

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on August 7, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Daniel E. Lee, 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 4 visitors present. Councilmen Brandon Miller and Ross Kantner were absent.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Parks Committee** – a meeting was held on 07-20-2023 at Harmon Park Gazebo and the following was discussed:

A gathering of City officials and 1st on the Moon committee members to hear input from China Carter from Mid States Recreation regarding the location of an all abilities playground in Harmon Park.

In attendance:

China Carter	Rachel Barber
Michael Brillhart	Jack Hayzlett
Terry Campbell	Chad Doll
John Shepline	Brandon Miller
Ross Kantner	

The stated purpose of the gathering is to hear from China regarding proposed locations for the all-abilities playground. No decisions or legislation to be made today. Parks Committee to meet with the Parks Board next week to discuss and make final recommendation to City Council based on input from all involved.

China provided expert information regarding the all-abilities playground footprint and poured rubber fall-flooring, as well as insight into the placement of the playground.

- Topics discussed included the apparatus ordered through Mid States would be delivered in October, potential expansion of the all-abilities playground, all-abilities add on pieces, under surface requirements (ie: stone rather than cement), poured rubber surface requirements (ie: must be poured before night time temperature is below 50 degrees to cure properly).

China stated that the location options discussed would work.

Rachel expressed her concern that she needed a decision by August 1st.

City obligations to provide or support project will be discussed in Parks Committee and Finance Committee meetings scheduled for next week.

**Parks Committee** – a meeting was held on 07-27-2023 and the following was discussed:

Review minutes of last meeting – July 12, 2023

Motion to approve minutes by: B. Miller, 2nd by J. Shepline. Passed unanimously.

Update/Old Business:

Geese problem in City Parks

Per Michael, he is talking with Chief Schneider and ODNR regarding the “permit to dispatch” geese in the fall.

Michael has ordered 2 fake swans to place in the river.

All Abilities Playground Location discussion.

The “proposed 3rd location” appears to be the choice.

Jack will contact Rec Board for their approval.

Brandon made motion, 2nd by Shepline: The 3rd option be recommended to City Council.

Committee passed unanimously.

WaterPark chemical room location change discussion.

Per Jack/Michael – no new updates or drawings from Mike Carroll yet.

WaterPark – short discussion regarding decline in attendance/“plateau” in interest.

Per Jack, Mike Carroll commented that it is not unusual for interest to decline as a pool ages. Wapak attendance will continue to decline until we do something “new” to pique interest.

Another factor for Wapak is the fact that Lima is building pool which will negatively affect our attendance, as people from our surrounding area that have been coming to Wapak will “try” Lima’s new pool.

Discussed the need/desire to see “comprehensive plan” (5–10 years) for Parks.

Brandon commented: At Budget time the City needs to allocate more money for Pool Capital Improvement. All present agreed.

New Business:

Short discussion regarding future projects in the city where things are donated, which is great, and appreciated, but the city must take into consideration for planning the cost to the city (i.e.: site prep, installation, maintenance, etc.) for the “free” donation.

Discussion regarding All Abilities Playground:

City's expense to implement project:

Excavating and site prep – No estimated cost yet

Forming “footprint” – No estimated cost yet

Stone/gravel for “underlayment” and pouring floor – Estimate from Kinetic Recreation = \$16,445.00

Sidewalks – No estimated cost yet

Assembling the apparatus – Potential volunteer labor – overseen by Parks Superintendent, otherwise, done by City employees – no estimated cost yet.

How will City pay for these since the project is not in 2023 budget?

Per Michael, there may be funds available in the General Contingency Fund that could be used for this project. He will also check the verbiage on the “Sidewalk” fund to see if those funds can be used.

Timeline to complete project?

The apparatus is to be delivered the 1st week in October.

Kinetic Recreation states to pour the floor, they must do before night-time temperatures get below 50 degrees to insure proper curing, therefore excavating and site prep, forming footprint, etc. should be done ASAP.

Per Michael, Jack Hayzlett will be City's point of contact/lead to coordinate this project and work with Public Works to arrange for their assistance with the project.

Jim Reichenbach from the Breakfast Optimist Club regarding the portable concession stand at Optimist Centennial Park.

Per Jim, Breakfast Optimist Club (BOC) would like to repair the concession stand, and would like the City to provide electric service to the building.

Discussion followed:

Determined City can provide electric to the building.

Questions that arose from discussion included, but not limited to:

Who owns the building? (City does not own the building, even though on City property)

Who would be billed for the electric used? (BOC or soccer association)

Who would get Health Department permits (if needed) to serve food? (BOC or soccer association)

Who would need to have insurance coverage to have the concession stand? (BOC or soccer association)

Jim suggested tabling the discussion and action until he had opportunity to speak with the BOC Directors and get a better idea of answers to questions before proceeding.

Review relationship between Rec Board and Parks Committee

Review and discussion of the history and relevancy of 2 entities, essentially having the same purpose.

Everyone agreed there is duplication of purpose/responsibilities.

Discussion of having the Rec Board transition to an “Advisory Committee”.

If we are to transition, what are the steps to create the “Advisory Committee”, and address current ordinances pertaining to the Rec Board?

Brandon to communicate with Law Director Grant Neal to investigate and advise what next best steps should be to accomplish a transition.

Other:

Jay Sweede asked about the “wild” or prairie grass along north end of Heritage Parkway and along Belcher Park.

Per Jack, the grass along Heritage Parkway and Belcher Park was planted by the state as part of the Heritage Parkway project, so we should follow their directives which include the City to mow the grass once in the spring, then let it grow “wild”.

Comment was made the grass along the river at Belcher Park is very unruly, and seemingly out of control. It is hindering citizens from sitting at the park and looking across the river to activities such as Party in the Parkway.

Request was made to look into/investigate if there is a different “wild grass” that could be used along the river.

Mr. Campbell asked about the funding for the playground surface. Mayor Henderson stated that Auditor Wells believes he can find appropriate funding for this item.

**Finance Committee** – a meeting was held on 07-27-2023 and the following was discussed:

The first item of business was discussion current city openings, including the Parks Service Manager position as well as the Tax Administrator Position. Multiple applications have been filed for the parks position, and interviews will begin the week of July 31. The tax administrator position is out for applications. The position was vacated through the resignation of the previous administrator.

The committee then heard from Parks Director Jack Hayzlett regarding his planned work for the rest of 2023. The work was divided into multiple categories of funding including ARPA, lodging tax funds, sidewalk funds, general budget items, and other items. There were many requests by the committee for SSD Brillhart. The first was to check in on the ARPA funds to be sure that Mr. Hayzlett has access to those funds as intended. Next, purchase orders for lodging tax items need to be approved so that lodging tax funds can be used. With regards to the general budget items, there was a motion by Kantner, second by Sheipline to request a move of \$55,000 from the Pool Improvement fund to the Parks Improvement fund. This movement was warranted given the many parks projects that still need funding and the extra, unneeded monies sitting in the pool improvement fund. It was also noted that the park improvement funds were ran down unexpectedly due to paying for the new pool playground equipment, so a movement from pool improvement to park improvement to compensate seems natural. This motion passed unanimously, and SSD Brillhart will work to get that supplemental ordinance written with the auditor.

Regarding the sidewalk fund, Mr. Hayzlett has many sidewalk projects that require completion, including for the new dog park, the new all-inclusive playground, and at Veteran’s Park. The committee asked Mr. Brillhart to investigate whether these sidewalks could come out of the already established sidewalk fund.

Mr. Hayzlett also brought up various other projects, including a service club donation for a new shelter house at veteran’s park, a purchase order for splashpad labor that was likely incorrectly attributed to the parks budget, proposed plans for the waterpark in 2024, and the rejection of a purchase order for a truck by the auditor. It was requested by the committee that Mr. Brillhart begin negotiations with the YMCA for 2024 pool management soon after the pool season ends, and that Mr. Hayzlett develop a plan for running the pool in 2024 without the YMCA. The goal for analysis of both plans is the November 2023 to December 2023 timeframe This is to ensure plenty of time and options for administration and council to consider before next summer.

The committee spoke briefly about funding for the excavating, base, and installation of the new all abilities playground equipment at Harmon Park. These discussions happened primarily in the parks committee.

The committee then spoke to Mr. Brillhart about the refuse proposals that were garnered from two companies: Rumpke and Waste Management. Neither of the two offered bag pickup, as they both perform the automated truck bin pickup method. Mr. Brillhart will present the proposals to the Waste Minimization committee and will then propose holding a committee of the whole meeting for council to learn about each proposal. Mr. Brillhart noted that both proposals came in less than anticipated with regards to cost.

The final note was on the audit that the city is expecting. We have not yet received the results.

Mr. Campbell pointed out that the fund transfer from the Pool Improvement fund to the Parks fund has not yet occurred.

#### **Communications -**

Clerk McDonald announced Ohio Ethics Law training is being offered at the Wapakoneta High School on October 5<sup>th</sup> and all public officials are encouraged to attend.

Clerk McDonald supplied Council with letters from Stan Arnold of 510 Murray Street that provided suggestions for better traffic flow at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds as well as the stoplight intersection at Walmart on Bellefontaine Street. President Doll placed these suggestions within the Streets and Alleys Committee for review.

Clerk McDonald supplied Council with a letter from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1126 stating that the Gold Star Monument in downtown Wapakoneta was vandalized during the recent Summer Moon Festival. Mayor Henderson stated he has touched base with Police Chief Schneider and VVA Chapter 1126 regarding the matter and camera footage is being reviewed to obtain further information. Mr. Campbell then gave a reminder that councilors should utilize their city email addresses for city-related business.

#### **Guest Petitions -**

Ms. Michele Wolke of 1100 Defiance Street, Wapakoneta YMCA requested street closures on October 24<sup>th</sup> for the Gary Herman Memorial Run. Ms. Wolke supplied Council with a copy of the race route map. Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to approve the request. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-42 for the third 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 Lee, second by Sheipline to adopt Ord 2023-42. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2023-43. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-44 for the third 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.

Motion by Lee, second by Greve to adopt Res 2023-44. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-45 for the third 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.

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adopt Res 2023-45. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

#### **Mayor report:**

Attended WAEDC meeting and a Waste Minimization meeting.

Several meetings with Bill Thomas regarding refuse and recycling services.

Attended OMEA Board meeting and a Mayors Association of Ohio meeting.

Met with Justin Wade about the construction status of the new water reclamation facility.

A gas aggregation program was considered but is not being pursued at this time.

ODOT has awarded an 80 / 20 grant for improvement of the State Route 198 / 501 reconfiguration project.

#### **Service Director report:**

Water Street Phase I will begin in September.

Regarding a gas aggregation program, upon further investigation, the gas rates that citizens can obtain on their own is currently the best option.

Concrete has been poured for the splash pad at Veterans Park.

Veterans Park water main loop project will likely begin in October.

Regarding the Industrial Park Water System Improvements, a public meeting for citizen input must be held.

Additional signage and flashing lights will be utilized for the crosswalk at Hamilton and Barbara Lane.

1.4 million dollars of federal grant money is available to improve the SR198/501 intersection.

Committee of the Whole meeting is requested to consider the RFP for refuse and recycling services.

Mr. Lee requested that the mill and pave street list be made available for public review.

**Law Director report:**

Appointment is scheduled with Mr. Mongold to complete the signing of paperwork for the Easttown property transfer.

**Scheduling of Committee Meetings:**

Lodging Tax Committee will hold a meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Committee of the Whole will hold a meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at City Hall.

**Miscellaneous Business-**

Mr. Campbell stated work continues for installation of an EV charging station downtown.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council