

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
September 9, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Brian Smith, Josh Carey, Philip Decker and Leah Weirick
Members Absent: Dave Williams
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

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

Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2019.

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

Citizens Forum

Charles Copley – 42 E. Ohio – Attended to state his concerns regarding the storm water utility rate increase.

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8129 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 945.09 (B) Base Rate, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. Second Reading.** Ord. No. 8129 was read on second reading. Weirick moved to place on third. Feuerstein stated that going back to last years project at the baseball fields. A very small percentage of that was storm water funds and that was for storm water purposes at the field to drain them. The other part of that was solid waste which was recycle, which we use for the baseball dirt. In terms for the increase this year, we have a number of projects that we are trying to complete. We have a new flood map study that is going to be put on by FEMA but we have to pay our portion of it. There's Fairlawn gully that we are going to have to do. Hopefully we can do a retention basin to keep some of the storm waters there. We have another project coming up that we are trying to fund as well as trying to do catch basin repair. It takes two guys away from the service department. Because the service department covers street lights, parks, roads and complete other services. When they are pulled away from that they are doing work on catch basins, they are not doing other work. This adds an additional revenue to dedicate an employee and a half to that work, as well as freeing up the other workers to do all the other work. Otherwise it builds up. A lot of the floods that we had this summer, a lot of the work has been delayed. Another area is that they can focus on cleaning out ditches and that kind of thing. This allows us to be a little more proactive than trying to mitigate some of the storm waters that we have received from the bigger storms. It's been something that come not so much from me, but from the public. The \$2.25 right now that we have on there generates about \$91,000.00 per year. There's not a whole lot we can do with it. It's one of those do we want to be aggressive with this and go after some funding applications and grants and try to match some dollars to get more dollars into the City and dedicate some of the employees to kind of tackle that. That's the simple reason why I ask for an increase. Decker inquired based on the information you have given us last month on this, you did say \$91,000.00. On the current \$2.25 which works out to be \$10,100.00 for every 25 cents that we are billed. We are looking at raising then just over \$80,000.00 in addition. Of the \$91,000.00 annually I see in the email that you sent me this week about who does what work, we have three current employees doing storm water work that their work is being billed to that fund. What percentage of that \$91,000.00 is being used? Keener advised that what happens is – there's a time clock system so if they are working on the

streets they clock in under streets, so 100% of their time is charged to streets. But if they are working on storm sewer doing catch basins they clock out from streets and then clock in under storm water, so then 100% of their time is spent in storm water. Decker inquired that of the \$91,000.00 how much is getting used? Keener advised that it is going to vary, it depends on what projects they have going on. Decker stated that his concern was in the last months packet the intention was to add two. This evening you said one or one and a half. Feuerstein stated that it was based on the funding projects that we want to fund that limits them. Carey inquired one and a half full time equivalent, so it would be two some days, one other days. Decker stated that he doesn't know how it's handled within the Service Department, is it come in see what work needs done, send guys out. Are there projects based on week, or is it based on what we want to get done in a month? Is there a rotation of cost of list of things being checked? Feuerstein stated that a lot of it is the basics that we have, most streets need to be patched, park areas that need to be cut. But then when we have the storms that come in, they kind of focus on that. A lot of the work over the last month from the July storms is trying to clean up the ditch behind S. Main, behind BG's and that area. That took a lot of guys away from the other projects, then they are trying to play catchup throughout the next few weeks. They have a schedule and then as projects come up, it's where do we put priority at? Decker inquired if there was any way in order for us to say with confidence that these funds will be used appropriately and diligently in working on the storm water issues. Is there any way before this is approved that we see an intended schedule or an intended way that that gets worked out? Feuerstein responded that he can do that. These dollars are spent not spent on anything other than storm water. Keener advised that you can't legally use them for anything else. Feuerstein stated he can't even do that, but in terms of how efficiently we are spending those dollars. A lot of it is going to be more project cost than the FTE cost. There are a few projects that I would like to do but without having enough dollars there I can't really go out and start seeing if it is a possibility. There are a few properties that kind of provide an obstacle to us of cleaning out areas throughout the City that are in need of cleaning out. That impacts us and if we want to acquire said properties, funding is needed for that. This is a way of asking for a few small amounts of dollars to say this is how we can tackle this, then as we do well in that we could see where we stand. Decker stated that he thinks two dollars per household ending up equaling \$80,000.00 per year is good. That works out well. I just want to be certain that those two dollars do in fact get used well. Feuerstein stated that one of the projects that was approved last month at least for the State to apply was the Grandview storm water which will hopefully help that area of Sterling and along Grandview. It's those kind of projects as we start to aggressively tackle and if the FEMA study comes back and we get approved, which we sent the revisions in last week, so we should hopefully get an announcement by the end of the month. If that gets funded it's basically going to tell us how to mitigate Landis Ditch which will prove to be a sizeable solution. Decker stated more than just projects also, just the ongoing maintenance of the catch basins and dredging the various creeks and such. I think that would be useful and if we are adding that much money, we are asking the citizens to pay that. I'd like to know what's going to be done. Smith stated that you can't speak for George, but would you say most of their work is reactive rather than proactive? Feuerstein stated that this past summer, reactive, just because those storms caused more impact than we previously thought. As we start to work on how to be more proactive and as we have done studies to figure out what's causing the problem that they are experiencing and trying to find ways getting access to where they can clean things up. Fairlawn gully if you go behind Fairlawn, we can't clean that out very well because it's tough to get equipment back there because there is not a paved surface. We don't really own a good easement. Being able to clean that area out will help us and that goes back to both FTE and projects in order to allow us to gain that access. That will help tremendously because that area that impacts Seneca and Medina that system wasn't designed in the best way..... (recording stopped)..... I don't know, some cities mask it in a different way. Right now, we have, some cities put their leaf and brush pick up costs in that fund and other cities do it differently. Like here we have set up a little bit

differently. I know in Lorain is at \$7.00. I think that we would be a little bit different because we have more of a flooding problem in this area than maybe some of the other cities just because we have Landis Ditch and Chipp Creek and River Styx all kind of meet. We have a low point of the City. It presents some unique challenges to what we have. Sometimes we don't address it the best way, kind of man shifting Landis Ditch to a perfect 90-degree angle around the plaza didn't really help. How do we react to that and make sure it doesn't impact that fund? Those are kind of the issues that we are working around.....(recording stopped)..... Decker inquired with the funds it's ultimately going to be project based rather than man power. Feuerstein stated that he supposes so now. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Res. No. 8132 A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor. First Reading.** Res. No. 8132 was read on first reading. Carey moved to place on second. Keener advised that next meeting she needs this passed on two readings. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 8133 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Determining that Certain Personal Property Owned by the City of Rittman is no Longer needed for Municipal Purposes and Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for its Sale as Required by Law and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Res. No. 8133 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Res. No. 8134 A Resolution of the City of Rittman Wayne and Medina Counties and state of Ohio Establishing a Reserve Balance Account in the City of Rittman in Order to Stabilize Annual Budgets and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Res. No. 8134 was read on first reading. Carey moved to place on second. Decker stated that he understands broadly that, are there funds that we intend to ... Keener advised that just whenever we have access. Decker inquired if there are currently funds. Keener advised there could be depending. Decker inquired that at the end of last year we ended up with a surplus of funds. Those are still in the general fund? Keener advised that they are, but we hired for the service department this past year. He is being paid out of the general fund, not street maintenance repair fund. Initially I had to set him up to be paid out of that fund with the other service department workers, but that fund does not generate enough revenues to cover the costs of three people being paid out of that, right now his salary is coming out of general. Decker inquired if this is created what is left would essentially go into? Keener stated up to 5%. There could be less. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Res. No. 8135 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Resurfacing Funds Programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to E. Ohio Avenue from Main Street to the Corporation Limits, and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Res. No. 8135 was read on first reading. Decker moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

e. **Res. No. 8136 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Apply for Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Resurfacing Funds Programmed by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to S. Main Street from Front Street to the Corporation Limits, and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Res. No. 8136 was read on first reading. Smith moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

Trick or treat will be set for Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 4 – 6 p.m. I wanted to check with Council as a group to see if that's an ok time. That seems to work out for everyone, especially I think the more of the little kids that go and want it during the day for safety. We moved it up because we wanted more daylight. The service department did a great job, they worked with the schools, if you go up and down Ohio Avenue you see some of the banners promoting school athletes and band supporters. It's a way we work with the schools and it was a great partnership. We got them up pretty quickly, they came with the idea early August, late July and we were able to get it up. The schools are really happy with it. Service department stepped up; they did a good job with that.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing tonight.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for August, 2019.** Smith moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Smith – thank everybody for coming.

Carey – thanks to Charles for your concerns about the raising of the rates. I think there are probably more folks that have the same concerns as you. It's nice to hear where things are coming from and where they are going. It was nice to see the student athletes on the way up the hill. I was out of town for the week and I heard that was going on and that was very nice to see. Thanks to the street department with helping out with that.

Weirick – I talked with the Booster President and she did want to thank the City for their help with that, they said they did a great job. They are very pleased.

Decker – nothing else.

a. **Approval of June Voucher #'s 10458 thru 10624 and Memo Expense #'s M8191 thru M81928.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 7:25 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council