

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on September 16, 2024 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Sheipline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Law Director Grant Neal, Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 5 visitors present.

Motion by Sheipline, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Parks Committee – a meeting was held on 09-09-2024 and the following was discussed:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ideas on goose mitigation along the riverfront based on notes from ODNR at a previous meeting.

ODNR had previously presented ideas for both lethal and non-lethal means. The most popular form of lethal means, shooting geese in the field, is not currently in favor by the Police Chief due to liability concerns. Other lethal means including egg destruction, require a permit through the state.

Previous attempts including swans and a wire along the waterfront have all been destroyed by people and there was some discussion around having multiple strategies to replace something once it was inevitably taken down.

The favored strategies were fake swans, planting along the waterfront, and lights or sound emitters along the water. There was some discussion around who the right department would be to complete these tasks as the Parks Department does not currently have the manpower or the money to take on additional projects. There was also an emphasis on getting a consistent schedule with Public Works for sidewalk cleanings.

It was decided that committee members would do additional research to present to the administration to move forward. Jessica Muhlenkamp will research pollinator garden information as a more beautiful alternative to plantings along the waterfront. Brandon Miller will reach out to TipBacks as well as research light/sound emitters.

There was then a brief discussion about the idea for a Trap-Neuter-Release program for Cats inside the City limits.

Communications –

Mr. Campbell asked if City Administration could research the percentage of tax from adult-use marijuana sales that will be given to communities, as this is not defined within the Ohio Revised Code. Mayor Lee answered that he believes the City will receive 3% of this sales tax to be used within the community. Mr. Stinebaugh agreed to look into this matter to provide Council with further information.

Guest Petitions -

Mr. David Fisher of 314 Cole Drive asked if street construction contracts within the city have timelines defined for each project. SSD Price answered that street project bids do list a timeframe and penalties must be paid if the work is not completed on time. SSD Price added that the contract for the reconstruction of Water Street is still within the agreed upon timeframe. Mr. Campbell said the city rarely gets more than one bid for some of the street projects. SSD Price acknowledged the recent closure of several railroad crossings in Wapakoneta for repairs but stated that the railroad company gave little notice or specific details to the City of Wapakoneta. Mr. Fisher asked for an update on Wagner Street. Mr. Campbell answered that Wagner Street is on the grind and pave list. Mr. Fisher noted there were a few holes dug by the gas company on Middle Street that had needed filled, but this work is now done. Mr. Fisher asked if the city has calculated how many sidewalk repairs have been needed due to tree root damage. Mr. Campbell answered that he is on the Tree Commission, and the varying widths of the city's tree lawns is a real challenge in selecting and planting new trees that won't harm the sidewalks yet have room to grow. President Doll added that the city's budget contains a line item for sidewalk repair but it does not contain data on reason for repair for each one. Mr. Campbell stated that the city needs a licensed arborist on its payroll to address the planting, trimming and mulching needs of all city trees. Law Director Neal added that federal law protects the railroad companies and there is nothing the city can do to prevent or delay the railroad repairs. SSD Price stated the city provided all the railroad crossing closure information it had to the public on social media.

New Business –

Mr. Josh Bloomfield of the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council gave a presentation to City Council on data processing centers, the large computer systems that require significant space to house internet and data cloud information. Mr. Bloomfield explained the details and needs of such companies who are seeking real estate in Ohio. He encouraged council to be proactive in their discussion and consideration of city zoning, utilities and potential sites prior to being approached about a possible data processing center project. President Doll suggested City Administration reach out to Courtney & Associates for advice on the matter.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-36 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 452.16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO TO INCREASE THE FINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 452 OF SAID ORDINANCES.

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to adopt Ord 2024-36. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-38 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1480.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA SPECIFIC TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

Mayor's Report:

- 9.1-9.8 Out of the City
- 9.9 Welcome to School
- 9.9 Mayor Jeff Hazel
- 9.10 Down town Partnership Meeting
- 9.10 Meeting with Reveille about the Comprehensive Plan
- 9.11 Office hours
- 9.12 Mayor Joe Hurlbert
- 9.13 Pratt Tour
- 9.13 Reclamation Tour
- 9.13 Fire House Tour
- 9.13 Sworn in Officer Bryce Carson and Officer Jeff Trego

Other notes.

Below find our most recent new Hires.

Amy Weber: Accounts Payable—Clerk

Grant Stauffer

Position: Seasonal - WIN Program

Department: Electrical Department

Ryan Walter

Position: Seasonal - WIN Program

Department: Water Treatment

Michael Minnich

Position: Full Time, Firefighter

Avery Thrope

Position: Dispatcher

Shaylon “Shay” Smith

Position: Police Dispatcher

October 12th Out of the Darkness Walk

November 17th Let's Back the Blue Raffle Sunday

Service Director Report:

Contractor has just completed the water lines on Water Street and are beginning work on storm sewers.

Park Street railroad crossing repair will occur on September 26th.

Mill and pave work will begin September 23rd.

President Doll noted a damaged wayfinding sign on Auglaize Street and Mr. Campbell added there are several damaged wayfinding signs in storage at the moment.

Law Director Report:

No report.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

None scheduled.

Miscellaneous Business –

Mr. Miller noted another survey by Reveille will be provided to the public soon.

Motion by Campbell, second by Sheipline to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.
Motion passed.

President Pro Tem

Clerk of Council