

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
April 8, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Ken Park, Brian Smith, Josh Carey, Philip Decker, Dave Williams and Leah Weirick
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

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

Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2019.

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

Citizens Forum

Howard McComas stated that the Boy Scouts in attendance were there working on their Citizenship Merit Badge. Part of the requirement is to attend a Council Meeting.

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8103 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Ohio, to Approve the Editing and Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as Parts of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinances; to Provide for the Adoption of New Matter in the Updated and Revised Codified Ordinances; to Provide for the Publication of Such New Matter; to Repeal Ordinances and Resolutions in Conflict Therewith; and Declaring an Emergency. Third Reading.** Ord. No. 8103 was read on third reading. Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8104 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, 2019 and to Enter into Agreements for the Same, and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading.** Ord No. 8104 was read on second reading. Decker moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8107 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Providing for the Compensation of Certain City Employees, Effective Date and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Ord No. 8107 was read on first reading. Smith move to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

The Mayor explained to the Scouts that they just heard three different pieces of legislation go through. We try to have three readings on any legislation so that people can come to any one of three consecutive meetings. If there are comments its an opportunity for the public to be informed and have a chance to react to it. And also, a chance for Council to think about the things that have been presented to them. The first piece we'd already read twice, this was the third one today so we adopted that. The second thing that we talked about we'd already read once, so we moved it to the second reading. The last one, the new business, this was the first time we saw this piece of legislation, so we moved it to second

and we will have another one after that before we adopt it. That's the way the process works. If there is something that has to go through right away, we do a thing called suspending the rules and if four out of the six Council Members agree to that, then we immediately go to a vote on that. We don't read it at three separate meetings. There are ways around that if we have to get through things quickly. I hope that helps a little bit.

City Manager's Remarks

Nothing too much. I just want to highlight two things. One, next Monday there will be a meeting at the City of Wooster. The City of Rittman joins the County in having the CHIP Program. What the CHIP Program does, it allows funding from the Federal Government to pass through the State, to the County, through us, for home repair. Families that are low to moderate income have the ability to ask for funds to help repair their homes. Getting them back into working condition. They have to have a public hearing. We have satisfied our requirement for the funding for the last two years, and we are asking for a new set of funds for the next two years. We have to have a public hearing and so we do that jointly with the City of Wooster and the County. It is next Monday, April 15 at noon at the City of Wooster in the Council Chambers. Secondly, one last update a meeting tomorrow for Reading Under the Lights. It is set for May 3, Friday evening from 6:00 – 8:00. I would like to see the community come out to that. If you have any questions, feel free to contact myself or the Mayor. We would be happy to provide that information. Williams asked that in regards to the CHIP Program, it's kind of been up and down with our City in the past. Do we have a method or mechanism by which we can, perhaps the Mayors article in the Post, or another way of communicating this and educating the public about what is available? Feuerstein replied that we have been putting it on the back of the water bill and that has actually been very successful. The City of Rittman has actually gotten a lot more applications in and approved than most of the other cities outside of Wooster because we compete with everyone but them. They liked it so much that the County is trying to get other communities to do the same thing. So, they use us as a model for doing that and so every time we have space on the back of the water bill, we just keep pushing it. All it takes is for someone new to see it and realize they might have a need for it and apply for it. They have seen more from the City of Rittman in the past year, than they have previously. We are going to keep pushing. I would rather bring as much money back here as possible. The Mayor responded that he also puts it in his article, his article has more than the water bill. The CHIP Program is owner occupied. Feuerstein stated that there are a few different categories. There is owner occupied, there is rental rehab, but there are a lot of stipulations that go along with it. Smith inquired along the lines of property maintenance there is that vacant home at the end of Rufener and Sunset. I believe in the fall(ish) the neighbors may have repaired the fence and cut down a bunch of shrubbery and what not. It is all lined in the front yard across from the sidewalk not on the tree lawn. It's just been there. I don't know at what point do we say just get it out of there. I am sure the neighbors probably don't like seeing that. Feuerstein replied that we have been on that case. We have been trying to work with the Prosecutor. Law Director Simpson has been working with the Prosecutor to try to make sure we can throw as much at that property as we can. There is some legalese that is preventing us, but we, from the City's end are doing everything we possibly can to prosecute that property. It's been a problem for a while. Smith inquired if we can deal with the cut shrubs that are just laying there? Feuerstein replied that it is not on the tree lawn. It's in the front yard, and that's the City going on someone's property and taking something. She keeps saying that she wants it because she wants to transfer it to another property to utilize it. Then if we do take it, we are going to get into a whole other issue. I appreciate you bringing it up.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing at this time.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for March.** Decker moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Park – nothing tonight, thanks.

Smith – nothing tonight other than good luck with the Scouts and the badge that you are earning here.

Carey – thanks to the Scouts for coming out tonight and thanks everyone else for being here.

Williams – thanks to the Scouts, good luck in earning that merit badge, if there is anything we can do to help, please let us know. Appreciate Howie leading them and I know that volunteers are short these days and to take your time is much appreciated. I did have a business owner approach me about the parking downtown as far as two-hour parking. The parts store is competing with parking spaces from the gaming room, where people park for allegedly up to eight hours. It's interfering with the building for people who come and go with the parts store. There is a sign there, I did look at that, it's a very weathered sign that's two-hour parking. I realize it takes man power on the police force to chalk tires and we have sometimes bigger issues in Rittman to deal with than worrying about two-hour parking. However, this is a business that's thriving. And we need to support our local business owners. If there is any resolution to help remedy the problem it would be appreciated.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

Decker - nothing tonight.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 9782 thru 9812 and Memo Expense #'s 0M3193 thru 0M3199 and M31910 thru M31921.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to go into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Pending Litigation, Property Acquisition and Personnel Issues and Invite the Mayor, Law Director, City Manager and Finance Director 7:15 p.m.** Decker moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Come out of Executive Session – 8:08 p.m.** Decker moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 8:09 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council