

MINUTES
WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 5, 2021

The regular meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Wednesday, May 5 2021, at 5:00 p.m., was held through means of both electronic video conferencing and in-person attendance at City Council Chambers. 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, Director of Law Director Tom Morris, Clerk of Council Tammy Guenther via Zoom

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES: *None*

OTHERS PRESENT OR SPEAKING: *None*

Mr. Thurber called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation. The Clerk of Council called the roll.

MINUTES: **Mr. Williams** made a motion, which was seconded by **Mr. Copley**, to adopt the minutes of the Council meeting **April 20, 2021**. An all-in-favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES of April 20, 2021 WERE APPROVED.**

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk stated she had one item: A notice regarding a request for a new liquor license by Bob Evans Restaurant, LLC, #196, 151 Park Centre Drive. If no council member requested a hearing, she would return the form to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control by the end of the week and mark it “no hearing requested.”

APPROVAL FOR MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTS:

Mr. Thurber asked for an explanation regarding the appointment of Ms. Fix to the Council per the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). **Ms. Fix** said she’d been the acting delegate. It was a process that hadn’t come to Council before and she didn’t know that it was absolutely necessary but wanted to be compliant. In her absence on the Council of Governments, the Assistant Auditor Lee-Ann Dunkle was the alternate delegate. The organization had an annual meeting and voted on a board. If any of the contract terms changed, a majority was needed. They voted on that as well.

Ms. Haskins observed that the City Auditor was the natural choice.

Mr. Thurber requested a motion to accept Auditor Fix and Assistant Auditor Dunkle. **Mr. Stugmyer** made the motion and Mr. Copley seconded. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Motion Passed: Appointments Approved.**

LEGISLATION:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 21-028 (1st RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MEDINA IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR A PROGRAM YEAR 2021 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (PY2021 CHIP) PROGRAM GRANT, WITH THE COUNTY OF MEDINA BEING DESIGNATED AS THE GRANTEE, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING THE APPLICATION ON OR BEFORE JUNE 23, 2021 AND IMPLEMENTING SAID GRANT IF GRANT IS AWARDED BY THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OCD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Thomas Stugmyer
- Discussed by Economic Development & Planning Committee February 1, 2021 and also mentioned at subsequent meetings in March and April

Mr. Stugmyer offered some statistics on the grant. It was a CHIP grant that was almost exactly, if not exactly, like the last one the City had in 2019. It was a \$750K funding request, with \$400K going to the county with \$350K coming to the City of Wadsworth. After administration fees, dollars in house would be \$311K. It was for household incomes at or below 80% of the area's median income. The documents needed to be prepared at 10 days prior the deadline of June 23. Economic Development Committee had talked about it briefly in January or February. Those were the details that Mr. Stugmyer had. He asked for any questions

Mr. Darlington looked at the ordinance and asked about section three where it said that the City of Wadsworth committed itself to provide a local share of funding as described in the application. He wanted to know how much funding they might be responsible for. **Mr. Patrick** responded that he did not think there was any. Many of the applications, like the items with ODOT, stated that any share or funding had to come through the City but typically there wasn't any. They would find out for sure, he said, and they would talk about it in depth at the May 10 meeting of Economic Development & Planning Committee. They wanted to get the ordinance out to have Council take a look and consider it with some readings. He encouraged them to reach out to him with any questions, and to the Planning or Law Directors. They would make sure to discuss it next week.

Mr. Stugmyer noted that the dates and deadlines allowed them to get any other details or questions. With the emergency clause, they could take care of it at the next Council meeting and have it still well within the timeframe. There were no other questions.

Mr. Stugmyer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to place Ordinance No. 21-028 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 21-028 advanced to second reading for the meeting of May 18, 2021.**

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. 21-025 (2nd RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER NOW KNOWN AS 038-17B-20-033 ALSO NOW KNOWN AS 778 AKRON ROAD FROM THE EXISTING WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO THE CITY OF WADSWORTH R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ZONING CLASSIFICATION UPON ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF WADSWORTH BY RESOLUTION NO. 21-03 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Council Set the Public Hearing for June 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

- Sponsored by Council Member Thomas Stugmyer
- Discussed by Economic Development & Planning Committee April 5, 2021

Mr. Stugmyer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to place Ordinance No. 21-025 on third reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Ordinance No. 21-025 advanced to third reading for the meeting of May 5, 2021.**

ORDINANCE NO. 21-027 (2nd RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO PURCHASE A 15' FIRST RESPONSE SYSTEM FROM HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC. THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A SOURCEWELL, FORMERLY NATIONAL JOINT POWER ALLIANCE (NJPA), CONTRACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member David Williams

Mr. Williams noted a time constraint and indicated he would call it for a vote. There were no questions.

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to suspend the three reading rule on Ordinance No. 21-027. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Hines, Stugmyer, Copley, Williams, Haskins, Darlington, Yurchiak. Nays: none. Mr. Williams called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stugmyer, Copley, Williams, Haskins, Darlington, Yurchiak, Hines. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 21-027 declared to have been adopted May 5, 2021.**

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. 21-021 (3rd RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO SELL ONE 2006 JACOBSEN HR 511 MOWER WITH ESTIMATED VALUE OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE BY THE METHOD SET FORTH IN SECTION 721.15 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member David Williams
- Forwarded by Public Ways Committee April 5, 2021

Mr. Williams called the question on Ordinance No. 21-021. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Copley, Williams, Haskins, Darlington, Yurchiak, Hines, Stugmyer. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 21-021 declared to have been adopted May 5, 2021.**

That concluded the legislation for the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Fire Levy

Ms. Haskins offered thanks to the community for passing their tax levy. She knew that **Mr. Hiscock** wanted to address it. **Mr. Hiscock** thanked her and said he did want take a moment that evening.

The Safety Director first thanked community for their support of the Fire Department and the Levy. He thought it was a reaffirmation for all them as to how important were these services that the men and women of the Fire Department provided to their community. He thought it showed through yesterday. **Mr. Hiscock** also thanked Fire Chief Lindner, Assistant Chief Potter, Lieutenant Lorton, Firefighter/Medic Reid, and Firefighter Brissman for all of their hard work in regard to the Friends of the Fire Levy Committee. Without them working to answer questions and educate the public about departmental needs, he did not think they would have seen the outcome that they saw yesterday. In addition, he wanted to thank all of Council. Without their legislative support for what they needed to put on the ballot, the question would never have gone to the community. Thus, **Mr. Hiscock** thanked them individually for their support. Moving forward, they had several steps – it did not happen overnight – to follow, as far as financing orders to get everything in place. He would be talking with City Auditor Fix. But this was really a great step forward and, he said, to borrow a line from the Chamber of Commerce: It was a great day in the City of Wadsworth.

Mr. Thurber thanked **Mr. Hiscock** and appreciated his humility; however, honestly, they did not get north of 80% on any ballot issue unless there was a lot of belief in the leadership. He thanked the Safety Director for that.

First Friday

Mr. Stugmyer noted the 80's themed Main Street First Friday coming up that week. He encouraged the community to bring their big hair downtown for the night. The event started at 5:30 p.m.

City Hall

Mr. Williams brought up a matter that some of the other Council members might have encountered. The community wanted to know when City Hall would be opened. To truly be a community “unmatched,” they needed to have a City Hall that was open. One of their neighbors in the center of the county had been open for some time. It was a question that he’d been getting and he hoped to hear something from the Administration.

Mr. Patrick said he would do his best to answer. City Hall had actually been open. It hadn’t closed through the pandemic. There had been other communities that had closed and locked their doors. City Hall remained open. They had the Municipal Court there that had remained open. The Police Station in the back had remained open. Offices had been open by appointment. There had been people coming in and meeting on a regular basis, or who dropped off their utility bills, returned items of CityLink and pick-up by them. All of them had been coming and going from the offices as needed. There had been income tax appointments and meetings. City Hall was open, albeit by appointment. A number of people worked in offices and a number worked at home. The guidance

on these matters had not changed. They were doing things like everyone else in private enterprise in their community and throughout the country – finding ways to do things differently by working remotely and taking payments over the phone. They were looking at opening more and more. They decided to come back for their public meetings for Council, for instance. They had done other activities in person, such as interviews. They looked for ways to do that more and more as the numbers reduced.

Mr. Patrick said to keep in mind that their numbers in their county were in the higher occurrence range. They were still in the red category that the state had, unless it had changed that day. He was told earlier in the week that would not change. Hopefully, if the numbers continued to reduce as they had been in the state and their county, the incidence level could change and reduce. They looked at ways they could react with that and continue to provide services at an unmatched level.

If they had anyone who had a particular complaint or questions, Mr. Patrick said to feel free to have them contact him at his office or through email. He had not gotten a lot of those questions, or complaints about not being open. The biggest issue in conversation was that people often would really like to do “that” in person. They preferred to see someone and to talk with them. It was understandable. It was one of the services they provided, yet they also understood too that they were still in a pandemic. They all had had to make changes and to do things a little differently. Hopefully that was the worst that could happen and they could get back (to normal) soon.

Mr. Williams said the biggest thing he was hearing was that people called in and their phone call got dropped. They couldn't be transferred. He did not know if anyone else encountered that. People called a general number and could not be transferred.

Mr. Copley said he had one businessman say he wanted to speak to an engineer and one particular engineer. He was told she was working from home that day and the call could not be transferred to her phone. His thought was if a person was working from home, they would still be accessible. This happened a couple weeks ago. Another resident was looking for a permit, was met at the door and not allowed in. That had just happened today.

Mr. Patrick thanked them for the information, but said he had not heard those. He asked that they pass them on to him so they could remedy an issue if it did in fact occur.

Mr. Copley asked if the Service Director had any idea when everyone would be back in to work at City Hall. If they were issues with phone calls and so on, then they were not conducting business like they should. Mr. Patrick responded that he did not have a timeframe that everyone would be back as they were over a year ago. They were looking at different ways to open certain areas to bring folks back to continue services. He thanked them again for mentioning those to him. He had not heard issues or complaints about phones or not doing transfers. They did have systems in place. They went to a remote environment to things could continue without lapse or issues. He would look into both to see about any problems.

Again, continued Mr. Patrick, they were putting together a plan for when they could reopen some areas. The guidance had changed recently. One item was the Senior Center. They were targeting to open it on July 1st right now and working toward getting it ready. That guidance just changed this

day and was sent out. He hadn't had time to look at it yet, but there were still testing requirements that he saw for a cursory view. It might depend on that being done. Some were using vaccination as one type of criteria. He did not know if they wanted to get into that. Vaccinations continued and people got them but that was dropping off too. His personal belief was that anyone who wanted to get vaccinated got vaccinated. The City just had a vaccination in town by the Medina County Health Department at the Senior Center. They had done a number of those for targeted senior groups over the last number of months, which was great. They did one last week in town and all that senior population was targeted, the employees and workforce and even the general public through social media. Unfortunately, only a third of the numbers showed up for the supply of vaccine that was there. That told Mr. Patrick that those numbers were dwindling. He knew the health department tried to get out into the communities more and more. With numbers reducing, vaccinations improving, he thought they could do more as far as opening and getting folks back to normal.

Mr. Williams thanked the Service Director.

Mr. Thurber commented that it was the one thing that came up the most. It was almost always the Utility Office. He thanked Mr. Patrick.

Mr. Thurber also mentioned that he had talked with the Medina County Health office to ask if Council could start to have visitors. The person he talked with said it was fine as long as they did social distancing and wore masks. They could have visitors in the middle of the room. They did not have a lot of visitors anyway, so he thought they could pretty easily accommodate. The schools would not be coming of course. Sometimes they had individuals reporting from the county auditor's office. He thought he would give them a call suggesting "not yet." They had other ways of getting that type of information to people. Mr. Thurber thought that by June 1, they would be able to have visitors in Council Chambers.

Mr. Williams said that was great work and thought they should have a platform where citizens could address Council.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Copley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer. All were in favor. **The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.**

Clerk of Council

President of Council