

Council met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:59 P.M. in the Council Chambers with President Greer presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by President Greer. The Invocation was given by President Greer.

The Clerk called the roll: Members present: President Greer, Mr. Heitic, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Hager, Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Beck, Ms. Gearhart, Mr. Harris.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Legislative Meeting held on Monday, February 26, 2024 as presented. No remarks made. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND CLAIMS

There were none.

MATTERS REFERRED

Each Council Member, the Mayor, the Safety and Service Directors were given a report prepared by the Council Clerk listing all matters before all committees with their packets.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING COUNCIL

There were none.

The following Minutes are not transcribed verbatim. This meeting has been digitally recorded in its entirety and is available in the Clerk of Council’s office.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 21-2024

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT DIRECT
INDICTMENT PROGRAM AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE TO PAY AN INVOICE TO THE DIRECT INDICTMENT PROGRAM OF SUMMIT
COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 21-2024 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 22-2024

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE: 2024 RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION PROGRAM
ENTER INTO CONTRACT – BUTCHER & SON
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH
BUTCHER & SON EXCAVATING, INC., THE LOWEST AND/OR BEST BIDDER, FOR THE 2024
RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 22-2024 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-2024

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT
ROETZEL CONSULTING SOLUTIONS AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO PAY AN INVOICE TOTALING \$3,333.33 TO ROETZEL
CONSULTING SOLUTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 23-2024 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-2024

PRESENTED BY MRS. GEARHART TITLE: CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
AMENDMENT AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BARBERTON TO APPROVE THE AMENDED FY2019 AND FY2023 COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (AAP), AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Gearhart, seconded by Mrs. Beck, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Gearhart, seconded by Mrs. Beck, that **ORDINANCE NO. 24-2024 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2024

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: COMMENDATION – VARSITY BOYS
BASKETBALL TEAM A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BARBERTON TO HONOR AND GIVE PUBLIC RECOGNITION TO THE 2023-2024 VARSITY
BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACHES FOR THEIR EXCELLENT 19-2 SEASON.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **RESOLUTION NO. 25-2024 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

This Ended the First Readings

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 14-2024

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: 2024 OPERATING AND CAPITAL
BUDGET AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE
CITY OF BARBERTON FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND PROVIDING
FOR THE ADMINISTRATION THEREOF, AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY AS
AMENDED FEBRUARY 26, 2024 IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AS AMENDED
FEBRUARY 26, 2024.

This ordinance was amended in the Finance Committee to reflect changes in the Storm Water Management portion of the Enterprise Funds.

This is the Second reading. This will go for three (3) readings. The first reading was on Monday, February 26, 2024, the third and final reading will be on Monday, March 25, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 15–2024

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 73-2022
EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND PAY GRADES FOR NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEES
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 73-2022, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

This is the Second reading. The First Reading was on February 26, 2024.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **RESOLUTION NO. 15-2024 BE ADOPTED.** No remarks were made. The Clerk called the roll. Members Mrs. Beck, Mr. Cheatham, Mr. Heitic, Mrs. Hager, and Mr. Griffin voting “Aye.” Mr. Harris, Ms. Gearhart, and Mrs. Thompson voted “Nay.” Motion failed.

This ended the Second Readings

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

APPOINTMENTS

There were none.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Harris stated his opinions in regards to the budget presentations listing the amounts presented and his opinions on other sources. He stated that it all comes down to need vs wants.

Mr. Heitic stated he agrees with some of Mr. Harris’s points but disagrees with some also. The main point he disagrees with is in regards to the money to be spent on the new Municipal Building. Mr. Heitic clarified the funding with Mr. Flaker regarding the funds being held for projects stated.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BODY

No comments were made.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor began by requesting any budget questions Councilpersons might have to be emailed to him and he will get the answers. The Mayor went on to explain that the number of phone calls that come into his office on numerous topics is staggering. Insite helps not only to work with citizens as a resource but they also act as a lobbying group on the state and national levels. Along with this the Mayor also gave information on the benefits of contracting a consulting group as apposed to hiring one employee. The Mayor further explained the need for economic development groups and their benefit to the economy and future of the city. We have come a long way and there are many positive things happening in the future.

The next Change for Change will be on Friday, March 22nd at the Civitan Club benefiting the Barberton Band Boosters. To date this administration has raised over \$90,000.00 for Barberton non-profits with these types of fundraising events. The Mayor wanted to thank all that have contributed, attended or has been a part of these fundraising efforts.

The Mayor followed up on the questions regarding the purple martin homes in the local parks and wetlands around the city. He gave the locations of the previous and future wetland sites for these homes. The City is looking for natural solutions to the growing insect problems. Due to the milder winters, the mosquito and tick populations are growing.

The Mayor is having his “Open Office Hours” this Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at the Active Adult Center.

Mayor stated that he was honored to present a Proclamation and wanted to publicly acknowledge and congratulate Mrs. Regina Genet as she turns 100 years old. This is the tenth proclamation he has given to a citizen for this incredible milestone and he has two more to be issued soon. He stated it is such an honor to sit and talk with these citizens who have seen and experienced so much.

The Mayor wanted to announce some grants that the City has been awarded recently. The first is a Transportation Infrastructure Grant (TIG) for \$350,000.00 for the Newell Street project as we are working on the foundations of that street. The second is also a TIG grant \$500,000.00 grant for the work being done on Wooster Road West. Even though these projects are already in process we are still applying for funding to lessen the burden on our citizens. He also stated that he heard back from Congresswoman Emilia Sykes’s office that we received \$1,000,000.00 that she pushed for through her office for Lake Anna Park through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024. This totals \$2,000,000.00 we have received in grants for Lake Anna Park.

The Mayor wanted to congratulate the Barberton City Schools for being awarded a Career Technical Equipment Grant by the State Ohio for \$1,400,000.00. This will be used for replacing outdated equipment at the schools. Barberton Schools do a great job.

The State of the City Address will be held on April 10th at the Barberton High School Auditorium.

And finally, Happy Saint Patrick’s day to everyone.

With nothing further, it was moved by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mrs. Hager to adjourn. All Members present voting “Aye” and none apposed.

Meeting Adjourned 8:26 P.M.

Justin Greer
President of Council

Laura J. Ries-Price
Clerk of Council