

**Rittman City Council Met in a  
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM  
February 22, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Amanda Nelson, Josh Carey, Dave Williams, Leah Weirick, Melissa Shows and Philip Decker

**Members Absent:** None

**Presiding:** Mayor William Robertson

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

**Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2021.**

Williams moved to approve, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Weirick – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Williams– Yes, Carey - Yes and **motion carried.**

**Workshop**

a. **Josh Slaga from GPD Engineering will be Discussing Funding Opportunities of the Water Main Transmission Replacement and the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades.** Discussion was had regarding the issues that are becoming imminent at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The treatment plant needs to be updated. Also, the main water transmission needs to be replaced. Right now, there are historically low interest rates so, it's a great time to take advantage of these programs. The three projects that we identified included the Waste Water Treatment Plant as it is nearing the end of its useful life. That is a big project and will cost millions of dollars. You want to do it while you are still in compliance and you don't want to wait and find yourself in trouble with the EPA. The second project is the main transmission line that goes along Sterling Avenue. It is over three miles and we are talking millions of dollars: about 3.2 million dollars estimate. This is to supply water to the city. The third project would be the lead service line replacements, which is something the city already does on a yearly basis and is already looking to do with the yearly capital improvement plan. There could be opportunities bundle multiple projects to utilize savings through different funding opportunities. The main funding sources are all through the Ohio EPA Division of Financial Assistance. This is a two-step process. There is the nomination phase and then the loan application. It is really through two phases of planning and design and then construction.

There are two funds. The first is the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. It has the planning and design phase at a 0% interest rate for a five-year term. The construction is at a 0.22% for small communities. That project needs to be nominated by August 31, 2021 and construction in 2022.

The water transmission project nomination form is due March 3, 2021. The planning and design loan is at 0% interest rate and construction is currently at 0%. The term of the loan is anywhere from 0 years to 20 years. The lead service line replacement would be through the WSRLA Program. This one does have the principal forgiveness program. There is up to 20 million dollars currently available and each community can have up to 2 million dollars of principal forgiveness. If you would combine multiple streets together and create a one-million-dollar project there is the chance that you would have zero dollars out of pocket to make that project happen. Again, that nomination form is by March 3, 2021.

**Citizens Forum**

None

**Old Business**

a. **Res. No. 8215 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. Third Reading.** Res. No. 8215 was read on third reading. Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

#### **New Business**

a. **Ord. No. 8217 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 171.69 Education Pay of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8217 was read on first reading. Decker moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.** Nelson moved to adopt. Simpson stated that during the bargaining with the Police Union and Service Union, we have some inconsistencies with the amounts that we are offering for the various degrees. In discussing that and then looking at the ordinance that we had, the only difference is under section one, as it currently stands to say any that employee who has received the following degree shall receive the stipend. We are adding in any non-collective bargaining unit employee, just to clarify. This is specifically for the non-union people and the union people will negotiate their amounts in their contracts. The amounts did not change. Williams inquired if an employee had all three degrees would they receive \$825.00? Simpson replied no, you would just receive the highest one. Williams responded that he figured that was implied but he didn't know with union matters if we needed to be explicit about it. Simpson stated we could clarify that. Apparently, we haven't run into this issue very much. Simpson stated it should say, they shall receive an additional annual payment for the highest degree earned as referenced below.

Williams stated he would like to amend that the Ordinance recognizing that the payment is for the highest degree earned for the non-collective bargaining employee, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Motion to adopt 8217 as amended, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8218 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8200 as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8218 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Approve Gift Card Purchases to Home Depot for 2020 Pursuant to House Bill 312 and the City of Rittman Policy.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Motion to Approve the Renewal of the Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District for Parcel Numbers 36-00610.000 and 62-00005.000 for Michael N. and Norene K. Miller.** Carey inquired if this was one that we do every year or two and Challinor responded it is every five years. Nelson moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

#### **City Manager's Remarks**

Beshara stated we are getting closer and closer to being ready to go out to bid on the Nature Preserve, I think we are at 90%. I think we are very, very close as far as what it is going to look like. I think we will be able to get something to Council in the next couple of weeks so they can also see where we are going with this. If you have any questions on the

design, give us a call or send an email and we can talk about it. Council, if you have not set up your Microsoft account, Outlook, we can't change that until everybody sets it up. We are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through all of the employees having done this. If you have not, please do it very soon. You all received my email about electric aggregation. We will be able to go out and look at better rates for gas. That's the good news, and the other good news like I said about the electric is that we are tied into the same rate so it can't go up for three years and we have to live with that rate at this time. I would have done anything I could have differently, but I can't do anything. That's where we are with it. Also, we are continuing to work with our two unions. We are very close on the police agreement, so I believe at the next meeting we will ask for an Executive Session to discuss the collective bargaining agreement for all of the unions and we will continue to work on the other one. Covid has really put a hit on us being able to get together in person, however we have done zoom meetings but it has been a real struggle and we are finally getting back on track with all of that. This will be a burden on Trudy as she is going to go back all the way to January 1 and figure it all out. It is just one of those years. I can't tell you enough how much I would have liked to accomplish this at the end of last year. That's all I have for tonight.

### **Finance Director's Remarks**

Bubp stated that he didn't have anything specific to report on at this time. Rhea and Associates began their audit today. We continue to move along with the GAP Conversion. Those are our big projects for the moment.

### **Council Remarks**

Decker – nothing to add this evening.

Shows – I want to thank Amanda and Garrick for their work on the Chamber Banquet and all of the awards for our citizens. We were able to keep it very socially distanced. We finished it up this afternoon. There will be a video coming where the community can see different recipients receiving their awards. Amanda did put a lot of work into that and thank you to the Mayor and Bobbie and the others that came to help honor these citizens. We couldn't do it the way we normally do, but I think it will be nice.

Weirick – I have nothing tonight.

Carey – thanks to the guys that are working on the waterlines in the bitter freezing cold. I thought they did a pretty good job getting that back up and running in a very timely fashion for all that they were dealing with. A big shoutout to those guys. That's all I have tonight.

Williams – good to see Missy and Chief Shows back from the last meeting. Thank you, road crews, for the snow and ice removal on the roads and keeping our citizens safe. I have noticed that Kimble has been doing a better job with picking up trash and not leaving remnants in the road. I just wanted to give positive feedback for that where it was due. I want to thank Missy and the schools for continuing to educate our kids in a tough time. I travel to a lot of school districts and the fact that we have kept five days a week is a testament to our leadership and our teachers that work hard in the front lines every day. I'll echo what Josh said about thanking the water department for putting in the hard work and for an outstanding job. That's it.

Nelson – I would like to echo Missy about our Chamber event. I appreciate her coming out and helping us with that and getting that all recorded. That was really great. It turned out good other than we didn't get to have our actual dinner, but for the most part it should be pretty fun to watch. I would also like to thank Chief Shows for speaking with me on parking issues and kind of getting me up to speed on that. I am glad to hear that he is taking some initiative and working on some of those things that may be confusing or stressful for our citizens. And also, about the parks again, I would like to thank Leah for taking the time to look through all that information that was given to her and reach out to me and Garrick about that. It's pretty evident that there is a lot of work that needs done in our parks

even if you didn't look at any of the information that was given to you. I feel that it will be in our best interest to consider closing some of our parks at this point before we even head into Spring and Summer. It is going to help our maintenance guys; we are looking into this Nature Preserve and getting that going. We need all the extra hands that we can to maintain that. Lincoln, Salt Street, Front Street those are the first three I would say that Leah and Garrick would agree with me on all three of those. Salt Street, Morton would probably be more than happy to take back which would be revenue for our city. Front Street would give our guys more room possibly down at the garage if they need it. And then Lincoln I am sure there would be a developer that would love to put a cul-de-sac in there and a bunch of houses. Those are just options that I'm throwing out there. The other thing is that Leah had brought up that we make exceptions to budgets all the time for other departments and we haven't really done anything with our parks in a long time. We still have that equipment sitting that needs to be put up in Fritz which I would absolutely love to see in before the summer. I know that that the ground is an issue but it's been sitting there and it needs to be put in. That is where I am at with everything and I just want Matt Bubb's opinion on stuff to look into this and see what we can do to get our parks up to code and where they need to be for our citizens, for our children for stuff for them to do. I just don't think it needs to keep being overlooked as much as it has been. Weirick stated that she had Matt put something together in finance related, and will forward to you (Amanda) what he put together for me. Beshara stated that she asked Chuck, I think he already did it to take the equipment out of Lincoln and also Salt Street. Lengacher responded all three parks were removed. Beshara stated that they are going to be putting the equipment in Fritz this year. We are getting there.

a. **Approval Voucher #'s 13603 thru 13680.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

**Adjourn: 7:30 p.m.** Shows moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council