

# MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

October 28, 2024

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Garold Baker of First United Brethren gave the invocation.

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

Bowers made a motion to arrange the agenda to allow public speakers be moved before Administrative reports. Moore seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dettrow seconded; all concurred.

## COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Brent Stevens from Van Wert Area Economic Development (VWAED) was present to cover a few separate topics. First, last Thursday ESID held a meeting to form several resolutions that will be presented in the first November meeting. He started by explaining that ESID (Energy Special Improvement District) is a program that was set up less than 10 years ago. So far, two projects have been set up, one being the LED light poles in the hospital parking lot. ESID has a program called Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) which is a form of low interest financing for Businesses; payments are made through tax assessments with the city. An upcoming project is set to occur at Central Mutual and through the ESID program; Van Wert Port Authority is in the process of purchasing around 484 windows (~\$11 Million). Essentially, VW Port Authority provides an EIN that allows businesses to purchase qualifying items tax free, and then in turn, a Toledo Port Authority and Cleveland Port Authority will loan the moneys out through bonds.

Some other government legislation from 2009 has sparked some interest for Economic Development to be involved with a program that helps with housing development. This will bring up some new resolutions at the next city council meeting.

Brent Stevens is requesting funding of \$20k/quarter for the Fiscal year of 2025 for Van Wert Area Economic Development. He mentions that this amount has never increased year after year and that along with private investors like the BDC, the county also gives some funding to the VWAED.

The Spec Building is sold and a contract is fully executed. The business that is opening there will be announced in December. Melhorne trucking is hoping to break ground by year end and has all permits to proceed; construction will take place in early spring. Alliance is expanding roughly 70k square feet and 100 new jobs after final bids are taken.

Lastly, Mega Site update: There is an offer on some land on the mega site, but no other update was given at this time.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**MAYOR:** The mayor spoke about the order of the agenda referring to Chapter 30, Rule 20. He provided a copy of the rules for council meetings. Rule 20 would need amended with a 6/7 majority vote to rearrange the order to put speakers ahead of Administrative reports.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Fleming reported on Leeson Ave. Curb slip pouring was done today and will wrap up tomorrow. Paving will follow for approximately 4 days (Wed-Sat, potentially Sun). Driveway and sidewalks will follow.

Leaf pick-up begins Tuesday, November 12th and continues for 4 weeks through Friday, December 6th using the biodegradable bags.

**AUDITOR:** The auditor presented a draft of the 2025 budget. She is hoping to have legislation passed so the budget can go into effect by January 1, 2025. Council led a discussion on how the budget was presented and suggested a few changes to make it easier to read. Blackmore plans to come to the next meeting with an updated version.

Blackmore presented 3 ordinances on salary budgets for the city. Safety salaries, non-union police and firefighters are asking for a 3% pay increase. Service salaries, including, secretaries, building inspectors, water treatment department heads and superintendents are requesting 3%. Municipal court is asking for 5%. The auditor has the suggested increases budgeted in to the 2025 budget but has reiterated that it is obviously not final and can be updated. Council is requesting a representative from the Municipal Court present to the council to justify the 5% pay increase.

The auditor will not be present at the next council meeting, but has expressed open communication lines in between now and the next time she will be present at a meeting.

Agler asked the auditor if there were any in person Sunshine Law meetings. She stated the only one left is in Youngstown across the state. The auditor has offered to set up Mr. Agler in person if he needs help.

**LAW DIRECTOR:** Mr. Hatcher reported movement on the Blighted Properties with positive results.

Day to day municipal court cases seem to have an increase in the area of theft. The law director thinks theft and texting and driving seem to be running at the highest rates, although he mentioned texting and driving is a new law this year.

Agler mentioned the 300 block of Main St. for a blighted property. Mr. Hatcher stated there is movement already on that property. Agler also mentioned wanting attention drawn to the old hospital on Central Ave. He mentioned the first ward, his ward, is growing substantially investment wise with new homes and he would like to have movement on eye sores.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** No report.

**STREETS AND ALLEYS:** Kallas discussed the order of the agenda in correlation with Rule 20.

Kallas made a motion to prepare an ordinance to add “public speakers and questions” as a section before administrative reports and leave “comments, communications & petitions” where it is located after the administrative reports in Chapter 30, Rule 20. Agler seconded; all concurred.

**JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION:** No report.

**PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT:** No report.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** No report.

**HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY:** No report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** No report.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

## **RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:**

**Second Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-09-051. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE GRANTING OF A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING EXEMPTION AND COMPENSATION AGREEMENT. All concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance to amend ordinance number 24-10-057 to correct a transfer/withdraw that was passed last meeting as an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number 24-10-059. Kallas seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Kallas seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to pass, on it's first and final reading, ORDINANCE Number 24-10-059: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER 24-10-057 AMENDNG SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM FUND 101 INSTEAD TO FUND 305, REMOVING THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR FUND 225 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.**

**Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance to make permanent appropriations for expenses for the city of Van Wert for the calendar year 2025 as an emergency. Bowers seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number 24-10-060. Bowers seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Bowers seconded; all concurred.**

**First Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-10-060; AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO, FROM JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.\**

**Ringwald made a motion to prepare an Ordinance amending 24-01-002 dealing with salaries and compensation of employees in the service department, auditor's office, income tax and administration of the city of van wert as an emergency. Bowers seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number 24-10-061. Bowers seconded; all concurred.**

**First Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-10-061; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-01-002 PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AUDITOR'S OFFICE, INCOME TAX AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, ALLOWANCES, IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance providing salaries and compensation of employees in the municipal court system for the Van Wert Municipal Court as an emergency. Dettrow seconded; all concurred.**

**Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number: 24-10-062. Moore seconded; all concurred.**

**First Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-10-062; AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT SYSTEM FOR THE VAN WERT MUNICIPAL COURT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING FOR SICK LEAVE, VACATION SCHEDULE, ALLOWANCES, IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Ringwald made a motion to prepare an ordinance amending Ordinance 22-12-061 by amending the salary ordinance of safety department employees providing for the salaries and compensation of employees in the police department and fire department, non-bargaining unit members of the city of Van Wert as an emergency. Dettrow seconded; all concurred.**

Ringwald made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number: 24-10-063. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

First Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-10-063; AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-12-061 BY AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE SAFETY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT, NON-BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF VAN WERT, ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, SALARY RANGES AND LIMITATIONS, AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING IMMUNIZATION AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND OTHER BENEFITS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 24-10-064. Bowers seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

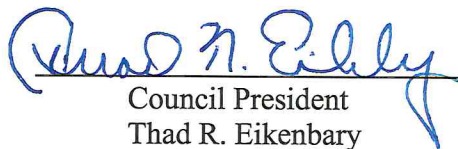
Kallas made a motion to pass on it's First and Final Reading, RESOLUTION Number: 24-10-064; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM GRANT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE DOWNTOWN STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSION PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

President Eikenbary reminded council and public that due to the holiday the next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Bowers seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council  
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

November 13, 2024

DATE