

COUNCIL

January 7th, 2021

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 7th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Virtually on Zoom 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; M Snarr, present; K. Fickert, present; M. Purkey, present; N. Eveland, present; B. Liermann, present; K. Swindler, present.

Chief Cravens was present as Sergeant at Arms.

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

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Motion for approval B. Liermann and seconded by J. McKay that agenda be accepted as presented.

Motion passed.

Agenda approved.

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

Motion by M. Purkey and seconded by K. Swindler to approve December 17th, 2020 minutes as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved.

MAYOR

Mayor Stanforth made a few announcements regarding Kiwanas Club, food pantry, and passing out books for children under the age of fourteen (14). COVID is trending downward. Blood drive will be January 13, 2021. Annen Vance has taken over our code enforcement and recently came out with a report where during the month of December there were one hundred seven (107) inspections, fifteen (15) new cases, seventeen (17) cases closed, twenty-two (22) certified notices sent to owners and ten (10) owners working towards compliance. The department has nineteen (19) instances with positive contact with owners. There were sixteen (16) follow up inspections scheduled and eight (8) pending receipt of certified notice.

Mayor John Stanforth gave the State of the City Address as follows:

2020 was the year of perseverance. Even though the virus has made for some difficult times, we accomplished a lot. Who would have predicted wearing a mask would become normal or ZOOM no longer a phrase from a comic book, but a new way to hold meeting. Or the new dress code for meetings is dress shirt or blouse with sweatpants and slippers. Who knows what changes in our lifestyle 2021 will bring?

Project highlights for 2020 include the expansion at the landfill, adding approximately another 30 years, keeping the disposal rates for our citizens low. This was successful and on budget because of the excellent leadership and oversight by Landfill Superintendent, Mike Crowe. Rick Schaffer, promoted to Public Works Director, oversees the Water Department, Wastewater Department, and the Stormwater Department, established in 2020. The Stormwater Department, created to ensure compliance with growing EPA requirements, is also operated with the assistance of the new Stormwater Administrator, Eric Green. Our water treatment plant is wrapping up the expansion and upgrades to meet the demands of water supply, the EPA, and the ever-evolving algal bloom. These upgrades will also allow for fluoridation of our water. Director Schaffer will also be leading the team for our new wastewater treatment plant in 2021.

2020 included a new department head, Larry Dale Bennington, now running our transit department. He has done an outstanding job of balancing the needs of our customers and keeping our driver safe. Maintenance and Repair Superintendent Jerry Runk led his department in an aggressive program to remove blight, honeysuckle, and homeless encampments. His department is also invaluable to the successful residential street paving project in the southern part of the city, including part of Sugartree Street, which we included in our annual tree program, planting trees on both sides of the street.

While my goal as Mayor has always been to maintain safety services, 2020 brought the opportunity and need to expand our safety services. Police Chief Ron Cravens added a K9 and officer and has been preparing his department for the 2021 spring launch of our bicycle patrol units. I encourage and remind our citizens we need your help fighting crime. See something, say something. Fire Chief Andy Mason led his department through the extremely challenging time, navigating the unknown of COVID-19 while responding to the calls for service. We are grateful for the vaccine provided to our responders that we know will help keep them safer and our citizens safer.

In addition to an already project heavy year, several more were added because of opportunity from CARES funding. The funds had a very short timeline to be utilized with strict guidelines. City Administrator Marian Miller oversaw the completion of server upgrades, several office and building modification upgrades, and personal protective equipment distribution projects. With the combined efforts of the Auditor's Office and the local Chamber of Commerce, she established a Small Business Grant Program, awarding over \$130,000 in emergency grant funding, providing aid to nineteen Wilmington businesses. The excellent relationship with the Auditor's Office is instrumental for this success.

2021 is going to be an incredible year, with more projects than the city has ever taken on. The Rombach Avenue project will start in the spring. The first third of Davids Drive will be designed in 2021 and completely rebuilt in 2022. Safety improvements will begin in our downtown. Mulberry Street from Locust Street to Xenia Ave will be redesigned, including the addition of a new 6" water line for Mulberry Street. Due to the generous contribution of the Roberts family, the bike trail from Nelson Ave to Ogden will be completed by summer. This trail will be completed by grants, donations, and the tenacity of Clinton County Regional Planning Executive Director, Taylor Stuckert. Thank you, Taylor. At long last, our bridge at the cemetery will finally be replaced, after navigating the difficult process of restoring a historic Champion bridge. The success and ability for these projects comes down to the success and ability to receive grants. Brian Shidaker, Safety Service Director, is a master at this. The City is on track to complete 26.609 million dollars in projects by the end of 2021. This undertaking is supported by over 19 million dollars in grant and loan funding. The City applied for and was awarded over 9.6 million dollars in grants and over 9.4 million dollars in zero-percent loans. The citizens will get a return on these investments the City is making for decades to come.

I am proud of each one of our department heads. We have the best team ever to lead the city. They are constantly aware of husbanding the taxpayer money and spend it carefully and wisely. If 2020 can be as successful as it was despite a global pandemic, I look forward to sharing the successes of 2021 with all of you.

AUDITOR

Auditor Vance had no report. Auditor Vance wanted to remind Council they are always welcome to reach out to her office. She is happy to answer any questions about finances of the City.

SERVICE AND SAFETY DIRECTOR

Safety and Service Director B. Shidaker gave a brief update on Wilmington Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement. This is the sergeants union agreement which is identical to patrol agreement previously ratified last year. The labor council is recommending the ratification of this agreement. City council needs to only make a motion to ratify the agreement.

Motion by B. Liermann and seconded by J. McKay to approve collective bargaining agreement as presented.
Motion passed.
Minutes approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION

City Revitalization Committee – Chairman M. M Snarr had no items to present.

City Services Committee – Chairman N. Eveland had no items to present.

Finance Committee – Chairperson K. Fickert had one piece of legislation to present.

K. Fickert introduced Ordinance No. O-21-2 Making Supplemental Appropriations. This will cover bond interest for the month of December in 2020 budget for the Water Trust Account.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by J. McKay to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-21-2 making Supplemental Appropriations.

7 yeas.

Motion passed.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

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

7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

Motion by K. Fickert and seconded by J. McKay to give the second and third readings on the Ordinance.

7 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.

7 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Ordinance No. O-21-2 passed as read.

Judiciary Committee – Chairperson M. Purkey had one piece of legislation to present.

M. Purkey introduced Ordinance No. O-21-1 an Ordinance Authorizing the Release of Special Assessments for Clinton County Land Reutilization Corporation Owned Properties.

Motion by M. Purkey and seconded by M. Purkey to give the first reading by title only on Ordinance No. O-21-1 an Ordinance Authorizing the Release of Special Assessments for Clinton County Land Reutilization Corporation Owned Properties.

7 yeas.

Motion passed.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

M. Purkey stated this item was discussed at the prior meeting and asked if there were any questions.

K. Swindler asked what items would be covered by the Ordinance for assessments.

Assistant Prosecutor J. Dickman stated that the intention is to abate any assessments that are on the property such as water, sewer, and lights.

Public Works Committee –Chairperson K. Swindler had no items to report.

Public Works Director Rick Schaffer stated the Grant Street Project is largely complete and has gone well overall. We are online with the water treatment plant where the chloride will begin in March. City is in final negotiations with Engineer to initiate contract for the water treatment plant with the goal of having the contract finalized in early February.

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee- Chairperson J. McKay had one piece of legislation to present.

J. McKay introduced Resolution No. R-21-1 a Resolution Accepting a Grant From the Clinton County Solid Waste District, Curbside Recycling Grant, and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by N. Eveland to give the first reading by title only on Resolution No. R-21-1 a Resolution Accepting a Grant From the Clinton County Solid Waste District, Curbside Recycling Grant, and Declaring an Emergency.

7 yeas.

Motion passed.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by N. Eveland to suspend the rules and regulations and give the second and third readings on the Resolution.

7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by N. Eveland to give the second and third readings on the Resolution.

7 yeas.

Motion Passes.

The Law Director read the Resolution by title only.

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by N. Eveland to pass the Resolution as read.

7 yeas.

Motion passes.

President of Council declared Resolution No. R-21-1 passed as read.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Motion by J. McKay and seconded by B. Liermann to approve the Income Tax Report and the Annual Report and Projections.

7 yeas.

Motion passed.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Paul Fear spoke in support of the City's tax collection efforts. Most of the time there aren't any questions about tax commission report. Mr. Fear wanted to thank the staff for this report. He specifically thanked Mark, Sherry and Julie who did an excellent job and that we are shocked and pleased with such a successful year. Except for vacation, the staff were here all the time because they can't take work home.

N. Eveland thanked staff for the report. N. Eveland asked why that the projection is less than \$1 million less that the current year.

Paul Fear stated that projections in 2020 came over projections by \$1.4 million that historically we have been \$800,000.00 less. If we have another exceptional year then we will be able to give Brian Shidaker another chance to spend more money on repairing streets.

B. Liermann asked when we might be able to switch to having in person meetings?

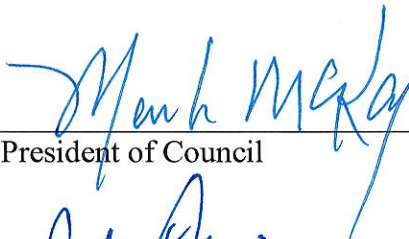
President M. McKay stated likely another month until we see a drop and people can get vaccinations.

M. Miller, City Administrator, stated the City is installing a large smart T.V. and air humidifier and a sound system with CARES ACT money in the community room to help make it a safer environment by improving audio and air circulation. Councilman M. Purkey helped work with us on a new sound system. When viewing meetings remotely, it is difficult to hear people with a mask on. If we can create an environment when we safely meet, and the public can more effectively meet when they are not in person then we can then meet in person. Upgrades have not been finalized and we are likely one month out.

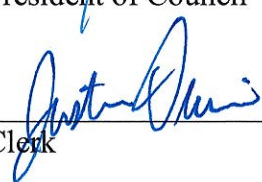
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by B. Liermann at 8:05 p.m.
President M. McKay declared meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:



President of Council



Clerk