

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on May 5, 2025 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Safety Service Director Tyler Price, Law Director Grant Neal and Mayor Dan Lee were also present. There were 11 visitors present.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 04-30-2025.

Motion by Shepline, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2025 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Finance Committee – a meeting was held on 04-28-2025 and the following was discussed:

Topic #1: City Charging for Event Services

The committee began with a discussion regarding the potential charging by the city for various services rendered for events, including police detail, electric, and other services. The city has not charged groups for such services in the past for events, but the administration is considering this practice moving forward. These conversations began with discussions regarding the price of groups utilizing the new city stage and then grew to other city services. Private groups like the Chamber of Commerce are concerned that having to pay for city services that have previously been donated will hurt organizations' ability to run events in the future from a cost perspective. The fear is that some smaller events will simply not run due to lack of funds to pay the city for police detail.

The police department cited the fact that they do not have as many auxiliaries as previously, and that the price for pay to cover these events has grown from \$20 to \$45 per hour. This lack of auxiliary labor and increasing hourly overtime rates has caused the city to re-evaluate donation of police time for such events. This is why they would like the administration to consider beginning to charge for providing such a police detail.

Councilor Dunlap made the point that when people come to our community for one of these events, they do not think of them as the "Chamber of Commerce" event, but rather as the "Wapakoneta" event. He feels that charging for these services will hurt our community's ability to host such events and bring tourists to Wapakoneta in the future.

Deb Zvez provided the idea that the city re-writes the lodging tax ordinance to funnel a portion of the dollars to a separate fund to pay for city services during events. This way, organizations would continue not to be charged. The idea is that these types of events are the projects that the lodging tax likely would favor anyway, as they bring tourists to Wapakoneta. The chairman noted that he would work with Ms. Muhlenkamp and Mr. Neal to potentially draft legislation to this end for review.

The follow up for this topic was that administration would provide a financial implications study for the finance committee to review at a future meeting, and that the chairman would work with the Law Director and Chair of the Lodging Tax committee to draft language to potentially funnel a portion of the lodging tax revenue to fund event-related city work for council to review.

Topic #2: City Purchase of Heitz Property

The second topic discussed was the potential city purchase of the Heitz property off Kelly Dr. for use in utilities for the city. The committee heard from Justin Waid regarding the necessity of the land purchase for the water reclamation department. Mr. Waid noted that he has had to ask for extensions from the Ohio EPA on the project, and that the project is currently on schedule to be completed on time based upon those extended timelines. That schedule is assuming that this property is purchased by the city relatively quickly. If the city does not acquire this property in an expedient manner, Mr. Waid noted that the EPA may issue fines due to our levels of total dissolved solids. These fines could add up to equal or greater than the price of the property over time, which Mr. Waid cited as a major reason for the necessity of the purchase. Other potential options to purchase only part of the land or pursue an easement would be costly and take too much time and were also rejected by the current landowner. Mr. Waid noted that this purchase would be covered under the current loan, which means new money would not be spent out of Mr. Waid's fund. It would be covered under the debt service payments that are already under way.

Topic #3: Potential Combination of Pool and Park Funds

The committee intended to speak with the auditor regarding the potential combining of the pool and park funds in our budget. The auditor was not in attendance, and so that conversation will occur in the future.

Deb Zwez suggested that the city separate its parks and recreation department into two, distinct departments. One would cover the maintenance of our parks, and the other would cover recreation. She felt, at this point in the city's growth, that this separation was warranted.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on 05-01-2025 and the following was discussed:

1. Engineering presented the list of proposed streets for grind and pave for 2025, (see attached list). These streets will be resurfaced using the funds generated from our 0.5% tax levy. Committee members also requested Engineering to consider North Water St. near the woods owned by Barber and Park St. near the RR crossing and total miles of street resurfacing to compare with previous years.
2. Engineering will also be adding a sidewalk on the North side of Carnation connecting existing sidewalks between Laurel Dr. & Warren Ave. (Approx. 1700 lin. Ft.)
3. Committee reiterated the need to complete a gravel alley behind 907,909 & 911 Blackhoof St. to allow residents access to the back of their property for parking. City is planning to limit parking on the west side of Blackhoof St. near the Washington St. intersection due to poor visibility from parked vehicles on Blackhoof St. Engineering will prioritize the change from grass to gravel alley this spring.
4. Request Engineering to contact Choice One to investigate the feasibility of removing one crosswalk on Auglaize St. in front of the Park Plaz to possibly gain a few additional parking spaces.
5. Request Engineering to contact Choice One to look at the feasibility of an open-air seating area in front of the Park Plaz.
6. Discussed potential future plan to construct off street parking for the Breakfast Optimist Park. Will be looking at potential funding options.
7. Power pole in alley touching Krave Creamery building. Administration will inform owner as to timing this power pole will be removed. This is NOT an electrical hazard.

TAX LEVY PROGRAM 2025

- Willipie St. Auglaize St. to R/R
- Perry St. Mechanic St. to Pearl St.
- Plum St. Buchanan St. to Dearbaugh St. then Dearbaugh St. north to end.
- N. Blackhoof St. Stinebaugh Dr. to River St.
- Tulip Dr. Carnation Dr. to Hamilton St.
- Fairview St. Buchanan St. into fairgrounds.
- Hoopengartner St. Defiance St. to Murray St.
- Brighthorn St. North St. to Middle St.
- Pine St. North St. to Middle St.
- Johnston St. Anna St. to Auglaize St.
- Cass St. Pine St. to Wood St.
- Anna St. North St. to Wood St.
- Water St. north to Redskin Tr., by the woods
- Park St. near RR crossing

SSD Price noted that Encompass must engineer to remove the lines at Krave Creamery and can then remove the poles. Mr. Miller asked that Krave Creamery be kept apprised of the status.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if the City will compensate Krave Creamery for building damage. SSD Price will investigate what damage has been done, but believes the pole is only pushing against a gutter.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp expressed concern about new parking spots blocking the space helmet installation at the Parkplatz. Mr. Campbell answered the stop sign will remain, but one of the crosswalks may be removed in the future. Mayor Lee stated that parking will not be permitted in front of the monuments.

Guest Petitions –

Ms. Cheryl Drexler of 108 Brighthorn Street addressed Council on behalf of the Sister Cities Organization to voice their displeasure of the removal of the display cabinet at City Hall and asked for a resolution. Ms. Drexler requested a new locked display cabinet be provided to store Sister Cities memorabilia at City Hall. SSD Price stated that a new, smaller cabinet will be installed in the front entryway of City Hall. Mayor Lee added that all Sister Cities items can be brought out from storage during visits from the German students. Mr. Miller asked if records of cabinet ownership had been located. Ms. Drexler is investigating this.

Mr. Rex Katterheinrich of 1107 Poppy Drive addressed Council on behalf of the Sister Cities Organization members to ask who had the authority to sell the cabinet. Mayor Lee provided him with a copy of Resolution 2025-09 that utilizes Govdeals.com to sell items that are unneeded, obsolete or no longer of use to the City. Mr. Katterheinrich noted that the City paid \$2800 to have the custom cabinetry built in 1995 and it was then donated to Sister Cities to display said artifacts at City Hall.

Mr. Jacob Parsons of 1113 Poppy Drive announced his candidacy for Council at Large and stated he hopes to serve the City in the coming years.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-16 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED OFF OF KELLY DRIVE IN DUCHOUQUET TOWNSHIP.

Motion by Miller, second by Muhlenkamp to adopt Ord 2025-16. Mr. Miller noted if the purchase is not made, the City could face fines regarding the TDS levels. Mr. Shepline stated that in representing the citizens of Wapakoneta, he feels the price is too much to spend on the property and cannot support the ordinance. Mr. Campbell added that multiple options were explored and discussed with Superintendent Waid, including a possible extension of the easement or alternate routes for the pipeline, but no acceptable resolution could be found. Mr. Miller requested Administration debrief with the Water Reclamation Department to prevent a similar scenario in the future, especially in regards to the timeline of decision-making. Mayor Lee explained that the purchase of said property was the third solution that was explored, which pushed the timeline further in meeting criteria for the EPA. Mr. Miller stated the property purchase will be made within an existing loan contingency. Vote – 6 yeas, 1 nay (Shepline). Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-18 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1480.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA SPECIFIC TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp noted the matter was presented to Council prior to being brought before the Downtown Wapakoneta Partnership. Mrs. Muhlenkamp also voiced concern about all seven seats being able to be filled in the future. Law Director Neal agreed to review this item and follow-up at next Council meeting.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-19 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO TREASURER OF STATE'S OHIO MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THAT PROGRAM AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A STANDBY NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Price stated there have been no changes to said ordinance from last year.

Motion by Miller, second by Stinebaugh to suspend the rules for Ord 2025-19. Mr. Dunlap asked if the matter is considered annually, why Council would be asked to vote on an emergency. SSD Price replied that the timeline is due to AMP. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Campbell, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2025-19. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor Report:

Attended Arbor Day planting.

Further conversations with PlacerID.

Attended the National Day of Prayer.

Attended a Go Rails grant meeting about railroad track safety.

Had communications about helmet paint repair from 1st on the Moon.

Bike Safety day is scheduled for May 10th at TSC Garage.

Mr. Stinebaugh asked if the stoplight at 501 and Redskin Trail is being studied for problems. SSD Price replied, yes.

Mr. Greve asked about the stoplight issue at 198 and 501. SSD Price stated this is being investigated.

Safety Service Director Report:

City website is in the process of being transferred over and may be unavailable at times. The app is available now.

Exploring incumbent worker training with Ohio Means Jobs.

Electric Department is working on the Easttown Project.

Materials have been ordered for the 69kv project.

Industrial water loop project contract has been awarded.

Water Street has been reopened and tree plantings will soon occur.

Mr. Greve reminded Administration to ensure mulching around the new trees is done properly.

Mr. Miller reviewed the purchase orders for the remodeling work being done at the City Building, and voiced his concern that \$47,000 was appropriated from ARPA funds. Councilors appropriated ARPA funds by ordinance for specific purchases and any changes or additions should have been discussed with Council first and the ordinance amended. Mr. Miller requested an audit of this fund and a new ordinance created to reflect how the funds are actually being appropriated.

President Doll asked for Administration's plan for the DORA review. SSD Price stated if there are no problems with the program, no changes will be necessary.

President Doll also noted there are still complaints regarding the 24hr recycling drop off location. Mayor Lee stated he is aware.

President Doll asked if the police department could explore any remedies for cars going left of center upon making a turn at intersections. Mr. Stinebaugh added this is a problem at Defiance onto Glynwood Road. Mr. Campbell also noted that stop bars need inspected for reapplication due to fading.

Mr. Miller asked for an update on the marijuana tax owed to the City. SSD Price answered that the funds have not yet been received. Mr. Stinebaugh added that the State is trying to eliminate this tax distribution. Mayor Lee is working with other communities to lobby the State on the matter.

Mr. Miller asked what organizations will be charged to rent the new stage. SSD Price answered, nothing as of now. Mayor Lee added these parameters are still being discussed.

Law Director Report:

Investigating a class action lawsuit about phosphorus levels in wastewater where the City of Wapakoneta is named as a potential claimant.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Finance Committee will be meeting on May 12th at 6pm at City Hall.

Parks Commission will be meeting May 13th at 7pm at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business -

Mr. Dunlap gave a reminder that May is mental health awareness month and encouraged those experiencing difficulties to reach out and seek help if they are hurting.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to enter into executive session at 8:30pm to discuss confidential items concerning economic development and invite City Administration and WAEDC Josh Bloomfield. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to exit executive session at 9:23pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Dunlap to adjourn the meeting at 9:23pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council

