

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 14, 2016
7:00pm**

Members Present: Rick Hanlon, Brian Smith, Ken Park, Darrell Carey, Dave Williams and Steve Johnson
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Ruthie Trigg, Pastor followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2016

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

Workshop

a. Discussion of a Street Improvement Levy

City Manager Boggs advised at a previous meeting Council requested information for an alternative to the standard street assessment procedure the city normally uses. He advised there was some discussion of a road maintenance levy and Pam (Keener, Finance Director) put together a spreadsheet with information from Jarra Underwood, the Wayne County Auditor. Boggs advised also, George (Heater, Service Director) put together some information on what streets he anticipates would (need improved) in the next 5–10 years. He advised the list of streets is in no way “cut in stone”, but they had to start somewhere and they tried to include the worst (condition) ones out there and put a value on them for comparison for the cost to the homeowner for a levy versus their direct assessment if their street was targeted (for improvement). Boggs advised he gave Council an inventory sheet they use for OPWC (Issue 2) grants. He advised this list was created by the previous Service Director and they try to keep it up to date and maintain it as it is one of the best records we have for tracking when things were (last improved). Boggs advised they tried to provide as much data as they could and they were available to answer questions. He advised a comment was made today that they would like to see what some of the other cities are doing and we have started that process and we will try to get you that (information) for the next meeting. Boggs advised it looks like cities our same size are doing the same thing we are (with assessing the effected properties), but cities with a good revenue stream are not assessing for roads that are already built because they have the tax base and can afford to do that. He advised if we (Rittman) were to do that now, we would have a very hard time with any other (funding for) capital improvement projects.

Council Member Steve Johnson inquired regarding the (project) on Douglas Dr. as to why the average assessment was over \$5,800 (per property).

Boggs advised that was a very expensive project and probably shouldn't have been included in this comparison. He advised it was very expensive because they cut the concrete and removed the base and installed new base.

Johnson inquired as to how many (properties) were involved in that project.

Finance Director Keener advised there were nine on Douglas.

Johnson advised he spoke with a Wadsworth City Councilman today and he indicated that approximately 2 years ago passed a .8 mil street levy. He advised they (Wadsworth City) do all of their maintenance of streets, tree lawns, sidewalks and such.

Boggs advised he wasn't aware of that.

Johnson advised (this Councilman) said up until that (levy passed) they have assessed the property owners and they had a lot of problems with sending letters and unhappy people. He advised he believed the levy generates approximately \$800,000 a year.

Council Member Rick Hanlon advised that is pretty low millage and he felt it explains the condition on Ste. Rte. 94.

Council Member Dave Williams inquired of the Law Director if those who have recently been assessed would be given a break should a levy pass. He indicated he didn't feel it was fair to charge someone for an assessment the previous year and then now ask them to pay for a street improvement levy. Williams advised they were probably still paying for their street assessment.

Hanlon advised they could still be paying for the next four or five years.

Boggs advised some (property owners) pay their assessment (in full) up front and some allow it to be placed on their tax duplicate.

Law Director Kevin Bower advised he doesn't believe they could do that because then we would be picking and choosing. He advised it wouldn't be a fair across the board tax. Bower inquired as

to where would we cut it off; three years or five years. He advised we can't do that because we would not be uniformly imposing a levy.

Hanlon advised if they didn't pay off their assessment then it would be (divided w/interest added) over 5 years they would be charged. He inquired as to how many live on Sunset between Main and DeCoursey.

Service Director Heater advised he didn't bring that information with him.

Clerk of Council Brooks advised she sent out 93 certified letters, but some of those have multiple properties (on Sunset).

Hanlon advised we would need to add some chairs to our Council Chambers.

Johnson advised he is curious as to how much money was assessed on average the last couple of years. He advised he felt that was how much we would need for a levy.

Keener advised she had that information with her if he wanted it.

Johnson suggested she email it to all the Council Members. He advised he appreciated all the information provided.

Council Member Brian Smith inquired if the levy would be for 5 years and then renew.

Boggs advised he believed it was 3 or 5.

Smith advised there could be people who would pay (for a levy) long before they would have their road improved.

Johnson agreed and advised there are some roads that don't get much travel and their road lasts 20 years and then there are those who need their road repaired every 10 years.

Hanlon agreed and advised some roads are concrete and they outlast asphalt.

Johnson agreed and advised some roads are used less. He advised Sunset was concrete and we overlaid it with asphalt now. Johnson advised the complaint he hears is that some streets haven't been touched in 20 years and theirs was done twice (in that amount of time). He advised people complain they have 2 assessments and others have none. Johnson advised obviously Main St. and Ohio Ave. wear out quicker than some of the other streets.

Mayor Robertson inquired as to how soon they need to have something to the Board of Elections in order to get it on the November ballot.

Boggs indicated he believed August at the latest to the Board of Elections. He advised the ballot language would need drafted and approved by City Council prior to that date or they might not be able to get it on the November ballot.

Hanlon inquired since this is a regular election in November if there was a charge to the city (to get an issue on the ballot).

Boggs indicated it is his understanding that there would still be a cost to the city although less than at a special election.

Keener confirmed such.

Robertson advised there was the overhead of Jarra (Underwood, County Auditor) confirming the valuation and three meetings to approve it.

Boggs indicated if Council wishes to pursue this further, he would agree we should have something finalized by August to the send to the Board of Elections. He advised probably July.

Robertson agreed it should be earlier and advised he believed August was the deadline. He advised that being the case, the legislation should probably start going through in April in order to have time.

Johnson advised we could have (the legislation) read May, June and July.

Robertson inquired if there were 2 things that needed passed (in order to place it on the ballot).

Bower advised he believed it would only need to be one piece of legislation.

Robertson advised he knew it was a lengthy process.

Williams advised previously sidewalks were included in the discussion regarding a levy and he inquired as to how we were going to deal with that (issue).

Boggs advised he didn't specifically address sidewalks. He advised normally we set aside \$50k in the capital improvement fund for sidewalks. Boggs advised he felt we (city) could continue to do it that way. He advised if they decided to add sidewalks as part of the package to tell people they wouldn't be assessed (when their property was improved) we could do \$50k worth (of sidewalks) each year. Boggs advised we might be able to do more with the money coming in from the levy. He advised he felt they had a good portion of the (areas with no sidewalks are now completed). Boggs advised this year Council wanted me to target the areas with existing sidewalks (in disrepair) and he is currently getting a list (compiled) to see how much we can do.

Robertson advised we can revisit this topic again in a couple weeks.

b. Discussion of the Milton Township Dispatch Contract

City Manager Boggs advised he along with Chief Burg recently met with the Fire Chiefs regarding some of the issues and problems. He advised he felt most of the problems centered around trying to attract, train and retain good dispatchers. Boggs advised it was a very good meeting. He advised during the meeting he was asked by the Milton Township Fire Chief if he could break down the cost between dispatching and the cost for coverage (safety services outside the city in Milton Township) of their area. Boggs advised for example we (Rittman) cover the portion of Eastern Road and N. Main St. that are not in the city limits. He advised there are some areas south (of the city limits)

that are in Milton Township that would be a far distance for them (Milton Township Fire Dept.) to provide coverage. Boggs advised we (Rittman safety services) cover all of that area. He advised the (current) contract specifies that it covers dispatch as well as these coverage areas for approximately \$22,000 (annually). Boggs advised he knows why he (Milton Township Fire Chief) wants it broken down and in fact he (Boggs) received a call from the county today as they were asked to give a price on dispatching as well. He advised this particular topic came up about 3 or 4 years ago before we (Rittman) formed our own township. Boggs advised when the topic came up (previously) he (Boggs) simply said he wasn't interested in the remaining portion of the contract if they were going to pull part of the contract away. He advised in other words...covering your (Milton) own territory and he added that the (Rittman) EMS Chief and Fire Chief probably disagree with that approach because they are service oriented and want to help people. Boggs advised his (own) feeling is that he felt they were eventually going to have to draw the line somewhere. He advised he isn't saying that we are giving the service away because they (Milton Township) are paying a good price for it, but they were never going to get those houses on North Main St and Eastern Rd and other territories that have zigzagged in and out of our city limits when people don't have to come in to (annex) the city. Boggs advised he just wanted to make Council aware and it is his opinion and he works for Council. He advised if Council wants to go a different direction or continue the same contract then so be it. Boggs advised he was just giving them a heads up that this issue will be coming up and he didn't know if they wished to discuss it tonight or think about it for the next meeting. He advised he would like some direction in the next few weeks on what type of stance we will take.

Williams inquired if what Larry was saying was that the \$22,000 contract was an umbrella contract that covers dispatching for police, fire and EMS and how were they (Milton) proposing to split the contract.

Boggs advised he believed what they were saying was for example the current price is \$22k and dispatching would be \$2k for the number of calls they receive. He advised he felt they (Milton) would come in with a proposal stating they were going to go somewhere else and still pay us the \$20k for coverage. Boggs advised what he personally feels is that he doesn't feel we (Rittman) should cover it. He advised he (Boggs) felt we have to make a stand at some point in time. Boggs advised it would affect people if Sterling decides to maintain that coverage as there may be ambulances coming all the way from downtown Sterling to Eastern Rd or N. Main St. and those other areas that are just outside our city limits. He advised this is not a new topic as we have been talking about this for years and they are paying a good price for that service. Boggs advised if Council wants to maintain that contract then he will have his direction and if they agree with his opinion then he will be what he states to Sterling, which is hold our ground and if they want to break part of the contract then they are breaking all of it.

Hanlon advised he would be concerned with getting out of part of the contract as far as coverage because they would be dispatching us as mutual aid for fire and EMS to the exact same locations and we wouldn't be receiving any revenue for it.

Boggs advised his opinion on that is we will have to make sure the chiefs understand that they will **not** respond as mutual aid until the other department is on scene. He advised otherwise, you (Hanlon) are right, it wouldn't (benefit us).

Hanlon inquired as to what about times when the other department can't get to the scene and the reason there is mutual aid. He advised if they (Sterling or whomever) are at another scene then they are going to request us (Rittman). Hanlon advised he agreed with an all or nothing contract.

Council Member Carey inquired as to how many instances are we talking about in a year.

Boggs clarified that we respond to outside the city limits. He advised he would refer that question to Andy (Baillis, EMS Chief).

Baillis advised somewhere around 70-80 times a year. He advised that was just for EMS services.

Boggs inquired as to how many of those were (motor vehicle) accidents outside the city limits.

Baillis advised anywhere from 20-30.

Boggs advised so half might not even be residents of Wayne County.

Williams advised it was probably also considering that anything outside our city limits the Sheriff's office would respond.

Boggs advised they do now. He advised he wasn't going to say that we haven't had the Sheriff call in his career where they have asked us to respond. Boggs advised it has been his experience that normally there is a bad situation going on and they don't ask us to respond. He advised he has had it both ways.

Carey inquired as to what is the average cost for an ambulance run outside the city.

Baillis advised it is all billed the same. He advised we have ALS I (Advanced Life Support), BLS (Basic LS) and ALS II. Baillis advised the ALS I is \$565, BLS \$465 and ALS II is \$765. He advised we bill our residents and since they pay the tax (EMS levy) we accept whatever their insurance pays as payment in full. Baillis advised the non-residents are billed the full amount. He indicated invoicing for runs is in addition to what we bill for dispatching to the contracted areas of Milton, Doylestown and Chippewa.

Hanlon advised we don't bill for fire calls.

Robertson advised we do recoup some of our money on the EMS side. He inquired if we should add this topic to the next Council agenda.

Boggs advised they could. He advised he didn't think it was going to come up this fast, but he did get a call from the county letting him know as a courtesy that they were requested to give a price for dispatch and he told them they should and it wouldn't make us angry at the county. Boggs advised in all fairness it was Sterling's or anyone else's right to choose what dispatch center they want to use. He advised he is just letting them know there is more to this particular contract than the dispatching. Boggs advised if they want to sever that relationship then sever it all.

Robertson advised the whole thing was not set up so that someone could "cherry pick" the parts they like.

Boggs advised he believed it was originally set up very well because in all honestly they (Sterling) would have a hard time covering those areas (just outside Rittman City limits).

Johnson advised when they have something in writing would be an even better time to discuss it. He advised we don't just dispatch for them (Milton), but also Doylestown.

Boggs advised we dispatch for Milton Township Fire –EMS; we dispatch for Chippewa Fire-EMS and we dispatch for Doylestown Police.

Johnson advised the townships could all end up at the county anyhow.

Boggs advised he has received a couple calls approximately a year ago regarding whether or not we would give pricing. He advised he responded that we were at our maximum since we only have one dispatcher. Boggs advised we can't really take any more on and be safely efficient. He advised if we have to put 2 dispatchers on duty at the same time that was going to increase everyone's cost. Boggs advised the City of Rittman can't absorb that additional cost. He advised his response to the village that was inquiring if we could take on their fire and police dispatching was that we could but it was going to cost a lot more than they think it is going to cost because we will have to put 2 dispatcher's on and that cost would have to be borne by those we are dispatching for.

Johnson advised that is the whole thing that started the dispatching by the county itself.

Boggs advised right now the County Commissioners are dedicated to keeping our dispatch open. He advised we talked about training issues and trying to merge a training curriculum that both departments would utilize. Boggs advised he even offered to send our dispatchers to the county for offsite training for a week or so. He advised it was really a good meeting and he doesn't feel there was any bitterness. Boggs advised they claimed there was a lot of mistakes with their call boxes and we talked about how to better it and some of this mutual aid stuff gets very confusing. He advised to compound the issue, most people have cell phones now and when they are used to call 9-1-1 the call is directed to the nearest tower and not necessarily directly to our dispatch. Boggs advised he did some test calls at the police department and when he would dial 9-1-1 (from a cell phone) sometimes he would hit a Rittman area tower and sometimes he would hit a Medina tower and he would get Medina dispatch. He advised what is happening when that call hits a tower you don't get the "cut and dried" screen that reads Dispatch Rittman Police or Dispatch Sterling Fire or Dispatch Chippewa Fire. Boggs advised it isn't like it used to be with the new technology. He advised but when a call comes in it can tell you that tower and it can tell you a basic area that the call might have (originated) but it wasn't exact.

Williams advised just to get the whole picture so they can make an informed decision speaking to Chief Baillis he reiterated that Larry (Boggs) said that he and Chief Sweigert disagree with Larry's opinion. He inquired of Baillis as to his point(s) of disagreement.

Chief Andy Baillis advised he understands Mr. Boggs position, but he has a hard time personally and morally and ethically about not responding when someone calls for help. He advised he understands the contractual obligations, but he has the personal belief that their services are there to help someone in need and that is what they should do and he realizes that cost money. Baillis advised he would prefer that contract not be broken as well and he is optimistic we can improve on it and make it work.

Robertson advised if they think of things between now and the next meeting they could contact the City Manager and discuss it and bring it back in a couple weeks.

Citizens Forum - None

Old Business - None

New Business

a. **Res No. 7930 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Resolution No. 7874, the North Main Street from Ohio Avenue to Sunset Drive and Liberty Street Project and Declaring an Emergency.** Res. No. 7930 was read on first reading. Hanlon moved to suspend rules and have second and third reading, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Res. No. 7930 was read on second and third reading. Hanlon moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 7931 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Resolution No. 7925, the West Sunset Drive from Main Street to DeCoursey Road Project, Declaring an Emergency.** Res. No. 7931 was read on first

reading. Johnson moved to suspend the rules and have second and third reading, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Res. No. 7931 was read on second and third reading. Johnson moved to adopt, upon roll call; Smith-Yes, Williams-Yes, Johnson-Yes, Park-Yes, Hanlon-Abstain, Carey-Yes and **motion carried**.

c. **Res. No. 7932 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal to Enter Into a Lease Agreement for Municipal Property.** Res. No. 7932 was read on first reading. Johnson moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

d. **Ord. No. 7933 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 7908, As Amended, According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency.** Ord. No. 7933 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules and have second and third reading, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Ord. No. 7933 was read on second and third reading.

Hanlon advised he was curious as to what bridge we were repairing (per the attachment).

Boggs advised they were notified that the railroad bridge going over River Styx (creek) has to have some repairs of approximately \$50k. He advised he contacted the Ohio Rail Commission, a division of ODOT, and he applied for a grant. Boggs advised since the CIC owns it, and since there have been some issues with the CIC's status with the State of Ohio, the grant for \$25k was issued to the city. He advised that is the reason for the appropriation of funds and the city will be reimbursed \$12,500 each from the CIC and Morton Salt.

Hanlon inquired if this is the one near the Morton Salt entrance.

Boggs advised yes, to the left if you are entering the main Morton Salt entrance.

Hanlon inquired if the CIC forgot to file their 990-N.

Boggs advised something like that. He advised it has been a problem for a while.

Hanlon advised he believed it is the treasurer's responsibility.

Keener advised it was a problem long before she took over.

Robertson advised this goes back a long time.

Keener agreed and advised it has been in the audit for years.

Williams advised he felt it was a shame that Hull & Associates didn't contribute money towards this repair and he indicated it is to improve the area they want to attract business to locate here.

Boggs advised they were contacted and they declined.

Carey moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

e. **Motion to Approve the Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District from Parcel No. 62-00005.000 Located on Sterling Rd. in the City of Rittman** Hanlon inquired if this was a renewal. Brooks advised she believed it was a renewal. Park advised the renewal line was marked on the back of the application. Carey moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

f. **Res. No. 7934 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Resolution No. 7926, Regarding Deposits, Declaring an Emergency.** Res. No. 7934 was read on first reading. Hanlon moved to suspend the rules and have second and third reading, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Res. No. 7934 was read on second and third reading. Carey inquired that no one wants our money. Keener advised First Merit called after the deadline. Hanlon inquired as to what happens if no one bids. Keener advised we will stay with Farmer's State Bank. Johnson moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

City Manager's Remarks

City Manager Larry Boggs advised he was happy to announce that we were accepted for a \$25k grant from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District to hire an engineering firm to study Landis Ditch flooding problems. He advised once the study had been completed they can then apply for other grants to assist in (alleviating) problem areas. Boggs advised he would be proceeding right away with the engineering firm that assisted in writing the grant application, Palmer Engineering out of Akron. He advised we have to spend this money before December 16th. Boggs advised he felt that was really good news and the first time that he is aware of that we have received money from the Muskingum Watershed and he felt it fits in our plan with the Storm Water Utility Council recently adopted. He advised he was hopeful it would provide funds to deal with some of these (water related) problems. Boggs advised he was aware it would take some time to study this and identify issues and then apply for funds to improve the problem areas. He advised he felt it was a big step for our flooding issues.

Finance Director's Remarks

Finance Director Pamela Keener advised at the next meeting an underwriter from Baird is coming to do a presentation on the USDA refunding options.

a. Approval of Financial Report for February

Hanlon advised on page 11 of the expenditure report about halfway down the page the Total Basic Utility Service for Combined Appropriations \$606,226.78. He advised he has no idea where that number came from. Hanlon advised it was like there was something wrong with the spreadsheet formula.

Keener advised it is the actual \$382,785 above plus the \$150,000 plus the \$73,441.78. She advised the columns probably just moved and it needs adjusted.

Hanlon inquired if that would be the same across the board of taking Total Other Uses and adding to that to come up with the number.

Keener advised correct.

Hanlon inquired as to why.

Keener advised she needed to clean up how it is tallying. She advised for Basic Utility Services under the Sewer Surplus Fund and she could probably just take the total of the \$150,000 plus the \$73,441.78.

Hanlon advised it is messing up the total below of the Total Expenditures and Other Uses. He advised if she could clean that up as he was looking through there to see if we paid the extra \$200k on the principle (sewer debt) as he didn't see it in the report and then he couldn't figure out the report. Hanlon advised he didn't know if we paid it (principle on the debt) or not so that was his only question. He inquired if we paid on the principle yet.

Keener advised she was waiting for the presentation from Baird as they would have different options whether we pay the \$200k or \$100k or nothing (on the sewer debt principle) and what it will look like.

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

Council Remarks

Council Member Steve Johnson had no remarks.

Council Member Darrell Carey had no remarks.

Council Member Rick Hanlon had no remarks.

Council Member Ken Park had no remarks.

Council Member Brian Smith had no remarks.

Council Member Dave Williams thanked everyone for coming. He reminded everyone of the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast this Saturday before Easter.

Mayor William Robertson reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday.

a. Approval of Voucher #'s 4352 thru 4387 and Memo Expense #'s M21620 thru M21627 Johnson moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 7:55 pm

Carey moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council