

# MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

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

Van Wert City Council held the meeting via Zoom to adhere to social distancing rules due to COVID-19.

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

President Jon Tomlinson gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Marshall, Kallas, Penton, Mergy, Hellman and Davis were present. Penton made a motion to excuse Agler. Seconded by Mergy; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Hellman; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to approve the 3/23/20 minutes. Seconded by Marshall; all concurred.

## COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

The President noted an email from Mr. Hellman, regarding the condition of North Linn Street, he requested Mr. Hellman bring it up during his report. The President also mentioned an email received on March of 2020 from our tax administrator, Balyeat also had sent out the financial via email.

The President requested the Vice-Chair, Joi Mergy for finance, to request an ordinance to pay invoice number 0133374 in the amount \$1829 for ordinances from American Legal Publishing.

Martha corrected the request that an ordinance was not needed to approve the payment, but was needed to approve the supplementals. Mr. Hatcher was forwarded the necessary information to address at the next meeting of council.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Mayor reminded everyone that the city is not in charge of recycling but that the Van Wert County Solid Waste Management was and shared the latest update from their website, dated last week and it appears that they plan to resume a week from today, subject to change. He encouraged anyone wanting more information or with questions to call 419-238-7767.

The Mayor encouraged everyone in the city to respond to the Federal Census, their estimation is that 50% of our residents have responded, which is a state average but the Mayor hopes to have a better response.

The Mayor announced that our delegation that was planning on visiting us from our sister city in Japan have postponed their visit to July of 2021.

The President asked the Mayor about Voting. The Mayor noted that those who wish to vote must fill out an application for an absentee ballot, fill out the ballot once received, and then mail the ballot by April 27 to the Van Wert Board of Elections. Ballots may also be dropped off in person until April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming reported that brush pick-ups are scheduled to begin on Monday, May 4, Monday, June 29, and Monday, August 31. He noted that the city has been operating at half-staff, with staff working every other day; there is no full staff in any department. The plans are to continue working like this until May 4<sup>th</sup>, as more information and updates regarding COVID-19 become available.

Fleming also noted that bids for the summer street painting project would be opened this Thursday. A curb in front of Central Insurance Companies will be grinded down tomorrow morning.

**AUDITOR:** Balyeat shared the March Bank Reconciliation Report that showed the balance on the books at \$13.4 million and the balance in bank accounts and investments at \$13.4 million. New Investment Municipal Building HVAC Bonds – the bonds the City sold in March and then purchased as an investment. The cash position report showed all funds had a positive balance as of 3-31-20. The General Fund Revenue 2019 - 2020 is down \$131,926 from 2019 but does not include the Real Estate Tax settlement which was received in April - \$196,000. The Income Tax collections are about where anticipated however April will give a better picture of the effects of the COVID 19 shut downs. Balyeat reported that the Finance Chair would need to request 2 pieces of legislation. One is to establish new Fund 801 -ESID: to received funds from Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) funding. It was originally told it did not require a separate fund but State Auditors are saying it does. The first payment from VW Health was received with the tax settlement. Also, a Supplemental appropriation is needed, reducing the General Fund \$14,219.86 and placing it in Fund 801 for ESID payment to the Toledo Port Authority.

Balyeat also presented an invoice that needed approval as a Then and Now for Henschen & Associates, Invoice Number: 20200199, \$3,590 for web sessions at the Municipal Court.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Hatcher reiterated from his report from last week that the courts are open for business with strict measures in place and at a reduced capacity. Civil cases have been postponed until the end of May or first of June, at the earliest. Hatcher also reported that a House Bill had been passed that has pulled all legal timelines. The statute of limitations, timelines of limitations have been pulled, at least until July. Hatcher

advised anyone in the public, represented by legal counsel, to contact their counsel and inquire about their case.

Hatcher reported he has been in contact with Mr. Nolan, the attorney for Haven of Hope, the record has been certified and sent to the court. The timeline for this case has also been delayed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** Marshall reported 6 code violations; with two open cases. Marshall reminded the public as mowing season begins, grass clippings from mowing into the roadways are hazardous and prohibited. Marshall also noted that furniture and appliances on the curbside of streets are prohibited. He encouraged residents replacing furniture or moving to have a plan in place to properly dispose of unwanted items.

Marshall noted a reoccurring issue of tenants leaving a number of items in front of apartment rentals when vacating properties. Marshall noted leaving belongings and/or trash is a code violation. Marshall requested owners of city rental properties to be more attentive of the issue.

The Mayor also noted that a citywide clean-up day has not yet been decided on. He did note that if there was one, appliances should not be accepted, as residents can take appliances to recycling centers and receive money for doing so. The President suggested because of COVID-19 and social distancing, for the city to hold off on scheduling a city wide clean up day.

Hatcher reported that he has been in contact with the guardian of 317 South Vine Street, a nuisance property for quite some time. Hatcher noted that he believed the property is going to be turned over to the Land Bank and be demolished.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Kallas reported that the Economic Development Office recommends that all residents use the state's website <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/>.

It is updated daily and has useful information and links. Click on the "economic resources for individuals and families".

Kallas shared a few highlights from programs recently enacted:

On March 25<sup>th</sup> the Senate unanimously passed the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. This included:

- Paycheck Protection Program is a modification of the Small Business Administrations 7a loan program.
  - All or a portion of the loan amount will be forgiven as long as:

- Loan proceeds are used to cover payroll costs and most mortgage interest, rent and utility costs over the 8-week period after the loan is made.
    - Employee and compensation levels are maintained.
  - Applications can be submitted through local banks that are approved SBA lenders
- SBA (Small Business Admin) Economic Impact Disaster Loans
  - Provides economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - An eligible entity may request an advance on the loan, up to \$10,000. The advance may be used towards paid sick leave to employees, payroll, and increased costs of materials, rent or mortgage payments, and repayment of other obligations that cannot be met due to revenue losses. The advance does not need to be repaid, even if the applicant is subsequently denied for an Economic Impact Disaster Loan.
  - A business can apply at <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/>
- Recovery Rebates for individuals
  - Provision provides US residents or citizens with adjusted gross income under \$75,000 (\$150,000 married), who are not the dependent of another taxpayer and have a work-eligible SSN a \$1200 (\$2400 married) rebate. They are also eligible for an additional \$500 per child.
    - Rebates gradually phase out above adjusted gross incomes of \$75000 (single) and \$150000 (joint).
    - Most people do not need to take any action. The IRS will calculate their payment amount and automatically send it to them (in the form of checks or direct deposit).
- Emergency Unemployment Benefit changes
  - The new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program will provide benefits for many individuals ineligible for state unemployment benefits, including self-employed workers and 1099 tax filers from January 27 - December.
  - Waiting week for unemployment benefits temporarily removed
  - Additional \$600 / week emergency increase in unemployment compensation added to weekly unemployment benefit, effective until July 31, 2020.
  - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation adds an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for individuals who have exhausted their state unemployment benefits through December 31, 2020.
  - There have been some delays due to the number of applicants. However, approved unemployment benefits will be retroactive to the time that you became eligible. Any delays in submitting an application will not affect the benefit amount you will receive.
- The Van Wert County Revolving Loan Fund has low to no interest loans with deferred payments for 3 months available to approved impacted businesses to be used for working capital. The board is limiting amounts to support, as many businesses as possible but this may make much needed funding quickly available

to businesses. The Economic Development office has been able to turnaround this funding and get a check to those businesses that have been approved in one week from the time a completed application is received.

To inquire about the local Revolving Loan Program, questions or support in general, please contact Stacy Adam at the Van Wert Area Economic Development Office at 419-238-2999.

PARKS AND RECREATION: No report was given.

FINANCE: Finance Chair Mergy motioned to approve a Then and Now invoice, to Henschen & Associates, for invoice number: 20200199, in the amount of \$3590, for computer work at the Municipal Court. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Mergy motioned to introduce **Ordinance Number 20-04-020**. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Ordinance Number 20-04-020**. Davis seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to pass **Ordinance Number 20-04-020: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-12-074 AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE SAFETY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT, NON-BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING FOR SICK LEAVE, VACATION SCHEDULE, ALLOWANCES, IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading.

Hellman seconded; all concurred.

Mergy motioned to introduce **Ordinance Number 20-04-021**. Davis seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Ordinance Number 20-04-021**. Davis seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to pass **Ordinance Number 20-04-021: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-12-073 PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AUDITOR'S OFFICE, INCOME TAX AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING FOR SICK LEAVE, VACATION SCHEDULE, ALLOWANCES, IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Hellman seconded; all concurred.

Mergy motioned for an ordinance establishing a new fund, known as fund 801 (ESID) to be prepared on an emergency basis. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to introduce **Ordinance Number 20-04-022**. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Ordinance Number 20-04-022**. Marshall seconded; all concurred. Mergy made a motion to pass **Ordinance Number 20-04-022: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW FUND HEREAFTER KNOWN AS**

**FUND 801 (ESID) FOR THE PURPOSES OF ALLOCATING MONIES FROM THE PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) FINANCING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Hellman seconded; all concurred.

Mergy motioned for an ordinance to make supplemental appropriations to funds 101 and 801 to be prepared on an emergency basis. Penton seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to introduce **Ordinance Number 20-04-023**. Hellman seconded; all concurred. Mergy made a motion to suspend statutory rules to **Ordinance Number 20-04-023**. Marshall seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to pass **Ordinance Number 20-04-023: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO FUNDS 101, 801, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Joi noted that Council will meet next Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m., as a committee-of-the-whole to discuss where homeless shelters, like Haven of Hope, fit in the City's zoning codes and how the City should define homeless shelters going forward. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Hellman reported that a citizen had contacted him about the condition of North Linn Street. Hellman noted that he went to examine it himself and noted that it is a safety concern and that something should be done. The President asked the Safety Service Director to send the Street Department to take a look at it.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report was given.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Code Enforcement  
Charter Government

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**2<sup>nd</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.**

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

Mergy made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.; seconded by Davis; all concurred.



CLERK



PRESIDENT

4/27/20

DATE

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1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country. It is followed by a detailed analysis of the economic and social conditions. The third part of the report is devoted to a study of the political situation and the role of the government. The fourth part of the report is devoted to a study of the cultural and educational situation. The fifth part of the report is devoted to a study of the military situation. The sixth part of the report is devoted to a study of the international situation. The seventh part of the report is devoted to a study of the future prospects of the country.