

Regular/Public

April 19, 2021

Council President Paul Vance called the regular meeting to order and led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

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

Council minutes of regular meetings held April 5, 2021, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Foy seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation – Handwerk: committee met prior to this council meeting to discuss the following park projects: Rehm painting, bridge, basketball courts, tennis courts. Also events: park clean-up day April 22, Community Day and kickball tournament in August. The 4th of July celebration week was discussed and will be done in accordance with the public health orders. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

Utility – Foy: Thanked the Distribution department for their swift repair of service a couple weeks ago which is why they deserve the Reliability Award they earned.

Ordinance and Personnel – Lorson: Called for a meeting on Monday, May 3, at 6:45 prior to the council meeting to take a look at the upcoming negotiations with the United City Workers and the police union. Negotiations take place on a three year cycle and both unions in the same year. It is not a strategy session. Would like an overview of how negotiations proceed, what expectations are from whom, what council's role is. It is like any committee meeting, open to the public.

Administrative Reports

Mayor Handwerk: Reminder to residents whether property owner or renter, to be sure you know who is responsible for mowing your lawns and to keep them taken care of. Please do not blow grass into the road to clog the drain systems. If you do mow and it gets in the street, please sweep it up or blow it back to your lawn to be picked up. Had a Zoom meeting with the Ohio Municipal League including Rep. Wiggam, Sen. Roegner and many other Mayors, primarily to discuss the tax issue of people working from home and where they will pay their taxes. It is more complicated than what people think with the ramifications to cities that will lose that tax. If they pay where they live, it's a bonus for those communities. It's a take away for us and others like us.

Vance: Another point is that the workers may not be here, but all the infrastructure that is necessary to support those businesses still are and the companies depend on us to provide those services to maintain fire protection, police protection, local utilities, water, sewer all of those services must be maintained to those facilities and those revenues are required in order to do that. We hope the legislators will take that into account as well. Our community made those investments in order to bring about that economic development. We need that revenue to continue and be able to support economic growth in our area of the county.

Mayor: Also, economic development, if it continues to go the direction they are pushing, why would anyone try to attract businesses unless it's manufacturing where they have to be at work to do the job, it won't be a benefit to bring a company in.

Brediger: It is still in committee at the Statehouse. OMEA is on top of this along with our state electric association.

Lorson: To attract businesses to a city, to incentivize expansion, we offer tax incentives to companies to do that. A lot of those are contingent on job creation as well. If those jobs no longer contributed to the local tax base, we would probably have to renegotiating those tax incentives.

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Safety-Service Director Wheeler: Service Department is working on landscaping at the cemetery. The Police Department did get another golf cart inspection today which makes four of them approved. A reminder that UTV users are required to come in for an inspection before they can use it on our city streets.

Utility Director Brediger: About 430 customers were without service around 2:00 a.m., April 11 due to a large tree that took down an entire span of three phase wires during windy weather. Everyone was back on by 8:30 a.m. United Way is offering the utility another grant for \$1900, much like the previous \$5,000 grant to help out our residential and commercial customers impacted by COVID. We will again match the grant and make it available to customers. We appreciate the United Way for this grant and to help give our customers a break.

Finance Director Strimlan: Excused

Law Director Kirkbride: Charter Review Committee met last week. We are working to putting together a list of items that we are asking the committee to review. We will have a meeting at the end of April to continue the discussion. We need to have them submitted by August 4 for the November election.

Council President Vance: We had a successful first Charter Review meeting. We surfaced a number of ideas and issues they would like to explore further. Director Kirkbride is putting together draft language for some of those areas and others are continuing to be researched. Maybe 2-3 more meetings and hopefully wrapped up by the end of May. Items up for discussion are mostly minor. Bringing language and concepts up to date, providing clarification on phrases such as whenever the Mayor is out of the town the Council President is the acting Mayor. Let's provide clarification there. There is a proposal in there to look at the composition of council and whether or not partisanship should remain as a concept as a part of council. Our charter is serving us very well, no complaints received. We are not yet sure if they will be lumped together for vote or if they will be listed individually. It is being looked into so if someone has an objection to one item, they don't necessarily have to vote against everything. Many changes are immaterial. There are all male pronouns throughout the charter so they will be made gender neutral. Some language regarding residency requirement that is no longer lawful that need to be removed. And expand how we meet, for example that we can meet virtually. Make publication notices to be made beyond newspapers. Administration has provided feedback and we welcome that from council as well.

An update on our virtual meetings, open to discussion, but if we have to wear masks and socially distance in the council chambers, I prefer to meet by Zoom. The practicality of meeting and trying to socially distance and trying to record the meeting just doesn't work well but open if there are ideas on how to work around that.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resolution 16-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 16-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to advertise for bids and enter into a contract and/or contracts for the Ella Street and Orr Park Culvert Replacement Project in the City of Orrville, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

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Discussion: This was mentioned in tonight's Parks and Rec committee meeting. We would like to complete this project over the summer to lessen the impact on the schools. Engineering is complete. Request to approve this evening. It has been budgeted for.

As it has been budgeted and discussed and it is a timeliness matter before school starts, 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 16-21 be adopted as read. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Resolution 17-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Widmer seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 17-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into an agreement and/or agreements with Ohio CAT to purchase through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing one (1) 2021 Caterpillar 926M Wheel Loader, which includes a hydraulic quick coupler, 3.0 CY bucket, lifting boom, and payload scales and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This is a new piece of equipment, is primarily for the cemetery and will come out of the cemetery fund. It has been on our capital radar for the last 2-3 years. This does not need to be approved tonight.

Being that it was planned and budgeted for and it has been difficult to get pieces of equipment ordered and in our hands, Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 17-21 be adopted as read. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Utilities Department Annual Report – Director Jeff Brediger

Director Brediger presented the Utilities Department annual report. Copy on file. He expressed his thanks to Bob Auten Wastewater Superintendent and Todd Fetty Water Superintendent. Both are retiring this year. Both have been with us over 30 years. We have great people coming in behind them. On behalf of the utility board and his office, thanked them and wished them success in their retirement.

Good of the Order

Lorson: Gave a shout out to Karen Flinner, Safety-Service Department Administrative Assistant for her 30 years working with the City. Lorson shared 15 years in the office with her. She knows the business and zoning codes inside out, better than anyone. She was always on the ball, always prepared. She took care of a lot of things behind the scenes that many people took for granted. She will absolutely be missed and was wished the best and good luck.

Adjournment

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

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The Charter Review Committee will meet next Monday at 7 pm. Our next regular meeting will be May 3.

Council adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

_____, 2021
Date

Paul Vance, President of Council