

Regular/Public

January 19, 2021

Council President Paul Vance called the regular meeting to order. Pastor Brad Dews and Pastor Gary DeHart led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call. Handwerk, Aspiras, Lorson, Mosley, Foy, Widmer and Wilson. All present.

Council minutes of regular meetings held January 4, 2021, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Widmer seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Scott Gruber of Meeder Investment Advisory Services was introduced by our Finance Director Ms. Strimlan. On third reading tonight is legislation to renew our contract with Meeder. Mr. Gruber presented a power point going over our portfolio. Copy is on file with the clerk.

Standing Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Handwerk: No report. Committee meeting requested for February 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting.

Transportation – Mosley: No report. Committee has a meeting already scheduled for January 25, 2021, at 7 PM. A request was made to pass Resolution 1-21 on first reading tonight to move the grant forward.

Planning – Widmer: Committee met last week to discuss the potential change of ownership of the Manhattan building. It was tabled until more information could be gathered.

Administrative Reports

Mayor Handwerk: Presented his State of the City address.

Utility Director Brediger: Wrapping up the 2020 assessment of the year. We are looking at insight from our state and national associations on what to expect from the incoming President Biden administration, what is on their agenda and their thinking process may be. Changes and challenges come with a new administration. There are no major concerns.

Finance Director Strimlan: Final Appropriations time. The calendar was approved by Councilman Wilson and distributed to council. Council will receive electronic budget books on March 1st with first reading that evening, with a workshop on March 8th with a special meeting for second reading and the final reading on March 15. A motion to approve the calendar was sought. Wilson moved; Widmer seconded. Roll call vote, all yeas. Motion passed.

Law Director Kirkbride: There was an omission on legislation that will be amended to include a cancellation date when it comes up.

Council President Vance: Touching on the Charter Review Commission, it should involve a few meetings. It is an open-ended process and depends on the changes that may be suggested and discussion needed. We hope to announce the commission in the next couple weeks.

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Old Business

Resolution 50-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on third reading. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Resolution 50-20, A Resolution authorizing the Director of Finance of the City of Orrville, Ohio, to enter into a Non-Discretionary Investment Management Agreement for professional management of various City and Utility Funds and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: Ms. Strimlan thanked Mr. Gruber for attending this evening to review it with council.

Lorson moved that Resolution 50-20 be adopted as read. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Ordinance F-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on third reading. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Ordinance F-20, An Ordinance authorizing the use of Utility Task Vehicles (UTV) on streets in the City of Orrville, Ohio, providing an inspection program therefore and repealing inconsistent legislation.

Discussion: Mosely mentioned a question from a resident regarding the requirement of a windshield. A full windshield is required, not a half size. Lorson thanked Chief Birkbeck for his input. There was ample time for residents to comment on this piece. Chief Birkbeck will publish the information and have a handout for those who ask. It will require an equipment inspection to be sure it is operating properly. Vance mentioned how well thought out and council worked well with community and administration to have a success story here.

Lorson moved that Ordinance F-20 be adopted as read. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

New Business

Resolution 1-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 1-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety-Service Director to submit an application to the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funded through Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for a portion of the Heartland Trail Project from Allen Avenue to Forrer Road (Phase 3A) and declaring an emergency. .

Discussion: A preliminary application was completed in partnership with Rails to Trails in October. This is the last portion of the trail within the city limits. We were invited to formally apply which is due at the end of this month. The estimated cost is \$1.18 million. Eligible cost under the grant is \$1 million so the 95% grant is \$950,000. The local match would be \$230,578 which will be provided by Wayne County Rails to Trails, no money from the city budget, we are simply a partner to apply for and administer the grant if we are fortunate enough to receive the funds. It costs us nothing to approve this. There are some easements issues with this portion and believe we are coming to a resolution and getting it resolved. President Vance mentioned the local match that is required and reminded everyone that their contributions are appreciated. Lorson added that all the Rails to Trails projects have been very carefully and thoroughly planned and financing carefully considered.

Lorson moved, that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Widmer seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 1-21 be adopted as read. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

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Resolution 2-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 2-21** A Resolution authorizing the extension of emergency paid sick leave for employees of the City of Orrville, Ohio, affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: Aspiras motioned to amend to include an expiration which would coincide with the end of the Ohio State of emergency concerning COVID-19. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Phil McFarren, HR Manager, explained this stems from a federal mandate put in place by the Family First Coronavirus Response Act passed in March 2020. The leave portion expired on December 31st. It came with a recommendation from the Federal Government that employers that were able to, to extend that leave during the state of emergency. We have had 9 employees required to quarantine for a positive test or they were exposed to someone with a positive test and had to use the leave provided by the mandate. With an additional 15 employees either tested positive or were exposed to someone who tested positive that we made arrangements for them to work from home. Using CARES Act money we provided the majority of administrative employees with the ability to perform their duties from home and have had significant flexibility in preventing those leave hours from being used. Our intent moving forward is to continue doing that to protect our workforce and preserve those dollars. This is not just to give employees another benefit it is to protect them and protect the rest of the city as we navigate the pandemic. If someone has already used their leave, may need to be off again if they are around someone who tested positive so they may be carrying the virus, moving forward they will need to use their own sick leave. This simply carries the 80 hours forward until the state of emergency ends, whether there is a balance of a few or the 80 entirely. The paid sick leave does not come from CARES funding as that expired at the end of December 2020. Public agencies will not be reimbursed.

Lorson moved, as we are extending this benefit to our workers, not asked for but is right to do so as not have to come to work when contagious or sick, 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 2-21 be adopted as read. Foy seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

There was nothing for the good of the order.

Adjournment

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

Council adjourned at 8:59 p.m. Our next meeting is February 1, 2021.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

_____, 2021
Date

Paul Vance, President of Council