

Wilmington City Council met on Thursday, March 6, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. with President Cindy Peterson presiding.

Call to Order

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Spicer, present; Stuckert, absent; Mead, present; Miller, present; Milburn, present; McKay, present.

Chief Weyand was also present.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by McKay to excuse the absent member (Stuckert).

Motion passed.

Absent member excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

President of Council –

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Mead to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, February 20, as presented.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Minutes approved as presented.

President Peterson asked Chairman McKay of the Water Committee to introduce the next item.

Councilman McKay explained that the Water Committee was looking at the city's water funding and trying to determine the best way to move forward. He introduced Wayne Cannon of WSOS Community Action.

Wayne Cannon explained that he works for Ohio RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Program), which is a national non-profit organization that is devoted to helping small communities with water and wastewater problems. We help small communities with loan and grant writing and water and wastewater problems. RCAP is providing a rate study on a direct-contract basis for the city of Wilmington. RCAP also provides training programs on setting rates. Today's presentation is a shortened version of one of those trainings.

A couple of years ago, the Ohio Water Development Authority gave RCAP funding to write a manual on rate setting. A copy of the manual has been provided to both the Utility Billing Department and the Mayor's Office. We gather a lot of information – financial, production, water usage, who is paying, collection rates and procedures – and all that goes into the analysis. I do a very simple comparative analysis. There are no bells and whistles, no regressions, no fancy math. I do that intentionally. It provides the community with a spreadsheet at the end of the analysis that you can use and update on your own. Part of the Community Action philosophy is that we are building capacity. Also, nothing gets done unless you're able to understand it and explain it to your constituents. When it is all said and done, there will be a paper trail on how the numbers were derived. You will have the information in front of you to be able to understand it yourself in enough detail that you can explain it to anyone who would want the information. That's the goal.

Councilman McKay - We look forward to you working on this. Jerry is definitely our expert on water and knows how to run the plant and does it exceptionally well. We also need input from experts like you. This will give us something to evaluate better than we have had in the past. What type of timeframe are we looking at?

Wayne Cannon – It usually takes 60-90 days, depending on how fast I can get the information I request. It usually takes a little time to collect data so you have to take that into consideration.

Paul Hunter asked if he was familiar with the Oakwood comparative rate study.

Wayne Cannon – I'm not a big fan of comparative rates because you are comparing your system to another community and you have no knowledge of how they operate their system. Everyone wants to compare themselves to Southwest Regional Water, the biggest rural water system in Butler County in the state. They have very, very inexpensive water rates. I know, because I financed a lot of that area. Most of the customers up there paid roughly a \$10,000 assessment to cover the debt to get the water lines installed. There is zero distribution system debt in that bill. You compare your bill, where you are financing your distribution, collection and other debts against a community that has financed their debts throughout some other mechanism, and you're comparing apples to bananas.

[Discussion of water rate studies]

President Peterson asked what the next steps would be.

Councilman McKay explained that they will meet again in Water Committee once Mr. Cannon gives them numbers.

Paul Hunter asked how much the consultancy costs and Councilman McKay answered \$5500.

Wayne Cannon explained that they are a non-profit organization. The fees cover his time but not much of anything else.

Jerry Rowlands – I went through most of Wayne's trainings and they were provided free with the contact hours. I appreciate it.

[Comments of thanks and appreciation]

Mayor – In the absence of Mayor Riley, there was no report.

Auditor - Auditor David Hollingsworth had no report.

Asset, Acquisition and Use. - Chairperson Mead introduced the third reading on legislation declaring parcels located at 481 Columbus Street to be surplus.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Milburn to give the third reading only on the ordinance Declaring Parcels, More Commonly Known as 481 Columbus Street and Adjacent Property in Wilmington, Ohio, to be Surplus Property, As Amended.

Seeing no discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Milburn to pass the ordinance as read.

Motion passed. All yeas.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5140 passed as read.

Councilman Mead introduced legislation accepting the annexation petition from Suburban Investments, the City of Wilmington, the Clinton County Port Authority and Wilmington College for property located near Airborne Road.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on a resolution Accepting the Petition for the Annexation of Certain Territory Into the City Pursuant to ORC 709.022 and 709.04.

Seeing no discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by McKay to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by McKay to pass the resolution as read.

Roll call: Spicer, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2353 passed as read.

Finance Committee - Chairperson Mead introduced legislation to establish the Wilmington Succeeds Funds.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Miller to give the first reading only on the ordinance Establishing a New Fund.

Seeing no discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Jaehnig to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Milburn to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Mead, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5141 passed as read.

Councilman Mead introduced legislation making supplemental appropriations.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Miller to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Supplemental Appropriations.

Seeing no discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Jaehnig to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Mead, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by McKay to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Milburn, yes; McKay, yes. Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5142 passed as read.

Councilman Mead introduced legislation authorizing “then and now” expenses.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Miller to give the first reading only on a resolution Authorizing Payment of Expenses Incurred in Prior Fiscal Year.

Seeing no discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Spicer to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

Roll call: McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by McKay to pass the resolution as read.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2354 passed as read.

Water Committee - Chairperson McKay said they would be looking forward to Mr. Cannon’s findings.

Streets Committee - Chairperson McKay had no report.

Solid Waste/Recycling - Chairperson Jaehnig reported that they conducted a field trip meeting in Crawford County last week. It was very worthwhile and educational. The details of what a proposal would look like with Santek are being looked at.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee – In the absence of Chairperson Stuckert, Councilwoman Milburn had no report.

Judiciary Committee - Chairperson Jaehnig introduced legislation establishing the Wilmington Succeeds program. The city's portion of the program is a homesteading program. Councilman Jaehnig presented an overview of the Wilmington Succeeds program and explained that the purpose is to encourage the retention of educated youth to our area. The homesteading portion is to make it easier for people with college degrees to purchase homes. It's a one-time payment of up to \$2500. Currently there are 94 homes for sale inside the city limits. We already have \$10,000 donation into the program and we will be working on different ways to fund it. It will be based on donations. Both local graduates and graduates from other states will be eligible for both this program and the Grants for Grads program sponsored by the State of Ohio. NB&T has also announced a mortgage program called "The Graduate" that is targeted toward recent graduates. The Wilmington Succeeds program was initially created by Jan Blohm from Wilmington College.

President Peterson said that they were very excited about the program.

Councilwoman Miller noticed that the legislation did not seem to apply to two-year degrees.

Councilman Jaehnig said he would like to see it encompass two-year degrees, but the goal at this point is targeted at four-year degrees and above.

Councilwoman Miller said that she saw value in certifications and two-year trade degrees.

Councilwoman Milburn said she thought they should start with four-year degrees and see how it goes. Then, if we want to open it up further in the future, we can.

[Discussion of Wilmington Succeeds]

Councilwoman Miller asked who issues the awards. Councilman Jaehnig said the mayor would be forming a committee. Councilwoman Miller said she would be interested in knowing more about that process before the legislation passes. Councilman Jaehnig said they would finalize those things before the next reading.

Councilman McKay said he would approve the four-year approach right now. Councilman Spicer said that he would also agree with the four-year approach.

Paul Hunter asked if Southern State is part of the consortium.

Councilman Jaehnig said the ultimate scenario is someone from Wilmington College who goes to Southern State and receives a benefit from the program there. Then they go on to Wilmington College and receive a benefit there. Then they go on to buy a house in Wilmington and can receive a benefit for that. He said there are different aspects, such as the military personnel special needs, that need to be examined.

President Peterson said it should be noted that the mayor should formalize the committee prior to passage of the legislation.

Bill Limbacher asked how to make a donation. Councilman Jaehnig said donations could be made at the mayor's office. They are also working on a program through the utility billing office.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Spicer to give the first reading only on a resolution Expressing Support for the Wilmington Succeeds Program and Adopting Rules and Process for Allocation of the Wilmington Succeeds Homesteading Grant. Seeing no more discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

Jaehnig requested that the second and third readings be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Jaehnig introduced legislation declaring taxi vehicles surplus. The vehicles will be sold on GovDeals.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Milburn to give the first reading only on a resolution Declaring Surplus Property, to Wit: Taxi Department Vehicles Valued at More than \$1000, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Vehicles, and Declaring an Emergency.

Seeing no discussion, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Milburn to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

Roll call: Spicer, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Milburn to pass the resolution as read.

Roll call: Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2355 passed as read.

Safety Committee - Chairperson Jaehnig had no report.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener McKay had no report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – In the absence of Convener Stuckert, Councilwoman Milburn had no report.

Service Director - Service Director Reinsmith had no report.

Safety Director – Safety Director Russ Burton had no report.

Reports

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Spicer that the Income Tax Report – February 2014, be accepted as presented.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Reports accepted as presented.

President Peterson opened the meeting up to the general public and/or members of council to address council while in session.

President Peterson asked if anyone else wished to address council while in session.

Paul Hunter – 200 Randolph Street – Would like to recognize Samantha Ahrman from DP&L. She fixed a problem with intermittent outages in our neighborhood that had been going on for many years. This year has been terrible for potholes. Local governments can be held responsible for poorly maintained roadways. The damaged roadway must have been reported to the appropriate authorities in order to file a claim. If it is not reported or if it is not on record, there is no one liable except for the driver. In Wilmington, the reporting of potholes can be done by calling the mayor's office or going to the city's website on the citizen helpline. They have a pothole report line.

Councilman Spicer said that the crews had done a good job on the potholes this year.

Bill Limbacher – 394 Darbyshire – Would like to see the taxi hours extended so that he could have transportation to and from downtown events during the summer. I would encourage the sale of the transit vehicles be filtered back into the taxi service to make it better and expanded.

Councilman Jaehnig said those proceeds do go back into the taxi fund.

Seeing no one else who wished to speak, President Peterson asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Jaehnig to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk