

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
12/18/2023

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President *pro tempore* 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: Jon Ansel, Mark Cavin, Barb Knapic, Bob Reynolds, Craig Sanders, and Jen Warden. Mike Buytendyk and Scott Myers were absent.

City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, 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. Ansel moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Cavin. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman noted this would be his last council meeting after 30 years of serving the City of Wooster in some capacity. He also shared that Recreation Manager Ashley Hershberger and form city employee Andrew Guidetti will receive awards from the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting in February. Mayor Brenemen said two city employees would be retiring at the end of the year – Debbie Varns from the IT Department and Assisant Fire Chief Nathan Murphy. He also announced that Bryon Taylor has been hired as the new WARCOG director.

Director Montgomery introduced the new Deputy Director of Administration, Phil Turske. He also shared the Ohio Public Works Commission award the City a grant to cover some of the repairs for the anaerobic digesters. Council will have legislation to accept the grant funds at the next meeting.

Mayor Breneman submitted Mr. Greg Long as a nominee to be reappointed to the Hospital Board of Governors. Mr. Reynolds moved to approve the nomination, seconded by Mr. Ansel. Upon voice vote, the nomination was unanimously approved.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Ohio State Representative Scott Wiggam presented a commendation to Mayor Breneman to honor the Mayor's service to the City of Wooster.

Wayne County Commissioners Sue Smail, Ron Amstutz, and Jonathan Hofstetter also presented Mayor Breneman with a proclamation and a flag to honor the Mayor's service.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

President *pro tempore* Sanders noted a public hearing was held at 6:00 p.m. for anyone with questions about utility aggregation, but no one from the public attended.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Third Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2023-28 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM VARIOUS FUNDS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF WOOSTER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Sanders)

President *pro tempore* Sanders reminded council members that this legislation is the budget for 2024. He noted neither he nor city administration had received feedback or questions about the budget as presented.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – RESOLUTION 2023-83 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDERS FOR THE DEMOLITION AND ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF A CITY-OWNED DUPLEX ON E. HENRY STREET, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic said this project is budgeted for 2024 and is part of the plans to expand the Community Center in the future. Chief Building Official Tim Monea said he believes the cost will be less than the \$50,000 bid limit, but wanted Council's approval in case costs are higher.

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

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

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION 2023-84 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDERS FOR THE DEMOLITION AND ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF TWO CITY-OWNED HOUSES ON NORTH STREET, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic said this project is similar to the previous one on Henry Street and the lot will be used to expand a city-owned parking lot. Mr. Monea said the lot will be a gravel parking lot until 2025 when the area will be re-paved.

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

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

3. First Reading – RESOLUTION 2023-85 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE PHASE ONE CITY HALL WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic said the windows in City Hall need to be replaced since they are single-pane and were installed in the 1960s. She explained that the replacements would take place over the next three years. Mr. Monea said the first phase would include the south wing, the second phase would be the north wing, and the final phase would be the middle section of the building.

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

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

- 4. First 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 (Reynolds)

Mr. Reynolds said he would leave this legislation on first reading to give the new council members an opportunity to consider it and constituents time to comment. Director Montgomery said the City wants to wait until the state legislature has time to put a structure in place and the rule-making process may take several months.

Ms. Knapic voiced concerns about smoking in public areas and how it would affect bystanders. Director Scavelli noted the current law is not a constitutional amendment, so the state legislature can amend it however they see fit. He advised the City would like to wait on that process and the state legislature may not be done with their rulemaking by the time this resolution expires.

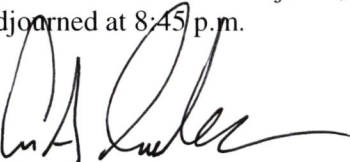
- 5. Special Resolution to honor Mayor Robert F. Breneman
- 6. Special Resolution to honor President of Council Michael G. Buytendyk

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS


Mr. Jon Ulbright, former council member, thanked Mayor Breneman and outgoing council members for their service

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ansel moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cavin. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Craig Sanders
President of Council



Amy Hamilton
Clerk of Council