

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on March 20, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Daniel E. Lee, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Steve Henderson, Law Director Grant Neal and Safety Service Director Michael Brillhart were also present. There were 3 visitors present.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll noted the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes will be summarized at next Council meeting.

Mr. Lee announced the Lodging Tax Committee has rescheduled their meeting to March 23rd at 3pm at City Hall.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 03-15-2023 and the following was discussed:

1. Discussion with Auditor Regarding Budget and Fire Department Station Renovations

The committee discussed financing options for the required Fire Department Building Renovation with the Auditor. Auditor Wells agreed with Mr. Miller and Mr. Brillhart that funding this ~3.9MM project on a 5-7 year note was not appropriate given the payment amount required. Mr. Brillhart will pursue another quote for a 20-year loan and report back to the committee.

The committee discussed the health of the various city funds with the auditor. In general, the auditor is very positive about the position in the major funds. Council should be reminded that, while the general fund is healthy, we must be diligent in maintaining that health with conservative spending out of that fund. While tax revenues have expanded tremendously, so has city spending. The committee is committed to working with the auditor to find proper funding sources for projects moving forward.

2. Proposed Parks and Recreation Capital Project Requests

Parks Director Jack Hayzlett and Mr. Brillhart briefed the committee on requested capital improvement projects within the parks department. The following items were discussed:

Add Full Time Parks Manager: \$61,000

Funding Source: Potentially ARPA

Remodel Bathrooms at Veterans Park: \$15,000

Funding Source: Proposed ARPA

Splashpad Extras: \$25,000

Funding Source: Proposed ARPA

Paint Liner: \$55,000

Funding Source: Lodging Tax

Dugouts at Harmon Field: NA

Veterans Park Playground Update: NA

New 30'x50' storage building at veteran's park: \$150,000.

Funding Source: Proposed ARPA

Heritage Park moveable stage: \$100,000

Funding Source: Proposed ARPA

The committee is confident that with ARPA and the lodging tax, we will be able to cover all of these items other than the ones that do not have quotes as of now.

3. Discussion of City ARPA Fund Appropriation

The committee discussed at length options that administration has recommended for use of city ARPA funds. A majority of these projects are parks and recreation-based, as this is one of the primary recommended options for ARPA fund use. The city currently has ~\$1MM that we are able to appropriate.

After much discussion throughout multiple committee meetings, a motion was made by Mr. Shepline, Second by Mr. Kantner to introduce an ordinance to council funding the following projects using the city ARPA dollars:

New Boilers for the Waterpark housed in a small outdoor enclosure: \$100,000 to be spent in 2023

A moveable stage to be used for city events: \$100,000 to be spent in 2023

A new building at Veteran's Park that can be used both for storage and an office for the new parks full time employee: \$150,000 to be spent in 2023

Funds for the Heritage Parkway project to connect Heritage Park to the Parkway: \$125,000 to be spent in 2024

Three phases of broadband connectivity upgrades for city buildings: \$360,000 to be spent in 2023/2024

Remodel of Bathrooms at Veterans Park and Splashpad Accessories: \$40,000 to be spent in 2023

Funding for two years of salary and benefits for Parks Manager position: \$125,000 to be paid in 2023/24. (This is dependent upon Mr. Brillhart's investigation into whether this use case is allowed per ARPA rules)

This motion passed unanimously, and the committee and administration urges council to approve the requests so that these projects can move forward.

4. Update on City Refuse and Recycling Project

Mr. Brillhart informed the committee that the city has spoken to 4 different providers to gauge the types of services they can provide. Administration is also considering looking at section 9.48 of the Ohio Revised Code that allows neighboring cities to join in an existing refuse contract given certain specifications.

Mr. Brillhart will bring further recommendations and results to the committee once the process moves a bit further along.

5. New Water Tower and Water Line Loop in South End of City

Mr. Brillhart continued to update the committee on the proposed water tower and line improvements to the south end of the city. He provided the committee with a spec sheet of cost of the project provided by Choice One. The project will come in at \$16.8MM in cost. Administration has determined that the best opportunity for funding is likely an Ohio EPA Revolving Loan on a 30-year timeframe. Mr. Brillhart will continue to update the committee.

6. Proposed Additional Hours for YMCA to Open Pool for Adult and Family Swim Times

Following citizen concerns regarding lack of adult and family swim time at the Waterpark in the current schedule, the committee and administration is requesting a proposal from the YMCA to amend the contract to add additional open hours for this purpose.

The YMCA is drafting the amendment, and when it is drafted, Mr. Brillhart will provide an ordinance to council to potentially approve that amendment.

Cost is expected to be in the \$6,000-\$7,000 range to maintain the same adult and family swim times as last year.

7. Potentially Providing City Farm Services for Free in the Month of April

The committee received revenues and expenses by month for the city farm and concur with administration and our Superintendent of Public Works that we can allow for free use of the city farm services in the month of April. Mr. Henderson posted the free dates on Facebook.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Miller to define the acronym 'ARPA'. Mr. Miller replied, 'American Rescue Plan Act'.

Mr. Dunlap asked how the new Parks Manager position will be funded after the initial two years mentioned. Mr. Miller replied that it would be built into the Parks and Recreation budget in the future. Service Director Brillhart explained he is researching if ARPA funds can be utilized for the Parks Manager position. Mr. Miller requested City Administration explore the health of the Parks Fund and provide the transfer of monies in and out of said fund for Finance Committee to review.

Health & Safety Committee – a meeting was held on 03-08-2023 and the following was discussed:

Police Vehicle Camera system – Police Chief Calvin Schneider brought up to the committee several issues that his staff deals with regarding their outdated police car camera systems. The current cameras present unnecessary challenges such as, limited storage space, difficulty in downloading, underperforming video resolution and vision capabilities. Cal, along with Matt Bell from IT, presented 2 quotes from Axon Enterprise for new car camera systems. Option 1, which was quoted at \$53,000, would be to purchase a Basic Fleet package that would include new cameras and improved software. The 2nd option proposed, quoted at \$87,000, was to purchase the Fleet Advanced package. This package not only includes new cameras, improved GPS tracking and software upgrades, but it also includes an Advanced License Plate Reader (ALPR). This feature would dramatically increase the capability to read license plates. It also comes with a brand-new hardware update after 5 years that would include the latest and greatest technology at that time.

After further discussion of the opportunities the ALPR, improved GPS tracking, and 5 year complete hardware update present, a motion was made by Dunlap and 2nd by Greve to proceed having Mr. Brillhart look at funding opportunities to purchase the Axon Enterprise Advanced Fleet option. Motion pass 2-0.

Special Event & Parade Coverage – The concern was brought up about the additional police force needed to support parades, 5K races, and other special events in town. The issue is there is no compensation received to support the extra staffing that's required. Overtime coverage can be difficult to get, especially when the event occurs during a holiday weekend or summer months. The members present discussed options to help support the police staff so the city can continue to aid these events. There is currently an application required to submit a request to hold a special event in town. The committee suggested a blanket fee be incorporated with this application. Mr. Brillhart stated there will be further discussions to review the application process and possibility of a blanket fee.

Mr. Kantner asked if the 'Parade & Events Regulations – Permit Application' form provided was a current version or a working draft. Mr. Greve replied that it was the most currently utilized format and is listed on the City's website.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on 03-14-2023 and the following was discussed:

1. Proposed Tax Levy Mill & Pave Projects for 2023 (\$1.5M budgeted)

Committee agreed with the 9 recommended streets from Engineering in addition to adding Main St. (Willipie St. to Blackhoof St.) from the 2024 alternative street list. Total estimated cost, \$1.349M

2. Sidewalk Program for 2023 (\$150K budgeted)

-East & West Pearl St.

-East & West Mechanic St.

-Main St. all

-West Auglaize St. – West of Pearl St.

-No recommendations for sidewalks where none exist

3. Traffic Calming Guide review

Four additional changes will be added to the current proposed Traffic Calming Guide before submitting to Council.

4. Parking issues on S. Perry St.

Local residences on S. Perry St. have been complaining about Kensella Auto Repair shop and their customers and employees parking street side during business hours and customer vehicles left parked street side for multiple days.

At least two residents on this street have no off-street parking accommodations.

The PD and Code Enforcement officer have made numerous attempts to convince the owner to provide the necessary room on the repair shop property to accommodate his employees and customer vehicles. To date no accommodation have been made.

Many days customers and delivery vehicles are unable to turn around and are forced to back up to the nearest driveway or alley to turn around. This is illegal on a public street.

The law director is looking at preparing legislation to limit parking to local residents on a portion of S. Perry St. and potential limit on the number of vehicles waiting for repairs on the property.

5. Presar Rd. "no parking" request

The property owner on the East side of Presar Rd., which is within city limits, has requested the city to install "no parking" signs to prevent vehicles from parking on their property. Presar Rd. is Duchouquet Township property. Law Director recommended no action should be taken by the city to install such signs.

6. EV Charging Station

The property owner at 112 E. Auglaize St. (JR Fox Development Co. Inc), has agreed to allow the city to install a 2 vehicle EV charging station at the front of their property.

There are still some questions as to the exact location and proper signage. More investigation to follow.

Mr. Campbell noted the list of 'Proposed Tax Levy Mill and Pave Projects' was supplied to Council for review.

Mr. Miller asked if the re-striping will occur in 2023 or 2024. Service Director Brillhart answered, 2023.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the Water Street project. Service Director Brillhart explained that an Ohio Public Works Commission grant was received, additional budget considerations are being made and the project itself will be completed in two separate phases.

Law Director Neal corrected section 4 of the Streets & Alleys minutes, stating that the legislation being prepared will be applicable to the entire City, not to just one instance or area.

Mr. Campbell then made a motion, seconded by Greve to approve the 'Proposed Tax Levy Mill and Pave Projects' for 2023. Mr. Miller asked, in the instance that additional funds become available, if projects can be added to this list. Service Director Brillhart answered, yes, and referred Council to applicable sections within Resolution 2023-18. President Doll explained that a motion by Streets & Alleys Committee was not needed now that legislation has been presented to Council for same. Mr. Campbell then withdrew his motion, and Mr. Greve withdrew his second.

Unfinished Business -

Mr. Miller asked what is being done to mitigate the geese population near the riverwalk area this spring. Service Director Brillhart stated that the City is exploring acceptable deterrent methods with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

New Business -

Mr. Kantner received a notification from a representative of the Masonic Lodge regarding damages sustained to their property and caused by contractors at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Service Director Brillhart agreed to follow up with staff on the matter.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to reschedule the next Council meeting to April 10th at 7:30pm at City Hall to accommodate attendees for the 'Lincoln Day Dinner' on April 3rd. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-17 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB TITLES AND PAY RANGES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-18 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, AND EXECUTE AN ASPHALT OVERLAY, CRACK SEAL, CAPE SEAL PROJECT USING TAX LEVY MONIES.

Mr. Campbell asked when the asphalt plants were expected to open. Service Director Brillhart answered, likely in April.

Mayor report:

Working on a possible gas aggregation program.

Collecting information from area vendors regarding privatizing refuse and recycling services.

Attended Waste Minimization Committee meeting.

City Farm is now open.

Awaiting more information from the YMCA regarding the 'adult swim hours' being added to this season's Wapak WaterPark operating schedule.

Will be attending the upcoming Armstrong Air & Space Museum Board meeting.

Will be attending the upcoming Lodging Tax Committee meeting.

Attended ribbon cutting for 'Be Well Spa & Nutrition Center'.

Swore-in new Police Officer Marcus Campos.

Thank you to the Breakfast Optimist Club and Mr. Dave Christiansen for installing 50 new American Flags along the riverwalk in Heritage Park.

Had a meeting with Eitry Foundry and helped to create a video about solar fields.

Put another inquiring solar company in touch with WAEDC Logan O'Neill.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the 80 foot tall flag location. Mayor Henderson noted that Mr. Dave Christiansen is working on this.

Mr. Campbell asked what the gas aggregate price might be. Mayor Henderson could not answer at this time.

Service Director report:

Will be meeting at the end of March with ODOT regarding possible funding applications for roadway enhancements or sidewalks.

Working with Andy Beane to develop a 'Community Needs Survey' as part of the CDGB grant application process.

ARPA projects will be presented to Council at next meeting.

Meeting with staff tomorrow regarding the water line at Veterans Park for the new splash pad.

Meeting with John Courtney and the Utilities Committee soon to discuss the City's solar panel installation ordinance.

Mr. Lee asked for an update on the Easttown Road and Middle Pike property. SSD Brillhart answered that a survey and land-switch was accomplished. WAEDC staff is working on an RFP on multi-family development projects.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on providing Wi-Fi internet in the downtown area. SSD Brillhart answered that the equipment will be installed this week.

SSD Brillhart stated that a notice will be included within the April utility bill regarding the water treatment plant process change.

Law Director report:

Current ordinances as written would not permit the City of Wapakoneta to enroll in a 'Joint Purchasing Program' for refuse and recycling services. Provided Council and Administration a memorandum explaining legal interpretation of same in detail.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Ad Hoc Committee for City Comprehensive Plan will meet on March 21st at 4pm at City Hall.

Lodging Tax Committee will meet March 23rd at 3pm at City Hall.

Parks Committee will meet April 10th at 5pm at City Hall.

Finance Committee will meet March 22nd at 10:30am at City Hall.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council