

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
May 27th, 2020

President Pro Tem, Joi Mergy 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.

Agler made a motion to approve the agenda for the May 27th meeting. Seconded by Penton; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve the 5/27/20 minutes. Seconded by Penton; all concurred.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Robert Kistler, of 914 West Main Street was present to address council to consider legislation pertaining to semis and shared driveways. Mr. Kistler shared that he presently shares a driveway with a neighbor who drives a semi and is damaging the driveway shared at his property. He has contacted the trucking company, the landowner and the Van Wert City Police Department to remain civil and reach an agreement, without having to go to court. Mr. Kistler also shared that he had recently rented equipment and laid 25 tons of stone on the driveway and absorbed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost, with the landlord agreeing to pay $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost.

Hatcher advised Kistler to inspect the deed for the agreement on the shared driveway to see if there was anything that prevents the semi driver from parking his work vehicle in the area. Hatcher also noted that he understood Mr. Kistler's concern and agreed that he had legitimate legal recourse with the expenses to maintain it. He advised city council that because of it being private property, he had reservations about city council getting involved because it would be complex to tell property owners that they aren't permitted to park certain vehicles in their driveways. While city council does have a say on parking on city streets, they are not able to legislate parking in shared driveways.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Mayor reported as of yesterday, the tennis courts at Smiley Park and pickle ball courts at Franklin Park are now open to the public. Markward also reported that residents would be seeing activity at a Land Bank-owned property, at the southwest corner of Keplar and Market Streets. Vantage Career Center

students will be building a new house in that location. One of the purposes of the Land Bank is to put houses back into place where taxes would be paid, opposed to vacant lots. The foundation will be laid in the summer and the carpentry and electrical work would be started in the fall.

Joe Jared asked if the parks would be opening anytime soon.

The President reported that due to the state mandate, playgrounds would remain closed.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming reported that the existing Jefferson Street Bridge should be completely gone by Thursday, he also announced that a portion of Van Wert-Decatur Road, between Burger King and Chief Supermarket, would be closed next Wednesday for eight hours for pavement repair.

AUDITOR: Balyeat reported at the last meeting, the finance committee requested a resolution, accepting any and all federal CARES grant dollars that are being sent to the city and would be spent appropriately as stated in the act and had been prepared. Balyeat noted that a second fund was required to establish local (state) CARES act money.

LAW DIRECTOR: Hatcher reported that a judiciary and annexation committee meeting was scheduled for Monday June 1 at 6:30, in chambers. He reported that he would be sending out material on Friday with a survey, regarding the different zoning classifications. He asked council to be prepared for the meeting with opinions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Marshall reported that the committee had backed off of code violation due to COVID-19, in the last two months. He reported 20 code violations for May and reminded residents to cut their grass and weeds, all around their homes.

Marshall requested a committee meeting for June 8th at 6:15pm to discuss abandoned properties, code enforcement and tax delinquency properties that are over two years old

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Stacy Adam was present to report that unemployment in the county had gone from a 30-year low of 2.5 percent in April 2019 to a 30-year high of 16.2 percent this past April. Adam noted that she expects the unemployment numbers to be higher for May due to filings by 1099 tax filers, who previously weren't able to file for unemployment, and due to planned shutdowns by local factories.

She also noted that the county was in the top 10 percent of the state in job growth prior to COVID-19. Adam looks for unemployment to be much lower as businesses open back up but noted that there will be a transition period. Van Wert Area Economic

Development Corporation will be holding a virtual annual meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 16. Those interested in accessing the meeting, which will be held via Zoom software, should call the office at 419.238.2229.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Penton reported as of last week, the department has filled all the open temporary positions and everything is going well. Confirmation was received yesterday that at least two baseball leagues and co-ed softball leagues would be attempting to begin playing in June if they can comply with the state guidelines and they are expected to play. The Parks Department would like to thank the Lions Clubs for donating the cost of a batting cage for Jubilee Park. The department will set that up in the near future. They also want to thank Central Mutual for continuing to cut the grass at Franklin Park and at the corner of Washington and Ervin Road, that is a huge help to the city.

FINANCE: Agler motioned to introduce **Resolution Number 20-05-033**. Penton seconded; all concurred. Agler motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Resolution Number 20-05-033**. Penton seconded; all concurred. Agler motioned to pass **Resolution Number 20-05-033: A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE USE OF ALL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS, AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Penton seconded; all concurred. Agler motioned for an ordinance to be prepared, establishing a fund to receive and distribute funds from the state of Ohio Coronavirus aid and relief, on an emergency basis. Davis seconded; all concurred. Agler made a motion to introduce **Resolution Number 20-05-032**. Davis seconded; all concurred. Agler motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Resolution Number 20-05-032**. Davis seconded; all concurred. Agler made a motion **Resolution Number 20-05-032: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW FUND HEREAFTER KNOWN AS FUND 229 (LOCAL CARES GRANT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on its first and final reading. Davis seconded; all concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Mergy reminded city council that a Judiciary Committee meeting was scheduled for June 1st, at 6:30 pm, in Council Chambers, to discuss zoning language.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report was given.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Code Enforcement
Charter Government

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

Mergy motioned to introduce **Ordinance Number 20-05-031**. Agler seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to suspend statutory rules to **Ordinance Number: 20-05-031**. Agler seconded; all concurred. Mergy motioned to pass

Ordinance Number 20-05-031

Committee: Property and Equipment

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE AND SELL THE CITY'S UNUSED, UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE, OR UNFIT VEHICLES BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY on its first and final reading. Agler seconded; all concurred.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

At 7:16 PM, Agler made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation of Haven of Hope and the pending purchase of property. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

At 8:02 PM, Agler motioned to exit executive session. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.; seconded by Hellman; all concurred.

CLERK

PRESIDENT

DATE