

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
April 24, 2023

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

Bowers gave the invocation.

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

Kallas made a motion to amend the agenda for the April 24, 2023 council meeting. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to approve the amended agenda for the April 24, 2023 Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 10, 2023 Council meeting. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 10, 2023 Public Council meeting. Agler seconded; all concurred.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Erika Blackmore who is running for the City Auditor's position was present and made a brief presentation. She indicated that she was up for the challenge for the position and feels she would be a great candidate.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Mayor indicated that two new police officers, Keaton Gillespie and Ahsley Lovette have been hired by the Van Wert Police Department and that both have experience from other police departments.

Brush pickup will begin on May 8, 2023.

There will be a retirement open house for Stacy Adam at the VWAEDC office Tuesday, April 25th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming indicated that the Vision Drive project is progressing.

Fleming also indicated that a new roof was placed on the city's Water Treatment Plant 25 years ago and it was budgeted to be replaced this year at a \$300,000 expense and asked that he be

granted permission to advertise for bids and award contracts for a new roof project and this be treated as an emergency.

The project on Washington Street is nearing completion with patch work to begin on the streets in a couple weeks.

The Economic Development, AEP, ODOT and the City of Van Wert have joined to have a clean up on May 22nd for the cloverleaf at U.S. Route 127.

AUDITOR: There is one invoice that needs approval for the Then and Now: Van Wert City Law Director Expense Reimbursement in the amount of \$3,431.40.

Joe Dray, Executive Director of the Historic Main Street Van Wert has requested the same funding from the city as last year in the amount of \$30,000. It was noted the city provided Main Street program \$25,000 in funding for a number of years but provided an additional \$5,000 several years ago to add a sound system in the downtown area. Council decided that the \$30,000 was justifiable.

LAW DIRECTOR: The Law Director has met with Councilman Marshall to discuss the progress on the blighted properties.

A job posting has been put on Indeed and Ohio Means job for the position of a victim's advocate for the Van Wert Victims of Crime.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL AND PUBLIC: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No reports.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No reports

PARKS AND RECREATION: Bowers indicated that the ballparks are busy with sports activities and that the flower beds are being cleaned and planted.

FINANCE: Agler made a motion to approve the invoice from the Then and Now. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to approve the \$30,000 funding requested by Joe Dray, Executor Director of the Historic Main Society. Stinnett seconded. Agler, Marshall, Kallas, Bowers, Stinnett and Moore approved with Davis voting no. The motion passed.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Stinnett made a motion to have an ordinance prepared as an emergency for the Safety Service Director to advertise bids and award contracts for a new roof for the Water Treatment Plant. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Stinnett discussed how he has been in contact with Edward Glossett who has submitted a proposal for a Recreational Center and he feels it is looking into and will continue to work with Mr. Glossett.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: A letter was received by Dennis Cummings suggesting the angle parking spots being planned for the west side of Jefferson Street be made reverse parking. Agler stated he has seen this done in Fremont, Indiana and Davis stated he has seen this done in Troy, Ohio and the reverse parking was short term in both cities. Both Agler and Davis felt it would create more safety issues than the forward drive spaces. No decision was made and Council will continue to look at it prior to the final reading of the angle parking legislation.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No reports.

Mazur asked councilman Davis to do research on the issue of business signs from 100 feet to 200 feet in B-3 and I-2.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:

Joe Jared, 113 West Main, indicated that he feels the reverse parking is not a good idea and angled parking is a better approach.

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., indicated that he also feels the reverse parking is too dangerous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

B-3 and I-2 signs

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-04-023; *was read on a second reading advisory; all concurred.*

ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-04-024; *was read on a second reading advisory; all concurred.*

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Lisa Hartsock
Clerk of Council
Lisa K. Hartsock

Gerald T. Mazur
Council President
Gerald T. Mazur

May 8, 2023
DATE