

COUNCIL

October 17th, 2019

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, October 17th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. with President Mark McKay presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call: J. McKay, present; Snarr, present; Fickert, present; Purkey, present; Liermann, present; Swindler, absent; Williams, present.

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by K. Fickert to excuse the absent member. (Swindler) All yeas.

Interim Chief Ron Cravens was present as Sergeant at Arms.

Council participated in the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

President M. McKay asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Motion by M. Purkey and seconded by J. McKay to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed.

Agenda approved as presented.

President M. McKay asked if there were any changes to the minutes.

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by K. Fickert to approve October 3rd minutes as amended.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

President McKay noted the Rombach Avenue discussion is not on the agenda but will allow comments to be made at the end of the meeting.

MAYOR

Mayor Stanforth read a thank you letter from Wilmington College’s Randy Sarvis regarding the grant they had received. Mayor Stanforth reviewed upcoming local events. He thanked council for their help with the residential zoning project on Prairie Road but noted the developer had opted to not continue with the project. Stanforth noted the passing of a good friend, Gary Sharp.

Mayor Stanforth introduced the newest officer, Connor Combs, and performed the swearing in ceremony.

Mayor Stanforth performed a proclamation on behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution for Native American Indian Heritage Month.

AUDITOR

Auditor Hollingsworth was absent.

SERVICE AND SAFETY DIRECTOR

Director Shidaker noted the bid opening for the residential street paving project is tomorrow at noon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION

City Revitalization Committee – Chairperson T. Williams had no report.

City Services Committee – Chairperson B. Liermann had no report.

Finance Committee – Chairperson K. Fickert had two pieces of legislation.

K. Fickert introduced O-19-46 making miscellaneous transfers from “Program Expenses” to “Medicare” the sum of \$100.00, from “Program Expenses” to “Pensions” the sum of \$1,500.00, from “Workers Comp” to “Salaries” the sum of \$227.00, from “Program Expenses” to “Salaries” the sum of \$4,000.00, from “Benefit Insurance” to “Salaries” the sum of \$2,318.00, from “Incidentals” to “Lease Payment” the sum of \$3,600.00, from “Property/Casualty Insurance” to “Office Equipment” the sum of \$2,546.19, from “Lease Purchase” to “Landfill Vehicle Gas” the sum of \$7,000.00, and from “Lease Purchase” to “Landfill Monitoring” the sum of \$1,700.00.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by M. Purkey to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-19-46 Making miscellaneous transfers.

All yeas. 6 yeas.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by M. Purkey to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third readings on the Ordinance.

Roll Call; 6 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by M. Purkey to pass the Ordinance as read.

Roll Call; 6 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-19-46 passed as read.

K. Fickert introduced O-19-47 making supplemental appropriations from the General Fund to “Building Department Consultation Services- Plan Review” the sum of \$1,500.00 and from the Taxi Fund to “Benefit Insurance” the sum of \$15,000.00

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by M. Snarr to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-19-4 Making supplemental appropriations.

All yeas. 6 yeas.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by M. Snarr to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third readings on the Ordinance.

All yeas. 6 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by J. McKay to pass the Ordinance as read.

All yeas. 6 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-19-47 passed as read.

Judiciary Committee – Chairperson M. Purkey no report.

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee- Chairperson J. McKay had no report.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson M. Snarr had no report.

Water Committee – Chairperson K. Fickert had no report.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

A motion was made by J. McKay and seconded by K. Fickert to accept the Auditor Treasurer Report as presented.

Motion passed.

Report accepted as presented.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

President McKay opened the public comment, with Mayor Stanforth giving an opening statement. Stanforth said the objective of the Rombach project has always been about improving traffic flow and safety along the corridor. Repaving the street, modernizing the traffic signals, and addressing the excessive driveways and access points are the right combination to meet that objective. The City looked at eliminating access points as one alternative. Another alternative investigated medians to control access, which were determined to be the best fit because they minimized impact to individual properties and could be built without closing driveways. The City received public feedback on all elements of the project and made adjustments where the public benefited. Stanforth also expanded on his statement, noting he trusts the engineers and the experts who have been working on this project.

Nick Eveland of 153 N. Lincoln Street stated he believes the barriers create a lot of questions. He noted he submitted a letter to the city with his questions but didn't get answers back and didn't get calls back. He further stated businesses don't want left turns and in his opinion, a lot of discussion needs to happen. Mr. Eveland asked for Council to be polled.

Brian Smith of 2333 Rombach Avenue summarized crash data and noted he believes barriers prevent business and customers are concerned with convenience. He mentioned conversations with ODOT and reviewed some of the topics about U-turns and offset intersections.

John Adkins owner at 1780 Rombach Avenue (Wilmington Auto) He is concerned about the center median and that the crash data doesn't support the medians. He mentioned the median would delay ambulance response time. He mentioned lower property values and asked council to not approve funding for the project.

Mark Bush owner at 1850 Rombach Avenue (Bush Auto) is very concerned about the median and his property value. He is concerned about lost revenue. He is a service industry and not just a destination.

James Mayer owner at 1701 Rombach Avenue (Taco Bell) stated he likes the plan but doesn't like the center median. He states it is a business killer. He has research to prove it. A lot of businesses are encouraged not to develop where medians are present. He quoted several people's statements about medians and property development. This will cause future growth to not come. He asked council to reconsider the project. He mentioned business decline means less taxes.

Gary Rome owner at 1055 Rombach Avenue (Wendy's) said he agrees with what is stated before him and thinks medians are not good. He is concerned about school buses. He feels that most people do not think it is in the city's best interest.

Keith Chambers owner at 1093 Rombach Avenue (Dairy Queen) stated he likes a lot of the project but believes the median is a business killer. He asked if his business means less than Wal-Mart. He has information to give council. He mentioned having a heart attack in his store and having a delayed response time. He asked for a committee to be formed to work with business owners.

K. Fickert thanked everyone for their healthy discussion about this project and would like time to review the information. J. McKay agreed with K. Fickert and noted that he was excited people came to council noting, "Making people think is a good thing."

President McKay thanked everyone's cordiality. B. Liermann is not opposed to the Rombach Avenue project, however, he wants to wrap his arms around Rombach and he's concerned about the medians. M. Purkey thinks we should have the engineers here again and Keith Chambers agreed.

Dave McCullum owner at 1093 Rombach Avenue (Dairy Queen) stated his revenue dropped 40% when this type of project happened at his Monroe location and it took three years to rebuild his sales projection. He wants to work together.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by B. Liermann.
President M. McKay declared meeting adjourned.
Council adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk