

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on July 7, 2025 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Safety Service Director Tyler Price and Law Director Grant Neal were also present. There were 6 visitors present. Mayor Dan Lee and Councilman Alex Stinebaugh were absent.

Motion by Miller, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Utilities Committee** – a meeting was held on 06-23-2025 and the following was discussed:

Item for discussion: Food Waste Compost Carrier GoZERO

The Waste Minimization Committee requested a joint meeting to discuss and introduce GoZERO to the Utilities Committee, with the goal of having the city implement a food waste composting program for Wapakoneta residents.

GoZERO Services is a family-owned company based out of Logan County and is committed to improving our environment, strengthening our communities, and changing how we think about food, soil, and health by making commercial-scale food waste composting convenient, accessible, and fun for schools, restaurants, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

We discussed how this would work for Wapakoneta and was informed that GoZERO would offer the following:

- We work with you through concerns, on-site details, and logistics.
- We place food waste containers and provide additional support as needed.
- Containers are emptied and serviced, on a schedule that's right for you, making sure what's collected go to a local composter.

The program that the Waste Minimization Committee has discussed would have 3- 64 gallon covered bins that would allow our residents to drop off their food waste to be picked up weekly and converted into compost. These bins would be lined and washed after each pick up. They are actively working in approximately 2 dozen communities located mostly in Ohio and a couple in Michigan currently. Bowling Green and Oxford were the two that were mentioned. A statistic that was brought up is that food waste can be up to 40% of the garbage that we create. If this is the case, this could drastically reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfills and the fees that are incurred.

Based on the conversations that the committee had with Go ZERO, they feel the cost to implement this program would be \$7,000.00 annually.

The website for everyone to investigate and have a better understanding of the service provided is [www.gozero.org](http://www.gozero.org).

Lastly, a portion of a note from Rachel Barber on this subject is as follows:

Destiny (representative at GoZERO) made a small mistake in routing for us. The GoZero truck currently goes west on 33 at Huntsville, to Lima. So, at the moment we are a bit off the route. There should be a mileage fee added, but I spoke with the GoZero owner. The company will waive the fee in its entirety for six months. After six months, if we help them acquire two new customers in Wapakoneta, the mileage fee will go away.

The owner indicated that Winan's had once inquired about the service. So that's a great option, as are a couple of downtown restaurants. Aaron Rex and I will also be talking about the school's food waste and composting soon.

A motion was made by Greve and seconded by Stinebaugh to bring it before council to consider a 6-month trial with GoZERO.

Ms. Heather Walbright of 11524 Owl Creek Road and volunteer advisor with the Waste Minimization Committee, summarized for City Council the benefits, costs, education and logistics of utilizing GoZero's services. Ms. Walbright noted that paper towels and food cardboard packaging can also be recycled in this manner. Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to authorize City Administration to enter into a 6 month trial period with GoZero. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

### **Guest Petitions -**

Mrs. Deb Zvez of 613 E. Pearl Street invited Council to attend a dinner welcoming Astronaut Capt. Mike Foreman to Wapakoneta. Council was also invited to participate in the 'Run to the Moon' event on July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum.

### **New Business -**

Mrs. Muhlenkamp summarized that the Lodging Tax Committee is requesting direction from City Council on the application process and rubric scoring. Mrs. Muhlenkamp explained that the Lodging Tax Committee is not comfortable approving new grant requests until they receive feedback and direction from Council on utilization of the current rubric scoring process. Mrs. Muhlenkamp further noted that some past projects were not presented to the Lodging Tax Committee, but were still funded by the City. Approximately 12 applications for funding are received each year. Mr. Miller referenced the City ordinance language, noting that the Lodging Tax Committee is to: meet quarterly, review applications, and make recommendations to Council. There is no mention of rubric within the ordinance, and Council holds the authority to make the final determinations on distribution of funds. Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Miller stated that the intent of lodging tax expenditures is to enhance a visitor's experience when they come to Wapakoneta. Law Director Neal explained that the Tourism Commission is in place to review and provide recommendations, but it is still City Council who holds the authority on how those dollars are spent.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp also noted that the Lodging Tax Committee is seeking input from City Council regarding an outstanding bill for the community's veterans banners. \$15,000 of Lodging Tax Funds were awarded last year for this project, but the applicant overspent and is now seeking the overage. Mr. Dunlap questioned if the funds needed to hang up and maintain the veterans banners ought to come from Lodging Tax dollars, or elsewhere. Mr. Miller commented that from a fairness perspective, budgets must be adhered to and rules must be followed in the expenditure of funds. SSD Price clarified that the overage is owed to Harrod Nagel who has already completed the work, and the VVA is asking for more lodging tax funds to cover said overage. Mr. Campbell explained to the VVA that the initial agreement was that the City would put the banners in place, but this happened under a previous administration. Mr. Campbell asked how other cities and villages pay for and maintain their veterans banners. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated that cities typically budget for the banners within their general fund. Law Director Neal interjected, noting that City Council is the law making authority for the City of Wapakoneta, and it is not permissible whatsoever for a committee or commission to attempt to make binding law. Oftentimes, Council accepts the recommendations of a committee or commission, but when it does not, it can appear like a departure. Law Director Neal suggested better training and explanation regarding the role of committee and commission members. Ultimately, the decisions lie with City Council, as they represent the city at large or their individual wards, and there must be no rubber stamp mentality held by committees or commissions. Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to approve \$3250 of lodging tax funds to pay for the outstanding balance for work done on the veterans banners. Mr. Dunlap stressed that there must be a plan in place for the care and maintenance of the veterans banners moving forward, not just a decision made on this outstanding bill. Mr. Miller reiterated that lodging tax funding is a grant program, and an applicant cannot be permitted to overspend and submit the overage to the City. Mr. Greve added once more, Council is supportive of the veterans banners and wants them to continue, but a better plan needs to be in place for their care and maintenance moving forward. Mr. Greve asked that City Administration please work with the VVA to develop said plan. Vote – 4 yeas, 2 nays (Miller, Muhlenkamp). Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-24 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO APPLY FOR AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR GRANTS FROM VARIOUS ENTITIES.

SSD Price noted that Jamie Nelson is assisting him with the grants.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-25 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE A WESTERN STAR 47X DUMP TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Price stated current trucks are from 1995 and beds are rusted out. Stoops Western Star have trucks available now, thus the emergency language. \$206,000 in cost for each truck.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Campbell to suspend the rules for Ord 2025-25. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2025-25. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-26 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH STOOPS WESTERN STAR OF OHIO FOR THE PURCHASE OF A WESTERN STAR 47X DUMP TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Shepline, second by Greve to suspend the rules for Ord 2025-26. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to adopt Ord 2025-26. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-27 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 660.14 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA SPECIFIC TO THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A NOTICE TO CUT GRASS, WEEDS, OR VEGETATION OR REMOVE BRUSH, LIMBS, OR DOWNED TREES.

Mr. Miller noted that the City should charge more to cover the opportunity cost of losing city workers to these items versus having workers available for city projects. Law Director Neal agreed, but stated it ought to be a fixed penalty amount.

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

Wapak Fire Dept. is preparing for final inspections on the building expansion.

Wapak Waterpark attendance numbers remain high.

69kv project continues, and contractors have been located to move wires in fire alley.

Flow augmentation project continues.

Maple Street tank painting continues.

Industrial loop water project also continuing.

Engineering Dept. working on alley right-of-ways.

Public Works Dept. continuing project on Tulip Drive.

Depts put in long days and extra hours cleaning up from recent storm.

Baby box has been installed at the Fire Dept. Tours of expansion will be offered during Moon Fest.

President Doll asked for City Administration to make contact with property owner of the old Wheel Factory location for weed removal.

#### **Law Director Report:**

No report.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked Law Director Neal has had any recent court hearings. Mr. Neal replied, not yet.

#### **Scheduling Committee Meetings:**

Finance Committee will meet on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at City Hall.

#### **Miscellaneous Business:**

Mr. Campbell noted that a large limb came off of old red oak at corner of Water and Auglaize Street recently. This tree is estimated to be over 200 years old, but will need to come down due to rot.

Mr. Shepline noted that the Roots & Shoots gardening group is doing a great job caring for the planting urns downtown.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council