

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on June 15, 2026 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Charity Behr, Alex Greve, John Shepline and Chad Dunlap. Safety Service Director Tyler Price and Law Director Grant Neal were also present. There were 63 visitors present. Councilman Jacob Parsons and Mayor Dan Lee were absent.

Motion by Shepline, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2026 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Health & Safety Committee** – a meeting was held on 6-8-2026 and the following was discussed:

Citizens of Wapakoneta safety when it comes to bicycles and scooters on the sidewalks of downtown.

A. No current legislation in place resulting in a discussion to have one in place and if it would be enforced.

B. Talked about an education section being put in the Informer that we would like to have brought back and also talked about handing out educational panel card by the police dept. if they come across any safety concerns.

C. We currently have in place that under the age of 16 scooters and bicycles are permitted on the sidewalks. 16 and older are to be on the road.

D. No further action at this time is needed

Safety behind downtown during events

A. A request to temporarily close the drive behind CR Butts Discount Tobacco and Krave Creamery do to no clear right of way and to help keep vehicle traffic to a minimum during an event.

B. You will be able to access and park behind downtown from off Defiance St.

C. The committee agreed to put up temporary water barriers from now until the last party in the park event to see how it will work out.

Mr. Dunlap read through several emails submitted to him regarding the City's closure to vehicle traffic behind Krave Creamery.

Email #1 – a letter from resident Tony Denisco voicing support of the road closure.

Email #2 – a letter from resident Steve Hendershot voicing support of the road closure.

Email #3 – a letter voicing opposition of the road closure and suggesting traffic calming methods instead.

Email #4 – a letter voicing opposition of the road closure and suggesting that the city focus on efforts to reduce traffic speeding violations throughout town.

Email #5 – a letter voicing opposition of the road closure and expressing concern that it will deter customers from shopping at downtown businesses.

Email #6 – a letter from resident Bri voicing opposition of the road closure and expressing concern for the parking limitations of residents, delivery drivers and customers, as well as access for emergency services.

Email #7 – a letter voicing opposition of the road closure and suggesting traffic calming methods instead.

President Doll and Councilman Dunlap added they both received several phone calls from residents who were in opposition of the road closure and wished to see alternative measures used to help with traffic issues in the downtown area. After much discussion, Councilman Greve suggested leaving the temporary barricades in place for a trial period of road closure in this area for the next two weeks, and then conducting a Streets & Alleys Committee meeting to determine the best possible solution.

**Lodging Tax Committee** – a meeting was held on 6-8-2026 and the following was discussed:

Current balance in the Lodging Tax is \$105,000. It was discussed that the mural, the striping robot for the Parks and the Chargebacks for departments for events still need to come out of that amount.

There was some discussion about the applications for Children's Hometown Holiday and the Performing Arts Center. It was decided to ask both applicants for additional information before moving forward with their applications. Jessica will reach out to the applicants.

There was a general discussion of what sort of data was desirable and whether we felt applicants could get this data. Questions such as "How do we quantify who/where people are coming from," "How can we help people with data for their applications," and "Do organizations work with businesses to get data around visitors"?

### **Guest Petitions –**

Mr. Dylan Legge of 2110 Larkspur Drive, Lima, Ohio and owner of A-Z Enterprises at 10 W. Auglaize Street addressed Council to ask for their support of the Family Hub Landing Zone. Mr. Legge explained the details and logistics of the services his business will provide to customers, adding that he is partnering with other downtown Wapakoneta business owners to encourage families to shop and dine here rather than driving elsewhere. Mr. Legge hopes to open the Family Hub Landing Zone on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. David Schlenker of 824 Glynwood Road addressed Council to request a real estate tax abatement for a proposed property on the corner of Water Street and Riverside Drive. Mr. Schlenker stated that the requested real estate tax abatement is necessary for the construction project to be financially viable. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for an estimate of the monthly rental cost. Mr. Schlenker stated, about \$1200.

Mrs. Deb Zwez of 613 E. Pearl Street requested Council to consider the feasibility of rewriting the lodging tax legislation to defer a portion of said funds to Wapakoneta's recreation department. Mrs. Zwez explained that there are people from out of town that enjoy the use of the city's parks and this can be considered as a part of tourism. Mrs. Zwez added that even if a two-mil parks and recreation levy were to pass, the funds will not cover the improvements needed at the city's parks. Law Director Neal agreed to review the existing legislation and provide further guidance to Council at the next meeting. President Doll also put the matter into the Parks Committee for discussion. Mrs. Zwez announced that the next parks levy meeting will occur on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Mr. Greve asked if the goal is to keep the requested parks levy amount the same, even with the proposed addition of lodging tax dollars. Mrs. Zwez answered, yes. Mrs. Zwez encouraged Councilors to review the capital improvement costs list that was provided to SSD Price.

Mr. Mike Borges of 301 Biscayne Blvd. and President of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1126 addressed Council to summarize the Veterans Banners project within the City of Wapakoneta. Mr. Borges explained the project began in 2019, with Mayor Tom Stinebaugh agreeing to obtain the banner brackets and have the city's electric department install them on the poles, utilizing lodging tax funds to do so. Thereafter, Mayor Steve Henderson also honored the verbal agreement already in place for the city to purchase brackets and install the veteran's banners. Then, upon Mayor Dan Lee taking office, the VVA were instructed to find certified companies for banner installation because the city's electric department could no longer do so. The first company utilized for the project completed the work but was ultimately deemed too expensive. The second company utilized for the project was more affordable but did not complete the work correctly, then billed for extra labor necessary to make corrections. Thereafter, no further brackets were purchased, and no new veterans banners were installed. Mr. Borges explained that upon applying for 2025 lodging tax dollars to continue the project, the lodging tax committee chairperson denied the request although the rubric score had been met. Mr. Borges added that phone calls continue to roll in with requests from people wishing to order a new veterans banner or to replace a damaged one. Many of the current veterans banners are torn, faded, twisted, or missing altogether. Some banners have simply blown down and need reinstalled, but the brackets have also been removed in some instances. Mr. Borges pointed out all of the veterans present within Council chambers, noting that City Council and Wapakoneta citizens are proud of their service and have supported the veterans banner project in the past. Mr. Borges asked that Mayor Lee please help with the project.

Mr. Ace Ambos of 13972 Linzee Road and Secretary Treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1126 explained to Council that in 2019, 316 banners were purchased. In 2020 there were even more requests to purchase banners, and the VVA obtained permission from City Administration to continue with these additions, increasing the total number of veterans banners to 626 that year. Currently, there are 530 veterans banners in the City of Wapakoneta. 70 banners have been damaged by recent wind storms, and 45 have simply been blown down and need reinstalled. 32 new banners are on order, 61 are missing, 14 are faded, 4 need removed, 6 are loose. Roughly 191 need some type of work or correction and 339 are in good shape. Mr. Ambos added that upon a resolution to move the project forward, he will reach out to folks to see if they wish to update their banner or remove it. Mr. Ambos further explained that he and Mr. Borges met with Safety Service Director Tyler Price and Electric Department Superintendent Levi Cecil several weeks ago about the project. At that meeting, Mr. Cecil expressed that Benton Street ought to be omitted from the project. The VVA members disagreed with

this, and instead recommended omitting side streets like Rauthland, Wagner and Wentz, and installing 2 banners per pole on Benton Street. Further, no additional banners will be put up on side streets moving forward. Mr. Ambos provided Council with photos of veterans banners displayed in Minster, St. Marys and New Knoxville, versus photos of the damaged or missing banners in Wapakoneta. Mr. Ambos stated that he feels it is a disgrace to allow the city's veterans banners to be displayed in such a damaged fashion. The VVA does not feel it to be their responsibility to hire a contractor to put up the banners, and asks that the city maintain the agreement that was previously made for the project. Mr. Ambos reiterated the sentiment that actions speak louder than words, requesting Mayor Lee to please help.

Ms. Jeanne Goodes of 16420 Nottingham Drive, VFW Commissioner for Auglaize County, Secretary for the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners, and Marine Corps Veteran addressed Council about the tattered, torn, missing or otherwise damaged veterans banners throughout the city. Ms. Goodes expressed that the VVA banner project is about community and honoring those who defend the freedoms we enjoy, but the lack of visible action from the mayor, city council members and city departments has caused this issue of disconnect. Ms. Goodes also noted the failure of elected officials to attend many of the ceremonies and events honoring local veterans, especially the recent Memorial Day ceremony held at Veterans Park that recognized Gold Star Families. Ms. Goodes asked that Wapakoneta City Council and Mayor Lee work to rectify the mismanagement and negligence in the VVA banner program.

Mr. Robb Cornett of 106 S. Pine Street, U.S. Army Sgt. Major (Ret.), and Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 73 of Auglaize County addressed Council on behalf of all its members to seek a resolution for the VVA banner initiative, and to get the City of Wapakoneta to display and maintain the banners on a regular basis. Mr. Cornett stated that the banners represent the service and sacrifice of Wapakoneta's veterans, and city council is the key to continuing the practice of showing support for them by taking action to display and maintain the banners throughout the community.

Mr. Bill Forsythe of 21993 Lock-Two Road, Jackson Center, Ohio, and U.S. Navy Veteran, as well as Vice Commander and Chaplain of Wapakoneta AMVETS Post 333, addressed council regarding the disturbing condition of the town's veterans banners. Mr. Forsythe noted the numerous community projects financially supported through the AMVETS Post 333, to the amount of \$413,000. Mr. Forsythe asked council to consider the request of caring for the veterans banner project.

Mr. Brian Brown of 11700 Kuenstle Road, U.S. Air Force Veteran and owner of Brown's Heating Cooling Plumbing & Electrical, and Commander of American Legion Post 330 in Wapakoneta addressed council about the state of the veterans banners project. Mr. Brown pointed out that American Legion Post 330 is consistently approached for financial support for a variety of project in the community. Over the past three years, Post 330 has donated over \$362,920 directly back into the community. Mr. Brown pointed out that there is a line item within the city budget for veterans banners installation and maintenance. The members of the American Legion Post 330 ask that Wapakoneta City Council and Mayor Lee stand behind previous commitments that were made and place the banners as promised.

Mr. Jeffrey Goodes of 16420 Nottingham Drive, Colonel of U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.) and representative of Wapakoneta VFW Post 8445, addressed council with concerns about the VVA banner program. Mr. Goodes stated the VFW members have noticed the weathered, damaged or missing banners along the city's streets and wish to obtain clear, public answers about the status of the program as well as public acknowledgement from those who have made decisions about the direction of the banner program. Mr. Goodes added that transparency, responsibility and respect for our veterans are a fundamental obligation of public service. Mr. Goodes also pointed that in the last three years, VFW Post 8445 has contributed more than \$270,000 towards Wapakoneta causes. Collectively over the last three years, these five local veterans' organizations have donated over 1.2 million dollars to our community. Mr. Goodes asked city council to reaffirm its commitment to the program or openly acknowledge that the city is no longer willing to support the veterans banners program. VFW Post 8445 requests three items: first, a public explanation as to why banners have been removed, not replaced and who authorized it. Second, a clear commitment to restore and properly maintain the veterans banner program as intended or formally announce it is

being discontinued, stating reasons why. Third, should the program move forward, a written policy outlining how it will be administered, points of contact, and responsibilities of all parties involved.

Mr. Ralph Reynolds then submitted to the Clerk petitions signed in support of the installation, upkeep and/or replacement of veterans banners throughout the City of Wapakoneta.

Mrs. Linda Knerr of 312 E. Mechanic Street addressed council in support of the veterans banners project, noting that she has three banners in honor of her family members currently on display near her home. Mrs. Knerr also voiced her opposition to the closure of traffic behind downtown to rear of Krave Creamery.

Mr. Dunlap then asked Law Director Neal to review what documentation needs to be drafted and presented to Council in order to have contractual understanding about the veterans banner program moving forward, per Mr. Goodes recommendation to put a plan in writing. President Doll put the matter to the Streets & Alleys Committee for further discussion and review. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated that there is an unspent line item in the city's budget for the banners project, and feels the banners were never properly maintained which resulted in seeking an outside company. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked the VVA why a third party company is not sufficient if the city has already agreed to pay the bill. Mr. Greve pointed out that the city owns the poles and must grant permission for access to them. Mr. Greve also noted that Wapakoneta has 530 veterans banners, which is a much higher number than surrounding communities have, thus resulting in more hours of maintenance and manpower. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated the lodging tax funds should not be needed for the banner program if there is already a line item in the city's budget for it. Mr. Ambos reiterated that the VVA should not be responsible for finding a contractor who is qualified to climb the city's poles. Mr. Shepline stated he will work closely with the other Streets & Alleys Committee members to find a solution, adding that he would like to order a new veterans banner for his military service as well. Mr. Dunlap asked how much funding is within the line item for the banners. SSD Price answered, \$10,000 for the year, with a current balance of approximately \$8500. SSD Price further explained that he has been meeting with VVA and the Electric Department to determine how many banners the city can maintain. Mr. Ambos added that when the city recently removed some damaged banners, they removed the brackets as well. Mr. Stinebaugh asked how many banners are on order. Mr. Ambos answered, 35 on order and roughly 40 that just need put back up.

#### **New Business -**

Motion by Shepline, second by Dunlap to enter into executive session at 9:10pm for conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance and inviting city administration, legal counsel and WAEDC Josh Bloomfield. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Shepline, second by Dunlap to exit executive session at 9:56pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-24 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR HONORARY STREET NAMING WITHIN THE CITY.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Stinebaugh to amend Ordinance 2026-24 to include emergency language in order to have signage installed prior to the Summer Moon Festival. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2026-24 as amended. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-28 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A 10-YEAR CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC. FOR SPECIALIZED HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NECESSARY FOR THE WAPAKONETA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Greve, second by Behr to suspend the rules for Ord 2026-28. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Greve, second by Behr to adopt Ord 2026-28. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-29 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to suspend the rules for Ord 2026-29. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Shepline to adopt Ord 2026-29. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-30 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Greve to suspend the rules for Ord 2026-30. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to adopt Ord 2026-30. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-31 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA (CRA) AGREEMENT WITH DAVID SCHLENKER AND AMY SCHLENKER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2026-32 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PURPOSES AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND THE REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A TWO-MILL LEVY.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to suspend the rules for Res 2026-32. SSD Price explained this is the first step to putting the park levy on the ballot a second time. Vote – 4 yeas, 2 nays (Behr, Shepline). Motion did not pass. Mr. Stinebaugh asked why council was just now receiving the resolution for consideration. SSD Price stated the resolution was drafted after the Recreation Advisory Commission conducted their meetings and decided to move forward with placing the matter on the ballot again in November.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-33 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO SETTLE PENDING LITIGATION AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to suspend the rules for Ord 2026-33. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to adopt Ord 2026-33. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Safety Service Director Report:**

No report.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for an update on the 501/198 project. SSD Price answered no construction meeting date has been set.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if the traffic light pattern at Harrison and Blackhoof Streets has been changed. SSD Price answered, yes. Mrs. Muhlenkamp noted this traffic light is no longer being triggered properly.

Mr. Shepline asked for an update regarding code violations by a homeowner on Defiance Street. SSD Price has not talked to code enforcement about this item yet.

**Law Director Report:**

No report.

**Scheduling Committee Meetings:**

Parks Committee will meet on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm at City Hall in the conference room.

Streets & Alleys Committee will meet June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm at City Hall in City Council chambers.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Hotdogs & Handcuffs event at Heritage Park on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Sheipline to adjourn the meeting at 10:17pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President

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Clerk of Council