

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on April 1, 2024 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Dan Lee, Law Director Grant Neal and Safety Service Director Michael Brillhart were also present. There were 7 visitors present.

Motion by Campbell, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Parks Committee— a meeting was held on 03-26-2024 and the following was discussed:

Veterans Park Eagle Scout Project

Isaac Puff presented additional details about his Eagle Scout project at Veterans' Park. The project will consist of both a Gaga ball pit and 9 Square court. The project is designed to sit adjacent to the rock wall, south of the current playground. Approximately 50-60 feet would be required for both items which will include the play facilities, instructions for playing as well as park maps. The whole project is estimated at \$12,000. There was a brief discussion of recommendations for Isaac to reach out for community partners and donations as well as solutions for ball storage to allow the game to be played without community members bringing their own ball. The timeline for the project would be late summer to early fall. The Committee provided contact information to Park Director Jack Hayzlett to allow Isaac and Jack to meet and confirm that the desired location is amendable and begin discussing details for how installation could best move forward.

Goose Population

A previous proposal for a "Permit to Dispatch" was found to not be the best solution due to some safety concerns from the police chief. Brandon Miller stated that he would reach out to ODNR for a recommendation on the problem. Opportunities to better "clean up" were also discussed including hosing the sidewalks along the riverbank for cleanliness.

Painting of Pool Building

There was a brief discussion of the communities' reaction to the painting of a portion of the Pool house. The committee discussed that additional transparency and communication was necessary between administration and the Parks department including the supervision relationship between the Safety Service Director and Parks Director. This led to a discussion of how better communication could assist in prioritizing a better use of resources due to the large number of projects the Parks Department is currently undertaking.

Lodging Tax Committee— a meeting was held on 03-20-2024 and the following was discussed:

St Joseph Community Fireworks

Charlene Smith & Bob Kohlreiser presented the St Joseph Community Fireworks asking for \$7200, half the total cost of this year's planned fireworks. They have already sent letters asking the community for donations and anything not covered by donations or the Lodging Tax is paid for by St. Joseph Church as it is their fundraiser. The half hour show fills the parking lot and has cars parked along the highway each year. There are also numerous gatherings hosted by community members bringing out-of-town guests. Charlene stated that the discontinuation of other church festivals in the area could make this festival more popular (such as Indian Lake) looking for a similar atmosphere. Last year the advertising committee promoted local hotels as part of advertising that the Lodging Tax was a contributor. The project scored an average of 18 on the rubric. There was some discussion of whether or not a Lodging Tax grant would actually increase the display as there has been a festival for 50+ years and it is the church's biggest fundraiser. Several committee members commented on the poorly written application and how more effort could have been made. John Rausch made a motion to fund the project with \$2000 with a second from Eric, it was passed unanimously.

Museum Spin Art at Ohio State Fair

The Armstrong Air & Space Museum's outreach to the Ohio State Fair was presented. Several members felt that the project did not fit as a "special event" because the event in question did not take place in Wapakoneta. There were also some questions about whether or not there would be a measurable increase in tourism based on this effort. The project scored an average of 13 on the rubric and therefore was not eligible for funding (must reach threshold of 15).

Museum Holiday Lights Display

The Armstrong Air & Space Museum's Holiday Lights Display was presented. Their request was for \$10,000. Marlene stated that while not all participants signed the guestbook the Museum's measurement of 4500 cars was accurate as there is a street counter on the premises. It was also mentioned that the social media and advertising for the project reached a large number of tourists including advertising on a tourism website and social media. The project scored an average of 18 on the rubric. Eric made a motion to fund the project at \$5000 with a second from John it was passed unanimously.

Riverside Art Center Art Camp

The art camp proposal was discussed. There was some confusion around the request as there is a fee of \$120 a student and the cost of materials presented was just over \$400. The committee provided a list of additional questions for Jessica Muhlenkamp to follow-up.

A plan to focus their next meeting solely on the rubric used for grading projects was discussed. Next meeting scheduled for April 4th at 3:30 PM

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to approve \$2000 of lodging tax funding toward the St. Joseph Community Fireworks. Mr. Miller asked why the Lodging Tax Committee would only provide \$2000 of said request, yet approve \$15,000 of lodging tax funds for veterans' banners. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated that \$6000 was granted for St. Joseph Community Fireworks in 2023, and the committee felt it was time to wean them off of lodging tax dollars for funding of fireworks. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp noted the request for 'museum spin art' received no funding recommendation by the Lodging Tax Committee, as it will not take place in Wapakoneta and scored low on the rubric scale.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to approve \$5000 of lodging tax funding toward the Armstrong Air & Space Museum's holiday lights display. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp added that a request for funding was received by Riverside Art Center, but it still needs further review by the committee. A Lodging Tax meeting has been scheduled for April 4th to discuss updating the rubric scale for funding applications.

Communications –

Clerk McDonald provided Council with a copy of her Ohio Sunshine Laws training certificate for this council term.

State Audit reports were received via email on 3-26-2024 and forwarded on to City Councilors.

Clerk McDonald summarized an annual notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control giving notice to legislative authorities of their right to object to the renewal of a retail liquor permit in the city.

Clerk McDonald read a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to legislative authority for a new permit to: Thutch Inc, DBA Wapak Marathon, 1003 Defiance St & Drive Thru, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895. Council did not request a hearing.

Guest Petitions -

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street addressed Council again about the problem of 'volcano mulching' the City's trees and requested the City correct the problem areas and improve employee training on this item. Mr. Campbell agreed to address this topic with the Tree Commission.

Ms. Barber stated that citizens have approached her to ask why the redbrick bathhouse at the Wapak WaterPark was painted brown and who made the decision to do so. Ms. Barber asked that the City's organizational flow chart be explained for the public. Ms. Barber also requested the plan for the bathhouse going forward and asked if the painting of the brick has been permanently stopped. Ms. Barber noted there are safe ways to remove the paint that has already been applied.

Mayor Lee answered that the City's organizational flow chart are as follows: workers and laborers report to their superintendent, all superintendents report to the Safety Service Director, and the Safety Service Director reports to the Mayor. Mayor Lee explained that superintendents make decisions within this process, but in this instance, the painting of the pool's bathhouse moved forward without the knowledge of the Mayor and Safety Service Director. Mayor Lee continued, stating superintendents need to make decisions every day without the direct knowledge and consent of himself and SSD Brillhart. Mayor Lee stated that there is no plan to paint the rest of the building and there is likely no proper way to reverse what has already been done, especially if it doesn't make financial sense to do so. Ms. Barber pointed out that the 87 year-old brick building had never been painted until now, and the brown paint will not unify the

way the structure looks. Mrs. Muhlenkamp added that the Parks Committee did receive a list of projects needed for the swimming pool, but painting the brick building was not on said list and there are no funds to remove the paint. Ms. Barber requested the City have a conversation with someone skilled in restoration to develop a plan to fix what has been done to the bathhouse. President Doll suggested adding the matter to the City's Comprehensive plan update for consideration. Mr. Campbell pointed out with each rain event, the basement floor of the bathhouse is wet, the foundation bricks at the entrance are starting to crumble, and the bricks have already been painted on the inside of the structure. Ms. Barber stated she has provided the documentation to show that the Wapak Pool bathhouse was a WPA project. Mr. Campbell disagreed, stating there is no label on the building to indicate it as such. Mr. Miller stated he feels there is just a difference of opinion about the paint, but added that it was an unfortunate use of limited resources within the pool's budget. Ms. Barber asked again, if the City's plan is to continue painting the bathhouse. Mayor Lee stated he would like to see the project be finished. Mr. Shepline expressed that he understood Ms. Barber's points and thanked her for her dedication to the City of Wapak.

Mr. Jim Elshire of 314 Dogwood Street approached Council regarding flooding issues on his street, stating this is the fifth time he has advised City Council of the problem. Mr. Elshire stated the flood water rises 30-40 feet up his driveway during rain events, even though catch basins were installed nearby and tree roots have been removed from the drainage areas. Mr. Campbell clarified that the flooding is occurring at the area of Fernwood and Dogwood Streets, but should flow out across the nearby farm field. Mr. Elshire noted that the large rocks from the swale along his house were pushed by strong floodwaters into the field, and the waters do not typically recede for 2 to 3 hours once they flood. During the most recent tornado event in March, his wife could not get home due to the floodwaters on Dogwood, forcing her to park her car down the street and walk home through the water. Mr. Campbell offered to inspect the property and surrounding area with Mr. Elshire tomorrow.

City Auditor Wilbur Wells approached Council to announce his retirement from the position of auditor for the City of Wapakoneta as of May 31, 2024. Council thanked him for his service to the City.

Unfinished Business -

Mrs. Muhlenkamp noted that her recent tour of the Verilife Dispensary went well and she was impressed by the security of the facility. Mr. Campbell added that he learned Verilife has no plans to grow marijuana at any facility in Wapakoneta and all of their products are shipped in.

New Business -

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to bring Ordinance 2024-18 to the floor for its first reading. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Campbell noted that citizens have expressed concerns over sewage backup issues on Washington Street. Mr. Campbell and Joe Wireman of the Street Department met with residents in this area to discuss the problems and answer questions. The sewer jet is used regularly in this area and tree root problems have also been discussed. The city will utilize door hanger documents to communicate with residents about needed maintenance.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2024-16 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR A BRAUN CHIEF XL EMERGENCY VEHICLE THROUGH PENN CARE, INCORPORATED.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-17 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CHANGE IN ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM "R-3" (RESIDENCE DISTRICT) TO "M-2" (INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) FOR PROPERTY PETITIONED BY WAPAK STORAGE LLC.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-18 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO HIS APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY.

Law Director Neal pointed out that the title should have contained the words “AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY”, however the emergency language is contained within the body of the document.
Motion by Miller, second by Sheipline to suspend the rules for Ord 2024-18. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.
Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Stinebaugh to adopt Ord 2024-18. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor’s report:

3.15 Spoke with Jeff Hazel Mayor of Celina
3.27 Interview with Ohio Public Radio Solar Eclipse
3.28 Niel Armstrong Air and Space Meeting
4.1 Interview with WKRC Channel 12 Solar Eclipse
During this time, we meet to discuss personnel issues and made an offer to Tyler Price for the position of Safety and Service Director.
It should also be noted I was in Mexico on a humanitarian trip during this period.

Mayor Lee then thanked SSD Brillhart for his dedication and service to the City of Wapakoneta.
Four linemen were sent to the City of Celina to help with storm damage work.
Mr. Campbell stated that Eitri Foundry would like to install a third solar field, but he feels they have done a poor job installing and caring for the current two.

Service Director report:

A Health & Safety meeting is needed to discuss the purchase of a water supply pumper truck.
Refuse and recycling services will be altered slightly due to the April 8th solar eclipse traffic.
Engineering Department building was demolished, and the fill and grading will be done this week.
East / West locations on Water Street will be open to traffic during the April 8th eclipse event.
Mr. Miller asked if the water supply pumper truck was budgeted for. SSD Brillhart replied, yes.
Mr. Dunlap asked for the timeframe of completion for the Water Street project. SSD Brillhart replied, May 2025.

Law Director report:

No report.
Mr. Miller asked Mr. Neal to determine if there are rules against political entities or non-city groups utilizing City Council Chambers for their meetings.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee will meet on April 4th at 3:30pm at City Hall.
Ad-hoc Committee will meet on April 4th at 6:30pm at City Hall.
Health & Safety Committee will meet on April 9th at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion by Miller, second by Greve to enter into executive session at 8:45pm to discuss matters of economic development and inviting City Administration. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Greve to exit executive session at 9:08pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

President

Clerk of Council

