

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
3/4/2024

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: Assistant Police Chief Scott Rotolo, Economic Development Coordinator Jonathan Millea, Recreation Manager Ashley Hershberger, and Recreation Supervisor Heather Dennis.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Abernathy moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Gaffey. Upon voice vote, the minutes were approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Reynolds thanked Margo Broehl and Jon Ansel for the presentation about Wooster Growth prior to the meeting. He asked Mr. Millea to explain the CHIP award for the city. Mr. Millea explained the CHIP grant is to help low- to moderate-income households to make home repairs. The City of Wooster submits the application to the State of Ohio on behalf of the cities of Wooster, Orrville, and Rittman, as well as Wayne County. Mr. Millea thanked the Wayne Metropolitan Housing Authority for their help in administering the program in partnership with the City. Mayor Reynolds added that City Council will be asked to appropriate the CHIP funds in legislation to be presented at the next council meeting.

Mayor Reynolds shared an update on the various meetings he had recently attended and noted that Main Street Wooster has organized a self-guided Civil Rights walking tour in Downtown Wooster and encouraged residents to visit Main Street's website and take the tour. He also noted that City of Wooster Recreation Manager, Ashley Hershberger, was recently honored at the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.

Mayor Reynolds noted that Site Selection magazine named the City of Wooster tenth in the nation out of 538 micropolitans for economic investment and was 17th in the nation, and 1st in Ohio, by Policom, an independent economics consulting firm.

Director Montgomery said he recently attended a conference for city managers across Ohio as well as an economic development meeting, and said the City of Wooster utilizes Wooster Growth in a way that outshines what other communities do. He said the partnerships in the Wooster area make that success possible. Director Montgomery also announced the City's spring newsletter had been released and thanked the City staff who worked on the project.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Third 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 this is the third reading of the legislation and council has discussed it at the previous two meetings.

Mr. Abernathy moved, seconded by Mr. Myers, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt passed 5-0, with two recusals (Abernathy - yes, Gaffey – recused, Huszai – recused, Knapic – yes, Malta-yes, Myers - yes, and Warden – yes)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AND APPLY GRANT MONIES FROM THE EDWARD BYNE JAG GRANT AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Gaffey)

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

Mr. Gaffey said this is a 75% reimbursement grant for equipment the Police Department would like to purchase for use in undercover operations. He also noted it is a budgeted item and something council has approved in the past. Mr. Gaffey said Assistant Police Chief Rotolo was available to answer additional questions.

Mr. Gaffey 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. 2024-22 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MARTIN INTERIORS FLOORING AMERICA FOR FLOOR REPLACEMENT AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT (Myers)

Mr. Myers stated the new flooring would not be affected by any future remodeling of the Community Center. He noted the City sent out requests to several vendors and only received a response from Martin Interiors. Ms. Hershberger said multiple contractors were contacted, three visited the site, and only Martin Interiors submitted a quote for the work. She added the contractor is also willing to work after hours and on the weekend so as not to disturb the daycare.

Mr. Myers 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. Steve Huttie, 3351 Northridge Drive, addressed council with his concerns regarding the condition of his lawn after a utility company performed some work, the need for a left-turn signal from Portage Road onto Melrose Drive, and the safety at the intersection of Milltown and Melrose Drive.

Mr. Abernathy said he would like to schedule a Finance Committee meeting for Monday, April 15th at 7:00 pm to hear the first quarter of 2024 financial update.

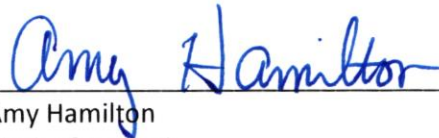
Director Montgomery announced he would provide an operations update to council at a work session scheduled for March 18th at 6:45 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Myers moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Abernathy. Upon voice vote, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Craig Sanders
President of Council



Amy Hamilton
Clerk of Council