

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
August 14, 2023

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

Pastor Bill Watson 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 Consent Agenda. Agler seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Van Wert Police Department has sworn in a new police officer, Tyler Myers.

The Mayor indicated that the Community Reinvestment Board met last Thursday and will meet with the School Board this Wednesday and would like the ordinance to be passed tonight of an agreement between the City of Van Wert and Slusher's Jewelry.

There are now nine blighted properties with Property #7 now torn down.

Discussion was held over a hydro seeder being purchased for the Street Department.

There have been issues on the water bills being sent out with the new meters where residents were mistakenly overcharged. The software company has now been able to fix the problem and residents will receive a credit if they were overcharged. Fleming indicated that all meters should be replaced by September 20th. Auditor Balyeat indicated that the employees in the water office have taken a lot of abuse over the error and people should tell them they are appreciated for their hard work.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: A grant was awarded for improvements to the intersection of North Washington and Bonnewitz Avenue. This project falls under the emissions grant that helps clean the environment. With signalization and driveway closures this will make the Bonnewitz area flow better and help traffic moving to Walmart and U.S. 30.

Another grant awarded was a fund for Fox Road walking path that will go from the water plant to Taco Bell.

Fleming indicated that ODOT put out an announcement that there will be two RCUTs on US 30 and State Route 49.

AUDITOR: Balyeat indicated that the bank reconciliation shows positive and nothing out of the ordinary.

There are three invoices that need approval on the Then and Now: 1) Ohio EPA - Surface Water Program in the amount of \$4,634.43; 2) CSX - Leeson Ave - Railroad Water lines in the amount of \$3,700.00 and 3) CSx - Leeson Ave - Railroad Sewer lines in the amount of \$3,700.00.

LAW DIRECTOR: No reports

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main Street asked if a grace period for the water bill has been established and was told it would go into effect in January.

Agler made a motion to go into an executive session at 6:51 p.m. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Executive session ended at 7:04

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No reports

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No reports.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Bowers indicated that work is being done to wind down summer and to prepare for fall.

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

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No reports. Stinnett did question the Safety Service Director how the city water was at this time. Fleming indicated that a sample was taken last week and has not received the results.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Moore asks that an ordinance be prepared for the Leeson Street reconstruction. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Davis requested legislation be prepared to modify certain existing council rules, including procedural rules and a calendar for council to follow to set salaries for elected officials. Balyeat indicated that she believes decisions on council procedures should be made early in the term instead of near the end of a term. Davis made a motion to prepare an ordinance. Agler seconded. Marshall and Kallas voted yes with Bowers, Siinnett and Moore voting no. Motion passed.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St. noticed north of the alley on Washington Street it appears they are putting in a crosswalk. Fleming indicated that he will get in contact with the Downtown Foundation and will update the council at the next meeting.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., indicated that parking on the east side of Burt Street needs to be revisited due to business visitors blocking the driveway of residents. Moore will review the situation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The intersection of Frothingham and Race Streets was discussed. Kallas believes there is no need for a four way stop at this intersection and the ordinance needs to be amended. Fleming will have an answer by the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Agler made a motion to pass on a Third and Final Reading **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-07-038; AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE MAYOR, AUDITOR, AND LAW DIRECTOR FOR THE YEARS 2024, 2025, 2026 AND 2027.** Davis seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Agler made a motion to pass on a Third and Final Reading **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-07-039; AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE SALARY FOR THE POSITIONS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR THE YEARS 2024 AND 2025.** Davis seconded. Marshall and Kallas voted yes, Bowers, Stinnett and Moore voted no. Ordinance Passed.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-07-040 was read as a Second Advisory reading. Davis, Marshall, Kallas, Bowers, Stinnett, and Moore voted yes. Agler voted no.

Kallas made a motion to amend **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-07-041.** Davis seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to prepare **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-042;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-042;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-042;** Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass as an emergency **ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-042; AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO**

CONTRACT WITH LOCAL #3767 OF THE AFSCME, OHIO COUNCIL 8, AFLCIO, RELATIVE TO WAGES, HOURS, TERMS AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance Passed.

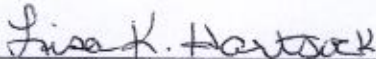
Agler made a motion to prepare ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-043; Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-043; Kallas seconded; all concurred.

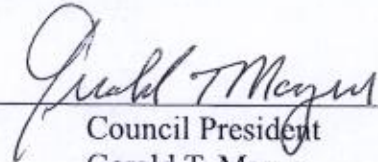
Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-043; Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-043; AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND SLUSHERS JEWELRY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President
Gerald T. Mazur

August 28, 2023
DATE