

**MINUTES**  
**WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 4, 2023**

*The regular meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., was held in-person at City Council Chambers.*

**PRESIDING:** Bob Thurber, *President of Council*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ralph Copley, Bruce Darlington, Jeanne Hines, Dan Rospert, Tom Stugmyer, David Williams, Jon Yurchiak

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Robin Laubaugh, Public Service Director Robert Patrick, Public Safety Director Matt Hiscock, Assistant Public Service Director Mike Testa, Economic Development Director Matt Springer (in audience), Law Director Tom Morris, Auditor Catherine Fix, Clerk of Council Tammy Guenther

**VISITORS SPEAKING:**  
*Bert Smith, Wadsworth Youth Baseball, 1683 Reimer Road*  
*Krista Reed, 173 Simcox Street*  
*Rachel Lenk, 128 Second Street*  
*Aaron Reed, 173 Simcox Street*  
*Randy Peters, 1272 Bolich Drive*  
*Jim Doerr, 1315 Bolich Drive*  
*Christopher Anderson, 456 Sumner Street,*  
*Gary Goodman, 543 High Street*  
*Barb James, 8982 Kean Road*  
*Mandy Gailey, 906 Lawrence Drive*  
*Madeline Schwab, 495 Wolf Avenue*  
*Michele Hendrick, 496 South Kaser Drive*  
*Hilary Enders, 188 Ry Road*

**PRESS REPRESENTATIVES:** *Mason Savoia, The Medina Gazette*

**Mr. Thurber** called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. He asked everyone to remain standing as he led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation. The Clerk of Council called the roll.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to adopt the **Special Council meeting of March 29, 2023 and the Regular Council meeting of March 21, 2023.** An all-in-favor vote was taken and majority Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF MARCH 29 and MARCH 21, 2023 WERE APPROVED.**

**PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR:** Mayor Laubaugh came to the podium and stated that it was a special week – *National Public Safety Telecommunicators’ Week.* She invited Communications Officer Brandy Crall, who accepted the honor on behalf of the safety forces, to come forward.

Mayor Laubaugh said everyone knew the critical and important piece that their telecommunicators, or dispatchers, gave to them, for all of the community. They were grateful for the expertise and prompt service, and recognized that they were essential for connecting their safety forces to the public. They recognized that “you are that first person” with whom a caller talked. The Mayor said she was in awe of what telecommunicators did.

The Mayor read the proclamation:

*Every year during the second week in April the work of public safety telecommunications personnel are honored with the declaring of “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.” It is a time to thank these personnel for their hard work and dedication to serving our community; and Whereas: When an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property, Whereas: Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with the emergency services; and Whereas: Public Safety Telecommunicators of the City of Wadsworth have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and our city dispatchers exhibit compassion, understanding and professionalism to the citizens they serve during the performance of their duties and responsibilities all while creating a better and safer world for the public.*

**Ms. Crall** thanked them on behalf of all the telecommunicators. Council voiced their appreciation as well.

**VISITORS (this portion moved to the end of the Council agenda):**

Mr. Thurber said he would “call an audible” and noted that their audio – visual staff person, Aiden – of which the recording went out and stayed on the internet, forever – had to leave at 6:30. So they would do their City business first because that was why they did this (the Council meeting). Afterward, they would have the comments from the audience. They looked forward to those.

*Motion on changing the order of the agenda:* Mr. Darlington made a motion to amend the Rules of City Council, Rule 12, so as to move the public comment to the end of the Council agenda for this session alone. Mr. Copley seconded the motion. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members voted in favor of the motion. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Thurber said they would move through the agenda as quickly as they could. They would like to hear from all of them.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**LEGISLATION:**

*The following legislation was read for the second time, having been previously read at different meetings on different days, and acted upon as follows:*

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-035 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURCHASE OF A PARCEL NUMBERS 055-34C-14-004, 055-34C-26-**

**004, 055-34C-26-001, 055-34C-26-003, 055-34C-26-002, 055-34C-24-001, 055-34C-27-001, IN THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Thomas Stugmyer
- Forwarded by City Council March 7, 2023

Mr. Stugmyer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley to place Ordinance No. 23-035 on third reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-035 advanced to third reading for the meeting of April 18, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-036 (2<sup>nd</sup>RDG.): AN ORDINANCE LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR IMPROVING THE PHASE 2 – SOUTHWEST PARKING LOT WITH CONCRETE PAVEMENT; INTERLOCKING PAVERS; LANDSCAPING; STORM SEWER; PRIVATE SIDEWALKS, DECKING, STEPS, PARKING AREAS, DRIVEWAYS, PATIOS, ADA ACCESSIBLE RAMPS, DOWNSPOUTS, AND LANDSCAPING; GRADING; SIDEWALK; CURBING; REPAIRS TO THE PHASE 1 – SOUTHWEST PARKING LOT; AND OTHER SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member David Williams
- Forwarded by Public Ways Committee March 13, 2023

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Hines, to place Ordinance No. 23-036 on third reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-036 advanced to third reading for the meeting of April 18, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-037 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SOUTHEAST SECURITY CORPORATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM AT THE NEW FIRE STATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee March 14, 2023

Mr. Copley stated that due to supply chain issues, he would like to make a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-037. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-037 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-038 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MCCOMAS LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT SAFETY TOWN VILLAGE AND 9/11 MEMORIAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee March 14, 2023

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-038. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-038 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-040 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO DONATE THREE (3) MOTOROLA MCC5500 DISPATCH CONSOLES, THREE (3) MOTOROLA MCC5500 CONSOLE AUDIO BOX II'S AND THE ASSOCIATED CONSOLE SYSTEM CABLING AND ACCESSORIES TO THE BATH POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee March 14, 2023

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-040. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-040 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-041 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PURCHASE A NEW WIRELESS PORTABLE LIFT SYSTEM FROM MOHAWK LIFTS LLC, THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A SOURCEWELL CONTRACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Bruce Darlington
- Forwarded by Public Service Committee March 20, 2023

Mr. Darlington made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to place Ordinance No. 23-041 on third reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-041 advanced to third reading for the meeting of April 18, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-042 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$571,000.00 IN THE 471 – STREET IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN PERSONAL SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by President of Council Bob Thurber
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole March 21, 2023

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Rospert, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-042. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert. Nays: none. Mr. Williams called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-042 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-043 (2<sup>nd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE DRAWING OF A WARRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,858.09 FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT DUE UPON A CONTRACT WITH MEDINA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by President of Council Bob Thurber
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole March 21, 2023

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yurchiak, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-043. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-043 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-044 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE GAS SUPPLY INC. FOR NATURAL GAS SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF WADSWORTH MUNICIPAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Bruce Darlington
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole April 4, 2023

Mr. Darlington made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-044. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley. Nays: none. Mr. Darlington called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-044 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-045 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF DUAL JURISDICTION LOTS 10232 AND 10233 FROM THE EXISTING WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP R-2 RESIDENTIAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO THE CITY OF WADSWORTH R-1 RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF DUAL JURISDICTION LOTS 10234 AND 10235 FROM THE EXISTING WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP R-2 RESIDENTIAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO THE CITY OF WADSWORTH LDR (LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

*Public Hearing Set for May 16, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m., in City Council Chambers*

- Sponsored by Council Member Thomas Stugmyer
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole April 4, 2023

Mr. Stugmyer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Hines, to place Ordinance No. 23-045 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Stugmyer also mentioned one other comment regarding the ordinance and that was that next Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, the Economic Development and Planning Committee would be discussing the details of the ordinance as well. **Ordinance No. 23-045 advanced to second reading for the meeting of April 18, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-046 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 35.34 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH TO ADD THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF WATER PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE AND WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by President of Council Bob Thurber
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole April 4, 2023

Mr. Darlington made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to suspend the three reading on Ordinance No. 23-046. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Darlington, Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak. Nays: none. Mr. Darlington called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rospert, Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-046 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-047 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE FINDING THE EXISTENCE OF A REAL AND PRESENT EMERGENCY IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NECESSITATING AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITHOUT FORMAL BIDDING AND ADVERTISING FOR THE SALE OF ONE 1992 PIERCE ARROW 100' QUINT 1500/1250 AERIAL AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO SUCH A CONTRACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole April 4, 2023

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Rospert, to place Ordinance No. 23-047 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-047 advanced to second reading for the meeting of April 18, 2023.**

*The following legislation was read for the third time, having been previously read at different meetings on different days, and acted upon as follows:*

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-031 (3<sup>rd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL EXISTING SECTIONS 154.365 THROUGH 154.368 AND TO ENACT NEW SECTIONS 154.365 THROUGH 154.373 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH REPEAL THE EXISTING HIGH STREET ARTERIAL DISTRICT AND ESTABLISHING THE HIGH STREET TRANSITIONAL BUSINESS OVERLAY DISTRICT**

*Public Hearing Set for April 18, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m., in City Council Chambers*

- Sponsored by Council Member Thomas Stugmyer
- Discussed in Economic Development & Planning Committee January 9 and February 13, 2023
- Approved by the Planning Commission February 13, 2023

Mr. Stugmyer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley, to place Ordinance No. 23-031 on fourth reading. An all in favor vote has taken and all members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-031 advanced to fourth reading for the meeting of April 18, 2023.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-032 (3<sup>rd</sup> RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 34.36 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH TO PROVIDE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF INCOME TAX RECEIPTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by President of Council Bob Thurber
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole March 7, 2023

Mr. Copley called the question on Ordinance No. 23-032. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Williams, Stugmyer, Copley, Hines, Yurchiak, Darlington, Rospert. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-032 declared to have been adopted April 4, 2023.**

Mr. Thurber said that concluded the legislation for the evening.

*Update on Phase Two Testing:* Mr. Patrick wanted to give a quick update – as was mentioned upstairs in Committee of the Whole – on legislation, which was Ordinance No. 23-035, for the Brickyard property. Since the last meeting, he discussed an extension with the property owner and was granted a two-week extension to next Thursday. If they remembered, the original agreement expired last Thursday. The extension would be through next Thursday, April 13.

Mr. Patrick said that Mr. Darlington asked about metals tested in the soil. He reported eight metals tested in the soil, including mercury, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, selenium and silver.

If they remembered a couple weeks ago, at that point, the Phase Two results were coming in for the water samples. There were five of those samples that came in and were good to the point of the highest quality of drinking water. The remaining three samples of last week came back “inconclusive.” The samples were compromised because it was extremely turbid, which meant the water was muddy. So they went back out to retake samples and used filters for the muddy area, which was an acceptable practice by the EPA.

They actually went and retested all of the wells and increased the sampling to 16 different metals. Seven of the samples came back of the levels of drinking water standards, or met the level of drinking water standard – the highest level. There was one that fell short in a metal called cobalt. Therefore, there was one that did not meet that drinking level standard.

They also tested the pond water out there, and that too actually came back clean to the level of drinking water standards, said Mr. Patrick, though he would not drink the water there because of bacteria. But, at least they knew it was clean.

Mr. Patrick said that they were working hard to put together the final Phase Two Report. They had guaranteed him that it would be to the City by next Monday. As soon as he received it, he would send it out to all of Council. The Mayor would talk with the Clerk to schedule a special meeting next week after that, so it could be voted on. If Council approved, then he had a closing scheduled on Thursday, April 13, to move forward with the purchase.

Mr. Thurber thanked Mr. Patrick, for his work on it. It was a concern that Council get the Phase Two results before they spent the hard earned money of their citizens. It was a project that he

thought they were all excited about. It was really interesting and transformative, he thought, to the City.

Mr. Thurber did ask Ms. Fix, however, because it was a fiduciary responsibility, where were they at; did they have enough information to enter into something; did they know how much money? He noted that they had a lot of projects going on. He asked if Ms. Fix would speak to that. Mr. Thurber thought they did have enough but wanted to know what she thought.

**Ms. Fix** stated they did have the four big projects: the downtown improvements, the City-wide park improvements, The Brickyard Athletic Complex, and one other that had not been spoken about publicly. She did not have all the numbers on the City-wide park improvements. A concern would be that they did not have all of the funding sources determined for the next three to five or seven years. That was a concern of hers. She did not know how much debt they would need to issue. Ms. Fix said she did not have the answer to that.

Mr. Thurber said he would ask Mr. Patrick or Mr. Testa if they knew how much debt they would have to service, not for this particular.... Mr. Thurber added he did not know if it was a knowable number.

Mr. Patrick said that the property purchases were budgeted, so they were in the budget and were accounted for, the projections for that year that they had talked about last fall in the budget Council approved. Any type of improvements to those properties was not included because they were not known at this point. There were many different ways it could go, said Mr. Patrick, on how they decided to improve those as they moved forward. It had not been determined. That was the first step – to determine what the use was going to be, then they went into the detailed design and engineering for the properties. After they determined that – the cost amounts – they went through the funding process. He said they anticipated that they would apply for grant funding through different mechanisms for the improvements to this property. He thought they would do pretty well and the consultant had said that projects like this usually scored well. The EPA had funding available. There were many methods they could go through.

He showed a projection last October of the general fund over the next five years. They did account for some funds to that project to get started with improvements for next year or maybe the year after, which would be in line with what they were thinking at this point. Next year, they would do detailed engineering and design and would budget for that. They would budget the next year once they knew more about it and would budget for construction in 2025, which would probably be the soonest timeframe. Again, how much funds would be needed and whether they would have to go out for debt service at that point; would they be able to utilize grant funding; (it went back to) what kind of improvements would they be making and the cost. All those things needed to be determined.

Mr. Copley asked if it would be feasible a capital plan for each one of the major projects. The Brickyard, for example, could take 10 to 15 years to completely develop it. Mr. Patrick said with the preliminary concepts that the consultant put together (that they had seen, commented Mr. Copley) was a multi-year of eight to 10 years as far as a build out, if they even needed it. He said to remember that this was one look at it for what could potentially happen. They would have to go through a lot of process, community involvement and more engagement and studies to see what was actually needed there – go through the process.

Mr. Patrick said they would have a capital plan for that project as they started to move forward. He said the answer was yes, they would do that, as they did with other projects.

Mr. Thurber asked if he could overlay – there was a lot of interest in the parks, he added – was that first or were they done at the same time, simultaneously. It was a lot of big projects. Then they had the downtown infrastructure. It might not be fair to ask Mr. Patrick that night. He could answer some other time, but how did he say that playing out. Mr. Patrick said that every year they did multiple projects. They had a capital portion amounting usually to about \$10M of what they spent on an annual basis on projects. He listed road projects, sewer projects, safety projects and so on. They had budgeted that year for Memorial and Durling, to get moving with what would now be the Phase One of those improvements, due to the designs and the Master Plan and how that had been changed over the last year from what they initially had set out to do, to replace the features out there and modernize them.

That money was budgeted and money forecasted over the next number of years to spend on all the different improvements in different parks. They had received funding, if they remembered, for the Downtown Park, for Weatherstone, Friedt and Valley View in the coming years, too. They programmed those into the projections for the next couple of years, so he thought it was attainable to do all of those. Again, they would continue to reach out for different funds for all of the parks. That Parks Master Plan, which was unveiled within the last couple weeks and for which they had not received the final report, would essentially say, over the next 10 or so years, the City wanted to improve all of the parks. They could not do them all this year or next year because of funding and just capacity – it was a lot of different projects. But once they got it back, it showed some estimates and ideas of when the need was for the different parks. That would be rolled into a five year plan as they got more information.

Mr. Thurber said okay, Mr. Patrick had mentioned a capital plan every year. When Mr. Thurber looked back historically, in 2022 they budgeted, amended, \$24M but actually spent \$6.6. That was 27% and was not a great number, he said. It meant they did not get those done. What could they do differently and do better to move that number, he asked? It used to be – going back to 2015 – 65%. When Mr. Patrick first got there, 75%. It had fallen down recently from 37, 46, 39 to 27%, said Mr. Thurber, who asked, how could they get those and add three more big projects? He was saying, how did they get that actualized?

Mr. Patrick said he would have to look through that list and see what projects were budgeted. Fair enough, said Mr. Thurber. Mr. Thurber asked for any other thoughts or questions.

Mr. Stugmyer referred to the numbers and percentages that he was talking about: was it more like an efficiency number – was that what Mr. Thurber was saying. Mr. Thurber said yes, it could be called that. They (the Administration) came to Council and said “we’d like to do these and we said okay” for \$20-\$24M. That was what they said was needed, but that money just got passed on. So they were kind of piling up cash and not doing these jobs.

Mr. Patrick said one was the Downtown Improvements, engineering and design, which was over \$2M. There was not an agreement on how to move forward with that project. Mr. Thurber totally agreed with what he was saying. Mr. Patrick said there was probably a story with each of them. There was, said Mr. Thurber.

In the Public Ways Committee and the members could tell them, Mr. Williams said, they were looking for a five year capital plan for some time, and not just this year or last year, but ongoing. It was how they spent “their” money, said Mr. Williams, referring to the public. They would like to know what the future brought and what they were going to spend money on. He knew that Mr. Patrick said that Mr. Testa would work on something, but Council had not seen anything for years.

Mr. Copley referred to the Parks Master Plan and when it came back, and asked if they might not be able to create a five or eight year plan for all of the parks because all of them were included in the plan, though not extensively. Durling and Memorial would be done. Mr. Patrick said, like he mentioned, they would have some cost estimates in today’s dollars, then something would be put together on prioritization – what they (the consultants) said would need to be done in the next 10 years. The City would look at that and see how they could program it in – what their thoughts were. Mr. Copley said that could be the capital plan for the parks. Mr. Patrick said that would be good, but with that, went the funding component. So they had funding that they had received for some of those, which would be put in, and then determine how much was needed outside of that, and then what other funding that could be gone after. The more funding they could get, the more money saved for everyone. The further the dollars went, they more projects they could do. Mr. Patrick said maybe they could accomplish those in less time if they could receive other funding.

Mr. Thurber thanked him. There were no other thoughts or questions at that point.

#### **VISITORS:**

Mr. Thurber turned to the visitors’ portion of the agenda. He started by saying that he sometimes thought people did not know who they were talking to, and so thought he would like to introduce some people there:

*Bruce Darlington*, said Mr. Thurber, was their senior citizen and he was 89 years old. Thanks, Mr. Darlington interjected and everyone laughed. Mr. Thurber said he felt sorry for all of them because anytime he was in a room, he was the smartest person there. He had a PhD in Chemistry and “you don’t,” said Mr. Thurber. Mr. Darlington had 23 patents and “you don’t.” Mr. Thurber said they had nine advanced degrees between them and Mr. Darlington had most of them. He was the best and brightest among them. What they did not know was that Mr. Darlington also served in the Navy and was from Kansas. He volunteered, still, all of the time. He cut his own grass, Mr. Thurber said, noting that he did not cut his own grass. Mr. Darlington was a very active person.

Sitting next to him was *Jeanne Hines*, and Mr. Thurber did not think they really knew who she was, either. They might know she was a school teacher and had a master’s degree. She loved these “stinkin’ little kids.” What she taught: it was part teacher, part mom. She loved the kids, but boy did she hold the line and make the do extraordinary things.

Next was *Jon Yurchiak*. Mr. Thurber said that he and Jon disagreed about a hundred things, but they agreed on a thousand. He thought that was important because he was a Marine and Mr. Thurber said he was a little scared of him. But that was not who he was. He was a father and had fantastic kids. Somebody once famously said, “you can’t fake good kids.” Jon had great kids and so did Jeanne and so did Bruce. Mr. Thurber did not mean to leave anybody out. Mr. Yurchiak was

just a guy who thought and who did. He volunteered, again, for Main Street Wadsworth, and everywhere. He was one of those guys.

*Ralph Copley* – what could Mr. Thurber say about him? He was born with fireman’s hat on, which had to be uncomfortable for his mother, but so was Mr. Copley’s son. Mr. Thurber thought his little, two-year old grandson would have a fire hat on also. Mr. Copley had lived a life of service.

*Dan Rospert* – one might think he’s just a fun guy and he was. But Mr. Thurber had been there when he talked to parents who had lost a kid to opioid addiction, and it just broke his heart. Dan was just so empathetic. It was not something one would know about him. The other thing to note was that he’s incredibly generous. He gave to the police and to the fire, to drug rehabs. He was a very generous person. He did not want them to know that, so don’t go asking for a loan, said Mr. Thurber. Dan already gave the money out.

Next, *Tom Stugmyer*: nobody was more generous with his time – 13, 14 hour days, every day, said Mr. Thurber. He had volunteered on so many boards. He also had a degree in chemistry and physics and why not get a minor in math too, right? But that was not who he was; he was a person who gave 23 gallons of blood over the last 45 years. That was service. He served everywhere. He was not one of those guys who wanted his picture in the paper. Tom was the guy who was setting up the chairs before and sweeping up the trash at the end of an event.

*Dave Williams* – “he cuts and bleeds, man, America,” said Mr. Thurber. He served 35 years in the car business and was now in the commercial real estate business. But that was not who he was either. Who he really was someone who loved to find 20 or 30 year olds who’d lost the vision for what America was. He liked to explain the opportunity that was in America, today, and to let him help them figure out how to get there. That was who he was.

Mr. Thurber added that he said all of that because of this: he had a couple, three people say had not denied or defied Nazis and neo Nazis and White Supremacists – it went on and on – (related) to whoever those folks in the park. Mr. Thurber would say to them: they had done that every day of their lives for the last 30, 40, 50, 70 years when they serve and when they gave blood and when they joined the Navy and the Marines. That was what they were saying: “man, we defeated the Nazis 70-80 years ago.” They could do it again today. They were not worried about those folks, but they were keeping an eye on them because they knew how quick things could happen. Mr. Thurber was telling them that there was not a person there who knew a Nazi that they would agree with – not a single person, or any of the other groups that hated America and loved America. How did they know it? Mr. Thurber said they knew it because every first and third Tuesday, they Pledged Allegiance to the Flag, and that was what they were saying if one really listened. They were not mumbling their way through. They knew the words and they believed the words.

Fifty stars: what did they mean, Mr. Thurber asked. Fifty states, he said, but also for the people in that room and the people out there in Wadsworth, because they were all so different, as different as the 50 states. Four or five months ago, Mr. Thurber said he was in Alabama, Seattle, Washington, and then New York City. They could not have more different people, but they were great people – all of them. He got along with all of them. It was really interesting. They could all get along here too.

The red stripes of the flag were for courage. They had an uncommon courage here. It was not fun to do the things they did. Mr. Thurber said he would not take a needle and give blood if they paid him, but these guys did these kinds of things. Mr. Copley ran into fire situations while the rest of them were running out. These were courageous people who believed in that flag.

The white stripes – they’ve forgotten what these were about, said Mr. Thurber. That was the thing he really cared about right now. They represented innocence and purity. That was also part of their nation. It was saying they were going protect those who cannot protect themselves. The most heartbreaking of people who had gotten up to speak (and he hated to even say it out loud) to say they had been molested and they had been through that and it was 20, 30 or 60 years later. They were still heartbroken and still could not get over it. If they could, said Mr. Thurber, they needed to figure out a way to help both groups.

They believed in the First Amendment, said Mr. Thurber. It was woven all through the flag. Every time he walked into church, he thought, someone could take this away from me someday because he believed things that they might not. Free speech allowed him to think those things. All of them were allowed free speech on every other plane also. So they were all about free speech who had to protect the kids also.

That was all he had to say, said Mr. Thurber. These (the Council members) were wonderful people. Now it was time for their comments and he had stolen some of their time, he said. From the list of those who signed in to speak, he first called Bert Smith. Mr. Thurber also noted that they were still on camera and had plenty of time.

**Mr. Bert Smith of 1683 Reimer Road** said he was a 45 year resident of Wadsworth. He started by first thanking Mayor Laubaugh and Mr. Patrick and all of those who had been involved in bringing the parks project to bear, and in particular, the baseball fields. Today, he specifically represented Wadsworth Youth Baseball, and respectfully, also the softball leagues and all of the travel organizations they had in the City. He expressed their collective support for purchasing The Brickyard property and building the ballfields there.

Mr. Smith also wanted to express a little bit about the need that they had for baseball fields. Obviously, they lost four baseball fields with the building of the Y at Steiner Youth Center. Since then, it had been a bit of a struggle for all of the baseball and softball organizations to find enough field space to play. Collectively, they had about a thousand kids that played either baseball or softball. Judging from the census, 10,261 households or one in 10 households had someone who played either softball or baseball. Their numbers for their rec league were up 25% that year and he could tell them that last year, they ran into several occasions where they had to send two Wadsworth teams to other cities to play each other, which was obviously a burden on families and kids to do that. They did not particularly care to pay other cities for field rental space.

Certainly as a collective baseball and softball community, they supported purchasing The Brickyard and building out the baseball fields, but they also supported the overall project for the parks.

**Ms. Krista Reed of 173 Simcox Street** said she had to amend a bit her first statement. What she had originally wrote was “why is there not been physical public statement condemning vicious hate groups in our parks.” She went on to say that the City prided itself, per the March 6 statement, in

making their hometown a safe and welcoming community. In the same statement, it was said that they would not tolerate any obscene or violent conduct. Ms. Reed said there was no obscene or violent conduct on their part, but literal Nazis showed up spewing their disgusting rhetoric with blaring sirens and that was tolerated. It was the protestors with the screaming, the sirens, and the signs with slurs that were terrorizing and harming the children.

Ms. Reed said she just had a Zoom meeting with the leader of the Parasol Patrol, some of the extra added security, saying that parents were reaching out to see where their kids could go to therapy because the protestors traumatized them. Ms. Reed said that they said this was a First Amendment issue and that they could not intervene, but made them jump through all of these hoops to secure a permit, yet Proud Boys, Nazis and the Patriot Front were allowed to make all the noise they wanted clad with guns.

As a resident that made her feel the furthest thing from safe. Ms. Reed knew that they had an open carry policy, but it was a public park.

She said she had to increase her home security because of the ignorance and hate that people felt permitted to launch at her family. She did not feel welcome here because the majority of this City's residents could not see past their comfort zone. They lived in more rural areas with not a lot of diversity, but it did exist and it was here. They needed to make everybody feel safe and welcome. They had plenty of LGBTQ kids and adults. Being different should not be a hindrance. They should not have their rights questioned or taken away because they were not considered what was normal. Did they think seeing the hate present there and invited into their hometown made them feel safe and welcome.

**Ms. Rachel Lenk of 128 Second Street** stated it had been 24 days since Nazis were parading around Memorial Park and there was still silence from the City of Wadsworth – Robin. Ms. Lenk said she sent three emails, Robin, and had met with Dan, personally, and now she had spoken twice at city hall. The only person who had given her the time of day was Tammy and Dan.

On March 5 of 2023, Bob Thurber had a statement posted on Facebook about the upcoming March 11 event. Ms. Lenk read that he said, “we were elected to serve the residents of Wadsworth and they had entrusted us to preserve its future. The safety of our citizens should be paramount in every decision we make.” Ms. Lenk asked, where was all that energy now, Bob. She said he was able to make that post, but now suddenly he was unable to make a statement. “Same to you, Robin,” said Ms. Lenk, who said she had something posted online on March 6.

Ms. Lenk continued that the people of Wadsworth should be questioning why all of them were silent when faced with actual Nazis. She wondered if they had ulterior motives or allegiances, with their silence.

Moving on, Ms. Lenk said she knew somebody in town who had gotten a new home relatively recently. They lived about five minutes away from their local Target and the new current owner found “this” (she showed a photo of Hitler) in their basement, left from the previous owner, in their city, along with 1993 Police Academy Training Manuals. “They are in our town!” she shouted. This was physical proof that she was not just talking out her butt. They were not all from Maine. They had people in their town who wanted to hurt her, her friends, her family, and the children in

this town. Her friend's kid was not getting bullied and was subject to racism because no one was condemning white supremacists. How could they proudly display this plaque (pointed to the wall) of World War II Veterans who were killed in action and refused to honor their memories by standing against the vile evil that they lost their lives protecting them against.

She said they were doing nothing. It was a disgrace if they would not stand up against this.

**Mr. Aaron Reed of 173 Simcox Street** said it was time they had a post mortem chat about what happened in their City in the last couple of months. What really happened, in case they had not been following the news, was that Bob Thurber, head of City Council, needed an issue to distinguish himself from the already conservative Mayor he was running against, so he conspired with his campaign stooge, Gary Fox, to purposely rile the worst and most conspiratorial, violent right wing fringe, using Mr. Reed's children's charity event as red meat for those rabid wolves. He released a statement on behalf of City Council without their approval and insinuated that he could pass an ordinance he knew to be unconstitutional because the City's lawyers told him so. He had the current obscenity statutes read aloud at another City Council meeting as if they applied to Mr. Reed's event at all, to point at it as something sexual for those already calling him pedophile and groomer because of their easily led tools.

Mr. Reed said he baited Gary Fox into telling him what happened at a closed door emergency Council session. He called about Mr. Reed's event after it ended. He's not on City Council, said Mr. Reed, who wondered who told him what happened there. Could it be the guy whose campaign he's working for? Gary Fox and Bob Thurber did not think Mr. Reed was a pedophile or a groomer. Up until after the event happened, Gary was trying to get Mr. Reed over to his mansion for a cigar and asking him why he wouldn't "play ball," and offering to go on debate tours with him so they could make "big money together."

Mr. Reed said they knew the accusations they were encouraging were false. They did not care. It was never about the event. It was about getting Bob Thurber elected Mayor so he could use their tax dollars to renovate a downtown he owns a good portion. Mr. Reed did not think he was a bigot. He thought he was a political opportunist. He used southern strategy tactics, playing on the bigotry of the townsfolk like those from 18+ gets rid of them. Mr. Reed referenced an encrypted telegram chat that Gary Fox was a member of, who not only invited, conspired with and welcomed the help of literal Nazis, then plotted afterward to blame Mr. Reed for those Nazis. But, said Mr. Reed, he had a spy in their private telegram chat and he revealed that plot to (*garbled word*) news.

To Mayor Laubaugh, Mr. Reed said, "Robin, do better; say something; speak up for your LGBTQ citizens, please. Denounce Nazi hate. You need to distinguish yourself in a positive way."

Mr. Reed was asked to conclude his comments as his time was up.

Mr. Thurber read from the sign-in sheet, realizing that some people just signed in and did not intend to speak. Several individuals passed on speaking.

**Mr. Randy Peters, 1272 Bolich Drive**, introduced himself. He said they were there that evening with the excitement of the acquisition of the Brickyard property. Their development was "joined at the hip" with that property and they were anxious to become active members in the planning

process and support the purchase of the land. Mr. Peters said it was big, beautiful and big-picture, what a great asset it was for the community. Mr. Thurber thanked Mr. Peters.

**Mr. Jim Doerr, 1315 Bolich Drive**, introduced himself as a new member to the Wadsworth community. They built a house here and moved in with the past year and came to also support the legislation to acquire the Brickyard property and were very excited about the plans that are in concept now for the development. Mr. Doerr said he looked forward to the City control of that property. He thanked Council. Mr. Thurber thanked Mr. Doerr.

**Mr. Christopher Anderson, 456 Sumner Street, Akron**, introduced himself. He said he lived in Medina County all of his life before moving to Akron, so that was why he was here to speak. His family still lived in Medina. Mr. Anderson said he was there to support legislation regarding making it illegal for minors to be involved in adult-oriented performances regarding the March 11<sup>th</sup> event. Mr. Anderson said he also wanted to see legislation that allocated the security costs of law enforcement being there sent to the organizers. He thanked Council.

**Mr. Gary Goodman, 543 High Street**, introduced himself. He had an informative comment. He wanted to start by mentioning that in Vermont, a 75-year-old gay man was beaten up or knocked down off his cane in public. Fred Sergeant who was the founder and president of the original 1969 Stonewall Riots and founder of the first Gay Pride march, Homophile Youth movement and Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore in New York, was beaten up in public, knocked off his cane by queer activists at the Pride March because he was considered far right because he held a sign quietly that said “Gay, Not Queer.”

Mr. Goodman said there was a 2020 article called “Drag Pedagogy: The Playful Practice of Queen Imagination in Early Childhood” that describes play as praxis, aesthetic transformation and strategic defiance and it says it provides a performative approach to queer pedagogy that was not simply about LGBT lives but enticing young children into “living queerly” and leaving a trail of glitter that won’t ever come out of the carpet.

Mr. Goodman said Gale Reuben’s 1984 essay, “Thinking Sex,” was considered the founding text of gay / lesbian studies and queer theory, which was gender Marxism, and she complained in her essay and various books that perversion (her words) and adult / child relationships are unjustly criminalized and marginalized and also that childhood innocence was a myth. Mr. Thurber told Gary he had 10 seconds remaining to speak. Mr. Goodman told Council they could look up Gail S. Rueben on Wikipedia; all her stuff was there and she had written on various subjects from feminism to sadomasochism, etc. Mr. Thurber called Mr. Goodman’s time and thanked him. He thanked Council.

**Ms. Barb James, 8982 Kean Road**, was here to support the initiative to purchase the Brickyard. Ms. James said Wadsworth had lovely parks that over the years had come to need a little bit of love and she really appreciated the Parks Commission and new park master plan and felt that the Brickyard would be a huge stepping stone toward that. She thanked Council. Councilmembers thanked Ms. James.

**Ms. Mandy Gailey, 906 Lawrence Drive**, introduced herself and said she lived next to Bruce. She said she was present in support of legislation to buy the Brickyard for the sports complex and for the additional parks.

Ms. Gailey said she grew up in Wadsworth, as many of Council knew, and grew up with her twin brother riding down to Durling Park and making so many fond memories there. Ms. Gailey said now she had her own children and her family chose to come back to Wadsworth because they loved this community. One of the big deciding factors was the schools, but also how the parks and all the wonderful recreations they had here. She said, unfortunately, Wadsworth was growing and that meant they needed more parks and more facilities available to its citizens so it could grow along with them.

Ms. Gailey said she knew the gentleman talked about baseball fields and softball fields but also having a soccer complex; having a complex so they did not have to go all the way down to Wooster or out to Lodi every single Saturday, multiple times a week for practices. Ms. Gailey said she would love to have that here and she knew that would not just help citizens and overall community, but also bring in a lot of revenue. Mr. Thurber thanked Ms. Gailey. He said he did not recognize Ms. Gailey at first but she was somehow related to somebody; a wonderful lady.

**Ms. Madeline Schwab, 495 Wolf Avenue**, introduced herself. She wished everyone a good evening and thanked Council for allowing her to speak. Ms. Schwab thought everyone (Council) was doing a wonderful job; she said it was hard to be a politician and that was why she was glad they were (politicians) and she was not.

Ms. Schwab said she wanted to put her support in for buying the property at the Brickyard because Wadsworth needed to go forward and she was so hoping that they did and somehow they could connect the county line bike trail to the Wadsworth bike trail. She hoped this all went through because it made Wadsworth a better community and that was why she lived here; she had been here 46 years.

Ms. Schwab thanked Council and said she appreciated all of their hard work. Mr. Thurber thanked Ms. Schwab.

**Ms. Michele Hendrick, 496 South Kaser Drive**, introduced herself. She first wanted to thank Bruce for fixing the sidewalk that she tripped over last fall and broke her wrist out on a walk. She said if they (Council) were talking about improving any sidewalk, she was always in favor of that.

Ms. Hendrick said she was present to represent Friends of Wadsworth Trails and they definitely, 100%, believed in the Brickyard purchase. She said their parks needed to move forward, their trails needed to move forward and the success of the Trolley Line Park in the interurban trail should show how much this town needed that. Ms. Hendrick said Covid also should have proven how much everybody wanted to be outside, enjoying the trails, the parks, playing baseball / softball / pickle ball / tennis / soccer. Ms. Hendrick said she lived over by the soccer fields and heard people playing all the time. Ms. Hendrick said being able to walk from the soccer fields to Memorial Park over to Rittman...she loved the Rittman nature preserve and she went there all the time. She said if she could walk from Wadsworth to there, to think of how wonderful that would be. Ms. Hendrick said this was a big step in getting the parks going, to buy that Brickyard, even if they did not develop it

right away because of money. Ms. Hendrick said if the City owned it, no one could touch it. Ms. Hendrick thanked Council. Council thanks Ms. Hendrick.

**Ms. Hilary Enders, 188 Ry Road,** introduced herself. She said she was just a mom in this community. She said usually right now she would be taking her kids to practice or an activity but she took time out of her routine to come here because she had thoughts she wanted to share on passing a city ordinance to stop drag shows or events of any sexual nature from occurring in their City again.

Ms. Enders said she thought one could see from the event a few weeks ago that those events brought out groups of people that they did not want to identify their City with and had the potential for violence. Permitting this event welcomed people from other cities and states that caused concern for safety and potential altercations that could be greater than what was seen at the event that was allowed to happen already.

Ms. Enders said she would like to see those of Council and City officials, especially those who identified as Republican and conservative, to not be afraid to take a stand and pass an ordinance against future drag or sexual-concerning events for minors. Ms. Enders said she knew she was not the only parent who wanted to see action taken and authority wielded to shut down those events in our town.

Ms. Enders said there was a reason these events were being pushed on their children; they were an opening into pushing children into far-left gender ideologies. Ms. Enders said they wanted to push this on small-town America; to destabilize the family and indoctrinate children early. Ms. Enders said there was a very clear agenda behind these events and they had no place in Wadsworth. Ms. Enders said these events were covered in candy and bright colors to make desirable to kids, just like predators. They had to dress up the ideologies in wigs and stilettos to make it palpable to kids. This leads to a path that subverts children's sense of self, teaches them gender confusion, sex confusion and subverted the family unit.

Ms. Enders quoted Michael Noll: "We need to get rid of, eradicate, this gender ideologies from our cities." We need to create and pass legislation to stop drag queen story hours and stop the spread of gender ideology in Wadsworth, Ohio. Ms. Enders thanked Council for their time. Council thanked Ms. Enders.

Mr. Thurber noted that completed the comments for that evening.

A woman in the audience shouted out about section 2907.09. Mr. Thurber explained she was out of order; they were still in session. In four minutes, she could say whatever she wanted.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Thurber asked if City Council had any other thoughts or questions.

Mr. Rospert said he sent out an email shortly after the event to the Administration and copied everyone on Council asking for a statement as to the events, who was there and the expense because constituents had asked; he had yet to receive an email back from anybody acknowledging his request for a statement from City. He wanted to make that public that he asked; the community had

asked them (Council) and he had kept low and unfortunately he was not able to be at the last Council meeting because of his son's wedding but he was going to ask again that a statement was made at some point. Mr. Rospert said there were statements made prior to the event and he thought people really would like to hear from the Administration how it went and who all was there. Mr. Rospert thanked Council.

With no other thoughts, Mr. Thurber entertained a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:34 p.m. following a motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. Stugmyer. All were in favor.

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council