

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on October 16, 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 4 visitors present.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

The Lodging Tax Committee did not meet.

**Committee of the Whole** – a meeting was held on 10-09-2023 and the following was discussed:

Consultant George Luce gave a brief presentation regarding various aspects of what it would take for the city to keep refuse collection in-house. Mr. Luce is working with St. Marys on their move to automation in refuse collection and works with numerous other regional communities. He suggests Wapakoneta move to an automated system of refuse collection. He believes it would reduce employee attrition by making the job safer & easier. He also believes it would reduce costs by reducing the number of people needed to collect refuse as well as making the process more efficient. He indicated automated trucks last 7-10 years. He feels one of the most important reasons for a community to keep things in house is for unmatched customer service availability.

Michael Brillhart indicated future pricing for customers would need to be adjusted due to lost bag revenue under the proposed new system. The exact amount would take time to sort out. Brandon Miller shared that his previous estimate for necessary increases might only be about 1/7 as large due to the leasing system proposed by Mr. Luce.

Mr. Thomas strongly supported an automated system for employee safety.

Mr. Miller indicated he felt as though the changes being proposed by Mr. Luce might be a reasonable compromise for the various viewpoints involved.

Mr. Brillhart & Mr. Miller then gave very brief summaries of previously shared numbers and processes used to this point in the investigation of various service options.

Public input was then received.

Linda Knerr expressed her opposition to outsourcing the service and was happy to hear recycling would still be offered.

Amy Crow expressed her opposition to outsourcing the service and was happy to hear recycling would continue. She also asked the city to work with HOAs and consider their rules in the process. She felt in house service would be best for addressing missed collection concerns.

Tom Vehorn believes an automated system would produce significant labor savings. He also expressed concerns that once the city gives up such an ability, it would be very difficult to re-start it again in the future.

Rex Katterheinrich reminded council that the Waste Minimization committee & process was created for a reason many years ago and has been very successful. He encouraged council to find ways to continue to incentivize recycling as that would help keep down costs on tipping fees for refuse collection.

Bonnie Rauch expressed her concern about shifting to the use of rolling totes as they would be difficult to use and store in her neighborhood and some other parts of town.

Michael Rink stated he is a relatively new resident in the community and had used totes in the three previous communities in which he has lived. He noted that garbage production varies at different stages in family living and that different options make sense at different times. He also expressed concerns related to access due to street width.

Sam Watkins shared that current refuse vehicles and access most trailer park areas, but it is tight. Future changes would need to be mindful of this. He also shared that current refuse staff would like to see the system kept in house.

Rachel Barber still likes the pay as you throw system as a matter of fairness. She emphasized recycling can still be incentivized by using smaller refuse bins and charging more for using multiple ones versus recycling. She also noted that large rolling bins have been available from the city for several years and that only a very small number of customers use them which probably indicates there is not a big demand in the city for the larger totes being suggested by outside bid companies.

Jane Myers is not satisfied with the data and numbers currently available. Annual budgets do not tell important details of the story. She also see no need for the large proposed bins by vendors feeling that the overwhelming majority of customers would need weeks to fill a 96 gallon tote. After a motion by Brandon Miller and a a second by Chad Dunlap, the council voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:43 PM

#### **Guest Petitions –**

Mrs. Allison Brady of 18027 State Route 197 and Park Commissioner for the Heritage Trails Park District addressed Council about the upcoming park district levy that has been placed upon the November 7, 2023 ballot. Park Commissioner Brady provided Council with a levy fact sheet and explained the park district's current funding limitations. Mrs. Brady noted the numerous benefits that the proposed levy could provide to Auglaize County residents in the form of recreation and environmental education.

#### **New Business -**

Mr. Kantner asked why the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> was not televised. President Doll answered that the I.T. Department staff was unavailable to do so.

Mr. Kantner advised Council that Parks Superintendent Jack Hayzlett has still not been given a delivery date for the shipment of the new all-abilities playground equipment for Harmon Park. Mr. Kantner stated that Mr. Hayzlett is also still awaiting documentation from Urban Forester Stephanie Miller regarding the damaged ash trees at Harmon Park. Mayor Henderson reminded Council, the Tree Commission & all department heads that nearby property owners ought to be informed prior to the removal of trees from the tree lawn. Mr. Campbell agreed that nearby homeowners should receive a copy of the arborist's report.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-53 for the third time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WELLFIELD EXPANSION WATER FACILITIES PROJECT AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ALONG SCHAUB ROAD FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-53. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-54 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN.

Mayor Henderson noted that the proposed water tower location recommended by Choice One Engineering will save substantial dollars. Mr. Miller stated he would prefer to not table Res 2023-54 at this time.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-55 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE YEARS 2024-2028 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

#### **Mayor report:**

Hosted State Representative Susan Manchester for an informational meeting regarding public power.

Recognized as an honorary member of OMEA. Wapakoneta Electric Department was honored with an award for system improvements and safety.

Attended public meeting regarding the new water tower.

Attended Committee of the Whole meeting regarding refuse and recycling services.

Met with Auditor Wells regarding the final financial statement from the state for 2022.

Spoke on behalf of the City at the newly chartered Wapakoneta Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Miller requested that City Administration supply the finance committee with a proposal regarding funding for refuse and recycling services.

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

Request for a Streets & Alleys Committee meeting to discuss signage.

Due to pre-casting issues, the Water Street project is not progressing as quickly as previously thought. Working to determine delivery date for all-abilities playground equipment. The City will receive grant dollars from the state for the County Road 25A project. The project is complete and has been inspected by ODOT. Fire Department Building expansion design is at the 75% level of completion. A bond ordinance is being developed for the financial schematics for same.

**Law Director report:**

Prosecuted two cases at municipal court on behalf of the City. Mr. Kantner asked if the Recreation Board will be formally dissolved as of January 1, 2024. Law Director Neal stated he needs to review the ordinance language, but that the Recreation Board membership authorities to negotiate were taken out and a new Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was created, effective January 1, 2024.

**Scheduling of Committee Meetings:**

Parks Committee will hold a meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at City Hall.  
Utilities Committee will hold a meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm at City Hall.  
Finance Committee will hold a meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at City Hall.  
Streets & Alleys Committee will hold a meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm at City Hall.

**Miscellaneous Business-**

President Doll noted that appointments to the new Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will occur upon the new term of City Council in 2024.

Mr. Miller stated he is investigating a trap, neuter, release program for stray cats within the City.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to enter into executive session at 8:17pm to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and inviting City Administration and Law Director Neal. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Lee to exit executive session at 8:27pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Greve to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council