

**WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**9/5/2023**

**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: Mark Cavin, Barb Knapic, Scott Myers, Bob Reynolds, Craig Sanders, and Jen Warden. Jon Ansel was absent.

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 Sanders moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Myers. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Breneman reported the Comprehensive Plan, with the guidance of OHM, is nearly complete. Draft recommendations should be completed sometime in October or November of this year.

Mayor Breneman shared that the Citizen Academy has begun and mentioned several recently held community events, specifically in the downtown area.

Mr. Montgomery stated the city had budgeted funds for converting some tennis courts to pickleball courts due to input from city residents. Since that time, Mr. Montgomery said the city has had conversations with both pickleball and tennis groups about court availability. He noted that a \$50,000 donation from the pickleball group has been committed to help build six new pickleball courts at Christmas Run Park, and the city can also make repairs to the existing tennis courts. Mr. Montgomery said the total cost for the project should be around \$200,000.

**IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Councilman Sanders reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss the Bed Tax allocation for 2024. A plan was proposed to allocate 75% of the funds to our primary economic partners. Approximately \$60,000 of the balance of the funds would be utilized by some of the community partners who might be looking to fund an economic development project. Mr. Sanders said \$25,000 of the bed tax funds would be allocated to the façade program for downtown. The remaining two percent would remain in the fund to cover operation costs. Mr. Sanders stated none of the economic partners in attendance had any comments other than they were satisfied with the proposal. Mr. Sanders said the Finance Committee is recommending the proposal to council and will work with City Administration to finalize the plan.

Councilman Reynolds conducted a public hearing on a proposed rezoning of a 0.172-acre property from C-2 to R-2. Mr. Reynolds stated it is situated at the northwestern corner of the First Presbyterian Church property request to rezone a parcel of land on College Avenue. Ms. Knapic noted that the rest of the street is zoned residential, and this parcel was initially zoned as commercial because it was part of the church property. There were no comments from the public, and Mr. Reynolds concluded the hearing.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Second Reading – AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 2023-39 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF ORRVILLE FOR MAKING AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR A SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION (CHIP) FUNDS, FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders said that due to the deadline passing, this legislation was no longer needed.

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

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART ELEVEN, ZONING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, TO RE-ZONE LAND TO R-2 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF EAST BOWMAN AND COLLEGE AVENUE (Reynolds)

Councilman Reynolds noted that this question was covered during the public hearing.

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

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

2. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2023-21 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2010-24 BY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ASSIGN THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT TO R MILLER LAND DEVELOPMENT LTD, FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT. (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders stated there has been an ownership change of the property, and this legislation is necessary to continue the exemption for the final years of the agreement.

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

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

3. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2023-44 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF METER TRANSMITTING UNITS AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders stated that the cost of the meter transmitting units exceeds \$70,000.

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

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

4. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2023-45 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 stated that this resolution and the next one are needed to resolve issues created when the parcels were annexed into the city corporation limits, but the township boundaries were not conformed at that time. The purpose of this resolution is to fix those issues.

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

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

5. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2023-46 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 stated that this is another conforming boundaries case.

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

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

6. First Reading - 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)

Councilman Sanders stated that the current city ordinance language mimics the previous state statute and requires bidding on any expenditures over \$50,000. The new proposed language would mirror the current state language for bidding limits and would raise the amount from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Councilman Sanders said it would also allow for automatic 3% increases beginning in 2025.

Councilman Sanders moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilwoman Warden. Upon roll call, motion to suspend failed. (Cavin – yes, Knapic – yes, Myers – no, Reynolds – yes, Sanders – yes, Warden – yes, Ansel - absent)

7. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2023-23 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 161.02, DONATIONS OF CASH OR MARKETABLE SECURITIES; INSURANCE PROCEEDS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders said Mr. Dordea requested increasing the amount from \$15,000 to \$25,000 for donations and insurance proceeds and to add grant proceeds to the ordinance as well.

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

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

8. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2023-47 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR (Sanders)

Councilman Sanders stated Mr. Dordea received this resolution from the Wayne County Auditor's office to accept the rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor by September 30, 2023. Councilman Sanders noted this legislation is related to Ord. No. 2023-36, which is related to the city's tax budget and was approved by City Council at the June 20, 2023 meeting.

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

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

## **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Councilman Myers announced he would hold a Public Health and Leisure Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2023. The Committee will be discussing pickleball and tennis courts.

The following members of the public spoke: William Gantz – 1731 Hila Way; Marta Slack – 4015 Peabody Pl; Linda Smith – 3108 Bayberry Cv; and Anne Sturnbaum – 1491 Ruth Circle.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Myers moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Knapic. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

  
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Michael G. Buytendyk  
President of Council

  
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Amy Hamilton  
Clerk of Council