

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on December 2, 2024 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Sheipline and Terry Campbell. Law Director Grant Neal, Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 3 visitors present. Councilman Chad Dunlap was absent.

Motion by Sheipline, second by Miller to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Finance Committee— a meeting was held on 05-09-2024 and the following was discussed:

The meeting began with the committee thanking Auditor Anderson for her work and quick learning during the first five months of her tenure with the city. There are many changes that she has already implemented that will greatly benefit the taxpayers.

We started by talking about departmental budget meetings. The auditor noted that all meetings have went very well in the budget-development process, and that she is pleased with how each turned out. Each departmental budget is coming together nicely for 2025. She is working with the department heads on ways to improve the process, such as allowing department heads to access their revenues in the computer system more regularly. The committee was pleased to see the budget being developed was very thoroughly thought out.

Next, the committee reviewed a few funds that the auditor is still working with her team to review more closely due to unclear anomalies. This primarily has to do with unclear carryover amounts. These funds that require further investigation include swimming pool, water, sewer, sewer replacement, and engineering. In particular, there are a few accounts in which the carryover is not as expected, and in some cases very negative, but the auditor anticipates that these are due to errors in accounting practices from the previous budget reconciliation process that she needs to correct. The committee is pleased that the auditor is looking deeply into these anomalies to fix them for the future. The committee is also pleased with the deep detail that Auditor Anderson is sharing with council as she fixes previously unaddressed issues.

Finally, Campbell made a motion, seconded by Sheipline, to show support for a resolution to be drafted by administration that appropriates 1/12th of the 2025 budget for January 2025, while setting a deadline for the full budget's approval by council by the end of January. This resolution would allow government business to continue next year for one month while giving the auditor additional time to address needed updates to our budget and reporting process before the final 2025 budget is passed. This motion carried 3-0. Administration will work with the law director to have this drafted for the Monday, Dec. 2nd council meeting.

Guest Petitions -

Mr. Nathaniel Stutsman of 812 N. Circle Drive asked Council for more information regarding the removal of willow trees along the Auglaize River near the school. Mr. Campbell explained that the willow trees are beginning to interfere with major AEP power lines overhead. These trees were planted approximately 13 years ago. AEP has decided to remove the willow trees from the right-of-way. The trees will be replaced with a species that will not interfere with the electric lines in the future. There is no cost to the City of Wapakoneta. Mr. Stutsman thanked Council for the explanation.

New Business –

Mr. Campbell stated that citizens are not getting the necessary information regarding schedule changes for trash and recycling pickup. He suggested City Administration look into a possible texting service to communicate utility and other service announcements to the public. Council further discussed the problem of overflowing dumpsters at the City's 24 hour recycling drop-off on Harrison Street. Mayor Lee asked that the public please breakdown their cardboard and refrain from dropping it off when the dumpsters are already overflowing. He also suggested gating the recycle drop-off area so the City has an option to close it as needed. Mr. Stinebaugh asked if the City will be keeping refuse and recycling services in-house, or will consider outsourcing this service in the future. Mayor Lee answered that the City has no intentions of outsourcing the refuse and recycling services. Mr. Miller cautioned that this topic needs to be revisited from a budget perspective. Mr. Campbell pointed out that the City's 'pay as you

throw' trash bag system encourages people to recycle more and pays for tipping fees, but the labor involved in lifting the bags is costly.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-51 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE AMP RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS SALE / PURCHASE PROGRAM. Motion by Campbell, second by Stinebaugh to adopt Ord 2024-51. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-52 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CHANGES TO THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA CREDIT CARD POLICY. SSD Price advised the change is primarily regarding card maximums.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-53 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1301 BELLEFONTAINE AVE IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Mayor Lee explained that the City Engineering Department is currently in a leased space. The Police Department is in need of additional room at the City Building. Auditor Anderson felt this was a good use of funds to save the City \$18,000 per year on a current lease as well as to provide extra room for other departments to expand. Auditor Anderson has estimated about \$30,000 for renovations and furniture at 1301 Bellefontaine Ave. Mr. Miller added that the street transfer amount will be much lower now that the Water Street project is coming to a close. Mr. Campbell requested an inspection of the building for water leaks.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-54 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 260, ENTITLED "EMPLOYEES GENERALLY" OF PART TWO OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 260, ENTITLED "EMPLOYEES GENERALLY" OF SAID CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

SSD Price advised this ordinance includes updates from Supreme Court cases, collective bargaining unit contracts and other out-of-date items.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-55 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Clerk McDonald announced a public hearing for said ordinance will be held on December 16, 2024 at 7:15pm at City Hall.

SSD Price advised that the numbers reflect ¼ of the budget. An ordinance for the full 2025 budget will be presented at a later date.

Mayor's Report:

11.20 Convergent Battery Backup for peak shaving

11.20 Office Hours

11.22 Greg Myers PAC promotional and season events

11.27 Department head Meeting

11.27 Finance Meeting

Other notes.

Children's Home Town Holiday Extravaganza Dec 6,7

Work on Expansion of the Electric Department Aux Building

Wapakoneta City Giving Tree We are spending about 25\$ on each child.

Gifts to be distributed by our resource officer.

Service Director Report:

Working on 2025 budget, year-end items, policy updates, ordinances and preparations for the upcoming year as well.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp received complaints of downtown trashcans overflowing as well as leaf pickup needs. SSD Price answered these items have been addressed.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for an update on the new entertainment stage purchased by the City. SSD Price answered that employees have been trained and certified. Rental policy and costs are in place.

Mr. Miller asked when the 'Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area' program needed to be revisited. SSD Price answered, end of 2025.
President Doll requested potholes be repaired on the alleyway connecting Broadway to Seltzer, between Pearl and Mechanic Streets.

Law Director Report:

No report.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for any prosecution updates. Mr. Neal stated none at this time.

Mr. Miller requested parking ticket data be reviewed.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee – December 10th at 1pm at City Hall.

Parks Committee – December 10th at 6:30pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business –

Mr. Campbell read a message from a citizen stating that the schedule service for trash pickup did not get posted to Facebook.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council