

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on April 17, 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 18 visitors present.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ad-Hoc Committee – a meeting of the Wapakoneta Ad Hoc Committee on the Strategic Plan was held on 03-21-2023 and the following was discussed:

The goal of this committee is to recommend a course of action for city council regarding the project of updating the city's strategic plan. The current strategic plan was developed in 2008 by a committee of city stakeholders and Jacobs, Edwards, and Kelcey Consulting.

The committee first listened to Council President Doll explain the history and thought behind the original strategic plan, as he was on the original steering committee. This included forming the steering committee, the process of working with the consulting firm, the gathering of data, and the development of strategic goals.

The committee then began to discuss whether the plan should be kept as is, updated, or completely redone. Mr. Greve noted that the majority of the data in the report is outdated and could be repopulated with newer data that reflects the current situation. The committee agreed, and felt that a new steering committee with the help of a consultancy could begin by replacing old data with current data to determine if the previous goals of the plan are still relevant to today. The committee did feel that the goals of the previous report have been acted upon with much success in the community. These goals likely still hold, however new data will provide a more nuanced idea of how these goals can be carried on into the future.

The follow up is that Mr. Brillhart will begin the process of contacting consultancy contacts that he knows to try to estimate cost of such a project moving forward. Once those connections have been made and quotes received, our committee will meet again to make a final recommendation to council as to the approach that we recommend for the project at large. The Finance committee also will review the cost and determine if it is a project that we can afford to pursue in the near future.

Parks Committee – a meeting was held on 04-10-2023 and the following was discussed:

Review minutes of last meeting – February 21, 2023.

Motion to approve minutes: B. Miller. 2nd: J. Shepline

Update/Old Business:

Future combined meeting between Parks Committee and Lands & Buildings Committee to research and create a Public Arts Policy to address future city art projects such murals, sculptures, etc.

Per Brandon, nothing scheduled yet, still working on.

Progress on Full-Time Parks Department Position

Per Michael, position still in "Posted" stage. Administration trying to determine where funding for the position will come from. Michael stated that the position does qualify for ARPA consideration.

New Business:

Goal of the meeting is to have Parks Committee and Rec Board "at the table" to discuss possibilities on how to operate both Committees, together or separately, going forward.

R. Kantner felt it important to understand history of the committees, and how we got to where we are now.

Welcome Rex Katterheinrich – former Wapakoneta Safety Service Director

Welcome members of Wapakoneta Rec Board

Discussion/Ideas began with short history/background of the development of the city parks system by Rex Katterheinrich, which included the fact that years ago, the school district owned the pool and Harmon Park.

Good, open discussion regarding topics that included but not limited to:

History of City taking over the pool, as well as what is now Veterans Park.

How/why the Rec Board was instrumental in developing and managing the parks.

Rec Board membership make-up designed to represent all parties that owned &/or responsible for park properties (ie: School District & City Council)

Budget history and funding challenges of Parks Department and pool.
 Value of two separate committees vs. one Parks & Rec Committee.
 Agreement around the table there was no advantage or added value to have 2 separate committees.
 Agreed by all that there should be one City Council Committee for Parks & Recreation, with expanded membership to include representatives from Rec Board.
 Michael will investigate/speak with other communities with successful/effective Parks & Recreation Committees.
 Michael will look into and recommend legislative amendments/changes to combine the Parks Committee and Rec Board.
 Other:
 Brandon asked Michael and Jack for an update on budgetary issues.
 Jack stated he still cannot write requisitions, as his budget is zero.
 Michael stated the approved ODNR and ARPA funds are expected to be received soon.
 Jack stated the new water play station for the zero-entry end of the WaterPark was delivered, and is 80% installed.

Mr. Campbell asked if there is a line item in the budget for Parks and Recreation. President Doll answered that the Rec Department has a fund. Mr. Kantner explained that the City is awaiting reimbursement grant monies for this fund.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 04-10-2023 and the following was discussed:

Financing of Expanding Fire Department Building

Administration has chosen Moody Nolan to be the contractor for the fire department building expansion project. The quoted total price is \$3,900,000. This project will likely be funded through a bond issuance of 20 years or longer. The committee reviewed recommendations from SSD Brillhart about potentially going out with an \$8MM bond so that we had some extra money in case other projects of similar magnitude need to be funded around the same time. This type of bond issue would be discussed in a committee of the whole and likely have public hearings as well once we recommend the specifics of the bond. SSD Brillhart requested that the committee approve drafting of an ordinance to allow for the signing of a contract with Moody Nolan for engineering design in the amount of \$175,000. This amount would not be paid in one lump sum, but rather in smaller installment payments. Motion by Kantner, second by Shepline to approve the writing of an ordinance for council vote on the contract for engineering design. Motion passed unanimously.

ARPA Funding

The committee had to re-examine its ARPA funding plan due to a few increases in prices, namely the portable stage and the fiber optic internet plan. Also, the Heritage Park plan was removed from the list because there is not yet a plan on that project. The committee adjusted the plan to read as follows:

1. New boilers (2) at Water Park	2023	\$100,000
2. Moveable stage with roof for events	2023	\$170,000
3. Veteran's Park maintenance/ office building	2023	\$150,000
4. Veteran's Park Splashpad accessories	2023	\$40,000
5. Broadband fiberoptic upgrades phase 2	2023	\$83,441
phase 3	2023	\$161,824
phase 4	2024	\$244,500
6. Recreation Manager position	2023	\$31,250
	2024	\$62,500

Total \$1,043,485

Motion by Shepline, second by Kantner, to approve the above plan for ordinance. Motion passed unanimously. The committee also noted that the moveable stage could become a future income stream if organizations would rent the stage for their use.

President Doll noted that the Lodging Tax Committee did not meet.

Lands & Buildings Committee – a meeting was held on 04-12-2023 and the following was discussed:

- 1) Options for relocation of the Engineering Department
- 2) City owned Properties on River Street and Harrison Street

Item #1

There were multiple options discussed on possibilities for the relocation of the Engineering Department and staff. After some conversation, Ross Kantner made a motion to give our SSD the authority to begin the process of contacting architectural engineering firms to see some options of what it might look like to build a separate engineering office on the vacant lot on the corner of Veit Street and Parlette Street, and another option of redesigning the existing city hall building at 701 Parlette Street and relocating the Engineering Dept within the building. This option would include the construction of a new building wing onto the current vacant lot previously mentioned and redesign the existing space within the city hall footprint framework to acclimate the space needs of all departments at this location.

It was also discussed whether the Engineering Staff could use an interim space in the City Hall basement until a new building is constructed or acquired. This would only be temporary until a new facility space is available.

Item #2

There was a conversation on the city considering what to do with the city owned properties located at 101 River Street, 110 River Street, and 5 Harrison Street. The city has been approached by a developer desiring to acquire those properties. Currently, this is only a discussion, and no decisions are being made at this time.

There was a brief discussion on a couple of questions that have been brought up to Kantner.

Question #1 What is taking place with the Eastown Dr. transfer? Campbell said he is checking on this issue on a weekly basis.

Question #2 Kantner questioned if the city is responsible for the streets in Madison Place, and whether or not the city will require sidewalks on those streets moving forward. There was a brief discussion on this topic, as it will be something that needs looked into moving forward.

Communications –

Clerk McDonald provided a final reminder to all elected officials to file their financial disclosure with Ohio Ethics Commission by May 15th.

Clerk McDonald read a notice to legislative authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding issuance of a permit to: Als Woodys LLC, DBA Als Woodys, 9 N. Wood Street & Patio, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895. Council did not request a hearing.

Guest Petitions –

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street addressed Council regarding Resolution 2023-22. Ms. Barber reviewed the bid specifications attached to the resolution, noting that it does not bear resemblance to the refuse and recycling services the City currently offers. Ms. Barber explained that the proposed refuse service would involve large rolling trashcans rather than the City of Wapakoneta trash bags that are currently being used. Ms. Barber added that in the proposal provided, recyclables would also be placed in a rolling bin but would be picked up every other week rather than each week. Ms. Barber requested an “apples to apples” approach in the City’s request for bids on this service. Ms. Barber also asked the City to investigate what other communities are doing for refuse and recycling services. Ms. Barber noted her concern that an “issuance of contract date” for October 2023 is already listed within the document provided.

Mr. Miller explained that the City must write an estimated start date within an RFQ so that the responding firms have a sense of timing in order to provide the service. Mr. Miller added that the current contract will be up soon, so efforts need to be made now to gather the information necessary. SSD Brillhart commented that the City reached out to the five largest carriers in Ohio, none of which do physical trash

bag pickup anymore. Machined trucks are now used to pickup trashcans and empty their contents. SSD Brillhart stated this is why an “apples to apples” comparison of services could not be obtained. Ms. Barber asked if Ohio Department of Natural Resources or the Environmental Protection Agency had been contacted about the effectiveness of the “pay as you throw” method. Mr. Campbell added that the physical pickup of the City of Wapakoneta trash bags creates employee injuries and safety issues and most municipalities are utilizing mechanized trash pickup as a result. Mr. Campbell further noted that the value of recyclable materials is at an all-time low. Mr. Lee then requested a “pay as you throw” option be included within the RFQ in consideration of those smaller households who don’t generate as much trash. Mr. Miller pointed out that the cost of the City of Wapakoneta trash bags can be a burden to larger families and rolling trash bins would eliminate this expense. Mr. Miller noted that he wants to see the RFQ data in order to make a cost effective decision for residents. Mr. Lee added that should the City decide to utilize an outside source for refuse and recycling, the City will no longer be able to control the service details. Ms. Barber stated the RFQ does not ask the potential vendors what types of recyclables they accept and the City should inquire with other sources of information as they research this decision.

Mr. Dave Christiansen of 1404 Apache Trail and representing the Wapakoneta Breakfast Optimist Club addressed Council about the ‘Avenue of Flags’ program, noting his group presented the idea to City Council in November of 2022 and heard no objections. Mr. Christiansen explained that the flags, poles and supplies have been ordered, man hours have been spent, and Ohio Utilities Protection Services are already inspecting areas of placement. However, a complaint was received regarding a possible violation in placing the flags within the tree lawn. Mr. Christiansen again reviewed the ‘Avenue of Flags’ program details, stating the Optimist Club will recognize donors by placing a U.S. flag in front of their property during 5 holidays per year. The placement of the flag poles will be between the curb and sidewalk with a standard of 30 inches back from the curb, and the pole base will be inserted into the ground, flush with the surface and easily removable. Mr. Christiansen cited sections 1022.05 and 1286.03 of the codified ordinances, noting that these sections do not contain language applying to U.S. flag placement. Mr. Christiansen asked that Council give a formal approval for the ‘Avenue of Flags’ program to proceed. Mr. Campbell agreed that the U.S. flag is not signage, but rather a symbol. Law Director Neal stated that since the wording of section 1286.03 is ambiguous, Council has the ability to take action to approve the ‘Avenue of Flags’ program as it is not in direct contradiction of the code.

Mr. Don Arnett of Sunset Boulevard and representing the Wapakoneta Breakfast Optimist Club pointed out that there are already hundreds of veterans banners attached to city street lights within the public right of way and asked Council to consider this precedent.

President Doll asked if the City would be opening itself up to unwanted displays of flags from other groups or organizations if Council approves this display of U.S. flags within the tree lawn. Law Director Neal answered that Council has the authority to review and then accept or dismiss such requests, so long as there is a defined process utilized to consider them.

Mr. Billy Lewis of 1105 Poppy Street pointed out that the flags will only be in-place for 20 days out of the year.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to approve the Wapakoneta Breakfast Optimist Club’s ‘Avenue of Flags’ project as presented to Council.

Mr. Fred Miller of 314 Jackson Street then approached Council, explaining that there have already been a large amount of orders placed by donors for the flag program and much work needs to be done prior to the Memorial Day holiday.

Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business -

President Doll noted appointments still need to be made for the Waste Minimization Committee.

Motion by Miller, second by Shepline to untable Ord 2023-17R 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. Vote – 6 yeas, 1 nay (Lee). Motion passed.

Mr. Campbell asked for an explanation of the revision. SSD Brillhart noted under ‘pay range 8’, the auxiliary firefighter position was taken out and would be paid at a higher rate, as shown in step five. A second change was made to ‘pay range 14’ for adjustments in steps three, four and five to make it more

comparable with other superintendents. Mr. Lee expressed concern about the pay rates being adequate, stating the City of Wapakoneta needs to do more for employee retention. Mr. Kantner added that the City needs to have higher wage rates to attract new employees as well. Mr. Miller noted that the matter of wages should be revisited each year along with the budget.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2023-17R. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Lee, second by Shepline to adopt Res 2023-18. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-19 for the second 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 second 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 second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-22 for the second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-24 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MOODY NOLAN FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE FIRE STATION AT 103 WILLIPIE STREET.

Mr. Lee asked that a copy of the plans be made available for public review and input.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-25 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A NATUREWORKS GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

President Doll noted that though Ordinance 2023-26 was listed on the agenda for its first reading, it has not yet been submitted to Council by Auditor Wells and will be presented at next Council meeting for review.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-27 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS FOR YEARS 2023 AND 2024.

Mayor report:

Attended ONEA executive board meeting and Mayor's Association of Ohio meeting.

Natural gas aggregation program plans are on-hold for now.

Efficiency Smart has upcoming contests for citizens to participate in.

Discussions about city right-of-way regulations. Thank you to Council for approving the Breakfast Optimist request.

Meeting with 'Friendship Cities' group organizer. WAEDC Logan O'Neill continues work on this. Memorandum with Wapak YMCA regarding 'adult swim' at the Wapak Water Park is complete. Purchased tickets to Riverside Art Derby Day and as well as 'Sketches of Wapakoneta'. Met with Nick Hoenbrink. Topsoil and seeding for Silver Street, as well as a final coat will occur in the next several weeks. AMP will present the 2023 AMP Scholarship Fund at the May 15th Council meeting to Nate Doll. May 1st Council meeting will not stream live on Facebook.

Mayor Henderson noted to Ms. Barber to review page nine, subsection four of the RFQ document for Res 2023-22, as it does indeed ask what kinds of recyclable materials each vendor will agree to collect. Ms. Barber thanked him for this clarification.

Service Director report:

Council was provided with a letter regarding 508 Lima Street, noting it is the first CHIP program project with approval. There are approximately thirteen additional properties that could be eligible for this county program.

Council was provided with a letter from 'Moody's of Dayton, Inc.' regarding well project sites to aid flow augmentation.

Working with Streets & Alleys Committee on municipal parking for Heritage Parkway area behind town.

Mr. Lee asked for an update on the 404 W. Auglaize Street well site. SSD Brillhart stated it has been determined that it is not the best location, therefore the temporary driveway will likely be removed and grass will be re-seeded.

Mr. Lee asked how the Parks fund got to a zero balance and how this will be remedied. SSD Brillhart stated that Auditor Wells will provide Council with a supplemental ordinance at next council meeting to address this. Reimbursement grants in the amount of \$140,000 are expected to arrive soon.

Mr. Dunlap asked for an update on the 24 hour recycling drop off location. SSD Brillhart stated that the City is investigating acquiring additional property in this area and adjusting the recycling drop-off zone to protect the river from debris.

Mr. Campbell requested larger containers for cardboard recycling, as they are frequently overflowing. SSD Brillhart noted larger containers are already on their way.

Mr. Miller asked for remedies to deter the geese population along the riverwalk. SSD Brillhart is still exploring options.

Law Director report:

Working on a uniform rule for the public parking ordinance and will present it to Council at next meeting.

Mr. Campbell noted that the auto mechanic shop on Perry Street will soon be installing a parking lot area on their property for vehicle storage.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the Easttown Property, noting the deed transfer needs to happen soon. Mr. Neal agreed to complete this.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

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

Communications & Rules Committee will meet April 24th at 4:30pm at City Hall.

Utilities Committee will meet April 24th at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Lodging Tax Committee will meet May 1st at 6:15pm at City Hall as needed.

Finance Committee will meet on April 25th at 4:15pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

Council Meeting on May 1st will not be live-streamed on social media.

Mayor Henderson asked Law Director Neal to assist the American Legion with a revitalization district application, as they recently acquired the old Health Department building.

Meet the Candidates Forum will be held at Wapakoneta High School on April 27th at 7pm.

Please exercise your right to vote on May 2nd.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council