

Willard, Ohio
February 16, 2021

The Council of the City of Willard, Ohio met in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, with the President of Council calling the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with prayer by Sister Diane Hay, Mercy Willard.

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

MINUTES: Minutes of the Council meeting held February 1, 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 Daniel that they be approved as received. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

CITIZENS DISCUSSION:

Personnel Merit Board members met for their organizational meeting and to swear all members in prior to the Council meeting. Council Clerk introduced new members of the Personnel Merit Board, Ashley Daub, Jim Gray and Mark Matula. Jim Gray will replace Van Ramsey as Chairperson of this group.

Kevin Thaxton, 572 W. Emerald was present to report some grievances that he has with the City of Willard. Claiming he had evidence of false arrest and false statements made by a Willard Police officer and claiming allegations toward Willard's Law Director. Shared some statements found on one of the Police reports. Council President explained to Mr. Thaxton a couple of times that his time was limited. Council President asked Mr. Thaxton to leave his papers with the City Manager for him to go over. Mr. Thaxton gathered his things and left. He did return and approached Mrs. Olson with some papers, she asked him to give them to the City Manager. He did not and again left. Mr. Thaxton left about 7:12 pm.

BID PROPOSALS: None

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: None

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS: None

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 January 2021 was presented by Finance Director.

Moved by Olson seconded by Daniel that Council accept the Finance Director's report for January 2021. In a called vote, Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

Johnson asked the Finance Director what are you anticipating from tax revenue for this next year? Finance Director said she expected to see more of a drop in revenue the past year than we did. She said it really is a "just wait and see" sort of thing. But she did budget for less income in anticipation of what might be.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

COVID update – no employees sick or out on quarantine. Huron County and Willard numbers continue to improve. Police are still waiting to see when they can get their vaccines.

City Manager stated that he would like to schedule a Work Session with Council to discuss several items: there are people interested in the Tin Shed, they would like to open a Brewery type facility and they are interested in the City park property next to them; a grant to increase the amount of full time staffing at the Fire Station; an update on the Paramedicine Agreement with Mercy Hospital; a grant through the Huron County Department of Health for a community garden and bike share program; the selling of several properties owned by the City; a grant for the Airport and a Halloween Haunted Trail in our park.

City Manager declared a Snow Emergency today that will be in effect for a few days.

We did receive notice today that we have again received Tree City USA, 41st year.

We have used approximately 116 tons of salt in the last two weeks. We have 100 tons currently in storage and another 100 tons that should be delivered within a week. One hundred additional tons of salt have been secured at our current bid price.

Jim Bergman will be retiring on March 31st. Jim has been with the City for nearly 25 years and has been a great team member. He will be missed, but we are happy for him. We are currently in the process of hiring his replacement.

We are again sad to report that Jim Ebert passed away recently. Jim recently served on our Tree Commission. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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

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

Johnson - how does our road salt work in this cold. Pomerich said better than your regular sidewalk salt, but still does not work as well. Also, wondered if everyone had seen the signs that the school had put on the bus garage coming into town. Really impressive.

Elmlinger, shopping carts, they are all over. City Manger said the Code Enforcement officer has been working with the business where most of them come from. They are trying to collect them as they can and City is trying to give them a list of ones they find. Not much we can do about it. Also, what was the power outage about? Pomerich said there was a primary conductor that went out and then they had to turn off two other legs to replace the conductor. AEP felt this was due to the cold weather.

Olson appreciates the Street Department and the hours and work they did this week with the snow storm.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO GRANT TO COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC., AN EASEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A PIPELINE THROUGH THE PROPERTY OF THE CITY LOCATED AT PARKVIEW DRIVE IN THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

Moved by Olson seconded by Daniel that this Ordinance be declared an emergency measure, and the rules be waived and that it go into effect upon passage on its first reading. In a called vote Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

Moved by Olson seconded by Daniel that the Ordinance be adopted. In a called vote Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS:

Daniel had an issue from this week of the Willard paper, Jane had several articles about different items the City was doing, the signs that the school had put on the bus garage. The paper had about the award that Jane received for good reporting. She does a very good job for the City of Willard and we appreciate that. Also, thank our safety forces, City crews and others that have worked through this cold weather. Babcock, trying to understand what Mr. Thaxton was talking about; feels he needs to get some legal consultation instead of coming to Council. Pomerich said he has met with him and talked with him several times and so has the Chief. Johnson said even if he had a complaint, I believe he needs to go a legal route, not come to Council.

Johnson brought up Council Work Session, it was decided to meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting on Monday, March 1st.

Johnson thanked Clerk for sending out resumes and applications. Elmlinger said he is working on a plan with the resumes that we have received.

Elmlinger just wanted to commend the street crew for their work on the streets and clearing the snow.

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

President of Council

Clerk of Council