

Regular/Public

May 18, 2020

Council President Paul Vance called the May 18, 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 held May 4, 2020, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Widmer seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports

No committee reports.

Mosley – Requested the legislation on second reading gets passed tonight.

Carozza – (Ward 3) Tendered his resignation effective June 30, 2020, as he will be moving from the area to be near his grandchildren.

Lorson – The Ordinance and Personnel committee will follow the vacancy process by placing a notice in the newspaper and on Facebook for Ward 3 applicants. The applicant will have a year and a half as an appointee. If they wish to complete the term, they will need to run in the general election 2021 according to the Wayne County Board of elections and may have opposition at that time.

Vance – Next year's election in 2021, there will be 5 of the seven city council positions will be up for election.

Wilson – Budget 2021 readings will take place June 15th, 2nd reading July 6 and 3rd reading July 20th and will need to be to the Wayne County commission by July 21st. The budget workshop, with the pandemic and extenuating circumstances, has been cancelled. We can reschedule if needed. Wilson motioned to pass the budget calendar; Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Special Committee Reports - None

Administrative Reports

Mayor Handwerk: a May 2020 Electrical Safety proclamation was read. Congratulations Red Rider Class of 2020 graduates. The traditional Memorial Day ceremony and procession will not be held. American Legion's Jason Lax wanted to still do something. We chose a day out at the cemetery and recorded that service. Cortney Lax Bates (Jason's daughter) was our speaker. In Flanders Fields was recited by high school student Sedona Casto. Pastor Chuck Davis opened with a prayer. Jason Lax and Kristin Goff assisted as well in their fatigues. The rifle volley was held by the three legion members Lax, Bates and Goff. Chris Jones, Orrville High School band director, played taps. It will air at 7 am Memorial Day morning on Armstrong's A channel and it will post to our city Facebook page at 7 am as well. Thanked Councilman Carozza for his years of service to the city as a policeman, police chief and a council member. We appreciate his stepping up and running for council. Conference calls were held with Congressman Gonzales and his staff last week. There have been weekly calls with elected officials. Director Strimlan and the Mayor had a conference call with one of Gonzales' staffers to discuss the financial impacts on small municipalities because the weeks before everything we were seeing were to support larger cities 250,000 and above which doesn't apply to many of us around here. Our financial impact won't be seen for a couple of months, and we will be impacted financially. They are working on trying to get us some help for the smaller communities. Orr pool will open this summer. We have staffing. It will take a few weeks to get the pool ready. There are new restrictions to enforce. The downtown flowers will be going up soon by the Distribution team and their bucket trucks hanging those. Thanks to Buchwalter's for getting those started for us every year. And also Trista Endsley, who works at Lowes, volunteered to plant the flowers out front of city hall with Lowe's donating the flowers. That was a nice gesture. We appreciate all those that donate to the flower program every year. They lift people's spirits.

Vance: Thanked the Mayor for his video updates that get posted to the Facebook page and the Armstrong A channel. It is a great source of information.

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Safety Service Director Wheeler: The Service Department continues work on the new parking lot north of the ballfield with legislation on the agenda tonight. Cemetery is being prepped for the Memorial Day holiday. They have also begun prepping the pool to open while meeting the necessary requirements set forth by the Governor. Some area pools are not opening at all. The process may take 3-4 weeks as we absorb the information and requirements necessary. The safety of staff and visitors is our highest priority.

Utility Director Brediger: We are maintaining our minimum staffing levels. A couple of two-man distribution crews are in service. Power Plant crews are coming back to catch up on work and to prep for a possible start up in early June during AEP work on our innerconnection. Once the work is completed they will return to standby mode. The Wastewater Department operating permit is in its final phase of application as required by EPA. There will be a public comment period as part of the normal process. We continue to monitor the opening of businesses and how it will affect utility needs. House Bill 163 municipalities providing service outside of their corporation limits, the bill does not affect municipalities but there are some home rule issues that we have discussed with Representative Wiggam. At the end of this month we will have a new service provide handling our after hours emergency call-ins. They will take all our high volume calls when we get overloaded which occurs at more than 50. There will be a new 1-800 number for those calls and answered by a human voice. Other utilities have used them with great success. Information will go out on the customer billing statements and the webpage.

Finance Director Strimlan: The budget and a recap of changes from final appropriations will be sent out prior to the June 15 meeting. The legislation will go three readings. We don't expect any significant changes other than capital project planning due to the uncertainty of the financial impact of the pandemic. We are expecting a decrease in revenue in multiple areas, sales tax, permissive tax and local government funding with a lag time of a few months before we realize the impact. Municipal income tax will see an impact, most likely noticed in July. Council members will be receiving an overview of revenue and expenditures for major funds on a quarterly basis or monthly if the situation warrants with significant changes. The first page will be a summary. Detailed section will follow that compares year to date with the budget. We are lagging from our 2019 revenues. But because we historically have been extremely conservative in our revenue forecast you will see we have exceeded the budget for this time of year despite being lower than 2019 actuals. That fiscal procedure coupled with our strong fund balances going into the COVID situation should help us considerably when compared to other communities who were very close in fund balance prior to the COVID situation. At the end of the packet are COVID updates on additional expenses we are incurring and analysis of known revenue reduction or areas we believe will be impacted. Also included are the 2019 actuals in those areas so you can see the potential impact could be with different percentage impacts. Also a recap of the administrations efforts to mitigate some of the financial effects of COVID in terms of hiring, spending and monitoring of the situation. Call with any questions or information you would like added. That State revenues are 35% below projections so far which may give us an indication. There are no projects we need to take a second look at due to the grant funds we receive to help fund these and we don't want to lose the grant funds.

Law Director Kirkbride: No report.

Council President Vance: In our community, during this pandemic, we have not seen mass layoffs but there were furloughs with intentions to bring those employees back. One business closed, but that was not primarily related to the pandemic, it had been slow before that. If you want local business here, you need to support it. Wayne County's economy remains strong. The unemployment rate in March was 4.1%, it may have climbed to 4.7% in April. It is tied as the 7th lowest unemployment rate in Ohio. Some counties are at 12%, 14%. Wayne County is in a good position. Engage in the State regulations for opening of businesses instead of complaining which doesn't do any good. Let's be positive and support one another in this difficult time.

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Old Business

Resolution 15-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on second reading. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 15-20**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into a contract and/or contracts, with the Wayne County Commissioners to provide supplemental funding for the Kirk Avenue Resurfacing Project in the City of Orrville, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This is one of those projects we referred to that we have planned for and funded partially with grant funds. Mosley requested we pass this tonight. We received over \$500,000 grant funds for our roads and this one needs done.

Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 15-20 be adopted as read. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

President Vance mentioned that the “declaring and emergency clause” waives the 30 day waiting period after the legislation is passed before it goes into effect. The construction projects means we can go out right away during the construction season.

New Business

Resolution 18-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 18-20**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to advertise for bids or in the alternative procure quotes for the asphalt overlay of parking lots and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: These are small paving projects for new parking areas. They have been budgeted for without grant funds. There is no rush to move forward but we wanted to beat the little league ball games. There is a new parking lot north of the Ella Street ballfield and the base of the overpass at the property we just purchased. Parking is needed. Most work has been done in house by our city workers.

Lorson, this is an opportune time to get ahead of other municipalities on bids, he moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 18-20 be adopted as read. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Good of the Order:

Mayor Handwerk mentioned that the other member that helped with the Memorial Service was Crystal Goff.

Mosley: Thanked Carozza for his work on the fire truck purchase, always answering his phone, and for his service as Chief (of police).

Adjournment

Lorson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Council adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

_____, 2020
Date

Paul Vance, President of Council