

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on November 20, 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 6 visitors present.

Motion by Lee, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll noted the Lodging Tax Committee did not meet.

Communications & Rules Committee– a meeting was held on 11-09-2023 and the following was discussed:

Additions to Council rules, Council President believes three rules should be added.

1. He/she shall be jointly responsible (along with the Clerk of Council and Administration) for maintaining a list of members and terms of various boards and commissions of the city.
2. He/she shall be responsible for distributing to the entire council any official communications she/he receives that are addressed to the entire council.
3. He/she shall notify city IT personnel with dates and times of scheduled upcoming committee meetings of council to be posted on the city webpage and social media for the purpose of informing the public.

Parks Committee– a meeting was held on 11-14-2023 and the following was discussed:

Update/Old Business:

Geese problem in City Parks – Per Michael, plans include:

Get more white plastic swans to place in the river.

Contact folks who provide live catch cages to remove geese.

Will consider egg drilling in the spring.

Last option to shoot geese.

Chief Schneider will investigate potential ammunition

All Abilities Playground – Harmon Park

Per Jack – the site has been excavated and ready to install playground piece once permit is received.

Engineering Dept. sending documentation for permit.

Scheduled to complete project in the spring

Parkplatz – Hotel Steinberg/Koneta Hotel historical marker – No new info.

2024 Planned and/or requested City Parks Projects updates– Jack

Christmas decorations/lights up

Site is ready for storage building construction at Veterans Park.

Will take 5-6 days to construct once material delivered.

New Business:

Chief Schneider discussed concerns he has as we prepare for the April, 2024 Eclipse

The PD will be swamped trying to provide law enforcement if the predicted crowds show up.

Brandon suggested looking into contracting 3rd Party Event Management Company.

The Chief is concerned with a City sponsored event at Harmon Park

The Chief is concerned with other things such as what rules do we want enforced?

Michael suggested/recommended we have a Committee of the Whole to discuss this event and the challenges the City we will be facing.

Committee agreed to request Committee of the Whole at next Council meeting.

Parks Department Issues – Wapak WaterPark

Jack brought list of issues/concerns to be addressed by Committee that include:

Need for new ordinance with revised pay scale for life guards and manager/assistant managers

Michael to review/recommend a new line item for lifeguards in the Employee Salary and Wage Schedule

Facility issues/Concerns that include:

Improvements

New features

Budget

Chlorine & acid usage

Investigate change to “puck system”

Marketing

Facility Improvements:

Concrete repair

Add cabanas

Umbrellas

New signage

New activities such as splashpad, slip-n-slide, and special days such as Wacky Wednesdays.

Committee requested Jack to provide his recommendations/cost analysis/pertinent information needed to make informed decisions.

Jack informed Committee the representative from Brandstetter Carroll is willing to come onsite to discuss/explain “puck system” for chlorine and acid, as well as potential new features.

President Doll asked for further explanation of a “puck system”. Mr. Kantner explained the chemicals needed for the pool would come in a pre-measured solid form rather than buckets of liquid chemical.

Communications -

Clerk McDonald summarized a letter received from the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership requesting a carryover of matching grant funds from the 2023 calendar year to 2024 within the Façade Improvement Program. DWP also requested that repairs to the backs, sides, and roofs of buildings be considered for funding assistance.

Mr. Miller asked if façade improvement funding has been denied for repairs to the backs, sides and roofs of downtown buildings in the past. Mr. Dunlap will be meeting with Law Director Neal to clarify proper funding uses for the façade improvement program dollars. Regarding the carryover request, Mr. Dunlap stated that obtaining building contractors within a certain timeframe is very difficult and projects often need to be scheduled into the following year. Law Director Neal will work on legislation to present to Council regarding these DWP requests. Ms. Rachel Barber of the Auglaize County Historical Society added that DWP has modified the application to allow for more time to secure a contractor on a project.

Guest Petitions –

Mr. Chuck Bowers of 307 North Street approached City Council regarding his request to vacate an alley between his two properties at 305 & 307 North Street. The alley vacation request was reviewed by the Streets & Alleys Committee and ultimately denied, as the Police Chief had safety concerns with vacating said alley. Mr. Bowers supplied Council with a map of the area as well as written statements from his immediate neighbors. Mr. Bowers requested to know the Police Chief’s specific safety concerns with the alley vacation. Mr. Bowers added that he has not yet received a refund from his denied alley vacation request. Mr. Bowers stated the alley is not groomed or plowed by the City. Mr. Campbell pointed out that once Mr. Bowers no longer owns the two properties, accessibility could be lost for the new property owners if the alley were to be vacated.

Mrs. Kim Bowers of 307 North Street approached Council to express her concern for the safety of children near the open alley traffic. Mr. Dunlap pointed out that all alleyways share this safety concern. Council then discussed the possibility of traffic calming signage for said alleyway. President Doll put the matter into the Streets & Alleys Committee for consideration. Mayor Henderson stated the City will refund Mr. Bowers \$200 from the denied alley vacation request.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street invited all to attend the free Community Thanksgiving Dinner being held at St. Joseph Parish Life Center on Thanksgiving Day.

Ms. Barber also addressed Council about incorrect mulching practices being done on City-owned trees. Ms. Barber noted that the trees are an investment to the beauty of our City and can die if overly mulched near the trunk. Ms. Barber asked that the City remove the excess mulch before the winter season arrives. Mr. Campbell agreed. Service Director Brillhart will do an inspection of the City’s trees with the Tree Commission and have excess mulch removed.

Mr. Bowers of 307 North Street re-approached Council to ask if his trailer could possibly get towed out of the alley near his home. Mr. Campbell answered that it could be towed, but is more likely that the City

would contact Mr. Bowers first to ask him to move it. Mr. Campbell then agreed to inquire about the specific safety concerns of the Police Chief on the alley vacation request.

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

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2023-55. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-56R for the second 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. Miller asked for explanation of the rate increases. Mr. Lee answered, inflationary reasons as well as added cost of goods. Mr. Kantner stated the verbiage in Section B regarding rate increase is confusing and needs reworded. Mr. Miller added that the section on service charges also needs clarified. Mr. Greve stated it should read and be interpreted as 5% maximum. Mr. Miller suggested the revisions be made and Council then table Ord 2023-56R to allow the public time for review.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-57 for the second 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.

Mr. Miller asked if City Administration has received any further updates on bond counsel. SSD Brillhart answered, no. Mr. Lee asked if the fire station building expansion will include a baby drop-off box. SSD Brillhart answered, yes. Mr. Lee asked if the baby drop-off box has been budgeted for within the project. SSD Brillhart stated the item is within current funding capabilities.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-59 for the second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-60 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB TITLES AND PAY RANGES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 260 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

Mr. Miller stated that job descriptions for lifeguard and assistant pool manager are needed so that recruitment can begin. Mr. Miller was also concerned that the pay scale for the assistant manager could potentially be less than for a longer-term lifeguard.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-61 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1040.27(B)(14) ENTITLED “GENERAL DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS” OF CHAPTER 1040 SEWER SYSTEM REGULATIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO, AFFECTING THE PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

SSD Brillhart explained the City’s permit is on schedule to be reviewed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-62 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 208 E. HARRISON STREET IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on the list of priority budget requests that includes the purchase of 208 E. Harrison Street. SSD Brillhart stated that the City has the capability to utilize general fund carry forward dollars and enterprise fund dollars from utilities for the purchase price on 208 E. Harrison Street. Mr. Miller expressed concern that this purchase could be made rather than other items recommended by committees. Mr. Miller further pointed out that Council has been supplied with a copy of a real estate

purchase agreement, already signed by all involved parties, without Council having passed the ordinance yet. Ms. Rachel Barber then asked for the property in question and the purchase price. President Doll answered, 208 E. Harrison Street for \$380,000.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-63 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO HAVE THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO JOIN THE WESTERN OHIO RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-64 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A FY 2024-2025 CAPITAL BUDGET COMMUNITY PROJECT AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Brillhart explained that local governments can apply for these funds to support infrastructure needs, cultural or historical preservation, parks or tourism activities, but the deadline to apply has been moved up. The City is looking to apply for these funds for the Heritage Park parking lot project.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Res 2023-64. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Kantner to adopt Res 2023-64. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-65 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE 2023 OMEG POWER POOL PARTICIPANT SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC.

Mayor report:

Met with Auglaize County Commissioners regarding renewal of agreement for 'City tree farm'.
Approximate 13 acre property off of Kelley Drive being looked at to aid the water reclamation facility.
Work continues regarding the kinship agreement with Scotland.
Work continues on info gathering to keep refuse and recycling services in-house.
Conversations with Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Bowers regarding the North Street alley vacation request.
Levi Cecil completed the application for Tree City U.S.A.
Attended zoom meeting for OMEA board of directors.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the 'behind the meter' legislation. SSD Brillhart stated work continues on this item.

Service Director report:

Portion of Water Street now closed for reconstruction and storm water work.
Grant received for State Route 501 / 198 intersection improvement. Topography survey phase at this time.
Industrial Park new water tower and lines project is in environmental study phase.

Mr. Kantner asked for an update on the 2022 audit. SSD Brillhart stated that next week a copy should be available for review. Mr. Lee asked that Council be provided with this document as soon as its available.

Mr. Miller asked if a revised quote has been obtained from Mr. Luce regarding refuse and recycling, in particular adding recycling totes. SSD Brillhart answered that Mr. Luce is generating this information. It will take 4 to 7 months to obtain the equipment needed. \$750,000 from refuse and recycling account will be carried forward into the next budget year. Mr. Miller expressed concern on the feasibility of budgeting such a large expense to keep refuse and recycling services in-house.

Law Director report:

No report.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee will meet on December 4th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Finance Committee will meet on November 27th at 6pm at City Hall.

Health & Safety Committee will meet on November 27th at 5:15pm at City Hall.
Ad-hoc Committee will meet on November 30th at 5:15pm to work on updating the City Comprehensive Plan.

Miscellaneous Business -

Mr. Lee congratulated the winners of the 2023 Chamber Awards.

Mr. Greve complimented City workers on the Christmas light installation behind town.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Lee to adjourn the meeting at 9:08pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council