

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on September 5, 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 2 visitors present.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

The Lodging Tax Committee did not meet.

Parks Committee – a meeting was held on 08-28-2023 and the following was discussed:

Update/Old Business:

Geese problem in City Parks

Per Michael, 2 white swans have been placed in the river, and have shown some success. They were recently vandalized. Damaged was patched up and reinstalled. He plans on purchasing a couple more to use.

Michael has contacted ODNR and filed a municipal permit application that would allow us to dispatch of geese in October. He has not received reply yet.

Discussion regarding All Abilities Playground at Harmon Park

City's work/material responsibility/commitment will include:

Excavating, supplying, and installing gravel, sidewalks, and curb around site.

Midwest Elastomers to donate rubber-based flooring, and remainder of funding from the City should be taken care of per Mayor.

Schedule to complete project is by end of October due to weather related requirements of flooring installation. Success of this will be dependent on delivery of apparatus, which originally was the first of October, but was recently moved to mid-October, per supplier.

Rachel will contact supplier to see if delivery can be moved back to 1st of October.

Jack/Michael will coordinate City's resources for site prep and installation of gravel, sidewalks, and curb.

New Business:

Discussion regarding the Parkplatz – Hotel Steinberg/Koneta Hotel historical marker

Brandon made motion for Parks Committee/City to coordinate with Historical Society to create and install historical marker in the Parkplatz that will be of the same style as other markers in the city. Second by Ross.

Jay Sweede stated he felt that this should be brought to Rec Board as well for approval, based on current ordinance.

A Lodging Tax Grant will be filed for funding of marker (estimated cost - \$1,000.00)

Discussion regarding Rec Board and Parks Committee relationship

Revisited past discussions of purpose, responsibility, and redundancy of having 2 entities.

Brandon has had numerous conversations with Grant Neal regarding legislation, and proposed an ordinance to repeal City Ordinances regarding Rec Board, and revise Section 274 making Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Ross made motion to bring Revised Chapter 274 to Council. Second by Brandon.

Mr. Campbell asked how many geese may be dispatched with the municipal permit. Service Director Brillhart answered that the City would need to have an ordinance in place to dispatch geese within City limits. SSD Brillhart added that the City does have a permit to drill geese eggs in the spring.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 08-31-2023 and the following was discussed:

The primary topic on the agenda for the finance committee was to discuss the proposed changes to refuse and recycling that would potentially privatize the city's program. The committee reviewed financial information presented by SSD Brillhart that showed the inflows and outflows for both the refuse and recycling programs. It was noted that, without general fund infusion, both programs would not function as intended. SSD Brillhart noted that the refuse budget, without a change in action, would completely run out of funds within five years. The recycling fund is in worse shape, as it relies almost entirely on an infusion

from the general fund to remain solvent. The total expense for refuse and recycling, including staff, fuel, maintenance, etc. is around \$450,000 per year. We are also making payments on a refuse truck that was purchased in a recent year. It was also noted that this past year, one worker who worked on the refuse/recycling took 23 hours in time off for injury. In the previous two years to that, three such workers were out a total of 123 hours for injury.

It was noted by SSD Brillhart that with the \$16 monthly fee and a conservative \$5/month estimate on bag purchases, the average resident spends roughly \$21 per month on city refuse. The city's lowest estimate from a private firm is \$16 per month for year one from Waste Management without bags. The committee chairman notes for the reader of these minutes that the \$5 per month estimate for bags assumes a family only buying one pack of bags every 3 months. It is also noted that the \$3 fee for the city dump that is included in the current \$16 monthly refuse fee will not leave customer bills if we privatize. This fee is dependent on the state to remove. The chairman asked SSD Brillhart for a full cost estimate explaining the increase in current city refuse charges that would be required to put the entire program into solvency. This new price estimate will allow the committee and council to make an apples-to-apples comparison between the proposed private plans and what it would take to keep the program in house and solvent.

The committee then heard from Ms. Barber, Ms. Zwez, and Ms. Myers on their concerns regarding the potential privatization. Their primary concern was the city losing control of the refuse and recycling program that they, and others, had worked to develop in the past. There was concern that moving from a bag system to a tote system would disincentivize recycling. Ms. Myers noted that education on recycling programs is lacking and that the city and county should work together to improve that. Ms. Zwez mentioned that a reasonable increase in the monthly refuse bill price is a small price to pay for keeping our program in house. Raising the price of bags and decreasing their size was also suggested by the guests to keep the program solvent. Ms. Barber noted that the city should talk to the county regarding the county recycling cooperative to determine the impact of Wapakoneta potentially leaving the agreement. These were just a few of the many concerns our guests had with the potential privatization. Mr. Kantner noted that three individuals do not represent the entire city, and that we hope to receive a more complete, city-wide view of the options before the council regarding refuse and recycling. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was a very positive development that the city is talking about improving its refuse and recycling program.

The committee also touched on Parks Director Jack Hayzlett's budget. It was noted that Auditor Wells will be able to transfer money from the pool fund to the rec fund in order to fund needed purchase orders.

It was noted that the Finance committee would like to meet again soon in order to review the requested cost estimates from administration. It was also mentioned that the utilities committee may be a good committee to include in the discussion, as these charges appear on utility bills. A joint committee meeting was requested by the chairman.

Mr. Lee asked if funds have been moved from the pool fund to the rec fund as mentioned. Mr. Miller stated Auditor Wells agreed to transfer funds as needed when the purchase orders are complete. SSD Brillhart advised he would again check on said fund transfer status.

President Doll noted that the ease of single stream recycling may be an incentive to our citizens to recycle more items. Mr. Miller added that should the City leave the county cooperative, it would not be harmful to the county. Mr. Campbell stated that the City could explore other site options for the 24-hour recycling drop-off in order to provide more containers for public use. Mayor Henderson clarified that recycling services will be every two weeks in the City of Wapakoneta, whether the service be kept in-house or privatized.

New Business -

SSD Brillhart explained that a variance request for the expansion of the Wapakoneta Fire Department Building was submitted to the Planning Commission for review. The building expansion design will encroach about 2 feet into the public right-of-way, but will not harm any utilities. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of the request. SSD Brillhart added that a review of the design details will be provided at the September 18th Council meeting. Council should expect an ordinance this October regarding the plan for financing on the building expansion. Demolition of the existing Engineering Department Building may occur in March 2024, with construction of the fire department building expansion beginning shortly thereafter. The proposed completion date for the fire department building expansion is September 2025. Discussion continues on the permanent future location of the City's

Engineering Department. Mr. Miller suggested the Finance Committee review all bond information for the building expansion project soon. Mr. Lee asked for the approximate total cost for said project. SSD Brillhart answered, approximately \$4 million. Motion by Lee, second by Kantner to approve the variance request for the expansion of the Wapakoneta Fire Department building as recommended by the Planning Commission. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

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

Mayor Henderson noted citizen concern over the risk of injury in setting up the mobile stage. SSD Brillhart added that training would be provided by the manufacturer and the stage would not arrive until June 2024.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-48 for the second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-49 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 274 "RECREATION BOARD" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-50 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017-13R SPECIFIC TO DESIGN REVIEW REGULATIONS FOR THE DOWNTOWN PRESERVATION DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-51 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor report:

Attended Finance Committee meeting.

Met with Scott Cisco again regarding the City's refuse and recycling services.

Attended Parks Committee, Board of Zoning, as well as Planning Commission meetings.

Attended a zoom meeting with Ohio EPA.

Met with Water Reclamation facility Superintendent Justin Waid. Test borings off of Kelly Drive will occur soon.

WAEDC Board and CIC meetings will both occur tomorrow.

Efficiency Smart is launching a photo contest for the public.

Mr. Miller asked for an explanation regarding the Ohio EPA regulations letter provided to Council. Mayor Henderson answered that communication with the EPA has been great and there is no cause for concern here.

President Doll asked for clarification on recycling #5 plastics within the City. Mayor Henderson answered that #5 plastics will soon be accepted at the Harrison Street 24-hour recycle drop-off site.

Service Director report:

Power purchase agreement is being reviewed for the solar field phase three project.

Request for a Lands and Buildings Committee meeting.

Request for a Utilities Committee meeting.

In the process of updating the five-year capital improvement program. Council should expect a resolution on same in November.

Fire Department building expansion design details will be reviewed further at the September 18th Council meeting.

Two of the City's electric department employees have been deployed to Florida to aid with utility restoration efforts there.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the 'Behind the Meter' and solar panel legislation. SSD Brillhart answered to expect the ordinance in late September or early October.

Mr. Dunlap again asked why the work has not been done to alleviate sound problems for the neighbors surrounding the Harrison Street 24-hour recycling drop-off. SSD Brillhart apologized for the delay, stating that the contractor will be here in mid-September and could not come earlier. Mr. Dunlap suggested that just closing the recycling drop-off during the nighttime is a good solution that would eliminate the sounds of breaking glass at 3am for those surrounding residents to the site. Mayor Henderson suggested that the 24 hour recycling drop-off could be moved to a different location entirely and this would allow more room for additional containers. Mr. Dunlap continued to stress that this constant disturbance is a quality of life issue for the residents that must live around the Harrison Street recycling drop off. Mr. Miller agreed that the recycling drop-off location need not be a 24 hour service if it is such a disturbance to surrounding residents.

Law Director report:

Law Director Neal advised he will be absent during the September 18th Council meeting.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Neal if he was a fan of the Pittsburg Steelers, to which Mr. Neal replied, "No, I'm a Browns fan."

Scheduling of Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee will hold a meeting on September 18th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Utilities Committee will hold a meeting on September 12th at 5pm at City Hall.

Finance Committee will hold a meeting on September 11th at 5pm at City Hall.

Lands & Buildings Committee will hold a meeting on September 7th at 5:15pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business-

Mr. Lee advised that #5 recycled plastics are medicine bottles, plastic bags and plastic bottle caps.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council