

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on August 21, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Sheipline, 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. Councilman Daniel E. Lee was absent.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Committee of the Whole** – a meeting was held on 08-14-2023 and the following was discussed:

The first half of the meeting consisted of a summary of upcoming events & preparations for the Total Eclipse event in April of 2024. Jackie Martell of the Chamber of Commerce provided the information through a powerpoint presentation.

The meeting then moved to the topic of the future of collection of refuse & recycling in the city.

Mr. Brillhart gave a brief summary of information leading to this point. Recycling is a roughly \$370,000 annual expense for the city. To date, recycling has only generated approximately \$800 in revenue from the county. Staffing is low due to low wages and personal re-locations. Other costs such as fuel & truck maintenance continue to increase. In light of this, the city created an RFP for outsourcing such services. Two RFPs were submitted for residential refuse & recycling collection in Wapakoneta. The submissions came from Waste Management and from Rumpke.

Highlights of council questions & discussion included:

- Glass could be included for either company in a single stream collection of recyclables
- Currently, a bag using customer in the city pays \$16 a month plus bags. Rolling totes run around \$27 a month
- Rumpke proposed \$24.89 a month for the next five years for basic service
- WM proposed \$16.80 a month for basic service with increases over the next five years finishing at \$20.41
- The public drop off on Harrison Street would still operate as it is a county endeavor
- City employees could be transferred elsewhere in Public Works
- Public Works could still assist with events such as storm clean up
- The city would see an annual savings of around \$75,000 if this is outsourced
- Both bids would have service in the city five days a week with a 24 hour or less response time to customer service calls
- Both bids would use 96 and / or 65 gallon rolling totes for refuse & recycling with recycling have an every other week pick up & refuse weekly
- Retro-fitting current city trucks is very cost prohibitive
- Both companies bidding have a service to help those physically unable with tote moving provided appropriate documentation is filed

Public input was then received.

Tom Vehorn expressed concern that a shift from bags would discourage recycling. He also encouraged council to find out what income the county is receiving for recyclables.

Rachel Barber expressed that local control of collection has been a strength of the program for years. She was also concerned that loss of bags will disincentivize recycling. An economic incentive is very helpful. She also expressed concerns about the impact that would be felt by the Solid Waste District of the county if the city withdrawals.

Deb Zwez expressed that education of citizens about recycling, as well as incentive to do so, are both vital to success. She encouraged council to be in communication with Auglaize County Commissioners regarding the topic.

#### **Guest Petitions -**

Mr. Mike Borges of 301 Biscayne Avenue and representing Vietnam Veterans of America requested a street closure of Auglaize Street from Blackhoof to Willipie Street on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm to 4pm

for the Gold Star Families day tribute. Motion by Campbell, second by Shepline to approve the request. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Ace Ambos of 13972 Linzee Road and representing Vietnam Veterans of America explained the status of the City's veterans' banners, including replacements and new orders. Mr. Ambos asked if the City wishes to continue with the program. Mayor Henderson and Councilman Campbell noted that funding needs to be in-place for the work required to hang the banners.

**New Business -**

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to bring Resolution 2023-48 to the floor for its first reading. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-46 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE CLARIFYING SECTION 1060.06(A)(1) "REFUSE AND RECYCLING RATES AND CHARGES" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

Service Director Brillhart noted that language within this section needed changed, but rates were not changed. Mr. Miller asked if bills to the customer will appear different. SSD Brillhart replied, no. Law Director Neal stated that the Ordinance is amending Section 1060.06(A)(1), not clarifying it. Mr. Miller then asked for SSD Brillhart to explain the \$3.00 landfill fee being charged to customers each month. SSD Brillhart answered that though the landfill was closed in 1997, the Ohio EPA must still complete annual inspections of the site to determine the water quality and methane levels and said landfill fee pays for this testing. Mr. Miller requested that this \$3.00 landfill fee be included in any documentation comparing the current refuse and recycling costs versus the request for proposals from outside vendors, as the \$3.00 fee will remain in place.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-47 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE TO PURCHASE A STAGELINE SL100 MOBILE STAGE FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Mr. Campbell asked why a moveable stage was desired over a permanent stage. Mr. Miller noted there are opportunities to utilize the stage in Harmon Park or elsewhere in the City. SSD Brillhart added that training will be provided to City staff on the setup and teardown of the stage. Discussion continues on a proper site for storage.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-48 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

**Mayor report:**

Had meeting with Superintendent Justin Waid of the Water Reclamation Facility regarding test borings on the Heitz property south of Kelly Drive.

Attended OMEA executive board meeting.

Attended zoom meeting with Ohio EPA.

Attended Committee of the Whole. Expenses to the City for curbside recycling = \$370,000. Income to the City for curbside recycling through June = less than \$1000.

Received several calls regarding loose dogs in the Glynwood Road area. Wapak Police Department and the dog warden are aware of the situation.

Homeland Security grant in excess of \$157,000 was awarded to the City. Thank you to Fire Chief Sammetinger and his crew for their work on this.

Mr. Campbell noted incorrect mulching around some of the City's tree bases and asked that this be communicated to City staff to prevent loss of trees.

**Service Director report:**

Water Street reconstruction cost is approximately 4.8 million dollars and the project will last through 2025.

Concrete needs finalized for the new splash pad at Veterans Park.

Veterans Park water main loop will be completed by spring of 2024.

Deposit has been made for the acquisition of surface materials needed to install the all-abilities playground at Harmon Park.

Regarding the Solar Park Phase 3 project, a power generation agreement has been submitted to John Courtney and John Coil for review and feedback.

A public meeting is needed per the Ohio EPA requirements for the water tank project and waterline improvement loop on Short Road.

Still gathering information for the Utilities Committee regarding the 'Behind the Meter' program.

A Utilities Committee meeting is needed regarding underground fiber optics.

Mr. Miller asked for information on the City's strategic plan update. SSD Brillhart stated that quotes must be returned by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Miller asked if the City is confident in locating a contractor for the stone base and excavation for the all-abilities playground at Harmon Park. SSD Brillhart replied, yes.

Mr. Miller asked about the plastic swans that were placed in the Auglaize River behind town. SSD Brillhart noted these were vandalized.

Mr. Miller requested a Committee of the Whole be scheduled with John Courtney to review electricity supply updates. Mr. Miller asked that an explanation of Eitri phase three be included with this.

Mr. Dunlap asked if the Harrison Street recycling drop-off location will be removed should the City decide to outsource its refuse and recycling. SSD Brillhart stated it would be a good decision to keep the location for citizens to use. Mr. Dunlap stated he has repeatedly advised residents surrounding the recycling drop-off location that the sound-barrier work would be completed soon, but it has not. SSD Brillhart advised the work will be done by August's end.

Mr. Miller requested that figures be provided to Council and the public showing the charges that will be needed to keep refuse and recycling services 'in-house'. Mayor Henderson is working with Bill Thomas on this figure.

President Doll clarified that the public meeting requirement of the Ohio EPA regarding the water tank project will be informational and open to the public, rather than a meeting of City Council or its committees. Said public meeting will occur October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at City Hall.

**Law Director report:**

East town property purchase closing will be complete by next Council meeting.

**Scheduling of Committee Meetings:**

Lodging Tax Committee will hold a meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Parks Committee will hold a meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at City Hall.

Finance Committee will hold a meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm at City Hall.

Utilities Committee meeting is needed. President Doll will inform Councilman Lee to schedule and announce this.

**Miscellaneous Business-**

Clerk McDonald gave a reminder that due to the holiday, the next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at City Hall.

Mr. Campbell stated he forwarded Mr. Stan Arnold's traffic suggestion letter to the county. Mr. Campbell added that there is not enough room to add a turning lane to Bellefontaine Street at the Walmart intersection.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council

