

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on December 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. Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 5 visitors present. Law Director Grant Neal was absent.

Motion by Sheipline, second by Miller to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2024 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Lodging Tax Committee— a meeting was held on 12-10-2024 and the following was discussed:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Lodging Tax application for a “Books & Brews” event by Riverside Art Center partnering with Coffe Amor for a coffee demonstration.

The committee mentioned how creatively the RAC works to bring people to shops and restaurants all year round and how in this case they were showcasing a different often forgotten area of the arts with literature.

The project scored 21.5 on the rubric and was eligible for funding.

After additional discussion, Marlene Graf made a motion to fund the project at \$1300 with a second by Eric Ireland, it was passed unanimously.

Community members Bob Kohlreiser and John Brown were in attendance to learn more about the process for funding and to discuss their previous funding application for the 4th of July fireworks. The committee walked through the process and answered questions about why some projects were funded differently than others based on their applications. The committee expressed the difficulties in comparing “apples to apples” as so many projects are completely different from one another. The applicants expressed frustration that they didn’t feel that their project was treated equally as the event brings large numbers of people to the community.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to approve \$1300 of lodging tax funding to Riverside Art Center for a ‘Books & Brews’ event. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Miller asked why the application for 4th of July fireworks was not fully funded this year. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated the committee was not aware that the fireworks and church festival were separate things, and the committee was also experiencing a lapse of funding at that the time. The committee is requesting Auditor Anderson to begin quarterly installments of lodging tax dollars rather than one lump sum. Mr. Greve asked how much was initially requested for fireworks funding and how much was ultimately granted. Mrs. Muhlenkamp answered that the request was for \$10,000 and \$2000 was granted.

Parks Committee— a meeting was held on 12-10-2024 and the following was discussed:

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce members of the Parks Commission to one another so that they could begin meeting in 2025. The purpose of the group is to discuss Parks matters and to create a long term plan for the Parks. It was created in Ordinance 274. Brandon Miller stated that Parks have come up frequently in the surveys completed by Reveille as part of the Strategic Planning process and hopes to keep the processes interconnected.

There was a brief discussion about the Parks & Recreation Levy and when it needs to be renewed. It was felt that this process could help feed into that process and whether a levy increase is warranted as well as increasing to a full time Parks director and purchasing playground equipment.

John Wehner mentioned opportunities to partner with outside agencies like Safe Routes to Schools Grants for bicycles or Heritage Trails to help create a bicycle trail across the County.

There was then some discussion about the Waterpark as technically Parks and the Waterpark are separate entities. The group was encouraged to think creatively around what this should look like and whether a full time Parks Director and levy would be part of Waterpark Operations or if that should be continued to be kept separately. Especially as the pool continues to operate at a loss.

Miller shared that conversations were ongoing with the new Auditor about potential uses for the Hauss Helms funds.

A future meeting of the Parks Commission was scheduled for January 9th at 7 PM.

Mr. Campbell asked for clarification on the usage of Hauss-Helms funds. Mr. Miller answered that Auditor Anderson is evaluating this.

Communications –

Mr. Campbell stated that the willow trees that were removed along the riverfront will be replaced with another species of tree sometime next year after waterline work is completed in this area.

Guest Petitions -

Mrs. Deb Fischer of 18440 Cty Rd 115A addressed Council about the property she rents at 3 Willipie Street and requested permission to install an awning at said property. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked why the matter is being brought to Council rather than the zoning board. SSD Price answered that historically this is what has been done in order to give power to the Mayor to sign the agreement. Mr. Campbell added that Law Director Neal has reviewed the documentation for this request and any liabilities rest with the property owner. Mr. Miller added that the process the City currently follows for these types of requests takes too long, hindering property owners from making improvements. Mayor Lee added that he feels Wapakoneta business owners should be permitted to sit on committees even if they do not personally reside in the City.

New Business –

Mr. Shepline stated that he has two applications totaling \$2183 for projects to be completed during the first quarter of 2025, and requested this amount be carried over. Mayor Lee advised this is not a problem and he will speak to Auditor Anderson about it. Mr. Shepline also complimented Mrs. Fischer on all she does for the City of Wapakoneta.

Mr. Greve advised that Council received an email from City employee Mark Sawmiller regarding the recycle drop-off location and the frequent mess that must be cleaned up there. City employees are spending considerable time with cleanup here though it is a county program. Mr. Campbell stated that he would like to remove his previous suggestion to relocate the recycle drop off further back on the Stahler Property, as doing so could create non-recyclables to be dumped there. Other options for the cardboard recycling are being discussed by the county. Mr. Dunlap stated that residents still have noise complaints about this location that could be resolved by closing it with a gate at night.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if there have been changes to the locations that offer Wapakoneta trash bags for sale. SSD Price advised that some locations no longer wish to sell the bags due to having to pay for credit card fees on those purchases. The trash bags are available for purchase at City Hall. Mr. Miller asked administration to consider what would happen if there were a supply issue with the bags.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-52 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CHANGES TO THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA CREDIT CARD POLICY.

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

Mr. Campbell suggested that administration have an inspection done on said property. Mr. Miller asked if Auditor Anderson still feels ok about this general fund purchase. SSD Price answered, yes.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-54 for the second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2024-55 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2024-55. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Shepline to adopt Ord 2024-55. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2024-56 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING AN AWNING ENCROACHMENT UPON A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Res 2024-56. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Shepline to adopt Res 2024-56. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report:

12.3 Attended Tree Commission

12.4 Office Hours

12.7 Kicked off Children's Hometown Holiday

12.8 Attend Humane Society Event

12.11 Office Hours

12.11 Talked with Mayor Joe Hurlburt and Jeff Hazel

12.11 Attended Waedc

12.13 Meeting with Binkley Realty

Other notes.

Christmas Cheer Served over 60 families and gifts will go out via the PD next week

Children's Home Town Holiday was a great success

Stopping at Crosswalks

Mr. Campbell noted that the crosswalk lights are blinking all the time rather than just when a pedestrian pushes the button.

Mayor Lee added that the new fire truck has arrived and the staff is being trained on it.

Service Director Report:

Potholes in the alley from Broadway to Seltzer will be fixed when weather allows.

More Facebook efforts will be made when there will be interruption of trash and recycle pickup schedules.

Looking at pricing for text services that could be used for utility communications to residents.

The county was down two trucks and this slowed the pickup at the recycling drop off location. This has been resolved and additional dumpsters have been added here. Grants for barriers are being explored as well as closing the drop off location at night.

Survey for the City's comprehensive plan is still available through January 2025.

Haus-Helms funds are available and interest earned must be used in the parks.

Mr. Greve noted that half of the downtown Christmas lights were off this evening.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked about trash pickup downtown. SSD Price stated this will be done twice per week.

Mr. Miller noted that one of the stoplights on Defiance Street at the 5-way light is out.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the marijuana taxes. Mr. Stinebaugh answered that no new information has been given.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Lodging Tax Committee – January 9th at 1pm at City Hall.

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council

