

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

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

Missy Mullenhour gave the invocation.

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

Stinnett made a motion to excuse Bowers, Agler and Moore. Marshall seconded; all concurred.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR:** The Mayor indicated Jim Sowers has been reappointed to the city planning commission and Rick Turner to the Community Reinvestment Board

The Mayor noted medical marijuana dispensaries were deemed off-limits in the city limits several years ago and asked the Law Director to review if recreational marijuana dispensaries will be allowed in Van Wert.

Andrew Davis indicated that his position on the Airport Board Commission ends next year and asks to be reappointed to the position after the first of the year.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming indicated there is a planned power outage scheduled on December 13th beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Leeson Avenue.

Fleming reminded water customers that with the switch to monthly billing with the new meters that water bills must be paid on time. Any delinquent customers will be put on a shut off list.

**AUDITOR:** Martha Balyeat was not present and incoming auditor Erika Blackmore gave the Auditor's report.

There is one invoice that needs approval on the Then and Now: 1) Treasurer, State of Ohio - Van Wert 127/SR 49 in the amount of \$45,678.00.

The monthly bank reconciliation is complete and the income tax is higher than expected.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** The Law Director indicated he has been reviewing the laws regarding recreational marijuana dispensaries for the City and indicated that anything that is not medical marijuana wouldn't fall under resolution 150.95. He indicated there are a lot of political issues that are being worked through and does not expect to be able to give an answer in the near future.

The Law Director has seen a lot of cardboard all over the area in the northeast side of town and will be contacting the code enforcement. His office will also be reaching out to the individual regarding the cardboard.

### **COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., indicated his concerns that at times individuals will have a hard time catching up on their water bill. Fleming indicated that there is still a six month payment plan option.

President Mazur indicated that since the next scheduled City Council meeting falls on Christmas Day that it will be scheduled for December 27th at 6:30 p.m.

There was also a special meeting scheduled for December 18th at 6:30 to address outstanding ordinances.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** No reports. Marshall did ask the Law Director for a copy of any legal paperwork on the blighted properties 3, 8, 9 and 10.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Melhorn Trucking thanked the Council for their support in obtaining 7.76 acres in Vision Park.

There are several sites being worked on and hopefully there will be good news by the end of the year.

Attempts are being made through the Ohio Future Funds through Governor Dewine's office to assist with future developments.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** There has been a lot of good feedback for the decorations at Fountain Park.

There is work being done for a job description for a new superintendent at the Cemetery as the current superintendent will be retiring in the near future.

**FINANCE:** Davis made a motion to prepare an ordinance for supplemental appropriations for various accounts and declare an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion to prepare an ordinance to transfer funds from fund 101 to fund 216 and declare an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Davis made a motion for a one time bonus of \$1000 to employees of the Water Department and declare an emergency. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

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

Davis asked that Ordinance 23-12-069 be introduced. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No reports

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas asked to introduce ordinance 23-12-070. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion that ordinance 23-12-070 be amended. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No reports

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Kallas made a motion to reappoint Julia McGrath to the Board of Tax Review, Mark Bagley to the Community Reinvestment Board and Fred Fisher to the Design Review Board. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Kallas began a discussion on getting rid of committees because with only seven members it hinders conversation and being able to talk and run things by each other. Andrew Davis believes that the committee system is built for larger forms of government. He suggested that instead of abolishing committees you could make special committees. Hatcher will do research if the committee system can be abolished and if so, what other options may be available to allow open communications between council members while abiding by the state's Sunshine Law.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

## **RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

Second Advisory Reading for ***ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-11-066***; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VAN WERT CITY ORDINANCES SECTION 150.36 FENCES AND PLANTING SCREENS. All concurred.

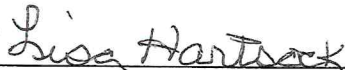
Second Advisory Reading for ***ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-11-067***; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO, FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred.



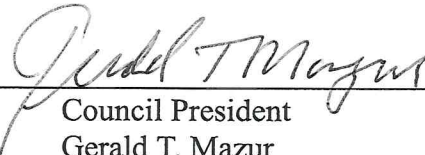
First Advisory Reading for ORDINANCE NUMBER 23-12-069; AN ORDINANCE SETTING NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES AND FEES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Marshall, Kallas, Davis voted yes. Stinnett voted no.

First advisory Reading for RESOLUTION NUMBER 23-12-070; THE FINAL RESOLUTION ENACTED BY THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO, HEREINAFTER TO APPROVE FINAL LEGISLATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET (U.S. ROUTE 127) FROM THE CITY LIMITS NORTH TO HOSPITAL DRIVE, INCLUDING PAVEMENT PLANNING PAVEMENT REPAIR RESURFACING, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS, LYING WITHIN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred.

Kallas made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. Stinnett seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Lisa K. Hartsock



Council President  
Gerald T. Mazur

December 27, 2023

DATE