

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on July 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 8 visitors present.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 06-30-2023.

**Finance Committee** – a meeting was held on 06-29-2023 and the following was discussed:

The committee then heard from Nikki Sawmiller about her concerns regarding a wage study that was done by the city. Her understanding along with other union leaders was that a full study was to be done on both the non-collective and collective bargaining unit employees, and that those findings would potentially lead to opening the contracts of the unions for adjustments. After thinking back as a group, it was determined that the finance committee was presented with the non-collective bargaining study results, with which we made recommendations to council for adjustments. These adjustments were approved by council. Data was also collected on collective bargaining at that time but was never reviewed by the finance committee or lead to any opening up the union contracts. Ms. Sawmiller also disagreed with some of the methodology of the consulting firm. The finance committee stated that we would, at a future meeting, review the results of the collective bargaining part of the study, and determine if any recommendations in the near term need to be made. It was also noted that the city may decide to work with a different consulting firm for future union negotiations. Administration is working to determine the best course of action moving forward.

Ms. Sawmiller also expressed her concern with a wage increase that was given to a member of another union within the city that seemed to be outside of the range appropriate per that union contract. Law Director Grant Neal reviewed the contract, and his opinion needs to be reviewed by council. Mr. Brillhart is working to correct this compensation issue.

The committee then moved on to a discussion of the audit reports that we received both from 2021 and 2022 that showed many areas of potential improvement. Mr. Miller stated that he would email the auditor to try to receive monthly reports of inflows and outflows. Mr. Brillhart stated that staff have concerns with the items noted on the report and are doing their part to make sure that financial transactions and cash movements are prompt and handled properly.

Mr. Kantner then asked for a report of lodging tax receipts and outlays for the past two years to be provided to the committee.

Mr. Dunlap asked for further explanation on the wage issue. Service Director Brillhart answered that information is still being gathered.

Tree Commission meeting minutes from July 6, 2023 were provided to Council.

#### **Unfinished Business –**

President Doll gave a reminder that the next scheduled Council meeting is Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on geese mitigation by the Auglaize River walkway. Service Director Brillhart stated conversations about possible solutions are ongoing.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-34 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT BY THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA WITH DUCHOUQUET TOWNSHIP, AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO.

Motion by Campbell, second by Shepline to adopt Ord 2023-34. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-35 for the third time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE

CONSTRUCTION OF A RECREATION STORAGE AND OFFICE BUILDING AT VETERANS PARK USING ARPA FUNDS.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-35. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-36 for the third time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO SOLICIT FOR BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS AT VETERANS PARK.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Lee to adopt Res 2023-36. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-37 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO SOLICIT FOR BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITION TO THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT BUILDING AT 251 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-38 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE RECREATION MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR POSITION AND CREATING THE ACCOMPANYING JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunlap asked for clarification on the position title and job description. Mr. Miller stated initially, a recreation manager position was being considered. However, the Parks Department communicated that a maintenance supervisor position was needed. Mr. Kantner added that the Parks Department is in need of two different skill sets and will eventually need a full-time maintenance manager and a full-time director.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to suspend the rules for Ord 2023-38. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Greve to adopt Ord 2023-38. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-39 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-42 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ADOPTED ORDINANCE 2023-27 AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS FOR YEARS 2023 AND 2024.

Motion by Miller to suspend the rules on Ord 2023-42. Service Director Brillhart interjected, stating that because the job position will need to be advertised first, an emergency on the legislation is not needed. Mr. Miller then rescinded his motion.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-43 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA (CRA) AGREEMENT WITH BECKER RENTAL PROPERTIES, LLC.

Mr. Kantner requested the estimated tax consequence to the City and to the schools be provided to Council at next meeting for review.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-44 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND R.D. JONES EXCAVATING, INC. FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF N. WATER STREET FROM BENTON STREET TO THE AUGLAIZE RIVER.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-45 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND THE SHELLY COMPANY FOR ROADWAY ASPHALT OVERLAY, CRACK SEAL, AND CAPE SEAL IMPROVEMENTS IN 2023 USING TAX LEVY MONIES.

**Mayor report:**

Thanks to a generous grant awarded by T-Mobile, and the diligent work of the First on the Moon Committee, an all-abilities playground will be installed at Harmon Park.

A \$150,000 county grant was received for water reclamation facility needs for Sherwood Forest.

Attended Finance Committee meeting.

Attended WAEDC meeting.

Attended CIC Board meeting.

Had conference call with Efficiency Smart.

Met with Eitri Foundry regarding Phase 3.

Monthly income tax report received for June.

Mr. Campbell asked if an additional project has been discussed with Eitri Foundry. Mayor Henderson stated that future projects will be considered based upon pricing numbers and other data.

**Service Director report:**

Sherwood Forest wastewater facility is old and in disrepair. The county has installed new lines and laterals to these homes and they are requesting that the City collect and treat the distribution. The City is requesting an agreement that though it will treat the Sherwood Forest wastewater, any future problems or repairs with the lines be the county's responsibility.

Eitri Foundry is exploring the possibility of a 2.5 megawatt system installation. John Courtney is reviewing the data. Mr. Lee asked what burden this will place upon the Electric Department. Service Director Brillhart noted the new substation has been completed and no additional generation is needed at this time. Mayor Henderson added that this possible project wouldn't occur until the latter half of 2024.

Excavation has begun for the new splash pad at Veterans Park.

Mr. Lee asked for an update on the new dog park along the Auglaize River, as well as landscaping at the Harmon Park gazebo. SSD Brillhart answered that landscaping and water needs will be addressed in the coming year or so for the dog park, and Parks Director Hayzlett is currently working on gazebo landscaping. SSD Brillhart added the new dog park is not open yet, but will be soon.

Mr. Lee asked if the new locks had been installed on the public restrooms. SSD Brillhart replied, yes.

Mr. Campbell asked that John Courtney be invited to the next Utilities meeting to answer solar energy questions.

Mr. Campbell asked if Sherwood Forest would be under an unincorporated fee. SSD Brillhart replied, yes.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the refuse and recycling RFQs. SSD Brillhart stated no formal submissions have been received yet.

Mr. Kantner wished to clarify that at last council meeting, his comments regarding income tax were not adjustments, but rather, refunds.

**Law Director report:**

No report.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the Eastown property transfer. Mr. Neal stated a meeting will occur this week to get under contract.

Mr. Kantner asked who is responsible for distributing final audit reports to City Council for review. President Doll noted there are a number of items similar to this are not specifically defined or assigned to one person.

**Scheduling of Committee Meetings:**

Lodging Tax Committee will meet July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Parks Committee will meet July 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am at City Hall.

Mr. Lee noted that a Utilities meeting will be needed in August.

**Miscellaneous Business-**

Motion by Miller, second by Greve to enter into executive session at 8:09pm to consider compensation of a public employee and inviting City Administration. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to come out of executive session at 8:18pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council