

President Pro Tem Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on September 13, 2021 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Daniel E. Lee, Brandon Miller, Chad Doll, John Sheipline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Acting Mayor Steve Henderson, Law Director Grant Neal and Safety Service Director Floyd Gregg were also present. There were 13 visitors present. Mayor Thomas Stinebaugh was absent.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to enter into Executive Session at 7:31pm to consider the charges and complaints of a public official, inviting Steve Henderson, Floyd Gregg and Grant Neal. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion by Miller, second by Lee to come out of Executive Session at 8:08pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

President Pro Tem Doll then issued the following public statement on behalf of Wapakoneta City Council:
On August 30, 2021, a Special Commission of the Ohio Supreme Court issued a preliminary determination that charges against Wapakoneta Mayor Tom Stinebaugh are related to the duties of mayor. As such, said Special Commission suspended Mr. Stinebaugh from office. It is the belief of this council, and of the Wapakoneta Law Director, that this suspension is effective immediately and is currently in force until such time that officers of the Ohio Supreme Court determine it to be ended. Under this suspension, Mr. Stinebaugh may not perform the duties of Mayor of the City of Wapakoneta. In consideration of this, and per city ordinances, Wapakoneta City Council President Steve Henderson is currently the Acting Mayor of Wapakoneta. Per Ohio Revised Code, during this suspension Thomas Stinebaugh retains the title of Mayor and continues to receive the salary due to that office. Should Mr. Stinebaugh appeal the decision of the Special Commission and be successful in such an appeal, he will immediately resume the duties of the office of Mayor of Wapakoneta. This statement should in no way be interpreted as a reflection upon the innocence or guilt of Thomas Stinebaugh in regard to the charges against him. That determination is the job of the Judicial Branch of our government. This Legislative Body will take no position on Mr. Stinebaugh's innocence or guilt in this matter.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 08-31-2021.

Motion by Campbell, second by Lee to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Parks Committee Meeting – a meeting was held on 08-23-2021 and the following was discussed:

Discussion on Rec Department Structure:

Review the fact that the Parks Committee has no authority of Parks Director and or the Rec Board.

Review current structure of Rec Board:

Made up of 5 members consisting of the SSD, and 4 appointees: 2 by School Board (B. Rex and J. Swede), and 2 by the Mayor (J. Stinebaugh, and R. Laney).

Per Mayor Stinebaugh, R. Laney has submitted his resignation from the Rec Board, so he will be making a recommendation in the future to fill that position.

Discussion of history and pros/cons of current structure of Rec Board.

There are many cities/towns that have similar structure.

Appears Rec Board may not be operating as was originally designed.

There appears to be a breakdown in communication between Rec Board and City Council.

Discussion on merit of making Rec Department Supervisor a “full-time”, year-round position.

Input from Gregg Ruppert, who is a Parks and Rec Department employee.

Maintenance projects at Veterans Park

Believes a Full-Time Parks and Rec Supervisor would be a positive for the city.

Discussion to recommend to City Council to make the Parks and Rec Supervisor position a full-time position.

Finance Committee will need to review feasibility and opportunities for said position.

Brandon Miller made a motion to recommend to City Council to ask City Administration to develop a Full-Time Parks and Recreation Director position, as well as a Wapak Waterpark pool Manager position that answers to the Parks and Recreation Director, and to review Ordinances 1997-35 and 2006-23 and amend accordingly as needed.

Motion second by Kantner. Motion approved unanimously.

President Pro Tem Doll noted that the Finance Committee will review these requests.

Communications-

Clerk McDonald gave a reminder that the next scheduled Council meeting will be September 20th at 7:30pm at City Hall.

President Pro Tem Doll noted that due to the departure of the Safety Service Director, future City Council meetings may not be broadcast online, but will still be available in audio and document formats.

Mr. Campbell invited City Council to a tree dedication ceremony in memory of Donald Wittwer, which will be held on September 16th at 6pm at the Wapak YMCA.

Guest Petitions –

Acting Mayor Steve Henderson submitted a street closure request on behalf of Michael & Monica Coil for the grand opening of their Autobahn Collision Center on September 18th from 10am - 5pm.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Lee to approve the request. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Pro Tem Doll asked Clerk to read Ordinance 2021-36R for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, A DEMOLITION CONTRACT FOR VARIOUS DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Mr. Campbell asked for a list of the properties involved. Service Director Gregg stated the list has been generated but not yet attached to the ordinance.

Motion by Campbell, second by Shepline to table Ord 2021-36R. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Pro Tem Doll asked Clerk to read Ordinance 2021-37 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR RECORD PRESERVATION AND IMAGING SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Pro Tem Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-38 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH G.A. WINTZER & SONS, INC. TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Pro Tem Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-39 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE “YARD WASTE” DISPOSAL FACILITY.

President Pro Tem Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2021-40 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ITEMIZED REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF ESTIMATED UNDIVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR 2022.

Mr. Campbell asked for further explanation of Ord 2021-40. Service Director Gregg answered that it is an annual ordinance provided by Auditor Wells.

Acting Mayor Henderson gave the following report:

Mr. Henderson stated that he looks forward to serving the citizens of Wapakoneta in this capacity.

President Pro Tem Doll then thanked Service Director Floyd Gregg for his service to the City and wished him well in his new endeavors.

The Service Director gave the following report:

Service Director Gregg thanked the City of Wapakoneta for allowing him to serve.

Mr. Gregg advised Council that an appropriation will be coming from Auditor Wells due to the Wapak pool being \$50,000 in the red.

A committee was formed to facilitate the process to fill the Safety Service Director position.

Mr. Campbell asked if there is a better natural gas aggregate plan for the City to enter into. Service Director Gregg advised that the City has not locked any prices for the gas aggregate.

The Law Director gave the following report:

No report.

Mr. Kantner asked for an update on the research of a panhandling ordinance. Law Director Neal stated he has no update at this time.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the dangerous buildings concerning Ordinance 2021-36R. Law Director Neal answered that the code enforcement officer is delivering notices.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee will meet on September 20th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Finance Committee will meet on September 15th at 7pm at City Hall.

Lands & Buildings will meet September 21st at 3:30pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business –

Clerk McDonald read a letter signed by members of the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council, Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership requesting a revision to the current ‘Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area’ map to include Lee’s Famous Recipe located at 311 W. Harrison Street and adjacent greenspace area along the Auglaize River.

President Pro Tem Doll referred this matter to the Lands & Buildings Committee for review.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Pro Tem

Clerk of Council