

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on February 3, 2025 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, 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 9 visitors present. Law Director Grant Neal and Councilor Jessica Muhlenkamp were absent.

Motion by Campbell, second by Sheipline to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2025 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Lodging Tax Committee** – a meeting was held on 01-29-2025 and the following was discussed:

The budget was briefly discussed. Mayor Lee reported that with the \$30,000 carryover from 2024, the 2024 collected dollars, and the income in 2025 the anticipated revenue is \$153,000. It was discussed that the committee still wants to move forward with quarterly transfers into the account, Resolutions before Council will be needed each time this happens.

Jessica Muhlenkamp reported that there was interest by other City Council members into the Placer ID program. Matt Staugler, Director of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau also expressed interest in partnering with the City to utilize the program. Mayor Lee stated he would follow-up.

Greg Myers, Director of the Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation, was in attendance to discuss their application. In celebration of the WACF's 35th anniversary they are planning a concert event at the Performing Arts Center as a catalyst to create an organization to bring similar events to the community several times a year. He shared that there are 70 such organizations throughout the state including 7 in the surrounding counties around Wapakoneta. These communities have shown a positive ability to bring visitors into their communities with these events with an estimated 34% of attendees being visitors at events.

The WACF has already pledged \$50,000 toward the project and is applying for \$10,000 to market the event through Great Lakes Studio. They are experienced in this type of marketing and have a plan to market to the surrounding counties. Ticket sales do not cover the entirety of expenses and corporate sponsorships and grants are required to keep community performing arts viable. The launch committee has been working with the Director of the Gateway Theatre in Sidney, OH.

Mr. Myers also mentioned that the WACF plans to make this a recurring investment in the community and encouraged the Lodging Tax committee to do the same.

The project scored a 24.3 on the rubric and is therefore eligible for funding.

Efforts to include students into the process were discussed including allowing the performers and technicians to meet students and staff as well as working with the MakerSpace to print banners. The committee discussed how there is no avenue for exploring performing arts in Wapakoneta after graduation.

The Committee expressed concerns pledging a multiple year grant as they had actively discouraged other organizations from doing that. There was discussion of encouraging the group to reapply next year with their ability to provide additional data showing the amount of surrounding zip codes who attended this event through their ticketing app.

Mayor Lee made a motion to fully fund the project for \$10,000 with a second by Eric Ireland. It was approved unanimously.

The application for a POW/MIA cabin at the location of the I-75 Flag was discussed. The application indicated this was the second phase of the I-75 project and they are requesting \$4500 for this portion.

The committee expressed concerns about funding the project as the Flag project has not yet been completed and it was already pledged \$5000 in Lodging Tax dollars. There was also some discussion about the liability and upkeep for the location as it is currently owned by the Red Roof Inn and it would seem that it's not a public space. Mayor Lee indicated that he did not want the City Parks department to be liable for management such as snow removal on the proposed path.

The committee then discussed that there was not an official procedure document for grant awardees so it is unclear how long those grant funds are available for projects. Jessica Muhlenkamp asked if this is a question the auditor should answer for when funds would no longer be available from City funds.

Mayor Lee made a motion to table the project until questions could be answered and there was a timeline for completion on the 1st phase of the project. Eric Ireland provided a second, the motion was approved.

Jessica Muhlenkamp will follow-up with the organization for additional details.

The committee then discussed the application from the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership for a billboard to advertise visitors to come to Wapakoneta near Indian Lake. The committee expressed frustration that they were provided with an image that was “inspiration” and not the actual visual of what the billboard will look like.

There was then some general discussion around the pros and cons of billboards as a form of advertising. The statistics provided about this billboard had a large amount of traffic driving past the billboard but that does not mean that individuals either saw the billboard or that they then chose to visit Wapakoneta based on that visual. Does a digital billboard that can be changed more easily have a better “Call to Action” than a more static billboard? The group was reminded that inviting people from outside the community is the exact mission of this group and several felt it was a good price for a billboard.

The project scored a 22 on the rubric and was eligible for funding.

Dan Lee made a motion to fully fund the project for \$4450 with a second by Jessica Muhlenkamp. The motion was approved unanimously. The committee will request that DWP ask for additional ROI information like asking businesses to see if there are reports of people seeing the billboard or other metrics that could be used as well as the Lodging Tax being mentioned on the final copy of the billboard.

Jessica let the committee know that she would miss the next Council meeting and had made arrangements for another councilor to provide the motions to ensure that these projects could move forward in a timely manner.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to approve \$10,000 of lodging tax funds to the Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation for marketing of the Performance Arts Center event and launch an organization for future events. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Shepline to approve \$4450 of lodging tax funds to the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership for a billboard to advertise Wapakoneta in Indian Lake. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Miller asked if the income and carryover of lodging tax funds were higher than anticipated. Mayor Lee answered, yes.

#### **Guest Petitions –**

Mr. Ace Ambos of 13972 Linzee Road and representative of Vietnam Veterans of America, requested Council’s approval for the placement of a brass plaque at the Goldstar Memorial in downtown Wapakoneta in honor of the Four Chaplains who lost their lives on February 3, 1943 aboard the USAT Dorchester. Council had no opposition to the placement of said memorial plaque.

Mr. Miller asked about a plaque being installed regarding the ‘Koneta Hotel’. Mayor Lee stated this topic needs to be revisited.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-04 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO AND THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR 2024 FOR THE “CHIP” PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Res 2025-04. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Shepline to adopt Res 2025-04. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-05 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ALLOW THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL DITCH MAINTENANCE ON THE KRITES SINGLE COUNTY DITCH WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-06 for the first time re: PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE).

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2025-06. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to adopt Ord 2025-06. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-07 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE RE-ESTABLISHING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13093 INFIRMARY ROAD, WAPAKONETA, AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO.

Clerk McDonald noted a public hearing has been scheduled for March 3, 2025 at 7:15pm for said ordinance.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-08 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED OFF OF LEON PRATT DRIVE IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2025-08. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2025-08. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-09 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CITY PROPERTY THROUGH INTERNET AUCTION.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-10 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND NET X, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Price explained the emergency is due to the nature of cyber threats and to proceed with enhancing our network protections and services.

Motion by Campbell, second by Sheipline to suspend the rules for Res 2025-10. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to adopt Res 2025-10. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-11 for the first 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.

#### **Mayor's Report:**

Attended Planning Commission meeting.

Attended Community Garden meeting.

Attended two meetings with Convergent regarding battery storage.

Conducted Department Head meetings.

Attended Four Chaplains ceremony and issued a proclamation for same.

#### **Service Director Report:**

Wapakoneta Fire Station expansion project should be complete in April 2025.

Wapakoneta Police Department cameras located a stolen vehicle.

May be getting a fuel tank for city vehicle usage.

Water Department conducting extra testing to meet EPA requirements.

Maple Street water tower will be painted.

Parks Advisory Committee will be making changes to their meeting dates.

Mr. Campbell asked if Wood Street will have center lines painted on it.

Mr. Campbell also noted that stop bars are missing on some streets as well.

President Doll thanked administration for their communications to the public on recycling and garbage pickup dates.

Mr. Greve asked if employees have been trained on the new stage purchased by the City. SSD Price answered, yes.

Mr. Sheipline pointed out that several side streets in town are lacking a center line and asked administration to review this.

**Scheduling Committee Meetings:**

Mr. Dunlap noted he met with the Waste Minimization Committee on 2-3-2025, and their Special Collection day is scheduled for March 22, 2025 from 9am-12pm. Mr. Miller requested a report be provided to Council regarding the status of the City's in-house refuse and recycling department.

Mr. Campbell noted that the last phase of cleanup has begun on the property situated on the corner of North and Seltzer Streets.

**Miscellaneous Business -**

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to enter executive session at 8:03pm to discuss confidential matters related to economic development and inviting WAEDC Josh Bloomfield and City Administration. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to exit executive session at 9pm. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 9pm. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

---

President

---

Clerk of Council