

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
10/2/2023

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 Amy Hamilton called roll with the following members present: Jon Ansel, Mark Cavin, Mike Buytendyk, Scott Myers, Bob Reynolds, and Jen Warden. Barb Knapic and Craig Sanders were absent.

City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Finance Director Andrei Dordea, and Law Director John Scavelli.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ansel moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Warden. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman reported that Woosterfest was held in downtown Wooster over the previous weekend. He said it was well-attended, the weather was good, and he thanked the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce and volunteers who made the event possible. Mayor Breneman briefly summarized the three pieces of legislation on the agenda. He also shared that city administration had met with WEDC and a group called The Next Move to discuss a housing study for Wayne County.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Ansel moved to waive the hearing for the Liquor Control permit for Mike's Food Market, LLC; seconded by Mr. Cavin.

Mr. Ansel moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Cavin. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 5-0. (Ansel – yes, Cavin – yes, Myers – yes, Reynolds – yes, and Warden – yes)

Justin Starlin spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2023-24, a CRA application for 585 Partners, LLC, stating he believed the requirements had been met for the applicant to be granted a CRA tax incentive. Mr. Starlin offered to meet with council members if they would like more information about the application and business proposal.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Third Reading – AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 2023-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 160, BIDDING PROCEDURES AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, BY INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE LIMIT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING (Sanders/Reynolds)

Mr. Reynolds noted there was discussion about the three percent automatic increase every year. He stated City Administration stripped that language from the legislation and has submitted for council consideration an increase of the bid level from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Mr. Reynolds said the Administration sent out a memo with a list of items that fall within the \$50,000 to \$75,000 range.

Mr. Myers said he would like to receive the proposed budget earlier to allow more time to review it and to make changes or recommendations.

Mr. Reynolds moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Ansel. Upon roll call, motion to adopt failed 2-3. (Ansel – yes, Cavin – no, Myers – no, Reynolds – yes, and Warden – no)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2023-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH 585 PARTNERS LLC FOR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVES (Reynolds)

Mr. Reynolds said he intended to leave the legislation on first reading. He added that there are some questions about a 2022 amendment to the CRA, and Mr. Reynolds would like to hold a committee meeting to talk about those changes in December. He clarified that the meeting would not be held in regard to this specific legislation. Mr. Reynolds noted that Wooster Growth voted 5-4 against recommending this CRA application for approval.

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2023-58

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH OHM ADVISORS FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE CHRISTMAS RUN POOL PHASE ONE DESIGN AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Myers)

Mr. Myers asked Ms. Ashley Hershberger, Recreation Manager, to explain the need for this legislation. Ms. Hershberger described the history of the pool and the number of repairs it has needed over the past several years. She noted that accessibility to the pool is very important, and the city is proposing a zero-depth entry as part of the pool design, as well as emphasizing shade features and greenspace. Ms. Hershberger also stated that the city intends to gather input from the community for the pool design.

Ms. Warden asked about the timeline for completion of the design and construction. Ms. Hershberger said the plan is to have the pool open next summer and then have construction begin right after the pool closes for the season, with the intent to have the pool closed for only one season.

Mr. Myers mentioned reaching out to transportation partners to provide transportation to Freedlander Pool while the Christmas Run Pool is under construction.

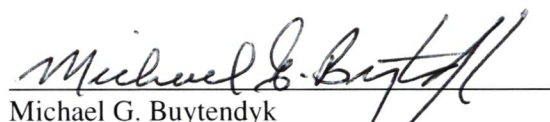
Mr. Myers moved to adopt, seconded by Ms. Warden. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 5-0. (Ansel – yes, Cavin – yes, Myers – yes, Reynolds – yes, and Warden – yes)


VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Ansel noted he will be out of town on business and unable to attend the first meeting in November.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ansel moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Myers. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.


Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council


Amy Hamilton
Clerk of Council