

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 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; Fred Duby; Lynley Carey; Teresa Lemaster; and Roaby Browning. Council members Matti Vance and Walter Norris were absent.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)- none

Public Comments

- Alyssa Evans, 219 S. Minnesota Ave., came to complain about the house across from her. She alleges this is a known drug house. She furthers that her house was broken into the previous Sunday. She continued to say there are people showing up at all hours of the night, throw beer bottles in her yard, and she is afraid for her children. The Mayor and Code Enforcement Officer said they would look into it and be in touch.

Minutes- Lemaster made a Motion to amend the Minutes of the November 21st meeting. Mattison Vance served as President Pro Tem. All in attendance voted to amend the minutes.

Correspondence

- Cemetery Levy Election Results
- Rec Levy Results
- Street Levy Results
- Ohio Rural Water Association Certificate of Membership
- Ethics Commission verification and Financial Disclosure Notice
- Mattison Vance Resignation letter- President Rick Hudson thanked her for her service.

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

- none

New Business

- none

Legislation

- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2023-62- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Wellston and Milton Township to provide Fire Protection and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Lemaster

Previous Discussion: Chief Pelletier asked that this legislation be passed as an Emergency on 3rd Read. This legislation will bring an immediate 100% increase in the cost of fire coverage for Milton Township, along with Washington Township as reflected in 2023-63. Both Townships will see a 3% yearly increase. The Mayor explained that the numbers reflected in the contract are based on the number of callouts and expenses to the Wellston Fire Department. Both Townships will pay the same amount.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2023-63- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Wellston and Washington Township to provide Fire Protection and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: See 2023-62

A Motion to Adopt and Pass as an Emergency was made by Lemaster, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-65- An Ordinance repealing and amending the City of Wellston's Codified Ordinance Section 33.1 regarding the Recovery Fee Schedule within the Fire Department and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Vance

Previous Discussion: Pelletier explained these rates have not changed since 2017.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Spangler, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-68- An Ordinance of the Legislative Authority of the City of Wellston, Ohio, approving Annual Appropriations for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024.

Sponsor: Norris

Previous Discussion: President Hudson notified the Law Director position should not be budgeted for FICA or PERS. Mayor Brenner asked everyone to notice the budget is \$9 million compared to last year's \$10 million. He noted that carryover was being used, but would be "weaned" in the next few years.

- Second Reading of Resolution No. 2023-69- A Resolution authorizing Regular Blanket Certificates for the Year 2024, setting expiration dates for Regular Certificates and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Lemaster

Previous Discussion: Yearly

- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-70- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor, Service Director, and other Necessary Employees of the City of Wellston to execute a Contract and Wage Agreement between the City and the Wellston Fire Department and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Norris

Previous Discussion: The Mayor stated this piece of Legislation could go through 3 readings and encouraged Council to look over the contract.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-71- A Resolution authorizing the City of Wellston to prepare and submit an application to participate in the 2023-2024 Ohio Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and to execute contracts as required.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: The Mayor hopes this grant will widen New York Avenue from 10th Street to 14th Street.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-72- An Ordinance for the Transfer of Funds from the 203 Cemetery Fund to the Supplies, Materials, and Maintenance and Declaring an Emergency.

Attached: GeoPro Invoice with old PO number.

Sponsor: Browning

Discussion: This was approved in 2022, but the invoice was just received. The Mayor hopes to present this new software to Council soon.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-73- An Ordinance for the transfer of funds from General Fund Carryover to Code Enforcement-Demolition and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Lemaster

Discussion: Clean out of the Louvee. This money will be coming from a grant from the Ohio Department of Development.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-74- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Service Director, and any other necessary official to enter into an agreement with the County of Brown regarding the custody, supervision, confinement, and board of prisoners, and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: Yearly; Please pass as an Emergency on 3rd Read.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2023-75- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Service Director, and any other necessary official to enter into an agreement with the County of Monroe regarding the custody, supervision, confinement, and board of prisoners, and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Browning

Discussion: Yearly; Please pass as an Emergency on 3rd Read.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2024-76- A Resolution authorizing the City to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation Winter Fill Program and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Browning

Discussion: Yearly, this allows the City to purchase salt from ODOT; Please pass as an Emergency on 3rd Read.

Mayor

- Mayor Brenner says the City wants to be as accessible as possible and has been looking at better ways to communicate. He encouraged Council to look at the City of Chillicothe's website to see how they process and handle work orders. He says this

system would give the workers and the public access to the status of a work order whether it be Code Enforcement, Street complaints, etc. Lemaster wanted to ensure the public would still have access to speaking to people at the City Building and the Mayor answered in the affirmative.

- Brenner continued that the New York/Broadway Project is wrapping up. He then commended Jeff Bates and all the City workers that worked on the project.
- The cleanout of the Louvee has started. This work has been made possible with a grant from OVRDC and the Ohio Department of Development.
- Brenner then addressed a previous question from President Hudson regarding the FICA and retirement for the Law Director in the budget. Brenner informed Council that after investigation, these benefits are directed to the Mayor's Assistant/Council Clerk. He encouraged Council to reach out to him if they had any questions, comments, or concerns with the budget.
- Lemaster asked if there has been any complaints received concerning structural damages to homes on New York Avenue. She has been told some homes possibly have structural damage attributed to the new water and sewer line installation. Brenner replied the only complaint he has received from New York Avenue is dust and inconvenience.
- Duby was concerned about drag racing on the new streets. Brenner said the Police Department is aware and they have also been focusing on Broadway.

Service Director

- Director Camp stated tall the curb and sidewalk work has been completed on New York Avenue today and meet ADA requirements. He met with DLZ and Tribute to discuss the final punch list for any problems, which should be finished next month.
- Hudson asked how many gallons of water will be saved since completion of the New York/Broadway Project. The Mayor said he was previously estimated a million gallons. Camp commented that 22 homes had sewer lines running directly into the storm lines.
- The line striping for New York and Broadway will have to be completed in the spring due to cold weather.
- The 13th Street traffic signal detector will be reconfigured on the 18th.
- The Mayor added there has been a traffic study conducted with grant funds from OVRDC regarding Pennsylvania Avenue from 14th Street to 10th Street. He expects the final plans in the coming week.
- The Service Director then spoke on the rules for additional garbage collection after the holiday.
- A black vinyl fence will be installed around Kelli Lambert Park. Hudson asked if the park could receive additional lighting. The Mayor added that a little over \$50,000 was just received in CDBG money for the Blamer Field Park.

Law Director- none

Auditor- Reports received

City Clerk's Reports- report received

Treasurer's Report- none

Fire

- Chief Pelletier says he plans to release the financial information for the Toy Drive. WFD received requests from 149 families, which amounted to 360 children. He thanked the 2 Veteran Organizations in Wellston for their sizable donations to the program.
- Pelletier stated the Fire Levy is due on the ballot in the coming year.
- Pelletier thanked WPD for their contribution to the toy drive.

Zoning/Code

- none

Police

- Hudson asked if the Chief has been looking into a replacement drug dog. Chief Robinson replied in the affirmative but said the previous trainer has not found one yet.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KL".

Council President