

MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

November 22nd, 2021

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, Penton, Agler, Mergy, Hellman, and Davis were present.

Prior to approval of the agenda, Tomlinson stated that the Law Director had informed him that Council would need to enter Executive Session, to discuss the opioid settlement, after the reading of the ordinances and before adjournment, with no action taken after the Executive Session.

Mergy made a motion to approve the amended agenda, as proposed by Tomlinson, for the November 22nd Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 8th Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 8th Council of the Whole meeting, on the topic of possible changes to ward boundaries. Agler seconded; all concurred.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, & PETITIONS

Tomlinson informed those in attendance that representatives from the Van Wert County Airport had requested to be on the agenda for the December 13th, 2021 Council meeting, to discuss budgetary items. They will be placed under Comments, Communications, and Petitions for that meeting.

Tomlinson also stated that a letter and list of elected officials for Van Wert had been received from the Ohio Ethics Commission, requesting to verify the names, addresses, and term dates for elected officials. The clerk will review these documents and return them by December 3rd, 2021.

Davis congratulated the Van Wert High School football team, band, and cheerleaders for their run in the playoffs.

Davis also stated that he had received word that Mitch Price, of Main Street Van Wert, was stepping away from his position, and that the job and job description for this position is posted on vanwertworks.com. The deadline to submit an application is December 10, 2021.

Kallas thanked those that were able to attend the first Thanksgiving dinner at the School at the Goedde. He said that the students did a great job preparing that meal, and that it was a tremendous success.

Marshall relayed that the American Legion will be hosting a Christmas parade on November 27th, at 6:00 p.m. This will include an appearance from Santa Claus, as well as lights.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: Mayor Markward stated that when Van Wert Health was redoing their parking lot lights, a group was formed called the "Special Energy Improvement District", with 5 members. One of those members is chosen by Council, and up to this point, Mergy was the member appointed. She has decided to step down from that position, effective in January 2022. Markward stated that Council can appoint anyone, and it doesn't need to be a member of Council. He wanted to inform Council, so they could consider taking action, or wait until the new Council is in place to select an appointee.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming informed Council that the flood plane remediation project in Vision Park is nearly complete.

Fleming also reminded the public that leaf pickup will continue this week and for a few weeks afterward, ending the week of December 6, 2021.

Fleming asked for two salary ordinances to be requested for preparation, one for safety and the one for services. Fleming also made a recommendation to include a 3% increase for non-bargaining members in those ordinances.

Tomlinson asked about Go Green, the company that is renting the transfer station from the city. He asked if they have weekend open hours for the public to drop off their own leaf bags. Markward stated they typically had Saturday hours during the summer, but not during the fall or winter.

Joe Jared, 233 Burt St., asked about signage on city boulevards, asking if more could be done to alert the less careful drivers in the city of road changes who aren't accustomed to change. Fleming said that the boulevard median areas are full of dirt now, so if someone drives into them, they can drive out of them. In the spring, trees will be planted and the changes will be more visible. Jared asked again if there was anything more that could be done to make it stand out. Fleming said they could put chevrons in front of each end for the winter, and Davis agreed that in the spring, when trees were planted, it would be a lot more obvious. He stated they would put up additional signage.

AUDITOR: Balyeat stated that she had two invoices that needed to be approved on a Then and Now. The first invoice was for OMAASC Professional Services, in the amount of \$12,864.30, related to the charter issue. The second invoice was for the Van Wert County Auditor, in the amount of \$3,413.12. The city and county jointly sold a chipper on GovDeals, and this payment was the county's portion of the sale.

Balyeat also stated that there are year-end supplemental appropriations that need to be requested for preparation. Balyeat explained that many of the appropriations in the General Fund were due to health care reimbursements or health care changes, and that some of the money was being moved from areas with larger amounts (Police, Fire) to other areas of the General Fund. Additional appropriations may be needed at the end of the year to cover the entirety of health care reimbursements. Balyeat proceeded to explain additional appropriations in Funds 201 Street Maintenance and Repair Fund; Fund 205 Hotel Motel Fund; Fund 125 Economic Development Fund; Fund 230 MC Special Projects Fund; Fund 301 Street Construction; Fund 601 Water Fund; Fund 602 Sewer Fund; Fund 701 Street Fund; Fund 850 Police Pension Fund; and Fund 851 Fire Pension Fund. She asked Agler to ask for preparation of these appropriations.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE, and SAFETY: Marshall directed Council's attention to the agenda, noting that they were scheduled to vote on the third reading and passage of several changes to city ordinances. He noted that he felt these changes would be a positive for the city, and make the ordinances more succinct and clear.

Marshall also shared that he would be meeting with the Law Director soon to focus on boarded up properties, and ideas for tackling this type of situation. He anticipates action steps in the next couple meetings, with possible legislation in January 2022.

Marshall also relayed that there were approximately 12-15 new violations, mostly minor, with a few repeat offenders. Most of the violations are in some course of remediation.

Health, Service, and Safety had no additional report for the evening.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION: Penton informed Council that the vandalism issue in Fountain Park has decreased. The cameras that have been installed may be a factor in that, but in any case, the issue has decreased.

Penton also stated that the decorations at Fountain Park are almost complete. The grand opening will be Wednesday, November 24th. The lights will be turned on at 6:00 p.m. He also mentioned that the girl scouts will be serving cookies and hot chocolate, the Van Wert High School choir will be singing, Santa Claus will be in attendance, and there will also be ice sculptures. The whole community is invited.

Parks and Recreation had no additional report for the evening.

FINANCE: Agler made a motion to approve the Then and Now invoice to OMAASC in the amount of \$12,864.30, and the Van Wert County Auditor in the amount of \$3,413.12. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare an ordinance for the supplemental appropriations, as outlined by Balyeat earlier in the meeting, on an emergency. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 21-11-063. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for Ordinance Number 21-11-063. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass Ordinance Number 21-11-063: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 201, 205, 215, 230, 301, 601, 602, 701, 850, 851 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its first and final reading. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare a service salary ordinance, with the inclusion of a 3% increase for non-bargaining members, as suggested by Fleming, on an emergency. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare a safety salary ordinance, with the inclusion of a 3% increase for non-bargaining members, as suggested by Fleming, on an emergency. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Finance had no additional report for the evening.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Mergy reviewed that at the previous meeting, legislation had asked to be prepared on outlining new ward boundaries, and the Law Director had prepared that legislation. It was noted this ordinance was not on an emergency.

Mergy made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 21-11-065. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Judiciary and Annexation had no additional report for the evening.

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

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: Davis made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation to authorize the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids for the water meter project, on an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Property and Equipment had no report for the evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tomlinson noted that code enforcement was discussed and would stay on Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought before Council during the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no ordinances on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Agler made a motion to pass Ordinance Number 21-10-051: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT SYSTEM FOR THE VAN WERT MUNICIPAL COURT, 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 third and final reading. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

Marshall made a motion to pass Ordinance Number: 21-10-052: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VAN WERT CITY ORDINANCES 96.01, 96.02, 96.03, 96.05 96.20, 76.05, 76.14, 76.18, 90.15 AND 91.12 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, on its third and final reading. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Second reading advisory for Ordinance Number: 21-11-061: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO, FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2022 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred; second reading passed.

First reading advisory for Ordinance Number: 21-11-065: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VAN WERT CITY ORDINANCES 11.02, 11.03 11.04 AND 11.05 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred; first reading passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Agler made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m., for pending litigation on the opioid settlement. Mergy seconded; all concurred.

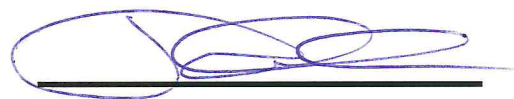
Agler made a motion to exit Executive Session at 7:11 p.m., with no action taken after exiting.

ADJOURN

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Mergy seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Andrew Bittner



Council President
Jon Tomlinson

12/13/2021

Date