

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on May 1, 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 5 visitors present.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 04-30-2023.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor Henderson introduced Miss Abby Metzger to City Council and issued a Proclamation declaring May 1st as 'Student Painters Day' in recognition of her efforts to begin an exterior painting business this summer.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on 04-18-2023 and the following was discussed:

1. Heritage Drive Parking proposal from Choice One.

Three parking proposals were presented to increase the available parking behind town alongside Heritage Dr. Committee choose concept 3 which has fewer spaces (67) but eliminates backing onto Heritage Dr. and requires a narrower easement agreement to be negotiated with current property owners. Committee also requested Choice One to look at adding additional parking on city property next to the electric substation and dedicated motorcycle parking. Future approval pending update.

2. Five-way traffic intersection of Defiance, Hamilton, Lincoln, Stinebaugh & Cole.

Choice One presented a redesign proposal to improve traffic flow. This redesign would move Stinebaugh Dr. north, out of the intersection and make Cole St. a cul-de-sac.

This would allow the intersection to be a 3-way and improve efficiency.

Proposed project is pending an ODOT 80% matching funds grant.

3. Parking issues on S. Perry St.

Bob Kensilla has taken action to relieve the parking issue on S. Perry St. He has installed a gravel driveway from the entrance of his business West to the alleyway on the West side on his property. This will allow one way flow from his entrance to the alleyway. He has also installed a 60' x 80' gravel pad to park vehicles behind the shop.

When completed he will have dedicated parking for his employees on his property.

4. Traffic Calming Guide completion update

Updated format not ready to review.

5. EV Charging Station

Next step is to have electric dept. run service to the proposed location. Site will be paved later this year and scheduled to be operational by years end. There may be an ordinance update needed for proper signage.

6. Stop sign placement at 3 exits in Colonial Estates Trailer Park

Mayor was informed by local residents that no stop signs existed at the 3 entrances/exits to Pine St. from Colonial Estates trailer part. Mayor spoke with SSD and it was determined to be a safety issue. Three stop signs were installed. Bill has been sent to park owner.

7. Madison Pl. Becker Builders properties

A question was raised about sidewalk requirements for the 7 properties recently purchased by R.E. Becker Builders. Discussions between Engineering and Beckers determined no connecting sidewalks existed. Committee will investigate the possibility of making a connection from the Becker properties to an existing sidewalk approx. 120 feet to the southeast.

Mr. Kantner asked for more detail on the proposal to move the Stinebaugh Drive intersection. Mr. Campbell advised the drive will be moved 30 yards north, out of the present intersection. Mr. Campbell reiterated that the design is just a proposal at this time.

Mr. Kantner asked for clarification on 'restricted covenants' for builders under item number 7. Mayor Henderson noted this area does not have sidewalks due to the private condominium association in this area. Mr. Campbell is exploring possibilities of connecting sidewalk designs with Becker Builders. Mr.

Kantner stated his concern is ensuring proper procedures are followed. Service Director Brillhart added that the land development code language ought to be updated for clarity.

Mr. Sheipline expressed concern about the placement process and enforceability of the stop signs in Colonial Estates Trailer Park. Mayor Henderson stated the trailer park is private property and the owner cannot readily be reached. Mr. Kantner asked what resources were used to determine there was a safety issue in this area. Service Director Brillhart explained that Choice One Engineering was consulted on the matter.

Mr. Lee recalled that residents on Cole Street have not been in favor of turning their street into a cul-de-sac in the past. Mr. Campbell answered that Choice One Engineering determined that a cul-de-sac would not hamper police and fire emergency response time. Mr. Campbell added that the proposal is still in a study-phase and residents have not been contacted yet.

Lodging Tax Committee – a meeting was held on 05-01-2023. One application was received by Riverside Art. The committee has tabled this application for now as they await more information. Mr. Miller noted the application is for another mural for downtown Auglaize Street, though it would be placed upon framed canvas rather than permanently painted on a building.

Communications & Rules Committee – a meeting was held on 04-24-2023 and the following was discussed:

Discussion of City of Wapakoneta news and event letter to be put in with electric bill four times a year. Utility department will provide updates of city news and events.

Motion was made by Lee and seconded by Sheipline motion passed.

Mr. Miller requested that said letter be made available to the public in a digital format as well.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 04-25-2023 and the following was discussed:

The committee then asked Mr. Brillhart for an update regarding the case in which a former utilities clerk, who is currently pleading guilty in her case, embezzled a large amount from the city over the course of many years. The committee believes that the public should be given an update by the city regarding this issue. Mr. Brillhart said that such an update would be best given by Law Director Grant Neal. This update will be provided during the next council meeting.

The committee then asked Mr. Brillhart what steps were being taken to prevent this type of embezzlement from happening again. Mr. Brillhart stated that, per the city auditor, the city has updated its CMI accounting software sufficiently so that the types of adjustments that were being made to allow for the embezzlement could not be completed at the staffing level again without it being cost accountable. Mr. Brillhart also noted that he has updated the city's insurance policy such that if this type of embezzlement would happen again in the future in the amount of this case, the city would at that time have sufficient insurance coverage for more of the amount. This higher level of insurance was unfortunately not in place during the time of the crimes currently in question.

Mr. Kantner then requested a report from administration of street tax levy expenditures and receipts over the life of the levy by year. Mr. Brillhart stated that he could provide this information.

Mr. Hayzlett then asked Mr. Brillhart about any updates regarding recreation account funds. Mr. Brillhart said we have received \$44,000 back from a state grant which we will deposit via a supplemental ordinance under emergency. Mr. Brillhart also sent a note requesting \$100,000 from the county for the splashpad grant. He expects the county to be fairly easy to work with to get that money. Mr. Hayzlett still expressed concern that one of the large payments for recent parks projects came from a source outside of the recreation account, and so his worry is that the grant money coming in will be funneled to that other source instead of the recreation account. Mr. Brillhart will look into this and report back to the committee.

The committee then asked about the money that was spent to complete the repair projects from the recent tornado. Michael said that the majority of the money spent came from the electric and public works funds, and so some of the projects that the electric department was planning on doing this year will need to wait until FEMA and other funds come in. As a note, money for the tornado fixes was not taken out of the general fund, and so the general fund contingency should remain as it was pre-tornado.

The committee ended with a short discussion on the RFQ for the refuse program. Mr. Brillhart stated that he has added an amendment to the RFQ for an alternate bid on a trash bag pickup program per recent

comments in council meetings. This will allow us to get costs for a trash bag pickup from firms as well as the tote program.

Mr. Lee stated he would like specific amounts to be provided to Council regarding the insurance coverage and embezzled monies. Law Director Neal answered that the specific amount of money stolen is difficult to ascertain, but the amount that former Wapakoneta Utilities Clerk Christine Steinke has pled guilty to will be addressed is his report.

Utilities Committee – a meeting was held on 04-24-2023 and the following was discussed:

Water Department

First on the agenda was the Water department wellfield expansion and update on the completion of upgrades to the water department. At this time the expansion is as far along as it can be. We are waiting on the state to approve the work that has been done and give Wapakoneta the ok to start the new process. Mr. Hamel is hopeful that we are on line by July. He cannot make any promises as we are at the mercy of the State EPA.

The Water Department would like to see the completion of the water loop in Optimist park at a cost of \$550000. When the project is completed, we will enjoy better water pressure and fire safety in that area. The administration is looking for funding to complete this project.

The Water Department is working on another water tower on Short road. This tower would get another ½ day of water in the air for the city of Wapakoneta. With its completion we will have approximately 2 days of water in the air to assure our city the water it would need in an emergency. The cost of this tower is approximately 16 million dollars. SSD indicated that these expenses are planned for and that the cost of these projects will not call for an increase in our taxes.

Wastewater Department

The Wastewater department is on schedule for completion. The electric building is still in the building phase. The department feels they will be completed by the end of the 1st quarter of 2023. Testing will start in quarter 2 and they will be up and running in September of 2023.

The well on 404 and 406 Auglaize Street was deemed to be unviable. The property will be returned to its previous state.

Electric Department

The electric department is still recovering from the storms. They are low on most materials and will be trying to replace our warehouse as soon as possible. This will be a slow process as materials are scarce and hard to come by. All properties that want power have been reestablished.

The electric department was recognized again for excellence by American Municipal Power. This is an achievement that is hard to achieve but our electrical department makes it look easy. They continue to receive this award by providing excellent service to our citizens and reliable electrical distribution.

Courtney and associates provided a presentation on Behind the Meter regulations. We discussed many topics, and they included legislative templates to help us move forward.

The committee took no action on this subject at this time. We will meet again to discuss what direction makes since for Wapakoneta.

The presentation is public and will be attached to this document.

Guest Petitions –

Mr. Robin Johnson of 1210 Indian Hill Drive announced he is organizing a first annual 'Tunnel to Towers Foundation Bike Run' scheduled for September 2nd at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds. Mr. Johnson provided information about the foundation and event plans, but stated that a route has not yet been determined. Mr. Johnson is working with the Wapakoneta Police Department on details.

Unfinished Business -

Mr. Miller recommended the Parks Committee consider a nuisance permit with ODNR to deter geese along the Riverwalk area.

Mr. Doll gave a reminder of the vacancies needing filled on the Waste Minimization Committee.

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

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adopt Res 2023-19. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-20 for the third 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.

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adopt Res 2023-20. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-21 for the third 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.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-21. Mr. Shepline pointed out that the Wastewater Department got a new vehicle last year as well. Service Director Brillhart stated last year's purchase was a shop-vac truck for cleaning out sewer systems. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-22 for the third time. Motion by Lee, second by Kantner to table Res 2023-22 in order to review new information received for the RFQ. Mayor Henderson stated that the City is gathering more information for the option of a one-arm truck trash pickup service, possibly in conjunction with the City of St. Marys. Clerk McDonald then read Res 2023-22 for the third 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. Vote to table Res 2023-22 – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-24 for the second 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.

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

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

Mr. Campbell asked for the available amount. Service Director Brillhart answered, \$1,033,000.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-26 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Service Director Brillhart stated this is a combination of ODNR and Auglaize County funds that will go into the 'pool improvements' line item to be utilized for the pool or for parks.

Motion by Miller, second by Kantner to suspend the rules for Ord 2023-26. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2023-26. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-28 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO TREASURER OF STATE'S OHIO MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THAT PROGRAM AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A STANDBY NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Service Director Brillhart explained that this process takes place each year, as the notes are renewed annually.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2023-28. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Miller to adopt Ord 2023-28. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor report:

Attended the Lodging Tax Committee meeting.

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

Attended Waste Minimization Special Collection Day and the 'Right Side of the Tracks' event.

Attended Waste Minimization meeting.

The May 15th Council meeting will not be live-streamed online.

Mr. Dunlap thanked all the local businesses involved in the 'Right Side of the Tracks' event, noting plans are in the works to do this event every year for the community.

Service Director report:

Streets & Alleys Committee meeting is needed.

Utilities Committee meeting is needed.

Three residential units have been approved for the CHIP program.

May has been designed as 'mental health awareness month'.

Energy efficiency progress report has been supplied to Council.

Mr. Kantner asked why Council is just now seeing a management letter dated June 2022 regarding an audit. Mr. Kantner expressed his concern that Auditor Wells has placed recommendations and responsibilities upon the Finance Committee that they were not aware of and therefore those items did not get done. Mr. Kantner requested a Finance Committee meeting be scheduled.

Mr. Dunlap stated that it was the initial impression that 101 River Street, 110 River Street and 5 Harrison Street would be used as an expansion of the park rather than for development.

Law Director report:

Mr. Neal read a statement regarding the case of former Wapakoneta Utilities Clerk Christine Steinke and her guilty pleas to three felonies and three misdemeanors in the Auglaize County Court of Common Pleas. These charges stem from Ms. Steinke's theft of public funds from the City of Wapakoneta's Utilities Department as well as tampering with public records. Ms. Steinke is awaiting sentencing that will likely include prison time, restitution of funds, forfeiture of her public employees retirement funds and deferred compensation funds. Forfeiture of her OPERS and deferred compensation totals \$251,736.00, but this does not signify the total amount of theft. Law Director Neal continued that the next step is for the City to consider its rights on a civil level, including pursuing Ms. Steinke for any additional amounts of theft that can be shown. Mr. Dunlap asked for the total amount stolen from the City. Mr. Neal stated he did not have this figure. Mayor Henderson added that Police Chief Schneider recommended not disclosing this amount at this time. Mr. Dunlap stated that monies from the citizens of Wapakoneta were stolen, but a specific figure has not been disclosed to them. Mr. Dunlap asked again for the amount of money missing due to Ms. Christine Steinke's theft from the City of Wapakoneta. Mr. Neal answered that the Auglaize County Prosecutor's office has been handling this information in preparation for sentencing. Mr. Campbell asked how much the City's insurance will cover for this embezzlement case. Mayor Henderson answered, \$100,000. Mr. Lee again asked if the figure of \$251,736 will make the City 'whole' again. Mr. Neal replied that he feels certain that a higher figure was stolen in this case.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the Easttown property. Mr. Neal replied that the deed work is finished.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Finance Committee will meet May 8th at 5pm at City Hall.

Streets & Alleys Committee will meet May 8th at 6pm at City Hall.

Utilities Committee will meet on May 8th at 6:30pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Doll reminded citizens to exercise their right to vote tomorrow.

Motion by Lee, second by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council