

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 1014#

Held April 24,

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**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 24, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: None

Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

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

Approval of Minutes

a. **April 10, 2023** – Williams moved to approve, all Yeas on roll and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Rich Barnet – 43 Sheldon Street – wants to encourage everyone to vote no on May 5 and is still curious how much it is costing the city to put it on the ballot. When I asked on January 30, it was stated that it depended on how many other items were on there. Last meeting there was an ordinance approved and it talks about Exhibit “A” and there is no Exhibit marked “A”. Ordinance 8350 suspended the rules and voted to do work on Sterling without giving the citizens who live there the opportunity to say or do anything. The citizens never got a chance to see anything other than, oops it’s done and you are stuck with 30%. It’s not fair to the citizens to do that.

Sonya Hayward – 13 Mary Street – she is trying to buy a house and is living with her parents. She is upset because the police department won’t work with her regarding parking on the street at night. Maybe she could park on the vacant parcel on Hillside. She just needs more time to find a house to move to.

Tara Boler – 8 Fairmont Avenue – she wants to thank Mr. Wyatt for his attention in getting the 3-bedroom 2 bath pot hole patched. She also wanted to know why the street department can’t see the other pot holes around the big one that was filled. We want our streets fixed. There are several citizens who want chickens. We are tired of Council not addressing what we are asking for and not repealing that ordinance. I don’t care if my neighbors want chickens, let them have chickens. We pay taxes you need to remember that you work for us not the other way around. We need take what we want as citizens, it is not breaking any rules. There are bigger towns than Rittman where chickens are aloud. That needs to be addressed for the people who have asked. It never makes it on the agenda. We are getting tired of not being heard when it comes to something we are asking for. I have still not heard if you have heard from the insurance company if they are going to cover the tax issue. We want answers. Mr. Carey are you going to draw up a Resolution which allows you to interact with Citizens Forum?

Old Business

None

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New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8352 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Levying Special Assessments for the Eastern Road Improvement Project by Replacing the Existing Surface and Installing a New Surface with the Necessary Appurtenances Thereto. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8352 was read on first reading. Williams moved to place on second reading. Williams inquired on what took so long. Clerk Challinor responded that the contract just submitted the bill. Williams inquired if anyone on Eastern Road has inquired regarding this. Clerk Challinor responded that no one called on this or originally when the assessment letters went out. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8353 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8318, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8353 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Williams inquired about the amount of \$7,084.00 in parenthesis. Bulp stated that is a negative figure. We are lowering the appropriations in that area to help cover the other general funding increases being shown. It is appropriations that are budgeted before the beginning of the year, at the time we needed them, then it turns out it is not needed. It can help cover other areas. Nelson moved to adopt. Williams inquired if that was a result of a cutback we made or some positive change that we made to save on money. Bulp stated our part time cleaning help left and we didn't replace her. Beshara stated the staff is cleaning the building. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Managers Remarks

Just a reminder we are going out to bid on Sterling Avenue resurfacing project that was OPWC Grant. We received 70%, leaving a balance due of 30%. The residents and businesses will be assessed 15% and the City will pay the remaining 15%.

I attended an economic development meeting today with Jobs Ohio and Team NEO. Just making sure our sites are ready and as you know we have 79 acres that is a Jobs Ready Site. Which means all the due diligence has been done on the property and when a business is looking for a site in Ohio, they send me the information and then we work with Wayne Economic Development Council and we send them that property. Sometimes they come back and ask about water, sewer, infrastructure, WIFI, etc. It was a good meeting; it was held in Brecksville.

Matt and I have been talking along with Chuck our Service Director and Buck our Service Supervisor about getting more roads done in town and we have \$90,000.00 in Permissive Tax money plus an additional \$39,000.00 which was the remaining balance from other projects last year. I inquired from Scott Miller, our engineer, if we could get some of that money. We have to fill out a form and send it in, then the money will be relinquished to us. We are looking at roads like Salt Street, Front Street, Sheets Road, pot holes in town. The asphalt plants are opening up. It all costs money, it is very expensive but we want to do a big chunk of getting the roads done that we can this year. Also, we are starting to look into how we are going to move into the library, we would like to do that by the end of the year. We are going to have a meeting in May with the staff and start talking about that. Our IT people and I are actually going to the library tomorrow to look at the IT room and see how that looks. We had a bit of a failure here with our drives that we all have our stuff on. What happened was the drives that allow us to access our files on the server apparently failed. Tomorrow they will hopefully install the new drive. We discovered there was some water that got into one of the servers. This is part of the reason why I am taking them over there to see if we can move all of that equipment away from here and over to the new building because the new building has a dryer basement. The library has taken very good care of that

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area. We are starting to work on that. It is important that we do get out of this building for insurance purposes. We have a lot going on and if you have any questions, I am here to answer them. Nelson inquired if the library has a completion date yet. Beshara responded that they hoped to be moved into the new building the first week of September. They are pretty much on schedule. We own the building now, and we are going to have remove the tree out front. However, if we don't it is going to interfere with the storm sewer and sewer system so to the tree is going to have to be removed. The trees have been removed at the cemetery so we can start opening up additional plots. That has been in the works since before I got here. We are finally accomplishing that.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing tonight.

Council Remarks

Wyatt – I appreciate everyone coming out tonight and voicing your concerns. They are being heard and we thank you.

Williams – I'd like to thank the water department, street department for patching holes on Sterling Avenue and thanks to the water department, on the top of Ganyard there was some pretty significant leakage from some valves and they addressed that last Friday. Thank you. I wanted to thank the group of citizens and the businesses that bought the trees here in town. It looks better already. I'm excited to see the flowers in the planters and move forward. I encourage everyone to vote for the income tax levy.

Carey – thanks everybody for coming out. Regarding the Citizens Forum, I have asked about that and I have been told that since it is a Charter Item it has to come under the Charter Review which is in a few years. I forgot to tell you that the last time we had our meeting but that has been looked into. Thank you everybody for coming out. Have a good night tonight and I echo Dave's comments about the trees downtown, thanks to everybody that was involved with that. There were far too many there to risk missing someone, so thank you.

Park – thanks everybody for coming out and giving us your input. We do hear you; it doesn't move as fast as everyone likes. We hear it, we are talking about it. When we can do something, we will do something. We have got some different examples of some things here suspending the rules, we did that tonight, that's part of regular business sometimes and it doesn't mean that we are pushing it through to get past anything. That specific one that was asked about I assume was an assessment for Sterling that was to go out to bid. It will come back to us later on for the assessment part of it to the citizens. Williams stated that was just to go out to bid for a company to bid on the job. I think that in general our Council has been respectful of transparency in letting citizens have three attempts to come in and talk about being assessed. That's what we in general try to do.

Nelson – just echoing Dave with citizens and businesses that put in the trees downtown, it looks really nice. Just a reminder that it is mowing season. We have property Ordinances in town. Make sure you mow your lawn.

Shows – I echo everyone's thanks, things are turning around and the trees look great. The only thing I want to add is there are several big events coming in the school. We had talked earlier before the meeting and school is going to wind down which means we are going to have a lot more kids out, a lot more kids playing during the day. As much as we remind kids, we know what it is like out there. There is a fundraiser tomorrow for the high school, Ott's Coffee is coming in to do the coffee truck in the parking lot. That's for Student Council. It starts at 2 and goes to 7. This coming Friday night is PTO Family night which is replacing the Fall Festival that has been put off for the last couple of years. We are bringing that back. All families are encouraged whether you have school aged children or not. Then next Friday is the Reading Under the Lights, which is a really big event for the kids at the elementary school. We are thrilled to be taking it back outside this year. Many department heads, officers, everybody will be coming up and participating with the kids. It starts at 5 – 7 next Friday. It is up by the back playground of the school. There will be

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reading outside all around and the food. It is all to the community. The theme is "Taco about Reading". It is also sponsored by United Way. Every kid is going to receive several books. They get to pick three. They get a back pack with all kinds of things. Also, May 6 is Clean up Day.

a. **Motion to go Into Executive Session in Accordance with ORC 121.22 to Discuss Pending Litigation and to Discuss Pending Litigation and to Invite the Finance Director, the Law Director, City Manager and Mayor – 7:24 p.m.** Shows so moved. Wyatt seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

b. **Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 8:18 p.m.** Williams so moved, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.

Adjourn: 8:19 p.m. Wyatt moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and motion carried.



Mayor



Clerk of Council