

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Rick Hudson by asking Council and others in attendance to stand for the Pledge. He then called for the roll call.

Councilpersons answering the roll call included: Angela Spangler; Matti Vance; Fred Duby; Walter Norris; and Roaby Browning.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)- All those in attendance voted to excuse the absence of Spangler from the previous meeting.

Public Comments

- Phillip Dysard, who is a Representative of Palmer Energy Company and resides at 5577 Airport Highway, Toledo, came to speak on the aggregation programs as reflected in Ordinances 2023-47 and 2023-48. He stated Palmer Energy has worked with the Jackson County Commissioners for several years. The Commissioners have decided to place aggregation on the ballot for the unincorporated portions of the County. He explained aggregation gives groups of residents the ability to purchase at bulk rate pricing and furthered the more households that are on the program, the better the pricing. If Council passes the 2 Ordinances, they would be placed on the November Ballot; if the majority vote is achieved in November, Wellston would join the unincorporated households and create the Jackson County Program (JCP). Palmer Energy would then shop for rates. If passed, anyone not wishing to be in the JCP would have to opt-out. Only Columbia Gas and AEP direct customers are eligible; households receiving assistance plans are not eligible. Electric generation has gone from 7.4 cents to 11.2 cents per kW-h. He stated a suburb in the Dayton area just achieved 6.57 cents per kW-h. The Jackson County Program would include small businesses as well. To be considered, small businesses would have to use less than 700,000 kW-h annually and not be a national mercantile account. Palmer serves over 300 communities in the State of Ohio, the CCAO, and the Ohio Municipal League. Dysard stated customers should see an average yearly savings of approximately \$80 with both gas and electric aggregation. President Hudson offered to set this matter before a Committee, however the Mayor said the 2 pieces of legislation would need to be passed as an Emergency the same evening to make the deadline to be placed on the November Ballot. Hudson stated it felt rushed and Palmer Energy should have visited Council weeks ago so a proper discussion could be had. Dysard said it could always be placed on the Spring Ballot.

Minutes- All those in attendance voted to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023, meeting.

Correspondence

- Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control- Family Dollar Store would like a permit. No objections.

Reports of Special Committees

- Finance- Spangler- none
- Health & Safety- Lemaster- none
- Public Service- Browning- none
- Planning Committee- Carey- none
- Community Action Liaison- Browning- none
- Recreation- Norris- none

Old Business

- Mayor Anthony Brenner requested the Finance Committee to meet to discuss the future of the Harvey Wells House since Budget work would begin soon.

New Business- none

Legislation

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-52- A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary Tax Levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: The Budget Commission met in regular session on Aug. 7. These rates are for the 2023 tax year which is payable in 2024. Please pass as an emergency on 3rd read; this needs turned into the County Auditor by Sept. 29.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-53- A Resolution of the Legislative Authority of the City of Wellston, Ohio to accept the Bid of Moody's Dayton, Inc. DBA Baker & Son, in an amount of \$75,000 to perform Water Well Capacity Testing as it was the lowest and best responsive bid submitted and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Vance

Discussion: The Mayor explained the steps moving forward for the new water plant project.

Mayor

- Mayor Anthony Brenner thanked Don Compston for power washing the cannon, sidewalks, and curbs in preparation for the Sesquicentennial. Compston did this work free of charge.
- Brenner hopes to see Legislation soon regarding the pay increase for the police officers. He suggested a \$3 per hour raise and warns this will take most of the Police Levy funds; however, the City needs to stay competitive with neighboring communities.
- The Mayor stated the City is readying for the OhillCo Festival/Sesquicentennial event. The canon is ready to be fired, cutting down trees, and the streets are getting swept.
- The Mayor warns his office has been very busy with projects and grant work.

- President Hudson asked the Mayor about the motorcycles coming to the American Legion the following Tuesday. The Mayor reported that over 300 motorcycles are expected and WPD will help to provide an escort.

Service Director

- Norris asked if there has been any updates on the New York/Broadway Infrastructure Improvements Project since Council last met; Director Stacy Camp replied that he meets with the Engineers prior to the first Council meeting of the month, so there is no new news to report. The Administration expects to be able to pave the entirety of New York and Broadway and stay within the same budget after "crunching some numbers."

Law Director- none

Auditor- none

City Clerk's Reports- none

Treasurer's Report- none

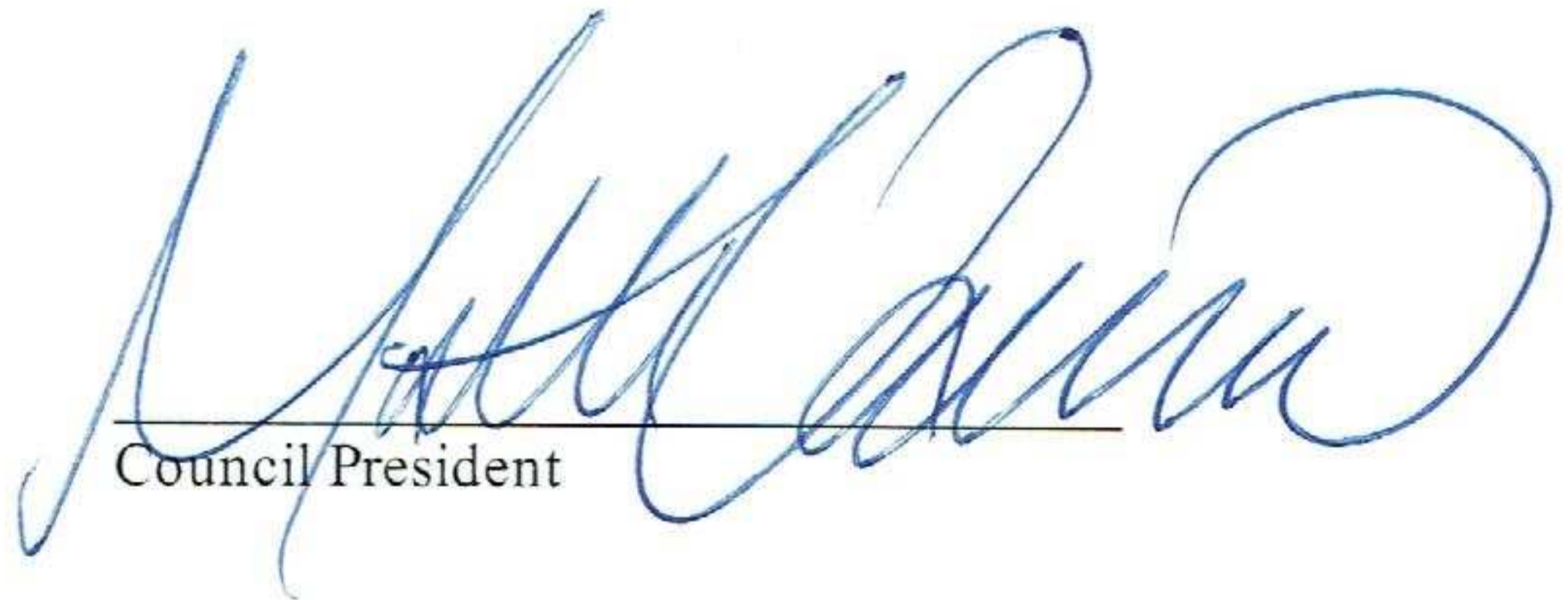
Fire- none

Zoning- none

Police- Active Shooter training was performed at Wellston High School. Chief Robinson reports it went well and thanked all those involved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.


Council Clerk


Council President

