

President Steve Henderson called the online meeting to order at 7:40pm on February 15, 2021 with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Daniel E. Lee, Brandon Miller, Chad Doll, John Sheipline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Thomas Stinebaugh, Law Director Grant Neal and Safety Service Director Floyd Gregg were also present online.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 online Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Lee stated that the Lodging Tax Committee did not meet.

Streets & Alleys Committee Meeting – a meeting was held on 02-03-2021 and the following was discussed: Spending of the half percent income tax set in place for street improvements
Mayor Stinebaugh has asked for a Streets and Alleys Committee meeting to address questions of how the money collected is being spent. Three residents were in attendance that were questioning if the money being spent on full depth reconstruction was coming from the .05% income tax. They had interpreted it to be for grinding and paving existing asphalt streets and replacement of curbs and gutters, along with base stabilization of existing streets. The residents felt that if the money was being spent on Perry Street and a portion of West Benton, that it was not being spent on projects that it was originally intended for. The mayor said the money from the half percent was only being spent on the paving and curb and gutter portion of the projects and all the infrastructure costs come from other funds. He also stated that the City is putting an additional \$600,000 in to the Street fund, which could be used to pay for the asphalt and curbs and gutters. A copy of the 2021 budget for where .05% is being spent was requested, as well as a copy of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 and how much of that money was spent on grind and pave projects.

Mr. Doll noted that the Perry Street project was paid for with Issue 1 state monies.

Mr. Campbell asked if Mr. James Neumeier received the additional documents he requested at the Streets & Alleys meeting. Service Director Gregg replied, not yet.

Health & Safety Committee Meeting – a meeting was held on 02-03-2021 and the following was discussed:

Committee discussed concerns of citizens Colin Jarvis and Ethan Parsons with respect to the \$10 fine imposed upon an individual leaving their vehicle in a downtown street parking spot between the hours of 2:30am – 5:30am. Their concerns revolved around the perception that charging a fine is incentivizing individuals to drink and drive, and thus a solution should be developed to allow for overnight parking. Jarvis asked why individuals should be punished for “doing the right thing”.

Police Chief Calvin Schneider offered his commentary by first commending Jarvis and Parsons for their thoughtfulness and ideas, however stating that it is a “double-edged sword” scenario. Allowing people to park downtown overnight and into the morning hours would reduce parking availability for coffee shops and businesses downtown, while inhibiting snow removal and/or street sweeping activities from taking place successfully.

Potential solutions discussed revolved around chalking cars overnight and ticketing if cars are not moved by ~9am in the morning. Miller suggested starting with the weekends for any proposal. The committee also discussed developing new parking rules for the soon-to- be parking lot on Perry St. to allow for overnight parking. Councilors Lee and Sheipline noted that individuals should take responsibility for their night out and assign a designated driver or walk from the start, an opinion agreed to by all in attendance. Committee agreed to discuss with full council at 2/15/21 meeting. Committee meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Mr. Miller noted supplemental information was supplied by Chief Schneider on the number of parking tickets between 2:30 am and 5:30am during previous years.

Mayor Stinebaugh recommended waiting until the new Perry Street parking lot is complete to determine if changes need to be made to downtown overnight parking regulations.

Mr. Campbell requested that Law Director Neal research current law on 'chalking' tires for parking enforcement.

Communications –

Clerk McDonald gave a reminder to all elected officials to file their annual financial disclosure form with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Guest Petitions -

Mr. Colin Jarvis of 918 Sunrise Drive and Mr. Ethan Parsons of 507 W. Pearl Street addressed Council about their concern regarding the parking fines for leaving vehicles in downtown Wapakoneta overnight. Mr. Jarvis & Mr. Parsons stated these fines could impact someone's decision to drive while intoxicated. Mr. Parsons suggested allowing overnight parking until 9:00am the following day before placing fines on the vehicle.

New Business –

Mr. Kantner and President Henderson noted that Auglaize County now has emergency snow levels. Mr. Kantner stated that the City has trouble keeping the snow routes clean because there seems to be little consequence for leaving a vehicle parked on said routes during snow emergencies. Mayor Stinebaugh suggested the idea of promoting that citizens park on the even sides of the street during even calendar days, and on odd sides of the street during odd numbered calendar days. Mayor Stinebaugh clarified that the county snow levels do not prohibit an employee from reporting to work if required to do so. Mr. Kantner asked what would occur if a City plow vehicle accidentally hit a parked car on a snow route. Mayor Stinebaugh replied that the City has no fault insurance, therefore the accident would have to be submitted to the car owner's insurance company. Mr. Miller suggested further communication with residents about the snow removal policies.

Clerk McDonald noted that Ord 2021-04 is still tabled.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-05 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR THE USE OF REVOLVING LOAN FUND MONEY FOR ADA PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Doll, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2021-05. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-07 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, AND EXECUTE A 2021 RECLAMITE PROGRAM FOR VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2021-07. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-08 for the third time re: ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Campbell, second by Kantner to adopt Ord 2021-08. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-09 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR ONE (1) 2020 FORD F550 AERIAL TRUCK.

President Henderson asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-10 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR ONE (1) 2020 TYMCO MODEL 600 STREET SWEEPER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The Mayor gave the following report:

Street Department used camera for all the utilities at Lincoln Park and found no deficiencies.

East town Road project needs further discussion in the Lands & Buildings committee.

Plans for Perry Street parking lot and monuments are proceeding.

Mr. Doll noted that citizens should reach out to their federal representatives about the USPS delays in mail.

The Service Director gave the following report:
Efficiency Smart program is up on the City's website.
Software upgrades are going well.

President Henderson asked for an update on the review of the City's comprehensive plan. Mr. Gregg stated this has not yet been discussed.

The Law Director gave the following report:
There was a 'district split' regarding case law in 'chalking' of tires for parking enforcement.
The City ought to re-examine rules and regulations for golf carts, ATV and 'side-by-side' vehicles.
De-annexation requires the cooperation of the township and the consent of the landowners.

Mayor Stinebaugh requested Mr. Neal's help in drafting a permission letter for the use of the "First on the Moon" logo.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee will meet March 15th at 6:15pm at City Hall if a meeting is needed.
Lands & Buildings Committee will meet on February 25th at 4pm at City Hall.
Finance Committee will meet on February 24th at 7pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business –

Mr. Shepline advised that he is beginning his training for Tree Commission.

Motion by Doll, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council