

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

July 6, 2020

Due to the Stay at Home order, this city council meeting was held via a Zoom conference call. The recorded video of the meeting is available on the City of Wooster YouTube channel.

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Mike Buytendyk called the teleconference meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 7:35 p.m. Lynne DePaulo, Council Clerk, called roll with the following members present; Craig Sanders, Bill Bostancic, Jennifer Warden, David Silvestri, Jon Ansel, Scott Myers, and Mark Cavin. City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Finance Director Andrei Dordea, Director of Administration Joel Montgomery, Law Director John Scavelli, and Development Coordinator Jonathan Millea.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Silvestri moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman announced that Wooster Community Hospital had once again been awarded the IBM/Watson Health Top 100 Hospitals designation. It is the 6th time the hospital has received this award.

Mayor Breneman stated council had received a letter from Andy VanDeusen on racial justice. There was not any legislation action requested in the letter; however, Mayor Breneman wished to touch on some issues.

Mayor Breneman spoke on the ways the city helps the homeless in Wooster. The city is currently helping to fund the Living Room project a cooperative effort with the Salvation Army, and annually appropriates funding for the Viola Startzman Clinic. A CHIP program is available to help with home maintenance for low-income housing. Community Action, Wooster Transit, and the city work together to provide reliable, affordable transportation.

Mayor Breneman asked Chief Fisher to give an overview of protocols used by the Wooster Police Department. Chief Fisher spoke on the training, certifications, and community engagement that the department is continuously involved in. He also talked about their recruiting methods which included billboards, radio ads and websites. He spoke on the various ways that the Wooster Police Department is held accountable.

Mayor Breneman reminded everyone that city meetings are open to the public. The tax budget legislation that is on the agenda for this evening is a necessary requirement per the Ohio Revised Code. The appropriation budget will happen in November. He expressed his thanks to the Charter Review Committee.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Scavelli read comments from the public received on YouTube. The comments concerned Ordinance 2020-28 and Ordinance 2020-21.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Joint Committee Meeting (Finance – Law & Ordinances Committee) was held at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Ansel stated the meeting was a work session for the two committees to review the Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) proposal. The group went over the details and decided to proceed with the original legislation. The TIF is a viable tool within specific parameters; however, each TIF proposal will be considered and reviewed on its own merit. Councilman Sanders reiterated that each proposal will be decided on a case by case basis.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Third Reading – ORDINANCE No. 2020-25

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2021 (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel stated that the process is defined by the Ohio Revised Code. A public hearing had been held on June 15th. The resolution is sent to the Wayne County Auditor, who then forwards it to the State.

Councilman Ansel motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

2. Third Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 8.03 “CHARTER REVIEW,” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders said this legislation consists of recommendations provided by the Charter Review Committee. He brought a section of Ballot 5 to the groups’ attention that pertains to a change in procedure for the hospital’s compensation pay range. There was no further discussion.

Councilman Sanders motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Ansel. Upon roll call motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

3. Second Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-21

AN ORDINANCE INSTRUCTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT STATUTORY NOTICE OF COUNCIL’S INTENT TO ESTABLISH A TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING DISTRICT AND ADOPT AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF A DIRECT DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO ENABLE THE CREATION OF THE MELROSE DRIVE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders introduced the legislation and stated this is a notice that would be sent to the school districts. There has been a lot of conversation and discussion on this topic and proposal. Councilman Silvestri has received quite a bit of feedback from the neighborhood affected by this proposal. One of the things that should be considered is a locked gate to be installed, and only safety services would be able to open it, so that foot traffic is not endangered on the streets. He would like to see this as a necessary component for any development.

Councilman Sanders motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Bostancic. Upon roll call motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Sanders motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call motion to adopt failed 2-5. (Bostancic-no; Cavin -no; Warden – no; Silvestri – no; Ansel – no; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-34

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2020 (Cavin)

Councilman Cavin stated this is a budgeted item and is a scheduled replacement for an ambulance. It is a \$280,000 expenditure. Councilwoman Warden asked what would happen with the 2010 ambulance. Chief Saley said the Fire Division has a Memorandum of Understanding with Jeromesville and will sell to them. Councilman

Myers wanted to know if the existing ambulances could be retrofitted with UV for cleaning. Chief Saley is looking at purchasing portable UV systems to be used throughout the division. Councilman Silvestri asked whether this purchase put the Fire Division in a good position equipment-wise. Chief Saley stated that the equipment is solid. It will take about 11 months to receive the new ambulance.

Councilman Cavin motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call motion to adopt carried unanimously 7-0. (Sanders – yes; Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers - yes)

2. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-23

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF DRIVE PIPES AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS ON MEL LANE AND MELLON CIRCLE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Bostancic)

Councilman Bostancic explained how this legislation is a collaborative effort between the residents, council, and the administration. The Mel Lane area had ponding/flooding issues for several years. The infrastructure committee met and gave the residents four options for help with the issue. This legislation is a direct result of the petition signed by the majority of residents.

Councilman Bostancic motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Bostancic motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Cavin. Upon roll call motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

3. First Reading – ORDINANCE No. 2020-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING THE ANNEXATION AND EXTENSION OF UTILITY SERVICES TO THOSE PROPERTIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Silvestri)

Councilman Silvestri said this is a request for the property at 903 W. Highland that needs city utilities due to a septic system failure.

Councilman Silvestri motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Ansel. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Silvestri motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

4. First Reading-RESOLUTION NO. 2020-35

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT ON EAST SOUTH STREET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Bostancic)

Councilman Bostancic said this project contains CDBG funding and will help alleviate the downtown parking problem on the east side of Wooster. It is a budgeted item.

Councilman Bostancic motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

5. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-25

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY LOCATED AT 2150 OAK HILL ROAD AND CONTIGUOUS TO THE CORPORATION LIMITS. (Robert Reynolds, Esq., Agent for Petitioners Terry and Beverly Raber) (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders stated council had passed the pre-annexation agreement in March. The Wayne County Commissioners have agreed to the annexation.

Councilman Sanders motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Sanders motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

6. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT WITH KRUPP MOVING AND STORAGE LLC AND KV MANAGEMENT LLC FOR CERTAIN TAX INCENTIVES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Councilman Sanders recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Councilman Ansel said that timing is of the essence for this project. The request is for a 75% abatement for 2.5 years to be used towards a 25,000 SF warehouse construction project.

Councilman Ansel motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed 6-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes;)

Councilman Ansel motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 6-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes;)

Councilman Sanders returned to the meeting.

7. First Reading – ORDINANCE 2020-27

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT WITH HYDAC TECHNOLOGY CORP. AND BAKER PROPERTIES – MT VERNON LTD. FOR CERTAIN TAX INCENTIVES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel stated that this is a request that will provide expansion of a business within the city limits. It is a joint venture for the construction of a 22,000 SF warehouse/manufacturing facility. The request is for a 75% abatement for a 10-year period. The project received unanimous approval from Wooster Growth. Councilman Ansel would like to fast-track this request.

Councilman Sanders stated that although his employer, Freeman Corporation, is listed in the back-up documents as the contractor, no formal contract has been signed between the parties as yet. He will not be recusing himself from this item. President Buytendyk agreed with the decision.

Councilman Ansel motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Ansel motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

8. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-36

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE CITY OF WOOSTER’S PORTION OF THE COUNTY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FUND FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said that HB481 had been signed into law on June 19th. In order for the city to receive its share of the funding, this legislation needs to pass.

Councilman Ansel motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Cavin. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Ansel motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

9. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-28

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 521, HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SANITATION, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders introduced the legislation as a request for limiting the hours for the public square area due to complaints from local residents and business owners. Councilman Sanders requested feedback from other council members on whether to suspend the rules or not on this legislation. Councilman Silvestri said he has had overwhelming support from the business community and finds this request to be reasonable. The sidewalks are not closed; walking along the sidewalk is still permissible. Council members were in agreement to quickly proceed with the legislation.

Comments in support and non-support of the issue were made by the public.

Councilman Sanders motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin -yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

Councilman Sanders motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Cavin –yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders - yes)

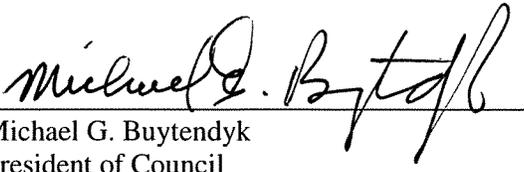
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Several council members expressed their condolences to the Defibaugh family.

Councilman Bostancic asked when the new curfew legislation would take effect. Mr. Scavelli said it would take effect immediately, but he expects that for the first few weeks only warnings will be given out.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ansel moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Myers. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council



Lynne DePaulo
Clerk of Council