

Regular Meeting / Public

Monday, April 4, 2022

Council President Vance called the meeting to order and the prayer was led by Pastor Paul Simonsen. Pledge was recited.

Roll call. Handwerk, Aspiras, Shanklin, Lorson, Carr, Mosley, Wilson were all present.

Council minutes of the regular meeting March 21, 2022, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Aspiras seconded. All ayes; motion passes.

Public Comment

Glendora Withrow addressed council regarding a property maintenance complaint against 331 W Oak Street. Trash, concrete and caving in of a garage that was torn down. City has been working with the property owner to complete the work.

Standing Committee Reports

Transportation – Mosley: Committee met to discuss the upcoming sidewalk project and will move forward with legislation.

Health & Safety – Aspiras: Committee met at OFD Station 1 to discuss firework legislation and to see the new equipment received. Legislation will be coming on fireworks. Thanked those that assisted with the committee meeting.

Committees did not meet:

Parks & Recs – Handwerk: Meeting set for April 11th at 7 pm to discuss park projects.

Administrative Reports

Mayor Handwerk: Jen Phillips stepping down from Planning Commission due to moving out of Orrville and will be replaced by Beth Landers beginning in May. Congratulated Orrville Utilities for earning the American Public Power Association (APPA) Safety Service Award of Excellence which is quite an achievement. April employee of the month was announced as Officer Lesy Herbert. Lunch has not yet been arranged.

Safety-Service Director Wheeler: The Gateway park restroom construction is moving along. Concrete street bids opened with the low bid below the engineer's estimate. The preconstruction meeting was held last week. The contractor is on vacation for a couple weeks then work will begin. Compost center is open for residents.

Utility Director Jeff Brediger: Then generation plant and Distribution Department received the national association safety award as the Mayor mentioned. We are in an elite group with higher standards than the state association. It has been a while since we have hit that achievement. During the state association board meeting an Orrville High School, Jayne Wallace received one of the five of AMP's \$3,000 scholarship that will be presented to her at a later date.

Finance Director Strimlan: Fund Balance reports for January and February were distributed prior to council. Wilson moved to accept those subject to audit; Mosley seconds; all ayes; motion passes.

There was no Old Business

New Business

Resolution 15-22, Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 15-22**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into a contract with B&C Communications, without bidding, for the purchase of tornado siren software, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: Software was housed in the prior dispatch area and is outdated and not working efficiently. The upgrade is necessary and will talk directly to the National Weather Service that sirens are automatically activated if there is a tornado in our area. No humans

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have to flip a switch to activate it. There is a backorder to receive it. Sirens do currently work but each one has to be manually activated which is not ideal in a storm situation. Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Carr seconded. All ayes; motion passes. Lorson moved that **Resolution 15-22** be adopted as read. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion passes.

Resolution 16-22, Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. All ayes; motion passes. **Resolution 16-22**, A Resolution authorizing the Director of Finance of the City of Orrville, Ohio, to enter into a Debt Collection Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General Collections Enforcement Office, for the purpose of collecting outstanding fees for ambulance services and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: We currently use Regional Collection Agency which charges 25-30% of the amount collected as their fee. The Ohio Attorney General’s office is offering the debt collection service at 10%. The fee difference makes it worthwhile and we believe letters from the Attorney General’s will give an incentive to people to pay their bills. They have a better track record of collecting debt as well. This does not affect the soft collection but that is something that we should have a committee meeting on to discuss how to proceed. This quarter only 4 were not soft collected so were sent to collections. Soft collection is if you live within the city limits we send you an EMS bill and soft collect. We will not send you to debt collections if you haven’t paid the bill. As a taxpayer you have already paid a portion of our services that are being provided. As we have increased calls and costs, we need to re-evaluate moving to hard collection as we do for those outside the city limits. Sometimes the EMS service is abuse and used just for transportation and not a true emergency which is a reason to look at the policy. Chief Bishop’s annual report showed a large increase in the number of calls and anything we can do to pay the bill and collect on debts owed to us, we should do.

Lorson moved that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Shanklin seconded. All ayes; motion passes. Lorson moved that **Resolution 16-22** be adopted as read. Wilson seconded. All ayes; motion passes.

Utility Director Jeff Brediger presented the Utility Annual Report copy on file with the Utilities office.

Good of the Order

Aspiras: Thanked Chief Birkbeck for assisting on the committee meeting.

Adjournment

Lorson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all ayes; motion passes.

Monday, April 18th is our next meeting. Council adjourned.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

_____, 2022
Date

Paul Vance, President of Council