

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM
May 24, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Amanda Nelson, Josh Carey, Dave Williams, Leah Weirick and
Melissa Shows
Members Absent: Philip Decker
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Tina Heise-Crog of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Seville, Ohio followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2021.

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

Approval of Minutes – May 10, 2021.

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

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Motion to Approve the Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District for Parcel No. 63-01184.000, Bishop of Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Located on DeCoursey Road in the City of Rittman.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to Approve a Conditional Sign Permit for Milton Presbyterian Church, 250 North Street, Rittman.** Shows moved to approve. William inquired who maintains the sign. It would be the Church's responsibility to maintain the sign. Show's inquired why it wasn't in compliance. Clerk Challinor responded that it was larger than allowed. Williams inquired what the height restriction was. Simpson responded that if it is not taller than the building it is ok. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Res. No. 8233 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into an Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) Planning and Design Loan Agreement, Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Construction and Inspection Loan Agreement, and Authorize Professional Design Services on Behalf of the City of Rittman for Planning and Design of Watermain Replacements and Extensions, and Designating a Dedicated Repayment Source for the Loan, and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8233 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Williams moved to adopt. Beshara stated that this is the loan through the EPA and is also the one

where we are looking for principal forgiveness. It is also the same project that was sent to Congress from Representative Gonzalez's office. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Ord. No. 8234 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Levying Special Assessments for the Seneca Street Improvement Project by Replacing the Existing Surface and Installing a New Surface with the Necessary Appurtenances Thereto. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8234 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to place on second. Williams inquired what part of Seneca this was going to be. Beshara responded that it was what was already re-paved, from Grant to Ohio. It is assessing them at this time. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

e. **Res. No. 8235 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Ohio Water Development Authority for Construction of Waterline Improvements on Grant Street, Seneca Street and State Street and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8235 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Beshara stated that we applied for the OWDA Loan for our waterline replacement on our secondary streets. This one and the next one goes together because we are also receiving a grant for resurfacing of Grant Street. It is important that we keep moving on this project. Williams inquired if this is for the water lines listed, but we just repaved Seneca, so are they going down the sidewalk so they don't have to dig up the new paved road? Brown responded that it would go down the sidewalk. There are no houses on the east side. The street should not be touched. Williams inquired if there were any concerns regarding heavy equipment being on the newer road. Brown responded if we ask, they might be able to do it with a smaller track hoe to possibly keep the heavier equipment off of it. It might take a little longer. Williams inquired if that was Seneca between Grant and Ohio or does it continue to the creek? Brown responded just from Grant to Ohio. Beshara stated we can talk to EA regarding the concerns. Brown stated we can stipulate in the bid packets; no heavy equipment. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

f. **Res. No. 8236 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Submit an Application to Participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Programs(s) and to Execute Contracts Pertaining Thereto as Required for the Purpose of the Resurfacing Project on Grant Street and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8236 was read on first reading. Nelson moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Williams moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

I sent out my report so if there are any questions, please let me know. I want to thank you for excusing me, I had a family emergency. I did not put in my report about EMS Week, it was last week. Also, I want to always recognize our first responders and thank them for the job that they do. Don to you and your crew, thank you always. Dave, you brought up the incident that occurred, I want to thank Sgt. Mascolo for helping with the press release and police and fire for all of their hard work that evening and dispatchers in Wayne County, I'm sure it was a very difficult call. Everybody did a great job; it was a sad outcome. Again, my thanks. I'm sure that all the citizens are grateful for the great crew that we have that keep us safe and try and save our lives.

Fritz Park - We are making plans to have Fritz Park paved by Most Paving. This will be a chip and seal project. The first step will be to fill in the large holes with a leveling

coat. Then we will have a finish coat of 1.75” on the main driveway and 2.5” on the actual parking lot. We will also have it lined with parking spaces; hoping for 80-100 spaces. This work will take two days total, but Most Paving may come out after a few days, to line the parking lot. Garrick will work with the baseball league as we are hoping this work will be done within the next three weeks. Chuck will maintain the parking lot every year to get the most life out of it. As I reported before, the leaves will no longer be placed on the parking lot at Fritz but rather in the Service yard on Front Street. The ADA bathroom grant that we received through CDBG, I regrettably returned due to the fact that the out-of-pocket expenses were going to approach 25% of the total project and the City didn’t anticipate such an out of expense with this grant. The County was very understanding and as due to Covid, said this is not uncommon. We look for another CDBG project to apply for in 2022. Garrick will work with Miller Septic who will give us a price on a handicapped accessible port-a-potty for next year. We hope this will be a solution for the time being.

Parks - New playground equipment will be installed in 3rd Street Park over the next few weeks. Thanks to everyone for working hard to make this happen, Garrick, Christian, Buck and his crew.

Flowers around town - Thank you to Kris for the planters outside of City Hall, to the Garden Club for the flowers they planted in the pots around town and to Garrick and his team for continuing to water and maintain all of them.

Infrastructure updates - As a reminder, the Grant, State and Seneca waterline construction, along with Grant Street resurfacing, will be completed this year in **2021**. This is through an OWDA loan for the waterlines and through OPWC grant for Grant Street resurfacing.

In **2022**, we will also have S. Main and Ohio resurfaced, which we applied for in 2019 through AMATS.

We were also awarded a new street repaving project for **2022** for Eastern from Rufener to Gish. AMATS will fund 80% of this project. \$116,428 (20%) min. local share and \$465,712 (80%) max. fed. share will be provided by AMATS. Thanks to Chuck and Josh of GPD for working on this grant and Matt Bubb’s guidance.

Nature Preserve Bid Opening - Three bids were submitted to the City for the bid opening which was held today at 2 PM. Our team will review the bids tomorrow to determine which company will be selected. Thank you to all of the companies who came out to assess and then to those who bid.

Memorial Day - The cemetery is looking great as we prep for the Memorial Day commemoration which is on Monday, May 31. The parade begins at 10 AM and will follow their typical route up to the cemetery.

NOPEC - Our residents will be receiving letter from NOPEC regarding gas aggregation. If they have any questions, our office will filter calls as will NOPEC. We hope for a smooth transition for our residents.

RITA - Letters to our residents of the RITA conversion will go out the week of June 6th. Thank you to Matt and Shelley for their work on this transfer as they have done a great job.

Re-Opening Plans - I was hoping to meet this week but will pull together a meeting next week with our Health and Safety Committee to discuss re-opening protocols as many of the health orders expire on June 1st. In speaking with Leah and with many people heading out of town, we will resume Council meetings in Council Chambers in September. I will

keep assessing the situation on open meetings protocols and let Council know if anything changes. Currently the legislation allows virtual meetings through December 31st.

As you can see, we are very busy and I couldn't do this without Council, our rockstar mayor, Matt Simpson, directors, chiefs, administrative staff, for all of their assistance so a **BIG** shout out to each of them.

Finance Director's Remarks

The main thing I want to touch on is that we are in the upswing of our conversion to RITA at this point. Part of the process is the City Manager needs to appoint a delegate to the RCOG to represent the City and cast the votes at the annual meeting. Bobbie and I talked about it briefly and we need a delegate and an alternate and we rested on me being the delegate and her being alternate in the event that I could not make it to the annual meeting for whatever reason. The catch is it also needs to be accepted by a motion through Council. So, at this time I'd like to ask for a motion from Council to approve that.

a. Director of Finance Matthew Bulp is hereby approved as the representative to the Council of Governments and Municipal Manager Bobbie Beshara, be and hereby is designated as alternate to the Council of Governments. Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

Thank you, those annual meetings, and throughout the year as well, but those annual meetings will be a really good time to express any concerns that come up or like that, we have full voting power. No more or less than any other entity that is with RITA. As you hear things as the transition is happening, especially in the first year or two when I expect the most hiccups to arise. Please let me know, I can bring that to the attention to our member reps. That's all I have.

Council Remarks

Shows – Sgt. Mascolo is here in my office he, has been in charge since Chief Shows has been on vacation, if Council has any questions, they would like to ask him right now about the incident. Sgt. Mascolo outlined the events of the tragic incident which occurred at Rittman Towne Manor. Shows stated to wrap it up I would like to thank all of our First Responders, the Police, the EMS and the Firemen that responded to help with traffic control, as well as all of the other departments. It just shows that they are looking out for each other, Smithville, Creston, Doylestown, Wadsworth all came over to immediately aid our officers and help resolve this situation. I appreciate their effort. The other thing is Bobbie and the cemetery crew, I know we had come under a little bit of scrutiny over the cemetery and the condition, I think we got it resolved quickly when they realized it was a matter of Mother Nature not playing nice with us and I am really proud of how they helped step it up and really made the cemetery shine. Not only for Memorial Day but for all of our residents to go out and visit their loved ones that are laid to rest out there. I appreciate your efforts and I know it really shows that they did work hard and a take pride it.

Williams – echo every thing Missy said. Sgt. Mascolo, thanks for your leadership in this situation. I'm glad nobody was injured, it's a tragic incident. I feel sorry for the family. I'd like to thank Tina Crog tonight for the Invocation and reflect back at Safety Service week and thank Don and his crew for responding.

Nelson – I just want to say that I appreciate that the park projects are still going on as planned and we are not having down time with that. Fritz Park looks good now, I'm glad we are keeping on top of that. There's a Sleepwalker meeting June 1 at 6:00 p.m. which I'll send that email out with the Zoom information when we get a little bit closer.

Carey – thank you Sgt. Mascolo for his update and thank you to all of our safety services for all the great work that have been doing to keep us all safe keep everything, safe.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

Mayor Robertson – reminder that the Memorial Day Celebration gathers about 10:00 a.m. on Erie Street then we process down Main Street. Again, as usual, there will be no candy thrown during this parade. Then we will disburse the groups at Sunset Drive and reconvene out at the cemetery for very nice, meaningful service.

a. **Adjourn: 7:35 p.m.** Nelson moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council