

MINUTES
WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 16, 2023

The regular meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., was held in-person at City Council Chambers.

PRESIDING: Bruce Darlington, *President Pro Tem of Council*

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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, and Planning Director Jeff Kaiser (*departed after the public hearing*)

VISITORS SPEAKING:

- Bill Sanderson, 1224 French Ave., Lakewood and representing developer with regard to zoning changes in Ordinance No. 23-045*
- Gary Goodman of 543 High Street*
- *Samantha Caudril (spelling uncertain) of 1291 High Street*

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES: *None*

Mr. Darlington 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. Williams** made a motion, which was seconded by **Mr. Stugmyer**, to adopt the **Regular Council meeting of May 3, 2023**. An all-in-favor vote was taken and majority Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE COUNCIL MINUTES OF May 3, 2023 WERE APPROVED.**

PUBLIC HEARING: **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**

Mr. Darlington stated that the Planning Director Jeff Kaiser was there to give a summary of the legislation. The Clerk read the ordinance.

Mr. Kaiser said the four parcels were located on Reimer Road. They were annexed into the City late last summer or early fall. They might remember that any lands annexed into the City came in

with the underlying Township zoning district until City Council adopted a City zoning for them. The process required a review by the Planning Commission, which made a recommendation.

A month or so ago, the Planning Commission held its own hearing on the zoning changes and recommended zoning on these properties.

City lots or dual jurisdiction lots 10232 and 10233, which were the western-most of the four lots, were recommended for R-1 Residential. The eastern-most lots 10234 and 10235 were recommended for LDR (Low Density Residential). In making the recommendations, Mr. Kaiser said the Commission did look at quite a number of things. One was the existing zoning; two was the existing developments in the vicinity, including the zoning for developments in the Township; and the availability of public utilities and the easements for extending them. They also looked at the Comprehensive Plan and what it suggested for this area, as well as the annexation policy, and including Council's desire to have some zoning set aside for larger lot development, which would be the LDR.

Talking with the proposed developer, Mr. Kaiser said they had looked at some conceptual plans on how the site might develop and how this zoning would work with it.

The Planning Director said the ordinance would set the City zoning for those properties. The four lots totaled 81 acres and the way the zoning was recommended, roughly 56 acres would be zoned R-1 and roughly 25 would be LDR.

Mr. Kaiser concluded and asked for any questions before opening the public hearing.

Mr. Copley had one question. He assumed from the handout that the properties west of Hartman Road that were still in the Township were R-1 Township. Mr. Kaiser asked if he meant on the east side of Reimer Road, but Mr. Copley said, no; he meant the west side of Hartman because Reimer ran north. Mr. Kaiser said those were in the Township as R-1. They were all developed with single family homes on them. Mr. Copley thanked him.

Mr. Darlington declared the Council hearing open for public comment on 23-045. He read the names for anyone who signed in. If they wished to speak to Council, he would them to come to the podium and state their name and address.

Public Comment on 23-045

Mr. Sanderson came forward and said that he represented the developer. He thanked the Planning Department staff and the Planning Commission for working with them and for their careful, kind consideration that night. Mr. Sanderson said he would be available if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Darlington asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. He asked if there were any other speakers and there were none.

Someone spoke up from the audience and said he was on the list, but it was determined that he would ask to speak during the regular visitor's portion of the agenda and was not there to speak about the zoning ordinance.

Mr. Darlington declared the public hearing for Ordinance 23-045 closed.

Mr. Darlington moved back to their regular agenda and a proclamation to be delivered by the Mayor.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Laubaugh came to the podium and said she actually had two proclamations to deliver for two weeks. One was National Police Week. She said they were very fortunate to have two police officers with them to accept the proclamation, both of whom were fairly new. She would ask them to introduce themselves when they came up.

Mayor Laubaugh stated that the City was so grateful for their police and recognize that there was a week why they honored them in particular. They were so grateful for the services and safety provided to the community, and so much more.

The proclamation stated that the Congress and the President of the United States had designated May 15, 2023 as “Peace Officers’ Memorial Day,” and the week of May 14 through May 20 as “National Police Week.” Over 600,000 men and women served as officers of the law in the United States. The fundamental qualities of discipline, integrity and courage were mentioned. The Mayor recognized that the Wadsworth City Police Department protected the rights and freedoms of all of their citizens, upheld the rule of law, and defended the innocent while risking their own safety.

Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15, was an opportunity to recognize those who had made the ultimate sacrifice, or who had become disabled in the performance of duty.

Coming forward to accept the proclamation was Officer Chris Hardy, who said he had been with the Wadsworth for a little over a year and enjoyed it. He appreciated the recognition. Officer Anthony Merlene also attended on behalf of the department and said he had just completed his third week. He came from the City of Munroe Falls where he served for about six years. He looked forward to serving the Wadsworth community.

City Council members thanked the officers.

Mayor Laubaugh said they also had the opportunity to celebrate National EMS Week, May 21 – 27, 2023. She noted that a couple distinguished members of the Wadsworth EMS team were in attendance and appreciated them coming that evening. Once again, she said, it was wonderful to honor those who performed the necessary services, and the City was so grateful knowing that a moment’s notice, help was on its way. She was sure that each one of them in attendance had had some brush with needing to either call 911 or receive 911 services. Everybody was grateful that they were there.

The proclamation stated that National EMS Week recognized the members of Emergency Medical Services, who were ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The theme of this year’s week was, “Where Emergency Care Begins,” and captured what EMTs and paramedics achieved daily. Individuals were recognized for their commitment and sacrifices that both personnel and their families made to the communities they served. Emergency

care dramatically improved the survival and recovery rate of those who experienced sudden illness or injury.

The Mayor noted the highly skilled and efficient nature of the work and services of the Wadsworth EMS.

Andy Reid came forward and stated that he had been working for Fire / EMS for 16 years. Danny LaParo came forward and said he had been with the department for just under a month and that he appreciated everyone's support.

City Council members thanked them.

VISITORS: Mr. Darlington asked if there were any other visitors in the audience who wanted to address Council. A gentleman came forward and Mr. Darlington said he would have two minutes to say what he wanted.

Gary Goodman of 543 High Street said he had spoken before about drag queen story hour and how academic papers on drag queen was about cult initiation for kids to queer living, according to that drag pedagogy paper. But he wanted to go backwards, he said, and just discuss some of the origins. He read from his phone:

Post modernism is an artistic philosophical movement which began in France in the 1960s produced bewildering art and bewildering theory. It drew on avant garde surrealism, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and about a lot of anti-realism and rejection of the individual as a concept, and the rejection of liberal humanism. It also rejected Marxism for being too rigid and most of all, above all, post modernism rejects science and the goal, idea of attaining objective knowledge about science, about reality from that as being western bourgeois ideology.

Mr. Goodman said it was like Marxist but a little bit cooked. Then it got more nihilistic and added on the identity politics phase. Now also, along with that, he continued, some leading members of that, Foucault, Adorno, Jean Paul Sarte, the filmmaker and others, also pushed to abolish the age of consent for children. Because what, after all, was the idea of the age of consent, Mr. Goodman said, or childhood innocence, except just a social construct that white western people believed in. So that was where they were coming from that in the 1960s. Then that was later imported into America by other philosophers like Judith Butler and Gail Rubin and David Halpern, who Mr. Goodman had mentioned before and plenty of others. That was kind of at the roots of what they now call "queer theory."

Mr. Goodman said he could go on. Mr. Darlington informed him that he had 10 seconds. He thanked Council for listening and said he would round that out a little more next time.

Several Council members thanked him.

Samantha Caudril (sp?) of 1291 High Street came forward. She said she loved that the man before her spoke and what he had to say. Ms. Caudril wanted to go on with that, as well, because she knew right now Ohio was trying to allow people to do a new amendment, she guessed, it was coming. They were trying to pass to allow people to dissect their children with transgender surgeries and

things like that. She was seeing more and more people popping up and they were totally allowed to try and get signatures to allow this amendment to pass. But she just wanted to stand forward as a parent to say that this was not okay. If more businesses could be aware that they had the right to kick these people off of their property. She knew they were getting signatures from people who were unaware of what they were actually teaching because they were telling them that it was pro-choice and in Ohio it was already allowed to have an abortion up to 22 weeks so it was not actually pro-choice, because they already had that in Ohio.

But Ms. Caudril said, they were going after their kids to dissect their children with transgender surgeries, hormone therapy and treatments, and unfortunately, people were very uneducated with what these things were doing. They were giving them hormone drugs, which were the same drugs that they gave to pedophiles and rapists in jail to chemically castrate the men. And they were giving it to their children. She knew that obviously she would never give it to her child, but there were parents who were uneducated on what this means.

There were several movies that she recommended to Council. One was, "What is a Woman" for those who did not understand what a woman was. Ms. Caudril said, "We are amazing beings." They had just celebrated Mother's Day, so for all of the women there, "thank you," she said, because they as moms were amazing. They brought human life into this world and by chemically castrating their young children, they were going to affect many generations. She for one would like to have many more family trees continue. With them going after their kids, they were going to cut them at the root. They were going to take these children and dissect them.

Ms. Caudril thanked them for their time. Several Council members thanked her.

Mr. Darlington asked if there were other speakers. No one else came forward.

CORRESPONDENCE: *None*

Mr. Darlington asked the Clerk to read the legislation. He also noted for Council that they did not have a chance to discuss the legislation in Committee of the Whole, so they could do it as it was read.

LEGISLATION:

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-054 (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 2023 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (PY2023 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 21, 2023 AND IMPLEMENTING SAID GRANT IF GRANT IS FUNDED BY THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OCD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Thomas Stugmyer
- Forwarded by Economic Development & Planning Committee May 8, 2023

Mr. Stugmyer said the Economic Development and Planning Committee had discussed the ordinance. Since having that discussion, the county had signed off and approved the funds. It was still up in the air last week, but now they had signed it. This was the CHIP program that would start applications for 2024, but with the June 21 deadline to get everything rolling – again with their approval – Mr. Stugmyer said he would make a motion to suspend the three reading rule on Ordinance No. 23-054, if there were no other questions. Mr. Yurchiak seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Copley, Rospert, Williams, Hines, Stumyer, Yurchiak, Darlington. Nays: none. Mr. Stumyer called the question. Mr. Darlington called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Rospert, Williams, Hines, Stugmyer, Yurchiak, Darlington, Copley. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-054 declared to have been adopted May 16, 2023.**

ORDINANCE NO. 23-055 (1st RDG.): AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) ANNUAL ROAD SALT BID IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIVISION (B) OF SECTION 5513.01 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member David Williams
- Forwarded by Public Ways Committee May 8, 2023

Mr. Williams explained that Public Ways had discussed the legislation. It was their annual salt purchasing. ODOT had traditionally been the best pricing so the City would go with them again. Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley, the place Ordinance No. 23-055 on second reading. **Ordinance No. 23-055 advanced to second reading for the meeting of June 6, 2023.**

Ms. Guenther indicated two new items on an addendum that were to be discussed in Committee of the Whole, which were on a first reading. Mr. Copley spoke up with a question before the Clerk read those two. Regarding the second ordinance listed as 23-057, he thought they would hear from the Auditor’s office before that was read. Mr. Williams said that was what he understood as well. Mr. Darlington confirmed that was the case and said they would not read it.

Motion on addendum: Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Rospert, to remove 23-057 from the agenda. Mr. Darlington took all in favor vote was taken and a majority of the members were heard to vote in favor of the motion (Copley, Darlington, Rospert and Williams). **Ordinance No. 23-057 was removed from the agenda.**

Ms. Guenther went back to Ordinance No. 23-056, which had not been read. Mr. Darlington said it was in regard to the sanitary sewer and the whole of Council had not had a chance to discuss it. He asked Council if it would be alright to discuss it at the next Committee of the Whole. He did not think there was urgency on it. Mr. Patrick said they could go two weeks. Mr. Darlington wanted to wait to read it.

Motion on addendum: Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley, to remove 23-056 from the agenda. Mr. Darlington took all in favor vote was taken and a majority of the members were heard to vote in favor of the motion (Copley, Darlington, Rospert and Williams). **Ordinance No. 23-056 was removed from the agenda.**

Mr. Stugmyer pointed out that there was error on 23-056 and Ms. Fix confirmed that. This ordinance referenced one that had already been passed, which was a warrant with different number.

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. 23-049 (3rd 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 called the question on Ordinance No. 23-049 third reading. Mr. Darlington called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Williams, Hines, Stugmyer, Yurchiak, Darlington, Copley, Rospert. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 23-049 declared to have been adopted May 16, 2023.**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 23-045 (4th 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 stated that they did not vote on a zoning ordinance the evening of a public hearing. He made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Hines, to place Ordinance No. 23-045 on fifth 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 fifth reading for the meeting of June 6, 2023.**

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Darlington asked for any other business to be brought up by or before Council.

Mr. Rospert said he had a couple of items. First he thanked Flight Services, the operator at Wadsworth Airport. He got a tour of the facility that day, along with a sight-seeing trip over the City, which was just impressive to see it from above. He believed the airport was a huge asset and knew the Council had committed some money to the airport that year for some improvements. Mr. Rospert hoped they continued to do so in the future. He thought they had a lot of promising things

coming up. He thought it was time they started looking at it as more of an asset than a liability because he really thought it could be an asset.

Secondly, Mr. Rospert spoke to Mr. Patrick and said he'd sent a couple emails to him. They were simple emails and he tended not to get responses. He did not know if Mr. Patrick did not want to answer the questions; if he did not have the answers to the questions; if he was overworked; or if it was just a personal thing. But he had asked about the Summit Street Water Tower and he asked about coaches being certified to coach on their City Parks' fields, which used to be done. He sent an email on May 3 and on May 9 and today was (almost) the 17th. They were simple yes or no questions. He had stated before that he sometimes did not think communications were great. Mr. Rospert tried not to call. He put it in writing and he was getting a little frustrated. If he would work on that, Mr. Rospert would appreciate it.

Mr. Patrick said to Mr. Rospert that he would look for those emails. He did not see them. He would look at those and answer. Mr. Patrick said that he had sent emails to Mr. Rospert and not gotten answers. He was not throwing stones back, but was saying they were all very busy, with a lot to do and a lot on their plates. Mr. Patrick would look those and respond.

With no other comments, Mr. Darlington asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Williams made that motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council