

**MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**  
February 27, 2023

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

Pastor Solomon Sokang gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Marshall, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Moore, and Davis were present. Stinnett was not present. Motion was made by Bowers to excuse Stinnett from the February 27, 2023 Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to approve the agenda for the February 27, 2023 Council meeting. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to approve the amended minutes for the February 13, 2023 Council meeting. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

A letter was received from the Van Wert City Police Department and the Elementary School extending an invitation to the D.A.R.E. graduation program on March 24, 2023.

A letter was received from the Van Wert Planning Commission to change zoning from an R-2 to I-1 on properties located at North Vine Street and North Franklin Street which are associated with the Youngs Trash Service location.

The Annual Meeting of the District Advisory Council will be held on March 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vantage Community Room and is open to the public.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** The Van Wert Area Economic Development Corporation has named Brent Stevens as the incumbent Executive Director following the retirement of the current director, Stacy Adam effective April 1, 2023. Stacy Adams was present and also indicated that Krista Somerton has been promoted to Senior Program Manager.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming indicated an agreement has been reached with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association elevating the salaries with 3% raises for the next three years. All other items in the contract remain the same except for a provision that deals with Christmas Eve pay during the years that December 24 falls on a weekend. Six people have signed up for the civil service exam.

**AUDITOR:** There are three invoices that need approval on Then and Now: 1) Sound Communications MC in the amount of \$4,806.00; 2) Apollo Career Center Fire Department Training in the amount of \$4,200.00; and 3) MS Consultants Right of Way Acquisitions in the amount of \$55,000.00.

There were additional supplemental appropriations changes to the 2023 budget.

The final cost for the new fire truck will be \$820,045.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** The Law Director indicated that a meeting with the new owner of the blighted house went well and was very productive.

Logan Lehmkuhle is appealing the Zoning Board of Appeals' findings regarding a concrete business. A public hearing has been scheduled for March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. A letter will be sent to all adjacent landowners. Davis asked if an ordinance would be needed and the Law Director said he would have a written opinion at the public hearing.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL AND PUBLIC:**

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main Street questioned the noise of the concrete crushing business on Washington Street. It was indicated there is no noise ordinance that would be violated.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** No reports

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Stacy Adams indicated the Days Inn project and the Anthony Wayne School project are both complete and available for development. The former Eagles building on East Central is next on the list with asbestos assessment being done.

She also requested a proposed annexation of 59 acres of land at Vision Industrial Park to move forward with development at the site. The Law Director indicated the township trustees, Commissioners and City Council had approved the pre-annexation in 2016.

Vision Park upgrades are being made including Dominion Energy doing a betterment project on gas lines and AEP is looking at locating a new substation adjacent to the industrial park.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** There are water issues in the park from the rain and it is being addressed. The Little Sluggers (3-4 year olds) still have two openings. T-Ball registration is underway. Registration can be done on the new website [vanwertohio.myrec.com](http://vanwertohio.myrec.com).

**FINANCE:** Davis made a motion to approve the invoice from the Then and Now. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No reports.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Moore asked for an ordinance to be prepared to vacate the street between Young's Trash and the Mohr Organization. Bowers seconded. Agler sustained. All concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Davis made a motion for the annexation of the 59 acres for Vision Park be prepared as an emergency. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Davis discussed the Airport Board was presented with layout plans showing the runway extensions from 4000 feet to 5000 feet with completion expected at the end of the summer of 2024.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:**

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., stated he disagrees with modifying the agenda as it shortens time for the public. Davis indicated that the same amount of time will be given for the public.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Applicants are still being sought for the Tax Review Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A public hearing was set for a zoning request by the Mohr Organization, LLC and John E. and Kathy White for March 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM. A letter will be sent to all adjacent landowners.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Davis made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-016**; Kallas seconded; all concurred.

First advisory reading for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-016; ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 30 OF THE VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES.** All concurred, first reading passed.

Agler made a motion to prepare **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-017**; Marshall seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-017**; Marshall seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-017. Davis seconded, all concurred

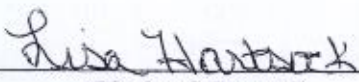
First advisory reading for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-017: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (OPBA), RELATIVE TO WAGES, HOURS, TERMS AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred, first reading passed.

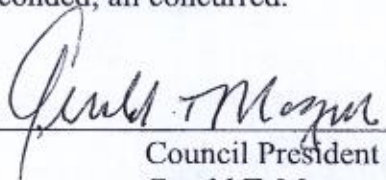
Davis made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-018; Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-018. Kallas seconded, all concurred

First advisory reading for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-018: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO FUNDS 101, 201, 215, 225, 228, 231, 232, 253, 260, 301, 305, 601, 602, and 701, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred, first reading passed.

Bowers made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Agler seconded; all concurred.

  
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Clerk of Council  
Lisa K. Hartsock

  
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Council President  
Gerald T. Mazur

March 13, 2023  
DATE