

MINUTES
WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 3, 2023

The regular meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., was held in-person at City Council Chambers.

PRESIDING: Bob Thurber, *President of Council*

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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 Auditor Catherine Fix, Clerk of Council Tammy Guenther

VISITORS SPEAKING: *Caesar Carrino, former Mayor of Wadsworth and local Historian, 555 Silvercreek*
Nathan Eppink, Medina County Park District Director

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 **Regular Council meeting of April 18, 2023, Special Council meeting of April 11, 2023 and April 26, 2023.** An all-in-favor vote was taken and majority Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF April 18, 2023, April 11, 2023 and April 26, 2023 WERE APPROVED.**

VISITORS: Mr. Thurber invited their “most privileged citizen,” Mr. Caesar Carrino to speak.

Mr. Caesar Carrino of 555 Silvercreek Road introduced himself. He said the reason he attended this evening was to make a plea to Council to put in the official document something that really, really needed to be there. He said starting at about 1850 until 1935, the economy in Wadsworth was spearheaded by the coal mining industry. He said that died in 1935 and had it not been for the person whom he would mention that evening, they probably would have withered and died on the vine at the same time that the coal mines died, but they did not because EJ Young came from Norton, Norfolk actually, originally from Pennsylvania and came to Wadsworth to work for the Garfield injector company, down by the railroad track. At that time, the injector was a brand new thing. Mr. Carrino wanted to explain what an injector was, but did not want to cut into his time so he was not going to do that this evening. He said they could talk about that at a later time.

Mr. Carrino explained that what happened at that time was that EJ Young perfected the injector, but then became the fulcrum for the four companies which saved Wadsworth economically until today

and they needed to have some kind of monument to him. The Ohio Match Company, which probably did not exist for some of the people who were young enough and people who had come recently, but the Ohio Match Company was the largest match company in the world under one roof. Mr. Carrino said to commemorate Mr. Young and his family (he had two sons and a nephew and grand-nephew who worked there) he wanted to suggest that they build the largest match in the world. There was one that was 15' high that they lit once a year; however, he suggested they made this one a permanent fixture which would draw people to come to Wadsworth to see it and also tell the story that most people had forgotten. Mr. Carrino suggested a match that was 50' tall to be put in one of the parks (he did not care which one it was) and noted he would not be here to see it; he was 92 years old. Mr. Carrino said he would like very much to put it in the official document of Council.

Mr. Carrino said the reason he was concerned was that people from his generation (he is 92) and a few people younger knew EJ Young but the vast majority of people in Wadsworth were fairly new and did not know anything about him, but Mr. Carrino said they could not forget the fact that he was the person that was the cause for them being able to see here tonight, in this building and this forum, and he wanted very much for Council to consider and if it was all possible, have it as an official entry into Council minutes so that when he was gone, people would remember.

Mr. Carrino said he took an unofficial survey while sitting at the first Friday in the Historical House; 100 people from Wadsworth and only two had ever heard of EJ Young. Mr. Carrino said they could not let that happen. He implored Council as an approach to help preserve this man like he deserved, and his family.

Mr. Carrino thanked Council.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Carrino to stay. He asked if he could briefly share the story of Memorial Park and that it as land donated by the March Company. Mr. Carrino asked if that would cut into his two minutes; several members offered him their two minutes.

Mr. Carrino said following World War II they wanted to have something to commemorate the war dead; there were 28 behind him that died for Wadsworth. They had 1,117 people going to war from Wadsworth. At that time, they had only 5,000 people in Wadsworth. Mr. Carrino said 25% of those were too old or too young and 50% were female who did not go to war so nearly every single, solitary male went to war so they wanted to have something to commemorate it.

Mr. Carrino said Wadsworth did not have a park like it is today; it was more like a picnic area. They did not have any way to do that so they needed land, a good piece of land, maybe close to 200 acres. The Match shop had vast acreage behind it, doing nothing, and they gave that to the City and that was now Memorial Park.

Mr. Carrino applauded everything that was being done for the parks and he thought Dave had been pushing for the parks and that was wonderful. The reason they never had parks was because they had so much farm land, where they were the only part of Medina County that did not have parks and now they did.

Mr. Carrino asked if that was satisfactory. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Carrino and said that was a great piece of history.

Mr. Carrino thanked Council for allowing him to talk.

Mr. Nate Eppink introduced himself and joked that unlike the first guest, he did need notes. He appreciated the history lesson and enjoyed that. He said Mr. Carrino was a tough act to follow and thanked the Council president.

Mr. Eppink said he was here today to talk about Holmesbrook Park and what they had done so far and what they planned to do over the next 12 months.

Mr. Eppink said it was a year ago this month that they signed a 50 year lease to manage Holmesbrook Park as a county park. At approximately 59 acres, it was the largest park in the city limits. Mr. Eppink said they initially took on trash removal and later snow removal and basic maintenance.

Mr. Eppink said last summer the first large project they did was to repair some erosion issues around the steel bridge (the first bridge on the way to the pond), installed some RipWrap there and later in the fall / early winter, reseeded the area under the powerlines to better serve as a native prairie. Mr. Eppink noted the cost of those two improvements combined was \$7,676.50; a little more than \$2,000 of that was with seed but the seed work in-house as they considered that part of one's daily routine.

Mr. Eppink said the Parks Master Plan for the City was recently completed. They contributed that financially, for the Holmesbrook portion, over \$8,000 what they had put in.

Mr. Eppink said he would move on to the good, exciting updates. In February, he approached their Friends Board. He had a nonprofit, the Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc., who raised funds to help underwrite projects throughout the county in their parks. In February, Mr. Eppink approached them and they approved funding for an accessible fishing platform at the pond, a figure up to \$40,000 for that fishing platform. Mr. Eppink said they would be drawing down the water in that pond very shortly; he had communicated with the Mayor and Mr. Patrick to get the key to the drain. Mr. Eppink said they had at least one consultant who, before firming up his quote, wanted to see the status of the lakebed and status of the drain before he finalized his numbers. Mr. Eppink said they had their national resourced crew on standby to save any fish that they may need to save, although that pond was very shallow now so he did not suspect there was a whole lot of aquatic life.

Mr. Eppink said again that the Friends had approved up to \$40,000 in their funding for the fishing platform. They anticipated a cost (these would be district funds) of about \$45,000 to dredge that pond and make it more of a true fishing area. They hoped that the dredging and fishing platform would be wrapped up this fall and he knew that Council, at a previous meeting, had asked whether they would stock that pond and the short answer was yes; that was why they were going to all this trouble to make it a true fishing pond.

Mr. Eppink said their National Resources Department, every spring typically there was a rotation of ponds that they stocked with trout and other fish and this would be on their list starting the next year.

Mr. Eppink said their nonprofit also approved funding for a small open-air picnic shelter at Holmesbrook Park. He said this was something the park was currently lacking and they approved funding up to \$50,000 for that project; that would be concrete, timbers, roofing and actual labor to construct that. Mr. Eppink said he envisioned a smaller shelter that accommodated 4 – 6 picnic tables but a great place to sit and have lunch or rest before or after a visit.

Mr. Eppink said the Park District intended to self-fund a waterless one unit vault restroom; that was the standard throughout the Park District. They were pre-fab concrete buildings that they had serviced several times throughout the year. Mr. Eppink said they budgeted \$35,000 for that improvement. That would be installed near the parking lot as well as the picnic shelter.

Mr. Eppink said combined, the total investment, including the OHM portion of the Master Plan they had underwritten, they had more than \$180,000 in improvements planned for Holmesbrook Park, or those that were already checked off the list (the erosion control measures and the seeding).

Mr. Eppink said there were very exciting things to come. He wanted to thank the Mayor, Mr. Patrick and Council for trusting Medina County Park District to manage this great little park. Mr. Eppink asked if there were any questions. Mr. Thurber said he had covered it all. Mr. Eppink said he would be sure that they communicated with the Mayor and Mr. Patrick as things took place. He noted they might get questions when the water level dropped; they would let Council know when that was going to happen. Mr. Eppink said they would, of course, let them know before any construction took place. He noted they went through all the proper permitting measures and wanted to communicate with their constituents and visitors so they knew what to expect when they visited.

Mr. Thurber thanked Mr. Eppink.

CORRESPONDENCE: *None*

Mr. Thurber asked the Clerk to read the legislation.

LEGISLATION:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-053 (1st RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND KNOWN AS “SAFETY TOWN VILLAGE” FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCUMULATING RESOURCES FOR THE SAFETY TOWN VILLAGE AND 9/11 MEMORIAL PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by President of Council Bob Thurber

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to suspend the three reading rule on Ordinance No. 23-053. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Darlington, Williams, Yurchiak, Copley, Hines, Rospert, Stugmyer. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Williams, Yurchiak, Copley, Hines, Rospert,

Stugmyer, Darlington. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-053 declared to have been adopted May 3, 2023.**

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. 23-049 (2nd RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PURCHASE A 2023 SINGLE AXLE SNOW & ICE CONTROL WITH 9 FOOT WITH FRS SALT/SAND SPREADER TRUCK EQUIPMENT PACKAGE FROM HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC. THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A SOURCEWELL CONTRACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member David Williams
- Forwarded by Public Ways Committee April 10, 2023

Mrs. Hines made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley, to place Ordinance No. 23-049 third reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-049 advanced to third reading for the meeting of May 16, 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. 23-045 (3rd 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 noted the public hearing and made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Yurchiak, to place Ordinance No. 23-045 on fourth reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 23-045 advanced to fourth reading for the meeting of May 16, 2023.**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-031 (5th 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 Held 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 called the question on Ordinance No. 23-031. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Yurchiak, Copley, Hines, Rospert, Stugmyer, Darlington, Williams. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-031 declared to have been adopted May 3, 2023.**

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Thurber said he had two quick things. On Mr. Carrino's idea, he would think that Economic Development and Planning Committee would want to bat that around.

With regard to Mr. Eppink and the Medina County Parks District, Mr. Thurber thought they were doing phenomenal job. Maybe they ought to consider – Mr. Thurber thought that would be Mr. Williams and Public Ways – along with Mr. Patrick, the 205 acres that they got, to talk about it with them. Maybe the Parks District had an interest. They brought a lot of money to the table, and, added Mr. Williams, expertise. Mr. Thurber concluded that might be something to talk about.

Mr. Thurber asked if there was anything else.

Mr. Stugmyer said that Economic Development Committee would meet on the next Monday. They would also discuss the CHIP Grant that was coming up, with Mr. Kaiser. They would go over details. There would be legislation on it at the next Council meeting/

Mr. Stugmyer also noted that First Friday was coming up on May 5 downtown in Wadsworth. They would have an old fashioned concert, with this side of College Street shut down. The K and A kid's band would be playing. It was Cinco de Mayo. There would be food trucks and so on.

Mr. Rospert said he wanted to welcome Anthony Merlene to their Police Department. He was sworn in that day in Council Chambers about 2:00 p.m. They were filling up their safety forces and that was great thing, said Mr. Rospert.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Copley made that motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council