

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 23, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Chuck Wyatt, Ken Park, Amanda Nelson, Dave Williams, Josh Carey and Melissa Shows
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Pastor Clark Genet followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – April 25, 2022

Shows so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2022

Wyatt so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Jerry McAvineu – 80 Bellevue - stated that he loves this town. He also stated that there are several places on the sidewalks and streets that when it rains, they stand with water. He also advised he had several ideas on how to fix the situation.

Old Business

a. **Res. No. 8291 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio Determining that Lot Number NPT 88 and SPT 78 Owned by the City of Rittman are no Longer Needed for Municipal Purposes and Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for its Sale as Required by Law and Declaring an Emergency. Third Reading.** Res. No. 8291 was read on third reading. Shows moved to move to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8296 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 735.05 Affidavit Required of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8296 was read on first reading. Shows moved to place on second. Williams inquired if this was from a specific incident? Shows replied that it was to clarify language described in two different paragraphs. Simpson also replied to clean up inconsistencies. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 8297 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Designating an Additional “Community Reinvestment Area” as Permitted in Section 3735.66 of the Ohio Revised Code. First Reading.** Res. No. 8297 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to place on second. Beshara stated that this was the Fast Forming Property owned by James Reedy that was annexed into the city. Upon roll call Wyatt – Yes, Park – Yes, Nelson- Yes, Williams – Yes, Shows – Yes, Carey – Abstain and **motion carried.**

c. **Ord. No. 8298 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for the Construction of a New Utility Garage on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Property at 100 Morning Star Drive and Declaring an Emergency.** **Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8298 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Wyatt moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Res. No. 8299 A Resolution of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Provisions of the Municipal Income Tax Ordinance to Provide for a Permanent Increase in the Amount of One-Half Percent (.5%) in the Income Tax Rate Effective January 1, 2023, for the Purposes of General Municipal Operations of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency.** **First Reading.** Res. No. 8299 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to place on second. Carey inquired if numbers were run to see if the reduction of credit could accomplish the same thing. A large number of residents work outside the city. Raising the tax rate may further deter companies from moving in to town. Would any portion of additional revenue proposed go directly to roads? Bulp stated that the anticipation is not to change the split of where funds go. We could look into the reduction of credit. As far as deterring businesses, it doesn't cost anymore for the company. It costs more for their employees. Beshara stated that we are at a crossroads of where we go and what do we do. How are we going to bring in more revenue? Bulp stated that they had talked about a levy, but that would also affect everyone, including retirees and people on fixed incomes. Their property taxes would go up. An income tax increase doesn't tax retirement income and Social Security. Carey inquired if this should go to the ballot first. Beshara stated that it will. Bulp stated that the legislation needs to be passed to place it on the ballot. Williams stated it is imperative to get the message out. This is the last time the people can have a voice. The Capital Night in June is prime to educate the public about what this is going to be about. People are going to want to know how this affects them. Bulp stated that the city cannot fund any campaigning to pass this. It will have to be by word of mouth and donations. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Managers Remarks

Pre-Construction meeting for Eastern, E Ohio and S Main - We held a pre-construction meeting this past Friday with Melway Construction, Chuck Lengacher, Buck Rediger, ODOT, Josh Slaga of GPD (our engineers) and CTL (our Construction Inspectors, as per ODOT requirements). The company will begin the work on August 1st and hopes to be done within 4-6 weeks. Buck and Chuck will reach out to the businesses and residents on these roads to advise them of the project and the slight impact it will have on each of them. I will reach out to the Fire and Police Departments, as well, to keep them updated on the project. All of the roads will be milled first and then the resurfacing will follow. As a reminder, we received 80% funding on these three roads and all of the bids came in under the engineer's estimate.

Rylon Printing - Rylon Printing is moving to a new location in Rittman. Their new address will be 245 N Main Street. My understanding is that they will close their Doylestown operation and move it all to Rittman. We are very excited with this expansion and wish Rylon the best. I will reach out to Wayne Economic Development Council to inform them of this vacant space on the square.

Transportation to Rittman - In our ongoing efforts to retain and bring more businesses to Rittman, Jennifer Syx from InSite Advisory Group, METRO Akron representatives and myself met to discuss transportation options to bring in workers from the Akron area. While bringing bus service to Rittman may not be occurring in the near future through METRO Akron, as we do not have a large workforce and our distance from the interstate, working with companies and METRO Akron to bring small vans to their businesses, is something that we will discuss with Rittman companies impacted by employee shortages. It was a very promising conversation.

Clean-up Day - Clean-up day was a great success. Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped with these efforts. The Chamber and the City will work to make this an annual event.

Nature Preserve ribbon cutting June 4th @11 AM. - It's going to be a great day! Hope to see everyone there.

Finance Director's Remarks

I want to bring up the Capital Plan Meeting Night. Per suggestion it was moved to Thursday, June 30. It is going to be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The intention is to be open house style. We are going to post on the web site and Facebook. We did get an announcement on the back of the water bill. I am hoping for a good turnout. I am hoping people show up and let their opinion be known. Rita has finished their calculations of what collections for us actually cost during the year. They were to retain 3% of everything they collected, 1.83% is the actual cost of collections. So, we are getting the 1.17% back next month, that amounts to a little over \$6,000.00. Lastly, GFLA finally awarded us our audit excellence award for 2020. The audit for 2021 is in the process of wrapping up in the next month or so.

Council Remarks

Wyatt – thank you Reverend for being here for the Invocation and thank you Jerry for showing up and the department heads for being here, I appreciate you.

Williams – I want to echo what Bobbie said about community clean up. It was good to get out to do some good and see more and more things around town that are going well. It is good to see people using city facilities. Good job on the audit Matt and crew. The city departments really go into work mode with Memorial Day and the cemeteries and paying proper respect to the cemetery. It's always nice to go to the ceremony with a nicely trimmed cemetery. Thank you for that. Thanks department heads.

Nelson – I'll echo Bobbie on clean up day. It went really well. I also want to thank Kris Fetter and her team on Sunday for planting pots with myself and her kids and relatives. We had a whole crew down here. It was cold. They look really nice. Mentioning some Sleepwalker stuff because we are getting in high gear. We really, really want to get city personnel involved to make their presence known, so they are accessible for our citizens. Chief's I will be sending out emails to get both of you and your staff involved as well as the city staff.

Park – my nephew said we need to step up our game in Rittman. What he was talking about was pretty interesting to me. They bought a house in Bay Village they were impressed because the mayor came knocking on their door and had a little packet and told them about what was going on in town. Had information on parks and other stuff. I thought that was interesting.

Carey – thank you everyone that is in attendance tonight. Thanks to everyone involved with the nature preserve and all the hard work that they have been doing to get that up and running. It's pretty exciting to have that officially being kicked off in a couple of weeks.

Shows – echoing the thanks of course that everybody else has put out there. And just to remind everyone that school ends Thursday. Which means that a lot of the children will be out free. A lot more activity going on which is going to be a lot more work for other departments. Just encouraging drivers to be safe, that kids are not always the best decision makers riding out in traffic and whatnot. They will be free Thursday at 1:30.

a. **Motion to go Into Executive Session in Accordance with ORC 121.22 to Consider the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Promotion, Demotion or Compensation of a Public Employee or Official and to Invite the Mayor, City Manager, Finance Director, Law Director and Chief Sweigert – 7:34.** Shows so moved. Williams seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. **Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 7:56.** Carey so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 7:57 p.m. Wyatt moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council