crews have caught up on leaf collection citywide.

Trail Construction

Street crews are working on the first section of the trail that will extend from American Legion Park to the Jim Simmons Trail. Mr. Berbee asked where this trail would connect, as Mill Creek ran between the two. Mr. Andrako explained that they would put in a connection trail where SR 33 crosses Mill Creek. They discussed ODOT regulations and past practice at length. Mr. Berbee stated he was pleased to see this plan being a part of connecting Marysville, as children in Mill Valley would now be able to walk to the Municipal Pool. Mr. Emery spoke to the talent level of City Staff in regard to the projects they were able to accomplish during the winter months, specifically mentioning McCarthy Park and McIvor Woods as examples.

Mr. Hoyt reported the following:

Coleman's Crossing Traffic Signal

The "10-day" signal burn for the Coleman's Crossing traffic signal is anticipated to start on Wednesday.

West 5th Street Sewer

The testing for the West 5th Street Sewer is ongoing. Reconnecting the existing properties to the new sewer will start towards the end of the week.

REPORT OF CLERK OF COUNCIL: None

PARKS AND RECREATIONS REPORT: None

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chairman Berbee reported the following:

At the December meeting the only item of business was to review and accept November financials. He stated that 2017 had been an exceptionally good year and that as of the end of November 2018, the City was only \$1,200 ahead of where they were last year, although they were still on budget. Mr. Berbee also stated that the City and County combined had increased by about 300 dwellings and this economic growth had a positive impact on the Utilities Funds. He stated the next big focus should be for economic growth that brings funds to the City of Marysville. He then wrapped up stating the City was on budget for income and slightly under budget for expenses.

PUBLIC SAFETY/SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Chairman Richardson reported the following:

The December meeting was held to go over updates, as there had been no agenda items, however most of the updates had already been brought before Council in the Administrative Report that evening.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Leslie Bimonte introduced herself to Council and informed them that she had recently turned in her letter of interest for the Ward 1 Council seat which will be vacant upon Mrs. Richardson's resignation.

Holly Zweizig with the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County thanked Mrs. Richardson for the invitation to give City Council another update on Medical Marijuana Program. She introduced Nancy Beals who is the new Director for the Union County Drug-Free Coalition to City Council. Ms. Zweizig then informed Council of the following:

Key Points:

- Ohio Medical Marijuana Program planned to open September 2018 [Delayed 2019]
- In-State Seed to Sale Operation
- Medical marijuana available through dispensaries to approved patients
- 21 recognized conditions
- Cannot smoke, but can vape
- Other forms include pills, oil, tincture, patches and edibles
- Patients can have up to a 90 day supply

Update December 2018

Patients

- Patients are now able to apply for a medical marijuana card once they have been recommended medical marijuana from a licensed physician.
- The medical marijuana card is \$50 per patient
- Over 3,400 patients have applied for the card in Ohio to date
- Of those, 2,100 have activated their registration card
- Patients can use cards at any dispensary in Ohio, but not out of state

Physicians

- Approximately 320 doctors in Ohio are registered through the Medical Board to recommend medical marijuana
- Many recommending physicians are associated with pain clinics. Two have been authorized in Union County to date.

Dispensaries

- There are currently 56 dispensaries who have been licensed and approved in Ohio that will be licensed to provide medical marijuana. The first of those received a certificate of operation last week (12/10)
- Dispensaries will not be able to sell medical marijuana until their products are tested at state-certified testing labs

Testing Labs

- None of the five labs that have provisional medical marijuana licenses in the state have been approved to start testing. Hocking College is expected to begin testing soon. Ms. Zweizig stated that patients are now able to go to walk-in centers to see physicians with whom they do not have an ongoing relationship, to receive a recommendation for medical marijuana. Mayor Rausch asked who allowed this change. Ms. Zweizig stated that the ruling had been allowed by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee, which was set to remain intact for one year, then disbanded. Mr. Berbee asked for an example of a type of condition that would allow a person to be medically treated with medical marijuana. Ms. Zweizig stated that Alzheimer's, epilepsy, and chronic pain were examples. He then asked if this would impose a change in hiring at the City, to which was responded that Human Resources had already made sure was properly addressed, per policy. The topic of medical marijuana was discussed at length and Council thanked Ms. Zweizig for the update, as the House 2 Bill was ever-evolving.

RESOLUTIONS: None

ORDINANCES:

2nd Reading TO AMEND THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARY OF THE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR
Public Hearing REFRESHMENT AREA

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS: Mr. Aslaner stated that in order to give proper notification to citizens, if the map of the DORA attached to the legislation was to be amended that evening, the Third Reading would need to be tabled until the Council Meeting on January 28th, 2019.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mrs. Richardson moved to amend the legislation by changing Exhibit B, and the question put, stood:

Mr. Rausch YES; Mr. Seymour YES; Mr. Reams YES; Mr. Berbee YES;
Mr. Taylor YES; Mrs. Groat YES; Mrs. Richardson YES.

Mrs. Richardson moved to table third reading, title only to date certain, January 28th, 2019, and the question put, stood:

Mr. Seymour YES; Mr. Reams YES; Mr. Berbee YES; Mr. Taylor YES;
Mrs. Groat YES; Mrs. Richardson YES; Mr. Rausch Yes.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL PERSONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Emery thanked all of City Council for a wonderful 2018 and gave a special thank you and well wishes to Councilwoman Richardson from Administration & Staff. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Mrs. Groat announced the Ward 3 meeting would be on January 8th, 2019 at 6:30 at the Marysville Public Library in meeting room B. She also expressed her gratitude to Councilwoman Richardson for her years of service on City Council and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Seymour echoed Mrs. Groat's sentiments, stating it had been delightful working with Mrs. Richardson while serving on City Council. He then wished everyone safe holidays.

Mr. Reams told Mrs. Richardson that it had been great working with her over the last nine years and wished her luck.

Mr. Berbee stated that he and Mrs. Richardson had been Council “newbies” when they began serving nine years ago. He stated that he was all that had been accomplished over those nine years and stated that those who reside in Marysville truly have a reason to be proud. Mr. Berbee then wished everyone safe holidays.

Mr. Taylor thanked those on the Exterior Property Maintenance Commission for their efforts in regards to the Lights, Sights & Holiday Nights Program, as it was nice to appreciate those who make the effort to beautify the City. He also stated that as there were openings on a few Boards & Commissions, it was possible that some of those applying for the upcoming Council Ward 1 vacancy, could also be a good fit for the other open Board & Commission positions. Mr. Taylor told Mrs. Richardson to “break a leg” in her “next dance.” Finally, he encouraged everyone to shop locally for the holidays, to have a peaceful time with their family and friends, and to remember the real Reason for the season.

Mayor Rausch addressed Mrs. Richardson, stating it had been a pleasure and honor serving with her on City Council. He stated that being on “Team Marysville” was truly a team sport, as they were able to disagree at times and move on. He told Mrs. Richardson that her professionalism while debating would serve well at the State level. Mayor Rausch wished her well and said she would be missed.

Mrs. Richardson gave the following speech:

“Did you know...my last day as a City Councilwoman is December 31st? I am sad to be leaving and yet also excited about new opportunities to serve us from the Statehouse. When we come to the end of a terrific and meaningful experience, we tend to reflect upon how it began. I’d like to share a few thoughts and memories with you that began 9 years ago. I chose to run for City Council after much prayer and the encouragement of my husband who said, “The City needs you, you should run”. Knowing very little about the Council and what they did, I began attending meetings. This is how I met the President, Mr. John Gore...no John, you aren’t here but I’m pretty sure you would be very happy to know you are being remembered...LOL. I chose to submit my resume and threw my name into the hat to be selected to fill the unexpired term of John Marshall. At that interview, I remember meeting our dear Connie Patterson for the first time and answering many questions. The Council went into executive session 4 times before selecting another candidate...oh well...I figured it wasn’t God’s timing for me to serve, and wished the newly selected individual all the best. I didn’t know then that we weren’t over, we were just beginning. Deb, believe it or not, it was something you said at the end of my interview that had me thinking I needed to look for a way to serve in another capacity even though I wasn’t selected. Fast forward from the interview a few months later and I decided to collect signatures and run for Councilwoman. I chose to run because I hoped to be able to make a difference for our community! One of my first responsibilities as a Councilwoman was to meet with the Council President and to tour the city facilities. Henk and I started together and thus began my relationship with a very special Councilman and friend. We looked at the age of the water treatment facility and both of us marveled at how it was still purifying our water after so many years. I knew back then that the community had elected a hardworking, successful and caring gentleman in Henk to lead us. I think we will all agree that hasn’t changed. During the tour Henk and I also saw our new sewer treatment facility and knowing who we are, you won’t

be surprised that our conversation focused on the enormity and COST of that state of the art facility. We marveled too at how it cleans the water so well that we could actually drink former sewer water! I was particularly interested because the single greatest concern I heard from residents while I was going door to door was the frustration with the cost of water and sewer. Thus began my passion for doing what I could to keep those costs from climbing and to educating myself and the public about why the costs were so high. I'm happy to say that many of you in this room have done a great deal of work over the years to be attentive to this concern. Because of your work, we have allowed only minimal and essential increases in the last 9 years and I know you will continue to make sure you do everything possible to keep us from having to raise the rates again.....thank you, thank you! I can assure you that our public thanks you too!

I couldn't talk to you about my time as a Councilwoman without discussing the reintroduction of our invocation. Some of you may remember the 3-4 month deliberation on this topic. The question was whether we should or should not have this added to our Council Meeting Agenda. I sited examples of how others had done this in their chambers...including our Federal and State legislative bodies while others voiced concerns about who's God we would be invoking and whether there should be a separation of church and state. I remember this experience well because it taught me many things...the most significant was the need to be well thought and thoroughly researched when introducing a subject. Also important was the value of being part of a civil, professional and comprehensively vetted topic, which after much deliberation, was voted upon. We had executed democracy at its best and I'm grateful to have learned a tremendous amount in the process. As for the invocation itself, I believe we have seen its fruits in the success of our City over the last 8 years. When I began on Council, we were looking at significant debt, economic growth was almost at a standstill and we were projected to be eliminating staff members and cutting costs. In fact, we had made changes to the staff to address funding challenges but were looking at even more significant reductions. Today we are looking at upwards of 6 million in reserve funds and we have actually grown our staff significantly! In addition, our community is benefitting from beautiful newer facilities including the General Decker Fire Station, the Police and Municipal Court...complete with a firing range for onsite training...right Chief Golden; this City Hall and Partners Park. Oh the many meetings, the planning and the conversations we had back then about all of these projects...and oh, how great they turned out to be! Our local events have grown too and are creating a strong sense of community spirit that is spectacular.

Another topic we have all worked on is the subject of addressing and preventing drug and substance abuse in our community. Our collective decision to zone out Medical Marijuana dispensaries was important and will need to be monitored in the years to come. You've patiently listened to me time and time again talk about concerns for keeping our community safe and I implore you all to please "Keep Talking" even after I leave. On the topic of Safety, I've always been grateful for the support of the entire staff when it comes to our Annual Neighborhood Safety walk in Mill Valley!! You have come out with enthusiasm and that has made an impact for sure! I'll never forget one of the first events I attended as a Councilwoman...at the end of the walk, we gathered for a group photo and in an attempt to get us all into the photo, I blurted, come on everyone, make your buddy smile. Someone responded, now we know she is Army...because that is a phrase commonly used in the military. I realized at that moment that I really did feel a kindred connection to our fire

fighters and law enforcement and once again...thank you guys and gals for all you do to keep us protected and safe!

There are so very many people I would like to thank for allowing me this privilege to serve our great City and for being devoted public servants. The list is too long for what should be brief comments but I would be remiss if I didn't talk about all of you in this room and the many other members of the City Staff that tireless work on behalf of our community. You are all fantastic! Terry, you are leading and developing a professional, extremely competent and dedicated group of individuals. You give them direction and they run with things... that is teamwork! I've watched our seamless transition to the new form of government and can attribute a large part of the success to you. I've also appreciated your candor and willingness to always listen. I know our City is in the best of hands under your management and in large part that has helped me to take a leap into a new position and leave this Council that I've been fortunate to be a part of.

Mike and Jeremy, I want to single you out in particular because my responsibility as Public Services Committee Chairperson has offered me the insight of knowing how much you do... public service is the largest department and I can say with confidence that you keeping our City humming. The improvements to parks, roads and bridges are countless and you ensure quality of life for our residents. Keep up the hard work and many thanks!!

As I close, I'm reminded of the Army tradition that says, "No person should be indispensable" and that is for a good reason. A soldier in combat is never safe and therefore someone must always be able to step up and lead as a replacement. I know I am truly dispensable and that this City is in very competent hands under all of your leadership. JR, Nevin, Henk, Mark, Deb, and Alan, I could roast each of you for the individual experiences and perspectives you bring to this Council but for now, I'll single out just two. Mark you are the most independent minded of us all. I'm glad I wasn't the only one who could see things differently and also that I didn't always agree with you...but mainly I'm glad you brought great ideas and years of historical reference and experience to Council each meeting. J.R., you are always amenable and approachable on any subject and I've genuinely enjoyed brainstorming issues and working with you!! I'm grateful you've been working so hard for all of us! Nevin, Deb, Alan, of course Henk, I've grown to respect and appreciate each of you... I sincerely wish you all the very best in keeping our extremely successful momentum moving forward. I also hope selecting my replacement will go smoothly. You have wonderful candidates to choose from. My advice to the next person who will sit in this chair is to look for the best qualities and talents of each member in this room and to always remember who you work on behalf...the wonderful residents of Marysville. Be passionate about the pursuit of doing positive things for our community and enjoy your experience...the years will fly by! I've been extremely honored and blessed to be a part of a legacy of leaders who have done their best to make and keep Marysville a truly special place to live, work and to raise a family... please continue to pursue that vision and know I will be doing my part for all of us from the Ohio Statehouse! While I am actually leaving this seat, I look to my new responsibilities at the Statehouse as an extension of this chair. I'll be serving us from a different location and with a different team of leaders but the goal will be as always, to make a difference for our community. Mr. President, for the last time, 'that's all I've got'...thank you!"

Mayor Rausch presented Councilwoman Richardson with the following Commendation:

In Honor and Appreciation of Tracy Richardson, December 17, 2018

WHEREAS: Tracy Richardson, is a resident of Marysville, Ohio who cares deeply for our community; and

WHEREAS: Tracy has served in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Marysville, Ohio with untiring dedication as a City Councilwoman since 2010; and

WHEREAS: Her community involvement includes, but not limited to, the Union County Drug Free Coalition, Team Marysville, & Mill Valley Neighborhood Watch Safety Team. Tracy actively supports her local schools, is a dedicated member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, and serves in the U.S. Army Reserves.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J.R. Rausch, Mayor of the City of Marysville, on behalf of a grateful community, want to take this opportunity to commend Tracy Richardson for her dedication and integrity demonstrated as City Councilwoman and her devotion to the citizens of Marysville. It has been a pleasure working with Tracy over the past nine years.

Please join me in thanking Tracy for the services she has provided to our community and wishing her well in her future endeavors.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.