

## Regular/Public

May 17, 2021

Council President Paul Vance called the regular meeting to order. Pastor Ike Graham of Orrville Grace Brethren 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 May 3, 2021, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Foy seconded. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

- A. Phase 4 sidewalk project - Tom Hochstetler, 1991 Meadow Lane, Orrville: Speaking on behalf of many residents on Meadow Lane, Heatherwood Lane, Viking Avenue who are opposed to the Phase IV sidewalk project. Petition signatures of about 80% of residents on those streets. Will gather more signatures for absentee people and those on Primrose Lane. Many residents are elderly and do not want the added physical burden of clearing snow from sidewalks; do not want to see their flower beds, trees and lawns destroyed; some are financially strapped due to COVID and do not want the expense of the sidewalks; some feel it is unnecessary expense to the city and to themselves. Looking forward to the public meeting after the engineering is completed. Will submit the petition to Clerk Gault. Mosley: there will be another Transportation Committee meeting once we have all the engineering information. The clerk will post it electronically and at City Hall.
- B. Sidewalks on Meadow Lane – Larry McPherson, 1851 Meadow Lane, Orrville: He is in agreement with what Mr. Hochstetler stated. Would rather see them spend the money on Crown Hill Road. It is so rough from Viking to Market, like a set of railroad tracks and keeps getting worse. Opposed 100% to sidewalks. No benefit to it. There are no schools, no stores, nothing to walk to, not even a park, we drive to those. Spend the money to put more parking in at the park for little league baseball games. We don't want the sidewalks and hope it is reconsidered. He will join more into the council meetings in the future.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Utility – Foy: Has not met. There was a brief power outage this morning. Shout out to the crews for restoring it quickly.

Transportation – Mosley: Met today at 6:30 to discuss the final phase of sidewalks. Concrete street projects start Monday beginning at Ella and Church intersection and downtown curbs on the east side of Main Street. Businesses have been notified. They hope to complete it before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Then pick back up afterwards. A busy construction season ahead. Dominion Gas will be cutting into the concrete laid at High and Vine last year. They have a box out and will restore once completed, not on our dime.

Planning – Widmer: Has not met. Called for a meeting on May 24, 7 pm, to discuss the Manhattan Building.

Finance – Wilson: The budget calendar for 2021 was reviewed and presented for council's approval. Wilson motioned to approve, seconded by Lorson. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion passed.

### **Administrative Reports**

Mayor Handwerk: The same company doing the curb work downtown will also be filling in the tree pits. Our Service Dept. has been working to remove the tree pits. Very few trees have survived. We have planted them three times. The streets are close to the sidewalk where trucks and vehicles throw the salt mist all over them. Some of the pits have sunk. Some still had tree stumps. The concrete crews will smooth those out so we don't have trip hazards. The Memorial Day service will be held at 10 am in the cemetery without a procession from the Legion to the cemetery this year. Council's approval was requested for a replacement on Design Review Board. Dan Kipfer will replace Brittany Jarvis who has resigned. Mosely motioned to approve Dan Kipfer, seconded by Widmer. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion passed.

## Regular/Public

May 17, 2021

Safety-Service Director Wheeler: Concrete streets are scheduled to start next week. After they complete Church and Ella and the downtown curbs, they will move to do a section of Crown Hill Road. Tennis courts were resurfaced today and the asphalt will cure for two weeks. They will then be restriped and the nets put up. The basketball courts will then begin. Service Dept. working on cleaning out tree pits for the concrete contract. They will also be working on the Storybook Trail, down off Vine by the pond. We received a donation from an anonymous donor for part of this project. Fishing is permitted in the pond, please catch and release. Fish were added last year.

Utility Director Brediger: The power interruption this morning was an operator error as we planned some preventative maintenance on high voltage circuit breakers.

Law Director Kirkbride: Charter Review met last week. A redline version was submitted to the members and we await the approval from them all. Wooster went through this last year. Checking with their law director for their experience. There are enough changes that they will be in groupings going to the voters. It will come to council in order to get it on the ballot with an early August deadline.

Council President Vance: The charter revisions are not for us to reconsider but for us to ratify the work of the Charter Review Commission that spent several hours over three meetings. Clarification is being made in areas, modernizing pronouns as well. It was an excellent group. Very few changes have been needed since the charter was first formed.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Resolution 20-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 20-21**, A Resolution to establish the classification of Human Resources Coordinator in the Classified Service of the City of Orrville, Ohio, and repealing all legislation inconsistent herewith.

Discussion: Human Resource Manager Phil McFarren addressed the council. This was discussed in the previous Ordinance and Personnel committee meeting. The Human Resource Department is a three person department. In the next 6 months, two will retire. We would like to cut the department down to two positions. This new HR Coordinator position will report to Mr. McFarren. The two of them will complete the work of the department. Procedurally, by Charter, any time a position is added, it cannot be an emergency measure. But it does not need to go three readings. But the 30 days waiting period before it takes effect is necessary. The current positions will remain on the books and not be absolved. We do have other administrative assistants, that will remain no matter what. The other is the Safety Coordinator and it would remain on the books. We would give council notice if we were ever considering bring it back. If you wish to absolve it, we can bring legislation forward. The estimated cost saving going from a three person department to a two person, will save about 40% at least in wages and benefits. Our lobby was remodeled and the new receptionist area will be filled with the current administrative assistant in HR, Melissa Lehman. She will retire sometime around the end of the year and take the receptionist position. The other is Ron Ballentine who spends a lot of time with the Fire Department, that will continue. Our benefit is that they will still be around and available for onboarding of the new position. Ideally, sometime around the middle of July we could have someone hired. The Mayor mentioned one reason to move ahead sooner rather than later. When Karen Flinner retired in Safety Services, Jeanne Gault took her responsibilities on also, so is pretty well loaded down. Some of her duties will go over to the receptionist position. One reason to move it ahead sooner would be to relieve Jeanne a little bit.

This was discussed in the committee meeting. Mr. McFarren has justified it well, and we will save money making a tighter, leaner organization while still getting the job done, based on that Lorson

## Regular/Public

May 17, 2021

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 20-21 be adopted as read. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Resolution 21-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 21-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety – Service Director to file an application and enter into an agreement and/or agreements with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to become eligible for financial assistance for public recreation purposes and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This grant is traditionally for park or recreational type equipment. It allows up to \$52,904 in grant dollars with a 25% match. We would like to focus on little league fields and add some bleacher seating and some other seating opportunities. Approval tonight was requested to meet the grant deadline.

Given the urgency stated, 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 21-21 be adopted as read. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

### **Good of the Order**

Lorson: Sat in on the Charter Review Commission and viewed it as an interesting experience with a broad cross-section of residents, young, old and different professions. It was a great exercise in democracy and incredible that some have been on multiple review commissions.

President Vance: Our next council meeting is scheduled for June 7. Many of the health orders and mask mandates are going to be rescinded before that date. The CDC has relaxed the guidelines. What is the council and administration's thoughts on meeting in person in June?

Wilson: Yes.

Vance: We aren't required by statute yet. There are considerations about those who are vaccinated and those who are not. I don't want to meet in person if we have to wear masks or socially distance. Our room layout does not lend itself to that.

Aspiras: I'm okay either way. How are we going to move forward with recording and getting the meetings out?

Clerk: Our Armstrong reporter is available to come back for recordings.

Vance: We don't have to decide tonight but would like your thoughts.

Lorson: The Armstrong connection, those recordings, are they available to people that do not subscribe to Armstrong Cable?

Vance: They do post some things on their YouTube channel but not our meetings. Our Facebook recording have had good viewership.

Mosley: Can we get that recording from Armstrong? Akron and Wooster, even in person, they have their own YouTube channel that they share to their Facebook page. Council or Administration should take the lead on how we can get that out. Can we see if Armstrong can share it on YouTube. What are other communities doing?

Clerk: We currently do not pay Armstrong for that service.

Vance: That's the big difference. The other entities are paying a company to do that. That's one aspect of this. Armstrong does this at no cost.

Wilson: Does that also means we do not own the rights?

Vance: It is their content. They make it available to their subscribers on their public access channel. It is their content to do as they see fit. We can discuss with them but not make any demands to use it on other channels.

Lorson: I'm hoping that if we nicely ask, they would post it to their YouTube so we could just share on Facebook. That would be a perfect situation and be accessible to all.

Vance: I'd be happy to have that conversation with them. Any other thoughts about meeting in person? Any concerns about, as I said one aspect with vaccinated versus unvaccinated, potential social distancing, all of that. We don't know the new guidelines yet.

Regular/Public

May 17, 2021

Widmer: No concerns. I'd be comfortable meeting in person.

Lorson: I'd be comfortable meeting in person. The hesitancy is the hot button issue with the sidewalks right now and seeing that right now we have 19 participants in this meeting which is more than what we would typically have at city hall. We don't want to shut those people out or lose them. Until we have a way to ensure that those people have access to this, through Armstrong and YouTube, maybe we should continue this way. I have no problem meeting in person. I don't want to cut out the citizen access.

Mosely: Anyone willing to work on getting the meetings out there publicly? Meeting through Zoom we have more viewers than when we meet in person. Anyone want to take the lead?

Vance: I am happy to work on that with administration and their relationship with Armstrong. We can look at any other options we need to as well.

Mayor: We need to include our IT people in that too. They are very important in that. They know what we can and can't do along with Armstrong.

Vance: Anyone else have concerns about meeting in person in June?

Foy: No concerns.

Vance: Accessibility is a valid point. We need to make these as widely accessible as possible. I will be happy to work with administration on those discussions and see what we have. I will get back to council in a timely manner and also let the public know our intentions as we go into next month.

**Adjournment**

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

Council adjourned at 8:27 p.m. Our next meeting is June 7, 2021. We have a planning committee meeting scheduled for next Monday at 7 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2021  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Vance, President of Council