

Regular/Public

April 20, 2020

Council President Paul Vance called the April 20, 2020, regular meeting to order. Pastor Chuck Davis led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call: Handwerk, Aspiras, Lorson, Mosley, Carozza, Widmer and Wilson were all present.

Council minutes of regular meeting April 6, 2020, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve the minutes; Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports - None

Parks and Recs – Handwerk: Mentioned the cancellation of the ball tournaments and fireworks at the park. It was a difficult decision. Community Day information will still be coming.

Special Committee Reports - None

Administrative Reports

Mayor Handwerk: A new Mayor's message video was uploaded to Facebook today and sent to Armstrong to air. The Governor announced schools have been closed for the remainder of this school year. There is local help for residents such as churches offering to pick up groceries or medication for people and a couple of food pantries are open.

Safety Service Director Wheeler: Service Department continues mowing, street sweeping and hope to begin the parking lot at the ballfield when weather dries. The school Ella Street property survey is completed and legislation should be at our next meeting for that donation. Also pickleball courts legislation should be coming and part of that will be funded by a grant. There is no decision yet on opening our pool. We will see what the governor says at the first of May. We are also working with Wooster so one pool doesn't close and the crowd heads to the other. The compost center is currently still open on Wednesdays and with the hope of opening Saturday hours in May.

Utility Director Brediger: Water Department roof replacement has been completed. We are evaluating the impact of business closures on our revenues. And we will evaluate options of the Governor's return to business and what that will look like for the utilities.

Finance Director Strimlan: Utility billing, due to COVID-19 and the financial hardships it is creating, we have temporarily suspended disconnections and waived late fees for residential customers. The bills continue to accumulate. We need to implement a way for citizens to make arrangements to pay those. Monday night's Utility Board meeting we will propose a Utility Relief program which outlines a 6-month repayment plan for individuals negatively impacted financially by the COVID crisis. We are working on financial updates due to reductions in revenue. You will have a report before the next meeting. The Fund Balance reports for February 2020 and March 2020. March has a few funds with negative net income due to a timing issue. The general fund revenue comes in each quarter. For the Utilities, March we make the working capital funds transfer. They are all normal balances to expect for this time of the year. We need a motion of approval of the February and March fund balances subject to audit. Wilson motioned; Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion carried.

Law Director Kirkbride: Sunshine Training was postponed to Tuesday, November 17, at 1 pm at Schmid Hall.

Council President Vance: Thank you Mayor for the video update with the list of services being provided in our area. And the city employees working in unusual circumstances but services are moving with not interruptions.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Good of the Order:

Mayor: Had read somewhere today that as far as the State opening up, the gradual opening, there must be 14 days in decline of cases. We are still on the upward trend. Once it starts going downhill, we have to wait 14 days. If it goes down but then goes back up, the 14 days will start over.

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Vance: Yes, and there will be a lot of new measures that businesses will have to take.

Mosely: 14 days from the last positive test?

Mayor: No. It is decreasing number in the number of new cases.

Vance: The difficulty is that testing is increasing so therefore the number of cases increases. But the number of hospital admissions have leveled off. The rules change daily. People are doing a good job.

Lorson: About the 4th of July celebration, it was a difficult decision for the firefighters, this means a lot to them and means a lot to the community. It was an extremely difficult thing to do but it was the right thing to do. He's proud of them. It gives the vendors and everyone time to back out and do something different. They have his full support.

Mayor: I agree 100%.

Vance: We don't know where we will be in July but have to make the best decisions with the commitments and contracts that need to be signed.

Adjournment

Lorson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Council adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

_____, 2020
Date

Paul Vance, President of Council