

MINUTES OF THE  
VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL  
October 14th, 2019

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

Pastor Keith Stoller gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Markward, Agler, Trittschuh, Penton and Mergy were present with Straley and Marshall absent.

Agler made a motion to approve Straley and Marshall's absence, seconded by Mergy. All concurred

Mergy made a motion to approve the agenda for the October 14th meeting. Seconded by Trittschuh. All concurred.

Mergy made a motion to approve the 9/23/19 minutes. Seconded by Trittschuh. All concurred.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Airport Authority Board member Mike Keysor gave an airport update presentation. Keysor talked about the airport's 10-year plan with the FAA, we received \$1.2 million in grant funding from the FAA in the last two years, of which we had to match 5% (\$60,000) which was met. He shared that those funds were spent on drainage, dirt work, paving and the taxiway connection on the south side. Keysor spoke about a master plan that was in order for 2020 but was looking into an Airport layout plan that would be less in cost. He spoke about the new terminal on the south side and shared an illustration. He shared that the community raised 1.2 million for the new terminal and that ground would be broken in the spring. One of the most important goals of the 10-year plan is to lengthen the runway to 5,000 feet to become a better access point and selling point for Van Wert. Keysor also shared that Van Wert County Airport received Airport of the Year for 2019 in the state of Ohio. Grant money received by the local airport was the seventh highest in the state in 2019. Keysor requested for the Airport to be in the budget for continued funding of \$21,000 as in years past.

The Mayor honored winners of the city's Beautification Contest. Winners were Kenneth and Kristine Minnich in first place and Amber Burke in second place.

Mr. Jeff Kallas, a government teacher at Van Wert High School, shared that a Mayor's forum would be held Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 7pm in the lecture hall and the public is welcome. It will be student ran and Kallas noted that it would be a great opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their stance on issues.

Rick Riley of Young's Trash Service also gave a report on the city's first-ever Clean Up Day, noting that 59,180 pounds of items was dropped off at the transfer station during the event.

The President announced that prior to the next meeting on October 28, 2019, a public hearing was scheduled at 6:15 to discuss the annexation of the parcel located at 700 West Ervin. The President also wanted to remind the public that Election Day is November 5th but that early voting was available. The new voting location is located at the corner of Jennings Road and East Ervin Road.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**MAYOR:** The Mayor noted that he would not be present at the next City Council meeting on October 28th because he will be on vacation. He shared about a pilot program that was kicked off four months ago with 200 new water meters installed. He shared the benefits of actual readings for budgeting payments. He did share a small cost would be associated with the change but the cost of that was undetermined at this time. He predicted the change to be complete in the next 18-24 months. Safety Service Director reported that he was looking for a consultant to help with the process, planning and paperwork process. The estimated cost is \$1.5 million. He also noted that the city would likely have to borrow some money with a 10-year payback program to fund the project. More information will be available during budget discussions.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Fleming reported that Golden Oaks would be milled down on October 15th and Rosalie Drive would be getting milled later this week, paving should be done by Friday. Jackson Street was going to be patched this week as well.

**AUDITOR:** Balyeat noted that September financials were available. She noted that Van Wert ended the month with \$13 million on the books and \$13 million in the bank and in various investment accounts. She explained two items that showed different than on past reports because of the new software and how it calculates things. Checks voided in October is anything that was technically done in the month of September but happened in October, it had to be carried over as a reconciliation item because the books had not been closed. Deposits in Transit are Mastercard and Visa utility deposits that hit the bank before the city receives record of it being posted. The cash position report showed a positive balance in all accounts as required. The payroll bank shows a negative balance of \$680,000, she explained that it was not an actual bank but a zero balance payroll account that the money sweeps back and forth between our regular checking account, it's just the way the payroll bank is set up in the new software, it shows it as having a balance. Balyeat reported that it is an offset of the First Bank of Berne balance explaining that the \$4.1 million balance is really \$680,000 less. The General Fund revenue shows that we have not received our full settlement of real estate taxes from the County. No time frame is known for these monies. Income tax is up from last year. Reimbursements from the County is down \$31,000 because the city failed to bill the Municipal Court in June for the

first half of the year for salary reimbursement for County Work but we will be receiving those monies soon. Municipal Court Fines and Cost are the same as last year. We are behind on our revenues compared to where we were last year. She also reported that we will come close to our revenue projection but that we will not exceed it. General Fund Revenue shows we have taken in \$5 million and spent \$4.8 million. Balyeat mentioned that 2020 budgets should be started and that worksheets would be out to all departments by the beginning of next week and that preliminary budgets figures should be available by the first reading in November. She also noted a supplemental appropriation would be introduced by Markward to pay Young's Trash Service for the City Clean Up Day.

LAW DIRECTOR: Hatcher requested for an executive session regarding pending litigation at the next Council Meeting. He reported a release request, regarding a lawsuit against a truck driver who damaged property at Main and Washington Street. A request has been made to settle the suit and ordinance requesting that release would be requested from Mergy. Hatcher noted an email that was received regarding a potential bus service. Hatcher reported parking issues that the Safety Service Director and local authorities have shared with him and that he was going to review and depending on his preliminary findings, he and Fleming would discuss how to move forward. The Mayor thanked the Law Director, the tax administrator and the courts for garnishment collection in the amount of \$5700.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: No report was given.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No report was given

PARKS AND RECREATION: Penton thanked volunteers and Central Mutual Insurance for volunteer work this year.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: No report was given.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: Mergy made a motion for a resolution to be prepared authorizing the Mayor to sign a release regarding a settlement on an emergency basis. Trittschuh seconded. All concurred. Mergy made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 19-10-055. Trittschuh seconded. All concurred. Mergy made a motion to suspend statutory rules to Ordinance Number 19-10-055. Trittschuh seconded. All concurred. Mergy made a motion to pass Ordinance Number 19-10-055: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A RELEASE FROM NORTHLAND INSURANCE RELEASING PENSKE TRUCK, ROBERT SCOTT MORRIS AND TS JAY-CEE LOGISTICS, INC FROM LIABILITY FOR A PROPERTY DAMAGE ACCIDENT AT THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND WASHINGTON STREET, IN THE CITY OF VAN WERT, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY on its first and final reading. Trittschuh seconded. All concurred.

**FINANCE:** Markward made a motion to introduce Ordinance Number 19-10-054. Mergy seconded. All concurred. Markward made a motion to suspend statutory rules. Mergy seconded. All concurred. Markward made a motion to pass Ordinance Number 19-10-054: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO FUND 215 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY on its first and final reading. Mergy seconded. All concurred.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report was given

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Code Enforcement

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.; seconded by Mergy; with all concurring.

---

CLERK

---

PRESIDENT

---

DATE