

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on January 3, 2023 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Ross Kantner, Daniel E. Lee, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Steve Henderson, Law Director Grant Neal and Safety Service Director Michael Brillhart were also present. There were 6 visitors present.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 12-31-2022.

President Doll introduced newly appointed 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilman, Alex Greve.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 Public Hearing as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 Council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Lodging Tax Committee** – a meeting was held on 01-03-2023 and the following was discussed:

An application was received from the Air & Space Museum requesting \$16,300 to purchase solar eclipse eyeglasses for the April 8, 2024 total eclipse of the sun. The solar eyeglasses will have the City of Wapakoneta seal printed on them and the Air & Space Museum will distribute them to the public free of charge. Mr. Lee noted that the City of Wapakoneta is expected to have up to 40,000 visitors to the area for the once-in-a-lifetime eclipse event. Motion by Lee, second by Miller to approve the Air & Space Museum's request in the full amount of \$16,300 for the purchase of said solar eyeglasses. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Parks Committee** – a meeting was held on 12-29-2022 and the following was discussed:

Update/Old Business:

“Pocket Park” at corner of Defiance and Harrison Streets.

Per Michael, Dave Klock to be in town in new future. Will transfer the deed and record the transfer as well. Will review possibilities of benches, plantings, etc.

Small Dog park along river down the hill from the Little League fields.

Per Michael City personnel believe dog park could be put in.

Following short discussion, J. Shepline made a motion for Safety Service Director to move forward with putting the dog park in. Second by B. Miller. Unanimous affirmative vote.

Wapak WaterPark and the proposed contract with the Wapak Y to manage the pool.

At last Council meeting, Resolution 2022-74 was tabled per the Y's request due to consideration of changing the contract to a one-year agreement.

Short discussion – Committee members expressed hope/desire that an agreement can be reached for the Y to provide lifeguards at the WaterPark.

Discussion regarding Ordinance 274.02 - Leasing Playgrounds and Swimming pool and who has the authority to negotiate with the Y for the Water Park.

This committee believes Law Director Neal should review with SSD Brillhart.

Concerns expressed/discussed that potentially, current contract could/would be invalid if City ordinances are not followed regarding negotiating with the Y.

Discussion regarding ordinances related The City Recreation Board.

This committee believes these ordinances should be reviewed and either amended, or followed.

Walkway to Heritage Park Project and Stage in Heritage Park.

Per Michael both projects are being considered for funding from ARPA funds from county. However, in consideration of infrastructure and property ownership challenges, the Heritage Parkway project would most likely be difficult to implement at this time. In addition, the Stage in Heritage Park is being examined for other state and federal grant funding opportunities. In addition, the amount of ARPA funding available to the City from County is anticipated to be \$200,000.

As such, Councilors have already suggested to and / or asked Michael that the ARPA funding from county could go to projects where some grant funding has already been allocated? That being at the WaterPark (\$50,000 ODNR grant) -and- Veteran's Park splash pad (\$75,000 ODNR grant).

New Business:

Discussion regarding concerns with proposed flags along Heritage Parkway and installation of 80 ft. flag pole in Belcher Park

Committee members like the idea of the flags but have concerns how flags will be attached to fencing, as well as placement of large flag in Belcher Park.

Michael will review concerns.

Other:

Michael informed Committee that he and Jackie Martell from the Chamber had discussed the possibility of forming a committee/commission to discuss/review plans for the Heritage Park Project and behind town properties. He will keep Parks Committee informed, and include one or two Committee members to be part of the commission.

Jay Sweede from the Recreation Board, asked Parks Committee and Administration to review Ordinances 274.02 and 274.03. There is language that needs cleaned up.

Jack Hayzlett commented that years ago when the Rec Board was created, funding for recreation was minimal, so a levy was passed. Many of the rec facilities were owned by the school. There have been many changes in facilities and funding, so he too believes the ordinances need to be reviewed.

Jack informed Committee he received a call from a City Counselor. He believes all City Counselors are not on the same page regarding a Full-time Parks employee, and is concerned with statements made by the City Counselor regarding the Y's alleged intention of managing the pool.

Copies of proposed Full-time position job description distributed for review.

Jack thanked Counsel for approving the Lodging Tax award of \$10,000/year for 6 years to be used for the automatic field striper.

The full-time Parks employee will be responsible for maintaining the striper.

Mr. Campbell asked for a more detailed description of the dog park location. SSD Brillhart stated that a design for the dog park will be presented for Council to review.

Regarding the proposed Auglaize River Flag Project as discussed at last Council meeting, Mr. Campbell suggested permanent receiving pods be mounted to the fencing, rather than using zip ties to secure the flags.

Mr. Campbell also suggested moving the proposed 80 foot flag pole for Belcher Park to an area near the I-75 & US33 interchange for better visibility and attention.

Mr. Campbell asked for clarification on the location of the 'Heritage Park Walkway'. Mr. Miller answered, the walkway from the Neil Armstrong statue at the Coleman Building to the Heritage Park and Auglaize River.

President Doll thanked Jack Hayzlett and city staff for their hard work on the Christmas decorations at Heritage Park this year.

### **Unfinished Business -**

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to untable Resolution 2022-74R. President Doll noted that revisions had been made to the proposed contract. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

### **New Business-**

President Doll provided the 2023 Council Committees assignments via email.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to appoint Ross Kantner to the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council Board. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll gave a reminder that candidate petitions are due February 1<sup>st</sup> for those wishing to run for public offices.

Motion by Kantner, second by Miller to allow Service Director Brillhart to proceed with plans for the new dog park along the Auglaize River. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to bring Ord 2023-01 to the floor for consideration. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second Kantner to bring Ord 2023-02 to the floor for consideration. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2022-74R for the third time re: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A POOL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AGREEMENT WITH THE WAPAKONETA FAMILY YMCA FOR THE OUTDOOR POOLS AND WATERPARK FACILITY DURING THE 2023 POOL SEASON.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Res 2022-74R. Mr. Kantner noted that initially, the proposed contract was written for 3 years, but the revised contract is for one year. Mayor Henderson answered, correct. Law Director Neal added that Ohio Revised Code Sections 755.12 – 755.18 confirms the authority of City Council regarding the operation and maintenance of public swimming pools. Vote – 6 yeas, 1 nay (Kantner). Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2022-75 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260.10(f) “PAY PLAN” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2022-76 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260.17(A) “HOLIDAYS” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO AND SECTION 5.04(A)(1) OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2022-77 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL SALARY COMPENSATION FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-01 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN MATERIALS, SERVICES, AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-02 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DUCHOUQUET TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES FOR FURNISHING OF FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE SERVICE.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-03 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5.12 “FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE” OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-04 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE RECREATION MANAGER POSITION AND CREATING THE ACCOMPANYING JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-05 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 4.10 “BANKED HOURS” OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2023-06 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PUSHETA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES FOR FURNISHING OF FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE SERVICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Lee, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Res 2023-06. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Kantner to adopt Res 2023-06. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2023-07 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO AND THE CITIES OF WAPAKONETA AND ST. MARYS, OHIO FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR 2022 “CHIP” PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Campbell, second by Miller to suspend the rules for Ord 2023-07. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2023-07. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Mayor report:**

Welcome to the new 4<sup>th</sup> Ward City Councilman, Alex Greve.

A line worker in southern Ohio lost his life during the high winds on Christmas week. Training will follow regarding this incident.

Attended OMEA Board meeting and Lodging Tax Committee meeting.

The Learning Channel will be doing a tv series to include a local Wapakoneta couple.

Provided Community Wellness & Event Calendar from the Auglaize County Health Department.

**Service Director report:**

Health & Safety Committee meeting is needed to discuss the inclement weather policy for City employees.

Tax Incentives Review Board needs to conduct a meeting soon, and is lacking members.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the compensation study. SSD Brillhart replied that he hopes to have the results within two weeks.

**Law Director report:**

No further report.

Mr. Campbell asked for an update on the Easttown property. Mr. Neal answered that the deed is complete but the survey still needs finished.

**Scheduling Committee Meetings:**

Lodging Tax Committee will meet on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm at City Hall.

Utilities Committee will meet on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at City Hall.

Health & Safety Committee will soon schedule and announce a meeting date and time.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to enter executive session at 8:13pm for the purpose of reviewing negotiations with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment and inviting City Administration. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to exit executive session at 8:30pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Wapakoneta and the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association as presented to Council. SSD Brillhart explained that the memorandum addresses additional compensation to those patrolman, Lieutenants and dispatchers with 10 or more years of service with the City of Wapakoneta. SSD Brillhart added that a second portion of the memorandum addresses additional compensation for those dispatchers and officers who conduct field training for new employees while continuing to work their regular shift duties. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Lee, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council

