

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL
January 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Tomlinson.

The invocation was given by Pastor Keith Stoller.

On call of the roll: Agler, Mergy, Markward, Trittschuh, Marshall, Penton, and Straley present.

Mergy made a motion to approve the agenda for the 1/26/2019 Council meeting; seconded by Straley; with all concurring.

Trittschuh made a motion to approve the amended minutes for the 12/26/2018 Council meeting; seconded by Straley, with all concurring.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Tomlinson reminded council to file their 2018 Financial Disclosure Statement by the deadline. He also announced an invitation to Willow Bend from the Airport.

Straley gave an update on the Woodland Cemetery statistics. Marshall then thanked the staff of Woodland Cemetery for their efficient work.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: Mayor Mazur noted that AEP Ohio are expecting to start upgrading meters starting sometime in mid-February through April. They will be installing a 'Smart- Meter' that eliminates the need for someone to read meters to determine usage. There will be fifteen minutes of interrupted service when they do the installations. He also mentioned that if citizens apply early, they may receive a 'Smart-Board' and thermostat. He encouraged anyone with questions to call 1-800-672-2231.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming asked that council pass the annual 'Gov-Deals' internet sales program for 2019. He asked that be on the Consent Agenda for the next meeting. Fleming also noted that streets do not usually need plowing until the snowfall reaches three inches. Fleming went on to say that if anyone notices there are streets that need attention, let the city know and they will take care of it.

AUDITOR: Balyeat reported that the City ended 2018 ahead of where we ended in 2017. Income tax withholdings were successful and brought in around \$200,000 more than budgeted. She also shared that many of the departments had spent close to or under what was originally budgeted. She noted we can also expect the city to stay close to budget for 2019.

LAW DIRECTOR: Hatcher had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARKS AND RECREATION: Penton reported that preparations for the 2019 Parks season are under way. There has been approval for there to be a second full-time employee hired, and the Parks Department will be fully staffed. There is still a need for some volunteers to help mow and trim, especially in the Spring and Fall. Volunteers from last season are being contacted, with one already agreeing to help.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Mergy made a motion to introduce; as amended, **Ordinance 19-01-001: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5818-82 AND 6749-96, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE CITY INCOME TAX ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LANGUAGE ALLOWING A CHANGE IN USE FOR THE 5% STREET TAX AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** to revise Section 3 to say May 7, 2019. Seconded by Markward. Everyone concurred except for Agler. Mergy then made a motion to Suspend the rules for **Ordinance 19-01-001**. Seconded by Straley. All concurred except Agler. Mergy then asked that **Ordinance 19-01-001** be passed on 1st and final reading. Seconded by Straley. All concurred, except for Agler.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Straley reported that the final strategic planning meeting will be held February 14th, where they will forward a finalized version to everyone. Straley then made a motion to prepare District and the PACE Legislation on an emergency basis. Seconded by Mergy. All council members concurred.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Marshall reported that since the beginning of this year, there have already been eleven code violations. These violations include garbage, yard vehicles, broken windows, and vacant properties. There will be changes implemented on how these violations will be dealt with in the future. Repeat offenders will find that their fines may be raised for these violations, along with other possible actions. He then asked to amend **Ordinance Number: 19-01-003**; Section 96.24 to add language about who certifies vehicles that pick-up garbage. Seconded by Agler. All concurred.

FINANCE: Markward asked that **Ordinance 19-01-002: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RATES FOR EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION AND EMPLOYER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CITY OF VAN WERT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM AND HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT (HSA) PROGRAM, EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019, AMEND RESOLUTION 17-12-075 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**. Seconded by Mergy. All concurred except for Agler. Markward then asked that the rules be suspended for **Ordinance 19-01-002**. All concurred except for Agler. Markward asked that **Ordinance 19-01-002** be approved on the 1st and final reading. All concurred except for Agler. Agler then expressed concern that the insurance was too expensive. Balyeat replied that the health insurance is not as expensive at \$ 2700 and can also reduce the cost by \$500, if employees choose to participate in the wellness program. The amount that the employees are paying out of pocket and the amount of payroll deductions substantially less than before. These changes are a major improvement from the previous plan. The vote was then taken, and all councilmen concurred.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Agler motioned that an ordinance be prepared on an emergency basis that Ohio.gov legislation be utilized. Tomlinson added that the legislation would allow city property to be sold at auctions. The motion was seconded by Markward. All concurred.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Trittschuh had noting to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jon noted that sidewalk language can be removed from the agenda for the next meeting, since it was approved at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Markward made a motion that **Ordinance 18-12-069: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY TREASURER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, FOR THE YEARS 2020 AND 2021.** be approved on the 3RD and final reading. Straley seconded the motion. All concurred.

Markward made a motion to pass **Ordinance Number: 18-12-070: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY TREASURER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR THE YEARS 2020 AND 2021,** be approved on its 3rd and Final Reading. Seconded by Mergy. All concurred.

President Tomlinson asked that there be a revote on **Ordinance 18-12-069: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY TREASURER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR THE YEARS 2020 AND 2021,** due to the clerk not reading the ordinance number and title. The clerk read the ordinance and council members voted. All concurred.

The council members then had a revote on **Ordinance 18-12-070: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY TREASURER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR THE YEARS OF 2020 AND 2021** be approved on the 3rd and final reading. All concurred.

Straley made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.; seconded by Agler; with all concurring.

CLERK

PRESIDENT

DATE