

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on June 3, 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 Tyler Price were also present. There were 5 visitors present.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 05-31-2024.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Council meeting containing amended Finance Committee minutes. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 public hearing as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Shepline, second by Miller to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Parks Committee– a meeting was held on 05-29-2024 and the following was discussed:

Jordan Johnson from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife provided a presentation on lethal vs non-lethal means of goose mitigation. Items that have been previously tried in the City of Wapakoneta include: riverfront goose wire, fake swans, laser pointer, property owners canines, mowing less close to the waterfront to discourage nesting.

Johnson recommended a multi-pronged approach focusing on non-lethal means during the pre-nesting season (January-March). See attached PowerPoint. There are also free permits available for lethal means through ODNR including nest/egg destruction, goose capture, as well as both in and out of hunting season shooting. There was a brief discussion of putting together a citizen led group to champion this effort similar to the Tree Commission.

Wapakoneta Waterpark Updates

Slide pump at the Waterpark needs to be rebuilt or replaced. This is not something that was typically tested before the pool is filled because of the amount of water needed, additional research is needed to find out if there are ways to test it without filling the pool. Global Electric is confident the pump can be rebuilt in 2-3 days as long as all needed parts are available. There was some emphasis on the need to ensure that the PO for this is completed as soon as possible to ensure work can begin. The first weekend of the waterpark was successful with over 300 people on the first day but it cannot be continued if word spreads that a popular feature is down.

Global Electric also indicated that the toy pump, which is currently working, has limited life and should be replaced in the near future. There was some discussion about the pros and cons of replacing a currently working pump vs having to wait until it fails and have potential shut down of elements. This led to a discussion of the need of a permanent Capital Improvement fund that is not constantly spent down to provide for more large scale projects.

General Parks

There was a discussion of how the Parks Department can continue to complete projects for other departments if the budget continues to get cut. For example, general staff positions were cut to create the Maintenance Supervisor position but mowing and spraying in not only the City Parks but for other City owned properties is expected to continue even if the staffing budget is at zero. Money also needs to be transferred in the salary line due to the Maintenance Supervisor Salary being taken from the Parks line rather than the ARPA line.

All Abilities Park

9 holes/poles are to be installed May 30th for the hexagon, ramp and slide supports. The gravel can be installed once the poles are cemented in. Frustration was expressed that the Pour in Place company was not willing to have the City already on the schedule until these items were completed despite the deposit being paid last summer. The PIP surfacing timeline is 30 days which will most likely put the project outside of the original grant timeline. The surrounding Ash trees did not come out of winter well and will need to be taken down. This is expected to take place yet this summer and Hayzlett will research options for treating the larger ash tree next to the gazebo as it is also infected.

Veterans' Park

The kit for the shelter house has not yet arrived. The company is expecting full payment from the Wapakoneta Service Club before delivery.

Gaga Ball and 9 Square locations have been pinpointed as well as locations for signage based on the Puff Eagle Scout project. Signs will be completed by IC Signs with the design being kept in case changes or additional signs are desired in the future.

The waterline contractor finally completed the dirt leveling, grass seeding and parking lot repairs based on their work last year.

There is a request into Engineering for additional sidewalk funds to complete the sidewalk at Veterans' Park. Andy Beane confirmed there is a budget for this. There was also discussion of extending a piece of sidewalk at Breakfast Optimist Park to connect the handicapped parking spots with the playground sidewalk.

There was a brief discussion of a location for a bike rack to be donated by Apollo and First on the Moon.

Mr. Miller noted that interested citizens could volunteer to help on a committee regarding the geese mitigation matter.

Lodging Tax Committee— a meeting was held on 05-28-2024 and the following was discussed:

The meeting was scheduled to discuss the received application from the Wapakoneta Theatre Guild for a new stage with a total cost of \$2445.65

There was general discussion with the group about how well the WTG fit the Lodging Tax criteria with their emphasis on bringing outsiders into the community as well as advertising to the local community, working with other theatre guilds throughout the state and being a new applicant. The group also appreciated that the application included a lot of "sweat equity" to complete the project with all of the labor and design of the structure being donated.

Utilizing the scoring rubric the project received an average score of 19.

Eric Ireland made a motion that a recommended grant award of \$2500 be made to the WTG for the project, there was a second by Marlene Graf. It was approved unanimously.

The group then had a discussion about unspent Lodging Tax dollars based on a few examples of previous year projects which had not come to fruition with some groups still planning to spend the dollars and other groups feeling that the grant window has lapsed. Jessica stated that additional input from the Auditor may be needed about when a "lapsed" date should be for previous projects as the City most likely has a timeline for projects to be completed. The group also talked about providing more of a "warm handoff" for grant recipients to provide them better direction of how and with whom to deliver receipts since some City personnel in the office have changed.

The updated rubric and application have been completed and the group will do a last review before adding to the City's website for public use.

Mr. Miller asked where the stage will be located. Mrs. Muhlenkamp indicated the stage will be utilized at the Wapakoneta Eagles but stored at 30 E. Auglaize Street.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to approve the request of \$2500 of lodging tax funds to the Wapakoneta Theatre Guild for the cost of a new performance stage. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Finance Committee— a meeting was held on 05-29-2024 and the following was discussed:

Mr. Neal spoke to the committee regarding his report on the Ohio Revised Code responsibilities of the City Auditor. He also spoke regarding the potential repercussions for the individuals holding this office if they do not fulfill their duties. Some highlights below:

The referenced \$15 fine that was previously mentioned in the Finance committee is not a fine for lack of performing duties, but rather for lack of filing proper paperwork during election time. There is little that a city can do to take action against an auditor who fails to complete duties. The accountability of an elected public officer lies with the electorate. It was also noted that the auditor does not have the power to approve to deny spending that council has already appropriated and budgeted, but rather that the auditor has the power to require a legitimate invoice as proof of expenditure (ORC 733.13). The auditor is required by ORC to provide detailed statements for departments and officers of the city government, but

this does not include city council (ORC 733.14). The auditor should attend and assist at opening and inspecting of bids (ORC 733.18). The memo with the full information is in the council packet for reference. Mr. Hayzlett noted the waterpark budget agreed to fund certification of lifeguards. Our discussion revolved around taking money out of nonsupervisory account. Due to direct YMCA billing for these certifications, we cannot fund out of nonsupervisory salaries. The administration will pay these funds out of contingency.

The Director of Safety and Service noted that certain salaries have not been budgeted appropriately. These updates will need to be made in the future.

Streets & Alleys Committee— a meeting was held on 05-29-2024 and the following was discussed:

Discussion topics:

Alley paving project, between Wood & Pine streets

Project in approval process. Nine residents have agreed. Goal is 10 residents.

Gravel alley between current gravel alley and Jefferson St.

Project is scheduled by Engineering for later this summer.

Albert Riefstahl, 312 Lima St. Sidewalk issue on Water St. construction project.

Choice One and Andy Beane discussed angle of grass bank and will be changing current sidewalk location on Water St. to minimize grass maintenance concern for resident.

Handicap parking spot request.

Collaborative Care Behavioral Therapy at 103 E. Auglaize St. is requesting a handicap spot near their location. Currently none exist in the 100 block of Auglaize St. Park St. was considered but due to the nature of the clients only the Auglaize St. door is requested for client entry. Miller motioned to dedicate the first parking spot on the south side of Auglaize St. and directly in front of 103 E. Auglaize address as a handicap accessible spot. Greve seconded. Unanimously approved.

Ordinance 1028.06, Tree lawn tree to intersection distance.

Currently ordinance distance to tree from the intersection is 25 ft. This distance is creating visibility issues with stop signs and oncoming traffic at intersections. Further discussion at next Tree Commission meeting is needed before making a decision.

Linda Knerr, 312 E. Mechanic St. Water St. sidewalk issues

Mrs. Knerr would like to retain the current brick sidewalk. Committee members reviewed and agree that the existing brick sidewalk is a potential safety hazard to pedestrians. Currently the city is planning to install a 5 ft. wide by 4' thick concrete sidewalk. Mrs. Knerr is in discussions with the SSD and Engineering to come to an amenable solution.

Downtown parking on Auglaize St.

Downtown business owners have expressed concerns with a few individuals who are using downtown parking and ignoring the 2-hour limit. This has been an ongoing issue and many options have been explored. Committee has decided to raise the parking ticket fee from \$10 to \$25. (Greve made motion, Miller seconded, motion unanimously approved)

Committee will also explore a progressive repeat fine structure.

Mrs. Linda Knerr of 312 E. Mechanic Street explained to Council that though she acknowledges a gap exists within the brick sidewalk in front of her home, she has lived there since 1968 and no one has tripped or experienced any safety issues there.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street asked if the City Engineering Department has examined the sidewalk at 312 E. Mechanic Street. SSD Price answered that Administration is communicating with the Engineering Department on the matter to find an agreeable solution.

Mr. Miller noted that the parking ticket fee has not increased since 1992, and the rule would apply to all parking violations city-wide.

President Doll noted that the Communications & Rules Committee met on 6-3-2024 and will report at next council meeting.

Guest Petitions –

Ms. Lynne Skaggs of 20244 Easley Road and representing 'First Fridays Committee' in downtown Wapakoneta, requested Council's permission for a road closure of Auglaize Street from the railroad tracks to Blackhoof Street on July 5th and October 4th from 4-9pm for picnic and Harvest Fest events. Motion by Sheipline, second by Greve to approve the request. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstentions (Miller, Muhlenkamp). Motion passed.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street requested better communications from the City to the public about events and happenings. Ms. Barber pointed out that not everyone utilizes smartphones, Facebook or the newspaper, and other communication means should be explored to ensure all are receiving information from the City. Mr. Stinebaugh noted he will begin writing 'The Informer' newsletter again to aid in this effort.

New Business –

Mr. Miller noted 1200 responses have been received for the recent community survey that will aid in updating the City's comprehensive plan. Mr. Miller thanked all those who are helping with this project.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-21 for the third 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. Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2024-21. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2024-24 for the third 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 and Law Director Neal noted that Council does not have the power to declare County Road 25-A as a State Route. Passage of the resolution would only show Council's support of such. Mr. Miller pointed out a possible concern with remaining in compliance of the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Motion by Miller, second by Muhlenkamp to table Res 2024-24. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2024-25 for the third 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.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Stinebaugh to adopt Res 2024-25. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2024-26 for the third 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.

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adopt Res 2024-26. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2024-27 for the third 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.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Sheipline to adopt Res 2024-27. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor's report:

Mayor was not in office from May 20th to June 3rd.

Other notes:

We have hired a Human Resource Manager Erin Buchanan who will start June 10th.

The pool opened on time and is fully staffed.

We had a ribbon cutting for the water park.
We had a ribbon cutting and naming for the Water treatment plant.
We received a 3 million dollar grant for water and waste water to help our water infrastructure.

Mayor Lee then nominated Kelly Rempe to the zoning board. President Doll asked for a voice vote from Council to approve the nomination. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

City Auditor position will soon be filled.

Mr. Campbell noted there are several 'First on the Moon' wayfinding signs that are damaged and need improved.

Mr. Stinebaugh asked for an update regarding easements on Tulip Drive. SSD Price noted that one easement is still being worked on.

Service Director report:

Water Street curbs and gutters are being installed and paving has begun.

The City has received a \$3 million dollar grant for improving water infrastructure.

Mr. Campbell asked how the remaining costs will be budgeted. SSD Price answered that a revolving loan will be needed.

Mr. Miller asked for an explanation regarding the utility poles for Vine Street. SSD Price answered that the new poles are needed to upgrade the lines.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the recently purchased Stahler property. SSD Price explained that the previous owner needs more time to remove their personal property from the location.

Mr. Miller asked when the pump will be fixed for the Wapak WaterPark slide. SSD Price answered, as soon as possible.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the installation of the all-abilities playground at Harmon Park. SSD Price answered that the project is ongoing but no gravel has been laid down yet.

Mr. Miller stated he was concerned in seeing the drop within the Income Tax Receipt report this month and encouraged Administration to adjust spending where possible.

President Doll asked about the status of the City's refuse and recycling program. Mayor Lee answered that a new truck needs to be budgeted for. Mr. Miller asked if the bins would be budgeted for in a later year. Mayor Lee answered, yes.

Law Director report:

Attended Streets & Alleys Committee and Finance Committee meetings.

Members of the public need not attend a City Council meeting to request street closures for an event, as this is not a function of City Council but rather of City Administration. There is a form and procedure that need to be followed with the Wapakoneta Police Department and City Administration for road closures and a vote from Council on same is not needed.

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Neal to assist in creating an ordinance regarding a parking violation fee schedule.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

None.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council