

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
March 23<sup>rd</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: Kallas, Penton, Agler and Hellman were present.

Davis joined via web due to concerns of Covid-19.

Agler made a motion to excuse Marshall and Mergy. Seconded by Hellman; all concurred.

Joi Mergy joined via web at 6:51pm. Marshall was watching the meeting live on television and communicating to the President via text message.

Penton made a motion to approve the agenda for the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Seconded by Kallas; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to approve the 3/9/20 minutes. Seconded by Penton. All concurred.

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Stacy Adam from Van Wert Economic Development was present to speak about 111 West Main Street, on behalf of the business owner. The building was purchased from the city nearly 10 years ago, on a revolving loan, with the understanding that it had a clean title. The current owner recently tried to sell the building but it was found that the building had a lien on it.

Council agreed it was a mistake made on the city's part and agreed to immediately pay the \$11,500 lien and will decide how to go about seeking reimbursement from that payment.

Stacy stated that she had reached out to the Ohio Development Services to consider revisions to guidelines and job requirements needed for Revolving Loan Fund aid for local businesses impacted by COVID-19 mandates. On Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Ohio Development Services provided a new set of guidelines. Van Wert Economic Development will immediately be accepting working capital loan applications from local small businesses to try to get them through the short term. They are going to allocate all the remaining money they have and make that available, based on the new guidelines received on Friday. The office is open for phone calls or you can go to [info@vanwerted.com](mailto:info@vanwerted.com) to do everything electronically.

The President shared an email from Vicki Schulte, from the Peony Festival board, stating that she had dropped off her F permit at the water department office.

The President read an email from Andy McMahon referencing the stay at home order from Governor Dewine, regarding Covid-19, under section 1, paragraph 2. A lengthy

discussion ensued regarding the Governor's stay at home order and the request from Haven of Hope to temporarily open the shelter to house the homeless during the pandemic. Penton made a motion to temporarily allow Haven of Hope to open and operate during the Covid-19 situation until the stay at home order is discontinued by the Governor's office, assuming Haven of Hope obtains all other occupational permits required. Kallas seconded; Penton, Kallas, Hellman, David concurred, Agler voted no, Mergy was no longer on the video conference, and Marshall texted his Yes vote to the President.

Kirsten Barnhart (Times Bulletin) asked about local employers who are not adhering to the Governor's COVID-19 safety orders. The Safety Service Director met with local law enforcement earlier in the day to discuss if law enforcement is the proper place to 'police' local employers. The President recommended employees with concerns should report those to State authorities.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** The Mayor spoke about ordinances that would be requested by Mr. Agler regarding non-bargaining city employees in both the safety and service departments (i.e. Salary Ordinance). Another request will be coming from the Mr. Hellman related to the loading zone at the Party Shop being changed to 1-minute parking spots on N. Shannon Street. The Peony Festival has submitted their F-Permit application with a change in location to be within Fountain Park itself rather than on Jefferson Street.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming stated that, during the COVID-19 crisis, all city workers are considered essential employees. It was requested for them to monitor temperatures and their health conditions before going to work.

Fleming added that the city is working with the Van Wert County Emergency Operations Center if the county has a confirmed case of COVID-19. He stated EMA (Emergency Management Agency), Police departments, the Sheriff Department, Health Department, and Hospital staff are working together to plan direction and understanding throughout the community in this time.

**AUDITOR:** Balyeat reminded council of the final vote for the permanent budget appropriations for 2020. Balyeat highlighted changes between the temporary and permanent figures were emailed to council on Friday. She also suggested we add in the \$11,500 for the Revolving Loan issue above to be added under Council – Other Operating for now (7140 line 53 to \$48,150); this avoid a supplemental appropriation later. The reimbursement of \$11,500 will be researched and determined at a later point in time. Other additions for \$1000 to the Humane Society, Parks Department maintenance workers, Financial Reports are now being outsourced due to changes in government accounting rules, bonds for the HVAC system, various Street Department items such as

Bonnewitz/Grill/Kear reconstruction project, more money for the Market Street bridge project, Jubilee Park batting cages joint project between the City and the Lion's Club, and Health Reimbursement adjustments in the Water Department. Balyeat concluded her report noting a Then & Now invoice Squier Patton Boggs for the HVAC bond work.

LAW DIRECTOR: Hatcher reported that the courts are open for business with strict measures in place for business. Hatcher urged anyone with legal cases pending to contact their counsel or contact a court administrator by phone or email to find out if their hearing has been turned into a telephone hearing, stating that most civil cases have. If you have a criminal case and it's a pretrial, and not a trial or motion hearing of some kind, he urged those to contact their counsel or contact the court to find out if their case has been turned into a telephone pretrial and receive details that go along with that.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No report was given.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report was given.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Penton reported that the parks department is still in need of volunteers to assist in installing the new safety netting at Smiley Park. The date of that and if there will be a baseball/softball season is still unknown at this time because of COVID-19. The hope is to begin in late April. The plan is to get one section completed with park employees, before calling for volunteers so they can be instructed. 2 Full time employment opportunities through the summer months only are available. Employees make minimum wage. Duties include cutting grass, cleaning restrooms, emptying trash, maintaining ball diamonds and other duties. Fleming noted that the parks are continuing with baseball/softball registrations, continuing on as normal. If the season is cancelled, refunds will be given.

FINANCE: Agler motioned to approve a Then and Now for invoice number 10168717, in the amount of \$9,000 to Squire Patton Boggs, a legal firm issuing the bonds for the HVAC and lighting project. Seconded by Kallas; with all concurring. Agler made a motion for a salary ordinance to be prepared on an emergency basis for the service department, non-bargaining wages. Seconded by Hellman; with all concurring. Agler made a motion for a salary ordinance to be prepared on an emergency basis for the safety department, non-bargaining wages. Seconded by Penton; with all concurring.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No report was given.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Hellman requested a resolution to be prepared, authorizing the safety service director to purchase rock salt from the Ohio Department of Transportation on an emergency basis. Seconded by Agler; with all concurring. Hellman

motioned to introduce **Resolution Number 20-03-018.** Agler seconded; with all concurring. Hellman motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Resolution Number 20-03-018.** Agler seconded; with all concurring. Hellman motioned to pass **Resolution Number 20-03-018: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, TO ENTER INTO, AND PARTICIPATE IN A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROCK SALT) FOR THE 2020-2021 WINTER SEASON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Agler seconded; with all concurring. Hellman requested an ordinance to be prepared changing the loading zone, to (2) 15-minute parking space at the intersection of West Main Street and North Shannon Street, on the west side. Seconded by Agler; with all concurring. Hellman motioned to introduce **Ordinance Number 20-03-019: AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE SPACE 82 FEET NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF WEST MAIN STREET AND NORTH SHANNON STREET ON THE WEST SIDE OF N. SHANNON STREET FROM A LOADING ZONE TO 15 MINUTE PARKING.**

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report was given.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Code Enforcement  
Charter Government

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> & Final Vote:**

**ORDINANCE Number: 20-02-012**

**Committee: Finance**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO, FROM JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Vote:**

**Ordinance Number 20-03-019**

**Committee: Streets and Alleys**

**AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE SPACE 82 FEET NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF WEST MAIN STREET AND NORTH SHANNON STREET ON THE WEST SIDE OF N. SHANNON STREET FROM A LOADING ZONE TO 15 MINUTE PARKING.**

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

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.; seconded by Hellman; all concurred.

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CLERK

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PRESIDENT

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DATE