

Willard, Ohio  
October 18, 2021  
Work Session @ 6:15 pm

Council President called the Work Session to order. The following Council members were present: Babcock, Danhoff, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson and Sattig. Olson came shortly after meeting started.

Also present was James Pomerich, Public Works Director and Dan Thornton, City Engineer.

#### **Tire Recycling Rates**

City Manager passed out a *Tire Recycling Information* sheet for all to look at showing current rates and suggested rate structure. Currently, we are paying more to get rid of some of the tires than we are taking in. It was suggested by Council that City Manager go ahead and have legislation drawn up with a maximum of 8 tires per resident and get rid of the tractor and semi tires. They also agreed to the rate structure that he presented.

#### **Fisher Titus Health Walk at the Reservoir**

Fisher Titus has approached the City Manager about partnering with the City of Willard on a project. City Manager is suggesting that we pave or concrete the walking path around the reservoir. At this point, they are estimating a cost of \$275,000 for this project and would like to see concrete used. Fisher Titus is willing to put in \$200,000, we could raise the additional amount through sponsorships (packet with more information is on record in the Clerk's office) and/or donations. There was some discussion between Council as to whether asphalt or concrete should be used, finally consensus was to go with concrete.

#### **Vacant Property Registration (Pomerich)**

Structures which are left vacant for extended periods of time have been shown to breed crime, pose public safety risks and reduce property values. Program is designed for property owners to register, maintain property, rehab, occupy, or sell the property. If they don't pay these fees, they will be attached to their taxes. Pomerich shared a brochure/vacant property registration form from another City. (Copy of brochure on file in Clerk's office) Council would like this further investigated to see if there is something that Willard could do.

#### **Willard Community Development Director**

This would be a private/public partnership tool to help foster community development through collaborative goals of the City, Willard Area Economic Development Corporation (WAEDC), Willard Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Willard United Fund (job description is on file in the Clerk's office). Individual would report directly to the City Manager and their office would be in City Hall. Individual would work with said groups, however, not for them. First priority would be to develop the Willard Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). The Willard CIC will have a separate board as directed by the Ohio Revised Code. Administration of the Willard CIC is part of the position. A big part of this position would be researching grants, grant writing, and grant administration (when needed). Development of housing would also be a part of this position. Johnson asked about prospect of applicants, Hamons said right now they have 10 applicants for the Chamber Director, possibly one of those would be an option. Council supported further work on this.

#### **2022 Proposed Water Rates (Dan Thornton)**

Dan Thornton presented proposed water/sewer increases for 2022. Water and sewer capital fees are proposed to be increased in 2022. The water and sewer user rate will remain the same as in 2021.

Changes being proposed in 2022 for 2023:

- Water and sewer rate will be changed to include a base rate and a charge for each unit
- Suggest that we consider billing  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (5/8") meter residential customers by the tenth of a unit instead of whole units
- Propose a wholesale rate for our wholesale customers

These proposed increases in the water and sewer capital would help us pay for needed upgrades to our facilities (recommendations on file in the Clerk's office).

**In-House Trash Study Findings (James Pomerich)**

Pomerich and Hamons investigated city owned trash collection departments in Norwalk and New London and spoke with Blue Armatrout. They are currently investigating going out to bid to allow only one trash hauler within the city limits. Currently we have 5 picking up trash in Willard. (Chart of some of their findings is on file in the Clerk's office).

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President

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Clerk of Council