

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2024

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: Hunter Skaggs; Fred Duby; Walter Norris; Teresa Lemaster; Tami Phillips; and Roaby Browning. Angela Spangler was absent.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)- All in attendance voted to excuse the absence of Browning from the previous meeting; Norris was unexcused.

Mayor Anthony Brenner read a Proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Director of Jackson County Job and Family Services, Tammy Osborne-Smith was on hand to receive the Proclamation. Osborne-Smith then thanked the Mayor and Council for their support, as well as inviting everyone to an open house at the agency on April 30th.

Public Comments

- none

Minutes- All in attendance voted to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Correspondence

- None

Reports of Special Committees

- Health and Safety Committee- Lemaster- none
- Public Service Committee- Duby- none
- Planning Committee- Browning- none
- Recreation Committee- Norris- none
- Finance Committee- Spangler- none
- Community Action- Browning- none
- Civic Organization Liaison- Spangler- none

Old Business

- none

New Business

- None

Legislation

- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2024-13- A Resolution by the Council of the City of Wellston, Ohio, to approve the appointment of Steve Hendershott by the Mayor to the Wellston Planning and Zoning Board as an At-Large Member for the remainder of the term left vacant by Jeremy Garrett.

Sponsor: Browning

Discussion:

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

- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2024-16- A Resolution declaring the Necessity of a Fire Equipment Levy and Certifying the Fire Equipment Levy Issue to the Board of Elections.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion:

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

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-17- An Ordinance creating the Position of Recreation Director and Establishing Salary.

Sponsor: Duby

Discussion: The Recreation Director will take the place of Make Wellston Beautiful at the ballfields. MWB would like to focus their attention elsewhere, so the Mayor believes this is a good time to start creating the position. On second read discussion, President Hudson asked that the Mayor seek Council's approval as to who he would like to fill the position. The Mayor agreed this is a good idea and would like the Recreation Committee to be active.

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

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-19- An Ordinance repealing and amending the City of Wellston's Codified Ordinance Sections 50.03, 50.06, 50.07, and 50.08 regarding garbage.

Sponsor: Spangler

Discussion: The Mayor explained that the changes were made to simplify the Ordinances regarding water, sewer, and garbage so that all changes are reflected in one "fee chart." Changes also reflect updated technology.

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

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-20- An Ordinance repealing and amending the City of Wellston's Codified Ordinance Sections 51.01, 51.02, 51.06, 51.07, and 51.09 regarding water and sewer charges.

Sponsor: Norris

Discussion: Fees will now be reflected on a chart.

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

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-21- An Ordinance repealing Section 5302, Free Water to Farmers During Period of Drought, of the City of Wellston Codified Ordinances.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Amendment will need to be made on second reading.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Phillips, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.
- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-23- An Ordinance repealing and amending the City of Wellston's Codified Ordinance regarding the Income Tax at Sections 39.03, 39.05, and 39.18.
Sponsor: Lemaster
Discussion: Changes were made on the state-level for RITA. Kirby made the appropriate changes.
- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2024-24- An Ordinance to the City Income Tax Code to be subject to Ohio Revised Code Sections 718.80 to 718.95 to be added to the City Tax Code Section 39.27 of Wellston's Codified Ordinances.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Changes will be made to bring up to State Code and more streamlined
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2024-25- A Resolution approving Additional Appropriations in the Police Department and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Duby
Discussion: Chief Robinson explained that Blu had an allergic reaction which depleted the Blu Fund. The source of the money was generated throughout 2023 and April of 2024 by selling copies of crash reports, etc. Council suggested seeking pet insurance.
A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Lemaster, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Lemaster, Duby, and approved by all in attendance.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2024-26- A Resolution approving Additional Appropriations in the Drug Fund and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Duby
Discussion: Chief Robinson stated the funds for the purchase of the new drug dog will come from the OneOhio Fund, which is the opioid settlement monies. The dog costs \$9,000 and the training is an additional \$2,000. The additional \$5,000 requested is for fees associated with obtaining a new dog. This dog is strictly scent and tracking.
A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Phillips, seconded by Lemaster, and approved by all in attendance.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Browning, seconded by Duby, and approved by all in attendance.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2024-27- A Resolution approving Additional Appropriations in the Police Department and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Skaggs

Discussion: Chief Robinson said this money was received in January from the State. It was a reimbursement for professional training last year. Ammo for training will be purchased with these funds since the price is expected to rise exponentially this year. A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Lemaster, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

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

Mayor

- The Pennsylvania Avenue Safety Study findings were submitted to OVRDC for funding in the coming year. Wellston's proposal scored the highest and the Mayor hopes the full project will be funded in 2025. The City received \$189,000 in funding for the engineering portion of this project.
- The Mayor has requested a second safety study be performed at General Mills.
- Norris and Hudson recommended lowering the speed limit to 35 sooner, near McGhee and Honeysuckle.
- Mayor Brenner then asked Council's recommendations on forming a Recreation Committee, i.e., whether the Committee shall be made of volunteers or members of Council.

Service Director

- Cemetery and Bike Path clean-up has started as well as mowing.
- Director Camp is hopeful paving will begin at the end of the month, depending on weather. Livingston, Ohio, and 14th Street are all on the immediate paving list.
- 3 catch basins are being installed near Bundy due to water runoff.
- The new Drug Free Workplace Policy was presented to Council.
- Camp has been in touch with the traffic light company. They are working on changing the timing of the lights.
- The Mayor and Service Director thanked Council's approval of hiring a City mechanic and commends the work of Whesley Bryant. He was able to fix the garbage truck fairly quickly on Big Haul Week.
- The Mayor spoke on the recent rain and stated since the New York/Broadway Project, this is the first time the Water Plant has not had to submit an Overflow Report.

Law Director

- none

Auditor

- A then and now certificate was approved. Auditor's Reports were approved.

City Clerk's Reports

- none

Treasurer's Report

- none

Fire

- Fire Report was received.
- Chief Pelletier passed out information regarding tornado sirens in light of the recent weather, which resulted in a false Tornado Warning issued by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Included in the packet were copies of invoices from neighboring communities who have installed tornado sirens. These sirens are not connected to the National Weather Service. He stressed the best notification is a cell phone, local radio, and/or local television. He stated Wellston has never had tornado sirens or an actual tornado since weather records were kept, but stressed that he is in no way saying a tornado is not possible. Council requested more information regarding sirens that tie into the National Weather Service.

Zoning/Code

- none

Police

- Chief Robinson thanked everyone for approving the appropriations.
- The new drug dog will be a German Shephard and expected arrival is in mid-May.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



W. H.

Council President