

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
September 11, 2023

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

Pastor Frank Howard gave the invocation.

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

Davis made a motion to amend the Consent Agenda. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Police Department has sworn in Tryston Cowan as a police officer. Mr. Cowan will be a good addition to the Department with his past experience.

The Mayor has received requests that the Van Wert Police Department be able to conduct inspections for low speed vehicles for a fee of \$40 and asked that an ordinance be prepared.

Flyers have been received by Palmer Energy regarding a new electric aggregation contract. A meeting will be scheduled with the commissioners.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Fleming asked that an ordinance be prepared for non-bargaining personnel for reimbursement of safety shoes in the amount of \$225.

Street paving is nearly complete and by Friday the stripes should be down.

Final brush pickup for 2023 will begin on September 18.

AUDITOR:

There is one invoice that needs approval on the Then and Now: 1) Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$3,662.78.

The Auditor listed several financial items that will need approval for supplemental appropriations.

LAW DIRECTOR: The Law Director informed council that according to the Ohio Ethics Commission Ethics Law prohibits elected officials in statutory cities from receiving an increase in compensation when they know they will be re-elected due to having no opponent. This would include Julie Moore and Bill Marshall who are unopposed for their seats. Hatcher advised Moore and Marshall to abstain from voting on raises.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., asked the Mayor if the public has the option to opt out of the electric aggregation with the Mayor indicating he believes so.

Approval was given for the liquor license for The Stomping Ground.

Kallas read a letter from Briarwood Mobile Home residents as well as the Kedar Army family asking council to look into the noise ordinance at Tenneco along with the trash which is causing an abundance of groundhogs. Stinnett will look into the issue.

Stinnett asked if the council financially helps the Humane Society. Balycat indicated it is a nonprofit organization and they have not requested any. Stinnett will be in contact with the Humane Society to see if they need assistance from the council.

Davis complimented the Van Wert Fire Department on doing a great job.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Marshall indicated that he has met with the Mayor and the Law Director in regard to blighted properties. He wanted to remind the public that it is not the intention to harass any homeowner. The homeowners are given sufficient time to come up with a plan. He advised that if you are a homeowner where there is no electricity and the property has not been lived in for some time that the homeowner should fix the problem.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Kallas stated that Brent Stevens of the Van Wert Economic Development Corporation indicated that Van Wert submitted four sites for the next wave of business in Ohio and all four have made the next round of the Wave 5 Program. The criteria included 30 acres or more of land to develop, excellent utilities infrastructure, support from the utility companies and good access to highways and rail is a plus. The four properties include the Mega Site, Vision Park, 150 acre parcel in Industrial Park and a property out by the Mega Site.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Bowers indicated that flag football is going on. Mowing is still being done along with getting ready for fall and winter.

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

Agler made a motion to prepare an ordinance for the supplemental appropriations. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion for the ordinance for the supplemental appropriations to be prepared as an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

— Agler made a motion to have an ordinance to transfer funds from the general fund account to the CAMO Court at the Municipal Court. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion for the ordinance to transfer funds from the general fund account to the CAMO Court at the Municipal Court be prepared as an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Moore indicated that with the school traffic on State Route 118 there are a lot of close calls and asked if police would be available to control the traffic. Fleming will discuss it with the police department.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Davis discussed the changing council rules and the two ordinances that were on the agenda for a second reading, one deals with preparing ordinances and the other the timelines for deciding salaries of elected officials.

Council discussed the recommended salaries for the council and the council president. Davis asked that an ordinance be prepared as an emergency for the salaries for council members to \$5,500 and \$6,100 for the president. Davis seconded. Kallas, Bowers, Agler voted yes. Marshall and Moore abstained.

— Davis asked that an ordinance be prepared for the Police Department to enact a fee to conduct inspections for low speed vehicles. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Davis asked for an ordinance to be prepared to amend policy and procedure for non-bargaining personnel to be reimbursed \$225 for safety shoes. Agler seconded; all concurred.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., discussed the area around the railroad tracks near Fulton Street needing to be cleaned and was told it was the responsibility of the railroad company.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The intersection of Frothingham and Race Streets is still being reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Agler asked that the water and sewage rates be reviewed as he believes some residents are being treated unfairly. Mazur suggests Agler speak to the Law Director.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-045 was read as a Second Advisory reading. Marshall, Kallas, Agler and Davis voted yes. Bowers, Stinnett and Moore voted no.

Davis made a motion to amend ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-046; Kallas seconded. Marshall, Agler, Stinnett and Moore voted yes. Bowers voted no.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-08-046 was read as a Second Advisory reading. Marshall, Kallas, Agler and Davis voted yes. Bowers, Stinnett and Moore voted no.

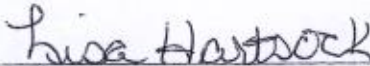
Agler made a motion to prepare ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-047; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-047; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

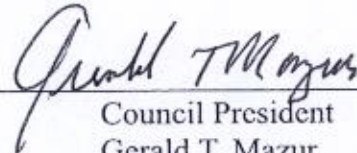
Agler made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-047; Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Agler made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-09-047; AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Stinnett seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Kallas seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President
Gerald T. Mazur

September 25, 2023
DATE