

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on May 15, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Steve Henderson and Safety Service Director Michael Brillhart were also present. There were 9 visitors present. Councilmen Daniel E. Lee and Brandon Miller, as well as Law Director Grant Neal were absent.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 05-08-2023 and the following was discussed:

The committee then heard from Police Chief Calvin Schneider about the possibility of a scholarship program that would allow the Chief to recruit prospective officers early on in the academy process. This program would likely have a clause stating that the individual would have to stay on with the City of Wapakoneta for a period of time post-graduation. If the individual would leave the city before that period is over, they would have to repay part or all of their scholarship. We also talked about the potential for targeted marketing to recruit police officers who are working in jurisdictions who are less favorable to their police force in attitude and funding. The hope is that we could show them that Wapakoneta would make a better home to build their careers and raise their families. The Chief and SSD will work together to form a plan on these items that will be presented to the committee at a later date.

The committee then heard from the Safety Service Director on a few items.

First, the committee received an update on the financing options for the proposed fire department. Mr. Brillhart is currently recommending a bond issuance, which will come before a committee of the whole for discussion once we are ready for such an action. There is potential to go out for a larger bond amount than the cost of the fire department building upgrades to fund additional needed projects. The committee asked Mr. Brillhart for recommendations from staff about other projects that would fit to be funded by the bond issue. This discussion ended with a short talk about two city-owned properties near Belcher Park. Mr. Brillhart said that a discussion is still ongoing about usage of those properties and requires a council decision.

Second, Mr. Brillhart spoke to us about a request to advertise for bids for the mobile stage project. This will come in the form of a resolution to council if the city ARPA funding plan is approved by council. Mr. Brillhart stated that there are not many companies out there that produce these stages. We would advertise for bids but also send technical specifications to a few companies that we know of that do this type of work.

Third, Mr. Brillhart said that he has submitted his first request to the county for \$100,000 in ARPA funding. The county is reviewing it now. The city has provided all required materials.

Fourth, Mr. Brillhart provided the committee with a document that shows the amount spent over the past five years from the street levy funds. He has requested the amount collected and carryover amounts from the auditor, who has yet to provide those numbers.

Last, the committee discussed an auditor report from James G. Zupka, C.P.A., Inc. that was in the council packet for the May 1, 2023 council meeting. This report addressed the 2021 audit of the City of Wapakoneta financial statements. This audit was addressed to the council and dated June 29, 2022. This report finds twelve areas of improvement for the City of Wapakoneta's financial management process, nine of which are repeat notices from previous years. The committee was frustrated that this report was not provided to city council months ago, and that there are so many areas of concern that have been unaddressed for years. Mr. Brillhart told the committee that the 2022 audit will be coming back soon, and so we can compare findings between the two years.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on 05-08-2023 and the following was discussed:

1. Portion of John St. vacation request

Mr. Shulte has purchased the two lots adjacent to John St. east of Van Buren. He has requested the city vacate John St. similar to the request from the property owner West of Van Buren in Mar. 4th 2019, Ordinance 2019-08. One additional request Mr. Schulte made was to remove Section Two which states the city would "retain all rights of ingress and egress". Other portions of John St. to the West have been vacated and home built on those vacated properties. An investigation of access to current city utilities

with Engineering revealed sewer and gas lines currently are using Van Buren St. right of way and electric is using the eastside lot utility easement. Motion by Miller, second by Greve to amend Section Two of the current language for vacating John St. Committee vote was unanimous.

An additional request to move this legislation along quickly will depend on the Law Director's directions per ORC 723.04 & .07, (public notification)

2. Heritage Drive Parking proposal from Choice One.

Committee was asked by the SSD to review the modified proposed parking proposal submitted by Choice One. Twenty-Five additional parking spots were added on city property near the old water treatment plant plus 4 dedicated motorcycle spots were added to a parking area of the street curve area. This makes for a total of 97 dedicated parking spots for behind town parking.

Next step is to request cost estimate and discuss proposal with Chamber of Commerce.

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

This is Committee's second discussion on the proposed Choice One improvement to traffic flow and reduce accidents on this 5-way intersection. Questions concerning fire and rescue runs to Cole St. were discussed with Chief Sammentinger. Chief said that the normal route to Cole St. has always been Murry St. due to congestion on Defiance St.

An additional request for Choice One to investigate is the possibility of having a dedicated LEFT turn lane for Stinebaugh Dr.

Proposed project is pending an ODOT Grant per "Small Cities Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant".

Utilities Committee – a meeting was held on 05-08-2023 and the following was discussed:

The meeting commenced with discussion about the water department. One of the issues they have been pursuing is the addition of Fluoride to our water at the insistence of the Ohio EPA. This cost was approximately \$137,000.00 to implement. The water department is very close to launching the new system.

The wellfield expansion is currently looking at a multitude of sites to help with access to new water sources. The test well that was drilled at 404 Auglaize street is not viable and the land will be returned to its former status. These new water sources will help with the processing of our water. The city is being very careful to select the best sources and to not affect other water tables. Work on these wells will begin later this year.

The city is pursuing a storage and water line extension that will serve the south east corner of the city. The total project will cost approximately 16 million dollars. This will be paid for with a 30 year loan to begin in 2024. This will not affect our current tax structure. It will help with water pressure and fire suppression in this area.

No legislation is needed at this point.

Communications -

Clerk McDonald read a letter from Ms. Aimee Sproles of Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, thanking Council for their support of Miss Emma Hunley's Gold Award project.

Guest Petitions –

Ms. Becky Niekamp of 1100 Timber Trail requested Council's permission for temporary road closures for the 2023 Firecracker 5k Run, scheduled for July 4th at 9am. Ms. Niekamp provided a race route map to Council for their review and noted the road closure would be for one hour. Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to approve the request. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Jay Sweede of 11080 Glynwood Road and member of the Wapak Recreation Board addressed Council about the possible expansion of Belcher Park. Mr. Sweede pointed out that the City owns adjacent property to the park and asked what the vision and plan will be for this area. Mr. Kantner noted that past committee discussions have included expanding Belcher Park or possibly developing new housing in this area. President Doll added that the matter should be considered in the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Sweede added that there are still no funds within the Parks & Pools budget at this time.

Mr. Jack Hayzlett of 109 Hamilton Road pointed out to Council that he is the longest standing superintendent for the City in the Parks and Recreation Department, with 27 years of service, and wished to correct any past statements made within Council to the contrary.

New Business -

Mr. Kantner asked if the City has an ordinance regarding the prevention of grass clippings being blown into our streets. Mayor Henderson answered, yes. Mr. Kantner suggested the City insert a communication within utility bills about same due to the safety issue.

President Doll noted that Resolution 2023-22 remains tabled at this time.

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

Motion by Dunlap, second by Kantner to adopt Res 2023-24. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adopt Res 2023-25. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Kantner, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-27. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-29 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6.0 “CELLULAR PHONE USAGE” OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-30 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.02 “AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT” OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-31 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A HIGHWAY TOWABLE MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT EVENT STATE USING ARPA FUNDS.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-32 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2019-08 SPECIFIC TO THE REMOVAL OF EASEMENT RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE VACATION OF THE UNAPPROVED PORTION OF JOHN STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor report:

Attended WAEDC board meeting.

Had a conference call regarding the Ohio Greenhouse rebuild.

Fire Department is conducting flow tests of hydrants over the next four weeks.

Attended Mayors of Ohio board meeting.

Will be attending the OMEA board meeting and AMP Ohio awards ceremony this week.

State auditors are currently conducting the annual audit.

Presented a proclamation for the Auglaize County Historical Society

Wapakoneta Electric Department has again received national recognition for their excellence in safety.

Service Director report:

An additional residential unit has been approved for the CHIP program.

Choice One Engineering is creating a cost estimate for the Heritage Drive project.

Submitted application for a Small Cities grant with ODOT for the five-way intersection at Defiance and Hamilton. If grant dollars are awarded, proposed details of the project will be submitted to a Committee of the Whole for review and public input. No official movement on this project has been made other than submitting an application for grant dollars.

The City has applied for ARPA funds with Auglaize County and is still awaiting a reimbursement of \$100,000. The City has also applied for FEMA dollars regarding the utility and staffing costs incurred after the April 1st tornado.

Attended the Ohio Association of Public Safety and Service Directors last week.

Mr. Dunlap brought up the state of disrepair of our Veterans Banners hanging throughout the City, explaining that 262 replacement banners are waiting to be hung but the City's Light Department has had too much workload to complete this. Mr. Dunlap suggested the City have an outside contractor help hang the banners promptly, especially considering the upcoming holidays. Service Director Brillhart stated the City does have a 'pole attachment agreement' that would need to be utilized to do this.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Adam Johnson of 1016 Holly Street then approached Council regarding Ord 2023-32, noting that the portion of John Street referenced will never be built and has no utilities.

Mr. Campbell stated the demolition of the building on the corner of North and Seltzer Streets has been pushed back a week.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to adjourn the meeting at 8:13pm. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council