

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on January 20, 2025 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, John Shepline, and Terry Campbell. Law Director Grant Neal and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There was 1 visitor present. Mayor Dan Lee and Councilors Alex Greve and Chad Dunlap were absent.

Motion by Shepline, second by Miller to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Lodging Tax Committee** – a meeting was held on 01-09-2025 and the following was discussed:

The budget was briefly discussed. It was estimated that with last year's carryover and the 2024 funds there is around \$140,000 in the fund. There was also a brief discussion of working with the Auditor to have rolling funds added into the account on a Quarterly basis so that there is a more even distribution of funds throughout the year.

The Armstrong lights application was discussed. This application was received in December 2024 but the committee was unable to meet to discuss it. This is a matching grant with a \$5000 ask, a \$5000 commitment from the Museum as well as \$5000 from NAHA. The committee discussed that the Museum did a great job showing the data from previous years and would like to use this as an example for others completing the application. The project scored 21.3 through the rubric and is eligible for funding. Mayor Lee made a motion to fully fund the project at \$5000 with a second by Eric Ireland, it was approved unanimously.

The Auglaize County Historical Society Brochure project was discussed. This is a reprint of a brochure that was originally created in 2018. The project is meant for visitors once they arrive in the community and does not necessarily bring visitors into the community. There was a brief discussion in the committee about whether or not future printable materials should require copy to ensure quality. The project scored a 23.6 on the rubric and is therefore eligible for funding. Eric made a motion to fully fund the ACHS project at \$1024 with a second by Dan Lee. It was passed unanimously.

There was a brief discussion of the PlacerID program and how it may be cost prohibitive to use for projects in Wapakoneta. Mayor Lee is doing additional research.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Miller to approve \$5000 of lodging tax funds to the Armstrong Air & Space Museum for the purchase of Christmas lights. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to approve \$1024 of lodging tax funds to the Auglaize County Historical Society for the printing of brochures. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp explained that PlacerID can ping cell phone data to determine the home zip code of persons attending an event.

**Finance Committee** – a meeting was held on 01-14-2025 and the following was discussed:

The primary business of the committee was to hear from SSD Price and Auditor Anderson regarding the final version of the 2025 budget. The auditor hoped that the council would have the final budget version for 1st reading at our next council meeting. Overall, Mr. Price and Ms. Anderson spoke of the extensive effort that has gone into building this new budget, and the cooperation that led to the successful effort. The committee thanked both officials and others for their extensive efforts in developing a budget that is well-thought out and backed by research and previous year's actual spending.

SSD Price went through all major funds with the committee to explain various decisions on spending. The committee was able to ask questions regarding various funds, and the auditor and SSD were able to clear up concerns. The committee is pleased with the budget and looks forward to presenting it to the council for its review. The council will see the entire budget shortly, but a couple of quick highlights from the meeting that stood out are as follows:

- \$3.8MM carryover from last year to this year in the general fund, up from \$2.6MM last year
  - Kilowatt tax revenue has increasing from previous years, leading to greater revenue in the general fund.
- General income tax has been relatively flat YoY

- Transfer for streets from general fund will be reduced this year relative to last given our eventual completion of Water St. in 2025 and no new large reconstructions planned for this year
- General Fund contingency sits right around \$1MM, which is close to 10% of general fund revenue. This means the general fund is in a healthy state heading into 2025
- Salaries increased mildly among certain groups due to new collective bargaining agreements
- Parks and Pool funds are far healthier in 2025 budget than previous years, with increased general fund transfer and more capital expenditure dollars. This is particularly for the improvements needed to the pool slides
- The sewer fund has begun paying its debt service for the new water reclamation facility. The overall debt service is roughly \$3.4MM per year for 30 years, and so discussions were had about improving revenue in that fund.

### **Communications -**

Clerk McDonald provided a reminder to elected officials to file their annual Ohio Ethics Commission financial disclosure statement.

### **New Business –**

President Doll provided a list of the boards and commissions that need re-appointments for 2025.

Board of Appeals (Building Code)

Three year term

Tom Fischer

Matt Schmalenberger

Board of Zoning Appeals

Three year term

Taylor Frost

Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council

Tina Waltz

(Need another council appointment)

Design Review Board

Three Year Term - Mayoral Appoint Council Approves

Rod Metz

Waste Minimization

Three year term

Bonnie Rausch

(There are also three vacancies)

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to approve the list of appointments as provided. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-04 for the first 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-05 for the first 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.

**Service Director Report:**

No report.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked when the contractors will resume work on Water Street. SSD Price stated their start date is weather dependent.

**Law Director Report:**

No report.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if there have been any delinquent landlord cases. Mr. Neal replied, no.

**Scheduling Committee Meetings:**

Lodging Tax Committee – January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at City Hall.

**Miscellaneous Business -**

Mr. Miller stated he will not be seeking re-election for his City Council seat in 2026 and encouraged members of the public to consider serving.

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm. Vote – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council