

**Rittman City Council Met in a
PUBLIC HEARING
July 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

2022 Tax Budget Hearing

The tax budget needs to be filed by July 20, 2021 with the Auditor. If it isn't in on time, you don't get your local government fund money next year. This is also a good chance to get a first run at the budget. A lot of time with the department heads talking about where we are this year and where we are short for next year. The General Fund is still expending down, not by an enormous amount. The Capital Improvements budget has been spent down quite a bit. The reason is a lot of road resurfacing will be done next year. Those are the main things to touch on.

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
July 12, 2021
7:10 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 Philp Decker followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2021.

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

Oath of Office

a. Matthew G. Shilling – Patrolman – Oath administered by Mayor William Robertson.

Citizens Forum

David Collins – 50 Sheldon Avenue – Mr. Collins stated that he recently joined the Historical Society and he would like to have a Farmer's Market by the bike trail to raise money for the Historical Society to help pay their electric bills.

Vicki Pelfrey – 37 Strawberry Hill – Ms. Pelfrey stated that the brush crew is great. The South Fork Park is beautiful. Mr. Collins great job on your new business. However, there are many streets that need to be paved. Why did Council turn down grants to pave the streets? She was told that they would be paved and they have not been.

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8234 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Levying Special Assessments for the Seneca Street Improvement Project by Replacing the Existing Surface and Installing a New Surface with the Necessary Appurtenances Thereto. Third Reading. Ord. No.**

8234 was read on third reading. Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Motion to Approve the 2022 Tax Budget.** Nelson moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8238 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. 8238 was read on first reading. Weirick 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. **Ord. No. 8239 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Providing for the Compensation of Certain City Employees and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8239 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Carey moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Res. No. 8240 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Advertise for and Accept Bids for the Grant Street, State Street, and Seneca Street Waterline Improvement Projects and the Grant Street Resurfacing Project and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8240 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Beshara stated that this is one of the projects that we received a grant for Grant Street resurfacing of \$224,500.00. We will be taking out a loan for the Grant Street, State Street and Seneca Street Waterline Improvement Projects. By law the EPA requires us replace 7% of lead lines per year. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

Welcome to "Moose" Christian Allan who will be full time. He will do a great job with the Nature Preserve. Welcome aboard full time.

I will be asking for passage of Ordinance 8239, which is our payroll ordinance so that we can include the new title and pay range for the Parks and Recreation Department Supervisor position. This position is necessary not only for assisting Garrick and his staff at the Recreation Center but for also assisting with what will need to be done in managing the Nature Preserve. Christian "Moose" Allen, who has worked for the City since May of 2014 and is a lifetime Rittman resident, will be assuming this position. Moose will also coordinate all of the volunteer efforts of our new Friends of the Nature Preserve volunteer group. Moose will continue as Senior Programming and Activities coordinator.

Speaking of the William J. Robertson Nature Preserve, thank you all for attending the ground breaking ceremony. It means so much to the mayor and to the citizens that you all were there to support this great new amenity for all of Rittman and Wayne County. It took a lot of hard work and perseverance (and many meetings!) to get to where we are today. Also, it is a real testament to each of you to have the support of the County and to see all of the commissioners and our auditor in attendance which was very positive. My thanks also extend to each department for their guidance, suggestions and assistance as we navigated through this process. The construction has begun on the preserve and we look forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony in November.

I also will ask Council for the passage of Ordinance 8240, which is legislation to go out to bid for the Grant, State and Seneca Waterline project. The city will apply for an OWDA loan after the project is complete (as we have done with the last several lead line replacements.) The engineer's estimate is \$408,500. In addition, we have been awarded an OPWC (State Capital Fund) grant of \$224,500 for the resurfacing of Grant Street (total cost to resurface Grant) so our engineer on this project, Engineering Associates, feels if we bid both projects together, we will hopefully receive favorable bids. I will keep Council posted.

One of our longtime employees, Albert Dunbebin has resigned from the city after 10 years of service in the Service Department. We wish Albert the very best and thank him for his service to the City of Rittman. He will be very much missed by his friends and co-workers.

The RITA conversion began and we have had very few phone calls from residents or businesses on the transition. Thanks to Shelley and Matt for the work they put into in making this a smooth transition.

As I had reported, we worked on changing the number of solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant along with working through easement agreement language issues. I am happy to report that this project will be commencing soon and hopefully still in this calendar year. I will let you know when the project will begin.

Our security system on the front doors of City Hall should be completed within the next week or so. Televoi IT company is installing cameras which will allow us to view on our computers who is at our door and a locking mechanism on the doors that can be open from inside our offices to let in citizens who need to meet with staff. We also are putting in a makeshift lobby in the front of city hall for those citizens or vendors who have a need such as retrieving a zoning certificate, cemetery plot purchases, to meet with a director/city manager, etc. Water bills will continue to be paid through ACH, by mail or in our drop box. It is my goal to make sure our next City Hall will have a larger lobby area for our citizens. Thanks to Chief Shows and our entire administrative staff for their input.

Finance Director's Remarks

I want to start by thanking the Department Heads and City Manager for their collaboration on formation of the tax budget. The budget process for 2021 has rough, it's been different and the Appropriation Amendments being a very good example. Also, we will be fully integrated into RITA at the end of this week. The website will be changed to direct to RITA's home page. Also, that Deputy Treasurer, Trudy Arnold, had her last day of work on June 30, and is now retired. She was an enormous asset to the operations of not only the Finance Department, but the City as a whole. I would like to officially welcome Shelley Roberts as the new Deputy Treasurer.

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

Council Remarks

Carey – thank you to Ms. Pelfrey and Mr. Collins for attending today and for their comment. I wish Mr. Collins the best of luck in getting his famers market up and going.

Nelson – reminder that the Sleepwalker is coming up in two weeks and I am still looking for volunteers for a whole bunch of positions that need to be filled. I also need judges for the parade.

Decker – nothing tonight.

Shows – thank you Mr. Collins and Ms. Pelfrey for attending. We are trying and see a lot of good things coming with the roads and the projects. Congratulations to Matt Shilling, I have had the honor of working with him since the day he started in Rittman and am very excited to see him join the police department full time.

Williams – thank you to David and Viki for the comments you made. Thanks to Matt and Bobbie and the department heads for the tax budget. Thank you to Moose for being the volunteer coordinator for the Nature Preserve, The William J. Robertson Nature Preserve. We look forward to working with you on that. The flowers around town look great. It takes a lot of effort to water them day and night. Thanks to Amanda for having the Sleepwalker Festival. I know it is time for us to get together. Mayor Robertson stated that he would pass the message regarding the flower to the Garden Club as they planted them.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 14227 thru 14359 and Memo Expense #'s M62101 thru M62117.** Shows moved to approve, upon roll call Weirick – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Shows – Yes, Williams – Yes, Carey – Yes – Decker -Yes and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Purchase or Sale of Property and to Invite the City Manager, Mayor, Law Director, Finance Director and Service Director, Chuck Lengacher- 8:07 p.m.** Shows so moved, Decker seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to Come out of Executive Session – 8:37 p.m.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Adjourn: 8:38 p.m.** Williams moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council