

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on May 6, 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. Law Director Grant Neal, Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. Council Clerk Terry McDonald was absent.

Motion by Miller, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Utilities Committee— a meeting was held on 04-19-2024 and the following was discussed:

1.) Refuse Dumpsters:

After our last council meeting, I was informed that having barricades around dumpsters became required in 2010, with many property owners before this date being grandfathered in and not having that requirement. However, as properties sell and new ownership exists, those properties are then required to barricade those dumpsters. Before we chose to go too far into the discussion we were reminded that city council serves a particular purpose, which is to make and amend ordinances for the city of Wapakoneta. Administration has a process for determining eligibility for commercial dumpsters. Administration determined that these were not eligible, and explained the process for eligibility. Council will also be encouraging administration to enforce current existing codes throughout the city as well.

2.) The city of Wapakoneta Electric Department is going to be building a new distribution three phase line connecting the three phase line on Dearbaugh running east down the Vine Street right of way to the alley West of Buchanan that has an existing three phase line. The department will extend the same three phase line down Walnut St. to the existing three phase line. This work will update and bring the pole line up to specs and standards. Also this will improve reliability and cut down outages. Plus we'll keep the electric departments cut over project to continue. Some trees will need to be removed during this process. This meeting was not asking any sort of permission, rather just letting council know what they were going to be doing, and why.

3.) Public Works and Sanitary/Storm Water:

a. Review and discuss water drainage issues for the property located at 802 Dearbaugh Ave, as requested by John Wehner. After some discussion, the city is going to run elevations on the property to help them explore options on what can be done to help with the flooding issues on this property. Once the elevations are performed, we can make better decisions on what should be done next. Lastly, Mayor Lee asked about flooding issue brought before council by Jim Elshire that is taking place on Dogwood. The city is going to check a catch basin located in that area before proceeding on to a more in-depth investigation.

Mr. Campbell pointed out that he spoke with Mr. Elshire recently and explained that the City will need to camera the line again for possible tree root blockage.

President Doll then moved ahead on the agenda to guest petitioner, Ms. Brittany Clinger-Mclaurin, for her address to City Council. Ms. Clinger-Mclaurin of 1133 Essex Drive, Lima, Ohio explained there is a need for handicapped parking spots at 103 E. Auglaize Street and the corner of Park Street and E. Auglaize Street. Ms. Clinger-Mclaurin noted that she is a parent of special needs children that attend a medical facility in this location and the handicapped parking spots would help her keep the children safe as they arrive and exit the building. Chair of Streets & Alleys Committee Terry Campbell agreed to speak with the City Engineering Department to ensure compliance with ODOT regulations first.

Streets & Alleys Committee— a meeting was held on 04-23-2024 and the following was discussed:

1. Proposed 2024 Tax Levy Mill & Pave Projects.,

Available tax revenue for 2024 is \$1.5M.

Total miles proposed for 2024 is 2.98 miles.

A list of 9 street projects is attached.

Committee agreed with all streets listed.

2. 2024 Sidewalk Program.,

Total cost \$80K, (budget is \$150K).

A total of 19 streets will have various sidewalk repairs for 2024.

No new sidewalks are proposed. List is attached.

3. Public information brochure for SR 198 & 501 Intersection Improvements.

Michael distributed a brochure detailing the proposed traffic flow improvement for the Lincoln/Defiance/Hamilton/Stinebaugh/Cole streets intersection improvement project.

This is an ODOT \$2M grant project that requires 20% (\$400K), matching local funds.

Please distribute copies to public as needed.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for further information regarding installation of sidewalks at Veterans' Park. Mr. Campbell answered that there have been no proposed locations at this time and this topic was not discussed. Mr. Miller added that City Administration will need to determine if those funds can be used for sidewalks within parks.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked why the 198 project is being discussed again. Mr. Campbell explained that the intersection qualifies for an application through an ODOT grant. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked what public notification requirements must occur for closing a street. Mr. Campbell stated the ODOT project information sheet has a phone number listed for public questions. President Doll requested Administration look into any public hearing requirements for the project.

Parks Committee— a meeting was held on 04-22-2024 and the following was discussed:

Eclipse Follow up

Not many issues from a City perspective. Around 300 cars/1000 people gathered at Veterans Park. 50 people observed from Harmon Park, 3 volunteers were provided for the ice cream vendor at Harmon Park and said they had a good day. All emergency calls were "normal" and did not seem affected by the Eclipse.

All Abilities Park

First on the Moon, Inc. would like to have an unveiling/ribbon cutting event June 4th. Installation is to happen in May. Rob England and Shawn from Miami County have confirmed that they will inspect but unclear what their current timeline would be. There was some discussion about the trees as they are all infected with Emerald Ash Borer however, the trees have not been treated in 7 years. The forester has recommended that the trees should come down but there was no timeline on when the death of the trees would occur. The committee asked Parks Director Hazylett to research the cost of treating the trees.

Goose Population

A previous proposal for a "Permit to Dispatch" was discussed. There was a lack of clarity about whether or not the City would be interested in such a proposal. Brandon Miller stated he would contact ODNR to see if they had specific recommendations. There was a brief discussion of the equipment used to clean the riverwalk sidewalks.

City Pool

The painting of the building was discussed. Hazylett stated he intended to "spruce it up" after conversations with the Mayor. It was discussed that a professional opinion on design would be sought from Jaime Metzger of Interior Motifs to discuss the paint color. The original plan had been to paint all of the wings, including the currently unpainted Hamilton Road side, white but it was then changed to tan. Questions about the opportunity for collaborative art were also mentioned.

Changes to the pool this year will include: 4 concrete pads for more 16 foot umbrellas for a total of 8 umbrellas. 9-13 foot wooden cabanas will be installed along the fence for additional shade. Two sided banners along the fence will be installed for additional color and privacy for the cabanas. There will also be shade cloth added over the concession stand and guard station. The new adirondack chairs ordered (150) are smaller, more child sized and are teal to add color. The sandbox will be removed but an ocean theme will be added to create additional fun. Vinyl sand decals, replacement animals in baby pool and oversized inflatables, are all included in the upgrades. 32 lifeguards have been hired but only half have completed their certification. Heaters have been installed and four fiberglass replacement animals have arrived this week.

Parks

Arbys has provided a \$5000 donation for Pickleball court surfacing and nets. The existing fencing will be changed to provide a more social atmosphere as well as picnic tables and benches added.

WRI is donating \$2000 towards the dugouts as well as paying for the roofing, the total project will only cost around \$3000 from designated park funds. They will also be spending around \$5000 to renovate the concession stand.

Harmon Park landscaping will be completed as well as grass seed and fertilizer for Harmon and Belcher Parks.

Wapakoneta Service Club has ordered and is donating a 24x24 food shelter house for Veterans' Park to be installed near the Splash Pad for a total cost of nearly \$28,000. Andy Beane is looking into sidewalk funds and 5 streetlights to be added at Veterans as well.

Electric Department Pond

No fishing license is required to fish in the pond, there was some discussion about whether there should be additional events to fish out of the pond to get bigger catches and avoid overpopulation.

Jessica Muhlenkamp stated she would do research around handicap accessible options for near the water.

Finance Committee— a meeting was held on 04-25-2024 and the following was discussed:

The committee first heard from Mr. Brillhart regarding remaining ARPA funds. Some highlights are as follows based upon the updated ordinance:

Boilers for Waterpark came in \$30,000 below original expected cost

Moveable stage came in around \$15,000 above original expected cost

Funds were not transferred as intended from ARPA to parks for the Maintenance Supervisor position.

That means that the position has been coming out of parks salaries line. The committee requested that this ARPA money be transferred into fund 205 and 207, when possible, to fill this gap.

Maintenance office at veteran's park has only expended about half of original cost, but more invoices will be coming that should run that to expected cost

There may be a small amount of remaining dollars to be appropriated after all projects are funded. These funds would need to be appropriated by 12/31/24 and expended by 12/31/26.

The committee also heard from Mr. Brillhart regarding the city's group health insurance plan. Our plan is through Medical Mutual of Ohio, and they took out more than what should have been taken out between 2020 and 2023. There will be a transfer of funds from benefits to payroll in the budget to account for this overcharge. The mayor spoke about the potential for the city to move its healthcare to Everside, which is located near downtown Wapakoneta. Everside currently serves the Wapakoneta City School system.

The large majority of the meeting was spent listening to the Mayor and Katrina Cecil (city employee) regarding issues of responsibility between city employees, the city auditor, and the city treasurer. Katrina presented the ORC job descriptions of the treasurer and auditor and stated that her and others in the office have been completing many of the tasks that should be assigned to the elected auditor and treasurer. She hopes that these responsibilities can be taken back by the future auditor and the current treasurer sooner rather than later. The mayor spoke about bringing in a consultant to train the new auditor and current treasurer on the duties that they should be fulfilling per the Ohio Revised Code. The mayor also is requesting that council consider increasing the pay of the treasurer to be more commensurate with the responsibilities that are required. Mr. Miller noted that he would speak with Law Director Neal regarding ways to ensure that the auditor and treasurer positions are completing their required task per ORC, and what the city could do if those responsibilities are not met. This is a challenge due to the positions being elected and not hired by the Director of Safety and Service. For note, ORC Ch. 236 lists auditor responsibilities, and ORC Ch. 238 lists treasurer responsibilities.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if the Finance Committee discussed how to replace the maintenance supervisor position that is currently ARPA funded. Mr. Miller stated the first task is to appropriate the funding correctly and conduct further discussion within the Parks Committee on specific needs.

Mayor Lee clarified that the City is only exploring the available options at Everside.

Communications –

President Doll noted a request made by Mr. Jim Limbert of the Wapakoneta Fraternal Order of Eagles #691 for a road closure of Park Street from Main Street to Auglaize Street, as well as closure of the alleyway behind the Eagles building on May 19th from 1pm-5pm for their annual family picnic. Motion by Miller, second by Greve to approve the request. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll noted a request made by Ms. Marlene Froning for 'Bicycle Safety Day' to close Willipie Street from Main Street to Mechanic Street on May 11th from 9am-2pm. Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to approve the request. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Guest Petitions -

Village of Botkins Mayor Lance Symonds and Council President Craig Brown addressed Wapakoneta City Council regarding Botkins Resolution 2024-09, requesting that the State of Ohio designate County Road 25A as a state route, specifically between Wapakoneta and Sidney, Ohio. Mayor Symonds asked that the City of Wapakoneta consider passing a similar resolution on the matter. President Doll noted Wapakoneta Resolution 2024-24 will have its first reading this evening.

Mr. Josh Little of 16010 Buckland River Road and representing the YMCA and St. Joseph Catholic Church requested road closures for the morning of July 4th for the 'Rocket to the Moon 5k'. Mr. Little has communicated with the Wapakoneta Police Department about the event. 300-350 runners are expected. Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to approve the request. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ms. Teresa Fisher of 706 Murray Street addressed Council about hosting an 'Out of Darkness' walk for suicide prevention this October. She is seeking Council input on the best placement of the route. Mayor Lee agreed to meet with Ms. Fisher and Police Chief Schneider to work out the route details.

Mrs. Linda Knerr of 312 E. Mechanic Street addressed Council again about the painting of the brick on the Wapak Waterpark bathhouse. Mrs. Knerr stated that in the last several weeks, the brick had been painted white, then tan, and now portions are painted black. Mrs. Knerr stated she is concerned that City Department heads appear to have no restraint and can do as they wish to the City's buildings.

New Business -

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to bring Ordinance 2024-29 to the floor for its first reading. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll read Ord 2024-17 for the third 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.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to adopt Ord 2024-17. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll read Ord 2024-20 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CHANGE OF ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM "B-2" (GENERAL BUSINESS) TO "R-4" (MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENCE) FOR PROPERTY PETITIONED BY THE WAPAKONETA AREA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION.

President Doll read Ord 2024-21 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Doll read Ord 2024-22 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2024-22. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Muhlenkamp to adopt Ord 2024-22. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll read Ord 2024-23 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO TREASURER OF STATE'S OHIO MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THAT PROGRAM AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A STANDBY NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2024-23. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2024-23. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll read Res 2024-24 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF OHIO TO DESIGNATE COUNTY ROAD 25-A, CONNECTING WAPAKONETA TO SIDNEY, AS A STATE ROUTE AND SECONDARY EMERGENCY ROUTE.

President Doll read Res 2024-25 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, AND EXECUTE AN ASPHALT OVERLAY, CRACK SEAL, CAPE SEAL PROJECT USING TAX LEVY MONIES.

President Doll read Res 2024-26 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTING AND / OR REPAIRING CERTAIN SIDEWALKS IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, COUNTY OF AUGLAIZE, STATE OF OHIO, REQUIRING AUTHORIZATION BY CITY COUNCIL.

President Doll read Res 2024-27 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, AND EXECUTE A 2023 RECLAMITE PROGRAM FOR VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll read Ord 2024-28 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO AND THE CITIES OF WAPAKONETA AND ST. MARYS, OHIO SPECIFIC TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2024 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (CHIP) PROGRAM WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Doll read Ord 2024-29 for the first time re: AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HELMS CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STORAGE BUILDING ADDITION AT THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT.

SSD Price advised that the emergency is needed to keep the project on schedule, adding that the contractor needs to have some parts fabricated. Mayor Lee explained the bids for the project were only just recently opened. Mr. Miller asked if the monies being used are within the Electric Fund. SSD Price replied, yes. Mr. Miller requested that SSD Price ensure that Council receives adequate time for three readings on ordinances and resolutions, unless an emergency is absolutely required. President Doll added that Council should also know if a purchase or project has been budgeted for and what line item it will be taken from within the budget.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2024-29. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Campbell, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2024-29. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor's report:

4.16 Attended Sister City Meeting

Sent an invitation to Mayor of Lengerich Whelm Moehrke

4.17 Toured Everside Health Center

4.17 City Office Hours

4.18 Sworn in new officer Henry Spencer and tax Administrator Cindy Holtzaple

4.19 Attended Utilities Meeting

4.19 Attended Neil Armstrong Board Meeting

4.19 Attended Superior Credit Grand Opening

4.22 Meeting with Choice One

4.22 Attended Parks Meeting

4.24 City Office Hours

I was out of the country doing humanitarian work from 4.25 to 5.5. During this time I was in contact with our new SSD Tyler Price and others.

Reminders

State of the City County and Schools on May 9th at 11:30 at the Eagles Bicycle Safety Day May 11 10 to 1 at the TSC Garage

Wapak Farmers Market has started across from the Courthouse on Saturday from 830 to 1230.

Wapak Breakfast Optimist Club Roast Beef Dinners fund raiser is May 16th at the Knights of Columbus on Dixie Hwy.

Mr. Miller asked if Mayor Lee has had citizens utilize his scheduled office hours to meet with him. Mayor Lee replied, yes, it has been going well.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the Human Resources Director position. SSD Price is conducting interviews this week.

Mr. Shepline stated that citizens have approached him about the painting of the brick bathhouse at the Wapak Waterpark, and he advised them that Jack Hayzlett of the Parks Department is in charge of the project, there was money budgeted for pool improvements, and the Mayor, Mr. Hayzlett and SSD Price work together to make these decisions. Mayor Lee replied, correct.

President Doll noted that upon checking the legal description of the 'Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area', the residential side of Main Street is not included and there is a 'DORA' sign that needs repositioned to the correct spot.

Mayor Lee announced the May 19th State of the City, School & County event will be held at Wapakoneta Eagles.

May 11th, 10am-1pm will be 'Bicycle Safety Day' at the TSC garage.

Wapakoneta Farmers Market has already begun, each Saturday from 8:30am-12:30pm across from the courthouse.

Wapakoneta Breakfast Optimist Club roast beef dinner will be held May 16th at the K of C Hall.

This is National Compost Week and Mayor Lee will deliver a Proclamation in the coming days.

Service Director report:

Sidewalks are being poured for Water Street.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street asked what will happen with the property at the corner of E. Auglaize Street and Water Street where the entire retaining wall has been removed. Mayor Lee could not answer this question but agreed to look into the matter.

Law Director report:

Mr. Neal will prepare a statement defining the duties of the Wapakoneta City Auditor and Treasurer positions based on Ohio Revised Code and present it at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Parks Committee will meet on May 9th at 6pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Dunlap thanked Ms. Teresa Fisher for her passion and dedication to suicide prevention and awareness.

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

President

Clerk of Council

