

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
2/20/2024

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Craig Sanders called the regular meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 7:40 p.m. Clerk Amy Hamilton called the roll with the following members present: Mike Abernathy, Lukas Gaffey, Steven Huszai, Barb Knapic, Chris Malta, Scott Myers, and Jen Warden.

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

City Managers present: Police Chief Matt Fisher, Economic Development Coordinator Jonathan Millea, and Planning and Zoning Manager Vince Marion.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Abernathy moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2024 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Gaffey. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Reynolds asked Chief Fisher to provide an update on a threat made to Wooster City Schools. Chief Fisher said a student made a threat on social media and was reported to police by another student. All school buildings were closed as a precaution, and within three and a half hours, the individual who made the threat was identified and confessed. Chief Fisher praised Detective Belcher and the student who reported the threat with helping to resolve the situation quickly.

Director Montgomery addressed an odor issue that affected the city on Monday. He said the Fire Department immediately responded to reports, there was no spill or discharge, and the Utilities Division detected nothing hazardous at the origin site. It was determined that a local business was processing pipeline cleaning fluid and did not have sufficient sawdust to help minimize the odor. The company has been asked not to proceed with this particular cleaning process in the future without sufficient sawdust.

Mayor Reynolds briefed council members about several meetings and events he attended since the previous council meeting. He also provided updates on several city projects. Mayor Reynolds specifically congratulated President Sanders on receiving the Wayne County Park District Volunteer of the Year award, Recreation Department Manager Ashley Hershberger on receiving a community service award from the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce, and Director Montgomery on an invitation to deliver remarks at an upcoming TeamNEO event. He also announced that Jon Ansel would make a Wooster Growth presentation to council at 6:45 p.m. on March 4th.

Mayor Reynolds briefly went over the agenda for the evening.

Director Dordea explained the Declaration of Official Intent provided to council members is an IRS requirement whenever the city advances money for a project and then receives reimbursement from the proceeds of notes or bonds.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Second Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-16: AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO INCLUDE WELCH PACKAGING GROUP INC AS A TENANT PARTY TO THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WOOSTER AND THE WOOSTER BRUSH COMPANY, FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Abernathy)

President Sanders announced, due to business interests, that he would recuse himself from voting on this measure in the case of a tie. Mr. Gaffey recused himself because he is employed by the applicant and Mr. Huszai also recused himself also due to business interests. Both Mr. Gaffey and Mr. Huszai sat in the audience during the following discussion.

Mr. Abernathy said that outside parties who had expressed concern about the agreement are satisfied and any confusion has been resolved. The legislation was left on second reading.

2. Second Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 162, MANAGEMENT BENEFITS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Knapic)

Mr. Gaffey and Mr. Huszai rejoined council for the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Knapic said she had discussed this legislation with Director Scavelli. She noted it is difficult to find applicants for less than full-time work and this legislation would allow the city to fill a full-time position if they are unable to find someone to fill a part-time one. Ms. Knapic also noted that it is more cost-effective to have a full-time attorney on staff than to pay for outside counsel.

Mr. Abernathy asked about the role the deputy law director fills. Director Scavelli said the current deputy director handles cases for evidence disposition after a case is concluded and property maintenance cases.

Mr. Myers asked if a salary range had been determined. Director Scavelli said that has not been determined yet because it depends on the candidate.

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Huszai, 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)

Ms. Knapic 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)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE A VACALL JET AND VACUUM FREIGHTLINER TRUCK (Huszai)

Mr. Huszai explained this type of truck is used for stormwater maintenance repairs and used to clear blockages. He said Curt Denning, the PPM Manager, said a new truck would cost over \$500,000 and he was able to find this used equipment for less than half the cost of new.

Ms. Knapic noted how few hours were on the truck and Director Montgomery said Mr. Denning found another community that replaces these types of vehicles every five years. The City of Wooster is first in line to purchase this particular truck if the legislation is approved.

Mr. Huszai moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, 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)

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Aaron Domini from OHM Advisors presented the 2023 Comprehensive Plan to council members.

Mr. Gaffey said he appreciated the conversation about housing, which is important to him and to his ward. He looks forward to having additional discussions with City Administration about it.

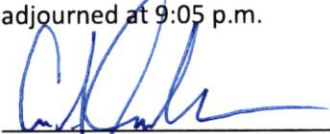
Ms. Warden thanked OHM for their work on the Comprehensive Plan. She also thanked the first responders who responded to the fire at the Farmer Boy restaurant the previous weekend and the community for stepping forward to help the employees. She said she hopes to see the restaurant rebuilt.

Mr. Malta thanked OHM for their work on the Comprehensive Plan.

President Sanders reminded council there will be a Wooster Growth presentation beginning at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, March 4th.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Myers moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Malta. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Craig Sanders
President of Council



Amy Hamilton
Clerk of Council