

MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

October 24th, 2022

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

Mazur called for a time of silent prayer for those in need.

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 October 24th Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 10th Council meeting. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 10th Council of the Whole meeting. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, & PETITIONS

Mazur stated that he recently attended a RGP Conference to gather insight for the best practices in job retention and attraction. He stated that a copy of this information could be handed out to interested parties.

Mazur then read the current Chapter 30 Council Rules, per the Van Wert City Code of Ordinances. These rules had been read and discussed previously at recent meetings, but Mazur read them again and provided his interpretation on how the Council meetings should proceed. The main focus was on allowing both Council members and the public to provide their input, on either open discussion topics or topics relevant to the report/discussion at hand, all while following the current rules on the books.

Rick Sully, 444 South Ave., asked Hall Block of the Van Wert County Foundation a question on the Van Wert Forward project. Mazur asked Mr. Sully to ask questions of Mr. Block outside of the meeting - or contact Mr. Block's office, as Block did not have a presentation, and this was considered a public to public question.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Mayor announced the city's Trick or Treat date, on Saturday, October 29, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Residents were reminded to turn their porch lights on if they choose to participate, and turn off if not participating.

Markward also announced that leaf pickup will begin Monday, November 7, 2022, and run until Friday, December 9, 2022.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming reported that the milling for the miscellaneous paving project in the city will begin on Thursday, October 27, 2022. The paving work will begin the following week.

The Woodland Ave. water line project is mostly finished. He stated that the line is in, and they are currently working on pavement and fixing areas where they had to cut into the street. The project should be wrapped up in the next couple weeks.

Fleming also described the upcoming Leeson Ave. reconstruction project, in order to "set the record straight". He explained this is a complete reconstruction of Leeson Ave., beginning at the railroad tracks and Shannon St., and continuing to Rose Dr. The project will begin in 2024, and will result in water, sewer, storm, curb, and gutter work, as well as new sidewalks on the south side of the street, and a 10-foot wide multi-use trail on the north side. The trail continues and ties into the trail that runs through Smiley Park. He stated that ODOT requires the city to get temporary right-of-way for these types of projects. If ODOT damages anything, they will pay for it. Fleming also explained that everything happening in this project, in the main stretch, is happening within the existing right of way. At some of the intersections, however, where ODOT requires new ADA ramps, additional land may be needed. ODOT will pay for this additional land. Fleming stated that the ODOT negotiation teams are already in town, and are going door to door to speak with homeowners.

AUDITOR: Balyeat detailed an invoice that would need approved on a Then and Now - to ESO Solutions, Inc. (in the amount of \$5,126.70).

Balyeat discussed the upcoming increase in health insurance, which would rise by 1.68%. She stated she would send out revised copies of the 2023 budget draft, with this in mind. She asked Agler to request legislation for the budget preparation. She asked Agler to consider whether his committee would request a separate meeting, or discuss at Council meetings.

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

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC

Michael Baxter, 615 Leeson Ave, had questions for Fleming on the Leeson Ave. project. Mr. Baxter asked when the project changed from a “bike trail” to a “multi-use” trail. Fleming responded that ODOT’s term for a bike trail was technically a multi-use trail, and there are still no motorized vehicles allowed on the path. Mr. Baxter argued that a bike path is an extension of a street, and a multi-use trail is separate from the street. Fleming stated that ODOT required a barrier for this project between the street and the trail. He stated that when the project was planned, they received ODOT grant money, so it stayed with that layout. Mr. Baxter asked if the trail was going to be asphalt, and Fleming stated it would be concrete.

Mazur asked Mr. Baxter to finish his questions and comments to Fleming by scheduling a time to speak with him. Mr. Baxter stated he had a 2:00 p.m. meeting the following day with the Mayor already.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, asked if the billing cycle for water/cut off for water was set for monthly billing. Fleming stated they did not have formal cut-offs yet, but stated he could bring that for the next meeting.

Diane Haller, 839 Leeson Ave., asked if there would be public meetings on the Leeson Ave. bike path. Fleming asked Haller to come to his office if she had specific questions on the project, and he could bring out the plans to explain everything. Markward also recommended that Haller contact the city office for specific questions.

Kevin Allen, 245 W. 3rd St., asked if the multi-use trail on Leeson Ave. would eventually connect to the bike path that runs out toward Convoy. Fleming stated it would. Mr. Allen noted that he had a friend who transported people on that path using an ATV. Fleming stated that the portion Mr. Allen was referring to was not within city corporation limits, but the trails inside the city limits prohibit the use of motor vehicles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE, and SAFETY: Health, Service, and Safety had no report for the evening.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Kallas stated that demolition equipment and vehicles should be coming in this week for demolition at the old Van Wert Inn.

Kallas also noted that the Landbank has acquired the old Anthony Wayne school building, and an updated assessment of the site began today. As with all other assessments the Landbank has done, an asbestos assessment will be done, as well as any other assessments required per Ohio EPA guidelines.

Kallas also reported that the Landbank has taken possession of 610 S. Tyler St., from a donation. They are currently assessing the site to see if home rehabilitation is possible.

The Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation is currently intervening for their Workforce Development Manager position.

Finally, Kallas stated that construction is ongoing for three projects in Vision Park - a spec building, Custom Assembly, and GLM Trucking.

Economic Development had no further report for the evening.

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

FINANCE: Agler made a motion to approve the invoice to ESO Solutions, Inc. (\$5,126.70) on a Then and Now. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to ask the Law Director to prepare legislation for the preparation of the 2023 budget, and declaring an emergency. Davis seconded; all concurred.

(This was originally requested without emergency, and then the motion was changed, and revoted upon, in order to move to with emergency.)

Finance had no additional report for the evening.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Stinnett reported that he met with Van Wert City Schools Superintendent Mark Bagley last Thursday to discuss the Stadium project, and met with Seth Baker and Hall Block of the Van Wert County Foundation on the Van Wert Forward project. He stated that he desired to become more informed, and he appreciated the parties meeting with him.

Stinnett also received a Facebook message from Larry Mengerink, and forwarded that message to Council members.

Properties and Equipment had no further report for the evening.

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

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

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC

Mazur notified Council that Council Clerk Drew Bittner had submitted his letter of resignation, effective January 1, 2023. The position has been posted on vanwertworks.com.

Hall Block, 401 S. Washington St., thanked Stinnett and Mazur for taking a tour to get more information on their projects. He stated he extended invitations to a few other Council members, and looked forward to including Council in tours of their spaces.

Mr. Allen asked if the public would receive the results of the asbestos assessment at the Anthony Wayne building. Kallas stated he would check on that issue for Mr. Allen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bowers made a motion to remove Forced Annexation from Unfinished Business. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought before Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Davis made a motion to suspend statutory rules for AMENDED ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-09-044. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to pass AMENDED ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-09-044: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 213, 227, 228, 301, 305, 601, 602, 875 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its second and final reading. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-049. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-049. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-049: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 602 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY., on its first and final reading. Bowers seconded; Marshall, Stinnett, Moore, Davis concurred. Kallas abstained.

Moore made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-050. Agler seconded; all concurred.

First reading advisory for ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-050: AN ORDINANCE REMOVING THE EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND STOP SIGNS ON EAST JACKSON STREET AT NORTH VINE STREET, NORTH HARRISON STREET AND NORTH CHESTNUT STREET; AND TO ADD STOP SIGNS IN THE NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND DIRECTION OF NORTH VINE STREET, NORTH HARRISON STREET AND NORTH CHESTNUT STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF THOSE STREETS WITH EAST JACKSON STREET. All concurred; first reading passes.

Discussion was held about the placement of stop signs on the south portions of various streets in this ordinance, but it was ultimately decided to remain as currently written.

Moore made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-051. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-051. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to pass ORDINANCE NUMBER 22-10-051: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT TO AUTHORIZE THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THERE BRIDGE INSPECTION SERVICES PROGRAM AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY, on its first and final reading. Agler seconded; all concurred.

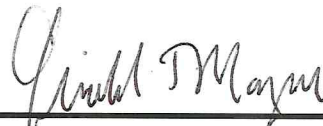
Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., shared his opinion that it would be unwise to change the stop sign situation, due to vehicles frequently backing into that street. It was noted this was not on an emergency, and could be discussed at future meetings.

ADJOURN

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Kallas seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Andrew Bittner



Council President
Gerald T. Mazur

11/14/2022

Date

