

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on October 7, 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 and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 3 visitors present. Law Director Grant Neal was absent.

Motion by Miller, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Lodging Tax Committee – a meeting was held on 10-04-2024 and the following was discussed:

There was a brief discussion about some logistical questions around the Lodging Tax fund account for the Auditor. Jessica will follow up with her with questions about auditing the fund, timeline of grants and rolling vs fiscal year fund uses.

The group then discussed the updated rubric. Using the current project as an example it was discussed that it was more difficult than expected for a project to earn an “approved” ranking. After some discussion about the appropriate ratio of points Dan Lee made a motion to change the rubric approval score to 20/27 points for a 75% score to match the previous rubric’s ratio. This was seconded by Marlene Graf and was approved unanimously.

The group then began discussion of the provided application from Children’s Hometown Holiday. The application provided a ranking system of their priorities for including the ice skating rink, the annual fireworks, and new items including the reindeer figures, Santa figure, soldier and nutcracker figures to decorate the downtown area.

Since the ice skating rink was the number one priority it was focused on during discussion. There was some discussion of asking to include signage stating that it was paid for with Lodging Tax Dollars, this led to a discussion of whether or not “sponsorship” was appropriate for the Lodging Tax since we don’t want projects asking for the same items year over year.

There was also discussion of the pros and cons of purchasing more permanent pieces like the statues because then the City would have to continue to store more and more items.

After discussion the project scored an average of 20 points on the rubric. Dan Lee made a motion to provide \$10,000 to Children’s Hometown Holiday for the skating rink and signage to indicate it was paid for by the Lodging Tax. Eric seconded the motion, which was approved.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to approve \$10,000 of funding to the Children’s Hometown Holiday for the purchase of a skating rink and signage. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Guest Petitions -

Mr. Steve Hasting of 914 Aster Drive voiced his concerns regarding immigrants coming to the city of Wapakoneta, and asked if the Ohio governor or the federal government has contacted the city about immigrant placement. Mayor Lee answered that he has not been contacted by state or federal officials regarding immigrants coming to the city or to Auglaize County. Mr. Hasting asked about the plans for the former Auglaize Acres building on Infirmary Road. Mr. Campbell answered that this building has been purchased by the Auglaize County Commissioners and will likely be demolished due to its condition. Mr. Hasting asked how the city and county sheriff’s office will handle deportation procedures of illegal immigrants. Mayor Lee answered that there is a process in place to become a legal citizen of the United States and this process needs to be followed. He added that City Administration will communicate any information about this matter to Council as it becomes available.

New Business –

Mr. Miller asked if there have been any updates made to the Water Street construction project. Service Director Price stated the Water Street project timeline has not changed and is still due to be completed by summer of 2025. Mr. Miller asked why three intersections must be closed at a time. SSD Price stated that RD Jones is the contractor for the project and they determine the closure areas based on safety of their workers. SSD Price added that workers in this area have almost been hit by the traffic attempting to cross the construction zones. Mr. Miller requested additional detour signage to help alleviate the confusion for drivers. Mr. Miller asked for further confirmation on the 4-way stop signs located at Benton and Water

Streets, noting these have added to the confusion. Mr. Miller asked for the police department's citation strategy for the area. SSD Price said the focus is to prevent cars from crossing over the Water Street construction areas. Mr. Miller asked for compassion for the people who reside in this area and are trying to get to their home. Mr. Miller and SSD Price reiterated that traffic may not cross Water Street in the construction zone, period. Mrs. Muhlenkamp requested more enforcement of the speed limit on Auglaize Street. Mr. Greve requested additional signage and Mr. Campbell suggested using the speed trailer in this area.

President Doll asked for an update on the damaged way-finding signs. SSD Price answered this has not been done yet due to short staffing.

President Doll asked if Planning Commission is examining the zoning code regarding WAEDC Director Josh Bloomfield's presentation to Council on data centers. SSD Price spoke to John Courtney at the AMP conference on the matter.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for an update on the property code violations discussed recently. SSD Price stated this question would need to be posed to Law Director Neal.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-38 for the third 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.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2024-38. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-40 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 244.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA SPECIFIC TO THE COMPOSITION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.

SSD Price stated Ord 2024-40 will allow for the addition of a sergeant position and satisfy the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-41 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE FORM AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF BLUE CREEK WIND SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC AND TAKING OF OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-42 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260.17(A) "HOLIDAYS" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-43 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ASSENTING TO THE DETACHMENT OF CERTAIN LANDS FROM THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Price stated this ordinance does not need to be passed as an emergency this evening, as it only affects one individual and is part of a broader application process.

Mayor's Report:

9.17 Toured Arrow head lakes

9.23 Meeting with Josh Bloomfield

9.24 Police Union Negotiation

9.25 A to Z ribbon Cutting

9.26 Neil Armstrong Board Meeting

9.26 Meeting with Angie King and OMEA

9.30 - 10.3 AMP Meeting in Columbus

10.4 Attended First Friday

10.5 Attended Art in the Park

Other notes.

Multiple Safety Awards

Wapakoneta Electric Department — Safety Award for Transmission and Distribution

Mutual Aid Commendation

Wapakoneta Electric Department

Linemen to offer mutual aid to the victims of Hurricane Helene
Michael Sparks Travis Walls
October 12th Out of the Darkness Walk
October 24th Halloween Parade
October 25th Leaf Pick up begins
October 31th Trick or Treat

Service Director Report:

Attended law enforcement conference, AMP conference and state employee relations conference.
In discussions with the police department regarding contracts and will present at next council meeting.

Mr. Miller asked if Reveille has sent the new survey for the city's website. SSD Price replied, no.
Mr. Miller asked when the budget process will begin. SSD Price stated Auditor Anderson is working towards this now. Mayor Lee noted that he will be pushing department heads to have this work done on time or early this year.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Parks Committee will meet on October 15th at 1:00pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business –

Mr. Dunlap encouraged everyone to participate in the 'Out of the Darkness' walk on Oct. 12th at 9am – 11am.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Pro Tem

Clerk of Council