

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, March 16th, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. with President ProTem Mark McKay presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

President ProTem 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; Liermann, present; M. McKay, present.

Chief Weyand was no present but Sgt. Rager was in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Cub Scouts from Troop 155 out of Clarksville led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

President of Council-

Council was presented with an amended agenda.

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

Motion passed.

Agenda approved as amended.

J. McKay stated the minutes had left out a portion during the Landfill rate increase discussion where he had asked when the letter from the Auditor's office was dated. He asked that the minutes be amended to include that information.

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Swindler to approve the March 2nd, minutes as amended.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as amended.

MAYOR

Mayor- Stanforth spoke about the upcoming Honor Flight scheduled for April 29th, encouraging anyone who is interested in going or wants to help to contact Jack Powell. Stanforth spoke about the upcoming park projects, stating pre-construction on the SplashPark will begin as soon as the weather breaks. They are also currently looking over bids for the restroom rehab.

Mayor Stanforth stated they completed interviews for the Landfill Superintendent will announce the appointment at noon on Friday. Stanforth said the Safe Routes to School Project sidewalk project on Truesdell had be delayed for some time but now they were ready to move forward. Stanforth said the city was responsible for an additional \$30,000 but thanks to Taylor Stuckert and Andrea Tacorante, they were able to get that amount waived. Stanforth spoke briefly about automated radio controlled water meters they are researching. Stanforth also mentioned the Homeless Shelter's Annual Soup Fundraiser is on Friday in the Community Room from 11-1. Stanforth stated for lent the Methodists are serving Lenten Lunch on Wednesdays and the Catholics are having their Fish Fry on Friday.

Stanforth stated there will be some asphalt sealing done on some of the parking lots downtown and at the parking lots at the park. Mayor Stanforth asked everyone to keep Paul Hunter in their prayers. He isn't doing very well and this was the first Council meeting he had missed in 24 years.

AUDITOR

Auditor – Auditor Hollingsworth was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION

Asset, Acquisition and Use – Chairperson Purkey had no action items.

Cemetery Committee – Chairperson J. McKay stated the Cemetery would be looking for volunteers to assist in the spring clean-up and anyone interested in helping or donating should call the Service Director's office.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener M. McKay stated the Drowsy Lads would be at the Murphy Theatre on March 18th and Hadden Sayers would be performing April 1st. This year's Wine Walk will be held on May 5th and there will be 2 flights this year due to the popularity of the event.

Finance Committee – Chairperson M. McKay had no report.

Judiciary Committee – Chairperson Purkey had no report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairperson Liermann had one piece of legislation, a Resolution for the submittal of the NatureWorks grant, round 24 and some updates from the Park Board.

Liermann gave a brief update on the current park projects, noting they hope to break ground on the SplashPark in April and have it open by Memorial Day. Liermann announced there will be a Public Meeting regarding the updating of some of the old playground equipment in Denver Park on March 23 at the Wilmington Public Library in the Kirk Room. The dedication of the birdwatching area will take place on Saturday at 10am and everyone is invited to attend. Liermann stated the new projects happening in the spring are the renovation of the "Friendship Barn" storage building to become a restroom. The outdoor "Fitness Zone" in collaboration with Wilmington College is being planned and HealthFirst Clinton County donated the funds toward the project.

Liermann introduced Resolution No. R-17-13, stating the grant is a 25% match for the project.

A motion was made by Liermann and seconded by Swindler to give the first reading only on Resolution No. R-17-13, Authorizing the submittal of an application for the NatureWorks 24 round grant application.

All yeas.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Liermann and seconded by Stuckert to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third reading on the Resolution.

Roll call.

Purkey, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Liermann, yes; M. McKay.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Liermann and seconded by J. McKay to pass the Resolution as read.

Roll call.

Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Liermann, yes; M. McKay, yes; Purkey, yes.

President of Council declared R-17-13 passed as read

Safety/ Transportation Committee – Chairperson Spicer had no report.

Solid Waste/Recycling – Chairperson Spicer had no report.

Streets Committee – Chairperson Spicer had no report but had a request from the Wilmington Christian Academy to put in a school zone and crosswalk on Davids Drive. Spicer requested a Streets Committee Meeting be put on the calendar.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Stuckert had no report.

Water Committee - Chairperson Swindler began by recapping the previous meetings on fluoridation, commenting that the lack of funding assistance from the State was very disappointing. Swindler stated hard conversations were had over the past week about funding and she highlighted some of the questions that arose from those discussions. Swindler stated that those questions are; can the investment be sustained, can it be done without rate increases, and without significantly impacting or harming the Water Fund. The Water Fund is currently 2.3 million dollars.

Swindler stated she has discussed a few different scenarios with Director Shidaker and the Auditor's office, as well as the engineer. The first option is make the investment now in capital expenses from the water fund. The second option is to roll it into a future capital project and take the expense on in a note. Swindler stated that when discussing these options with Deputy Auditor Vance, they are most concerned with the operating cost going forward with the addition of fluoride. Swindler stated that cost after this year would be about \$11,000, which would not affect the debt coverage of the Water Fund. Swindler stated she asked the Deputy Auditor if she recommended rolling this into future projects and note issues to which the Deputy Auditor asked why they would want to take debt on something you can pay for out of a healthy fund and that its sole purpose is for water related projects. The Water Fund can only be used for water and currently is at 2.3 million dollars. Swindler stated that was the purpose of the fund and that the Deputy Auditor's recommendation is to pay with the Water Fund money.

M. McKay asked what the total investment would be for the project.

Swindler stated if they were unable to secure any grant funding the amount would be \$315,000.

M. McKay asked Mayor Stanforth if he wanted to make a statement. Stanforth said Council had his letter. M. McKay asked Stanforth if the Administration was in favor of going forward with the project. Stanforth stated they were in favor.

Chairperson Swindler opened the floor for Council discussion.

Purkey stated the price was originally a roadblock, especially when the funding fell through, but he trusts the Auditor's office. He feels like his financial questions have been answered.

Spicer stated that he was under the impression this was going to be funded by grants and referenced a past \$5 rate increase that bolstered the carry over. Spicer stated he would rather see relief given to the taxpayers rather than money spent on projects. Spicer stated that they should roll the rates back if they've taken too much. Spicer also said that they are creating a monumental problem for those individuals who can't have fluoride and it's a health issue. Spicer stated it will cost about \$8,000 to \$10,000 for the household to put a filter in and most homes can't afford that. Spicer stated they have an opinion from a chemist on Council that says fluoride is bad and a legal opinion from a chemist who says fluoride is good. Spicer said he tends to believe the guy he knows. Spicer stated he still can't support fluoride.

Swindler mentioned the previous rate increase is the only reason why they have been able to build up the Water Fund. Swindler stated to her understanding, they are unable to roll back the increase because it put them in the correct margin that the fund is currently in.

Stuckert stated he had several financial questions. He also stated he found misleading statements in the report from Strand. Stuckert referenced the letter from Mayor Stanforth, stating he disagreed with the chemist's statement about fluoride on a molecular level. Stuckert stated they are not identifying the correct type of fluoride to be added. Stuckert's financial questions were in reference to raising utility rates and the possible use of tax dollars from the General Fund towards added costs in the future. Stuckert said he feels like Council needs to continue to discuss the health risks associated with manufactured fluoride, which is not the same as natural fluoride.

M. McKay addressed Stuckert, stating the health concerns are things that have already been discussed in prior discussions.

J. McKay stated he trusts the Auditor's Office and if they feel this can be sustained though the water fund, this decision is easier for him to make. J. McKay stated he has had numerous phone calls from citizens and it is time to do a third reading.

Liermann stated concerned with overall costs and is worried about the funding down the road. Liermann stated he would probably be voting in the minority.

Swindler read a letter from the Auditor's Office regarding fluoride financing.

Begin transcription.

With regards to your decision about financing for the project, we have looked at the current cash balance in the water fund and we feel that, barring any unforeseen or catastrophic events, the water department current balance should be sufficient to support this capital project. With respect to the proposed ongoing maintenance costs, these appear to not to be significant enough to effect the current or future debt service coverage.

End transcription.

M. McKay stated he was concerned about the financial aspect but now feels that they are covered. M. McKay stated the only real ongoing issue is deciding which experts you want to believe.

President Pro Tem M. McKay opened the floor for public input.

Vince Holmes of 77 Fulton Street had concerns about the non-binding Resolution that was placed on the ballot. Mr. Holmes stated he's not for or against fluoridation but he's read both sides of the argument.

Carter Cockman of 30 ½ North South Street presented a study concerning the neurotoxicity of fluoride and the correlation with low IQ. Mr. Cockman presented an alternative method for providing oral fluoride to children using the school system to deliver the supplement. Mr. Cockman also outlined the cost savings and overall benefits of the oral health program.

Swindler stated she can only speak for herself, but she has taken every concern seriously and researched each issue by reading studies and contacting local health professionals. Swindler thanked council for their work on this in the past year, and even though she knows they will not be a unified council on this matter, she respects the difference of opinion. Swindler stated that each member follows their conscious and sometimes that lead them to different solutions. Swindler said for her, it comes down to three questions, "Does it do the greatest good for the greatest amount of people?", "Can we pay for it responsibly?", and "Are we supported by the will of the voters?" Swindler stated for her all the answers are "yes".

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded by Purkey to give the third reading on Ordinance No. O-16-74- An Ordinance mandating the fluoridation of the public water supply controlled by the City of Wilmington.

Roll call.

Stuckert, no; J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Liermann, no; M. McKay; Purkey, yes; Spicer, no.

Motion passed.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded Purkey to pass the Ordinance as read.

Roll call.

J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Liermann, no; M. McKay, yes; Purkey, yes; Spicer, no; Stuckert, no.

President of Council declared O-16-74 passed as read.

M. McKay thanked council and all of the citizens who weighed in on this issue.

Safety/Service Director – Director Shidaker addressed Councilmembers Liermann, Stuckert, and Spicer, and reassured them he will do everything he can to ensure that the water is safe and that fluoride will be correctly introduced into the water supply. Shidaker stated respecting the health and safety of the City is his top priority and they will be following through with the recommendations of the experts. Shidaker stated the

Mayor also supported the recommendations that were set forth. Shidaker thanked Swindler for educating the public and stated the administration had stayed neutral during this process.

Director Shidaker stated he had two pieces of legislation. First, a resolution for an Enterprise Zone agreement with OHI Greenhouse LLC. Second, a resolution for the Safe Routes to School Program.

Shidaker introduced David Raizk who is the CIC Executive Director, spoke about BrightFarm's proposed 1700 square foot greenhouse on Davids Drive, stating it will bring about 30 new jobs and will be a large consumer of city water.

A motion was made by Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to give the first reading only on Resolution No. R-17-14. A Resolution authorizing an agreement with OHI Greenhouse, LLC, providing for a project and tax exemption pursuant to the State Enterprise Zone Program and making determination in connection therewith; repealing all prior conflicting Ordinances.

All yeas.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third reading on the Resolution.

Roll call.

Swindler, yes; Liermann, yes; M. McKay; Purkey, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; J. McKay, yes;

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to pass the Resolution as read.

Roll call.

Liermann, yes; M. McKay, yes; Purkey, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes.

President of Council declared R-17-14 passed as read.

Shidaker stated this project has been a long time coming and thanked Mayor Stanforth for knocking on doors and getting all of the land needed for the sidewalks donated to the city. Shidaker also thanked Taylor Stuckert with the Regional Planning who was able to get the \$30,000 that was the city's obligation reduced to zero. Shidaker stated this is a \$275,000 project that will be bid out in April and should begin construction in August.

A motion was made by Liermann and seconded by J. McKay to give the first reading only on Resolution No. R-17-15. Adopting final legislation for a "Safe Routes to School" project to install sidewalks on Truesdell Street.

All yeas.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Liermann and seconded Swindler to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third reading on the Resolution.

Roll call.

M. McKay; Purkey, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Liermann, yes.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Liermann and seconded by Swindler to pass the Resolution as read.

Roll call.

Purkey, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; J. McKay, yes; Swindler, yes; Liermann, yes; M. McKay, yes.

President of Council declared R-17-15 passed as read.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

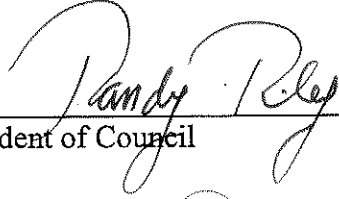
There were no reports to Council.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Purkey.
President Pro Tem M. McKay declared meeting adjourned.
Council adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

ATTEST:



President of Council



Clerk