

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 24, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Josh Carey, Chuck Wyatt, Ken Park, Dave Williams and Melissa Shows

Members Absent: Amanda Nelson

Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

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

Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2021

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

Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2021 – Special Meeting

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

Citizens Forum

Ron Woodward – 9 McElwee Court, spoke about concerns he had from last meeting concerning local business adhering to local rules. Also, if the city is going to send out violation notices, send them out to all. Let's get this town cleaned up. Mr. Woodward also questioned if the 3 to 5-year strategic plan or budget has been reviewed and if any departments have met the budgets that they submitted?

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8267 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 735.06(b) License Issuance, Effective Period; Fee and 735.08 License Revocation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8267 was read on first reading. Shows moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8268 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8258, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8268 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Shows moved to adopt all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Accept the Resignation of Rick Hanlon from the Wayne County Health District Advisory Council Effective December 1, 2021.** Wyatt so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Motion to Appoint Amanda Nelson to the Wayne County Health District Advisory Council for the Unexpired Term of Rick Hanlon.** Carey so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

e. **Motion to Approve Gift Card Purchases to Home Depot for 2021 Pursuant to House Bill 312 and City of Rittman Policy.** Shows so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

f. **Motion to Approve the Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District for Six Parcels Located within the City of Rittman and owned by Mavin J. and Teresa Kay Ramsier.** Park so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

g. **Res. No. 8269 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Declaring it Necessary to Improve East Ohio Avenue from Industrial Street to Sunset Drive by Planing and Milling the Existing Surface and Installing a new Asphalt Surface, all Together with the Necessary Appurtenances Thereto and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8269 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules. Williams inquired how much they were going to mill down. Beshara stated that it was the standard, but she will check into it. Beshara also stated that the city received 80% funding from AMATS. The remainder is 20%. We will assess based on the 20%. The engineer's estimate is typically a little bit higher. The earlier we go out to bid the better prices we get. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Shows moved to adopt all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

h. **Res. No. 8270 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Declaring it Necessary to Improve South Main Street from Front Street to City Limits by Planing and Milling the Existing Surface and Installing a new Asphalt Surface, all Together with the Necessary Appurtenances Thereto and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8270 was read on first reading. Williams moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Park moved to adopt. Beshara stated this was a grant that was applied by Derek. It is an 80/20. We will look into what those assessments will be. This has been on the books for a long time. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

i. **Ord. No. 8271 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 971.01 (i) Water Rates; Service Fees of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8271 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Park moved to adopt. Shows inquired that they are all individually metered, they just don't have the shut off valves? By doing this we can get the offender and not inconvenience their neighbor. Wyatt stated that the way he reads it is the owners will have a certain amount of time to do it, if not the water bill will be billed to the owner and they will be responsible. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

j. **Ord. No. 8272 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for Street Improvement on East Ohio Avenue from Industrial Street to Sunset Drive and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8272 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Carey moved to adopt all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

k. **Ord. No. 8273 An Ordinance of the council of the city of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for Street Improvement on South Main Street from Front Street to City Limits and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8273 was read on first reading. Wyatt moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Shows moved to adopt all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

NOPEC Grant: The City of Rittman is receiving a NOPEC Energized Community grant in the amount of \$3,312.00. This grant can be used for energy related projects such as Traffic Signal upgrades, LED lighting upgrades and conversions, energy efficient metal roofs, generators, etc. (A copy of the flier will be on your desks). Thank you to NOPEC and NextEra Energy for this grant and to our residents who have opted into NOPEC. Legislation will be prepared for our next meeting to accept the grant.

Grant Street Waterline project: I received this information directly from Justin Cates, of Engineering Associates on the status of the waterline replacement project progress:

‘All of the watermains have been installed and the water services connected. Palmer & Son is currently waiting on the fire hydrants to be delivered. Apparently, there was an issue with shipping and the fire hydrants ended up in Michigan. They are currently talking with the manufacturer to get them back as soon as possible. Once the Fire hydrants are installed, they will be able to make the final connections and abandon the existing waterline.’

In speaking with Mike Brown regarding the work being done by Palmer, everything has gone very well. The paving project will commence this spring once the asphalt plants are open. Again, we applied for and received an OPWC grant for \$224,500 so there will no assessments to the property owners for this paving project.

Legislation for infrastructure projects: As you can see from the agenda, we are starting our road projects for 2022. We are working with our engineers and ODOT on ensuring we follow the proper steps as when we receive Federal dollars, there are many requirements specific to accepting these grants. As a side note, Chuck and I both finished our courses that ODOT required. They were online modules, (40 hours) and it will be very useful information that we learned as we go forward with more projects.

Ordinance 8271: In discussion with Kris Fetter, Mike Brown and Matt Simpson, we feel it is in the best interest of the city that all multi-unit structures that have separate meters should have separate shut-off valves. Currently, if one of the units receives a shut off notice, we do not shut off that occupant as then we would be shutting off those who already have paid that live in a separate unit. While this will cost the landlord more money to put in separate shut-off valves, it will encourage tenants to pay or the landlord may choose to keep the bill in their name and be responsible for the collection of payments, as stated in the ordinance. We will work on a policy stating the time period we expect the change to take place and will share it with each landlord, if they choose this option. Please let me know if you have any questions on this proposed legislation.

*Thank you to our Service and Utility Department plow drivers who continue to work on snow as it comes down. They did a great job! Thank you to Jon Imhoff for helping clear the apron at the Fire Station and sidewalk clearing during our recent storm and to Suzanne and the Rittman bus drivers for providing healthy snacks to our plow drivers. Also, thank you to Rick Hanlon who served on the Wayne County Health District Advisory Council and good wishes to Amanda Nelson who will be Rittman's representative, filling Rick's unexpired term through March, 2022. (Council will need to approve the new term in March for Amanda to continue to serve.)

Finance Director's Remarks

2021 has been successfully closed. All the tax forms have been filed. That's been my January. I want to thank Shelley Roberts as this is her first year end since she rolled over into the position of Deputy Treasurer. She has been an absolute rock star. Everything that she has been asked for and she has learned very, very fast. Probably faster than I did when I started. She has been incredible. Our Open Gov transparency module which can be found

on our web site to check budgets and actual spending for the last few years. It has not been updated for year end 2021 yet. That will be happening this week. That will be available to look at, it goes back to 2013 or 14. I wanted to clarify on the Appropriation Amendment that was approved tonight that we are budgeting for a new year. We want to get a good handle on annual things that we will need for that year. We don't even know exactly where certain projects will be as far as unspent appropriations for those projects until the year's actually over. I like to come back with an amendment to reappropriate for projects that were originally planned to be done last year that didn't get done due to parts shortage. That would need to be reappropriated for this year. It's not additional money planned to be spent, it just that we have to reappropriate it so we can legally charge against it. There was a webinar today regarding the ARPA Funds. They are making everyone figure out what the revenue loss factor was through the pandemic. They basically are allowing a standard up to 10 million dollars can be applied to revenue loss without doing the calculation. We are receiving significantly less than that. What that means is they released certain things that the money can be used for. It allows you to use for governmental purpose.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for December – 2021.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Wyatt – nothing.

Williams – I'd like to thank the city workers, our police department, EMS, fire, the water department, out fixing broken water lines, and the street department out plowing the streets to keep us safe. They are doing such a good job compared to the other municipalities I go through. I'd like to thank them all for that. Thanks Woody and Mark for being here. Thank the schools in anticipation they are going to send students out to the National Cemetery to pick up wreaths. That's quite an honor to do that. I know with kids just how honest they can be. My son pointed out the sign coming into town, the Welcome to Rittman sign looks pretty bad. It's missing the cross arm on the A. I don't know if we have any funds to update our sign. That corner really looks bad with the vehicles and campers, it's just not a good look coming into Rittman. Beshara stated that the new owner of the storage units had had them move them all there when he was putting in the black top. Mr. Schmah will call and have them moved back. But right now, they are stuck in the snow and will be moved as soon as possible. Williams inquired if we could do some sort of digital sign there? It was addressed that the City does not own the property that the sign is on. At the current time that property is listed for sale. Replacing or repairing is something to think about.

Park – nothing tonight.

Carey – thanks everyone for attending tonight. I echo the thank you to our road crews for doing such a great job and their spouses or significant others for putting up with them being gone for so many hours at a time.

Shows – thank you Mark and Woody for coming and their ideas. Thank the road crews, police department, EMS, as they have a tough time doing it but they are getting out there, and getting things done. I did want to mention that the school is looking for community mentors. They have brought in a group called OH Huddle. It's through Rittman, Orrville and Wooster. The information is on the web page, but they are asking for any community volunteers that would maybe mentor one of our students locally. They are asking for about an hour a week. They will fully train, they have mentors that are coming into the building. You can make other arrangements as well. If anybody would be interested in mentoring some of our youth, I think it would be very beneficial.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 15011 thru 15218 and Memo Expense #'s MD2101 thru MD2124.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 7:45 p.m. Carey moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council