

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
1/2/2024

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Craig Sanders called the regular meeting of Wooster City Council to order shortly after 7:30 p.m. Clerk Amy Hamilton called the roll with the following members present: Mike Abernathy, Lukas Gaffey, Barb Knapic, Chris Malta, Scott Myers, and Jen Warden.

City Administration present: Mayor Bob Reynolds, Director of Administration Joel Montgomery, Finance Director Andrei Dordea, Law Director John Scavelli, and Deputy Director of Administration Phil Turske.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Myers moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Abernathy. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Reynolds stated that there was not much to report as of yet and thanked everyone who had helped his first day in the Mayor's office go smoothly.

Director Montgomery explained the fee schedule provided to council was for their review and any questions could be directed to his office.

Director Dordea explained the memo council members received regarding the Linked Deposit Program is a required report and there was no activity in the previous period.

IV. COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

a. Appoint and swear in new member

President Sanders said council needed to appoint someone to fill the remainder of Mayor Reynold's unexpired council term and asked for a nomination motion. Mr. Myers moved to nominate Steven Huszai to fill the seat, seconded by Ms. Knapic. Upon roll call, motion to approve passed 6-0 (Abernathy- yes, Gaffey – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

Mr. Huszai was sworn in by Director Scavelli and took his seat with the rest of council.

b. President Pro Tempore appointment

President Sanders moved to approve Mr. Myers as President Pro Tempore, seconded by Ms. Knapic. Upon roll call, motion to approve passed 6-0 (Abernathy- yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - abstained, and Warden – yes)

c. Committee assignments

Ms. Warden moved to approve the committee assignments as presented, seconded by Ms. Knapic. Upon roll call, motion to approve passed 7-0 (Abernathy- yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

V. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Ms. Warden moved, seconded by Mr. Abernathy, to waive the hearing for the Liquor Control permit for Par Mar Oil, LLC. Upon roll call, motion to waive the hearing passed 7-0 (Abernathy- yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

Ms. Shannon Waller and Mr. Matt Mariola both spoke in support of Ordinance 2024-02, a CRA for Foodsphere.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Second Reading – RESOLUTION 2023-86 A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE GRANTING OR PROCESSING OF PERMITS FOR ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, USE OR CHANGE OF USE THAT WOULD ENABLE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, OR RETAIL SALE OF MARIJUANA WITHIN THE CITY OF WOOSTER, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic explained that the state has not yet made any rules regarding the passage of Issue 2, so the City has proposed waiting until that process is complete. She stated this is similar to the medical marijuana issue as to the rulemaking procedure. She also stated she hopes the City includes language restricting smoking outdoors in public areas and left the legislation on second reading.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION TO EXPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR LANDSCAPING SERVICES FROM BUSHWACKED LANDSCAPING AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Huszai)

Mr. Huszai explained this legislation was needed to pay Bushwacked Landscaping for fall clean-up services that exceeded the \$50,000 limit. PPM Manager Curt Denning said more work was needed than had been anticipated, and the city will plan accordingly for next year.

Mr. Huszai moved, seconded by Mr. Abernathy, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

2. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2024-02 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR EMERGENCY REPLACEMENT OF AN ANAEROBIC DIGESTER COVER, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Malta)

Mr. Malta stated this legislation was to allow the city to accept grant funds to replace the cover on an anaerobic digester.

Mr. Malta moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion to suspend the rules passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

Mr. Malta moved, seconded by Mr. Huszai, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

3. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PRESIDENT FOR THE TERMS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2025 (Abernathy)

Director Scavelli explained the mayor and council salaries are reviewed every four years per the Charter. He said the 2023 Compensation Commission recommended salary increases for the President of Council and Council Members and did not recommend an increase in the Mayor's salary. Director Montgomery added the previous compensation commission had recommended a percentage increase for the Mayor's salary, which is still in place.

Mr. Abernathy moved, seconded by Mr. Gaffey, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion to suspend the rules passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

Mr. Malta moved, seconded by Mr. Gaffey, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 6-1 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – no, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

4. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE A DUMP TRUCK, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Huszai)

Mr. Huszai explained one of the city's dump trucks has exceeded its useful life and needs to be replaced. Mr. Denning said there is a truck available that meets the city's requirements and will be available in the summer of 2024.

Mr. Huszai moved, seconded by Mr. Myers, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

5. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FOODSPHERE (CORP). AND WOOSTER LOCAL FOODS COOPERATIVE INC. FOR COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVES, WITH BOO BEARS BREW LLC AND RIDE ON WOOSTER BICYCLES INC. AUTHORIZED AS TENANTS, FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Abernathy)

Mr. Abernathy asked Jonathan Millea, Economic Development Coordinator, to explain this piece of legislation. Mr. Millea provided details about the application, stated that the building value will decline without investment for expanded use, that Wooster Growth unanimously recommended approval, and he is not confident the proposed project could go forward without receiving the tax incentive. He also noted the city has received letters from several community entities in support of the application.

Mr. Abernathy asked if there would be growth in employee counts if the project proceeds. Mr. Millea said that is the intent. President Sanders asked Mr. Millea to confirm that the tax incentive must be repaid if employment numbers are not met. Mr. Millea confirmed that was true. Mr. Huszai asked if the current building housing Local Roots would be vacant if operations are moved to the new building. Mr. Millea said the county owns the current building, Local Roots is a tenant, and the county has plans for the space if Local Roots moves out.

Mr. Adam Schwieterman, representing Local Roots, shared additional financial details with council members. He said the project is still in the design phase and depends on grant funding and the CRA approval.

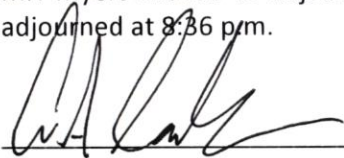
Mr. Abernathy moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion to suspend the rules passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

Mr. Abernathy moved, seconded by Mr. Myers, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 7-0 (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – yes, Huszai – yes, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Myers moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Huszai. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.



Craig Sanders
President of Council



Amy Hamilton
Clerk of Council