

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 16, 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 videoconference meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Lynne DePaulo, Council Clerk, called roll with the following members present; Craig Sanders, Jennifer Warden, David Silvestri, Jon Ansel, Mark Cavin, Bill Bostancic and Scott Myers. City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Finance Director Andrei Dordea, Director of Administration Joel Montgomery, and Law Director John Scavelli.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Ansel moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

The Mayor announced that the 2021 Appropriations Budget proposal had been completed and distributed. He asked Mr. Dordea to speak. Mr. Dordea said that surprisingly even with the shutdown and COVID implications, the City's revenue for 2020 is down 1%. Operating expenses also were down with anticipated expenses being 23.7M and actual being 19.3M. The Cares Act funding helped with the revenue and expenses as did the return of the BWC premium. The lack of recreational program activities and all divisions tightening their belts has all contributed to the city being in decent fiscal shape.

Mr. Montgomery said that on page 1-6 there is mention of hiring an additional employee. The potential hire would be used as a School Resource Officer. The proposed budget for 2021 assumes the city will be operating normally.

The Finance Division was acknowledged for receiving their 39th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting issued by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Millea said that the Tax Incentive Review Committee meeting was held today. The TIRC is comprised of volunteer members who annually review the EZ and CRA agreements. This year they reviewed 12 active EZ and 30 active CRA agreements. 10% of our workforce is protected under these agreements.

Mayor Breneman gave an update on the COVID situation. He reminded citizens to wear masks, practice social distancing and use hand sanitizer in order to keep our businesses open and everyone safe.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC -

Questions from a YouTube viewer regarding Ordinance 2020-44 were read.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS -

Mr. Ansel requested a Finance Committee meeting to be held on December 7th, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the 2021 Appropriations Budget.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Third Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-42

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2004-33 BY EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WOOSTER COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA #1 AND PERMITTING NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR RESIDENTIAL CRA TAX INCENTIVES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

President Buytendyk announced that Councilman Sanders recused himself from this legislation.

Councilman Ansel stated City Council had six weeks to review and ask questions. This legislation is to extend the boundaries of the CRA to support areas for growth and new projects. We have a plan for success.

Councilman Ansel motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 5-1. (Bostancic-yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders – recused; Cavin-no)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-55

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE WOOSTER SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR SOCCER-RELATED ACTIVITIES SERVICES (Myers)

Councilman Myers introduced the legislation saying that this partnership with WSA has been in place for 47 consecutive years. Mr. Battig said that although the number of participants was reduced due to COVID, he is hopeful that the program will rebound this spring.

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

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

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-56

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE WOOSTER YMCA FOR PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER'S SWIMMING FACILITIES (Myers)

Councilman Myers said this is another successful partnership. The budget is up a bit this year due to an increase in the minimum wage rate. Mr. Battig gave a brief recap of the summer pool attendance. Ms. Sommer said that it was a challenging and difficult summer and is hopeful next year will be more normal.

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

Councilman Myers motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 6-1. (Bostancic-yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders – yes; Cavin-no)

3. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-62

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS APPLICANTS FOR THE USE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONIES (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel stated a joint application for the bed tax receipts had been received. The application included three entities, Main Street Wooster, Wooster Chamber of Commerce and Wayne County Visitors Bureau. Ms. Waller (Main Street Wooster) said that normally 1/3 of their budget is comprised of the bed tax funding. The organization has pivoted to provide safe ways to enjoy and help downtown. For 2021 one of the main focuses will be to entice new businesses to downtown. Ms. Zimmerly (Wooster Chamber) stated that prior to COVID the Chamber provided strong programs and a good source of revenue to the Chamber. They are now working as a

resource for the business community, acting as a relay for information from the State on programs and grants available to business. Ms. Starkey (WCVB) said that her business is 100% funded by the bed tax. The Bureau has been hit especially hard and has cut their budget to about 40%. They will use whatever funding they get to the best of the WCVB ability.

Mr. Ansel said that the 2020 bed tax is projected to be 50% less than previous years. He estimated that Main Street would receive \$32,000, WCVB \$4,000 and the Chamber \$21,000.

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

Councilman Myers motioned to amend and disburse 100% of the bed tax funding to the applicants, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon further discussion, it was determined that this was not the correct legislation to amend. President Buytendyk requested Councilman Myers withdraw his amendment request.

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

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

4. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-44

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM VARIOUS FUNDS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF WOOSTER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said this is an important process; fiscal responsibility for city expenditures. He thanked the Administration for being consistently under budget year after year. Administration will provide a recap and be available for questions at the Finance Committee meeting.

5. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-63

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR A GRANT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS AT THE PROPOSED CLEAR CREEK PARK; TO ACCEPT ANY SUCH GRANT IF AWARDED AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Myers)

Councilman Myers said this grant money is for the creation of a park on land donated by Seaman Corporation. Councilwoman Warden asked how the money was going to be spent. Mr. Montgomery said the project is already underway and all of the grant money that has been awarded has been allocated to go towards the project.

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

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

6. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-64

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MOOSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF LAND, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Warden)

Councilwoman Warden said that in the summer of 2019, the city experienced severe flooding especially in the Bauer Road area. There is now an opportunity through FEMA and a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to have the parcels affected by the flooding to be returned to their natural state. The grant will pay for the demolition of the Moose Lodge and other buildings and the land will be returned to open space and wetland management.

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

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

7. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-65

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF METER TRANSMITTING UNITS AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Silvestri)

Councilman Silvestri said this legislation is a request to purchase MTU's from a proprietary vendor on a multi-year contract. Councilwoman Warden asked how many units were going to be purchased. Mr. Coey said they purchased 658 units and expect to do about the same in 2020. He believes 700 units should be fine for 2021 and 2022. The units have an operational life of 10-15 years.

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

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

8. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-66

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER METERS AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Silvestri)

Councilman Silvestri said this legislation is for the purchase of Badger meters and will also be a multi-year contract. Mr. Coey said he would be ordering a six month supply and that it is important to have accurate readings. There is a replacement program in place.

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

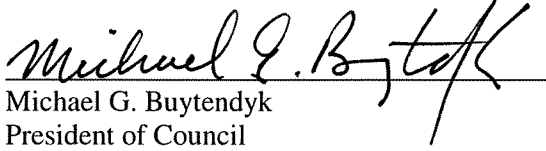
Councilman Silvestri motioned to adopt, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed unanimously 7-0. (Bostancic-yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Myers – yes; Sanders – yes; Cavin-yes)

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS –

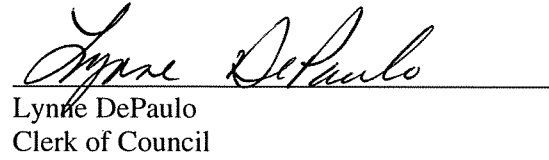
Several council members expressed their thanks to the Mayor and the Administration for their budget management, the CRA information, and COVID updates.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ansel moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council



Lynne DePaulo
Clerk of Council

