

Willard, Ohio
April 19, 2021

The Council of the City of Willard, Ohio met in regular session on Monday, April 19, 2021, with the President of Council calling the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor James Pomerich, Nazarene Church.

Roll Call: Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig present.

MINUTES: Minutes of the Council meeting held April 5, 2021 were presented for approval. In that copies of the minutes were furnished each Councilperson prior to the meeting, there was no request they be read. Moved by Olson seconded by Danhoff that they be approved as received. In a called vote therein Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

CITIZENS DISCUSSION: Kevin Thaxton, 572 W. Emerald, was again present at Council with continued concerns about City employees and neighbors. Council President gave Mr. Thaxton 5 minutes to speak. Council President told him when his 5 minutes were up and Mr. Thaxton left saying he would be back.

Virginia Chase, 112 Crestwood Dr., was present in regards to a letter that she received from the Post Office; and speeding on Crestwood Dr. Ms. Chase gave Council members a copy of the letter from the Post Office and her letter to Council about excessive speeds on Crestwood Dr. and dangers this presents along with some possible solutions (copies of both documents on file in Clerk's office). While she is in full agreement with the Post Office and the mail carrier about the danger of her parking on the turn, Ms. Chase disagrees with their solution. Her and her neighbor currently have their mailboxes mounted at their front doors. The Post Office would like them moved to the street. Ms. Chase said this would cause both her and her neighbor some hard ships if they had to do this, plus this would not solve the speeding problem. There are bigger concerns of safety, not only for the postal carrier but for the children and others in the neighborhood. Council President said they would have City Manager talk with Police Dept. and they would see what they could do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Council President called for an Executive Session on employment of a City Official. Move by Olson seconded by Danhoff that Council move into Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. In a called vote Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried. Council returned and reconvened meeting at 7:30 p.m.

City Manager introduced Jeret Halbeisen who has Wastewater Operator license I and Water Supply Operator licenses I and II; and will be working at both the Water and Wastewater Plants.

BID PROPOSALS: None

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: None

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

1. **Letter from Ohio EPA, Air Pollution Control** re: Pepperidge Farm Inc. Draft Permit Issued #P0128647. Moved by Olson seconded by Danhoff that letter be accepted and placed on file. In a called vote Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Olson seconded by Danhoff that no hearing be requested. In a called vote Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS: None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

1. **Charter/Legislative – Danhoff, Johnson**
2. **Finance – Johnson, Olson, Sattig**
3. **Public Works – Babcock, Daniel**
4. **Safety – Babcock, Daniel, Olson**
5. **Utilities – Danhoff, Daniel, Olson**

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS: Finance Report for March 2021 was presented by Finance Director.

Moved by Olson seconded by Danhoff that Council accept the Finance Director's report for March 2021. In a called vote, Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried. Sattig asked about the American Rescue Plan (ARP) monies, could these be used for some of our projects. Finance Director said this was just put out so they are still trying to figure out what will qualify and what will not. We must be very careful. She is participating in remote meetings with government officials and other City Finance Directors as they figure this out.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

COVID update – no employees sick or out on quarantine. Huron County had 62 new or probable cases with Willard accounting for 6 of those cases. We continue to follow the Governor's recommended guidelines in Willard and at City Hall.

City is currently accepting applications for the Community Garden. Plots are free to anyone in our community and persons can request 4 different sized plots. They range from 6 ft. by 10 ft. to 20 ft. by 40 ft.; and can be designated organic or nonorganic. There is also one raised bed that is handicap accessible. Tools, programming and instruction will be provided in conjunction with Mercy Hospital of Willard. Application forms along with rules and guidelines can be found at City Hall or on our website. A Facebook Group has also been created. To date, we have 6 people signed up for plots.

This month we will be getting rid of the last remaining paint that we had collected over the years. There are around 1,000 cans of paint left that equates to around 600 gallons of latex and 200 gallons of oil based. We anticipate the cost being around \$4,000. Recently, we discovered a company called American Paint Recycling that can recycle this paint for almost half the cost we had been paying. They take the paint and recycle it to use to create their own brand of paint.

One of our goals for the park is to make it accessible for all persons. Last year we met with a gentleman that explained to us some of the difficulties for getting around in the park in a wheelchair. We went around the entire park and listened to his ideas. We placed money in the budget for this year to try to begin to address these issues. I am happy to report that some of that work has begun. City forces have begun pouring concrete in different areas of the park and addressing handicap accessibility.

American Electric Power will be replacing several poles in our downtown area. The concrete bases have deteriorated and need to be replaced. The two traffic light poles at the corner of Woodland Ave. and Myrtle Ave. will be among those poles that are replaced. While these poles are down, we will have temporary stop signs up creating a 4-way stop. We anticipate this repair work happening in the first week of May.

We recently received the last release of easement from the final property owner on City Park Drive. We will not be able to move forward and have City Park Drive dedicated as road right of way. This will allow us to assign addresses on City Park Drive instead of numbering these houses with a Main Street address. This will help everything from emergency response to package delivery.

City Manager had talked with owners of Uncle Dudleys about their interest in the City Parking lot that was being put up for sale. Thought they might be interested to add to their business. They were not sure they were at this time. Babcock said he had talked with them after that and they are having second thoughts, need to keep in touch with them.

Council requested to accept a donation of \$500 from Mayor Joe Daniel to go towards the Police Department.

Council requested to accept the following donations to benefit the Clock Tower Project: \$100 from Donald and Shirley Leininger.

Moved by Olson seconded by Danhoff that these donations be accepted by Council. In a called vote, Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

Johnson – liked the idea of the handicap accessibility at the park, Norwalk is also working on that in their parks, they might have some ideas.

Elmlinger, notice School Resource officer was doing DARE program at St. Francis, does not see where they are doing it at the Public school.

Work Session was set for Monday, May 3rd at 5:30 p.m. prior to regular Council meeting.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 0 WOODBINE STREET IN THE CITY OF WILLARD, was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 517 FINK STREET IN THE CITY OF WILLARD, was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 101 N. MAIN STREET AND 0 EMERALD STREET IN THE CITY OF WILLARD, was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor – Historical Society had a very nice ribbon cutting and Open House for their new museum. It is very nice; Olson – did not make it to the ribbon cutting, but did get there Sunday afternoon, nice little museum; Babcock – thanked Mayor Daniel for his donation; saw Mr. Leininger in public and thanked him for his many donations, he was appreciative.

Moved by Olson seconded by Danhoff that Council adjourn. In a called vote therein Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

President of Council

Clerk of Council