

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 11, 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

Dave Williams called for a moment of silence for Town and Country Firefighter who lost his life.

The invocation was given by Dave Williams followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2022

Shows so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Workshop

a. **New Construction of Sewer Garage Presented by Engineering Associates.** Ben Hootman from Engineering Associates was present to discuss the construction of a new Garage on the waste water treatment plant property. The building would be a 50 x 100-foot pole building with 5 over head doors. There will also be electric and heat. The cost for this project has risen due to materials increasing in cost. It was stated that they need to vacate the street garage for insurance purposes.

Citizens Forum

Ben Imhoff – 6 N. Hickin Avenue - spoke about the property at 430 W. Sunset owned by Jonnie Bond. This property has been vacant for 15 years. The city condemned it and the County foreclosed for delinquent taxes. The taxes have been brought current. The property values are going down. Mr. Imhoff also stated the roads are an embarrassment and the city should be ashamed.

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8282 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 171.55 Computation and Use of Vacation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman.** **Third Reading.** Ord. No. 8282 was read on third reading. Park moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8285 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 981.09 Rubbish Collection Rates of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency.** **Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8255 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.**

b. **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. First Reading. Ord No. 8286 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **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. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8287 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to move to second. Park inquired on how they were going to enforce it, what are the penalties. Come the Fourth of July, this place lights up like crazy. It seems like it is going to be impossible. Beshara stated that the houses are so close together this would be dangerous if we did not do something. Nelson requested information on how many people have gotten hurt by fireworks in the City of Rittman in the last five years or how many ticket were written in the last five years. Chief Sweigert stated he could get that information. Nelson also wanted info if any house fires were started. Anything that would suggest that our citizens aren't capable of making smart choices. Chief Sweigert stated he can get actual stats but that will be close to zero. There was one house fire at New Year's Eve and bottle rocket went into spouting that hadn't been cleaned out with leaves from the fall and caught the leaves on fire. Not many medical calls during that time, but ask Chief Shows how many calls he has. That's an ongoing effort that they have to deal with. Williams inquired if the law defines the size of allowed use? Chief Sweigert responded professional grade you need a license to shoot off. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Ord. No. 8288 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Approving the Real Estate Agreement Between the City of Rittman and the Wayne County Public Library and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8288 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Shows moved to adopt. Beshara explained the history and background of this transfer. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Managers Remarks

Library/City property transfer - Before you is the long-awaited agreement between the City of Rittman and the Wayne County Public Library. The city will take ownership of the Rittman Branch Library located at 49 W Ohio and the Wayne County Public Library will take ownership, once all of the closing documents are filed with the county, the vacant land at 230 North First Street. Matt Simpson has worked out the details of the agreement with the WCPL's attorney. I respectfully ask Council to accept this agreement tonight so that we can move to the next phase of this transaction.

Fireworks legislation - With the passage of HB 172 legalizing fireworks for residents on certain holidays in the State of Ohio, the Fire Chief and myself are recommending that we do not allow fireworks in the City of Rittman for the safety of our residents. This legislation follows along with what other surrounding communities are adopting. It is on for first reading this evening.

Sterling/Erie/Walnut waterline replacement bids - We opened bids this past Friday at noon and the lowest bid of \$832,662.00 came from Simonson Construction Services out of Ashland, OH. This bid is approximately \$60,000 below the engineer's estimate. EA will review the bid document for accuracy and then send it to the EPA for approval of the loan that the city applied for which Council authorized in February. With supply chain issue still something that must be considered, we are hopeful that this project will be underway this summer but there may be delays.

Economic Development - Over the past month the mayor, WEDC, InSite Advisory group and myself have met with a developer who is very interested in a portion of the Rittman Industrial site. I will keep you posted as we continue to vet through this process.

Eastern Road resurfacing bid - I am happy to report that the Eastern Road Street paving project bid came in at \$372,338.41. The engineer's estimate was \$486,000. The city will receive 80% funding through a federal grant we applied for and received. We will assess our residents only on the local portion. The lowest and best bidder is Melway Paving

Good Friday - Our office is closed next Friday, April 15th for the Easter holiday. Wishing everyone who celebrates Easter, a very happy holiday.

Finance Director's Remarks

The Transitional Work Grant is starting to get committee members together and starting to plan when the coordinator will be out to assess the different job types. I have started the Record Retention Schedule. The types of records that are relevant to a municipal government have changed a lot in the last 14 years. We are making sure that the policy has everything in it that should be in it. I sent that out to the department heads to examine their needs.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for March, 2022.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Williams – I would like to remember George Heater and his family. George passed away a couple of weeks ago. Thanks to Chief Sweigert for the pancake breakfast. Thank you, Amanda and Callie for the Easter Baskets, for the community. Thank Ben, thank you Bobbie for looking at economic development with the property down town.

Nelson – as Dave said, Cali and I made up 200 baskets today from all donated materials from businesses and individual citizens. Morton Salt donated 100 baskets that were already made. We have about 400 baskets made and we still have two more businesses that are donating before Saturday. Saturday is the basket giveaway from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Chamber office. Don't forget about the Annual Banquet coming up, so please get your RSVP in.

Wyatt – thank you Amanda and Cali for their work on the Chamber and what they do. Ben Imhoff left, but I think we should consider some of the things he talked about.

Park – nothing tonight.

Carey – thank you to Don and his team for their breakfast on Saturday, it was a great time. There were a ton of people there. Thank you to the community for showing up. Thank you to the United Methodist Church for their great Easter egg hunt that they had right after the event at the fire station. Thanks to all the volunteers. I had a citizen come to me with a concern and I forwarded it to Bobbie and Chuck had it taken care within a day. Thank you for that. The bad side of things, I was a little disgusted to hear of some of the things that have happened down at the nature preserve with the theft of the table. My understanding is that table was to be used to help students further their education. Not only was it a costly item but it hampers the future of our kids, so very sad to hear about that.

Shows – I want to echo Dave's thoughts out to George's family. All the years of service he gave, not only to the city as an employee but to the citizens and the kids with his baseball programs and things. Thanks for all the great community events.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 15438 thru 15603 and Memo #'s M33201 thru M32220.** Shows moved to approve, upon roll call Wyatt – Yes, Park – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Williams – Abstain, Shows – Yes, Carey - Yes and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 7:54 p.m. Williams moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council