

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Council

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held May 8,

20 23

**Rittman City Council Met in a  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, May 8, 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 24, 2023** – Wyatt moved to approve, all Yeas on roll and **motion carried.**

**Citizens Forum**

Tina McMillen -243 Ritter – inquired why can't the Charter Review be changed if we are changing other things. Since we are in fiscal emergency with the taxes, why can't get that voting. The citizens want a voice too. Where are the attachments, she would like them. She doesn't want to look for them.

Rich Barnet – 43 Sheldon – wants to thank those who voted, they got the result that they deserve. Also, inquired about an item 230 permissive tax of \$63,656.00. What was this, is this what it cost to put the tax issue on the ballot to fail? Inquired what it was since it was a large amount. There is an expenditure for \$13,000.00 for professional services and they are both marked under March, 2023 project. I am curious what that kind of money was spent on. It is just listed as March, 2023 project and also to comment on Ordinance 9355 where City Council is going to take away the 1% exemption, I just want to remind City Council that that 1% exemption was put in place back in the late 70's and that was something that was voted on by the voters. If you want to try to end that, I suggest you put it on the ballot and stop playing your little games with our taxes. That's basically will amount to a 1% increase for taxes for all of us who live and work outside the City. That is not the City decision to make that's the voter's decision to make and that precedent was set in 1977. Please take time and review stuff.

Mark McMillen – 243 Ritter – I have bad hearing, about 90% of what is said I can't understand or hear. If you could turn the speakers up that would be greatly appreciated it. At the last meeting it was brought up about grass is growing and people maintaining their properties per the City Ordinance. I have a City park in my backyard that they never came and cleaned the leaves up last year and unless it was mowed today, it hasn't been mowed this year. I know there are other properties that don't get maintained by the City. Also, I got a call about a tenant who left a couch out on the curb. I didn't realize that she had sent it out when she was moving out. I got a call to come home from work and remove it immediately from the curb. Less than a block down the road there is a couch that sat out on the curb for four weeks before it was removed. I called the City on a couple of other things and it took months and sometimes over a year to take care of what I called.

Tara Boler – 8 Fairmont Avenue – we are coming into tornado season and what is the update on the quotes to repair the sirens. We also want to know if the City is going to publicly address the resignation of the Resource Officer Covil from last month and if he is going to be replaced. That is a valuable resource for our school to have. Once again there needs to be accountability, you are responsible. I am not getting any responses, I think

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whoever carries your insurance, because we don't have an answer on the insurance whether or not your insurance company will cover part of that tax issue has not been answered. We want answers we are not going away. What is the City going to do to start cutting their spending? I'm sorry Amanda, I'm going to tell you right now for grass being over 8 inches tall is the least of anybody's worries in this town, we don't care. I don't know if you are drumming up business but we don't care. We care about what we are coming here to talk to you guys about. Maybe keep the things that important to the residents and the voters. That's probably why you lost your tax ballot.

## Old 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. Second Readings.** Ord. No. 8352 was read on second reading. Shows moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

## New Business

a. **Proclamation – National Emergency Medical Services Week.**

b. **Ord. No. 8354 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. 8354 was read on first reading. Shows moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Williams moved to adopt. Beshara stated that the permissive taxes are what we received from the County. Those taxes are for roads only, so we are bringing up our tax dollars from the County to do some repairs in town. Shows inquired if Bulp could explain item 100 in general. Bulp responded that we need additional appropriations in response to pending litigation. This is the start of the cost to handle that. Beshara stated that the money is for the attorneys that are going to handle the class action suit against us. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Ord. No. 8355 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 193.081(a) City Residents Subject to Income Tax in Other Municipality of the Codified Ordinances. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8354 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to place on second. Shows inquired if Bulp could provide more information. Bulp replied that he spoke to RITA and it is difficult to gauge at this time. We do not have historical data at the 1% rate. Reducing the credit will get us to around where we were before everything happened. Also looking tax rates and credits in surrounding areas, Creston, West Salem, and Burbank all do the same thing 1% rate with 1% credit. There are several other places, Smithville, Doylestown, Apple Creek that have a credit lower than their rate. In the case of Doylestown, they have a 2% rate but a 1% credit. Frankly we are trying to get to a point where we can continue to operate where we need to. Obviously cost control is always the first step, we are coming to a point where we are not replacing people who leave. Without people things stop getting taken care of. Wyatt inquired if this was within the scope of Council or is this a voted-on issue. Bulp responded this was fully within the prevue of Council, in fact in 2012 when the credit was lowered last time it did not go to the voters. It is within the realm of Council to make. Nelson inquired if we to put the ½% back on the ballot for November and that would pass, would we then be able to go back and give the 1% credit back. Simpson stated yes, that he specifically drafted the legislation so if we choose in the future to put that back in. In the future if you want to give a credit back, we can change it very easily and put it back. Williams inquired that hypothetically if he lives here, it is 1% and works in Millersburg it's 1.5% so I am paying 2.5%. Bulp stated that was correct, however when you pay your 1.5% to Millersburg, they are not giving any of that to us. Park inquired if the

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ability for Council to be able to do this comes from the Charter, the State. Simpson responded the State allows it. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

## City Managers Remarks

**EMS Week May 21-27<sup>th</sup>** - As EMS week is coming up soon, we thank our Emergency Medical Staff for all that they do, day in and day out not just during EMS week but whenever an emergency occurs. We are forever grateful.

**Civil Service Exam** - As a reminder, our Civil Service exam is scheduled for this coming Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM at the Rec Center. We continue to update our eligibility list so when there is an opening at the Police Department, we will have a strong list of candidates. Thank you to Chief Shows and to our Civil Service Commission.

**Parks** - Our Park and Rec Department is working on our ball fields and general maintenance and mowing of fields. If you or anyone sees something that needs tending to, please have them contact Garrick. Speaking of parks, we have removed a broken slide at the park on State Street and due to the age and unavailability of the slide, it may not be replaced. However, Service has placed plywood in the opening to keep our kids safe. The rest of the equipment is working fine, and the kids can still enjoy it.

**Service** - Our Service Department is out working on drainage issues, potholes, brush pick-up, etc. We changed the way we pick up brush and no longer require a list. Brush is picked up the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. We hope this works better so nobody is missed.

**TeamNEO/Mayor's City Manager's meetings** - TeamNEO, our regional economic development partner, is celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Cleveland on Tuesday and I will be attending and representing Rittman. The following day is the Northeast Ohio Mayor's and City Manager's Day in Columbus. We will be meeting with Lt. Gov. Husted, Chair of the Ohio PUCO, Chief Justice Kennedy and various legislators to discuss key issues affecting Ohio.

**430 W Sunset Demolition** - After many years and many times trying to work with the property owner on bringing the home back to a habitable status, we have clearance to demolish the home at 430 W Sunset. I truly appreciate the hard work of our Rittman staff, Matt Simpson and Russ Arters who is the Wayne County Building Department Inspector, for guiding me through this arduous process. Also, thanks to the PD, Ohio Edison and Columbia Gas who have been very involved so that this demolition can take place and especially the neighbors. The city will assess the cost to the property owner.

## Finance Director's Remarks

I want to report tonight that our Auditors were in this last week and started the initial audit which has been successfully completed and they will be back in June to finish things up. I want to point out at this time for clarity, the term fiscal emergency was used and that is a specific classification with the State of Ohio. We are not in a state of fiscal emergency or fiscal caution at this time. I just wanted to make that clear.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for April, 2023.** Wyatt moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

## Council Remarks

Wyatt – I appreciate everybody coming out and speaking tonight. We take notes and definitely moving towards helping these guys as much as we can. Some things are at a snail's pace but we do what we can. We definitely appreciated you guys coming out and being a part of the town/city, that's what it is all about.



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Park – I want to thank everybody for their input and the concerns. We are hearing you; we can't answer all of these directly so we do hear and I'll be talking to Bobbie about a couple of them myself.

Williams – I want to thank the citizens that showed up for clean up and Reading Under the Lights. In our Council Packet we had information from a group of people from Sterling Avenue and I believe they said that they would have a representative here tonight. Anybody here from Sterling Avenue? They had a lot of information and if they had questions, I could maybe talk about that. Any idea where our EMS Chief is at? When we read the Proclamation, it would have been nice if he would have been here.

Nelson – thanks to the citizens that came out and participated in community clean up and that's all.

Carey – thank everyone involved with the Reading Under the Lights. That was a great event for the kids and the parents. It was fun seeing all the kids smiling and laughing, it was a good time. Thanks to the Service Department for the brush pick up that they do. Many cities don't offer that service at all. I'm thankful that we can take advantage of that service. I want to get a special thanks to Fred Rastorfer for the years taking care of the fields down at Fritz Park. He is down there getting the t-ball field ready for a big intense match up of 6 and under baseball.

Shows – I echo everybody else, thanking all for coming to night. Recognizing EMS week. I do want to point out that next week is Police Officer Memorial Week. It is recognized in the State of Ohio. Thanking everyone for coming out for Reading Under the Lights. Our volunteers put in a ton of work. I think it was a very enjoyable event. Everyone please be extra careful and extra diligent in this time of year. Unfortunately, Wadsworth lost a student last week in a traffic accident, a bicycle right after school at dismissal time. It is one of our biggest fears. We are preaching it to the kids everyday reminding them to still stop, look and listen. I also want to put it out to the drivers as well.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 17244, 17252, 17416 thru 17572 and Memo #'s M42301 thru M42308.** Shows moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

**Adjourn: 7:37 p.m.** Nelson moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk of Council