

MINUTES
WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2021

The special meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., was held through means of both electronic video conferencing.. It was broadcast live on City Link Channels 17 & 329 and on Spectrum Channel 1024 at the scheduled time, and was streamed live at WatchWCTV.com.

PRESIDING:

Bob Thurber, *President of Council*

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT:

Ralph Copley, Bruce Darlington, Patty Haskins, Jeanne Hines, Tom Stugmyer, David Williams, Jon Yurchiak

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Robin Laubaugh, Director of Public Service Robert Patrick, Director of Public Safety Matt Hiscock, Auditor Catherine Fix, Human Resources Director Tara McCulloch, Clerk of Council Tammy Guenther

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

Mr. Thurber called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m. The Clerk of Council called the roll.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Laubaugh read a proclamation from her office as follows:

Whereas, “Andy” – Andrew – Hontert served as a Wadsworth Firefighter and Fleet Mechanic for 40 years; and whereas Andy has positively affected generations of Wadsworth Firefighters and has distinguishably served; and whereas Andy’s dedication and devotion to his craft and steadfast vigilance has benefitted and supported the Fire Department and the citizens of Wadsworth; and whereas today we recognize Andy for his selfless acts as a dedicated and committed public servant; now therefore I, Mayor Robin L. Laubaugh deem it a privilege to proclaim “Andy” – Andrew – Hontert, an honorary Wadsworth Fire Officer and further order that his Wadsworth Fire Department Unit No. 27 be retired.

Mr. Thurber thanked her and **Mr. Copley** expressed his appreciation as well. The Clerk was asked to read the legislation.

LEGISLATION:

The following legislation was read for the first time and acted upon as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 21-05 (1st RDG.): A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MAYOR’S PROCLAMATION MAKING ANDREW A. HONTERT AN HONORARY FIRE OFFICER AND RETIRING UNIT NUMBER 27 FROM FUTURE USE BY THE WADSWORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley

Mr. Copley asked for any discussion, stating that Andy had devoted his whole life to the Fire Department. For response and to keep the equipment ready was his life. This legislation was so important in Mr. Copley’s opinion.

Mr. Williams agreed one hundred percent and did not think they could do anything any better for Mr. Hontert. It was certainly deserved.

Mr. Stugmyer recalled that last year they'd done some video for a virtual Safety Town event that was done every year. Mr. Hontert was out with the truck and literally knew every wire and switch and knew what to show for the kids. He owned that project. His heart and soul was in it.

Mr. Copley responded that the Wadsworth Fire Department was so very fortunate to have him as their maintenance man because his knowledge was top notch no ifs ands or buts. It was why the City got 25-30 years out of a piece of equipment. It was the maintenance program run, basically, by Mr. Hontert.

Mrs. Hines said that Wadsworth had been very fortunate to have him. He had been a hero to the town and had given his heart and soul to Wadsworth.

Mr. Thurber expressed thanks to Mr. Hiscock, Mayor Laubaugh, and of course, to Mr. Copley for putting the recognition together. It was so easy to let life go on and not recognize moments like this. He appreciated Mr. Copley taking the lead so they could do the resolution. Additionally, Mr. Thurber thanked the Hontert family for all they had done for the City.

With no further comments, Mr. Copley suspended the three reading rule on Resolution No. 21-05. **Ms. Haskins** seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hines, Copley, Darlington, Yurchiak, Williams, Haskins, Stugmyer. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Copley, Darlington, Yurchiak, Williams, Haskins, Stugmyer, Hines. Nays: none. **Resolution No. 21-05 declared to have been adopted March 11, 2021.**

OTHER BUSINESS AND/OR COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS OR OFFICIALS

Mr. Copley added that he'd talked to Mr. Hontert's caregiver and if any of the Council people were interested, and once the resolution was signed, they could present it to him the next day. They were restricted to five people at a time in the house because of Covid, but others could be out in the yard. Mr. Copley offered the same to all Fire and EMS personnel, with Safety Director Hiscock's approval, who wanted to be there. It was to show that Council cared what Andy had done for the City. Several members of Council indicated their interest, approval and thanks to Mr. Copley. Mr. Copley added that if it was a nice day, Mr. Hontert would probably come outside so everyone could witness the presentation.

Since the special meeting was virtual, the Council and Ms. Guenther worked out the details for getting the resolution signed and a copy into Mr. Copley's mailbox by the next day.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stugmyer seconded. All were in favor. Special Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council