

Willard, Ohio  
March 21, 2022

The Council of the City of Willard, Ohio met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7, 2022, with the President of Council calling the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor James Pomerich,

**Roll Call:** Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson and Sattig were present.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the Council meeting held March 7, 2022, 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 Babcock that they be approved as amended to include McKinzie in a called vote of the previous City Council minutes. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**CITIZENS DISCUSSION:** Donna Stover, 717 Myrtle Ave, came before City Council to voice her concern of how dangerous fireworks are and that she does not agree with Ohio House Bill 172. She also wanted City Council to be aware of a problem within the City of dangerous dogs being at large.

Kevin Thaxton, 572 W. Emerald St, came before City Council this meeting to clarify his Citizens Discussion topic from the February 7, 2022, City Council meeting that he attended. He voiced his safety concerns. He is also concerned of the dog at large issue within the City, he has property damage due to dogs at large, and has almost been attacked by dogs.

**BID PROPOSALS:** None

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:** None

**TABLED ITEMS:** Sidewalk construction on the proposed site of Stor-N-Lock on Theo Moll Drive

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

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

**REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:** Finance report from February 2022 was presented by the Finance Director, Lori Huff.

Elmlinger asked about the 18-year OneOhio program and its terms. Huff explained the breakdown of funds through the program. Hamons and McKenzie commented on the program and how the state is divided into regions.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Babcock that Council accept the Finance Director's Report for February 2022. In a called vote, Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

The 2021 Annual Report was provided to each Councilperson.

The next scheduled Second Harvest food giveaway is scheduled for Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3-5pm.

Hamons asked if there were any questions about the Community Improvement Corporation and for council's approval for the CIC to move forward. Johnson asked if privately owned businesses entity within the City could use the CIC to help them look for or apply for grants? Hamons did not believe that was an option currently.

Code Enforcement and Public Works have been busy with fifteen nuisance property complaints this month. A violation letter was sent to the residence, then one was hand delivered or posted at the residence informing the property of the given time allowed for the issues to be corrected. If the issued is not fixed, Code Enforcement, with the help of Maintenance Department, will abate the problem at the property owner's expense. They are billed for each worker, equipment used, and any additional expense accrued during the cleanup. Out of fifteen properties that received notices, four

are in progress, 6 have been corrected and 5 were abated by the City. The City will continue to address nuisances and work with the owner in the allotted time before rectifying the situation.

Residents are reminded of Ordinance 1323.05 Exterior Premises Appearance.

The Ohio Municipal League is holding an Abatement Webinar on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

The City is accepting applications, which can be printed from the City website, for the Community Garden. It is a free service to community members where they can grow fresh fruits and vegetables. Last year 14 residents participated.

At the request of a resident the City is looking into making Spring Court Drive a one-way street due to the number of cars parked on the street. Spring Court residents will be receiving a letter asking if they have an objections or concerns to making it one way, if not the City will proceed.

Concerns continue about traffic stopping on US 224 to patronize a business. ODOT has been contacted, no stopping signs have been ordered and will be placed on US 224. A meeting has been set up with the business owner to discuss recommendations.

The City Street Department is working on filling in the potholes in City alleyways with stone then rolling them smoothly. It is expected to take the two-man crew three weeks to complete all the alleyways in the City.

The Tax Incentive Review Committee met on March 16 to discuss the 10-year tax abatement agreements for Star of the West Milling Company and Pepperidge Farms. The committee approved both abatements for another year and recommends that Council does the same.

A new state fireworks law that goes into effect on July 1, 2022, permits fireworks to be discharged ten times a year unless the political subdivision chooses to opt out or implement restrictions. The City Administration, Police Chief and Fire Chief believe it is in the best interest of the majority of the residents to opt out of the new law and continue to prohibit the discharging of fireworks within City limits.

Willard Youth baseball and softball have partnered with the City to paint the little league restrooms, little picnic shelter, concession stand, and dug outs at the west end of the triplex. The City would like to thank the Willard Youth League for their continued leadership and the leadership of other youth sports organizations that provide recreation opportunities to our community at affordable cost.

The Water Department is finished pumping water out of the Huron River into the reservoir. 435 million gallons of water were pumped into the reservoir, bringing the water level to 942 feet above sea level. R.A. Bores has completed the installation of 514 tons of rip rap rock to protect the inner shoreline of the reservoir from erosion.

Donations are still being accepted for the Fisher Titus Health Walk. Bids are in for concreting the walking path at the Willard Reservoir, and that work could begin in April.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant employees are currently cleaning the fourth Vertical Loop Reactor Aeration Tank. There are four of these tanks in the plant and it is recommended that every four years they be cleaned to remove the sediment at the bottom of the tank that is not disposed of through the biological process. For the past four years the tanks have been cleaned in house, rather than paying an outside company \$60,000 to complete the task.

The City recently received 200 tons of road salt from O.D.O.T. This meets the purchase obligations for the 2021-2022 contract and should leave the City with a supply to start next winter.

Through a \$5,000 donation from the Willard Moose Lodge 2153, and the City, property owners will be reimbursed 50% (not to exceed \$125) of the cost of a new tree to plant in their yard. Residents must obtain approval for reimbursement before purchasing the tree by filling out a form at City Hall.

City of Willard Clean-up is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

The construction of the covered bridge at the park is progressing.

Sattig questioned if the purchase price of the salt per ton was going to remain the same? Hamons replied that he did not know, it is going out to bid and there is a resolution to enter the ODOT annual salt bid. Sattig also wanted to address a safety issue of vehicles parked on Fort Ball Road.

A credit was given to the City by AEP for the streetlight that was taken down and not replaced when road work was being done on 224.

Johnson asked what the rates are when the City work crews have to perform a City Abatement? Hamons explained that it is not a standard rate, it varies per employee per hour. If not paid the fees will be added to the property owners' property tax. Johnson also asked if some of the properties are rentals, is it the same landlord? It is a variety of landlords according to Hamons.

Mayor Daniel commented that while at the park he saw a painter there, doing a very nice job- glad for the update. He also appreciates the work being done to the alleys in the City, it makes a big difference when the alley is rolled, and he went to the reservoir and saw the rip rap project. He added, the no parking signs on Clark St. can come down where the school used to be, an alternating parking on streets for the street sweeper access, and snow removal needs to be looked into as well.

Babcock asked about the outcome of the juveniles who damaged the sidewalk at the park? Hamons explained that the Juvenile Court ruled that the juveniles must work off the cost of the damaged materials. The juveniles walked down the middle of the freshly poured sidewalk, carved their names/ initials in it then walked back.

Johnson is concerned about false accusations made about or towards City Council. Hamons explained he has had multiple conversations with no avail.

Elmlinger added that the City has an ordinance that trash cans must have lids Hamons is looking into uniform trash collection.

Elmlinger asked about an update on a house that had previously caught fire. Heather explained that it is currently a court matter. Elmlinger also questioned the increase in parking enforcement fines. Hamons explained that after a certain amount of time the fines are turned over to a collection enforcement agency.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2538-22**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, CITY OF WILLARD, OHIO TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR 2022 OPWC STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Babcock that the rules be suspended, and the Resolution adopted on its first reading. In a called vote, Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2539-22**

A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 231, THE ONEOHIO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND, TO ACCOUNT FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF THE ONEOHIO FUNDS RECEIVED AND USED ONLY FOR THE APPROVED PURPOSES AS REQUIRED BY THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU), was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

Moved by Olson seconded by Babcock that the rules be suspended, and the Resolution adopted on its first reading. In a called vote, Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2540-22**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ANNUAL WINTER ROAD SALT BID, was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

Moved by Olson seconded by Babcock that the rules be suspended, and the Resolution be adopted on its first reading. In a called vote, Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

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

**COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS:**

McKenzie- Wants to thank Bryson and the hard-working Maintenance Department for all the help in Ward II, getting it cleaned up, it looks a lot better, a citizen called him and appreciates it as well.

Elmlinger- Jim Gray has resigned from the City Development Commission.

Moved by Olson seconded by Babcock that Chuck Danhoff be appointed to the City Development Commission in Jim Gray's position.

In a called vote, Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

Elmlinger- Thank you to Benny Phillips for filling in potholes around town.

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

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President of Council

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Clerk of Council