

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on April 10, 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 Campbell to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 03-31-2023.

Committee of the Whole – a meeting was held on 03-20-2023 and the following was discussed:

The first half of the meeting consisted of a review of some basic procedures & housekeeping for council from Clerk McDonald. Discussion included items such as minutes reporting, executive session items, sunshine law items, and others.

The meeting then moved to discussion of the assigned ethics training video from the Ohio Ethics Commission. Video focused on conflict of interest topics. There were a couple of specific questions compiled for follow-up with the state to get clarification.

Lodging Tax Committee – a meeting was held on 03-23-2023 and the following was discussed:

The lodging tax fund has approximately \$44,000.00 in unspoken for funds at the time of this meeting.

There were two grants on the agenda.

The first grant was submitted by Jack Hazlet of the Parks department. The grant is requesting funding for the completion of the landscaping at the gazebo by the water park. The ground now has a play park and many additions since it was built. This structure is reserved many times a year and is used frequently for family outings. The grant is also requesting funding for securing the bathrooms at the park. Currently the restrooms are locked and unlocked by our police force. The grant is requesting new locks be installed on the restrooms at Harmon Park so that they may be unlocked and locked automatically. This would save time for our police force. The locks also could be opened and locked remotely. The total request is for \$9,500.00 for the project.

The lodging tax committee reviewed the rubric, and it passed each category.

Motion was made by Mr. Ireland and seconded by Mr. Rausch to fully fund the request of \$9,500.00. It passed unanimously 4-0

The second grant was submitted by the Riverside art Center.

They are requesting funding for a summer camp for the children of Wapakoneta and beyond to encourage the arts and the use of our downtown.

The grant passed the rubric.

Mayor Henderson made a motion to fully fund the project for \$2,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ireland. Motion passed 4-0

Lastly Mr. Hazlet wanted to thank the committee and the city for the support over the last year. He has received many positive comments on the Christmas lights over the last season. He indicated that it brought joy to many of our residents and delight to people from out of town that visited our city.

Mr. Hazlet also indicated that they have received the painting robot for our sporting fields. He feels that it will more than pay for itself in cost of labor. It will also be very accurate in what it does.

For both grants he is very appreciative.

Mayor Henderson requested a copy of the Lodging Tax meeting minutes regarding Emma Hunley's application for funding to help purchase a new D.A.R.E. vehicle for the Auglaize County Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street and representing First on the Moon Inc. provided Council with the details of a request for funding to purchase 3 space-themed bike racks, made by Apollo Career Center students. Mr. Dunlap asked for the placement location of said bike racks. Mr. Lee answered that the racks will be placed within City parks for public use.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 03-22-2023 and the following was discussed:

The committee then discussed the proposal from the Health and Safety Committee to approve the technology upgrades for our police vehicles. This upgrade would cost a total of \$87,288 and be paid in five yearly installments of \$17,457. This package also includes full upgrades at the end of five years. After discussion on the proper fund with the police chief and SSD, the committee unanimously passed a motion by Sheipline, second by Kantner, to recommend going forward with the purchase of the technology upgrade package recommended by Health and Safety.

The committee also discussed staffing needs of the police department with the Chief. We spoke about the potential for a scholarship program in which we could identify potential future officers at the academy and assist with some costs in exchange for a number of years of service with the City of the Wapakoneta. The Chief stated that he would work with SSD Brillhart to come up with a plan that can be presented to the committee upon completion.

Mr. Campbell asked if the technology upgrades were for software. Mr. Miller replied, both software and hardware components.

Guest Petitions –

Mr. Ronald Schweitzer of 728 W. Auglaize Street asked City Council and Administration for better communication to residents regarding the details of organized 5k run events through the City streets. President Doll explained that race event organizers determine the routes, dates and start times and then approach City Council and Administration with the event request. Mr. Greve added that the matter of several 5k run events within the City creates additional staffing needs for the Wapakoneta Police Department, and the process by which they are approved is being re-evaluated. Mr. Greve added that a number of platforms will be used to communicate special event details, including the City's Facebook page, utility bills and local newspaper.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street requested better communication from City Council and Administration about the scheduling of committee or board meetings and posting of meeting minutes. Ms. Barber reiterated that communications from the City need to be comprehensive and consistent. Mr. Miller suggested the matter be put to the Communications & Rules Committee for consideration.

Mr. Jim Limbert of 817 Aster Drive and representing Wapakoneta Eagles, requested Council's permission for road and alley closures on May 21st for the annual Eagles Family Picnic. Motion by Campbell, second by Dunlap to approve the request. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

New Business -

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to approve the request by First on the Moon Inc. for Lodging Tax funding in the amount of \$1740 for the purchase of three bicycle racks for park use and made by Apollo Career Center. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to approve the request by the Parks Department for Lodging Tax funding in the amount of \$9500 to purchase locks for the restroom doors and landscaping for Harmon Park. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Miller to approve the request by Riverside Art Center for Lodging Tax funding in the amount of \$2000 to conduct a 2023 summer camp event for children. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Service Director Brillhart noted the 'Memorandum of Understanding' between the City of Wapakoneta and the Wapakoneta Family YMCA for Outdoor Waterpark Operations to include 'adult swim' and 'family swim' times for the 2023 season. SSD Brillhart added that this additional cost of \$6847.42 will come from the contingency fund. The memorandum was provided to Council for their review. Motion by Miller, second by Lee to approve said 'Memorandum of Understanding' as written. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Appointments are needed on the Waste Minimization Committee. Interested citizens should contact any Council member for details on serving.

Ms. Rachel Barber of the Waste Minimization Committee announced the Special Collections Day, scheduled for April 29th from 9am-12pm to recycle metal, light bulbs, batteries and so forth.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-17R for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB TITLES AND PAY RANGES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 260 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

Due to the revision, a motion was made by Lee, second by Campbell to table Ord 2023-017R. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-18 for the second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-19 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND EXECUTE A 2023 RECLAMITE PROGRAM FOR VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-20 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTING AND/OR REPAIRING CERTAIN SIDEWALKS IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, COUNTY OF AUGLAIZE, STATE OF OHIO, REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION BY CITY COUNCIL.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-21 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR A YEAR 2023 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD SERVICE TRUCK THROUGH THE EVANS AUTOMOTIVE GROUP.

Mr. Dunlap asked if the purchase is replacing a current service truck. SSD Brillhart answered, no, it will be a new service vehicle primarily used by the Wastewater Treatment Plant staff to perform inspections and haul materials.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-22 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Mr. Miller explained that the RFQ is necessary to obtain data for decision-making and does not lock the City into any contract or permanent agreement.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-23 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO FOR SIGN INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Brillhart explained the emergency language is due to ODOT budget cycle and sign installation timing. Motion by Lee, second by Kantner to suspend the rules for Res 2023-23. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-23. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor report:

Mayor Henderson thanked everyone involved in the response, repair and cleanup efforts after the April 1st tornado that impacted Wapakoneta and the surrounding areas. In particular, Mayor Henderson thanked local businesses and organizations for their donations of bottled water and meals needed to support City workers and mutual aid responders.

Conducted several interviews regarding tornado damage.

A State of Emergency was declared and ODOT temporarily closed off-ramps due to onlookers.
Attended WAEDC Board meeting.
Attended Waste Minimization meeting.
Efficiency Smart has upcoming contests for citizens to participate in.
Attended Ad-Hoc Committee meeting.
A 'Friendship Cities' group is being organized.
Wrote a proclamation for Student Painters.
Attending zoom meetings with the Ohio Mayors Association.

Mr. Lee asked how the City is planning to pay for the costs incurred due to tornado damage. SSD Brillhart answered that the City is eligible to apply to the State of Ohio as well as to FEMA for funding due to the State of Emergency declaration for our area. Staff is already compiling the costs incurred and man hours used for this weather event to submit to the county.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the gas aggregate. Mayor Henderson answered that the City is working closely with AMP Ohio to obtain more information, but this has been put on hold until May in order to find a 3 year rate lock.

Service Director report:

Choice One Engineering will be doing bore samples at Heritage Park and nearby areas to determine suitable locations for additional municipal parking in the downtown. The City will also work with the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership and Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce to develop a study for same and will review findings with the Streets and Alleys Committee.

Some of the ARPA projects discussed at last Council meeting have gone up in cost, therefore projects need re-evaluated with the Finance Committee.

Utilities Committee meeting is needed to discuss the matter of private residential solar panel installation regulations.

Quotes have been received for architectural and design services for the expansion of the Wapakoneta Fire Station. Recommendations will be provided at next City Council meeting.

Lands & Buildings Committee meeting is needed to discuss the possibility and options for moving the City Engineering Department.

Mr. Lee asked for an update on constructing the new dog park along the riverfront. SSD Brillhart answered that fencing costs are approximately \$14,000 and the City Auditor is investigating where this funding might come from.

Mr. Lee asked about the work being done at 404 W. Auglaize Street. SSD Brillhart stated that testing is being done for possible installation of a deep well as part of the flow augmentation plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Lee asked should a well be installed there if any further lines would need put in. SSD Brillhart replied that existing lines would be used.

Mr. Kantner asked about the Certificate of Excellence recently awarded to the City Electric Department. SSD Brillhart affirmed the City of Wapakoneta's Electric Department were nominated to receive this award for their service and they were selected.

Mayor Henderson interjected, stating that an additional line may need installed if the deep well at 404 W. Auglaize Street becomes feasible.

Mr. Lee asked how the City is exploring its utility needs considering the recent storm and if any projects need finished. SSD Brillhart replied that broadband fiber is being installed to each substation that will provide minute-by-minute updates on outage locations. Additionally, the City is determining water and sewer capacities and meeting with WAEDC to develop a five-year plan.

Mr. Lee asked for an update on the railway and hazardous material response plans for the City. Mayor Henderson stated this was addressed at the most recent WAEDC meeting and with EMA Director Troy Anderson.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee will meet April 17th at 6:15pm at City Hall if needed.

Finance Committee will meet April 12th at 3pm at City Hall.

Streets & Alleys Committee will meet April 18th at 4pm at City Hall.

Lands & Buildings Committee will meet April 12th at 4pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Dunlap read an article thanking the local businesses, City staff and mutual aid departments for their help and efforts after the April 1st tornado.

Mr. Miller suggested active shooter training for the City Department staff. Mr. Campbell added that the school system will be conducting similar training.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council