

## Regular/Public

July 6, 2020

Council President Paul Vance called the July 6, 2020, meeting to order. A public hearing was held in regards to the 2021 Budget Resolution 24-20. There were no comments.

New council member Carrie Foy was sworn in by Law Director Kirkbride. Carrie replaces Dino Carozza as the Ward 3 council representative to fulfill Dino's term.

Pastor Brad Dews led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call; all were present. Handwerk, Aspiras, Lorson, Mosley, Foy, Widmer and Wilson.

Council minutes of regular meeting held June 15, 2020, were presented for approval. Mosley moved to approve those minutes; Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Transportation – Mosley: North Star was the low bidder for road work that will begin end of August or beginning of September. Would like to call a committee meeting soon to discuss the sidewalk project and legalizing side-by-sides after the law director has time to research what is existing and permitted in the State of Ohio. We have an August recess so this will go into September. They are faster than a golf cart. As a reminder, the state changed the law on golf carts a few years ago. We responded by being more restrictive than the state law. One item was the 25 mph speed limit which puts the side-by-sides out. This was a safety concern. These same considerations will go into any possibility of side-by-sides. At the July 20 council meeting, we will set that committee meeting date.

Health and Safety – Aspiras: Mr. Aspiras was previously chairing the Utility committee with previous experience at Health and Safety. With the new council member, Aspiras will take over the Health and Safety. Met with departments on the budget for Health and Safety. No further report.

Finance – Wilson: Welcome Carrie Foy. Budget 2021 is on second reading tonight. Congratulations to Finance on a clean 2019 audit. There were three IT items of improvements. The waiver was signed. If you wish to have a final conference about the audit let Director Strimlan know by the end of tomorrow.

**Special Committee Reports** - None

### **Administrative Reports**

Mayor Handwerk: Congratulations Carrie. Welcome to council. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is over with a lot of noise that night with fireworks but no injuries. Congressman Gonzalez will have offices hours tomorrow here at the council chambers. Hot weather week ahead and grateful the pool was able to open.

Safety Service Director Wheeler: Dominion is installing a new gas line on West Chestnut prior to our street paving OPWC project. The OPWC projects are to begin end of August/beginning of September. Those streets are West Chestnut, South Walnut, Smucker, Vine, South Crown Hill and South Elm. The pool had a busy weekend with attendance with added extra shifts on Friday and Saturday for the holiday and a moonlight swim this Friday. Social distancing is working out well.

Utility Director Brediger: Utility employees have returned to full staff workforces other than two IT employees still working from home. The Power Plant is up and running for the potential peaks. The transmission fees are based on how well we perform and generate during the peak periods of the year.

Finance Director Strimlan: 2019 State of Ohio Audit is complete. A draft copy of the CAFR was distributed and the management letter with audit results. The auditor should release those in the next few weeks. Once it is released it will be posted to our webpage. It was a clean audit with three recommendations for our considerations, not mandated. We did implement those. The post audit conference is not required but we can participate. The CAFR was filed with the GFOA for evaluation for the Excellence in Financial Reporting award. November-December timeframe we are notified and

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are hopeful we will qualify. Utility disconnection was suspended in March due to the pandemic. We are once again starting the disconnection process. Payment plans were offered to individuals financially impacted by COVID and information is on our webpage. There are numerous social service agencies that help individuals. Our investor owned public power utility cannot go on indefinitely with unpaid accounts. We owe it to our customers to collect those. Unpaid balances factor into our rates for all of our customers. Disconnection will be Wednesday and Thursday each week the month of July. The Fund Balance for the period ending May 31 was distributed to council via council packet. A motion to approve that subject to audit was sought. Lorson moves. Wilson seconds. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

President Vance announced that new council member Foy will be the chairperson for the Public Utilities committee. We welcome her to that very important committee which represents a large part of our city operations.

Council President Vance: The subject of race relations in our community is looking for a citizen review panel. (Slides were presented on the Zoom meeting.) Many of our community care deeply about this issue. We will address racial relations through transparency, by engagement, by cooperation and thereby aspiring confidence that they are handled appropriately. The process would be to conduct a review, assess our city policies, procedures and priorities – looking at the budget, and see how those things impact our community and specifically race relations. And to provide a process to put forward their proposals in the area of strengthening race relations. This panel will review the proposals, discuss them and explore the ramifications. This will be a citizen driven process, in an orderly manner, facilitated by moderators to make sure the group stays on task. City council and administration will be involved as we want to be engaged and listening. The structure is not yet set but initially have a main working group with 30 some people, plus council and administration to meet 4-5 times to review feedback and present ideas to council who will work with administration and if necessary go through legislative process with committee meetings and any legislation that may come out of it. There will also be focused subcommittees for particular issues or areas. This will take a while to figure this all out. Council is in recess in August. Meetings will probably begin this fall, probably September if we can pull everything together. A big part of this is logistics with social distancing. Your ideas and feedback are welcome. Our citizens have shown they care deeply about these issues and want to work together to make Orrville is a wonderful place to live and continues to be so. Let any of us know if you are interested in being a part of this. Thirty are signed up. More are welcome. We will forward more information and more ways to take part in these in the next several weeks.

Mosley: This originated from the protest we had come through town. Our administration and police department handled it very well. This is the second one we've had in Orrville, a different topic. But we hear you, lets talk about it and figure things out our way. Many have contacted him from the black community and the white community. We don't want to bring problems to Orrville that we are not dealing with. We don't want to make national problems Orrville's problems. We need to take a proactive approach to say what is going on here. Do we have these problems. How are we going to deal with them before it gets out of control. There is a time to protest. You protest to be heard. Then you have to be ready to calm down and come to the table and actually talk. That's where we're at. We don't want to see 50 more protests in the Orrville for the same things. That means we're ignoring them.

Vance: We invite the community to engage with us as we go through this process. We will share what the city is doing and to hear your thoughts and proposals as well.

### Old Business

Resolution 24-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on second reading. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 24-20**, A Resolution approving the budget for the City of Orrville, Ohio, for the calendar year 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: The tax budget represents a first step in balancing our current future priorities and initiatives for the city against the projected available revenues to accomplish that. The budget is a statutory requirement demonstrating a need for existing or increased taxes. Your approval of the budget does not give authority to expend funds. That comes in the form of final appropriations resolution brought to council in March. That document permits expenditures. With the exception of

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capital project planning and power generation requirements, most expenditures in the 2021 are the same as the 2020 final appropriations. The proposed budget is \$57 M. For the general fund \$7.5M without any additions from the 2020 final appropriations. We have 47% allocated for police and fire; 20% for street maintenance repairs and improvements; 10% cemetery, parks, pools and recreation and the remaining for all other departments. The remaining tax supported funds have a \$6 M budget; a \$623,000 decrease from the 2020 final appropriations primarily due to the completion of capital project work. The enterprise utility funds \$43 M. A \$1.7 M decrease due to a change in purchased power due to our anticipated generation and also market transmission cost fluctuations. Questions are welcome. This needs to go the full three readings.

### **New Business**

Ordinance B-20 Lorson moved this be placed on first reading. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Ordinance B-20**, An Ordinance establishing a Fire Department Vehicle and Vehicle Related Equipment Replacement Fund.

Discussion: We have some significant capital fire vehicle purchases that will come our way. The legislation reads \$25,000 annually to be transferred out of the capital fund to this fund. It also allows for council to review the general fund EMS revenues and transfer a portion or all to fortify that funds. This will get us in a better position so we aren't using general fund money that wasn't necessarily there to use or capital fund money that would cause other projects to be pushed back. The EMS fund, when we receive monies, 50% goes into the general fund; 50% to our EMS fund which is specifically for EMS training or EMS vehicle purchases such as an ambulance. The EMS fund fluctuates with the number of calls. The last 10 years we've gone from \$54,000 to almost \$100,000 in the general fund split which shows the increase in volume of calls. The EMS specifically has an identical fund. This would address the Fire department side. This may not completely pay for a purchase with the amount we have coming but will lessen the burden. Projected numbers include a 2024 heavy rescue \$925,000; 2030 ladder truck \$1.7 M; 2035 fire engine \$850,000. So a total of \$3.5 million for the fire department funds. Council still needs to have a vision session. Do we set larger amounts aside from the general fund? We need to discuss what general fund levels we want to maintain.

Lorson, given that we need to save for something we will have to buy, moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of an ordinance on three separate days be suspended. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Ordinance B-20 be adopted as read. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Resolution 25-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 25-20**, A Resolution repealing and replacing Resolution No. 23-20 in its entirety and replacing it with the following: a Resolution passed by the City of Orrville, Ohio affirming that funds from the county Coronavirus Relief Distribution Fund will be expended only to cover costs of the City of Orrville, Ohio consistent with the requirements of section 5001 of the CARES Act as described in 42 USC 801, and any applicable regulations as is necessary pursuant to HB 481 before receiving said funds and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This establishes the COVID fund for the CARES Act grant we will be receiving. After this is passed, we will receive \$248,000 from the Wayne County Auditor. We are evaluating the best use of the funds. We will bring changes to the final appropriations after we have a spending plan so we can spend that money. How do we disburse the funds? Do business request funds? The administration attended webinars on permissible uses for these funds. We are looking at using them for payroll expenses to the extent that regulations will allow, also PPE equipment reimbursements, new purchases that will be required, cleaning and sanitizing public spaces which comes at an additional expense. We are exploring utility subsidies for some of our customers but it does not look promising and needs further discussion with our law director and with Office of Budget Management from the State of Ohio. A meeting is set with the Wayne County Commissioners to discuss those fund.

Lorson, given that the funds are there and ready to be distributed and we had previously set up what we thought was the proper mechanism and this is replacing that, moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Handwerk

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seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 25-20 be adopted as read. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

**Good of the Order:**

Lorson asked Wheeler about adding any sessions to the pool hours on severe heat wave days. Wheeler stated they did over the holiday and the late time period did not fare well. There is a midnight swim schedule this Friday.

Aspiras wished Wheeler a happy birthday.

**Adjournment**

Wilson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Vance said we will give Zoom one more try for our next July meeting. We may review other avenues for September.

Council adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
Date

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Paul Vance, President of Council