

President Steve Henderson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on January 21, 2019 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Jim Neumeier, Daniel E. Lee, Bonnie Wurst, Chad Doll, Rodney Metz, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Law Director Dennis Faller, Mayor Tom Stinebaugh, Safety Service Director Floyd Gregg and Auditor Wilbur Wells were also present. There was 1 visitor present.

Motion by Metz, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 Council Meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Tourism Committee – a Mr. Lee summarized a meeting held on 01-21-2019, noting that an application was received for the placement of 5 new signs to be installed at the entrances to the City, announcing that Wapakoneta is the hometown of Neil Armstrong. Motion by Lee, second by Doll to approve the purchase of 5 signs indicating the hometown of Neil Armstrong and placed at each main entrance to Wapakoneta, with a budget not to exceed \$17,500. Mayor Stinebaugh passed around a sample material, and explained the signs will be approximately 2' by 3' and ¼" aluminum. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on January 16, 2019 and the following was discussed:

1. Vacate John Street – the request by David Armer is to vacate the unimproved portion of John Street from Blackhoof St. to Wheeler Lane. The remainder of John Street is already vacated. Mailings were sent to adjacent land owners, and there were no objections. Motion by Neumeier, 2nd by Wurst to recommend to Council that legislation be prepared for this. Approved 2-0
2. Access to Van Buren for building a house – Kelly Peterman owns property and has submitted plans to build on this property that fronts the unimproved portion of Van Buren north of the current cul-de-sac. Ruck presented a previous agreement for a gravel driveway near this property. Motion by Neumeier, 2nd by Wurst to allow construction of a gravel driveway to connect to the paved portion of Van Buren. This is to be allowed until the city would need to pave more of Van Buren. Ruck will prepare an appropriate agreement for the property owner. Approved 2-0
3. Vacate Geisel Street – this is unimproved, but shows on some GPS systems. There has been no written request to do this. Ruck will work on how to proceed with this.
4. No parking signs on W. Auglaize and on S. Pine – need ask DDS Gregg about these.
5. Parking on tree lawns – Ruck reports that there is no city code to forbid this, but this is not included in permitted uses, so believes this should not be allowed.
6. Bike racks and/or Share the Road signs – no action was taken. There are State designated bike routes through town, but this is not marked.
7. Alley at library – the intersection at the corner of the church can be dangerous! Can there be a mirror or at least signs?
8. Ruck presented a short list of planned street improvements for 2019 and cost estimates. She will provide a more accurate list when it is completed and hopes to put out bids in May.

Mayor Stinebaugh noted that 'caution' signs will be placed on the alleyway by the library. Mr. Campbell asked Law Director Faller if the City is liable for incidents at said alley. Mr. Faller stated that alleyways should be treated like a four-way stop. Mrs. Wurst asked if the City ought to put the caution signs up at all. Mr. Faller stated that in his opinion, the signage at said location should be stop signs or no signage at all. Mayor Stinebaugh added that the signage he would like to put up at the library alleyway say 'Watch for Children'. Mr. Faller replied that this is appropriate signage. Mrs. Wurst replied that this is up to City Administration. Mr. Neumeier asked if the small building located near this alleyway is legal. Mayor Stinebaugh replied that the building is situated on the property line, and may or may not be encroaching. Mrs. Wurst then asked for an update on the 'no parking' signage for West Auglaize Street. Mayor Stinebaugh replied that the property line in said area goes to the middle of the roadway, and without an easement agreement the City cannot place signage or enforce parking rules on private property. Mr.

Faller stated that this should not matter, as it is subject to the road right-of-way. Mayor Stinebaugh agreed to speak with the affected property owner about the matter.
Mrs. Wurst asked if any action has been taken on South Pine Street. Mayor Stinebaugh answered, no.

New Business –

Motion by Wurst, second by Metz for legislation to be prepared to approve the vacation of the unimproved section of John Street. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Doll, second by Wurst to have Ordinance 2019-07 brought to the floor. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-01 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN MATERIALS, SERVICES, AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-02 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DUCHOUQUET TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Mr. Neumeier asked if the rates are the same as last year. Mayor Stinebaugh answered, yes, with no built-in increases.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-03 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS.

Mr. Doll noted that the labeled sections in Ord 2019-03 and Ord 2019-04 need corrected. Mr. Doll also noted that he emailed Council and Administration his findings on salary details of surrounding cities' officials, and passed out proposed amendments for both ordinances.

Mr. Doll made a motion, seconded by Dunlap to amend Ordinance 2019 – 03 as follows:

For the Mayor (Section Three)

Beginning January 1, 2020, the compensation for the office of Mayor of Wapakoneta shall be \$28,000 per year. The holder of the office shall also be eligible for insurance benefits as provided by the city to its employees.

The mayor is required to fulfill the duties and expectations described in other sections of the codified ordinances of Wapakoneta and the Ohio Revised Code.

The mayor will document an average of at least twenty (20) hours of city-related time and work per full week and report this activity to council each month. Activities meeting this requirement may include (but are not necessarily limited to) time spent in the city hall office, meetings such as city council or WAEDC, phone conversations related to city business, trips relating to city business, and other possible activities.

The mayor may request a reduction of the time requirement for purposes such as medical leave or vacation. Request to approve by a majority vote of council.

If the required average amount of time is not met and is not documented for a month, City Council may impose a loss of pay penalty of up to \$500 for the month in question. A majority vote of council is required for imposing the penalty.

For the Law Director (Section Four)

Change proposed salary from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

(Our position offers no assistants. It has also been suggested we pursue more prosecutions of code violations which takes time.)

Mr. Faller noted that the City of Wapakoneta's Law Director position is unique because Auglaize County has its own Municipal Court, therefore the only cases he is required to handle are citations for the City's codified ordinances.

Mr. Lee asked that the portion of Mr. Doll's proposed amendment reading "For the Law Director (Section Four), Changed proposed salary from \$30,000 to \$40,000" be clarified to read: "Changed proposed salary to \$40,000". Mr. Doll and Mrs. Wurst explained that the revised ordinance will just read "\$40,000", but the amendment must remain as written to indicate the change. Mr. Neumeier asked if Ordinance 2019-03 will be revised or rewritten. Mr. Doll stated, yes. Mr. Neumeier asked if Council is being asked to vote on Ord

2019-03 now. Mr. Doll answered that he is making a motion about the amendment, and the revised Ordinance will be voted on later. Mr. Neumeier voiced concern that said amendment seems to indicate that Council would be the Mayor's supervisor. Mrs. Wurst asked whom will keep track of the 20 hours that the Mayor is required to work. Mr. Doll and Mr. Campbell answered that other municipalities rely on the 'honor system' with regards to this. Mr. Lee stated that he would like this section of the amendment omitted, as the Mayor serves the citizens and they decide the quality of his or her work with their vote.

Mr. Doll then revised his original motion to: *For the Mayor (Section Three)*

Beginning January 1, 2020, the compensation for the office of Mayor of Wapakoneta shall be \$28,000 per year. The holder of the office shall also be eligible for insurance benefits as provided by the city to its employees.

For the Law Director (Section Four)

Change proposed salary from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

(Our position offers no assistants. It has also been suggested we pursue more prosecutions of code violations which takes time.)

Mr. Lee seconded this revised motion. Mrs. Wurst noted that Finance Committee had discussed phasing in the Mayor's salary increase in segments, rather than doubling his income immediately. Mr. Neumeier noted that he is concerned about the message Council is sending the constituents if they decide to more than double the Mayor's salary. Mr. Doll stated that the Mayor's position has changed in many ways over the recent years, and that it is time for Council to look at this job differently. Mr. Lee asked if Finance Committee was comfortable with this figure. Mrs. Wurst advised that the Finance Committee were not comfortable with the figure because it was not budgeted, and the committee was concerned about the citizens' perception on the matter. Mr. Doll added that the salary for the Safety Service Director has been significantly lowered, as many of the duties have been shifted to the Mayor. Mr. Lee explained that he is in favor of the significant increase to the Mayor's salary because the expectations of the person in said position have changed, and because the increase in job duties does not come in stages. Mr. Neumeier asked what the dollar amount is for including insurance for the Mayor's position. Mr. Doll answered, \$15,886 for a family. President Henderson then called for a vote on the revised motion. Vote – 4 yeas, 3 nays (Neumeier, Wurst, Metz). Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-04 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SALARY FOR THE POSITION OF COUNCIL CLERK.

Mr. Doll made a motion, seconded by Lee to amend Ordinance 2019 – 04 as follows:

For the Clerk of Council, add to the proposal:

Retroactive to January 1, 2019, an annual stipend of \$250 shall be paid to the clerk of council if she or he has attained documented clerk certification from the State of Ohio.

Mr. Doll noted the salaries for area clerks, adding that in his research of surrounding communities, most Clerks of Council do not have certification, except for one nearby city, in which it is a job requirement. Clerk McDonald added that she worked very hard to obtain this certification, and in doing so is recognized by the State of Ohio to be qualified to work as Clerk anywhere in the State. Vote on the amendment for Ord 2019-04 – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-05 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1024, ENTITLED "EXCAVATIONS", OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

Service Director Gregg explained that this ordinance requires a permit from the City before one can make road cuts or openings.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-06 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF A PORTION OF BELLEFONTAINE STREET IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Stinebaugh stated that ODOT would like to get started on the signage immediately. Motion by Metz, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2019-06 with corrections made to the section headings. Mr. Neumeier voiced concern that no mention will be made of Bellefontaine Street when one is traveling on I-75. Mrs. Wurst agreed. Mayor Stinebaugh advised that there will be signage at the top of the exit ramps to indicate that Bellefontaine Street is to the right or left of the bridge. Mayor Stinebaugh stated that the size of the interstate signage does not accommodate both street names. Mrs. Wurst stated

that the change is confusing for those coming from out of town because the section being renamed is not a street, but rather, a bridge. Vote to suspend the rules on Ord 2019-06 – 6 yeas, 1 nay (Wurst). Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2019-06. Vote – 6 yeas, 1 nay (Wurst). Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2019-07 for the first time re: ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Neumeier asked Auditor Wells if this is the same ordinance or if significant changes were made. Mr. Wells stated it is the same ordinance, with the contingency line updated.

Motion by Doll, second by Lee to suspend the rules on Ord 2019-07. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Campbell, second by Doll to adopt Ord 2019-07. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Auditor Wilbur Wells then addressed Council to advise that he & Service Director Gregg would like to refinance the 2006 sewer loan in order to obtain a lower interest rate. This would be the only change, and would save the City approximately \$50,000 per year. Additionally, the saved money will stay in the sewer fund. Mr. Campbell asked for the change in interest rate. Mr. Wells advised it would go from 4% to 3.2%. Motion by Lee, second by Metz to approve this request. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report:

Jan. 07 Met with Jaime Metzger at her business next to the Koneta Inn

Jan. 08 Participated in Tree Commission Meeting

Jan. 08 Met with Tom Mignery from Burgess & Niple concerning Wastewater Solutions

Jan. 09 Participated in weekly conference call with Pratt to discuss project

Jan. 09 Participated WAEDC Monthly Board Meeting

Jan. 09 Met with citizen interested in volunteering for committees

Jan. 10 Listened in on Prairie St. phone conference discussing bonds

Jan. 10 Participated in phone conference with Vorys attorneys on Wastewater issues

Jan. 11 Met with Marlene Graf to discuss Lodging Tax opportunities

Jan. 14 Met with Harry Phillips from AMP to discuss projects

Jan. 14 Attended St. Mary's City Council Meeting

Jan. 15 Met with Cory Echols from Rahrig Pacific to discuss trash carts

Jan. 15 Participated in Aug. County Solid Waste Policy Committee Meeting

Jan. 16 Met with Tate Anderson from Pratt to discuss the project

Jan. 16 Met at Pratt Papermill to tour site and discuss issues

Jan. 17 Met with Chad Doll concerning wayfinding signs and other signage

Jan. 18 Met with Wes Farno from Blue Line Solutions to discuss revenue enhancement for the City

Jan. 18 Met with Craig Reidel for coffee to discuss regional

Jan. 18 Participated in meeting with Craig Reidel, Susan Manchester and Rob McCulley to discuss funding for beautification projects in the City, at the Museum and the Neil Armstrong Airport

Jan. 18 Met with Greg Myers to discuss Economic Development issues

Jan. 18 Spoke with Tate Anderson with Pratt to discuss outstanding issues

Mayor Stinebaugh read a list of streets that will be worked on in the upcoming year. Mr. Campbell asked that Council receive a copy of this revised list. Mayor Stinebaugh stated that Commerce Drive may be added to this list as well.

Mr. Campbell asked how many engineers Mayor Stinebaugh has spoken with regarding a possible position with the City. Mayor Stinebaugh answered, two.

Mr. Campbell asked about Mayor Stinebaugh attending a St. Marys Council meeting. Mayor Stinebaugh noted it was their 'State of the City' address.

Service Director report:

No report.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the South Pine Street property transfer. Law Director Faller noted that the survey indicates someone else owns the property. President Henderson asked City Administration to investigate further in order to move forward.

Mr. Campbell asked if there are any updates regarding the Easttown Middle flood plain. Mr. Gregg replied, no.

Mr. Campbell asked if the 'punch-list' has been returned for Rolling Acres. Mr. Gregg replied, no.

Mr. Metz advised that the Easttown Middle property will be sold soon, per his discussion with the Eisert family.

Law Director report:

No report.

Scheduling of Committee Meetings:

Tourism Commission is scheduled to meet Feb. 18th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

President Henderson advised that several downtown business owners are noting difficulty obtaining a parking spot near the Post Office during business hours. President Henderson suggested 15 minute parking for three spots in front of the post office during business hours, and put the matter into the Streets & Alleys Committee. Mr. Faller indicated that new legislation will be needed for this.

Motion by Doll, second by Campbell to adjourn at 8:53pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

President

Clerk of Council