

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
December 7, 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 Silvestri moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

The Mayor gave a brief update on COVID stating the Wooster Community Hospital is handling things well even though it is evident community spread has arrived.

Mayor Breneman said he thought the individual meetings with council members to discuss the 2021 budget and tonight's Finance Committee meeting went well.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC -

Questions from a YouTube viewer regarding Ordinance 2020-67 were read.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS -

Councilman Ansel gave an overview of the Finance Committee meeting held earlier. Wooster Community Hospital would have been in the red if they had not received the CARES Act funding. The City itself had a healthy and positive year financially. Revenues were close to what was projected for the year. Mr. Ansel is going to ask council to vote on the 2021 budget legislation this evening.

Councilman Bostancic opened the public hearing regarding Ordinance 2020-45, Vacating a Dedicated Right-of-Way. He asked for anyone in support of the petition to vacate speak first. Pam Gerber and Jim Tew both spoke in favor of the petition and questions from Anne O'Planick were read.

Councilman Bostancic then asked for anyone against the petition to speak. Attorney Doug Drushal, representing Mr. and Mrs. Yaccapraro, spoke against the hearing. Mr. Bostancic closed the hearing.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Second 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 stated council has had extensive review and affirmative feedback for the proposed 2021 Budget Appropriations legislation and he is ready to present it for a vote.

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

Councilman Ansel 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 – recused; Cavin-yes)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-45

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A DEDICATED RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO MEL LANE IN THE CITY OF WOOSTER (Bostancic)

Councilman Bostancic introduced the legislation and requested it be kept on first reading. Mr. Montgomery commented that studies have shown a need for residential development. The city managers' comments were included in the agenda. Mr. Dutton, Planning & Zoning Manager, stated that there is no approved plan for development at this time. Councilman Myers supports the vacation. Councilwoman Warden thinks this is a complicated issue and has been struggling with a decision. Councilman Silvestri thinks the biggest concern is the safety issue. He sees all sides of the issue and thinks we should be able to work out an agreeable solution. Councilman Ansel said there are compelling arguments on both sides. The legislation is considered to have its first reading.

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-67

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION OF WAYNE/MEDINA COUNTIES FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Myers)

Councilman Myers introduced the legislation and requested it be kept on first reading. Ms. Hershberger, Recreation Supervisor, gave an overview of the transportation program and how it has grown over the years. Leslie Baus and Melissa Pearce both spoke on behalf of the transportation program and their agency's role in the program along with an expansion plan. Councilman Myers asked council to be ready to vote at the next meeting. The legislation is considered to have its first reading.

3. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-68

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WOOSTER TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT AGREEMENTS AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said the Tax Incentive Review Committee had met on November 16th to perform their annual review of the Community Reinvestment Area agreements. The CRA has posted impressive numbers for incentives. The TIRC recommended 27 agreements be continued.

Mr. Millea, Economic Development Coordinator, gave an update on the program and the benefits.

Councilman Ansel 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 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 – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-69

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WOOSTER TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENTS AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said this review and audit process is done annually by the TIRC for the Enterprise Zone Agreements much like the CRAs. The TIRC recommended 16 of the agreements be continued. These EZ agreements have had outstanding and remarkable results. Mr. Millea gave an update on the program and the benefits.

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

5. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-46

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO AMEND THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH MMR PROPERTIES LLC, BY ORDINANCE NO. 2007-56 AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said that the TIRC had recommended council amend the CRA for MMR Properties. Mr. Millea said this amendment formalizes the abatement due to the sale of the property. The State of Ohio has a two full-time job requirement that is unable to be fulfilled, so the agreement needs to be terminated.

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 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)

6. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-47

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL ENTERPRISE ZONE TERMINATION AGREEMENT WITH ABS MATERIALS INC. FOR AGREEMENT 389-12-02, AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE 2012-05 AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel stated this is a mutual termination agreement. Mr. Millea said that this termination enables the City of Wooster to close out its reporting obligations with the State of Ohio

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 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)

7. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-48

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said there is more positive news for reimbursements from the CARES Act. The City has received more funding from the Act which brings the total received to \$2,208,847.24. It provides much needed relief to the City's finances.

Councilman Ansel 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)

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)

8. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-70

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S SHARE OF TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES TO BE ALLOCATED AMONG OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS PURSUANT TO THE AWARDS OUTLINED IN RESOLUTION 2020-62 (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel stated that this resolution is necessary to help our economic drivers for the community. It has been a devastating year for their programs. 100% of the bed tax receipts will be split between Main Street Wooster, the Chamber of Commerce and the Wayne County Visitor's Bureau. This is a one-time exception.

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 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)

9. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-49

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE OF REAL ESTATE AND PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Warden)

Councilman Myers recused himself.

Councilwoman Warden said that several entities are trying to come up with solutions to the homeless and housing problem. Transitional housing is one area that was cited as an area of need. This lease agreement will be between the City and OneEighty for a home located at 246 S. Buckeye Street. The City will charge no rent to OneEighty for the property; OneEighty will act as the landlord and provide maintenance on the property. The property is strictly for families in need of transitional housing.

Mayor Breneman gave kudos to OneEighty saying they are the right partner to make this happen. Ms. Douglas, OneEighty, thanked Council and the Administration for their cooperation on this project and several other recent ones.

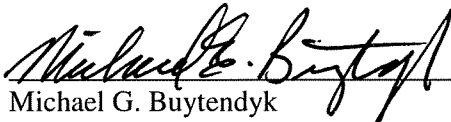
Councilwoman Warden motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Cavin. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed 6-0. (Bostancic-yes; Warden – yes; Silvestri – yes; Ansel – yes; Sanders – yes; Cavin-yes; Myers - recused)

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

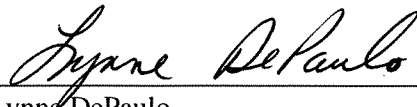
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ansel moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council



Lynne DePaulo
Clerk of Council

