

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 25, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Chuck Wyatt, Ken Park, Amanda Nelson, Dave Williams, Josh Carey and Melissa Shows

Members Absent: None

Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Pastor Clark Genet followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Workshop

a. **Traffic Cameras** – Police Chief Show provided information regarding a 10-camera system that he would like to implement in Rittman. The project would involve 4 dome intersection cameras. In addition to the intersection cameras, he would like to install 6 license plate reading cameras. The intersection cameras are a real time view of the intersection and the license plate readers can photograph the license plate. The police department can then look for a certain plate number if needed. They would be able to recognize the make, model and color of a vehicle. The footage is stored on the cloud for 30 days. If the police department searches for a black Chevy Silverado they can look to see how many passed through that intersection. It can also alert if that particular vehicle passes through on a later date. Chief Shows also felt this would be an invaluable tool in the security and service the Police Department would be able to provide the residents of Rittman. The camera system is not a citation system, it is not a speed or red-light camera. It is strictly a surveillance/security system. Traffic citations will not be mailed to motorists who pass by these cameras.

Citizens Forum

None

a. **Motion to go Into Executive Session in Accordance with ORC 121.22 to Consider the Purchase of Property for Public Purposes, the Sale of Public Property at Competitive Bidding, or the Sale or Other Disposition of Unneeded or Obsolete Public Property and to invite the Mayor, City Manager, Finance Director and Law Director - 7:21.** Shows so moved. Nelson seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. **Motion to come out of Executive Session – 7:30.** Wyatt so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8286 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 991 Municipal Cemeteries of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading.** Ord. No. 8286 was read on second reading. Williams moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. **Ord. No. 8287 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Opting out of HB 172 and Continuing to Ban the Discharge, Ignition or Explosion of Fireworks in the City of Rittman, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading.** Ord. No. 8287 was read on second

reading. Nelson moved to move to third. Nelson stated that she does not support this ordinance at all in it's given state. She feels that the ordinance should be amended to suit the citizens better. Chief Sweigert alluded to the fact that we had no significant incidents over the four years to his knowledge by fire or EMS in regards to firework destination in the city. Although it is illegal, we still had reports of citizens shooting off fireworks. Nelson stated that she is sure that there have been noise complaints and firework complaints over the last four years for the P.D, but does not know how many. Chief Shows stated that during the Fourth of July week we easily get 10 – 20 every shift. Nelson inquired if Chief Shows has arrested anyone or taken them to jail or cited anyone? How often does that happen? Chief Shows responded until this bill passed, fireworks were a first-degree misdemeanor. They were arrestable. They carried a \$1,000.00 fine and six months in jail, maximum sentence. Shows stated that he could not remember any significant injury but there have been serious complaints. Nelson stated that she looked into HB 172 and there are two options for the city which are to restrict the dates and times. It also states that that are ten separate dates when fireworks can be discharged. Nelson stated she feels that the last Monday of May and Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding (Memorial Day) and also the third, fourth and fifth of July. Just because we allow them on these days doesn't negate the fact that we still have ordinances pertaining to noise complaints, disturbances of piece or disorderly conduct. Nelson stated that she would like to propose an amendment to that ordinance to change the complete ban of fireworks to restriction of times and dates of discharge, ignition, or explosion of fireworks in the City of Rittman only on the last Monday of May and the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding and the third, fourth and fifth of July in accordance with our current disorderly conduct and disturbance ordinances and to ban them on all other occasions including any other dates listed in the House Bill.

Wyatt inquired on what times this would be enforced. Nelson responded our noise ordinance is until 11:00 p.m. Mayor Robertson inquired if Nelson was proposing an amendment? She responded yes. Mayor Robertson stated that there was an amendment on the floor, and discussion on the amendment.

Williams inquired Fourth of July and Memorial Day? Nelson responded as stated in the House Bill, it would be three days for each holiday. Beshara stated that she doesn't agree. It should be banned as the houses are so close together and it's dangerous. Wyatt inquired what type of liability is imposed to the city. Simpson responded none as it is on the person who shoots them off. Shows stated that she supports banning it. When they go off and we know they go off every year those people are met with compassion and not hauled off in handcuffs and normally the police officer knocks on their door. Yes, it's annoying. There's not much you can do when they are going off in every neighborhood in town. Allowing it is going to compound the problem.

Chief Shows stated the first time he goes to a complaint when the neighbor calls, "you made them legal this year." Yes, he knows but they are still disturbing the peace, it still violates other laws. You are going to allow a law that violates another law in the same chapter.

Park stated that the Government allowed this across the State for a reason. Where is all of their safety concerns? Beshara stated that we have local rule and a lot of communities are banning this. Mayor Robertson stated he doesn't agree with Memorial Day as that is a somber day. Williams inquired if the biggest volume of calls was during the Fourth of July. Chief Shows responded yes, but we get them all year long. Park inquired it we can make it just the Fourth of July? He agrees on the point of Memorial Day.

Mayor Robertson stated we are voting on the amendment as stated by Amanda. Nelson stated the amendment as she stated but delete Memorial Day. Upon roll call Carey – Yes, Wyatt – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Williams – Yes, Shows – No, Park – Yes and **motion carried.**

Nelson moved to place Ord. No. 8287 as amended on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Res. No. 8289 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Declaring it Necessary to Improve Krabill Road from Corporation Limits to DeCoursey Road by Planing and Milling the Existing Surface, and Installing a New Asphalt Surface, all Together with the Necessary Appurtenances Thereto and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8289 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Nelson moved to adopt. Beshara stated that she feels that this road really needs to be done. We hope that Keenan Hahn who was the developer for Oliver Way to put something toward it due to heavy construction vehicles. There will be an assessment to the residents which has not yet been determined. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8290 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 for Street Improvement of Krabill Road from Corporation Limit to DeCoursey Road and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8290 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Shows moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Res. No. 8291 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio Determining that Lot Number NPT 88 and SPT 78 Owned by the City of Rittman are no Longer Needed for Municipal Purposes and Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for its Sale as Required by Law and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Res. No. 8291 was read on first reading. Shows moved to move to second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**

City Managers Remarks

We will have pre-construction meetings for Eastern, East Ohio and South Main. We will be really busy this summer working on projects. Grant Street is being paved. Sterling will have a waterline replacement project and that road will also be repaved this year.

May 14 is clean up Rittman Day. We will be starting at the fire department; everybody is invited to come there and get their location that they would like to clean up. Someone sent in an email that they would like to do one of the parks. It is from 9 – 12 on Saturday, May 14.

Also, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the William J. Robertson Nature Preserve will be on Saturday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Finance Director's Remarks

The financial audit for 2021 is well underway. They were here all of last week and will be here for all or most of this week as well. City Manager Beshara was kind enough to nominate me for a Reginal Income Tax Agency Board of Trustees position. I will be in the running for that. The vote is in June.

Council Remarks

Wyatt – appreciate you being here pastor. Bob, thanks for your presentation and the clarification on it.

Williams – I want to individually thank each Council Member. This week I addressed each one of them in an email asking them to put “Parents who Host Lose the Most” signs in their yards. It’s prom season it’s graduation season and we are encouraging

parents in the community not to provide alcohol to kids. Not only this time of year, but any time of the year. The SALT Coalition meets the third Monday of each month at the high school. They talk about anti-drug messages and helping kids make positive choices in their lives as they grow up here. We had full participation with Council to put the signs in the yards, I'd like to thank everybody for that. I'd like to thank Amanda and Garrick for planning the upcoming State of the City dinner. I know there is a lot of work goes into that. I'm looking forward to it. I think it is a good time for us to look at our strengths and build for a positive future.

Nelson – just as Dave said we have the Chamber Event coming up on Wednesday, so I am excited to see everybody there.

Park – nothing beyond what has already been said.

Carey – today I heard about there being an issue with people smoking at Fritz Park. The Rittman Youth Baseball and Softball Organization has been urging people to not smoke by the fields. From what I was told by someone else today the people are actually smoking in the dugouts. I don't know that I want them to be out on a limb by themselves on this one. I don't know if it is as simple as putting up no smoking signs on the baseball fields to discourage people from smoking around children. Or if we go so far to do an ordinance banning smoking in city owned outdoor areas. I don't think it needs to go that far, but maybe some signs. Would we be able to designate a smoking area? DiSalvo responded yes.

Shows – I want to thank Pastor Clark for joining us. We hope to see you in the future. I want to mention we are very proud of our second shift officers who had a very large bust last week. Officer Derrick Miller and Dan Kopinski were able to find warrants as well a large amount of drugs, money and firearms that should not have been there and it was safely resolved. I would like to commend both of those officers for their hard work in keeping our citizens safe. I would also like to mention to Council the passing of Roy Boyer from Wadsworth yesterday. I am sure that most of you are unaware who he is, but he has provided this city for service for at least the last 30 years. Coming in to help, if it was an accident, it's a citizen he knew, he was somebody who made the call for somebody who needed a tow truck. He will be greatly missed.

Mayor Robertson – received a letter from West Salem thanking the officers for tracking down a cell phone.

Beshara – stated that the firefighters who went to Town and Country and covered the shifts for their firefighters to attend the funeral. They sent thank you notes to all of them and Chief Sweigert sent that information to me. It was a thank you to Curtis Russell, Kyle McDonald, Jesse and Jen Cotrell.

a. **Motion to go Into Executive Session in Accordance with ORC 121.22 to Consider the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Promotion, Demotion or Compensation of a Public Employee or Official and to invite the Mayor, City Manager, Finance Director and Law Director – 8:10.** Shows so moved. Nelson seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. **Motion to come out of Executive Session – 7:32.** Wyatt so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 8:33 p.m. Wyatt moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council