

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Melissa Shows, Josh Carey, Dave Williams, Philip Decker, Leah Weirick and Amanda Nelson
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Pastor Bud Olszewski followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2020.

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

Citizens Forum

Vickie Pelfrey – 41 Strawberry Hill -She was here two years ago addressing the paving of the roads. She was informed that they would be taken care of. The last two the years they haven't done any roads. It's shameful. She is sure that there is more than herself getting front end alignments. You can do all of the roads at once, but you can do a few roads every year.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8164 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and Sate of Ohio, Amending Section 971.07 Water from Hydrants of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman.** First Reading. Ord. No. 8164 was read on first reading. Williams moved to place on second. Williams inquired how much 1,000 gallons of water costs? Clerk Challinor responded \$15.97, something like that. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8165 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Quotes for the Renewal for Errors and Omissions Coverage, for all Members of the Fire Department, Property and Casualty, Auto, General Liability, Ambulance Malpractice Insurance, Law Enforcement Liability and Public Officials Insurance for a Period of One (1) Year Commencing June 1, 2020 and to Enter into Agreements for the Same and Declaring an Emergency.** First Reading. Ord. No. 8165 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to place on second. Carey inquired what the deadline for when you are going to stop accepting bids for this? Keener advised May. Carey inquired the first week of May? Keener advised yes. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Ord. No. 8166 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 Waste Hauling & Recycling Pick Up Contract for the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8166 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Williams stated that he hasn't been happy with Kimble as a customer. As people have reached out to me on social media it seems that their automated system throws the trash and if it's a windy day, it's all over the neighborhood and they just keep driving by. I have taken it upon myself to email them a month or two ago and they have not to me shown any improvement even though they have promised that. I have a lot of people videotaping or taking pictures of what messes they have left behind. I was on Council when we went with them from Waste Management and I think they came in at a cheaper rate but we were also happy with the less of a carbon footprint because their trucks are run on natural gas instead of diesel fuel. It seems that the litter they are leaving behind is worse than the carbon footprint that they are leaving. I know with our tariffs with Asia we are kind of in a bind with recycling rates and what they will take and not. I know there's bigger global issues that steering the issue here. I think we really need to be considerate to having other companies go for the bid as well. It's not just a pass it through. I know that would mean that they would have to come back and get their trash cans, but maybe that will increase our service to us or their rates. To inconvenience them that they'd have to come get the trash and recycle bins. I hope that we can get some qualified bids in this process. Shows stated that they have missed streets, trucks breaking down, so trash has to sit for a day or two until the trucks come back to get it. I know that's not pleasing to many of the residents because then animals get in it. Beshara stated that while we are talking about this, just a reminder to everyone that we need to take the trash cans in the day after they are picked up. I know that's also an issue. All of your comments are noted. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

Thank you, first of all I was out sick and I cursed myself because said I would probably get sick my first two weeks. I do want to address your comments, I have been working with the Service Director on roads that need to be paved. We are working to get some roads done this year plus we have a piece of equipment that we are going to use to take care of the parking lot at Fritz Park and we are going to try our own paving on that park. We may take it to one of our roads, but we will have roads paved this year. I just have to go over with the Finance Director and make sure we are in a good place to get the roads done that you are talking about. Also, I wanted to let you know on March 20 I am meeting with a representative with EDG which is Environmental Design Group. What we are going to do is we are going to walk the downtown area and talk about what can we do with the downtown? We are putting in the planters obviously and we put in garbage cans. We are going to be walking downtown. If you have any ideas, suggestions before March 20 please let me know. It's just a first meeting, but I wanted somebody to come in and see what a great area this is and how can we refresh the downtown? We know we have other businesses that are leaving and we don't want that happening, we want it to be welcoming. On Thursday, February 27 I attended the Reading Under the Lights meeting at the elementary school with the Mayor. Reading Under the Lights will be held on Friday, May 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Rittman High School. There will be fun activities for our families along with free dinner for each attendee. Reading Circles with celebrity readers, free books and much more. This is being sponsored by Morton Salt, the City of Rittman, Rittman Schools, the Wayne County Public Library, our Rittman Library and the United Way. I have flyers if anybody would like to take a flyer home. On Friday, February 28 at the Rec Center during the Senior breakfast, the Mayor made a presentation regarding the nature preserve and knowing that I couldn't attend Sunday evening I attended that meeting. They Mayor did a great job. I think everyone is excited about the nature preserve. This leads me to two items

that I would like to inform Council on, one is that I signed the closing documents on the land for the nature preserve. Once we have a lot split completed which comes before the Planning Commission on March 25 the land will be transferred to the City. I want to thank Urban Renewables and Matt and Derek and everybody who has worked on this project, Hull and Associates, the Mayor. It's a really exciting project for our community. Tomorrow the kick off meeting with Hull and Associates will assist with the layout of the preserve. We will go over the details of the grant award and grant agreement. As this is a kick off meeting I will have much more to present and to include Council in over the next several months. The Mayor and I talked about stakeholder meetings and getting the public involved with what they would like to see in the preserve. We will work toward that goal over the next several months. I attended the Ohio City Managers Conference in Columbus last Wednesday through Friday. While there I attended seminars but on by many professionals from across Ohio on different subjects such as Union Negotiations how to work on social media and make sure that you don't have too much going on social media and when to respond when not to respond. There were all sorts of different seminars. Those are just a couple to mention. The International City Managers Convention will be held in Columbus in 2022. I have meetings set up with business owners in Rittman and have met with some owners already and make it a point to introduce myself to residents who walk into our office, I shake hands, I wash my hands. I try to say hi to many of the people so they know who I am. I want to commend our staff; they are very busy handling all sorts of issues and as they arise and I commend each and every one of our employees for their continued dedication to Rittman. I am really lucky to be here, it is a great, great community.

The Mayor stated that the Reading Under the Lights flyer will be on the back of the water bill next month.

Williams inquired if the EDG is an architectural firm? Beshara responded they are an environment design group, so their planners, engineers, architects. It's just a first blush meeting because I know them, I know what they have done, so I just thought that I would meet with them and see if they have any ideas, any grants available, little steps first. We know we have some sidewalks that need to be replaced but we also have some underlying issues of storm water on Main Street. Before we do anything, we have to see what is going on under the street. Williams inquired if they do this as a way to get their foot in the door? Is there a fee involved? Beshara replied not this first one, there's no fee at all, it's just a meeting. Williams stated for being sick I'd say you've done quite a bit.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing this evening, thank you. Beshara stated that she didn't address Landis Ditch, let me go back. Today we had our first meeting, the Mayor attended with GPD, they won the bid for Landis Ditch. They explained to us what the process is going to be. The first part of the process is surveying all around the ditch and water areas. They will possibly be putting in a monitoring devise to see the levels of the ditch, but we think that has already been done with Derek. That might save some money on that one. That's the first part of this project. That's about a ten-month study, hopefully from start to finish. I think they are going to do a great job and give us some advice and ideas on what we can do. We met with them and talked about what of this and what of that. We hope that we will be able to apply for more grants in the future from this study. That's part of what this is about. No matter what it's going to be an expensive problem that we are going to have in the future. With grants available and if FEMA sees that we are trying and they know are doing the study, they are going to be more willing. The Mayor stated that is what Derek was doing, looking at grants and the first submission was your EMA study and we did not have that. We got a grant to do the study. That's good. There is no money out of our pocket yet.

a. Motion to Approve the Financial Report for February, 2020. Weirick moved to approve. Williams inquired about all of the vehicle lease payments, is that for

police department is that for general trucks? Keener advised it is for service, police, admin, EMS. We are in a five-year lease program with Enterprise. Beshara stated that she met with the Enterprise representative in Columbus and he gave me the name of our contact, and I thought I would go over and review that and just see if we want to stay in this program for the future, if this is worth it or not. I think the staff likes it because they know they have vehicles that are going to work day in and day out. It's very important in that aspect, just want to see if buying vs. leasing in the future if we want to change that. Keener advised that the way it works is every five years we trade them in. Williams inquired in what respect do we help Laria, I guess looking at buying local, staying local? Is Enterprise just cheaper in bid than what we can get locally? Keener advised that we have stuff, that she knows Don has been diligent about getting quotes from Laria. All yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Shows – nothing tonight, thank you.

Carey – nothing tonight.

Decker – nothing further.

Nelson – last Friday I was able to attend a meeting with the Wayne County Health Department regarding the emergency preparedness for COVID-19 that we are now experiencing. I wanted to share some information; it was a lot of information. Basically, it is just how to help our residents contain their fear and anxiety over the virus. You know how to get your churches and your congregations and anything with mass gatherings. Also, our businesses how to prepare if their employees have to be quarantined and they can't work. Basically, just preparing for the worst without expecting the worst. I have all of this information; I did post a lot of it on my social media page for everyone. If there's anyone who you think is not on social media that would benefit from some of this information, just contact me and I can email it. It is also available on the CDC website and the Ohio Health Department website as well as the Wayne County Health Department website. The biggest thing I got out of it was wash your hands. Just wash your hands. Sing happy birthday twice while washing them. And then get your flu shot. The flu shot is not going to help with COVID-19 but it is going to help in case there is a mass of outbreak of COVID-19 that they won't have to be taking care of flu patients which are more prevalent right now than this virus. Sleepwalker planning is in full force and I just wanted to let everybody know that I am able to get rides to come in this year, which is huge. I just found out over the week end and I am pretty excited about it. I'll be starting fundraising for that because it is pretty expensive. They will be where the Library is going to be. They are not huge but they are mechanical. We will have probably three or four mechanical rides and then inflatables like we usually do. Shows responded she wanted to jump in out of turn, Jon Ritchie put out an email today from the schools as well a voice robo call, where the school has announced their plans and readiness and things and made information on their web site also linking to CDC and similar information. That came out within the last hour. Beshara responded she is going to post something on social media today, maybe what I will do Amanda, is get it from you and then share it.

Mayor Robertson stated the Wayne County Health Department a good place to send people to get correct information. Nelson stated she went for the Chamber of Commerce and they wanted to prepare us to be able to answer questions.

Williams – I wanted to thank the Mayor and Chief Sweigert for attending the Wayne Economic Development Council breakfast. Thanks for keeping us on the map with those folks in Wooster and just being out there and getting the information. Ms. Pelfrey thank you for coming to the meeting tonight, I think I recall you came years ago I think I was at that meeting as well. Then Milton Road was a mess. I'd like to apologize on behalf of the City for what a wreck that road is still. It is a poor excuse of a road and I go that way every day and I share your sympathies with traveling that road. Thanks to Bobbie for having a plan and going out with George and prioritizing the City's needs and I understand you have a white board in your office and you have goals and projects. I was happy to hear the type A

person that you plans in motion, so I am really happy about that. Thanks, Mike and Chief Sweigert, I appreciate it.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 11919 thru 12031 and Memo Expense #'s M22015 thru M22020.** Decker moved to approve, all yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to go into Executive Session for the Purpose to Discuss Hiring of a Public Official and to Invite the Law Director, Mayor and City Manager and Finance Director and excuse Leah Weirick - 7:29 p.m.** Shows so moved. Decker seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Come out of Executive Session – 7:42 p.m.** Williams moved to approve. Shows seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

Adjourn: - 7:43 p.m. Nelson moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council