

Willard, Ohio  
November 15, 2021

The Council of the City of Willard, Ohio met in regular session on Monday, November 15, 2021, with the President of Council calling the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with prayer by Bart McKelvey, CMA.

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

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held November 1, 2021, were presented for approval. In that copies of the minutes were furnished to 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, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**CITIZENS DISCUSSION:** Jane Ernsberger, reporter from the Willard Times-Junction, announced her retirement and thanked City Council for the wonderful time that she had while reporting news of the City. She felt honored to be able to report what a great city Willard is.

**BID PROPOSALS:** None

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

1. **Public Hearing** for Ordinance amending Section 925.01(a) and Attachment A to Chapter 925 of the Codified Ordinances to provide for an increase in the Water Rates. There were no comments oral or written, for or against the Ordinance received by the Clerk or Council members. There were no citizens present to voice any comment. It is listed below for its Final Reading.
2. **Public Hearing** for Ordinance amending Table B-2 of Attachment B to Chapter 923 of the Codified Ordinances to provide for an increase in the Sewer Rates. There were no comments oral or written, for or against the Ordinance received by the Clerk or Council members. There were no citizens present to voice any comment. It is listed below for its Final Reading.
3. **Public Hearing** for Ordinance amending Section 955.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Willard, Ohio regarding Recycling fees. There were no comments oral or written, for or against the Ordinance received by the Clerk or Council members. There were no citizens present to voice any comment. It is listed below for its final reading.
4. **Public Hearing for the Annual Appropriations Budget for 2022** -Each Council person had previously received a copy of the 2022 Appropriations Budget. President requested a motion to set Public Hearing for the budget. Moved by Olson, seconded by Danhoff that the Public Hearing for Budget be set for Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the next regular Council meeting. In a called vote, Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:** Letter from Senator Nathan H. Manning congratulating Willard for receiving a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife for the Fishing Derby. It was moved by Olson, seconded by Daniel that the letter be accepted and placed on file. In a called vote therein, Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Letter was accepted and placed on file with the clerk.

**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 October 2021 was presented by Finance Director. Moved by Olson, seconded by Danhoff that the Finance Report for October 2021 be approved. In a called vote Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

City Manager first wanted to recognize Jane Ernsberger for her 32 years of service and dedication reporting the happenings and facts of the City of Willard. He thanked her and she was presented a gift from the City.

Hamons reminded Council that the next scheduled food giveaway is Monday, November 22, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. We continue to be thankful for Second Harvest and these food giveaways. We are also thankful for the volunteers in Willard that have stepped up to help their fellow citizens. Second Harvest will be distributing 500 turkeys to go with the holiday food boxes. Because of having turkeys, they are asking people to preregister for this event. As of meeting time there were 466 residents who had currently signed up to receive food.

This year the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting are going to be a joint effort by the City, Chamber of Commerce, Willard Business Association, and the Willard Ministerial Association. It has been a while since the City has had the parade and the tree lighting ceremony on the same night. The parade will start at 6:30 p.m. on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the High School and travel to Woodland. So far 60 vehicles have signed up for the parade. Following the parade, WAMA will host their annual tree lighting ceremony, followed by Christmas music by the Semer Brothers along with food trucks. We will be having two Christmas trees this year, one at the park and one at Doster Plaza. This year Robin Holthouse and her family have volunteered to decorate the trees. After the tree lighting ceremony there will be a special presentation by Fisher Titus, announcing the community walking track.

The Christmas Festival of Lights hosted by the Willard City Park returns for its second year. The Christmas Festival of Lights begins December 10 and runs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through January 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Area residents, businesses, organizations, families, and churches are invited to set up a display at the park. There is still time to sign up and promote your business/organization to our community.

2022 City proposed appropriations budget was produced for review. A City Council work session is requested for December 6 to discuss the budget in further detail.

Leaf pickup collection started Nov 1, 2021. Please remind residents to rake leaves into the boulevard, not into the streets. Some people are still raking them into the streets and catch basins and storm sewers could get plugged.

The Maintenance Department has poured over 75 yards of concrete at the City park for the new walking path. Thank you to Pepperidge Farm for the \$20,000 grant to make the walking path at the City park possible. The City has one more concrete pour to go to complete the project.

On Thursday, November 4, 2021, the city manager met with K.E. McCartney & Associates and a representative from the Ohio Department of Transportation in regards to the design of the 224 Sidewalk Project. We were notified that the Project was being pushed back to coincide with the State of Ohio 2024 Calendar Budget for July of 2023. It is to be completed by fall of 2023. O.D.O.T.'s goal is to add 5 feet wide sidewalks on the north and south sides of US RT 224 from Main St to Myrtle Avenue. O.D.O.T. administers this project for us through a Federal Safety Grant, we are seeking additional funding to complete the rest of US Rt 224. We are responsible for the Right-of-Ways, which we are trying to avoid.

November 8, 2021, a meeting was held with O.D.O.T. representatives concerning the failing culvert on US RT 224 in the east bound lane near the City Limits. It failed soon after it was completed by O.D.O.T. in 2015 and has been a problem ever since. It is estimated to cost \$75,000 for repairs, O.D.O.T. is collaborating with the City to acquire funding for the project. Thank you to the Huron County Engineer's office for the use of the stop sign. The city crews will patch the failing pavement until a permanent solution can be made. Hamons will keep us updated

November 8, 2021, meetings were held with groups from Holiday Lakes and Celeryville to discuss future sewer expansion plans of our sewer network. Both entities are wanting to tap into our sewer system. Holiday lakes residents voted in favor of continuing to investigate the possibility of this project. Celeryville is hosting a public information meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, to discuss this possibility with its residents at the Celeryville school. City Manager will keep Council updated.

The City is currently advertising for a couple of open positions. The Building Inspector/Compliance Officer(part-time) and the Community Development Director (Part-time), this is in partnership with United Fund, WAEDC, and Chamber of Commerce.

The County Auditor will be having an in-person auction on December 3, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at the Huron County Administration building for several properties in the County. Several properties located in Willard will be included: 615 Fink Street, 108 Spring Street, 225-225 ½ Central Avenue, 209 North Main Street, 119 Dale Street. The Public Notice and complete list of properties can be found on the City website.

Council requested to accept the following donation:

\$100 from Don & Shirley Leininger towards the Clock Tower Fund.

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

Babcock inquired as to who was going to represent Willard at the Celeryville meeting? Bryson, Dan Thornton and James are planning to attend.

Elmlinger mentioned that the worst part of the sidewalk on US RT 224 is from Myrtle to the fire station. He is concerned for the pedestrians that walk and due to the problem, they are walking on US RT 224. Bryson agreed that it is an issue. O.D.O.T. knows it is a problem, this is an O.D.O.T lead program. Our goal was to get it from Tiffin to Neal Zick and O.D.O.T. changed it. They also come up with a high cost + for small areas. Their program has been "rearranged" since we first signed up for it.

Daniel commented that the stretch of US RT 224 from Myrtle to Country Kitchen area is just as important as to Neal Zick Road. He also noted that sidewalks need to be available all along US RT 224 by the factories for their employees. Bryson replied that the City cannot work on that situation because the project has already begun. He also noted that the City was rejected the first time for the sidewalk program and all new business needs to have sidewalks.

Babcock also asked what part of the project can we do and be proactive? Bryson replied that we cannot do Main Street to Myrtle.

Olson is very appreciative of the food distribution and with 466 preregistered for it, it shows that our community has a great need.

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 5899-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 925.01(A) AND ATTACHMENT A TO CHAPTER 925 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE WATER RATES, was presented by Council President for its final reading by title only. This was done by the Clerk.

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

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 5900-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TABLE B-2 OF ATTACHMENT B TO CHAPTER 923 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SEWER RATES, was presented by Council President for its final reading by title only. This was done by the Clerk.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Danhoff that the Ordinance be adopted. In a called vote Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger and Olson voted Yea. Sattig voted nay. Motion carried; Ordinance adopted.

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 5901-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 955.0 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WILLARD, OHIO, REGARDING RECYCLING FEES, was presented by Council President for its final reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

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

#### **COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS:**

Daniel thanked Jane for her years reporting for Willard and wished her the best of luck.

Olson thanked Jane and is excited about the parade and lights.

Danhoff also thanked Jane and wished her an enjoyable retirement.

Sattig also thanked Jane

Babcock thanked Jane and is excited to see the lights at the tree lighting ceremony. He also wanted to thank the Street Department mentioning that the sidewalks and park look good. Elmlinger also thanked Jane.

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

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President of Council

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Clerk of Council