

**Rittman City Council Met in a  
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM  
May 10, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Special Presentation**

Police Chief Robert Shows presented to Plt. Shane Sams the 2020 Rittman Policer Officer of the Year Award. Shane was elected by his peers for this honor. Office Sams has been with the Rittman Police Department for three years.

**Citizens Forum**

David Collins – Pops Shake Shack – 8 N. Main Street. Mr. Collins attended the meeting to inquire why he was required to remove his signs on his business when there are others in town who have just as many. He feels he is being singled out regarding his signs, the ice machine on the sidewalk and the picnic tables he has in front of his business.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

a. **Ord. No. 8231 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. 8231 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried. Nelson moved to adopt. Williams inquired about the overtime for the Nature Preserve. We have talked about this being money provided by a State Grant. Bulp responded the vast majority is being covered by a grant but there is a local match portion. When we got the land for the Nature Preserve the grant paid a great deal of money to get it. The value of the land was much higher than what the grant paid to acquire it. The rest we were able to treat as a donation. The donation was \$600,000.00 that was able to go towards our matching funds for this with nothing out of our pockets. There is some additional money that needs made up at this point. So, the volunteer hours, in kind contributions as far as use of equipment has a standard hourly rate we can draw on. Just general maintenance of the land has caused additional work that has not been able to be done in normal hours and we are able to use these overtime hours that we are incurring as part of that, those match dollars that we have to contribute. This is good but it also means we are using overtime hours. When the budget was originally being put together, I don't think anyone really knew when or if this additional waiver need at the Nature Preserve was going to present itself. We are looking at doing some personnel shuffling, so there won't be overtime related to it in the future. For now, we have people who are willing to put in some overtime work to get the land ready. Shows inquired if this would be a long-term overtime that we will

annually? Bubp responded no. Once it's done and we know what we are looking at it will be maintained and worked on under normal working hours. Mayor Robertson replied that they have had a need for the City equipment. They need the boom mower and the chipper and the backhoe to get rid of the brush. We have no other way other than have City workers and pay them some overtime. Bubp stated we could not use volunteers to operate City equipment. William inquired if it would become a union issue, who can apply for overtime. Bubp responded no. All Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 8232 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Finance Director to Establish an American Rescue Plan Act fund, Authorizing Receipt of Funds form the American Rescue Plan Act, and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8232 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and motion carried. Shows moved to adopt, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

#### **City Manager's Remarks as read by Leah Weirick in the absence of the City Manager.**

Records Commission: Our Records Commission met last week to approve our schedule for destruction of records per our Codified Ordinances and the Ohio Historical Society's regulations. As Covid hit last year, our staff was unable to go through records for destruction. We will be contracting with Sanmandy Document Destruction out of Creston for the Citywide shredding on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon.

Summer Student employees: I signed a Youth Worksite agreement with JOGS of Medina County. What JOGS will do is to help to provide high school students an opportunity to work for the City at no cost to the City. The students will be paid through JOGS (Jobs for Ohio Graduates) and the work we anticipate is clerical to help sort through records that we will be preparing for destruction. Thank you to Jennifer Brenner, Business & Community Engagement Coordinator and her team for the work they do on behalf of the youth of Medina County.

Nature Preserve: This Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a mandatory pre-bid walk through for the construction companies bidding on the Nature Preserve Project. Hull and Associates will be on site and organizing the walkthrough as the mayor, Garrick, Moose and myself will be on hand to introduce our team. The contractors will also have Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to walk the property as they prepare their bid packets. Bid opening is scheduled for Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.

Main waterline replacement: we reviewed word that our project will be awarded a loan through the Ohio EPA by the end of July. We still are awaiting word if we will receive loan forgiveness on this project and also, we await to see if this project will receive a grant through Representative Anthony Gonzalez office. I will have legislation at our last Council meeting in May for this project.

Fritz Park parking lot: we have engineer's estimates and will determine if this will be a chip and seal or full asphalt project. Chuck is gathering data on this parking lot resurfacing project.

Water Department: we have hired an Operator of Record, Tony Girardi who is being trained by Mike and his staff so we welcome Tony to our team.

Thank you to our Service and Utilities Department who worked during the rain and snow to keep the storm sewers cleared as Mother Nature keeps us hopping.

Finally, thank you to our Police Officers and Police officers across the country as we honor them this week during Police Week. We appreciate them beyond words and appreciate their dedication to keeping us safe and secure.

#### **Finance Director's Remarks**

We are expecting the American Rescue Plan funds to come through very soon. As I understand it a portal was opened up on line by the U.S. Treasury. That's how they want

people to sign up to claim their funds. They announced a webinar about it, I was not able to get on to it. It maxed out on capacity quickly. We do anticipate getting it fairly soon and we want to start looking at what we are prioritizing with that money. I anticipate putting together some options and presenting them to Council and getting opinions on it from staff and administration before we move forward with anything. Williams inquired if we knew what we were getting in that fund financially? Bulp responded the report City Manager and I received said that it is in two installments, 50% this year and 50% exactly one year later. The total that was allocated to us was 1.28 million. We expect that to be the amount we are getting. The amount you get can't represent more than a certain percentage of your yearly budget. The way I understood those, I don't think it is going to impact us. We are looking at the water lines that need replaced. It is allowable use with the money and anything else we can do with this money prevents us from taking on a large amount of debt to get these water lines switched out, which will be necessary over the next few years. Mayor Robertson stated it was very limited on what we can use that money for. Bulp stated that it can be used for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. You can use it to recoup revenue loss to the extent that it was down in 2020 from 2019. You can't use it exceed what you received in 2019, that's also an option. Williams stated that he liked when he got the financials twice a month instead of at the end of the month. It is a little easier to digest, that's just my feedback. Bulp stated the goal was to be administratively only easier for Joan to put together for the packets every two weeks and for me to have that prepared for her. If it's not palatable to other members of Council, certainly it can be done the other way. It can be managed just fine. Williams inquired if anything was time sensitive by doing only at the end of the month? Bulp responded he didn't think so, there are communities that don't do this at all. With Rittman it is a really good double check for a City with limited staff as an extra layer of review on the expenditures. I'm not really concerned necessarily on when it gets done and also if you look at the summer months and some of the months with holidays where we are only doing it once a month anyway. It's never been a problem for those months so I don't anticipate it's an issue. Again, I wanted it to be digestible, I want it to mean something to Council as they review it. So, let me know.

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

### **Council Remarks**

Decker – I appreciate Mr. Collins bringing these things to the Council's attention. Maybe this is not the case for everybody, but when they don't always know every single thing that every single employee of the City does on a given day, so I appreciate you bring these things to light. Now these are things that can be talked about and can be addressed. I appreciate you coming out tonight.

Nelson – nothing tonight.

Shows – first I want to congratulate Shane Sams, as a former co-worker, who I had the privilege of working with him, I couldn't recommend him highly enough to receive that award. I am very proud of what he has accomplished in his time here in Rittman. I want to put a special thanks out to Darilee McGregor and those that have helped her re-do the front of the Police Department, if you have driven by, she's got her banner up. She has cleaned out all of the dead brush and really made it look nice for our department. I know she had a lot of help, but I don't have the names. I know Chief Shows, was up there the other night helping her hang the banner, but I know she had help from the City getting those things done, it looks great. I also want to echo Mr. Decker and thank Mr. Collins for coming and bringing these concerns to light. We had no idea this kind of thing was going on. I am still figuring things out and interested to know what the Ordinances are and see if we can come up with some resolution because we do very much appreciate your business. I think those in the community enjoy coming there. They get good reviews on it and thank you for all that you are doing and hopefully we can get some resolution and a compromise worked out, whatever

it needs to be. But thank you for bringing it to our attention. I do want to mention Officer Covil, he has a class graduating D.A.R.E. this Friday. Unfortunately, we are not able to bring the public in. I believe we have 60 – 63 kids graduating including our remote students who attended D.A.R.E. remotely which provided a little bit of a challenge. They are going to get some sort of graduation where unfortunately last year's class had to miss out on that because of Covid. Thank you to everyone else who attended and Pastor Evans for the Invocation we appreciate you coming and giving us your time.

Carey – I have nothing much to add other than just thank you to Mr. Collins for bringing his concerns to Council and congratulations to Officer Sams on his award. That's all I have tonight.

Williams – thanks Mr. Collins for bring the issues to light. I like to see where we can get with that. I'd like to thank the law enforcement community and also the National Emergency Medical Services. Today with my work, you go hands on people and you just never know when you are going to get Covid or what that's going to look like. The sacrifices our employees make is beyond our imagine sometimes. Thank you so much for what you do. And thank you Shane Sams for your loyalty to your community and keeping us safe. That's quite an honor. I talked with the City Manager before about Covid numbers and when we can get back doing live meetings. I was wondering if we were hitting that threshold yet as far as the minimum standards as far as meeting in person. Perhaps we can talk to the City Manager about that at a later point and time. Just to follow up with Property Maintenance and to keep the issues at bay, it seems that yards are really growing right now and we have a couple around town that look pretty bad. Again, law enforcement has a lot bigger fish to fry at times but we also need to keep our community healthy and thriving. That's all I have.

Mayor Robertson – I haven't heard much in the State of Ohio even from other communities and organizations about them meeting in person. I don't know if Bobbie has other information on that, but I haven't heard too much myself.

Weirick – I have nothing to add.

Mayor Robertson – we are planning a Memorial Day Parade on Memorial Day. It will go down Main Street, no candy throwing, hoping the band will be participating. The parade will disband around the IGA Shopping Center and everybody will reconvene back out at the cemetery for a brief service of remembrance. They have a guest speaker lined up. Hopefully we will have more details at our next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 13881 thru 14060 and Memo #'s M42101 thru M42117.** Weirick moved to approve, upon roll call Decker -Yes, Shows – Yes, Carey – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Weirick – Yes, Williams – Yes and **motion carried.**

b. **Adjourn: 7:45 p.m.** Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council