

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Pastor Keith Stoller gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Marshall, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Stinnett, Moore, and Davis were present.

**Davis made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Kallas seconded; all concurred.**

**Davis made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Kallas seconded; all concurred.**

---

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, & PETITIONS**

Mazur stated he received an invitation from Officer Bryon Wells, extended to all Council members and city administration, to the DARE Graduation for Van Wert Elementary. This will take place on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center. Mazur commended Officer Wells for his work in the DARE program over the past year and a half. He noted the strong turnout for the DARE Pancake Breakfast recently as well.

-----

Mazur pointed out to all Council members that the microphones are live at all times during Council meetings. He asked for side conversations to be kept at a minimum, and for Council members to be addressed before speaking.

He asked the public to stand, state their name and address, and give any papers they may have to the Clerk prior to a meeting.

-----

Davis stated that he received feedback from citizens, thanking community members who went out to shovel, snow blow, or otherwise clear out driveways, sidewalks, etc., after the last snowfall.

-----

Mazur stated that the Van Wert Historical Society is seeking memberships and donations. He reminded the public that the Historical Society is a great organization, but needs financial support in order to continue operations.

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**MAYOR:** Markward opened with a recap of the 2022 Chocolate Walk, which was originally postponed, but was then held a week after the originally scheduled date. This was the first event for the new Main Street Van Wert Executive Director, Joe Dray. Markward continued that he will be working with the new director, as Main Street Van Wert (MSVW) and the Van Wert County Foundation (VWCF) will work with city administration on the new tree islands that will be planted this spring.

-----

Markward also commented on attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration for Braun Ambulances. He mentioned that the company will hold an open house for the public sometime in June, with more details and information to come.

-----

The Mayor had no additional report for the evening.

---

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming reviewed two pieces of legislation that he would need requested during the evening's meeting. Each year, Fleming explained the city needed an ordinance in order to authorize the sale of used and outdated city equipment on GovDeals. He stated that the second ordinance needed would be to specifically list items that will be sold, authorizing him to sell items in excess of \$1000.00 in value.

-----

Fleming had no further report for the evening.

---

**AUDITOR:** Balyeat reviewed the Financial Report for January 2022. The Bank Reconciliation Report for January 2022 indicated that the city had approximately \$16 million on the books, and the same amount in the various bank accounts and investments. The Cash Position Report showed a positive balance in all funds, as required. She stated there was nothing unusual in the revenues for January, with approximately \$78,000.00 more brought in than what was spent in the General Fund. This is the primary fund of concern, but no red flags have come up as of yet.

-----

Balyeat reminded Council that a temporary budget for 2022 was passed in December 2021, but a permanent budget will need to be in place by April 1, 2022. She stated that all city department heads have been notified, and they will have budget changes to her in the next week. She asked Agler to request legislation for the permanent budget, which will need to be read at each of the next three meetings, so that it is passed prior to the April 1 deadline.

Balyeat also informed Council that the General Fund will see more than \$300,000.00 sent out in income tax refunds. These refunds are being requested from individuals who worked from home during the pandemic, and their home was not in the city limits. They paid city income tax through their employer, but since they worked from home (outside the city), these individuals are

requesting refunds for paying that tax. She explained that the state legislature didn't allow this refund request in 2020, but for 2021, it is now allowed. Davis asked when the \$300,000.00 will begin to come out of the General Fund. Balyeat stated some is likely already out, as it will come out when taxpayers file their taxes and then file for the refund. Balyeat also stated that employees need documentation from their employer in order to request this refund.

-----

Balyeat reviewed three invoices that needed approval on a Then and Now. The first invoice was to Ridgeview Hospital for drug treatment, in the amount of \$17,600.00. The second invoice was for Smart Start Ohio, for alcohol monitors, in the amount of \$4,175.00. And the third invoice was for Lima Radio Hospital, for an annual service contract with the Fire Department, in the amount of \$3,957.00.

-----

Balyeat had no additional report for the evening.

-----

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., asked if the people receiving drug treatment through Ridgeview Hospital were required to pay the city back. Balyeat stated that was a question that only Judge Worthington could answer. Mr. Davis (S. Tyler St.) asked if this money came out of the court's budget, or the city's budget. Balyeat stated that the court had its own fund in the city's budget, so it would come out of the court's budget. It would be specific court fund dollars, not General Fund dollars.

---

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Hatcher reviewed information he had sent Council earlier in the day on the Ohio Model Flood Damage Reduction Regulations, and a copy of a prior city Floodplain ordinance. Hatcher stated that new Floodplain maps have been drawn, and the city is required to adopt them. Hatcher explained this will be a three-reading ordinance adoption, with three public hearings (City Council meetings), ordinance approved by a majority vote and authenticated, and published in the paper for two consecutive weeks after adoption but prior to effective date.

Hatcher recommended that anyone affected by the new maps should come to the Council meetings. Fleming also stated that the public could also look at the new maps outside of Council meetings as well. *(It was noted that a link, with the new maps, could be sent to the media, posted on the website, and sent to Council.)* Insurance rates can be affected by the new maps. Hatcher urged the public to be proactive, and for Council members to be prepared to address their constituents' concerns.

Mazur clarified that the meetings are more advisory in nature, as the maps are drawn, and even though the city has appealed, that stage has now passed. Fleming stated that the city can no longer make revisions. Citizens have to apply for a letter of map revision, an engineer would have to review and certify for application to FEMA. Hatcher reviewed that the city's role is to provide information to, and educate, any potential citizen affected.

Davis (4th Ward) asked if any city-owned property was affected in Vision Park. Fleming stated that it was mostly taken care of due to the mitigation project, and the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) was almost ready.

Fleming stated that the maps are based on the most recent severe flood, which took place in 2017, and based on elevation figures they can view by flyovers. The city contended that it was a 500-year storm, but FEMA asked for stream data to support the city's claim, which the city does not have. Overall, this has a larger effect than previous revisions. Fleming closed by saying that they simply need an ordinance requested to adopt the new Floodplain maps.

-----

Joe Jared, 233 Burt. St., asked Hatcher about a records request he had made over a month ago. Hatcher stated he did not have that information ready yet, and needed to get it ready.

Jared also stated that he has heard that court fines have not been as consistent as Hatcher had stated they would be, and not specifically always \$135. Hatcher explained the standard court costs, and noted that variables existed for additional fines. Hatcher stated they have worked to make costs and fines as uniform as possible, and adjust unforeseen circumstances.

-----

Hatcher had no further report for the evening.

---

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**HEALTH, SERVICE, and SAFETY:** Marshall reminded Council of a Health, Service, and Safety Committee Meeting on February 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss trash pickup and blighted homes.

-----

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

---

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Kallas reported that the Land Bank had acquired the former Days Inn/Van Wert Inn hotel, located at 820 N. Washington St. They have also signed a purchase agreement for the Anthony Wayne school building at 664 N. Jefferson St. The grant application for the demolition and revitalization grant will be submitted on behalf of Van Wert County, on or before February 22, 2022. The hope is that both properties, along with two residential properties, will be razed and repurposed.

Kallas also stated that the Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation (VWAEDC) has also submitted a \$731,000 Brownfield remediation grant application on behalf of the County.

Kallas continued that several vacant Land Bank residential properties will be made available to the public through a bid process over the next several months. Properties are posted on the VWAEDC website under the "Land Bank" tab. Any minimum bid requirements and deadlines will be listed under each property posting.

Kallas also noted that VWAEDC, MSVW, and the Chamber of Commerce had recently partnered to host the Entrepreneur Fair on February 5, 2022. Anyone considering starting a business, or looking for additional training support, can attend upcoming classes (open to the public and free of charge) at the VWAEDC office at 145 E. Main St., beginning on February 17, 2022. The classes will talk parties through the process of creating a business plan, and participants will be eligible to submit their plan into the Business Plan Challenge. The first place winner of this challenge will receive a \$2500 prize to reimburse them for business-related expenses, and aid in their business startup.

Economic Development, Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce partnered to host the Entrepreneur Fair on February 5th. For anyone considering starting a business or looking for additional training support, there will be classes (open to the public, free of charge) that will be held at the Economic Development office at 145 E Main St beginning February 17th. The classes will walk folks through the process of creating a business plan and participants will be eligible to submit their plan for the Business Plan Challenge. The 1st place winner will receive a \$2,500 prize to reimburse them for business related expenses and aid in their business start up. Interested parties may contact the VWAEDC office at 419-238-2999 for additional information.

Mazur noted that VWAEDC has grown tremendously, and has never asked for additional funds.

-----

Economic Development had no additional report for the evening.

---

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Bowers noted that the Parks Department is now sending out flyers for their summer sports programs, which will run from March to July.

-----

Davis (4th Ward) asked if there was any idea when Fountain Park would be cleared out from the Christmas items. Fleming stated that the project is a volunteer project, and while the Parks Department has attempted to help, city employees and volunteers have found most items are frozen to the ground. Items will be removed when they are able to be removed without damage.

-----

Parks and Recreation had no further report for the evening.

---

**FINANCE:** Agler made a motion to approve invoices to Ridgeview Hospital (\$17,600.00), Smart Start Ohio (\$4,175.000, and Lima Radio Hospital (\$3,957.00), on a Then and Now. Davis seconded; all concurred.

-----

Agler reviewed the Finance Committee meeting that took place earlier in the evening, prior to the regular Council meeting.

**Agler made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation approving the Van Wert County Regional Airport request for additional funding. Kallas seconded; Marshall, Bowers, Stinnett, and Moore concurred. Davis abstained.**

-----

**Agler made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation to approve a permanent 2022 City of Van Wert budget, on an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.**

Hatcher explained that if an ordinance is not on an emergency, then it goes into effect 30 days after passage. If an ordinance is passed on an emergency, it either passes on the first reading and is immediately effective, or it goes through three readings, and is immediately effective upon passage.

-----

Finance had no additional report for the evening.

-----

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:** Stinnett made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation to authorize the sale of used or outdated city equipment on GovDeals, on an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.

-----

**Stinnett made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation to authorize the sale of used or outdated city equipment, with a value in excess of \$1000, on an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.**

-----

Property and Equipment had no further report for the evening.

-----

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Moore made a motion to pass Ordinance Number: 22-01-004: AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE FIRST PARKING SPACE EAST OF THE CROSSWALK ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ONE HUNDRED BLOCK OF EAST CENTRAL AVENUE TO A HANDICAP PARKING SPACE., on its third and final reading. Davis seconded; all concurred.

-----

Streets and Alleys had no additional report for the evening.

---

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Davis made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation to adopt the new Floodplain maps. Agler seconded; all concurred.

-----

Judiciary and Annexation had no additional report for the evening.

---

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Marshall made a motion to remove Health, Service, and Safety - Code Enforcement from Unfinished Business. Agler seconded.**

-----

**Agler made a motion to remove Finance - Airport Funding from Unfinished Business. Davis seconded.**

-----

Mazur asked if American Legal changes would require Council approval. Hatcher stated that he needed to know whether it would affect the costs for the city. The Clerk referenced emails received from American Legal that indicated the cost wouldn't change much, if at all, with the only change being the frequency that the city would be billed. Hatcher stated he would have information prepared for the next meeting, including an ordinance if the change would require Council's formal approval through legislation.

---

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Agler stated he would like to discuss dead animal disposal at the next meeting.

-----

Davis also brought up the issue of live video feeds for Council meetings. Currently, he explained that Council is live only on cable. If there was an option for live streaming Council meetings, he would like to explore that option.

---

**CONSENT AGENDA**

---

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES**

Kallas made a motion to pass Resolution Number 22-01-006: A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JOI MERGY FOR HER TERMS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its third and final reading. Davis seconded; all concurred.

-----

Kallas made a motion to pass Resolution Number 22-01-007: A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JOEL PENTON FOR HIS TERMS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its third and final reading. Davis seconded; all concurred.

-----

Kallas made a motion to pass Resolution Number 22-01-008: A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JON TOMLINSON FOR HIS TERMS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its third and final reading. Davis seconded; all concurred.

-----

Kallas made a motion to pass Resolution Number 22-01-009: A SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE STEVE HELLMAN FOR HIS TERMS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its third and final reading. Davis seconded; all concurred.

---

**ADJOURN**

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.



---

Clerk of Council  
Andrew Bittner



---

Council President  
Gerald T. Mazur

**02/28/2022**

---

Date