

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:45pm on December 18, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Daniel E. Lee, Brandon Miller, 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 20 visitors present. Councilman Alex Greve was absent.

President Doll presented Councilman Ross Kantner and Mayor Steve Henderson with plaques recognizing their years of public service to the City of Wapakoneta. Mr. Alan Davis also presented an award to Mayor Henderson for his years of service and dedication to the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council.

Motion by Lee, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Finance Committee— a meeting was held on 12-12-2023 and the following was discussed:

The committee began by approving prior meeting minutes, which were approved unanimously.

The committee first heard from the Police Chief and Fire Chief regarding budgeted increases in labor that were higher than the committee had expected. The Fire Chief noted that the 3% increase is expected, however he needs more labor funds to hire more auxiliary for the eclipse weekend. He also noted that a few of his employees were given performance-based raises. The Police Chief noted a similar tone, saying that the solar eclipse will require a lot more labor hours than usual. He also has budgeted for hiring an officer in the academy in order to guarantee that the person will work for us upon completion of the academy. He also wants to be more competitive with pay in general, as there are fewer potential hires coming out of the academy than before.

Ms. Sawmiller then spoke about her concerns with the process of spending in the city. She noted that all departments should have to adhere to their budgets and should not be requesting purchases outside of that amount. The committee agreed.

The auditor then answered the questions of the committee regarding the budget. The \$550,000 payment in the fire department both covers the payment for the fire department expansion as well as a of the purchase of 208 E. Harrison St. The reason for increases in the zoning and planning commission budgets is due to chargebacks to those committees from the engineering department. The auditor said that the new director of engineering is completing the chargeback process correctly now, thus leading to more charges to those committees. He noted that the small increase in income tax revenue budgeted is his conservative estimate, and also noted that the reduction in contingency primarily revolves around a much lower anticipated carryover in the general fund from 2023 to 2024.

The parks and pool budgets were then discussed, and after the committee and auditor agreeing that spending practices must remain within budget for both funds in 2024, the auditor committed to transferring an additional \$125,000 from the general fund to fund 207 (pool) to increase the appropriation or the pool to ~\$375,000. The auditor requested passage of the preliminary budget ordinance at the next council meeting.

Guest Petitions -

Mr. Tom Vehorn of 911 Fieldstone Court and representing the Waste Minimization Committee addressed Council about the future of the City's refuse and recycling services. Mr. Vehorn suggested that the pricing for the trash tote containers ought to be based on size, as this would incentivize recycling efforts in our citizens in the same way the black and white City trash bags do currently. Mr. Vehorn asked that Council and City Administration reach out to the Waste Minimization Committee members for their help during the planning process ahead.

New Business -

Motion by Campbell, second by Shepline to re-appoint Terry McDonald as Council Clerk for the upcoming term. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Miller asked about the unsigned purchase form now attached to Ord 2023-62 which lists Mr. Dan Lee as Mayor. Service Director Brillhart answered that this form was made in case the Ordinance was not approved until 2024.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to untable Ord 2023-57R. Mr. Campbell asked for further explanation on the change from a 15 year bond term length versus a 20 year term. Mr. Miller advised he spoke with Auditor Wells about this change with the hope it will improve cash flow within the general fund. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to untable Ord 2023-62. Mr. Kantner asked if the changes made to the purchase form would require the ordinance itself to be revised. President Doll answered that the accompanying document had a revision to the Mayor's signature line due to the upcoming change in City Administration for 2024, but the ordinance itself had no revisions. Mayor Henderson wished to clarify Council's discussion during the December 4th council meeting regarding any fiduciary relationship he has had with the owner of 208 E. Harrison Street. Mayor Henderson explained that 30 years ago, when he was the Managing Director at Northwestern Mutual, he assisted the late Don Stahler of 'Don Stahler Trucking' with a pension plan, as well as an IRA plan for truck drivers. Mayor Henderson further pointed out that in November 2023, Council authorized City Administration to negotiate a lower purchase price for 208 E. Harrison Street. A lower purchase price was agreed to, purchase documents were drawn up by Law Director Neal, which were then signed and notarized. Mayor Henderson added that real estate contracts are often signed before financing methods are finalized. Mayor Henderson summarized that Council members could have contacted him directly for clarification rather than speculating during a public meeting in his absence. Vote to untable Ord 2023-62 – 5 yeas, 1 abstain (Lee), 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-57R for the benefit of the public, as it has already been read for Council three times: 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.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2023-57R. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-60R for the third 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.

Motion by Campbell, second by Lee to adopt Ord 2023-60R. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-61 for the third 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.

Motion by Lee, second by Shepline to adopt Ord 2023-61. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2023-62. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-63 for the third 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.

Motion by Miller, second by Lee to adopt Ord 2023-63. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to adopt Ord 2023-65. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-66 for the second time re: ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2023-66. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2023-66. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-67 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WAPAKONETA “YARD WASTE” DISPOSAL FACILITY. Mayor Henderson explained that due to the \$20,000 of expenses from the April 1, 2023 tornado damage, County Commissioners agreed to help pay \$7500 this year and \$5000 next year.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-68 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE INTERCONNECTION OF BEHIND-THE-METER (BTM) GENERATORS AND SCHEDULE “SPP” – SMALL POWER PRODUCTION ELECTRIC RATE APPLICABLE TO ENERGY SUPPLIED BY BTM GENERATORS.

Mr. Kantner asked how the ordinance will affect those with automatic generators. SSD Brillhart answered that those homes with generators would not be negatively affected by the ordinance. Mr. Campbell stated that he would like to see additional inspections for homes with generators to ensure the linemen’s safety.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-69 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN EFFICIENCY SMART SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-70 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 891.062 “NET PROFIT, INCOME SUBJECT TO NET PROFIT TAX, ALTERNATIVE APPORTIONMENT;” AND SECTION 891.094 “EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE;” AND SECTION 891.10 “PENALTY, INTEREST, FEES AND CHARGES” OF CHAPTER 891 “EARNED INCOME TAX REGULATIONS” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-71 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DOWNTOWN WAPAKONETA PARTNERSHIP TO EXPEND FUNDS THAT WERE APPROPRIATED TO IT IN 2023 IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024.

Mr. Miller asked if three readings would hamper any ongoing projects from being completed. Mr. Shepline answered, no.

Mayor’s report:

Attended WAEDC Board meeting.

Met with Ace Ambos and Mike Borges regarding a bill for \$10,000. This item will have to be decided upon in the New Year.

Proposed site for the new water tower is still being discussed, as one portion of property being considered is no longer for sale.

Mayor Henderson thanked Council for their cooperation over the years and gave a special thank you to Safety Service Director Michael Brillhart for his years of service to the City of Wapakoneta.

Service Director report:

Currently developing a proclamation with Scotland for the sister cities program.

A proclamation was also written for a memorial tree planting in the Rudd-Yocum Park.

North Water Street reconstruction is moving along, with a completion date of mid-year 2025.

Mill and pave recommendations list for 2024 will soon be provided to the Streets & Alleys Committee for review.

Mr. Campbell stated there may be plant height specifications for Rudd-Yocum Park that need considered.

Law Director report:

There were no changes made to the legislation regarding the recent legalization of marijuana use. The revised code section that was put in place by the passage of 'Issue 2' is now law in the State of Ohio and recreational use of the drug is fully legal.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

The first City Council meeting of 2024 has been moved to Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:30pm at City Hall due to the New Year holiday.

Committee of the Whole will meet on January 9th at 6:30pm at City Hall to discuss the April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse as well as the legalization of recreational use of marijuana.

Streets & Alleys Committee will meet on December 20th at 1pm at City Hall.

Lodging Tax Committee will meet January 15th at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business –

Mr. Lee invited everyone to attend a swearing-in ceremony for City Councilors and the Mayor on December 30th at 4pm at City Hall.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Kantner to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council