

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Melissa Shows, Josh Carey, Dave Williams, Philip Decker, Leah Weirick and Amanda Nelson
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Philip Decker followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2020.

Weirick moved to approved, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8156 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 701.03 (a) Issuance of License and 701.99 General Code Penalty of the Codified Ordinances. Third Reading.** Ord. No. 8156 was read on third reading. Williams moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Res. No. 8161 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Wetland and Green Space Areas from Urban Renewables II, LLC in Rittman, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8161 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Decker moved to adopt. Williams stated that he is for this project, he thinks that it will help our City to market it. Williams inquired how much we are we going to be putting back each year for maintenance and upkeep. He feels that we are going to get this and we are not going to be able to keep it up. Williams inquired if we have budgeted yearly up keep in our parks and budget? Keener advised not in the capital plan but it is something to look into. Williams inquired if we had an estimate on what we think it would cost to keep it up. Beshara responded it depends on what we do with the property, the more natural we keep it the less upkeep there will be on it. Keener stated she disagrees; you will have to hire some additional help for mowing. Mayor Robertson stated that he doesn't know how much mowing there really is, we have been hoping to get volunteer groups to help out. It is seven miles of trail which could be a lot. There will be boardwalks which are going to need maintenance. Mayor Robertson stated that he has talked to the Western Reserve Conservancy and they may be interested in helping out with volunteer type things. Mayor Robertson stated we've looked at going that route, but until we get something architecture wise, we don't know what we are going to have to maintain. Mayor Robertson stated there are other things we are worried about like the fire department having rescue boats. Keener advised that has been budgeted. Mayor Robertson also stated police for vehicles to patrol and EMS for a vehicle to be able

to have a stretcher on it to get somebody out that's injured. Keener stated that there was discussion about having a little building down there and stationing a person from the police department there during the day. Beshara responded that they will definitely look into all of that before any decisions, but just getting the property is fantastic. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8162 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8141, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8162 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Approve Gift Card Purchases to Home Depot for 2019 Pursuant to House Bill 312 and the City of Rittman Policy.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Ord. No. 8163 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids and Proposals, and Award the Lowest and Best Bid, for the Study of Landis Ditch Stormwater Mitigation for the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8163 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Nelson moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

City Manager Beshara stated that she is still here. She had a great week on her own. Beshara stated that her previous job has prepared her. She is really glad that she had that background, I have a lot to learn about Rittman. Beshara advised that she has been meeting people, it's been going great. Beshara advised that she met with each department over the last week and the staff, as many as she could. She stated that she still hasn't met with all of the firemen, she will go to a meeting on a Thursday, she hasn't met the second or third shift, she is going to work on that. Beshara advised that she will be going to the waste water treatment plant. She stated that we have a great group of people who work here, they work hard, they're diligent and it's really a pleasure. She advised that she drove the streets with the George, the Service Director, last week so they can assess what our infrastructure needs. There are a lot of needs with the roads. We have the permissive tax dollars, that needs to be discussed with Pam, to see how much of that we can use to put toward the roads. Also working with AMATS to see if there is any other funding. People deserve to have the best roads we can, we have to get there, we have to figure out how to maintain them. Beshara advised that this has been a very busy week and the staff, Joan is a rock star, she helps to keep things going. She stated Pam was going to be missed whenever she leaves, so don't leave. Finance Directors are very hard to come by and we are finding that out. We have only had one application thus far. Trudy is wonderful, she does a great job, she is really a hard-working individual here. The Mayor and I are going to meetings, we have gone to some and we are going to go to more.

Finance Director's Remarks

Keener advised she submitted her resignation on February 6th and officially appointed to Norton on the 10th. Her last day will be April 6th. She appreciates the everyone, it was a hard decision, it was tough.

Council Remarks

Carey – nothing tonight.

Williams – welcome Bobbie thanks for staying on the whole week. I like what I am hearing as far as being proactive and supporting community events. The Mayor and the City Manager and I met on President's Day at the Server for a planning meeting with many community members for a Living History World War II Exhibit at the Legion in April. It's going to be a pretty big production for the City. I'd like for Council to support that in any way they can. We are going to have the scouts involved, we are going to have the Legion involved. They are going to bring equipment into the Legion yard and they are going to rededicate the tank and it's going to be a pretty big weekend event. I would like to really have Rittman put their best foot forward for any kind of visitors and the National Cemetery and just have a big community support of this. Pam, thank you for all of the work that you have done. It was always a pleasure to see the Auditor from the State come in and give you awards. It gave me a vote of confidence that we are in good hands financially and you were always candid in the areas that we lacking in and what we needed help in. You were a very trusted individual to have aboard. Thank you, Chiefs and Mike, for coming tonight.

Decker – as I was sitting here thinking back to the beginning of my term, in the Citizens Forum time I actually recall and appreciated when you as Chiefs would address Council and give us just an update and rundown. It wasn't always lengthy but it did afford us the opportunity to at least hear what was going on. I am not asking you to reinstate that as a thing going forward, but that is appreciated. So, at any point when you guys are able to offer some input, just advise us on the issues that are going on, it is appreciated. Ms. Beshara, thank you for staying on for the week. Hopefully it's the first of many and thank you for that and for taking the initiative and doing what you are doing. Pam, thank you and good luck, Norton could use you.

Shows – I really don't have much to add other than thank you for all of your hard work, I know it's really tough getting your feet wet, but it seems like you jumped right in. It is much appreciated. Also, Pam I wish you the best of luck.

Nelson – again, thank you. Pam I still have to say I appreciate all the help that you have given me with the Chamber. I also wanted to let everybody know that there is going to be an open Chamber meeting at the end of March that's for all members or any community members that want to participate. I don't have a confirmed date yet; I am waiting the Server because they are hosting us. We will have a speaker from a local non-profit. I just wanted to shameless plug that in case anyone is interested.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

Mayor Robertson – I want to thank Council for hiring Bobbie with her experience because, in two weeks there has been a lot going on and it hasn't been about learning procedures or what to do. A couple of times we have laughed talking about things just saying imagine if somebody came in here with no experience where we would be after a week. It's been a very good transition and thanks for considering that in your whole process. March 1st we are having a get together at Grace Brethren Church, 6:00 p.m. I am going to give a presentation on the nature preserve. I am going to show a lot of the pictures that I showed at Chamber Dinner that I have more that I am adding to it so they want me to do pictures for about a half hour – forty-five minutes. Hoping for questions and answers and causal conversation. No meal will be provided, it's just a take a look at what the park looks like. If you want to come that's great, if you want to tell people about it, that would be great also. The World War II Living History thing that Dave talked about is really cool. The set up is on the 17th the actual event is the 18th during the day and the 19th will be tear down. They are inviting people to participate in the whole thing, the set up and the tear down as well. And the last one I want to mention, I'm part of the Complete the Count Committee in Wayne County and we are working on the Census. We want to make sure that people get counted and stressing on how important it is for grant money, money that comes to the schools, so many different things. We are looking for, specifically in Rittman, Census workers. It pays \$18.00 per hour, it would probably be June, July and August that time frame. Kind of weird hours, they want people going around knocking on doors when families are likely home like

between 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. It's not exactly a full-time job, but it will help with a car payment or whatever.

Beshara stated that she applied for the Census job, but because she was an elected official, they wouldn't let her be a Census worker. Mayor Robertson said that no one said anything about it, they said 18 years old and a citizen of United States. Chief Sweigert responded that it does ask that question. Mayor Robertson said he didn't know why they didn't delay it by one day, the kick off day is April 1. I'm not sure why they did that. You will probably be getting things in the mail; they are really going to encourage people to respond by mail or online or by phone. Those that don't are going to require a knock on the door.

Beshara commented on the WWII that she contacted Village of Richfield Mayor and asked if possibly they could bring in a trailer which is a trailer of porta potties that we could use that weekend. I am waiting to hear if we can get that here. Also, a friend of mine helps to manage the Wadsworth Airport and he is going to provide a drone for the weekend to take some photos. I will follow up on both of those items.

a. Approval of Voucher #'s 11827 thru 11918 and Memo Expense #'s M22001 thru M22014. Weirick moved to approve, all yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 7:23 p.m. Carey moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council