

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**

January 11th, 2020

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

Pastor Keith Stoller gave the invocation.

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

Agler made a motion to excuse Penton. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the agenda for the January 11th meeting. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 28th Council meeting. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, & PETITIONS

Tomlinson informed Council that the downtown development group, Van Wert Forward, has asked to make a presentation before Council at the next meeting on January 25th, and will be added to the agenda for that meeting.

Tomlinson also stated that Marshall agreed to be on the board for Main Street Van Wert for 2021. Agler made a motion to approve Marshall to this seat. Hellman seconded; Kallas, Mergy, and Davis concurred. Marshall abstained.

Tomlinson then noted the Chromebooks that have been purchased for Council, and that they were now operational. Tomlinson reiterated that these were purchased with CARES Act funds, and have the purposes of online meetings, if ever needed, improved communication, and reduced paper consumption.

Stacy Adam, Executive Director of Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation, submitted a 2020 overview of the Van Wert Economic Development to Council. She provided contact information to Council, and stated she was willing to come to the next meeting to answer any questions Council might have.

Secondly, Adam informed Council that Trucent, Inc., a Michigan-based company, will be expanding and will be adding a plant in Van Wert at 1202 Industrial Drive (the old Varco Pruden building). Adam stated that Trucent is a global leader in fluid recovery and regeneration solutions, such as Fluid Separation for Metalworking and Manufacturing, Industrial Fluid Control, Plant Process Optimization, Corn Oil Extraction, and Oil Flow Optimization. She also relayed that Trucent plans to hire 21 employees with an annual payroll in excess of \$1 million, with a planned investment of \$12.5 million in this project.

Adam also briefed Council on the building that Trucent will be using, stating that this building was owned locally, and a portion of it was used in the past for warehouse space. At the current time, Trucent's use of the building will not interfere with that warehouse space and usage.

Tomlinson asked about Toledo Molding and Die's local investments. Adam relayed that this was based in Delphos, and so would support jobs in Van Wert County, but was not specific to the city of Van Wert.

Joe Jared asked if the Home Guard demolition was remediating the tetrachloroethylene issue. Adam stated that the main focus is removing the debris that is considered "hot" (asbestos contaminated). They are removing the basement debris, looking to get the basement walls sealed, and then it will be filled back in with dirt. It should be sidewalk level when finished. Adam stated that the Van Wert County Foundation is aware that remediation would need to be checked, and may be required, in the future if another building should be constructed on that site.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: Markward updated Council on two promotions in the Fire Department. Brian R. Ankney was promoted to Captain, and Austin T. Miller was promoted to Lieutenant.

The Mayor also informed Council of five reappointments: Mark Hartman to the Civil Service Commission (term ending 12/31/2026), Jay Fleming to the Design Review Board (term ending 12/31/2022), David Mathew to the Woodland Union Cemetery Board (term ending 12/31/2022), Rick Turner to the Community Reinvestment Board (term ending 12/31/2023), and Stacy Adam to the Community Reinvestment Board (term ending 12/31/2022).

With the approval of Council, Markward also stated his intention to make six other appointments and/or reappointments. To the Board of Zoning Appeals, the reappointees are Greg Amstutz (term ending 12/31/2025), Dennis Cummings (term ending 12/31/2023), and Sam Laurent (term ending 12/31/2022). To the Board of Tax Review, the reappointees are Julia McGrath (term ending 12/31/2021) and Paul Hoverman (term ending 12/31/2022). To the Community Reinvestment Board, the appointee is Mark Bagley (term ending 12/31/2023).

Mergy made a motion to approve Greg Amstutz, Dennis Cummings, and Sam Laurent to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve Julia McGrath and Paul Hoverman to the Board of Tax Review. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve Mark Bagley to the Community Reinvestment Board. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming stated that no-parking signs have been posted on Middle Street. He noted these are a reminder at this time, and enforcement won't occur unless the ordinance passes.

Agler asked about a building on Market Street. Fleming acknowledged that the city owned the building. He stated that someone must have been in the building, had a fire going, and caught the building on fire. Fleming also stated the building will be closed up, and should be taken down by March 31st.

Agler also asked about a possible speed limit change on Mendon Road. Fleming stated that a report would be coming at the next meeting, as they have conducted speed tests from both directions on the stretch in question. He said it was likely that a speed limit change would be needed, but it will be discussed at the next meeting. He also stated that the township is on board with the change, if it is deemed necessary.

Tomlinson asked about the loud "boom" Sunday night, but it was discussed it was likely a firework.

AUDITOR: Balyeat shared the financials for the month of December and the end of the 2020 year. The bank reconciliation showed a balance of \$13.3 million in the bank, and \$13.3 million in the various investments and bank accounts.

The statement of cash position's report on the unexpended balance shows a positive balance in all funds as required. She noted that Fund 101 (General Fund) showed a carryover of \$2 million - which was the first time the carryover number reached that amount since she has been here. She explained this is mostly due to CARES Act money, so it was noted that any future comparisons to 2020 will be skewed due to that fact. The report shows \$6.5 million in revenues, and \$6.1 million spent.

She continued to explain that the city took in \$411,000 more than what was spent. This was opposite of the projections, as they anticipated spending more than was brought in. The reduction in expenses was due to CARES Act funds, \$480,000 of which was charged to Police and Fire Department salaries. In addition, a workers' compensation rebate of \$228,000 was also received. Tomlinson noted that, without those two income streams, they would be over \$300,000 below the line. Balyeat noted that most categories in the General Fund show less money taken in for 2020 than 2019.

Balyeat noted that for 2021, the outlook is healthy due to the carryover from CARES Act money. Looking several years into the future, she explained that, without growth, the city would be in a "hurtful position". Balyeat suggested that the Finance Committee meet to discuss using the full two-thirds of the .22 tax over the next two years. She further stated that this year's budget general fund expenses are projected to be more than \$1 million more than what they project to take in. She again stated that the Finance Committee should consider this idea to protect the city two to three years from now. Tomlinson clarified that they project a shortfall in 2021 and 2022 that will use up the \$2 million current surplus, and without growth, the projection for 2023

would be problematic. Balyeat affirmed that statement. Tomlinson suggested that he would like to see what the first quarter of 2021 holds, and then schedule a meeting to discuss the situation.

LAW DIRECTOR: The Law Director had no report for the evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE, and SAFETY: Marshall explained that for 2021, he planned to key in on archaic ordinances, or ordinances that needed to be updated. He noted that he provided Council with the current ordinance on fencing, and gave them a preview of what he might propose on that front. He also stated he would try to bring these items to Council in advance so that they know what will be discussed.

Marshall also stated that he had no new figures to report on code violations at this time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Economic Development had no report for the evening.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Parks and Recreation had no report for the evening.

FINANCE: Finance had no report for the evening.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Judiciary and Annexation had no report for the evening.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Streets and Alleys had no report for the evening.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: Property and Equipment had no report for the evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tomlinson noted that Marshall had discussed code enforcement.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business brought before Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Agler made a motion to pass **ORDINANCE Number: 20-11-071: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH WATER AND SEWER RATES AND FEES IN THE YEAR OF 2021 FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** on third and final reading. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Second reading advisory for **ORDINANCE Number: 20-12-076: AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE WEST SIDE OF MIDDLE STREET FROM MOBERLY STREET TO CABLE STREET TO A NO PARKING ZONE.** All concurred; second reading passed.

ADJOURN

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Mergy seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Andrew Bittner



Council President
Jon Tomlinson

01/25/2021

Date