

**Rittman City Council Met in a  
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM  
March 8 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 Pastor Rick Thompson of Hillside Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

**Citizens Forum**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

a. **Ord. No. 8219 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance 8200, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8219 was read on first reading. Weirick 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.**

b. **Ord. No. 8220 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 1163.07 (a) C2 Central Business District of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8220 was read on first reading. Shows moved to place on second, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Ord. No. 8221 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Purchase a 2022 HV507 SFA Vehicle from Truck Sales and Service, Inc. for the Sum not to Exceed \$90,607.92 and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8221 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.** Nelson moved to adopt. Carey and Williams inquired what the purpose of the new truck is. Lengacher responded that the new truck is to replace the 1999 International 4900. It was supposed to be replaced three years ago. None of the gauges work. Last fall the mechanic looked at the truck to see what needed to be fixed or replaced. The repairs would cost more than the truck is worth. Lengacher looked for a truck that would meet their needs without spending more money than was needed. It is similar to the white one we have now. Williams inquired if it would have a dump bed? Lengacher responded that it is a stainless dump bed. We have a fairly new V-box that we purchased a few years ago. It isn't worth putting any more money into

the old one. It has needed replaced for a while; it was in the budget last year to purchase one. Williams inquired if there was any retail sale on the old one? Lengacher responded that he thinks he could get something out of it. It does run. For many years we haven't taken it out of town, if anything would happen, we would have to pay to have it towed back to the city. Beshara stated this did not have to go out to bid because it is in accordance to Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Act. Williams inquired what the life expectancy would be? Lengacher responded if we take care of it properly a good 20 years. I would like to make it so they are not totally trashed when we are done with them. The stainless bed will help. The bed is the first thing to go because they rust out. We do spray them off almost every time they come back in from snow storms. If we can get 15 – 20 years and still get a decent trade in, the next truck won't be this expensive. The salesman said they would take the old one in on trade, but he hasn't been here to look at it yet. I'm not real sure what we can get out of it. The last 2 that were sold the 1990 we got around \$2,500.00 and the 1995 that was sold 4 – 5 years ago we got around \$4,500.00 - \$5,000.00. Mayor Robertson inquired if it was also a truck that was used for snow plowing? Lengacher responded that they have the plow they just have to get an adapter to fit the plow that we have. The upfit for the truck, the safety lights, the bed, all of the hydraulics, will be a little over \$40,000.00. Williams stated that a while back we bought paving equipment from Lorain. Is this something that would match into that paving equipment? Lengacher stated the paver they actually looked into getting rid of. We don't have the manpower to do it. It isn't going to be cost effective in the long run. There is not enough manpower and will take too much time. If that happens, we would like to get an asphalt drag, which is similar but it does a really good job. It would benefit the City greatly, make our streets better, it would be fast, it is something we can do. All Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor Robertson stated that the Boy Scouts have joined the meeting and welcomes them.

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

#### **Road project update**

I wanted to let Council know that the repaving projects, and in consultation with Josh Slaga of GPD and Chuck, we have decided to push out the Ohio and S Main paving to spring of 2022. This will give us better pricing as it will be at the start of the paving season instead of the end of the paving season. This has been approved by AMATS who is funding 80% of the project.

#### **Water main replacement nomination**

The City of Rittman **Water main transmission replacement project** has been submitted to the Ohio EPA for the WSRLA program as well as the **Sterling Avenue lead line replacement**. Mike Brown will make certain that the other lines he has identified for replacement are lead, before we make an additional nomination which will be in 2022. Our hope is that these two projects will get funded this year with work being completed in early 2022. Regarding the **WW Treatment Plant**, we will nominate our eligible projects after Mike and Josh of GPD have a final review of the plant.

#### **Nature Preserve update**

The Nature Preserve bid documents are at 95% completion. Our biggest hurdle continues to be the entrance on Route 57. On Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> the mayor, Council member Dave Williams and myself will meet with the Hull team, the Army Corp of Engineers and the EPA to look at the option ODOT has given us for access into Project Area 1 as it is a wetland area. We will keep Council posted as soon as we know for certain that we can make an

entrance to this side of the Nature Preserve based on all three agencies requirements. As the weather is warming up, there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities to help out on the Nature Preserve. I will post those dates as soon as I receive them from the mayor.

### **Census recognition**

The U.S. Census Bureau recognized the City of Rittman for our partnership and engagement for the 2020 census. Thank you, Mayor, for your effort. We received this recognition by Dr. Steven Dillingham, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **Deadline for filing taxes is April 15, 2021**

As a reminder to your constituents, the deadline for filing your taxes is April 15<sup>th</sup>. While Shelley cannot prepare taxes, she will help answer any questions our residents and businesses may have by calling her office at 330-925-2057.

Chief Shows completed a mandatory new Chief training through the Ohio Police Association in London, Ohio. It is a mandatory training and is a good thing. Shows responded that it was a good training. It showed him a lot of things that need to be cleaned up, records retention, budgets and a lot of policy stuff. In talking with the other Chiefs with the programs that we have, our Lexipol policy program, we are already ahead of the curve.

Chief Sweigert has gone through his ISO analysis which is Insurance Service Office. Our ISO rating, our public protection classification went down to a 3 which is good for your homeowner's insurance and also means that we are doing some great things in town to protect our businesses and residents through our fire department. Chief Sweigert responded the score is made up of 50% of the fire department, 40% is the water department, so kudos to Mike Brown and his water department. They did outstanding and scored really well. And then 10% dispatch services. We ended up, the last time we were tested was 2012 we were rated a 4. With the current rating we are a 3. That is comparable to Wadsworth and Orrville. From a marketing standpoint to bring in businesses and add property value and they have to buy insurance, that should make us competitive with the insurance rates in those two communities. That's where it really plays a big factor when it comes to marketing, if we are going to put a big building out there. It should help Morton Salt, the current businesses that are in town right now. This takes effect June 1; they should be able to go to their insurance agents and say we have moved from a 4 to a 3. They should see a reduction in their insurance because of this. The only way we are going to do any better, we think, is look at full time staffing. We do a good job; they take that into consideration. We are in the top 17% of fire departments in the United States with a 3. I am proud of our guys. Williams inquire that we have a volunteer fire department and got an outstanding rating, is that number goal for full time fire departments as well? Are we doing a lot with a little? Sweigert responded it wouldn't necessarily be full time, there are a number of parameters that you have to meet. Part of it is the number of people you get per emergency call, the number of trucks you get out the door. Equipment wise we are really pretty good. Where we are lacking is daily training and weekly training, where they look at shifts. They aren't looking at how often you are getting the training numbers out there. We do a good job in training, but to get to that next level to push up we are going to have to spend a lot more time in training which where you see that is people are running shifts. If someone is running a 24/48, they are there every three days, they are coming in they are doing a 3 – 4-hour training, because they are there all day. Those hours then go towards the scoring and that scores up. We are doing really well to have a 3.

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

Tonight, I want to touch specifically on the Regional Income Tax Agency. We have talked about this briefly before. I know there are feelings on it in different directions. There is going to be legislation coming for its first reading two weeks from now to start authorizing the transition to the Regional Income Tax Agency. I want to take a moment to just to talk about a little more concretely. Our point of contact with RITA through this process is a gentleman named Brian Thunberg, he's been really good. He is going to be with us at our meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for a workshop where he is going to give a brief presentation on their services and the transition and how that all will work, and what it means for the citizens or residents and business. For now, if there are specific questions, specific things you would like for me to bring to his attention, I might be able answer some of them, others I can let him know that those are the concerns and he can maybe work them into his workshop.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for February, 2021.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

### **Council Remarks**

Carey- I don't have anything at this time.

Shows – I am looking forward to the spring sports returning to our parks. I know that know that's well underway, something we missed out on last year. I am really proud of the agreement that we reached and that's all starting. The kids are practicing and really looking forward to it. I know there is a lot of work behind the scenes for the City workers helping to make that happen. Thank you.

Mayor Robertson – One of our wrestlers did very well in districts.

Nelson – I want to remind everybody that the Easter Basket giveaway is coming up on March 27<sup>th</sup> it is at 3:00 p.m. We are doing the same thing that we did last year with just the drive thru to kind of still social distance. We are still looking for donations, either monetary or candy, toys anything to fill baskets as we have 500 to fill. That's all I have tonight.

Decker – I have nothing this evening.

Williams – I would like to thank Mr. Thompson for leading the Invocation, Chief Shows congratulations on your OPOTA Training. It is quite an honor to do that. Thank the scouts for joining us tonight and getting their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. I think this might fulfil the requirements and let everybody know that they are selling flowers in the community as a fundraiser and I think it will be in time for Mother's Day. If you need to get flowers look up a local scout and get some nice flowers. I wanted to thank Garrick and Amanda, Chuck and Buck and Bobbie for making quite a movement on the parks, improving the parks. I think that's needed and thank you for making headway with that. Chief Sweigert thanks working with Mike Brown and everyone getting that good rating. I think that's another feather in our cap for marketing the City, and really appreciate that. Thanks to Traci Cristino, Bill Goebel and Adam for joining us. There is a band show coming up, all grades are going to be in the band show and it's going to be a Zoom feed if people want to watch our kids participate in band 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades, they will be able to catch it on Zoom. I can get more information for people if they are interested especially for people who can't get out or still protecting from Covid, it would be a nice way to participate in the community. That's all I have.

Weirick – nothing further.

Mayor Robertson – I got a notice that elementary school is going to have reading under the lights again this year. Modified version, sort community participation and sort of in the school, but it is going to be on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will get out more information on that, looking for donations, and people to participate reading books and being a role model and doing some pretty cool stuff. We had a few of our City workers were out Sunday out on the Nature Preserve and did an unbelievable amount of work out there on the south section. I just wanted to pass that along to Mike and Chuck, I appreciate the guys going out and using

the equipment. Contact me if you want to be added to my email list to work at the Nature Preserve.

a. **Approval Voucher #'s 13681 thru 13730 and memo Expense #'s M32101 thru M32117.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

**Adjourn: 7:33 p.m.** Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council