

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on November 6, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Daniel E. Lee, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Sheipline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Steve Henderson and Safety Service Director Michael Brillhart were present. There were 5 visitors present. Law Director Grant Neal was absent.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 10-31-2023.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Parks Committee– a meeting was held on 10-19-2023 and the following was discussed:

Update/Old Business:

Geese problem in City Parks

Per Michael we have a permit to “dispatch” of geese. Will concentrate on ponds owned by the city south of Rt. 33.

All Abilities Playground – Harmon Park

Per Jack, the planned delivery is Monday, October 23. City employees will assemble apparatus upon delivery and complete ground prep for pouring of floor surface. If all goes well, could have finished by end of week.

Michael will verify with Midwest/Kinetico the flooring can still be poured based on ground prep and temperatures.

Highway towable “mobile stage” project update

Per Michael, the stage is currently scheduled for delivery in June, 2024.

Parkplatz – Hotel Steinberg/Koneta Hotel historical marker

Parks Committee requested Rachel Barber to provide to the Committee at her earliest convenience ideas/recommendations for a historical marker/sign to be placed in the Parkplatz.

Per Rachel, she will use Fossil Graphics out of New York which the historical society has used for other area signs, which she provided pictures/examples.

Cost is approximately \$1,000.00 per sign.

New Business:

WaterPark Pool Management and Operations - 2024

Discussion regarding Draft proposal for 2024 as presented by the YMCA.

Michael will respond/communicate with Josh Little from the Y concerning concerns and/or ideas.

2024 Planned and requested City Parks Projects

Jack had to leave due to prior commitment. Committee will resume meeting ASAP at a later date to review and complete agenda.

Other:

Rachel updated Committee that bike racks from Apollo are expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Will need to discuss and decide where to place them.

Motion to Adjourn by Brandon. 2nd: John. Time: 3:19 PM

October 26, 2023 – Continuation of October 19, 2026 meeting.

Call to order 2:00 PM by Chairperson Ross Kantner in the City Building.

Committee Members Present: Ross Kantner – Chair, Brandon Miller, John Sheipline

Other City Officials Present: Michael Brillhart, Wapakoneta SSD, Jack Hayzlett, Park & Rec Dept. Superintendent, Steve Henderson, Mayor.

Dan Lee, Councilor (Mayor-elect) joined meeting at 2:25 PM

Resume agenda of New Business:

2024 Planned and requested City Parks Projects

Jack requested/suggested that he be included/attend Park Committee meetings.

He suggested we have monthly meetings for next several months due to ongoing projects and the Capital Improvement Plan.

Jack gave update regarding ongoing projects that may stretch into next year. The list included:

All Abilities Playground at Harmon Park

A "Stop Work Order" has been issued by Health Department pending receipt of a "playground permit". This will potentially cause project to be put off until the spring due to weather restraints. Michael to contact issuing entity for further information.

Splashpad at Veterans Park

All concrete poured/finished. "Grand Opening" in Spring, 2024.

New Parks Department Storage Building at Veterans Park

Moving forward with construction. Should be finished 2024.

Veterans Park bathrooms (Next to Splashpad)

Remodeling to be finished in Spring, 2024

Walking Path at Veterans Park

Re-sealed this week

Jack presented list of Parks projects/budgetary requests he is proposing for 2024 along with estimated costs.

Projects/budgetary requests discussed include, but not limited to are:

Eclipse Day in Wapakoneta

Jack is concerned with the potential influx of visitors, as well as our citizens', safety and well-being during the Eclipse. He stated he has received reports the City Parks should plan events, have security, as well as additional port-a-pots throughout.

Michael to attend meeting this week with County EMA to discuss the Eclipse and will address these concerns.

Harmon Park Eclipse Family Fun Day

Jack is working on plans to have activities throughout the day at Harmon Park that include, entertainment, food trucks, and family activities.

ToolCat work vehicle

Jack provided information on a work vehicle for the Parks Department.

2024 Budget

Jack presented a "Budget Request 2024" list for review and discussion.

Several potential/"wish list" projects or Park Department improvements.

Resurface & reconfigure Pickleball Courts (complete mill & pave)

Riverwalk Improvements with possible kayak dock

Move Farmers Market to year-round, permanent structure

Other:

City received letter from the YMCA withdrawing their offer to manage the WaterPark.

With this development, Jack presented thoughts on City taking over the WaterPark.

Goals include:

Create a community pool environment

Increase attendance

Reduce monetary losses

Consider changing appearance to "beach theme" and/or add pool features (ie: new slide)

Dan commented that he is excited to move forward and the opportunities this will provide.

3:05 PM Brandon and Steve had to leave due to prior commitments.

Discussion regarding Parks Budget with development of pool situation.

Committee requested Michael to review Jack's current WaterParks Manger contract, as well as the Parks contract, and make suggestions for revisions.

Review potential "Assistant Pool Manager" position/contract.

Finance Committee— a meeting was held on 10-19-2023 and the following was discussed:

The first item of business was discussing financing options for the construction of the new fire department building addition. Mr. Brillhart proposed various lengths of term to the committee for consideration. The principal would be \$4 million. Auditor Wells recommends the shortest payback period, 10 years, to save on interest payments. The committee felt that the longer payment period of 15 or 20 years would be worth looking into because it would not put such a large payment requirement on the general fund each year. The committee also felt that, once interest rates come down, the longer-term bond could be refinanced to save interest costs. Mr. Brillhart said that he would inform the auditor of the committee's thoughts regarding the issue.

The second item was the options regarding refuse and recycling. The committee had a discussion regarding the items from the committee of the whole and felt that the best route would be for the city to pursue the option of keeping refuse and recycling in house but automating the process with bins rather than the bag system. Motion by Shepline, Second by Kantner to recommend to city council and administration that the city continue pursuing the option of keeping it in house with automation. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Brillhart will continue the process of working on that option and finalizing the quote for council review. It was also noted that the current quote of ~\$900k is likely too low because we would need bins for both refuse and recycling. We also potentially would need two new trucks rather than just one.

The final item was the presentation of the draft ordinance for 2024 non-bargaining unit employees pay rate ordinance. Mr. Brillhart stated that the proposal is a 3% increase based upon consistency with the collective bargaining unit's 3% increase.

Mr. Brian Cooper of 140 E. Town Street, Columbus and municipal advisor for the City of Wapakoneta then addressed Council regarding Ord 2023-57. Mr. Cooper explained current status of interest rates and details of the bond process. Mr. Miller expressed his concern about using half of the contingency on one bond for the City and causing strain on the general fund. Mr. Miller stated he prefers a 15 year plan.

Utilities Committee— a meeting was held on 10-23-2023 and the following was discussed:

First on the agenda was the proposed locations for a new water tower on the south side of the city. Five locations were presented to the committee by Mr. Jake Berke from Choice One Engineering.

The first location to be discussed was located at 14268 Short road. This location was struck due to cost.

The next location was beside the existing water tower located on Commerce Drive to the west of Miller Textiles. This site would be more expensive and cause some large logistical problems if chosen.

The next two locations were located at 14451 Short Road. This property is owned by the city and has good merit. The largest problem with this sight was the road. Short road would need to be reconstructed after the construction of the tower and the location would not be as convenient as the last sight that was selected.

The location at the end of Leon Pratt drive is the sight that this committee felt had the most merit. The road system is ready for construction. The sight is very visible from I75. The cost is approximately \$85,000 more than the least costly. Lastly, and most importantly the city's water treatment Superintendent, Brent Hamel, indicated this is his preferred location.

With all of the sites discuss, a motion was made by Campbell seconded by Greve.

Motion to set the new water tower at proposed sight 1, located at the East end of Leon Pratt Drive in the City of Wapakoneta.

Motion passed unanimously. 3-0

Update on the Water treatment Plant.

Superintendent Justin Waid indicated they are on schedule with all their new buildings. He is looking forward to not working in a construction zone.

Mr. Waid is also concerned about the budget of the department as we move forward. The debt service is approximately 4 million dollars and currently we have an income of approximately 2.4 million dollars. We do have monies to cover everything at the moment, but this short fall will become negative or close to negative in the cycles to come. This short fall does not have any bearing on the new construction as that is not where the operating expenses come from. The funds have been largely affected by the cost of materials to operate the plant.

Justin recommends a rate adjustment to 3.5 percent and then incrementally raise to 5 percent. The committee looked at several options. In the end, a motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Greve to increase the annual rate for waste water by .5 percent on the first billing cycle of April 2024 and then .5 percent per year till reaching 5% in the year of 2027.

This legislation will add cents to each resident's utility bill over a 3-year period of time. Mr. Waid feels that this rate increase will satisfy his department's needs for a number of years after 2027, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

Finally, Mr. Waid feels we have found two good source of water to help bring more fresh water to the treatment plant. This fresh water will help offset the total dissolved solids coming to the treatment plant and keep us in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Miller noted that the newly recommended site for the water tower is not what Choice One Engineering had selected. Mayor Henderson stated it will take some time to get power to the proposed site.

Streets & Alleys Committee— a meeting was held on 10-24-2023 and the following was discussed:

1. Firetruck exit out of west side of new fire station

Proposal is to exit South onto Mechanic St. at Perry. Administration is requesting to remove east/west stop signs on Mechanic St. to allow new ladder truck to better negotiate a right turn onto Mechanic St. Committee request administration to consider exiting north onto Main St. which already has no east/west stop signs at Perry.

2. School crosswalks on Redskin Tr.

WCS would like to work with the city to improve the current pedestrian crossing lights at Mohican & Apache Trail to enhance the safety at the existing street crossings. Administration will investigate design and cost options and share with WCS.

3. Round-a-bout for Redskin Tr. & SR 501

WCS would like Administration to investigate potential funding for a round-a-bout to reduce traffic congestion.

4. Potential stop sign for Harmon Park Street exit at W. Harrison St.

Committee will review potential options and discuss next meeting.

5. Haynes St. future grind and pave schedule?

Andy said Engineering will look at potential repaving for the 2024 calendar year.

6. Stop signs requested on the N/S alley between Pearl & Mechanic

Ron Volbert & Alyshia Hensley requested stop signs for the blind N/S alley intersection. Numerous close encounters and excessive speed have been witnessed. Committee agreed and requested administration to install 2 stop signs.

7. Stinebaugh Dr., congestion due to parking on both sides of street

Numerous complaints of congestion due to parking on both sides of street on the curves near the Lincoln Hwy. intersection. Committee agreed to continue to allow parking on the north side of Stinebaugh Dr. and to prohibit parking on the south side only between the two curves, (approx. 120 feet).

8. Chuck Bowers, request vacating alley between 305 & 307 North St.

Police do not want this alley vacated for safety concerns. Committee agrees, request denied

9. No parking request on S. Blackhoof St. west curbside near Jefferson St. due to poor visibility when exiting Jefferson St.

Committee discussed potential solutions including moving current stop sign and pavement stop bar and limiting west side parking approaching Jefferson St. Administration will look at off street parking for affected residents to determine if extending a no parking zone on S Blackhoof St. is a viable solution. (Adam Rohrbaugh)

10. Poor visibility from Plum St. at Dearbaugh Ave.

Committee to investigate (Ed Rohrbaugh)

Mr. Miller stated he feels it was inappropriate to place the 'no-parking' signage on Stinebaugh Drive prior to passing an ordinance for same. Mayor Henderson noted the sign placed was a temporary one.

Communications -

Clerk McDonald read a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a permit change from: Gilligan Co LLC, DBA Gilligan Oil Co LLC, 4382 Elick Lane, Union Twp, Batavia Ohio 45103 to: Milton Food LLC, 1775 Bellefontaine Street, Wapakoneta, Ohio. Council did not request a hearing.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-54 for the third 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.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-54. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-56 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1042.05 ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF CHARGES" OF CHAPTER 1042 SEWER CHARGES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO, REGARDING THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OF THE MUNICIPAL WASTE WATER SYSTEM.

Mr. Kantner pointed out that Section 1b states "...the sewer charge shall increase at the rate of five (5%) percent per year each year thereafter." Mr. Kantner stated this language is incorrect and should reflect the cap at 5%. Mayor Henderson will see that this is corrected.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-57 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,060,000 FOR A FIRE STATION BUILDING EXTENSION FOR PERSONNEL, STORAGE, NEW FIRE BAYS AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF THOSE BONDS.

Service Director Brillhart added that Ord 2023-57 allows the City to advertise for the bond, but an additional ordinance regarding the details of the contract and financing will be presented to Council sometime in February.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-58 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE A VERSALIFT TMD-2047-T UTILITY TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Miller asked if this item was a planned budget expense or an emergency need. Service Director Brillhart answered, a planned purchase. Service Director Brillhart noted the truck can help to access lines and drill for poles.

Motion by Miller, second by Greve to suspend the rules for Res 2023-58. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adopt Res 2023-58. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-59 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CERTAIN PARKING PROHIBITION WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND AMENDING SECTION 452.98(A) "SCHEDULE I: PARKING PROHIBITED" OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA CODE OF ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING THE ERECTION OF SIGNS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAME.

Mayor report:

Attended Parks Committee meeting.

Met with Justin Waid on status of Water Reclamation Facility. Plans to go online June 2025.

Met with Levi Cecil on status of Ohio Greenhouse Company regarding damage caused during demolition.

Met with Brent Hamel on status of new Water Treatment Plant.

Spoke to Eitri regarding status of Phase 3.

Spoke to Lora Jean about the kinship process with Scotland.

Received honorary certificate from OMEA.

CIC Board has received three request for proposals for the Eastown Drive project.

Signed the 'energy transaction confirmation' for the Ohio Greenhouse Company.

Attended an Ohio Mayor Legislative Conference.

Judged the children's cookie contest for annual open house.

Mr. Campbell asked for a copy of the redline items for Eitri consideration on the solar project. Mr. Campbell asked if the City will still hold Eitri to the agreement that they would connect to the City's existing distribution line at Eitri's cost. Mayor Henderson replied, yes. Mr. Campbell stated that both of the City's solar fields look terrible due to tall weeds and lack of proper maintenance.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the "Behind the Meter" legislation. Service Director Brillhart answered that data will be presented to the Utilities Committee soon.

Service Director report:

Water Street reconstruction project will begin this Wednesday, weather permitting. Surrounding property owners have been notified. Mr. Lee asked if businesses on Water Street will be adversely affected. SSD Brillhart answered that one lane will be open at all times except for a 2 or 3 day window in the construction plan late 2024.

In order for Eitri to connect to the City, there must be an interconnection to the 69K Loop. The City is getting a schedule from Encompass Engineering for this. The third solar field cannot be placed until this connection is made.

Constellation Energy has entered into an agreement with AMP for the Ohio Greenhouse Company to obtain block energy at a better price.

Mr. Kantner asked, regarding the net receipts report, if Council will be able to see which month the receipts came in. SSD Brillhart stated that they will all be tracked to the account based on the timeline they were received.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the audit. SSD Brillhart answered that this work continues and should be finalized in November.

Mr. Miller asked about the permit process for dispatching geese in City limits. SSD Brillhart answered that the permit should be available March 2024.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Parks Committee will meet on November 14th at 2pm at City Hall.

Lodging Tax Committee will meet on November 20th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Communications & Rules Committee will meet on November 9th at 6pm at City Hall.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Lee to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council