

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Keith Stoller gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Marshall, Kallas, Penton, Agler, Mergy, Hellman and Davis were present.

Mergy made a motion approve the agenda for the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Hellman. All concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the 12/23/19 minutes. Seconded by Kallas. All concurred.

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Stacy Adam of Van Wert Economic Corp. gave a 2019 Economic update, which included 180 net jobs added, unemployment rate was at 3.4% and continues to be among the lower counties in Ohio. In May, at 2.5%, she reported that we had the lowest unemployment rate in nearly 4 decades. The gross income tax receipts for 2019 were up 184k over the prior year. Decline in population is slowing, the county population is projected to decline by 67 over the next 5 years, one year ago, and the 5-year decline was 202. The Land Bank continues to impact neighborhoods in Van Wert and surrounding villages. To date, 70 properties have been acquired and 60 demolitions have been completed. Van Wert was one of two Land Banks in Ohio granted a one-year contract extension. 7 projects are in progress and it is anticipated that 80 properties will be touched by December. The Revolving Loan Fund has grown by 45% to \$1.3 million. In 2019, over \$300k was loaned out to local businesses. Stacy also shared numerous examples of collaboration and partnerships in Van Wert that improves quality of life for Van Wert residents. Stacy also thanked City Council for financial and legislative support.

The President announced the upcoming events: Entrepreneur Workshop, sponsored by Kenn-Field Group, on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10305 Liberty-Union Road in Van Wert. He also announced a community health challenge, sponsored by Live Healthy Van Wert, enrollment is through January 31<sup>st</sup> and the challenge period begins on February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>. Markward noted that the flyer was a draft copy and that the event is being planned to go live, on their website, next Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> with more information. Van Wert Night with the Komets, Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM, tickets are \$16. Proceeds to Benefit the VW. Co. Regional Airport Expansion Project. Ceremonial puck drop will be by Mayor Ken Markward and the National Anthem will be sung by the Merry Gentleman.

The President also declared positions that needed filled on boards that require the Mayor to serve as a representative of the city. Other boards require a city council person or

someone that has been appointed by City Council. The first board filled was for the Van Wert Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Mayor serves as an ex-officio member of the board with voting rights and includes a member of the council, as appointed by the council President, who also has voting rights. The President announced that he has asked Jeff Agler to serve on that board on behalf of City Council. The next board filled was for the Van Wert Area County Revolving Loan Fund; the Mayor will serve on this board. Penton made a motion to appoint Jeff Kallas on behalf of City Council, Agler seconded. All concurred. The next request was made by the Fire Chief for the President to nominate two individuals to serve on the Volunteer Firefighters Dependence Fund. The Chief recommended the Council President and the Finance chair, Jeff Agler. It was noted that the board does not meet regularly and only meets when necessary. The President shared an email from the State of Ohio Ethics Commission asking council members to complete their 2019 financial disclosure statement. If it is not done in a timely manner, there will be a fine.

Agler motioned to appoint Joel Penton to serve as a city council representative for the Van Wert Main Street Board. Mergy seconded. Davis, Kallas, Marshall and Hellman concurred. Penton abstained.

The President noted that he had received a letter from Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District inviting community leaders to attend the annual planning and local work group meeting on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at Willow Bend County Club. The President announced that he was not available to attend and it was decided that either the Mayor or Safety Service Director would be in attendance to represent the city of Van Wert.

Christina Eversole of Van Wert County Victims Services and David Voth, Executive Director of Allen County Victims Services, were present to request city council funding. A summary of Van Wert victim services and legislation that impacts the mentioned summary was provided. Voth noted that Van Wert's victims' program is understaffed and also underfunded in comparison to other neighboring communities. Voth also spoke about Marsy's Law; a new law passed last November that is a change to the Ohio Constitution. Counties are required to provide victims their rights, currently the agency struggles to provide the mandated rights. Voth also spoke about the agency seeking funding from both the city and county to allow for 2 full time personnel to help meet the needs and requirements of the new law.

The President stated that we are currently operating on a temporary budget and that the request would be considered to the final, permanent budget for 2020.

The President noted the contact list for 2020/2021 and the committee assignments for 2020/2021, these were provided to everyone.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** The Mayor requested to reappoint people to various boards.

Agler made a motion to reappoint Tony Crawford to the Airport Authority Board of Trustees on a 2-year term (1-1-2020 through 12-31-2021). Mergy seconded. All concurred. Agler made a motion to reappoint Warren Foy to the Board of Zoning

Appeals on a 5-year term (1-1-2020 through 12-31-2024). Mergy seconded. All concurred. The Mayor announced that Bill Marshall had been appointed to the Design Review board on a 2-year term (1-1-2020 through 12-31-2021). Bob Gamble had been appointed to the City Planning Commission on a 6-year term (1-1-2020 through 12-31-2025). Councilman Joel Penton had been appointed to the Woodland Union Cemetery Board on a 3-year term (1-1-2020 through 12-31-2022). The Mayor also mentioned for anyone interested in Van Wert Night with the Komets, there is a link for the night and discounted price for the tickets on the Komets website.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming reported that the process had started for the rebidding of the painting for North Water Tower. The bids were high in the fall so it was decided wait and to take advantage of a more favorable bidding climate this winter. The bidding will open in a couple of weeks. The rain from the weekend allowed for the CSO basin to work. He reported that they had worked through a lot of bugs today and that he is working with educating everyone on how it should function. Fleming made note of a request from Properties and Equipment for a resolution to authorize him to sell unused equipment on GovDeals, Inc. and that a list would be provided at the next council meeting of items being sold for the calendar year of 2020.

A reminder was made to the community that if you have a dog, not on your property, a leash is required. He also mentioned the dog park, where dogs could be unleashed. The President inquired about the resurfacing of streets for the year, Fleming said he would make the list available at the next meeting.

**AUDITOR:** Balyeat was not able to provide the bank reconciliation report because of an issue with the software. The report provided shows that there is \$12.7 million in the bank and lists the various institutions where money is invested. The next page shows the general fund in 2019. \$6.6 million dollars was taken in, \$6.3 million dollars was spent. We took in \$282,628.19 more than what was spent. Martha explained the general fund to new council members. The report provided comparison 2019 to 2018. Martha presented a Then and Now invoice for approval. Martha explained Ohio's revised code to new council members as well regarding council approval for anything over \$3,000. The provided invoice is for Belna Petroleum Inc., in the amount of \$8,820.19. The invoice is for gas that was purchased in December.

The next page is a list of all the funds that the city has and their revenue sources so that council members have it for future reference and understanding. The fourth quarter credit card report was provided with the number of credit cards accounts, cardholders, credit limits and expiration dates. Martha also provided the annual credit card report of rewards. The last redemption of rewards was for \$1,025 to pay for the Christmas luncheon for city employees.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Hatcher reported that he had sent out an email about some information regarding a homeless issue that another city had experienced. He noted that any information received, advocating either side would be shared to council members so when it is discussed and decided, as much information would be available for reference. He welcomed new council members to contact him with questions or anything needed and also noted that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Marshall reported that since his last report, 11 new violations were reported. He shared his concerns about a few cases that have carried over from last year and planned to speak to Hatcher regarding dispositions. Marshall also reported that 9 trash haulers were listed but only 6 had registered their vehicles for the year. Local trash haulers must renew their registration with the city to be able to provide trash collection services in Van Wert. Registration includes inspection of vehicles used to collect trash and must be completed by January 31.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report was given.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Penton reported that he had spoken with Kyle Klinker last week and there were no problems to report. All of the grant projects are complete except for the new safety netting for Smiley Park, it is on hand and scheduled to be installed in March, weather permitting. Volunteers are needed for mowing, especially for spring and fall. Help with medians and small areas like the old Gas Station on Main Street would be very helpful.

Penton also stated that he had met with Andy McMahon of Haven of Hope to ask about concerning questions. Andy provided answers and if anyone wanted to know what the discussion entailed, to contact him.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Davis requested for a resolution to be prepared, authorizing GovDeals and declaring an emergency for the year 2020. Agler seconded. All concurred. Davis motioned to introduce **Resolution Number 20-01-001**. Agler seconded. All concurred. Davis made a motion to suspend statutory rules to **Resolution Number 20-01-001**. Agler seconded. All concurred. Davis made a motion to pass **Resolution Number 20-01-001: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2020 OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED BY INTERNET AUCTION, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 721.15(D), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Agler seconded. All concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No report was given.

The President announced that he had asked Mergy to reach out to Garry Hunter of Ohio Municipal League to meet regarding charter government and contracting with his group to help Council with the communication for the upcoming vote on charter government. The President stated his hope was to have a six-month opportunity to educate the public regarding the matter. A contract is also needed for his services.

FINANCE: Agler made a motion to approve Then in Now invoice number 456257, 456258, 456457, 456458, 456608, 456609, 456735, 456736, 456846, 456847, in the

amount of \$8820.19 to Belna Petroleum Inc. for gas purchased in December. Mergy seconded. All concurred.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Code Enforcement

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Marshall made a motion to pass 19-11-073 to pass on its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.  
Kallas seconded.

**Ordinance Number 19-11-073**                      **Committee: Health, Service and Safety**  
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE VAN WERT CITY CODE OF**  
**ORDINANCES 96.01 OF THE VAN WERT CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES.**  
**(Age of junk vehicles)**

3<sup>rd</sup> advisory vote:

Davis, Penton, Mergy, Kallas, Marshall, Agler and Hellman voted yes.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.; seconded by Kallas; with all concurring.

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CLERK

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PRESIDENT

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DATE