

**MINUTES OF THE
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL**
October 9, 2023

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

Pastor Rebecca Elston gave the invocation.

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

Bowers made a motion to excuse Stinnett. Moore seconded; all concurred.

The Law Director indicated that he received a different opinion from the Ohio Ethics Commission on procedure, the timeline and ethics than the one he previously provided council. He indicated that the latest opinion led him to believe the salary increase legislation should have had three readings and three votes. He suggested council members reconsider the legislation and bring it back for three separate votes. He also noted that hypothetically that if voted on after the November 7 election, only one council member might be eligible to vote on it. Councilman Agler suggested council members forget it and move on. Council then agreed to reconsider the previous salary increase legislation and drop it altogether.

Agler made a motion to reconsider the previous ordinance regarding council salary. Kallas seconded. Kallas, Bowers, Agler and Davis voted yes. Marshall and Moore abstained.

Agler made a motion to rescind the previous ordinance regarding council salary. Kallas seconded. Kallas, Bowers, Agler and Davis voted yes. Marshall and Moore abstained.

Agler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Kallas seconded. Kallas, Bowers, Agler and Davis voted yes. Marshall and Moore abstained.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: The Mayor indicated the first leaf pickup of the season is to begin on November 6.

Trick or treat will be held on October 28 from 4-6 p.m.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Not present.

AUDITOR: There are two invoices that need approval on the Then and Now: 1) Vorst Paving Inc. - Ervin Rd Resurface Railroad in the amount of \$13,030.90; and 2) Bonded Chemicals - Chemical (Water Plant) in the amount of \$29,402.00.

There was a typographical error in the supplemental appropriation passed at the last meeting and it would need to be amended by the individuals who signed it initializing the error.

Balyeat also indicated that a new fund needs to be established for the city's share of opioid settlement money.

LAW DIRECTOR: The Law Director stated he is in the process of preparing legal complaints on four of the blighted properties.

The Law Director also wanted to remind council that they will need to make a policy that any new raises need to be put in place prior to petitions being turned in.

The Law Director also indicated he is reviewing Ordinance 06-02-006 and will address it at the next meeting in detail.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Council received a notice that Central Insurance is hosting an insurance fraud fair on November 14, 2023 from 9am-1pm at the Commons area at the home office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No report

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Kallas stated that Brent Stevens, Executive Director of Van Wert Economical and Development would like an executive meeting at the beginning of the next council meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Bowers indicated that the Parks Department is getting ready for winter. Any volunteers are asked to call the Parks Department.

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

Agler requested that an ordinance be prepared to establish an opioid fund. Davis seconded; all concurred.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Not present.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: Moore asked that an ordinance be passed as an emergency for paving on U.S. 127 from the Mercer County line to the hospital. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Moore asked that an ordinance be passed as an emergency for paving on Lincoln Highway from State Route 49 to John Brown Road. Agler seconded; all concurred.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No report

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:

The Auditor discussed her thoughts that committee meetings need to be held separately and not discussed in the middle of a council meeting.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main Street agreed that committee meetings should be held separately from regular scheduled council meetings.

Councilwoman Moore expressed her thoughts of council going back to rules to guide local decisions and continue to go slowly to keep the public involved.

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

NEW BUSINESS: The Law Director reminded residents that political and other signs are not to be placed in the right-of-way.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Moore made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-10-051; Agler seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-10-051; Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-10-051; AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT TO APPROVE PRELIMINARY CONSENT LEGISLATION FOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION ON COUNTY ROAD 418 (LINCOLN HIGHWAY) FROM COUNTY ROAD 168 (CONVOY ROAD) TO TOWNSHIP ROAD 83 (JOHN BROWN ROAD), TO GRANT THE MAYOR THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE FURTHERANCE OF SAID PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Bowers seconded; all concurred. Ordinance Passed.

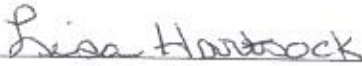
Moore made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-10-052; Agler seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to suspend statutory rules for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-10-052; Bowers seconded; all concurred.

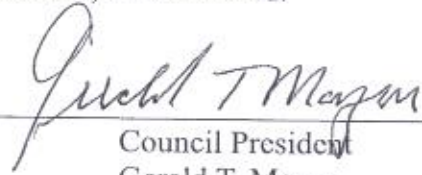
Moore made a motion to pass as an emergency ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-10-052; ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT TO APPROVE PRELIMINARY CONSENT LEGISLATION FOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION ON US ROUTE 127 FROM THE MERCER COUNTY LINE NORTH TO HOSPITAL DRIVE, TO GRANT THE MAYOR THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE FURTHERANCE OF SAID

**PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Bowers seconded; all concurred.
Ordinance Passed.**

Bowers made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Agler seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President
Gerald T. Mazur

October 23, 2023
DATE