

**Rittman City Council Met in a  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, October 24, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2016**

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

**Workshop**

**a. Discussion of the 2017 Budget**

Pam Keener explained the budget report and the estimated changes. Keener wanted to point out the income tax revenue anticipated this year is high due to House Bill 5 quarterly estimated payments. Initial revenue is up now. April next year we will not have a large flux of revenue since people are supposed to be making their quarterly payments. Other areas of concern is a 5% automatic increase. Boggs and Keener discussed the possibility of bringing legislation to Council to change to 10% and offset with reductions to the sewer fund. Other areas of concern were continued general fund support of the fire department. In 2018 when the fire truck payment is paid off the general fund transfer to the fire department will not be as large. Keeping an eye on the recreation center and their ability to increase revenues and decrease costs. The police department has not replaced a full time position, however Keener is still leery at this point in replacing that position. There has been discussion with the police chief about possibly doing a levy to help hire an additional officer or two to meet the needs of the police department.

Hanlon inquired if Keener thought she could budget for an extra \$50,000.00 in the sidewalk program since we haven't done anything for the last two years. Keener inquired if he meant \$100,000.00 total. Hanlon wanted to know if we were financially solvent enough to where we could spend an extra \$50,000.00 for capital. Keener advised that if it was the wish of Council it would be possible.

Johnson advised we are working on limited resources and his big concern is not a sidewalk program but most people's priorities are he would say, would be to hire an extra policeman - that would be a higher priority than a sidewalk. He feels that would be most beneficial to the citizens with the drug problems and so forth.

Carey inquired if the police budget comes out of the capital budget.

Hanlon agreed that the revitalization would help with sidewalks. Keener advised that it is an 80/20 split on the grant. Boggs advised that if Council decides to do that program they have to pay for the engineer fees and that cannot be paid for out of the grant. Hanlon inquired if that was budgeted in the 2017 budget. Boggs advised no, so some things will need to be changed around. Boggs advised the other thing to hit which won't cost any money, the Safe Routes to Schools will be bid out this summer too. Sidewalks going in on Home Street, finish up Baker and Lincoln and all the way up Ritter for the sections that don't have it. It should be able to be bid out in the spring. Hanlon was on the original Council when the sidewalk program was brought up and they said that they would stick to it. It hasn't been stuck to. Boggs advised that the sidewalk program is still there – what happened was all the sidewalks were marked all the sections, the letters were ready to go out and the quotes came back nearly triple what was paid for before. At the end of the summer we got a better quote which was under \$50,000.00 to do the whole section. Unfortunately this contractor does not want to pour in the winter and we are already close to that aspect. Boggs advised his intent is to send out the letters and be ready for spring.

Robertson inquired if a motion for Council was needed to add another \$50,000.00 to the sidewalk budget. Hanlon inquired if the money was necessary for the engineering

for the downtown revitalization project. Boggs advised that at some point in time it would be. Hanlon inquired if it would be in 2017. Boggs advised he did not know. There has to be a lot of work done. If you decide to do this program you need to appoint a committee to make the rules.

Boggs advised on budget in this topic as of right now we scored number one for doing the Metzger project for the streets and we will have to pay close to \$300,000.00 up front or \$150,000.00 up front half of that, roughly. We need to cover those costs as well. Carey advised if that was in the budget. Keener advised that it was. Boggs inquired if the CDBG grant that was received that will be going in next year for Beach, Frederick, and Gish because we need to pay 20% of that.

**b. Discussion of the Downtown Revitalization Project**

Boggs advised that about eight years ago a study was done of the downtown section and at that time we only really had a few people that were committed to it. One of the store owners that was committed was Rosie Blanton and she moved out of town. That study was shelved. The next step was to do what he is proposing now. What happened was Boggs attended a recent RABA meeting in which he was told at that time there was a lot of interest in getting lighting downtown similar to what the police, EMS and fire department has. The next day he contacted the engineering firm that did the original study to ask if that study was still valid to go after grants. He told them specifically what he was hoping to accomplish and that was to at least get the lighting in to get it started. He had a meeting with them about a week later and found out that we were eligible for the small cities grant program. The engineering firm that he has been talking to did Port Clinton and got a sizeable grant in the area of two million dollars. He doesn't propose that he will get that kind of money but it is an 80/20 type grant process. Port Clinton actually had a 95% grant, so we might get lucky. The first step is if Council would want to do this we have to pass the legislation that is on the agenda and that legislation requires a lot of work, some of it on Councils part because we have to form a committee. This committee is going to identify a downtown section that would be specific. It almost creates a separate zoning classification because whatever is labeled the downtown area section will have a lot of regulations. There will be a lot of work determining how the street scape would look and how it is going to be applied in the future. This is something that is going to take years. His hope is to get some decorative lighting, of course they are going to have to pull out all the sidewalks to do the infrastructure for the conduits and the lighting so it is all underground. That would require some sort of sidewalks going back in. He was hoping to see something a little more than just cement, maybe bricks or something along with benches for the downtown area. Again, it will take a lot of time and work but this is the first step. You have to have this legislation in place before the State will even look at funding a grant application.

Robertson advised that previously the first problem was what is downtown. Boggs advised that at the beginning they were trying to get the property owners to renovate and it was a 50/50 match. It is the only grant that you can get to from the government to go to personal property owners for renovating a downtown section. He was trying to get the project going by saying that City was going to contribute money to at least get the first phase done, maybe the lighting and the sidewalks and the benches will attract more interest in the downtown to get the business owners to look at doing the renovations.

Williams inquired if the local property owners were showing any interest in doing this. Boggs advised that he had not contacted anybody yet. Williams inquired if a zoning person would be going around to make sure everything is in compliance, it looks like there are federal guidelines for compliance and if that would be part of that proposed position that was talked about in the last couple of meetings. Boggs advised that Councilman Hanlon gave him a good lead and he had an interview this morning. He hasn't had a chance to talk to Keener to go over it, but the person has experience with zoning and property maintenance enforcements with a nearby township as well as Wayne Metro. He feels he has a lot of experience providing they can come to some agreement on compensation.

Hanlon advised it might be beneficial to check with the business owners to have the sidewalks and/or street lighting put in, it will interrupt their businesses while the work is being done. Boggs advised that part of the financial end of it RABA was trying to pick up

through some entertainment type functions. Hanlon inquired if the City was going to pick up the 20%. Boggs advised that was what he would assume. Hanlon advised the biggest problem he has seen with any time the government gets involved in any remodeling project, take 94 for example, the streets are a parking lot and the businesses are suffering and there is a certain amount of people that used to go to one particular place and can't get there so they are going to go someplace else. So it does have an effect on the business. Boggs advised that there are pros and cons. Hanlon advised that it would be a good idea to ask the business owners if they would like to see new sidewalks and street lights and benches. Boggs advised that he can send a letter to the business owners to see if he can get a survey. Hanlon advised to look at the long term picture that businesses start shutting down because their clients can't get into their shops for a couple of weeks.

Johnson advised that it is a good idea the downtown is continuing to deteriorate and the City is going to have to take the leadership on the downtown revitalization. It may be inconvenient, but it works. Boggs advised that there was quite a bit of interest in the bank downtown whether or not PNC would allow it to be sold to another bank. He has committed some time to meet with banks to talk about Rittman. There is some interest whether or not anybody will come in he doesn't know. Johnson advised if we don't step in and do it no one else will. Robertson advised if we get business in then we create commerce in town. Hanlon advised that he likes the idea of not assessing the businesses. Williams stated that this is a great idea. He checked with the City Engineer of Mt. Vernon to find out how they afforded it and he asked how much local business was lost, they informed him there were local complaints but overall they did pretty good. He thinks we are at a point where we have to take the chance. We have nothing to lose at this point, many store fronts have been closed. Hanlon advised that brings him back to the budget if we are going to have engineering expenses. Boggs advised Keener set aside \$50,000.00 he can finish up Ohio on he would rather use the money for engineering for the downtown if that is what Council wants to do. Hanlon advised we should be prepared if this legislation passes to have money budgeted for engineering. William inquired if we got the grant it would be 80/20 what if we get a plan that says it is going to be so much money would we be able to afford it. Boggs advised that you have to do it in steps. Robertson inquired if the old water and sewer lines were under the sidewalks. He thought that was one of the issues. Boggs advised that one of the issues Dave Simpson saying was that there were storm sewers under them. George Heater doesn't think that is correct.

### **Citizens Forum**

Bert Ogle – 10 S. Main Street – About 90 days ago he came to Council to see if they could make Rittman look better – that hasn't happened. He doesn't know how you can take \$50,000.00 for chain link fence and playground equipment when we need more immediate needs to fix safety issues.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

**a. Motion to add an additional \$50,000.00 to the sidewalk budget for 2017.**

Carey moved to approve. Johnson inquired if this was an addition \$50,000.00 to the existing \$50,000.00 for a total of \$100,000.00. Johnson inquired if they could do it in the spring. Keener advised she could do an appropriation amendment then. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

**a. Motion to Approve the 2017 Budget.** Hanlon moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

**b. Ord. No. 7986 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. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 7986 was read on the first reading. Carey

moved to suspend the rules and have second and third reading. Hanlon inquire about the last line under resources. Boggs advised that a couple of years ago the City was made an offer to participate in a program in which whenever the electric grid potentially to down if we would turn on the generator for the water and sewer plants it would assist the grid in being healthier. For doing this we got \$33,000.00 the first year and \$20,000.00 this year. Hanlon also inquired about the small dollar values – isn't there an "other" that you can pull those amounts out of. Keener advised that it is personnel and she can't make appropriation amendments between personnel and all other. Carey moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

c. **Ord. No. 7987 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Establishing a Design Review District, a Design Review Commission, and Enacting Design Review Guidelines for the City of Rittman, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Ord. No. 7987 was read on first reading. Carey moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

d. **Ord. No. 7988 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 509.081 (a) and (c), Children of Compulsory School Age to be in Attendance at School; Parental Duty Imposed, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Ord. No. 7988 was read on first reading. Johnson moved to place on second. Smith inquired that his daughter is 16 and she has Fridays off, so she can't be out and about in public. Bower advised that if she has no school that day she is ok. Arcuri advised that they were getting more and more complaints about students that are in the virtual academy or home school are hanging out around the neighborhoods and loitering and smoking. The police are just trying to get the problem people in check. Williams advised enforcement is tough it is nice to have. It gives the police more leverage. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

e. **Ord. No. 7989 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. 7989 was read on first reading. Carey moved to place on second, upon roll call Williams – Yes, Smith – Yes, Carey – Yes, Hanlon – No, Park – Yes, Johnson - Yes and **motion carried**.

#### **City Manager's Remarks**

None

#### **Finance Director's Remarks**

None

#### **Council Remarks**

Park – nothing at this time.

Johnson – nothing at this time.

Smith – nothing at this time.

Hanlon – hasn't heard anything from the City Manager whether his for or against the Lieutenant position. If he isn't going to support it neither will he.

Williams – thanks for everyone for attending. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be going door to door for donations for Goodwill.

Carey – thank you. Forgot where we are on the sidewalk repairs. Boggs advised down Ohio and now start the south side of the numbered streets.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 5448 thru 5541 and Memo Expense #'s M10161 thru MO1610.**

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

**Adjourn: 8:00 p.m.** Carey moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

---

**Mayor**

---

**Clerk of Council**