

President Steve Henderson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on January 3, 2017 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Jim Neumeier, Daniel E. Lee, Bonnie Wurst, Chad Doll, Randy Fisher and Rachel Barber. Law Director Dennis Faller, Service Director Chad Scott and Mayor Tom Stinebaugh were also present. There were 3 visitors present. Dan Graf was absent.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 12-31-2016.

Motion by Barber, second by Lee to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Council Meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Fisher, second by Doll to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2016 Public Hearing as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ms. Barber asked Clerk to correct the spelling of guest petitioner's name: Linda Knerr.

Motion by Fisher, second by Doll to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2016 Special Meeting as corrected. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2016-48 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1292.14 (c) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO, REGARDING MATERIALS FOR FENCES, WALLS AND HEDGES.

Motion by Doll, second by Lee to adopt Ord 2016-48. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Res 2016-49R for the third time re: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX ON INCOME AT THE RATE OF ONE-HALF PERCENT IN ADDITION TO THE ONE PERCENT CURRENTLY BEING LEVIED AND COLLECTED AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Neumeier, second by Lee to adopt Res 2016-49R. Mr. Neumeier asked Mr. Faller to explain the procedure once the resolution is voted on by Council. Law Director Faller stated that upon filing the resolution with the Board of Elections, he will inquire about the proper wording of the issue for the ballot. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2016-50 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO SIGN THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTRIC SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND GOLDEN FRESH FARMS ENTERPRISES L.P.; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Lee, second by Doll to adopt Ord 2016-50. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ms. Micah Pease of 9 Court Street then addressed Council regarding her concern of possibly losing two linden trees located towards the front of her property due to the City recently removing ash trees in the tree lawn. Ms. Barber added that Council and citizens were not made aware that the City had decided to no longer treat ash trees and rather, to remove them. Mayor Stinebaugh stated that the Tree Commission has discussed this issue, and the City is marking utilities to investigate possibly burying the lines that are drooping in the area of said linden trees.

Ms. Beth Brookheart of 8 Court Street addressed Council, stating that she notified the City on three occasions about the drooping lines and leaning pole, but nothing had been done to remedy it.

Mayor Stinebaugh added that a certified arborist recommended that the City discontinue treating the ash trees, as they will likely die anyway. Mayor Stinebaugh stated that all of the City's ash trees will eventually be removed, starting with those that are a hazard or a nuisance. Mayor Stinebaugh apologized for the initial misidentification of the Pease's linden trees. Service Director Scott noted that there are many underground utilities in said area, and reminded Council and Ms. Pease that boring may or may not be a possibility in this situation. Mr. Fisher asked if the linden trees in question will be replaced by the City if they must be removed. Mayor Stinebaugh answered, yes. Ms. Barber asked if all of the City's ash trees will be replaced. Mayor Stinebaugh stated that he cannot promise this. Ms. Pease added that she was

told by City employee Levi Cecil that the two ash trees that were removed along her property will be replaced. Service Director Scott reminded Council that the ash trees that were removed were on the City's property, not on private property. Ms. Barber stated that citizens still should have been notified of the plan to remove them. Mr. Neumeier asked about the plan for ash trees that are on private property. Mayor Stinebaugh stated that the City will no longer be treating ash trees, and that citizens may choose to continue treatment on private property ash trees if they so wish. Mrs. Wurst added that the City's treatment of ash trees was initially done to prolong their life, with little hope of saving them. Service Director Scott summarized that the City will be straightening the pole near Ms. Pease's home, will investigate the locations of underground utilities, and then contact Ms. Pease. Ms. Brookheart asked if there will be a cost to the property owners for burying the lines. Mayor Stinebaugh replied, yes, \$300 for trenching. Ms. Brookheart asked if the boring will do damage to the linden trees. Service Director Scott stated that this is a possibility.

The Mayor gave the following report:

Dec. 5,	Participated in the Council Meeting
Dec. 6,	Participated in Tree Commission meeting
Dec. 6,	Participated in WAEDC monthly meeting
Dec. 8,	Attended the OMEA monthly meeting and Christmas party
Dec. 12,	Participated in the "committee as a whole meeting"
Dec. 16,	Participated in the WAEDC budget meeting
Dec. 19,	Participated in the Tourism Committee meeting
Dec. 19,	Participated in the Council Meeting
Dec. 20,	Participated in the EDLF meeting
Dec. 22,	Met with Chief Hunlock concerning his proposed Rapid Response Team
Dec. 28,	Inspected all city Ash trees with Levi Cecil
Dec. 28,	Participated in "Special Council meeting"
Dec. 29,	Met with homeowners on Court St. concerning street trees
Dec. 30,	Met with Tom Wehrhann for end of year, new year story

Don Kachelries has resigned from the Tree Commission as of January 1, 2017.

Mayor Stinebaugh asked Council about creating an Income Tax Levy Committee. Mr. Neumeier stated he has a few citizens in mind for this task. Mr. Doll added that City Administration ought to organize this.

Ms. Barber asked for the status of obtaining the \$281,000 of utilities receipts. Law Director Faller stated that he does not have an update, but noted that he may not be able to pursue this matter due to his being Law Director at the time of said error. Mr. Faller added that the statute of limitations also needs to be considered.

Ms. Barber asked for the current timetable for the Riverscape project work. Mayor Stinebaugh answered, 2019 or later. Mr. Scott and Mr. Doll added that the environmental study is the item holding up the project, and there is no way to speed this up. Mr. Fisher asked that Council receive more notice about scheduled Riverscape Project meetings. Mr. Scott replied that the meeting has been scheduled for a month.

The Service Director gave the following report:

No report.

Mr. Fisher asked for the status of Meril Simpson's replacement. Mr. Scott advised that Bill Thomas has accepted this position.

Mr. Neumeier asked if Mr. Scott is available to Council via phone after work hours. Mr. Scott replied, yes, and is willing to provide this number to Council.

Mrs. Wurst pointed out errors with regards to the Volunteer Firefighter Dependents Fund on the 2017 Committee Assignments sheet distributed to Council. Clerk McDonald and Mayor Stinebaugh will correct this.

The Law Director gave the following report:

No report.

Ms. Barber asked President Henderson to assign to a committee the matter of creating City legislation regarding ODOT specifications during a street construction project. President Henderson assigned this to the Streets and Alleys Committee. President Henderson then assigned the matter of tree replacements to the Lands and Buildings Committee.

SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS:

Tourism Commission will meet at City Hall on January 16th at 6:15pm.

Ms. Barber asked if the request for new chairs for the swimming pool will be on the Tourism Commission agenda. Mr. Lee replied, yes.

Miscellaneous Business –

Mr. Doll reminded Council that items for the newsletter must be submitted to him by next week.

Ms. Barber stated that she recently met the first guest workers for Golden Fresh Farms and asked that Council and the community welcome them.

Motion by Doll, second by Lee to enter into executive session at 8:15pm, to consider confidential information related to economic development and inviting City Administration. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion by Fisher, second by Lee to exit executive session at 8:36pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion by Fisher, second by Lee to adjourn at 8:36pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays.

President

Clerk of Council