

Regular/Public

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Council President Baker called the meeting to order. Pastor Paula Marbury from Trinity United Methodist Church offered the prayer. The Pledge was recited by all.

Roll call: Shupp, Hamsher, Aspiras, Corfman and Lorson were present. Excused: Wilson, Vance

Aspiras moved to accept the minutes as document of the last regular meeting of January 19, 2016. Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Baker: We have no public comment this evening. We move to our standing committee reports. Finance, Mr. Aspiras.

Standing Committee Reports:

No report for Finance, Utilities, Health & Safety, Parks & Recreation, Transportation, Planning and Ordinance & Personnel.

Baker: We have no special committee reports. We'll move to administrative reports, Mayor Handwerk.

Administrative Reports:

Mayor Handwerk: Actually, Mr. President, I thank you but I have nothing to report tonight other than to remind council members and anyone in the audience that our next meeting will be on a Tuesday instead of Monday. That's all.

Baker: Thank you. Safety Service Director Mr. Wheeler.

Safety Service Director Wheeler: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no report tonight either.

Baker: Thank you. Our Utilities Director Mr. Brediger, what's up?

Utility Director Brediger: Somebody's got to say something, I guess. Just a few departmental updates. Electric Department, we're continuing on with the rate study and our power supply study. We hope to wrap up those two major projects later on this month or in March. We did submit some new permitting language to Ohio EPA that will allow us to move forward with the retrofit work later on this fall. In the AMP newsletter that was mailed out to City Council Board last week, you may have noticed that two more of our hydro units came on line. One of the three units at Cannelton and one of the three units at Meldahl came on line. This is three out of the eight units that should come on line later on this quarter. The last plant, Smithland with three units will be coming on line before the end of the year. So those projects are coming on board and we are taking energy from all three of those in December, or excuse me, January. Water Plant, I will speak to the resolution later on. With a lot of the media focus on lead up in Flint, Michigan, and Sebring, Ohio, I thought I would just provide this body an update on where Orrville Utilities especially the Water Department is on that issue. I'd like to provide a little bit of background on our water quality program. First, all of our water comes from 11 wells located in four different well fields vs. the open water sources where a lot of communities get their water from. Our plant that was built in 1997 treats about 2 million gallons of water a day. Background into the lead testing, the EPA started focusing on lead in drinking water in the early 1990's. Shortly afterwards we replaced all of our lead-lined service lines that we had on record. And in 1992, the EPA started requiring testing for lead. The test locations were houses that were built during the time period of 1983 and 1987. This is because when lead solder was still being used to braze or fuse the copper tubing connections. In 1992 to 1993 we had to run 40 samples twice a year to establish baseline levels. Because the levels were so low during that period, we were allowed to reduce our sampling to 20 samples once a year from the years 1994-1996. Our levels continued to stay low through this period and we were approved to reduce our sampling to 20 samples every three years. Since that time we have never had any results that have required us to do any additional sampling or monitoring. In January 2014 another lead requirement was initiated by Federal EPA that prohibited the installation of any water meter, valve, fitting, etc., that contains lead. At that time we switched all of our water meters, valves and fittings over to a plastic, a composite type material and we stopped stocking any components that had lead in it. Our last EPA water quality report in 2014 was mailed out to all of our customers indicated that our lead levels were five times below the EPA's action level. We do send out samples to independent labs for analysis and in addition to the lead, we do test for several other inorganic, volatile organic and synthetic compounds and we also test for pesticides, herbicides, radium, pH, chlorine, hardness and coliform. There's about 20 tests in all that we perform on a very periodic basis. And all those have all been within the EPA's acceptable levels. So I will affirm that our water quality program that we have in our community is in great shape. You can't really pick up the paper or turn on the TV with those two communities in the news. And I am sure that as a result of that there will be some other regulations or tightening of some of the issues surrounding lead that will be coming upon us. On the miscellaneous area, we, our State association AMP will be introducing what they call a utility shield program. I believe I've mentioned this before in the past. We've had a couple discussions with it at the Utility Board. But it's an insurance program that

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covers a lot of utilities from the home. Also inside the home. This program will be rolling out in February. And we will have a presentation on this. Like, for example, your gas line from the gas meter to your house is not covered should anything go wrong with that. For example you have a problem with that, that's on your own, that's not covered under homeowners. Likewise for the sewer line, this program will also cover internal plumbing, internal electrical issues, major HVAC and heating systems in your home. It is like an all in one. It's similar to some of the programs that have already been out and offered by other utilities. Dominion East Ohio has a utility line protection service program. These are again an all in one. And they also offer a full blown gamut offering of prices that start very modestly from \$5-\$6/month to something that may cover your entire house for a little bit more. So we'll be having some programming and some presentations on that. And we may combine a Utility Board along with City Council so we can have that presentation made at City Council meetings so we can have that viewed on Armstrong. So there will be some more information coming out on that. And that would be a program that, from a Utility perspective, we are completely hands off. We will endorse that. One of the nice benefits of the program, this has already been vetted through our state association and for every customer that signs up for these various programs, we receive a little bit of rebate for that and that will be a revenue generator that we can look at using some of the income from that to fund some other projects and programs here. So you'll be hearing a little bit more about that. Also, a couple weeks ago Congress did extend the tax credit dealing with new solar installations. They're extending those credits out to the year 2020. That will allow us more time to evaluate some potential solar sites within our community. Before that tax credit was renewed it was set to expire at the end of December of this year. So we have a little bit more time to continue evaluating potential sites, get our long-term power supply study back and see if there's some future fits for us there. And that's all I have unless there's any questions. Thank you.

Baker: Thank you. We will move to our Finance Director Ms. Strimlan.

Finance Director Strimlan: Thank you, Mr. President. Just two quick items this evening. Before the meeting I did distribute the quarterly investment report for the last quarter of 2015. It doesn't require any action by council but I do need the minutes to reflect that it was distributed. I'll go over the investments and other financial matters during my annual report in a couple months. And the last item would be the Fund Balance Report for the period ending December 31 (2015) which I also distributed. This fund balance report I would ask council for a motion to approve that subject to audit. Hamsher so moved. Corfman seconded; roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Baker: Thank you. We'll move to our Law Director Mrs. Kirkbride.

Law Director Kirkbride: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no report evening.

Council President Baker: Thank you. For my report this evening I have two items. They are both applications for the placement of farmland in an agricultural district. And I'm going to let Mr. Wheeler speak to these. He's spoken to both of these people.

Wheeler: Yes, for some of our newer council members you might not be familiar with what this actually does. This application for placement of farmland in an agricultural district actually happens fairly often within the city limits from the various farms that exist within our city limits. What it does, this designation does, is it protects those properties against assessments for electric, water or wastewater services so the property could not be assessed for running those services. It also limits the use of eminent domain to no more than 10% of the property and also there's a clause that it would be protected from some of the nuisance legislation. For instance the equipment would be exempt from any kind of noise ordinance or probably more important to them is if they're to do fertilizer, they would be protected from odor complaints those kinds of things. These two properties that we have, one is on Crown Hill and one is east of our first industrial park. Both of those have some of their property is within city limits, others is out of it. We have not, historically, had any complaints on these two properties. From my understanding what the City has done in the past, a public hearing is required. We could schedule a public hearing for our next council meeting. If you do not schedule a public hearing then it automatically goes into effect and allows them the right for the designation. Normally, or typically if you will, City Council has chosen not to hold public hearing and just allow those to go into exemption. That is purely up to you guys though. If you want to have a public hearing then we can schedule that. It does require advertising and so there's some costs associated with that. But that's sort of what the designation is for. One of them is Ed Shoup and the other is Dean Arnold, those are the two applicants.

Baker: Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Wheeler? Yes, sir.

Aspiras: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Wheeler, are we required to notify adjacent property owners?

Wheeler: We are not required to, that's what the advertising is for. We would advertise in the paper, it has to be 7 days prior to the public hearing.

Aspiras: But we don't have to personally send letters out?

Wheeler: There is not a letter required within the Ohio Revised Code.

Baker: Anyone else? Yes, sir.

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Aspiras: Thank you, Mr. President. Do you see any issues?

Wheeler: I do not see any issues with either property. They're both been used for farming in the past so obviously they use those. They both are currently under the designation as well. So it's really just a normal part of these properties. Mr. Shoup said he was planting corn this year on his. Mr. Arnold didn't know what he was going to plant on his but either beans or corn as well. Those are properties that are currently used for farm land. I really don't see any difference with the designation from what they are already doing with the property.

Baker: For both of these there have been no complaints at all for either?

Wheeler: No, sir.

Baker: Okay. We want to just let those go as they would? Okay. You will handle that, Mr. Wheeler?

Wheeler: Yes, sir.

Baker: Thank you. That's all I have for this evening. We have no old business scheduled. We'll move to our new business, Mr. Lorson.

New Business:

Lorson moved that Resolution 3-16 be placed on first reading. Corfman seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution No. 3-16**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into an Agreement and/or Agreements with the State Auditor's Office to prepare the annual audit for fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, and declaring an emergency.

Baker: Thank you. Ms. Strimlan.

Strimlan: Thank you, Mr. President. We do need to issue a purchase order for the expenses that are associated with the audit for 2015. This is an expenditure that's split among several funds. It's estimated that the amount for the City side will be over the \$15,000 threshold so we would ask Council to approve entering into the contract with the State and also granting authority to the Board of Control to issue a purchase order to cover the full potential of the expenditure.

Baker: Ms. Strimlan, how soon does this have to happen?

Strimlan: We can hold off until the next meeting, it's fine. Thank you.

Baker: Okay. Thank you. Anyone have any questions for Ms. Strimlan? Let's move to the next item.

Lorson moved that Resolution 4-16 be placed on first reading. Corfman seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution No. 4-16**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into a contract and/or contracts for the lease of concession stand space for the sale of soft drinks, ice cream, candy, popcorn, peanuts, and other like items at Orr Park for the years 2016 and 2017.

Baker: Mr. Wheeler.

Wheeler: Thank you, Mr. President. This resolution allows us to go out for bids for leasing of the park concession stand and the one that's in the pool. Those are two year agreements. The current two year agreement expired the end of 2015. Historically and interestingly, since 1986, we've had three vendors that have had control of that. Unfortunately over the last several years we've only had one that has bid. So there isn't any guarantees that we'll get any bidders. In the meantime, we've had some discussion with one of the school organizations. I prefer not to say which one so that they can, because I'm not sure the whole board of that folks know about this so I don't want them to hear about it on TV if you will. But in the meantime, they've expressed some interest. I don't know where that will go. So in the meantime my plan is to go out for bids but I think that is a good opportunity that would potentially be a win/win for a really good organization that knows how to run these kinds of concession stands and would also get someone that's fairly reliable. In the past Matt Plybon, Pat Lonier, I mean those folks have been great running the concession stand unfortunately they haven't been in a number of years. Our last vendor there was a little more unreliable and wasn't consistent with their timing and I think they missed some great opportunities to make some money there as well and provide a service when the park was really busy. This obviously doesn't have to be passed tonight but I did want to get it in front of you so if we do need to go out for bid then we'll be ready to do that after the next council meeting.

Baker: Anyone have any questions of Mr. Wheeler?

Wheeler: And historically the contract price has been anywhere from \$1,000-\$1,200 annually so obviously not a significant amount of money but there is some money that we make.

Baker: Okay. We'll move to our next item.

Lorson moved that Resolution 5-16 be placed on first reading.

Aspiras: Are we allowed to suspend the last piece?

Baker: No, we are not. Two people are missing. We have to have six votes to suspend.

Aspiras: That's right. I'm sorry.

Corfman seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution No. 5-16**, A Resolution authorizing the Public Utilities Board of Control of the City of Orrville, Ohio, to advertise for bids and to enter into a contract and/or contracts for lime sludge removal, and declaring an emergency.

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Baker: Mr. Brediger, any comments for this one?

Brediger: Yes, sir. I did send out a memo on the 26th of January describing some background on this. We do have two lime lagoons. These lagoons deal with the lime sludge that's part of our water softening process. Every 4-5 years we cycle and we clean two of those out. We're just coming up on that need again. This is a budgeted item. We're budgeting about \$220,000 on this. We will bid this out. Part of the contract not only involves cleaning out these ponds to get them in shape to be used over the next 4-5 year period but it also handles disposing of the sludge on area farms. So they use this as part of their soil amendment process. And again, this does not have to have any action on it tonight. And I'll take any other questions that you might have on that.

Baker: Anyone have any questions? Yes, sir.

Aspiras: Thank you, Mr. President. As you said, Mr. Brediger, this is not the first time that this has come up but I do have a question. Have we ever looked at and is there any advantage to like an ion exchanger? With the brine medium?

Brediger: I won't say that hasn't been looked at. I think it's just an economies of scale and the type of water that we have. I'll have to check with Mr. Fetty on that. I think this question has come up in the past. I can't give you an answer for that. But I think it's just a function of the type of water that we have and the economics of softening it that this is the most economical process that we have. Let me, I'll get back with you and follow up with how that option would compare against how we're currently doing business today.

Aspiras: Okay. I mean, I don't know a lot about it but from my understanding there is no sludge byproduct in the ion process.

Brediger: In that process, that is correct. I mean there are other costs associated with that that would have to be offset there. Let me find out what the economics and the technical differences and applications are for that. We do not use that type of process at the plant but if, and again it depends on the type of water that you're looking at needing at the end of the day, the volumes and things along that line. Often times when you get into those types of medium you have to have some more upfront equipment to kind of do some I'd just say some more pre-filtering or pre-work before it goes into those ion exchange that may make that process a little more complex than it needs for typical water plant operations. Let me get some more background information and I'll provide that to you at the next council meeting if that's okay.

Aspiras: Thank you.

Baker: Anyone else have any comments?

Corfman: Lime sludge does help the corn grown.

Baker: Does it? Thank you. That finishes our new business for this evening. The next item on our agenda is Chief Carozza with his annual report for the police department. Chief.

Chief Dino Carozza presented his annual report and announced his retirement this year on April 29, 2016. (Copy on file.) Thank you very much.

Mayor: We thank you for the great job that you've done.

Carozza: Thank you.

Baker: Thank you, Chief Carozza. I'll move to the next part of our agenda. Does anyone have anything for the good of the order this evening? I see nothing. We have one more item.

Aspiras moved to adjourn the council meeting and Shupp seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Baker: Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for attending our meeting. We're now adjourned.
Council was adjourned 8:20 PM.

Jeanne Feudo, Clerk of Council

Date

Lyle Baker, President of Council