

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM
February 8, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Amanda Nelson, Josh Carey, Dave Williams, Leah Weirick and Philip Decker
Members Absent: Melissa Shows
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Paster Josh Evans, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2021.

Williams moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

a. **Res. No. 8215 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Finance Director to Make Advances and/or Transfers to or from Appropriate Accounts. Second Reading.** Res. No. 8215 was read on second reading. Weirick moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8216 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8200 as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8216 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

We are now using Municode as our Codified Ordinance website. Municode replaces American Legal who we used for 13 years prior to the switch that preceded my employment with the City. When you visit our website, it will take you the Municode website where you can then look for Rittman's codified ordinances. It works much the same as American Legal's website. Currently, several departments, Joan and our Law Director are reviewing for corrections and replacements that need to be updated in the codified ordinance.

Regarding the solar panel installation at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, there are still a few more steps that Verde needs to complete prior to the start of construction. I will keep you posted when I receive a construction date.

The Second Street waterline replacement project is underway. We are fortunate to have our former Utilities Director, Ken Mann who works for Engineering Associates, as our inspector on this project. Dirt Dawg is doing a great job with very little disruption to our residents. If anyone has reached out to you, please have them contact my office so we can address any of their questions and/or concerns.

We have two important job postings on our website. One is for a Water Department Supervisor and the other position is for an Operator of Record at the Water Treatment Plant. Both jobs have specific qualifications and licensing required to complete the work that the Ohio EPA mandates so if you know of anyone who might meet these qualifications, please share the job posting with them. I've also linked the jobs to Facebook and we will post on OTCO, the OML website and Indeed.

I received word Wednesday after our last Council meeting that the resurfacing projects on Ohio and South Main, slated for 2024, got moved up to late summer this year by AMATS. This is great news for Rittman because S. Main is failing as far as the road condition rating and Ohio isn't much further behind. In fact, S. Main rated as the #1 worst road of the AMATS projects for this round of funding and Ohio came in at 7th. We will receive 80% in funding through AMATS and we will receive the rest (or the majority) of the 20% match through our permissive tax. A little under \$1 million dollars is the total for both roads. Also, the money won't be released until July 1st, so that gives us time to work on the necessary documents and legislation we will need to have completed. I've discussed this with Matt Bulp to make sure we can go forward this year instead of in 2024 and he is fine with moving this up, as is Chuck. Chuck and I will be working with Josh Slaga, from GPD, as our engineer for this project. We will have an out-of-pocket expense for the engineering but we will save money overall on engineering since both projects will be completed this summer. In addition, we have the OWDA loan for the Grant Street waterline project and resurfacing, so this summer is going to be very busy with infrastructure projects. Also, Chuck and I will be meeting with Josh to go over future road projects and funding opportunities through AMATS this week.

And finally, our sincere condolences to the Shows family on the death of Leola Shows, grandmother of Chief Shows and Councilmember Missy Shows. Leola was 95 years old and has a very loving circle of family and friends who will miss her terribly. Leola was laid to rest today in a private ceremony, at the Western Reserve National Cemetery alongside her beloved husband, Everett who passed away in 2011.

Williams inquired if there was any news on the library/city hall project? Beshara responded there is a meeting sometime this week. We have two different law firms that we are working with and Matt Simpson. We need to speak internally to see where we are going from here. We are looking to move forward on that. Mayor Robertson stated that it was a re-boot on the whole project. We are going to review the documents and the drawings and so on. It is going forward but we are trying to get back to being organized after having some problems with some vendors.

Finance Director's Remarks

Bulp stated that all W-2's, 1099's and 1095's were successfully completed and sent out as applicable. Aside from that we got our other things that were dead lined for the first month or two of the year, we got all of that done. We are going to focus a lot of time on the upcoming GAP Conversion, getting the documentation to the convertors. As Bobbie mentioned, the AMATS project is a big project, it is really awesome that it is getting bumped up to now instead of 2024. It seems like a big jump, but I am glad it is happening. One thing to know with that is that the permissive tax money that is sitting with the County that we will be using for our local share is, it is my understanding that it is a reimbursement basis. So, we will be outlaying that money and then getting it reimbursed from the permissive tax fund. Unless there are any questions, that's all I have. Beshara asked if Bulp had anything more on the audit? Bulp stated that they haven't gotten started yet. They want to get started near the end of this month. As they request documentation and come in, we will provide them with whatever they need. Beshara stated that we are going let them in the building, but we are going to be very careful. Bulp stated that they have laid out rules for them. They

couldn't send any more than two people at a time, making sure that they are aware of and sign on to masks at all times and also working it out with them for them to call people in other offices with questions rather moving all around the building and going into everyone's office all of the time. They have agreed to those things and we are hoping that will cut down a little bit on whatever risk that introduces. In a lot of sense to try to make a copy every little piece of documentation that they could ever need to look at and at that point it is also not originals so that the level of that they can trust those things, maybe be lower than seeing the originals and I have no desire to just hand them original documentation to take off to wherever and hopefully they bring back in one piece. I think this is the best we can do.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for January, 2021.** Decker moved to adopt, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Carey – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Weirick – Yes, Williams - Yes and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Nelson – first, Bobbie I wanted to ask you about parks and if there's any updates that you have on that for me? Also, I wanted to ask Council if you guys had a chance to look over what Garrick sent us all in July or June and if there were any questions or any thoughts on anything. The State of the City is going to be on Saturday we are going to do recordings for that, we always have an event, but we are not having that this year. It's all going to be online. Missy is supposed to be doing the recording for us and editing so we will get all of that done and posted on the City website. Garrick responded he hoped to get it on the City website, the Chamber website and then the social media sites as well. Nelson stated that she wanted to make everyone aware of that, that it is still going on, it's just going to be different this year. I wanted to bring it to the attention of the Mayor that the National Honor Society reached out to me this week regarding service hours that they need. I told them about the Nature Preserve as well as some things with the Chamber, but I wanted to make sure that it was ok with you that I get you in contact with the girl that got a hold of me so she can deal with you directly on the nature preserve stuff. Mayor Robertson responded that would be great. Nelson stated that the last thing is the year before we did an Earth Day clean up of the trails and I just wanted to let everyone know that I am planning on doing that again this year and hopefully having the National Honor Society help with that as well. If anyone has any questions or concerns about the thing Garrick sent out in July about the parks that need addressed, obviously reach out to him or reach out to me if don't want to talk to him. But please, if you haven't looked at it look at it, because he put a lot of time into it. There is a lot of stuff going on with our parks that need to be dealt with. That's all.

Carey – condolences to the Shows' family. That's really all I had today, is that I am very sorry to hear about that and they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Williams – I would like to thank the street crews; they have been working extra hours and everything to keep the streets less slippery and thanks to the water department for the what they have been doing on Second Street. I was wondering if we are going to be repaving Ohio and South Main would the sidewalks along the downtown district be in any consideration for redoing them? I don't know if that would be the time to look at flower boxes or squares cut out for trees or whatever. It just seems if you had construction, that might be a time to consider that. I know that is a huge financial piece to that, just food for thought. Beshara responded it is something we couldn't do with the grant but we could certainly do it outside of it at the same time. We would have to see where it would be financially. We can talk some more on this Dave, if you would like. Williams stated it was on the top of his head and he did not want to miss out on an opportunity if it were available. Also, Don (Buck) he got back to me right away about the street light list I created last meeting and I was just impressed with his expediency with addressing the issue, I really appreciate that. That's all I have.

Decker – I have nothing to add tonight.

Weirick – nothing tonight

a. **Approval Voucher #'s 13481 thru 16302 and Memo Expense #'s M12104 thru M12121.** Weirick moved to adopt, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Weirick – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Williams– Yes, Carey - Yes and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 7:30 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council