

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

5/15/2023

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Mike Buytendyk called the regular meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 7:30 p.m. Clerk Lynne DePaulo called roll with the following members present; Craig Sanders, Scott Myers, Bob Reynolds, Mark Cavin, Jon Ansel, and Jen Warden. Barb Knapic was absent. City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Director of Administration Joel Montgomery, Finance Director Andrei Dordea and Law Director John Scavelli. President Buytendyk stated that an Executive Session would be added after New Business.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Sanders moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman stated the City had recently held two Comprehensive Plan Community Meetings to gather public input on issues that are important to residents. The Community Survey is available on the City's homepage and will be open for another month. He encouraged residents to take the survey.

Fire Station #1 operations have officially moved to the Mechanicsburg Road temporary facility. On Tuesday, a prebid inspection meeting is being held at Fire Station #1.

Share Mobility is replacing the vendor, Wooster Transit, beginning this Saturday, May 20th. The routes are remaining the same; however, some of the stops have been eliminated.

Jonathan Millea, Economic Development Coordinator, announced that the City has received a \$55,000 grant from the Ohio Jobs and Commerce Division for signal improvements to the intersection of SR585 and the Dix Expressway.

Mr. Montgomery spoke briefly on Share Mobility. Two public informational meetings were held today to give the details on the transition from Wooster Transit to Share Mobility.

Electric Scooters were introduced to the downtown area over the weekend. Mr. Montgomery provided a summary to council members from two years ago on what the rules are for electric scooters and the options available.

Mr. Montgomery asked for a Finance Committee meeting to be scheduled for June 20th to discuss the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Business Flare has completed a report on economic drivers and conditions and a summary of the plan document. Mr. Montgomery would like to present this to council during the committee meeting.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC - NONE

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Second Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2023-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1107.05 DISTRICT-SPECIFIC PURPOSE STATEMENTS AND REGULATIONS (Reynolds)

Councilman Reynolds stated that in 2018 the regulations relating to mobile homes had been removed. In February of 2023, an amendment went into effect allowing for the development/expansion of existing manufactured home parks. This Ordinance brings back the regulatory language for manufactured/mobile homes.

Councilman Reynolds moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed 6-0. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – yes, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent)

Councilman Reynolds moved to adopt, seconded by Councilman Ansel. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 6-0. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – yes, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent)

2. Second Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1351.04, AMENDMENTS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER (Reynolds)

Councilman Reynolds said this legislation is necessary to enforce zoning code for mobile homes as much as the City is allowed. The City is somewhat restricted by federal and state laws governing mobile homes.

Councilman Reynolds moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to suspend failed 5-1. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – no, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent) (In order to pass, need $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members)

Councilman Myers would like to know exactly what the City will be enforcing. Mr. Scavelli said that Councilman Reynolds had accurately described the enforcement. The City will try to enforce what they can based on the property maintenance code. The legislation is considered to have its second reading.

3. Second Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2023-32

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WOOSTER TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENTS, COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENTS, AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PROJECTS (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders and Councilwoman Warden recused themselves. Councilman Myers said they will consider this to have its second reading. Councilman Sanders and Councilwoman Warden returned.

4. Second Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2023-33

A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO, FOR A CHANGE OF TOWNSHIP LINES TO CONFORM WITH THE CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Reynolds)

Councilman Reynolds said this legislation is necessary to conform the boundaries on property recently annexed into the City on Melrose Drive. If the boundaries are not conformed, it creates confusion at the county level for things like voting districts and taxes. The legislation is considered to have its second reading.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2023-34

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS. (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said the timing is exceptional for the legislation focusing on consumer concerns regarding utilities. Aggregation is simply bundling consumption to receive volume discounts. This is not an easy process; multiple steps are involved before the public will vote in the November election. There is also an opt-out provision for anyone not wishing to participate. There will be much public outreach and information to get out. Councilman Ansel called for a Utility Committee meeting to be held on June 5th at 6:30 p.m. which will be a public meeting to discuss the aggregation topic and answer any questions. The legislation is considered to have its first reading.

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2023-35

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS. (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel said this is the same as previously discussed but with natural gas versus electricity. The legislation is considered to have its first reading.

3. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2023-36

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders said this is an annual item per Ohio Revised Code. The tax budget needs to be filed with the county before July 20, 2023 and is for the 2024 fiscal year. A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 5th. The legislation is considered to have its first reading.

4. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2023-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 303.08 IMPOUNDING OF VEHICLES, REDEMPTION OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Reynolds)

Councilman Reynolds asked Mr. Scavelli to discuss this legislation. Mr. Scavelli said a phrase to include construction zones has been added to enable the City to remove cars if the owner can not be found or does not comply with the “no parking” requirement during road improvements. Every effort is made not to have a vehicle towed, but it is necessary on occasion.

Councilman Reynolds moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilman Ansel. Upon roll call, motion to suspend passed 6-0. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – yes, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent)

Councilman Reynolds moved to adopt, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 6-0. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – yes, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent)

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (ORC 121.22 (G) (1))

Councilman Sanders moved to enter executive session, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion passed 6-0. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – yes, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent)

Councilman Ansel moved to exit executive session, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon roll call, motion passed 6-0. (Ansel – yes; Reynolds – yes; Sanders – yes, Myers – yes, Cavin – yes, Warden – yes; Knapic - absent)

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Resident Tomeko Boles, 3783 Friendsville Road, Wooster OH, invited council and the community to participate in a Water Drive to benefit the residents of E. Palestine, Ohio. The event is June 3rd at the Wooster Walmart. Donations can be bottled water, cash, or help with loading and transporting. Checks should be payable to the Worldwide Fellowship of Independent Christian Churches.

Business owners Ramalle Lee and Shambriel Moore, 553 N. Buckeye Street, Wooster OH, are owners of the electric scooters company, Boots, Scoots & Boogy. They appealed to city council to allow electric scooters to operate in the downtown area. Launched over the weekend, they had 81 rides in a 48-hour period. It has been well-received by the public.

Councilman Reynolds promoted the Walk the Thin Blue Line Community Walk being held on Saturday, May 20th, at the track of Wooster High School beginning at 9:00 a.m. It is a walk to remember the police officers that have lost their lives in service.

Councilwoman Warden thanked everyone that attend the Comprehensive Plan Community meetings.

X. ADJOURNMENT Councilman Ansel motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council



Lynne DePaulo
Clerk of Council