

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
January 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Ken Park, Brian Smith, Philip Decker, Josh Carey and Leah Weirick
Members Absent: Darrell Carey
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Philip Decker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2019

Weirick moved to approved, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Lee Winchell – 606 Rufener and office 34 S. Main. Mr. Winchell wanted to know the process that went through as far as changes to the City Solicitor. Mayor Robertson advised that comments made to Council would not result in dialog relating to the issue. Mr. Winchell stated that the conversation he had with the City Manager, that it appears that there was no particular process other wanting Kevin replaced. The other question was if that was the case was the position at that point in time advertised that you were looking for a new Solicitor? There might have been someone else interested. There are at least three other attorneys in town that may have very well been interested in the position. It appears to me that it was kind of like a good old boys back door, this is what we are going to do. The other thing was that I talked to Kevin because I guess if there was a reason for him to be fired, I wanted to find out what. He didn't know anything about it. Derek confirmed that with me with my phone call, but Kevin wasn't even told that he was being replaced until after Matt had already been hired. Which is a dirty way to do an employee that's lived here in this city for over 30 years, whose children grew up and graduated from the city school. You don't even give him the courtesy of indicating to him, by the way, we are unsatisfied with what you are doing and we are thinking about terminating you. To me that seems to be a pretty poor way of doing business. And then my question was Matt the only applicant? My communication was that there was no application process, he was appointed because someone on Council wanted him to be appointed. So, again I find that an interesting way for the City to do business. I guess the other question I have is it appears, that my understanding is that, at this point in time is the Charter intended to be amended as far as the EMS and the Fire Department being separate departments? The Mayor advised that not a part of the Charter being separate as far as he knows. Mr. Winchell advised that someone should check that out as well.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Motion to Accept the Resignation of Darrell Carey.** Decker so moved. Upon roll call: Park – Yes, Smith – Yes, Decker – Yes, Josh – Abstain, Weirick – Yes and **motion carried.** Mayor Robertson stated that according to the Charter Council has 60 days or 3 meetings to fill the position. It is up to Council on how you want to fill the position. If someone has expressed an interest, an appointment could be made. Or we can appeal to the newspapers to put something in one of their articles that we have an opening and for anyone to send in a letter of interest and Council can consider those that apply. I don't know if anyone has any thoughts on how you want to proceed with that.

Park replied that his only comment is what we have done in the past is interview folks that were interested. It doesn't matter to me we have some people that have said they were interested. One of them is a former Council person. We can discuss as a group how we want to do it or if we just want to do it quickly. I don't want to take the 60 days and 3 meetings because then it will be another month and a half. As far as that I am fine with whatever the rest of the group wants to do.

Mayor Robertson advised that if you do get letters of interest then it is up to you if you want to pick somebody based on those letters or if you want to interview the people. I think in the past we had 10 to 15 minute sessions with the 3 or 4 people that were interested. Anybody else have a thought?

Weirick responded that she was fine either way. I think we need to make a decision so we can get it moving if we are going to put it out there that we want letters.

Decker inquired if there are already people have expressed interest.

Smith responded yes.

Mayor Robertson asked Pam Keener if we have ever advertised in the paper. We just made it know though the Daily Record and the Post. Maybe something on Facebook page.

Decker replied that he was more comfortable making it public. Who ever may submit something rather than only consider those that have already shown interest. I'm inclined to throw a wider net.

Josh stated then you see how interested they really are. If they are interested then they have to go through the process and some will say forget it.

Smith stated that the next meeting is the 11th. How much notice do we give and where do we want them sent them back so we can start looking at them?

Park stated its not like they give resumes. We just got a simple letter – I am interested and then they came in and we talked for 15 minutes before the Council meeting.

Smith inquired how much time is needed to make this determination. Decker advised that he would not be available the first meeting in March. Smith stated that we need the information by February 6, 2019.

b. Res. No. 8096 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Finance Director to Make Advances and/or Transfers to or from Appropriate Accounts. Three Readings. Res. No. 8096 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Smith moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

c. Ord. No. 8097 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8081 as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings. Ord. No. 8097 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Park moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

City Manager's Remarks

I want to thank the Service Department for the hard work that they did over the last two weeks with the snow. You are not going to make everyone happy, just ask Cleveland and Akron, especially Akron, but the guys worked hard they were out at night in treacherous weather to make sure the roads were cleared. They deserve a lot of thank you from a lot of us for the work that they do. With the temperatures below low freezing this week, the Rittman EMS and Fire Department and the Rittman Recreation Center are teaming up to provide a warming shelter in case anyone needs anything like that. We don't have the homeless problem as Wooster and possibly Akron, I know if someone's furnace goes out and they are in that house when its cold they can contact Fire Chief Sweigert at 330-465-2656. Smith inquired of Sweigert if this got him also hours also. Sweigert replied it did.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing at this time.

Council Remarks

Smith – thank you everyone for coming.

Weirick – echo what Derek said about our Service Department.

Josh – same, kudos to the Service Department, they did a great job this past week.

Park – nothing tonight.

Decker – nothing further.

Mayor Robertson – thank you to Darrell for his years of service to the community as well. I am sure this was a very hard decision for him and we enjoyed working with him and I am sure when he is back on his feet, he will be sitting out there bothering us.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 9370 thru 9431 and Memo Expense #'s M01191 thru M01195.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 7:20 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council