

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

5/3/2021

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, Mark Cavin, Bill Bostancic, Jon Ansel and Scott Myers. City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Director of Administration Joel Montgomery, Finance Director Andrei Dordea and Law Director John Scavelli.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Ansel moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman announced that ODOT had awarded funding totaling \$836,000 for the construction of Wooster Bike Loop 3. The project will begin in the summer of 2023.

Mayor Breneman thanked Tom Pukys, WEDC, and Dr. Michael Tefs, WCS, for their leadership in the community. Both are leaving their positions for other opportunities.

The Wooster Police Department had two officers recently recognized. Children Services nominated Officer Christopher Hartzler as their Law Officer of the Year. The Wooster Police Department and the City Administration have awarded the 2020 Officer of the Year to Officer Daniel Whitmore.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Councilman Myers motioned to waive the Liquor Control Hearing for Wayne Center for the Arts, seconded by Councilman Cavin. Upon roll-call the motion passed 7-0. (Ansel-yes, Bostancic – yes, Cavin – yes, Myers – yes, Sanders – yes, Silvestri – yes, Warden – yes)

Law Director John Scavelli read letters and emails received regarding Ordinance 2021-18.

Correspondence read that opposed the legislation: Anne O’Planick, Tom Bump, Merlin Peterson, Ellen Hammond, Val Williams, Robin Spade and Terry Carrabine.

Correspondence read in favor of the legislation: Don Noble and Jonathan Millea

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Second Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2021-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART ELEVEN, ZONING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, SO AS TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AT CERTAIN PARCELS ON MELROSE DRIVE (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders said it is time to make a decision on this issue. Councilman Silvestri agrees with the 2015 Housing study that shows a need for housing; he does not agree with this rezoning request. He asked Lemmon Development if they would consider a less dense plan. Lemmon Development stated they had already reduced the density with this second application.

Councilman Ansel complimented the Planning Commission and Mr. Dutton for their diligence with the application review; they rejected the first application. Lemmon Development redid the plan and reduced the number of homes before submitting their second request. He stated that Scottish Highlands has twice the density of this proposal and reminded council that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to accept and recommend this application to city council.

President Buytendyk asked Mr. Dutton to confirm his understanding that council is voting on whether this application meets the review criteria under the law. Mr. Dutton said yes.

Councilman Myers appreciates the comments by the neighbors and he did attend the meeting two years ago and has walked the entire lane. He understands their concerns but will be voting in favor.

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

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2021-19
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT WITH PITTSBURG AVENUE PROPERTIES LLC FOR CERTAIN TAX INCENTIVES, FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT(Ansel)

Councilman Ansel stated this is an EZ application to construct a 13,500 SF addition to E-Pak with a \$1.5M investment. Mr.Millea said E-Pak and the city had started the process in November for this project. There are numerous land constraints that needed to be worked around. This is a really good opportunity for both E-Pak and the community. Jason Miller, E-Pak, thanked council for their consideration. He said E-Pak has grown four times its size since locating to Wooster and provides good jobs to Wayne County locals.

Wooster City Schools and the Wayne County Career Center both have received notice of the application. Wooster Growth has recommended approval of this application to city council.

Councilman Ansel motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion to suspend failed 3-4 (Bostancic-no; Warden – no; Silvestri – no; Myers – yes; Cavin – no; Sanders – yes; Ansel-yes)

The legislation is considered to have its first reading.

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2021-25
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ISSUE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED PRIOR TO THE FISCAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, AND PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said this is an administrative matter and is budgeted. It was a timing issue, with the material being delivered before the purchase order was entered.

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

VII. MISCELLANEOUS –


Several council members thanked everyone for the open and lively discussion regarding the rezoning of the property. Councilman Myers congratulated the officers on their awards and wished Mr. Pukys and Dr. Tefs well. Councilwoman Warden spoke on the peaceful demonstrators on public square.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ansel motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Silvestri. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council



Lynne DePaulo
Clerk of Council

