

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 13, 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 – March 9, 2020.

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

Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2020 (Special Meeting).

Williams moved to approved. Amend the Old Business (b) to change Ord. No. from 8164 to 8165. Decker move to approve as amended, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2020 (Special Meeting).

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

Approval of Minutes – March 30, 2020 (Special Meeting).

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

Approval of Minutes – April 6, 2020 (Special Meeting).

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

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8164 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and Sate of Ohio, Amending Section 971.07 Water from Hydrants of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8164 was read on second reading. Williams moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

None

City Manager's Remarks

Beshara stated that after much consideration City Hall was closed due to Coronavirus on March 17. On March 16 we formed a Safety Committee which met that day which was a Monday to discuss where we would go from there. I closed City Hall on the 17th. On the 16th we decided to lock the doors so that the public would not have access but we would accept their payments. We also put in a plexiglass door so that when the public was there, there would be no interaction between our staff and the public. I did decide to close City Hall on March 17 which was a Tuesday. It's been working out we are very efficient everyone that needs to work from home can work from home thanks to VPN's. I know that's virtual something network. I am happy to report that everyone has done a great job when we need to go in, we do. Joan has been in, Kris has been in, Shelley has been in, Trudy has been in numerous times. Pam and our new Finance Director have met a couple of times. They have been wearing masks and gloves. We have booties that are to be put on as you walk in you have to put booties on your feet. Before entering the building, you have to have your temperature taken. If it is over 100.4 you are to go home and call your doctor and stay at home for at least three days. The Safety Committee has met every week and in between there will be a couple of us that will meet when something comes up with our Law Director and I think we have worked through a lot of issues. I want to thank everybody for their diligence and hard work during this time, working from home isn't easy as any of us can attest to. There is a lot of distractions, but there are also long hours. An 8-hour day turns into usually a 12-hour day. I know everybody can attest to that. Taxes have been delayed to July 15th. We followed the Federal guidelines on that. One other thing that we did was make sure right away that nobody's water will be turned off during this time. While we are sending out bills and we ask people to pay, we are not turning off any water. We have removed all check fees and credit card fees. That will make it easier for the residents to pay online. They still can pay with a check and then drop it off because our drop box is open. Or put it in the mail. Mail has been picked up by our police department on a regular basis and then when someone goes into the office to work, they will get the mail and go through it. The other thing is that nobody is in the office more than one person at one time. Kris worked today, Shelley will go in tomorrow and Joan will go in on Thursday. We are alternating, everybody keeps in touch. Trudy goes upstairs and works and she is alone up there. George and Mike come in when they need to. That has worked out well. Our employees as far as service department have started going back on a split shift. This week it will be another part of our service department, we only have six employees that aren't supervisors, so those six have been splitting their time to come into work to do brush pick up, trying to get some roads done but the weather has not been cooperating at all. We do appreciate everybody just on stand by and they come in when necessary. Don, the Fire Chief and I have only missed one day of talking since March 12 and that might have been Easter, but I talked to Mike Brown on Easter. We are constantly in touch and the staff is great. I can't wait until we can all be back together working because its just going to be so much better. I will say that it's worked out as best as can be expected. In other news, I am going down to the County tomorrow to sign the final document for the nature preserve transfer. I am going to be going to the Wayne County Records office wearing a mask and gloves. They assured me that they will have this document out in their waiting area so I can just sign it and move along. In Rittman I have to go to the bank and sign some paperwork for the Finance Director and that will be done also as a drive through transaction. Think that's it for now, I'm sure there's more to report on but I just want to make sure. Also, I did sign the Agreement with Hull and Associates a couple of weeks ago electronically for the design work. I wanted you to know that as well. I wanted to defer to Garrick for a moment.

Garrick Di Salvo we had one person reach out asking us to paint the pool during this time. The painting of the rec center pool is scheduled for September by Eastern Pools. The painting of the pool is a lot more detailed than just draining the pool and painting it. There are certain steps that you take, even scrubbing down with muriatic acid. Stuff that I don't feel comfortable doing and I definitely don't feel comfortable having 16-year-old kids do it. We did look into it and I am not even sure we are going to get to it this in conversations that

we have had I just wanted to say in case anyone else had heard those complaints by the patrons of the rec center. Other than that, we are keeping the pool up to date with all the chemicals, the CO2 and the chlorine. We test every other day and we're writing it down so the health department has it. We have been fine we have been in perfectly acceptable ranges for all of it. Moose, Christian Allen, is teaching virtual classes on Facebook. He is averaging over 500 clicks. I have heard from a couple of nursing homes in the area that they are actually putting them up for some of their residents of the nursing home to do. Actually, I got pictures from Medina Hospital of a couple of the employees doing this. I have forwarded them to Bobbie so she has them right there. As far the rec center we have been doing pretty good. I have been in twice since this has happened. Everything is cancelled through May. We were able to refund the rentals that came in. We were exactly half way through our swim lessons and gymnastics so we did a half split on those. We are gearing up for when we come back. It is going to take us a week or so with scheduling and finding out how we can do it. We are just trying to put pieces together like that.

Don Sweigert stated that we had a couple of cases in the beginning that were on the quarantine that they were health care workers. We did have one that we took in, unfortunately she ended up passing away on Friday. That number will go into the Summit County numbers. It was really sad because the onset was really fast. Like three weeks. It's sad to hear that. Our team was required to check our temperature twice a day, we have to do that through Wednesday. We were full PPE. We didn't have any issues with being exposed. We haven't had anybody on the team that has been exposed. He have had a couple of people taken in that has shown the signs but not necessarily getting tested. Hopefully we are on a downward cycle of this, hopefully the numbers are going down. I see they are flattening out. Hopefully we are getting out of this and can get back to some normalcy. We have provided enough PPE for our people; we have provided enough protective equipment for the Police Department so that they have full face shields. We got a couple from Dave Williams' boy who did them on a 3D printer. We ended up buying some for \$3.00 material costs from Orrville. We gave ten of those to the Police Department so they can make sure that their folks are covered. We have 250 disposable gowns coming in this week. We have enough to get by. But we larger sizes. We should be all set for anything going forward. We have provided enough, there is a shortage of PPE but we have been blessed enough to have enough to cover our people for when we need to be covered. As far as the tornado sirens, are tested every month, we could have tested them at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday night and the power failure happened at 5:05 and they didn't go off at 11:30 p.m. You can't test them constantly. We tested them; we did our due diligence. Unfortunately, the power supply for that radio went out, for whatever reason. It wouldn't have mattered where we could have set those off from. That power supply went out. Today we tested them and they work fine. We will test them for the next month and half, through the end of May, every Monday at noon. I know that we are looking into other power supplies, that have a longer battery life. I know we are getting pricing from Federal Signal on a two-way radio. We got pricing four years ago on two-way radios so they send a signal out. The siren site receives it sends it back and says "yes, I am ready to go". If it doesn't send something back then we know there is something wrong in the system. It sends an email that says "hey, there is something wrong with the outdoor weather siren and you need to get it fixed". It is immediate feedback. It's not waiting for that month when you are testing it. That could help prevent something like that from happening in the future. We talked to the EMA Director today and there are not any grants. There is definitely no money from the Federal or State Agencies to upgrade existing equipment. If we would go to upgrade that costs around \$40,000.00 for all three would be out of budget, so we would have to see where we could find that. He suggested that he would help fund having a campaign for weather warning radios that would go in everybody's house. He said those are about \$20.00 and he said in the past he has funded \$15.00 of it as long as somebody can pick the \$5.00. He said usually the homeowner will pick up the \$5.00. It only goes off when the NOAA people set off the weather.

Shows inquired if the weather radio was something that they would try to put in every home? Sweigert replied yes, as many people who would like a weather radio, they could

buy one. It's like a smoke detector campaign. We have these radios available for \$5.00 and they are normally \$20.00 but being funded through a grant through EMA they only cost \$5.00. We would try to get them in as many houses as we could, just like smoke detectors. Shows inquired if any local grants or local organizations you think might help with that? Sweigert responded that there may be. We could ask some of the civic clubs and see if there would be anything. Williams inquired about the Beaverson Fund in Wayne County. Sweigert responded maybe, we could ask them. There is a number of things we could probably find out to see if they would fund the other part of it. Shows stated a lot of people don't understand those sirens are great, but they are not meant to be heard in your home. A lot of people are under the misconception that they didn't hear it, they are not working. Beshara responded we got a donation of 60 N95 masks and they hope they can get some more. Hopefully we are flattening the curve, hopefully we are going to get over this sooner rather than later. Also, the Chief has made sure that if anybody wants a mask in service, they have a mask to wear. We have gloves we use Neutra Stat to clean their vehicles, to clean their equipment, to clean the break room. Neutra Stat is something Garrick had given to all of us and we are now using to clean hard surfaces. We are doing all we can to protect everybody from this virus.

Beshara stated we are also getting quotes for trash for a 3- or 5-year contract. I am going through the old bid packet that we had and changing things. Also, the Landis Ditch study started, almost 2 weeks now, that study has begun and anytime we need information they said they would keep us updated on what is going on.

Beshara stated a big thank you to Pam Keener, I didn't get to know her that well. But well enough that she did a great job for the City and we still have her under contract until the end of May so she can help train Matt a little further. Thank you, Council, for allowing us to have her under contract a little longer. Matt and I are going to start Zoom meeting with directors and staff members so we can understand a little bit more about the processes until we go back to work.

Mayor Robertson inquired if on the trash bid if we were separating out the fuel surcharge? So, we can see how much the companies are charging for that? Beshara stated that she hasn't gotten that far with it; I will definitely look into it. Mayor Robertson also inquired if we would try to get recycling every week. Beshara responded she wanted to see what the cost was. She will get alternate quotes for recycling every two weeks, every week. Some people would like to buy a larger bin if they have that. I spoke with Rumpke today and will speak to others.

Finance Director's Remarks

Bubp responded I really don't have anything too specific to say about the finances at this point. Today is my first official day on the job. I'm just getting into the groove here. I know Pam was very gracious to get the March month closed and all of those reports out to everybody. Everyone has been very great so far as far as welcoming and helping. I guess the only remark I really have is if you hear or see anything that is maybe something I have overlooked or maybe got lost between Pam and I's transition, please let me know and I will make sure those things get addressed.

a. **Motion to Approve the Financial Report for March, 2020.** Nelson moved to approve, all yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Williams – I would like to thank everybody. When the tornado siren issue hit, I understand that Missy Shows and Howie McComas were responding to our old dispatch center trying to get things back in order and I appreciate them going out that late at night and looking after the City's safety. I really appreciate that. I's like to thank Garrick and Moose for everything you are doing at the rec center. The Safety Committee and Don and Chief Arcuri. I travel to a lot of municipalities with my job and I couldn't be prouder of what our

City is doing, so thank you so much. Thank you, Mayor, for your videos, think that those are important. I think people are adhering to it. It really keeps the negativity down by being informed. I think that communication is important. I can see that maybe these Zoom meetings might be something in the future that the public might want to participate in when we get back to normal or the piece with Moose, we might want to get into a regular movement with that. Maybe that would be good advertising for our rec center. Despite all of this pain, I think they are good growing pains for us. I think it brings us tighter together.

Decker – I had a few questions from Garrick speaking as well as Chief Sweigert. They're not new issues, just clarification and maybe some further comments. Chief Sweigert you have already addressed the issue of had we tested that day at 5:00 p.m. or even moments before then the power would have still gone out. Other municipalities who test more frequently is there wisdom with us doing that going forward even beyond the five or six weeks? Sweigert replied in this case if we were having mechanical issues like with them not rotating or if we needed to work them to make sure that they operated properly, then maybe more often would work. I think that they have worked well since we got them online a couple of years ago with testing them every month. It seems like that's fine. It was just this case where the power supply went out. We are going to test it every Monday for the next until the end of May. We could do that all summer. I don't know that 8500 would be willing to do. We were just trying to fit into their schedule when they did it with everybody every month. Decker inquired if that is the schedule that they operate off of? Sweigert replied right, some body said why don't you put a battery up there? There is a generator that if that building loses power, then the generator automatically kicks in. It was just that one individual radio that lost the power, all of the other radios had power to them. I think the Alert Me, the reverse 911 important to really promote. I think that is going to notify, even people with land lines. Mayor Robertson stated that sometimes those sirens at noon every Monday can be very disruptive. Sometimes with school and people that working at home or sleeping or whatever. Shows responded the middle of the day is kind of rough on the school kids during the school being on the water tower. That is our younger kids' hallway, it doesn't take much to distract them, panic them in the beginning, but they really do kind of get used to it. Shows stated that they are scheduled, those are manually set off by dispatch. In the past there have been times when we have had to postpone them at our own discretion. If it is already storming, we obviously don't want to test sirens to panic people. Also, times you just plain get busy and can't get to it. Decker inquired of Garrick about his refund requests? Have you had anyone who has wanted a refund on the entire membership? Garrick responding nobody on the entire membership. The nice thing about the sportsman software is we are able to go in and we can exactly set whose memberships are active during this time and we can actually add on to those memberships. We have talked about adding on to the memberships and extending them. The 24-hour access is going to have to be piece by piece, that is going to be a little bit of a struggle just because there is a good amount of those. We will get through that too. For as far as refunds go, I have only had one person who has actually requested a refund and called a couple of times a couple different people to ask where their refund was. Decker stated that you mentioned before the meeting began that you don't have a hard-line internet access at the rec center? Garrick responded we don't. We haven't had hard line internet, Jeff had us bouncing off of the water tower into our building. When Doylestown Cable was going around and installing the fiberoptic up in that area, they were supposed to run past the rec center and into the allotment area. They stopped at the high school. The high school got it and we couldn't add on to it. At that point we had to make a decision and the decision was made to do the wi-fi bounce to the rec center. I know that recently Spectrum came up and we have the line in our building now, but Server Sim has not hooked it up. That has been within the last two months. Decker stated that it seems like an oversight, that shouldn't be the case. A reliable connection should be something that you guys have. You also said that people were asking about the pool being re-painted. This is something that I don't know if this is even feasible but, we have had this conversation numerous times over the last several years, we now have an opportunity with the parks and the playgrounds being closed, is there any benefit of this timeline being used to install some of the new playground equipment? Beshara inquired how much new

equipment we have? Garrick responded that there is currently a rock wall an ADA compliant swing set and I can't remember if there is another piece of equipment or not. It is located in the storage shed at Fritz Park. I know they have to do a little leveling. I guess it would depend on how saturated the ground is at this point. It would require the Service Department to do a little bit of level and then they would have to do the same thing that they did previously with the boarding with the 4 x 8 and then we need to get the safety playground mulch. It would really be up to the Service Department, I'm not in charge of that. Beshara stated that she would have a conversation with the Service Director and Garrick and see when we can get this moving. As you know I am new and I wasn't aware that there were three pieces of equipment. This would be a good opportunity to do it. Shows responded that she would be afraid to have it done right now. If we put something new up, we are not going to be able to keep people off of it. The tape is not going to hold them back. I know these kids we haven't put any of the new stuff out at the school, we are purposely not because we don't want to encourage them out there exploring the equipment. Beshara stated that we would hold off. We will definitely get that lined up so that when we are ready and kids are allowed to get back on the playgrounds it will be ready as well.

Shows – I just wanted to thank everybody I know the work that everybody is putting out has been tremendous. I want to make sure that we mention and thank Ron Woodward from the Server. He is feeding an upwards of 100 of our citizens every day. It is purely off of donations. He is getting a tremendous response when he posts something that they need something, he is getting it almost instantly from the community. I know he has partnered with Bauman's and they are donating fruit for the kids every day. I believe that it is a complete donation. They are also accepting money so that he can go out and make purchases of what he knows they need, but the work down there has been tremendous. I will address Councilman Williams; I did go down and try to help the night of the storm so moving forward with these tornado things. I want to add that dispatch in Rittman is prepared to set it off, there were some kinks there. But also make sure that some of our first responders are trained on how to do that. They called me down because I was really probably the only one in the City that could have possibly helped them when they thought it was just a relay error. So maybe just refreshing that with some of those guys. If County should go down for something on their end that we could still be protected up here since we don't have the 24-hour dispatch anymore. But those first responders, those officers that night worked tremendously and I appreciate all of their efforts. I did want to make sure that it is known that Officer Covil and Officer McComas from the time that I entered the building they made sure everything was done. I standing looking at the radios and they are taking my temperature and logging everything and wiping everything down for me when I got there and when I left. Even going so far as to make sure the doors were open so I didn't touch anything. They were very conscious of that in a very critical time. I thank everybody.

Williams – I wanted to thank Amanda before she came on for sponsoring the Chamber Event on Saturday with the Easter candy and the Easter Bunny. I salute you and all the volunteers that helped out to make life a little bit normal for the kids, so thank you so much for that.

Nelson – every body in our community has just done a really good job through all of this. I want to thank everybody that helped plan the community Easter Egg Hunt even though it didn't get to happen. Cali and I and Kathy our Easter Bunny put the small event together so we could pass out the candy. There was a lot more work that went into that. A lot of people donated, the Server, we had Easter Baskets donated, candy baskets, stuffed animals, stuff that we are still going to be using next year for the next Easter Egg Hunt. I don't want that to go unknown that there were more people involved that just myself and Cali. We had 300 bags of candy and we got rid of all but 17. We gave 50 baskets out. We had people from Hudson which was the Mayors friends. We did notice that there were a lot of people that we didn't know. Wadsworth people, Orrville people, Wooster people just a lot more people coming into the community. It was nice to see other people besides just our Rittman community getting together.

Carey – thank you to all of our City personnel for all of their hard work during these trying times. Between the pandemic and the severe storm warning issues there is a lot of

things to do, everybody is way out of their normal routine. Thanks to Garrick and Moose for giving my dad something to look forward to while penned up in his house. He finds the classes with Moose pretty enjoyable and if I don't give him anything to work on for that day, he pretty much looks forward to 10:00 so he can get up and get moving around a little bit. Amanda, Cali and Kathy thank you so much for the Easter Bunny. My little one was very sick last year and didn't get to go to see the bunny for his first Easter. It wasn't ideal to see the Easter Bunny from the truck but he at least got to see the Easter Bunny he really enjoyed it. Thank you, guys, for that, it was really great. That's all I have got today, thank you.

Weirick – nothing further to add, thank you.

Mayor Robertson – my friends from Hudson happened to see the Moment with the Mayor video and they surprised us and pulled in our driveway. They were really excited and said Hudson better get their act together, because Rittman was the only place they could find an Easter Bunny. The Server did 163 fish fries on Friday that they gave out for free. I went and got one myself and it was really good. Bill Crawford had the deep fryers going in his garage and made french fries and fish. Anchor Heating is doing hot meals on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. They are working with Fox's Pizza and handing out free food there. Woody Woodward sent me a text today a young man stopped by with his Government Incentive check and wanted most of it to go to the Server and handed him a bunch of money.

Simpson – the City was approached about annexing some property out of Chippewa Township into the City of Rittman. James Reedy the owner of Fastforming off of 57 has indicated that he wants to annex a piece of his property. I believe he intends to build another building and expand his business. We will have to annex that property into the City. I am currently working on the annexation documents. I'll essentially be handling it. I think we've got some agreement and approval from Chippewa Township on this. I wanted to bring this to Council because ultimately, it's your decision and I'm not going to dump a bunch of time and effort and work into it if you guys are not going to be in favor of it. If anybody has any concerns or objections about it, I can address those either now or later on in the week. I'd be happy to talk to anybody about that. As for right now. I've talked to Bobbie about it, she's onboard. We are proceeding forward with annexing this piece of property into town.

Mayor Robertson – that's not in Rittman?

Simpson – the Fastforming building is, the piece of property that is empty to the north is not Rittman.

Mayor Robertson – any of those houses interested in annexing in.

Simpson – not to his knowledge. Chippewa Township has been reluctant to agree to let the James Reedy property annex in. I think he did some work in convincing them. I don't know if anybody else is interested but Chippewa Township might put up a bit of a fight.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 12032 thru 12126 and Memo Expense #'s 0M3201 thru M32021.** Williams moved to approve, all yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 7:56 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council