

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 23, 2016
7:00pm**

Members Present: Rick Hanlon, Brian Smith, Ken Park, Darrell Carey
And Dave Williams

Members Absent: Steve Johnson

Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Dave Williams followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Appointment:

- a. **Motion to Appoint Joan Challinor as Clerk of Council**
Hanlon so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**

Oath of Office:

- a. **Clerk of Council – Until Reappointed at Annual Organizational Meeting**
The oath of office was administered by Mayor William Robertson

Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2016

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

Workshop

- a. **Discussion of How to Read Governmental Fund Accounting Financial Reports**
Pam Keener discussed how to read the reports and the annual Appropriation measure along with the expenditures sheet.

Citizens Forum

Gary Larch of Rufener Street discussed his concerns and safety issues regarding the many abandoned houses in the City. He has one two houses down from him and he said there are rats running in and out of it. Kids are going in and taking copper wire. The lawns aren't mowed and trees are falling down. He was told here is mold in the house. There is another one on the corner of Sunset and Rufener.

Marilyn Watson of W. Sunset Drive also discussed her concerns regarding residences where the weeds have taken over the yards, non-operational vehicles in the driveways and yards that have become junkyards. Why isn't anything being done about these issues?

Ben Imhoff of N. Hickin stated that he was a former Trustee and he used Section 715.261 of the Ohio Revised Code to help prosecute these properties and collection of back taxes when he was Trustee. Mayor Robertson asked Mr. Imhoff if he went to the Courts to help with the prosecution of the violations and if the Courts backed him on this. Mr. Imhoff said he would pursue whatever avenue he had to in order to rectify the problem. Mayor Robertson advised that they would look into it. Mr. Imhoff also stated that as a Township Trustee he relied on the Ohio Administrative Code Section 901537.01 which pertains to prohibited noxious weeds.

Judy Lendon on Rufener Street also had concerns regarding the safety issues of the empty houses. Kids are going in and vandalizing them. The empty houses are also bringing down the property values. She also inquired about the weeds and mosquitos carrying viruses.

Can anything be done about the foreclosure sales and the empty houses? Hanlon advised that the property maintenance code should address most of these issues. Hanlon spent two years getting the code implemented with Parks help and what it boils down to is enforcement. Hanlon advised that Mrs. Lendon's neighbor is in violation and has been turned over to the Prosecutor. Hanlon inquired if Wayne County Health Department would prosecute these violations and perhaps Larry could look into it? Larry advised that you would need probable cause to go into the properties and a search warrant would need to be obtained. The Health Department will not enter a house without a Court Order. The Health Department has a new administration so it may be worth another try. Larry advised that properties are now being cited.

Tim Stefanko of 44 Salt Court had concerns about working on his ATV in his driveway. The proposed Ordinance would make him a criminal. He rides his ATV in his own yard. Other outside lawn and garden equipment such as lawn mowers, weed whackers, chain saws, two stroke rototillers, snow blowers, etc. are just as noisy or noisier. Motorcycles and contractors with their generators are noisy too. He also advised that neighbor's campfires are blowing into his windows, so between the noise and the smoke he cannot open his windows. Police officers use ATVs during the Sleepwalker Festival. This would be illegal too. Council should do research before passing an Ordinance. Mr. Stefanko advised he is willing to help Council write an Ordinance to address these issues.

Debbie Miller of 58 Orchard Avenue advised that she has an 8 year old son who has a little mini bike and he rides it around her yard. He doesn't go into the street or anyone else's yard.

Larry Boggs indicated that there were no grants available for demolition of abandoned houses. He has already used the grant money available. There are two separate issues on a bank foreclosure. One, a person buys the property at Sheriff's sale and then just lets it sit. Two, if the bank evicts the owner, then decides that it is not worth the trouble or expense to foreclose on it. Now the property is vacant and still in the owner's name who no longer resides there. It is up to the City to try to track the owner down to sign off on demolishing the property.

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 7944 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 991.01 (k) General Regulations. Third Reading.** Ord. No. 7944 was read on third reading. Hanlon moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 7945 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 975.04 (b), Amount of Rate Reduction for Garbage and Rubbish Collection. Third Reading.** Ord. No. 7945 was read on third reading. Carey moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Ord. No. 7949 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 377.03, (a) (2) Code Application; Prohibited Operation. Third Reading** Ord. No. 7949 was read on third reading. Hanlon moved to table and upon roll call; Smith – Yes, Williams – No, Hanlon – Yes, Park – No and Carey - Yes and **motion carried.**

d. **Res. No. 7952 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties, Ohio, to Provide a General Election to Amend the Charter of the City of Rittman, by Repeal of Article X, to Amend Section 3.02, 3.08, 5.01, 6.05, 12.02 and 12.06 and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading** Res. No. 7952 was read on second reading. Smith moved to place on third, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

e. **Ord. No. 7953 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties, and State of Ohio, Amending Chapter 971.01 (c) Water Rates; Service Fees, of the Codified Ordinances. Second Reading** Ord. No. 7953 was read on second reading. Carey moved to place on third, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

Discussion was made on whether or not churches should be metered.

f. **Ord. No. 7954 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Chapter 941.05 (b) (5) Sanitary User Charges. Second Reading** Ord. No. 7954 was read on second reading. Williams moved to place on third, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

Discussion was made on whether or not churches should be metered.

g. **Ord. No. 7955 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties, Ohio, Amending Chapter 351.03 (a) Prohibited Standing or Parking Places, to Create an Additional Section (17) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. Second Reading.** Ord. No. 7955 was read on second reading. Hanlon moved to place on third, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 7958 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. First Reading.** Ord. No. 7958 was read on first reading. Hanlon moved to suspend the rules and have second and third readings. Carey moved to adopt, all yeas and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 7959 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Accept Donations and/or Gifts made to the City. First Reading.** Res. No. 7959 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules and have second and third readings. Carey moved to adopt, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to put Ron Tisher on Board of Zoning.** A motion was made, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

An attorney came to Larry on behalf of a resident and he wants to donate lots to the City. However these lots are in the flood plain. The only reason Larry would have any interest in accepting them is that there is a drainage ditch that runs down the middle of them. Owning the property would give the City an easement and they could possibly get rid of two properties if someone wanted to build under the flood plain regulations, it could be done.

Also the City completed the survey on the amount of sidewalk they need to replace from Ohio Avenue up to Metzger on both sides of Ohio Avenue and south numbered streets from the square to Metzger and we are estimating about \$55,000.00 which is about the budget figure we had. The discussion at a previous meeting was whether to asses or just do it. Larry needs to know what Council's feeling is. Larry is not recommending either way, he just needs to know which way to take it.

Larry also inquired about changing City Hall's hours to 8:00 to 4:30. Council agreed to give it a try.

Larry welcomed Joan Challinor for accepting the Clerk's position and coming in to help at tonight's meeting.

Finance Director's Remarks

The Recreation Center and Police Department recently got notification of grants and Pam will have more information on that at the next meeting.

At the next meeting there will be an external presentation from opengov.com which is a company she partnered with to put the financials on the website. The information will be presented to the public internally and externally in a friendlier user format.

Council Remarks

Council members thanked everyone who showed up concerning issues in their neighborhoods. Council advised that they would look into these issues. They also thanked Joan for coming in tonight and accepting the position. They will also look into the issues with the ATV's.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 4726 thru 4784 and Memo Expense #'s OM5161 thru OM6168.** Hanlon moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 8:30 pm

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

Mayor

Clerk of Council