

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM
January 11, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Melissa Shows, Amanda Nelson, Josh Carey, Dave Williams, Leah Weirick and Philip Decker
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

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

Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2020.

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

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Ord No. 8212 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. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8212 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.** Williams moved to adopt. Weirick inquired about changing the effective date. Bubp stated that it needs to be amended to December 28, 2020. Weirick moved to amend the date to reflect the effective date as December 28, 2020. Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to Amend the Approval of the 2% Wage Increase for the Non-Union Employees, Including Part-Time Employees and the City Manager Previously passed on December 7, 2020 to have the Effective Date of December 28, 2020.** Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

Thank you everyone for attending Chief Shows swearing in ceremony. I am happy to have him on board as our new Chief. I think it is going to be great for our City, all that Bob can bring to the Police Department. He has some great ideas. If you have any questions, talk to him. We are at the beginning of the year of looking at projects, at staff meetings, working at a great 2021. I continue to update Coronavirus protocols to keep everyone safe. People are staggering their days if they want to work from home, if they can. We continue to do that. We are also trying to limit our traffic in City Hall. I do work with the Fire Chief when I do have specific questions and vice a versa. That's all I have tonight.

Finance Director's Remarks

I just wanted to touch base tonight that our year end procedure is well under way. Working through, obviously this is my first time doing this, I have had a lot of really good support. I wanted to state that I really appreciate the Deputy Treasurer, Trudy Arnold, over the last couple of weeks, without her, I would probably just be drowning. I really appreciate all of the hard work that she has been doing. There is still more to do on that front but we are tracking through and will get it all done. Just want to say that when I was hired last April it was well known that I hadn't been in the role of Finance Director specifically before and I just want to say that I appreciate the faith that was put in me to get this done in this first year. I appreciate all of the support and that's all I wanted to say tonight.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for November, 2020.** Shows moved to adopt, upon roll call Williams – Yes, Weirick – Yes, Shows – Yes, Decker – Yes, Carey – Yes, Nelson -Abstain and **motion carried.**

b. **Approval of Financial Report for December, 2020.** Weirick moved to adopt, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Shows, Yes- Carey – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Weirick – Yes, Williams - Yes and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Williams – Thank you Ken Park for joining us and also, I read in the paper that Orrville Police Department, I guess this is aimed to Chief Shows, that they are doing a log of homeowners that have camera systems. If we could have some discussion with him sometime if that would be a good idea for Rittman to incorporate? Basically, anybody in Orrville who has a home security camera, they create a log so that when they are going to solve crimes, if anyone's home security system happened to capture a car or license plate or a person walking, a person of interest or something like that. It seems like a low budget voluntary program that might benefit our police force in investigations. It is something to consider. It's all voluntary, just people trying to be good neighbors and good citizens.

Nelson – the property maintenance meeting that some of us had, we had this meeting to go over property maintenance from a third party, outside person. After all of that, and I had 100 questions, that I was getting ready to email them on, then the Mayor called me and said we weren't doing it. Which is fine, I don't think that it is right for us. However, I would like to bring this up just because with the resignation with our previous Chief and what I got to witness during that meeting with Officer Ries having to be in that meeting as well as do his duty as a police officer. I think that we should really consider hiring a part time property maintenance enforcement. Officer Ries can do his job, fully, instead of trying to be in a meeting when he is trying to protect our citizens. I just wanted to bring that up and point that out, it shouldn't be something that just fluff off at this point. The second thing is our parks. Back in July Garrick had sent us all an email regarding current situations of all of our parks. How some are in disarray and the fact that we also have \$20,000.00 worth of equipment that still needs to be put up. Being a new year as well as prior to the spring when the guys get busy, I think it is something that we should work into, especially to get equipment out of City garage and put up. That would be the first thing that we need to do. Then I would like everybody to review all of that information, just go back and go over it. There are a lot of things that I think need to be done with our parks. Again, putting up the equipment that we have had for almost six years would be great. Also looking at those that are in complete disarray and that the City could actually benefit from. Beshara stated that she did try to get a couple of different appraisers, I haven't given up on it yet but I think because of Covid I haven't been able to get anyone yet. I do think it should be revisited before I do get ahold of an appraiser. Nelson stated she just wanted to bring it back to everyone's attention.

Decker – nothing to add this evening.

Shows – I want to acknowledge the passing of our retired dispatcher Ethel Hoffman. Ethel passed away in December after over 20 years of service. I want to publicly offer condolences to her family. They kept everything very small and private so we were not able to give her the City Honors we would have liked to; we respected their wishes. With her dedication to the City, she was a great asset to us, taught me a lot, was great to work with. She did pass from Covid so that brings me to my next thing, I want to make sure we are aware and that our constituents are aware that the Wayne County Health Department has started basically a list, you go to their website, it's the 1B Registry for the vaccine for those that are interested. It is a very simple Google form that the citizens can fill out. Looking at basically the elderly, those with underlying health conditions, that may fall under that class, so that they know where our citizens are. So, for example, my 95-year-old grandmother, I registered her Friday night, they asked for basics, contact information, her name, date of birth, a phone number and any underlying health conditions. When they are ready to roll that out, they will be able to make contact and get those people in hopefully, quicker. It is open to all county residents, but obviously they are focusing on that 65 and older and they are going to do it in the ways as described – 80 plus, 70 plus, and that way just to get our constituents registered for those that may be interested in that for public safety. That's done by the Wayne County Health Department on their banner it is just a simple form to fill out, it is not a commitment. If you are interested it just helps get that information into your hands quicker and helps them make their job easier.

Mayor Robertson – the website is Wayne-Health.org I have heard about some scams going around organizations coming in with very similar type website trying to get people to give up credit cards and social security number and stuff. Advise the elderly when they sign up for it, it is a very simple form, name, birth date, telephone number and email address. There is no fee involved at this time or any of that.

Williams – make sure you are on Wayne County, Ohio because Wayne County Michigan is Detroit.

Carey – it is good to see Ken Park tonight, it has been a while since we have seen you, so thank you for stopping by today. And I want to offer congratulations to Chief Shows, I am glad to have you here in your new leadership position, hopefully doing some good things with you here in the future.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

a. **Approval Voucher #'s 13311 thru 13445 and Memo Expense #'s MN2016 and MD2001 thru MD2020.** Weirick moved to approve, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Weirick - Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Williams – Yes, Shows – Yes, Carey - Yes and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to go into Executive Session for a Conference with Our Law Director Concerning Pending or Immanent Court Action and to Invite the Mayor, Law Director, Finance Director and City Manager – 7:24 p.m.** Weirick so moved. Shows seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 7:39 p.m.** Williams so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 7:39 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council