

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, present; Williams, present.

Sargent Martin 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 J. McKay and seconded by B. Liermann to approve the agenda as presented. K. Swindler noted the finance agenda item needed amended. New motion to accept the agenda as amended. Motion by J. McKay and seconded by B. Liermann to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed.

Agenda approved as amended.

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

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by J. McKay to approve October 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Stanforth gave an overview of local events taking place, highlighting the Veteran's Day events taking place. Stanforth also invited all members of Council to attend the city wide ethics training taking place on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> in the Community Room.

Mayor Stanforth read a statement regarding the Rombach Avenue Project and thanked those who had attended the previous meeting for their input. Stanforth asked council and the public not to lose sight of the project as a whole by focusing solely on the proposed medians. He stated the project also includes milling, an overhaul of the asphalt, additional repairs to curbs, new sidewalks, replacement sidewalks, bike paths, street drainage, new water lines, new updated traffic signals, and improved crosswalks. Stanforth noted the traffic signals will not only communicate, they will also make the intersections and crosswalks safer. Stanforth stated it is true the current plan includes medians, but keeping within the timeline, plans can be adjusted. Mayor Stanforth stated construction is due to begin in the summer of 2020 and ODOT has stated the decision to leave in or take out the median is a city decision.

Stanforth briefly went over the project funding, stating 3.2 million in grant funds have been acquired with an additional 650k expected on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Also on November 20<sup>th</sup> the city will know if they have been approved for a loan to fund the project. Stanforth stated the city could acquire up to a 4 million dollars from a loan that would have 0% financing for the life of the project. He noted this would save the city roughly 1 million dollars in interest versus bonding on the free market. He thanked Director Shidaker for his work in acquiring the project funds.

Stanforth concluded by stating he had spoken to business owners and community members and the conversation is fluid. While there is a timeline for approval to secure funding and plans before construction, Stanforth stated there is time to publicly discuss the median. Stanforth also said in the meantime he will continue to actively engage with business owners and stakeholders and together they will make decisions when they meet in the spring. Stanforth stated the goal is to create a safe and efficient corridor on Rombach.

## **AUDITOR**

Auditor Hollingsworth was present but had no report.

## **SERVICE AND SAFETY DIRECTOR**

Director Shidaker summarized the legislation for accepting the lift station and the supplemental request for street paving. He mentioned he was pleased with the bid results, as they came in under the engineer's estimate.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION**

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

City Services Committee – Chairperson B. Liermann had one item.

B. Liermann introduced O-19-51 an Ordinance accepting a certain easement of 0.142 acres, more or less, and donation of 0.0574 acres, more or less, of property located near Timber Glen Subdivision from Hunter Properties, LLC to the City of Wilmington, Ohio.

Motion by B. Liermann and seconded by K. Swindler to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance an Ordinance accepting a certain easement of 0.142 acres, more or less, and donation of 0.0574 acres, more or less, of property located near Timber Glen Subdivision from Hunter Properties, LLC to the City of Wilmington, Ohio.

All yeas. 7 yeas.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

B. Liermann asked that at second and third reading be on the next council agenda.

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

K. Fickert introduced O-19-49 making miscellaneous transfers from “Salaries Dispatch” to “Salaries-Admin” the sum of \$9,000.00, from “Salaries Dispatch” to 211.390.5124 “Medicare” the sum of \$1,000.00, from “Property/Casualty” to “Utilities” the sum of \$1,653.16, from “Advertising/Promotions” to “Salaries-Drivers” the sum of \$1,000.00, from “Vehicle Fuel” to “Utilities” the sum of \$2,000.00, from “Professional Services” to “Salaries-Drivers” the sum of \$1,000.00, from “Lease/Purchase” to “Tech Services” the sum of \$680.00, from 670.380.5237 “Lease/Purchase” to “Facility Maintenance” the sum of \$3,500.00, from “Lease/Purchase” to “State & Local Fees” the sum of \$31,619.72, and from “Incidentals” to “Payroll” the sum of \$2,500.00.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by K. Swindler to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-19-49 making miscellaneous transfers.

All yeas. 7 yeas.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

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

All yeas. 7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

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

All yeas. 7 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-19-49 passed as read.

K. Fickert introduced O-19-50 making supplemental appropriations from the Water Fund to “Architectural and Engineering” the sum of \$307,100.00, from the Water Fund “Data Processing Services” the sum of \$150.00, from the Water Fund to “Fluoride Expenses” the sum of \$60,000.00, from the General Fund to “Service Director Incidentals” the sum of \$500.00, from the General Fund to “Street Paving Projects” the sum of \$1,200,000.00, from the General Fund to “Hotel Lodging Tax Transfer” the sum of \$4,795.95, and from the General Fund to “Retained Hotel Lodging Tax Transfer the sum of \$4,747.98.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by M. Snarr to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-19-50 Making supplemental appropriations.

All yeas. 7 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. 7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

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

All yeas. 7 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-19-50 passed as read.

K. Fickert introduced O-19-48 Regarding the staff pay increase for 2020-2022.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by J. McKay to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-19-48 Amending Ordinance No 5177 to increase wages under the employee pay plan for calendar year 2020, 2021, 2022.

All yeas. 7 yeas.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

K. Fickert asked that a second and third reading on the next council agenda.

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. Swindler had no legislation but noted the money and that was transferred in the supplemental was for the plant improvements and the algae bloom.

## **REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

A motion was made by J. McKay and seconded by T. Williams to accept the Income Tax Report and the Retained Hotel Lodging Tax 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report as presented.

Motion passed.

Report accepted as presented.

## **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

James Mayer, owner of 1701 Rombach Avenue, provided a LJB safety study to council as an exhibit. He reviewed the information and mentioned his concern about U-turns, stating he believes U-turns are intimidating and the speeds will go up.

Mike Curry of 2167 Mount Pleasant Road mentioned his concerns about doing a U-turn in a pickup truck. He stated he appreciates the whole project, as far as the surfacing and traffic signals, however he is concerned about safety, turning radius, and rear-end accidents.

Keith Chambers, owner of 1093 Rombach Avenue stated he wanted to clarify that he is concerned about more than impact on sales. Mr. Chambers stated he has engineers from

other counties that agree with him. He also stated it's not just a reduction of sales and tax from sales, but he will lose property value. Mr. Chamber stated he likes most of the plan and also noted there are facts that do support the median, but there are other facts that need considered.

John Adkins, owner at 1780 Rombach Avenue, stated he has talked to Fiat/Chrysler with their lawyers and they requested the information on the project because they are going to decrease his objectives. He stated this was happening because the center median will reduce sales

Nick Eveland of 856 North Lincoln Street stated he had previously chastised people and he's thankful he's now got his answers. He thanked the Mayor for keeping an open mind going forward.

K. Swindler asked for clarification about the housing development on Prairie [Avenue]. Mayor Stanforth stated they [the developers] had decided not to pursue it further at this time because there were higher costs than they had anticipated. K. Swindler stated there was some confusion from the public of why it was on hold. Clerk M. Miller stated Service Director Shidaker could type up an explanation so she could provide it to citizens seeking more information.

J. McKay mentioned the planning a follow up forum or meeting on the Rombach Avenue Project and asked where Council was on planning something of that type. K. Fickert clarified that this was a request from the public to have the engineers present as well at an open meeting. Mayor Stanforth stated a meeting had not been planned. Clerk M. Miller stated since the budget for 2020 is the most pressing item, there wouldn't be enough time this late in the year to facilitate a meeting. She stated that waiting until after budget season would be best. M. Purkey stated he believes the hallmark of this administration is not to let things sit, and he feels this is being left to sit.

Mayor Stanforth clarified from his previous statement that the timeline is not one of urgency. President M. McKay suggested after the first of the year scheduling a discussion would then be appropriate. B. Liermann agreed a discussion was needed. K. Swindler also pointed out after the first of the year, there would be a fresh council. K. Fickert stated she understands the business owners point of view, and the first of the year would be ideal for reopening the conversation. Mayor Stanforth stated this should probably be done not in Council, but in a separate meeting and the members agreed.

J. McKay mentioned the successful swearing in of Police Chief Cravens.

K. Fickert mentioned she has received a lot of positive feedback about Fathom and the meter change out. Director Shidaker mentioned there are a remaining 800 meters that need changed out and requested the newspaper to publish additional information.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by B. Liermann.

President M. McKay declared meeting adjourned.

Council adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

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President of Council

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Clerk