

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

President Jerry Mazur called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Bowers 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 March 27, 2023 Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

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

**COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Council received an invitation from Alicia Ricker, PATH Manager of NoCAC to a Van Wert County homeless planning meeting on April 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church.

Fire Chief Jon Jones is having a recognition event on April 16, 2023 to honor the city's firefighters.

Joe Dray, new executive director of the Historic Main Street Van Wert would like to be on the April 10, 2023 agenda

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** Main Street's Chocolate Walk is scheduled for April 28, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the Main Street office, The Well, The Edition or Collins Fine Foods.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming indicated it is time to renew the ODOT Winter Salt Contract and an ordinance will need to be prepared for the next Council meeting.

Fleming asked that an ordinance be prepared to have angle parking on the west side of Jefferson Street between the railroad tracks and Town Creek. Fleming indicated that this would add an additional 19 parking spots with the turn lanes to be removed. The Foundation will fund the radar controls for the traffic light and the grinding of the old stripes. An ordinance will also be needed for two handicap parking spaces by the Library and one at Central Avenue.

Fleming also said water and sewer customers can expect to see another notice about TTHM levels that exceed standards in drinking water. Residents do not need to boil water or use bottled water. The City is taking several steps to lower the levels of TTHM.

Agler asked Fleming the status of the property owned by Eugene White located at 401 North Washington Street where a fire occurred on December 28, 2022 indicating the property is in the same condition since the fire. Fleming will research and have information for the next Council meeting.

The Vision Drive Extension project will be able to wrap up once we have good weather.

Eggerss Stadium is done except for patching the road on Crawford Street.

**AUDITOR:** There was an audit for the Police and Fire Pension Fund which information is available to the public.

Balyeat stated that there is a need to amend the salary ordinance to accommodate the summer Park and Recreational employees as the state minimum wage has increased.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Council will receive a written opinion prior to next meeting regarding the research request of what Council can and cannot do regarding the issues with the stone crushing business on Washington Street.

Project Hulk annexation that was previously passed by Council may need to have an exception regarding the zoning. A second ordinance may also be needed regarding what the services the City would be extending to that parcel upon acceptance of the annexation.

Ordinance No. 23-03-011 is an amendment to the TIF passed in January due to negotiations between the developer of Jennings Crossing and the school. It was originally stated that the County Treasurer would pay the school \$500 per property and the County Treasurer did not agree.

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

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main, questioned if there are financial considerations on reconstruction outside of a building as he had to rebuild an entire wall. The Law Director indicated that anybody that has an issue with materials or finances within reason should approach the city and that open communication is important.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No reports

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No reports

Agler questioned if the scoreboards would be working as there were issues last year. Fleming indicated it will be looked into.

**FINANCE:** Agler asked that an ordinance be prepared to provide for a salary increase to accommodate the summer Park and Recreational employees due to a state minimum wage increase and declaring an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler asked that an ordinance be prepared to amend Ordinance 23-01-008 and declare an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No reports.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Moore asked for an ordinance to be prepared to allow the Safety Service Director to get a winter salt contract and asked that it be prepared as an emergency; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Moore requested preparation for an ordinance to amend the previous ordinance to allow angle parking on the west side of Jefferson Street between the railroad and Town Creek. Agler seconded. All concurred.

Moore requested preparation of an ordinance for two handicap parking spaces to be placed on the west side of Jefferson Street. Agler seconded. All concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** Davis suggested several joint council and public meetings be held to discuss the possibility of reducing the Mayor's salary and making it a part-time job. Davis will have a proposed schedule at the next regular meeting.

Council members were reminded the deadline to turn in their petition to be placed on the ballot for city council would be August 9, 2023.

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

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., asked the hours of the handicap parking spaces being requested. The Mayor confirmed that the restrictions will remain the same.

Kevin Allen asked for Council to go down and check on street lights on the corner of North Street near the railroad tracks. Mayor suggested when the public sees street lights out they should contact his office with the pole number to get the information to the proper individuals in a quicker fashion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Matthew Perry indicated that he would accept the position on the Tax Review Board. Davis made a motion to place Perry on the Board. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The rezoning issue for The Mohr Organization and John and Kathy White was discussed. The Law Director indicated that each parcel can be reviewed individually.

Davis expressed his concerns that the property owned by Eugene White as a cardboard recycling operation needs to be cleaned up and that giving it an industrial zoning would not help the situation. Jamie Farris, 1000 East Main, also expressed her concerns that the property is an eye sore with cardboard blowing on her property.

Cory Mohr who owns Young's Waste LLC indicated he has no room to park his work truck and needs the property to be rezoned as industrial. Discussions were made that the property on East Jackson Street could be rezoned as this is where Mohr parks his trucks and this property is not part of the cardboard recycling operation.

Joy Short, 920 E. Main indicates that it makes sense to rezone at least the one property on the north side of the tracks as industrial as this is where Young's Trash has always parked their vehicles.

Davis made a motion to reject the rezoning change for parcel number 12-019448.01000 and parcel number 12-019448.000. Marshall seconded. Stinnett voted no. Agler abstained. Parcel #12-019472.0000 and #12-019468.0000 will therefore be rezoned to an I-1 zoning.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

## **RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Davis made a motion to pass **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-016; ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 30 OF THE VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES** on its third and final reading. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to prepare **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-011;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-011;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-011.** Stinnett seconded, all concurred

First advisory reading for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-02-017: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 23-01-008, DECLARING THE IMPROVEMENT OF A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE; CREATING AN INCENTIVE DISTRICT TIF; DECLARING SUCH PROPERTY TO BE EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION; DESIGNATING SPECIFIC PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS MADE, TO BE MADE, OR IN THE PROCESS**

OF BEING MADE, THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT, OR THAT ONCE MADE WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT, THE PARCEL FOR WHICH IMPROVEMENT IS DECLARED TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE; REQUIRING ANNUAL SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; PROVIDING RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40(G), 5709.42, 5709.43, 5709.832 AND 5709.85; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred, first reading passed.

Agler made a motion to prepare ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-03-021; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-03-021; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

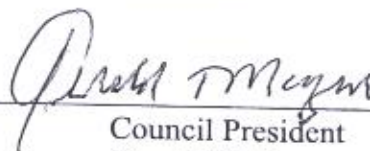
Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-03-021. Stinnett seconded, all concurred

First advisory reading for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-03-021: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-12-062 PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AUDITOR'S OFFICE, INCOME TAX AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, ALLOWANCES, IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred, first reading passed.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President  
Gerald T. Mazur

April 10, 2023  
DATE