

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 21st, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. with President Randy Riley presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call: Purkey, present; Spicer, present; Stuckert, present; J. McKay, present; Swindler, present; Milburn, present; M. McKay, absent.

A motion was made by J. McKay and seconded by Milburn to excuse the absent member (M. McKay).

Motion passed. All yeas.

Absent member excused.

Chief Weyand was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

President of Council-

A motion was made by Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to approve the minutes as received.

Motion passes. All yeas.

Minutes approved as presented.

There was one item to be removed from the agenda per Chairman Spicer from the Street Committee section, item 16a.

A motion was made by J. McKay and seconded by Stuckert to approve the amended agenda as presented.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Agenda approved as presented.

President Riley read a Notice to Legislative Authority, for a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a new permit for the Murphy Theatre Community Center, noting the document would be on file in the Clerk's office.

Riley requested Chief Weyand summarize the "National Night Out". Weyand explained it is an event for the police and community to build a relationship between both parties. It will be held August 2nd at Denver Williams Park and those invited include the police department, fire department, county sheriff, Highway Patrol, and members of the community.

MAYOR

Mayor – Mayor Stanforth read the proclamation for Feed Ohio Program, a statewide interfaith effort to raise money and collect food products for food pantry, and designated September as Feed Ohio Month in the City of Wilmington. Stanforth then recognized Transit Director Tony Morris for improving the wait time for the Wilmington Transit Service from over an hour to twenty minutes.

Mayor Stanforth stated he attended a meeting on Saturday with the Leadership Ohio group, and there will be an art project unveiled at Denver Park on July 22nd at 2pm of a mural painted on the remodeled maintenance facility.

Stanforth also stated the cemetery bridge project was underway and concrete had been poured. Stanforth recognized Jerry Runk and Joe Hopkins for their help on the cemetery bridge project. Stanforth also recognized Phil Teboe's retirement from the Wastewater Department.

AUDITOR

Auditor – Auditor Hollingsworth was absent. Council proceeded to the action and committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION

Asset, Acquisition and Use – Chairperson Purkey had no report.

Cemetery Committee – Chairperson J. McKay had no official report but noted the first bridge repair had taken place, as stated previously by Mayor Stanforth. McKay stated the soldier received a new hat and had repairs on his satchel. He thanked the County Commissioners who had funded the repairs. J. McKay also recognized Jerry Runk and Joe Hopkins and the American Legion Post for their donation of \$5,000 for the repairs. McKay also stated the possible repairing of the section markers. Service Director Shidaker explained the repairs.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener M. McKay was absent. No official report was presented. Spicer stated the Murphy Theatre documentary series is beginning next week. J. McKay commented that Dancing with the Stars on September 17th.

Finance Committee - Chairperson M. McKay was absent. Committee Member Swindler stated the first item introduced was O-16-49 and wanted to amend it to be passed as an emergency.

The appropriations of the Ordinance; from the Water (Amended to Waste) Fund to 670.370.5213 “Note-NBT/Honeywell” the sum of \$1,053.50, from the General Fund to 110.120.5253 “Update Codified Ord” the sum of \$0.10, and from the State Forfeited Fund to 519.211.5211 “Program Expenses” the sum of \$13,500.00.

A motion was made by Chairperson K. Swindler and seconded by J. McKay to give the first reading only on Amended Ordinance O-16-49 – Making supplemental appropriations.

President called for vote.
Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded by Spicer to suspend the rules and give O-16-49 the second and third reading by title only.

Roll call: Purkey, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes, J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Milburn, yes

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded by Spicer to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Spicer, yes; Purkey, yes; Stuckert, yes, J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Milburn, yes
Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-16-49 passed as read.

Judiciary Committee – Chairperson Milburn stated first reading on O-16-40, amending section 14 and 15 of the City of Lodging Excise Tax Code of Regulations. Milburn briefly summarized the intent of amending the ordinance where 50% of the tax would go to the CVB and 50% would go to the City. Of the city’s 50%, a 1% administrative fee would be taken. The CVB as well as other entities can request funding, and all of these requests would go through the Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Milburn and seconded by Purkey to give the first reading only on the ordinance.

Motion passed.
Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

President of Council opened the floor for discussion.

Debbie Stamper, of 505 Brooke Blvd, Director of the Clinton County CVB read letter from Ohio Travel Association Executive Director in support of the CVB retaining their

funding.

Judy Gano, of 2239 Gano Road stated she loves her community and that Debbie Stamper tries. She stated Council shouldn't take money away from a good organization to give to another organization, and if anything they should be giving the CVB more funds.

Ray Storer of Grandpa's Pottery, 3558 OH-73, praised Debbie Stamper for her business advice, and asked council to give this serious considerations before taking any funding.

Russell Hoffer, spoke in favor of the CVB retaining the funding.

Randy Sarvis of 1017 Hickory Trail, who serves on the CVB board, stated he is dedicated to the mission and stated the CVB pulled Wilmington out of the downward direction. Sarvis said the city deserves professionals to bring in tourism.

Steve Picklesheimer, of 2017 SR 134 N, states his concerns about CVB losing money. Mr. Picklesheimer is the General Manager of the Hampton Inn, Area Manager for the Holiday Inn Express, and is also Vice President of the CVB Board. Mr. Picklesheimer stated travelers to his hotels bring in a lot of money to the area and those customers represent 87% of the tax collected.

Jim Gumley, of 466 North Walnut Street explained his business history. Gumley stated if you want to make money you have to spend money and spoke of his history with the CVB and their event promotion skills.

Keri Jaehnig, of 606 Oakridge Drive, who has a degree in tourism, inquired about what types of research the council did on the CVB. Jaehnig also questioned why the Council would take away their funding. Jaehnig stated the decision to take the funding is a lazy decision.

Stephanie Stokes, of 2822 Center Road who is also a member of the CVB Board, spoke on behalf of the agro tourism, stating her farm has thousands of people come to pick berries. Mrs. Stokes also stated she and her staff send a lot of tourists in to the city to spend their money and she hopes council will consider this legislation.

Phillip Craig, of 41 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio, thanks the City of Wilmington council for allowing him to speak. Mr. Craig, who is the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Visitor and Convention Bureau, stated Debbie Stamper and the CVB have done an outstanding job and should be proud of their progress. He urged the council to reconsider their decision.

Paul Hunter, of 200 Randolph Street stated he supports the ordinance and spoke briefly about the current revenue, expenditure, and budget of the CVB.

Debbie Stamper added she must have a 3-6 month reserve on hand of around \$75,000 and those are funds they are not able to use.

Bonnie Mecurry, of 9371 Strout Road, Clarksville, Ohio, who along with her husband own Bonny Brook Farms, stated Debbie is the best executive director in Ohio.

Joe Spicer first apologized for his statement during committee when he had said "pretty dumb council members" that was reported in the News Journal. Spicer clarified that he did not think that any councilperson is dumb. Secondly, Spicer spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance, stating just because council can change it does not mean they should, Spicer also said that Council was not holding up their end of the agreement by becoming lax in requiring the CVB to present reports.

Swindler agreed with Spicer about council not having oversight over the public funds, stating they need to hold up their end of the agreement by managing the CVB and requiring them to have quarterly reports to Council.

J. McKay also agreed with Swindler.

Purkey summarized what prompted the request for additional oversight in the CVB funding, stating they have an obligation to spend more responsibly and judicially.

Purkey also stated he had tried 2 other times to meet with Debbie and the CVB Board but due to scheduling conflicts, they were unable to get together.

Debbie Stamper stated he should have just called her up and asked her if he had questions.

Paul Hunter said he wanted to add that their office space that costs \$26,000 per year is expensive for 2-3 people. Spicer stated they have been looking for other options, but they are currently leasing the space and can't break the lease.

Purkey again spoke to Debbie Stamper and inquired how much of the budget would have to be cut and where. Mrs. Stamper stated she had not brought the budget with her because she had brought it to a previous meeting. Spicer read some line items that would have to be cut.

General discussion about budget cuts and funding.

President Riley stated they were getting into too many details, and if there is further discussion, that would need to be done at a Judiciary Committee meeting on August 3rd.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. 5 yeas. 1 opposed. (Spicer)

Milburn requested the 2nd reading be placed on the agenda for August 4th.

Parks and Recreation Committee - No report other than to ask everyone to take an online survey about the proposed park bike track. It is available on their Facebook page.

Safety/ Transportation Committee – Chairperson Spicer had no report.

Solid Waste/Recycling – Chairperson Spicer had no report other than mentioning Braden Dunham, the Landfill Supervisor, would be in attendance at the next council to speak about the route automation.

Streets Committee – Chairperson Spicer stated the committee had a meeting that evening about issues stop sign issues on Lorish Avenue and North Walnut Street and parking issues on Howard Street. Spicer stated concerns about visibility and people pulling out on Prairie Avenue and Jenny Lane. Spicer recognized Jerry and the streets department for their quick action. Spicer also said they were looking at a request for a traffic study on Wayne and Nelson Road, but they will still be gathering information.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Stuckert had no report.

Water Committee - Chairperson Swindler stated legislation for fluoridation was not ready yet and would be at the next council meeting.

Safety/Service Director – Safety/Service Director Shidaker stated on Tuesday the Truesdell paving begins. Shidaker also stated that due to the proposed tax increase, he is going to be working on a comprehensive plan for the repair of the streets of Wilmington so that the citizen will know how they plan to spend the money if the tax passes.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

A motion was made by Milburn and seconded by J. McKay to accept the Auditor Report/Interest Earned as presented.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as presented.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Ron Young, of 423 Howard Street read a letter about his experience on July 6th, 2016 in the Mayor's Office with the Mayor's assistant, Ms. Miller.

Bill Leirmann, board member of the Leadership Clinton program, reminded those in attendance about the Dinner in the Fields fundraiser.

James Heard of 6280 SR 68 South questioned the follow-up on the previous council for the warrant for his arrest.

J. McKay gave thanks the police department in their assistance with recovering stolen property.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Milburn.

President Riley declared meeting adjourned.

Council adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk