

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING -VIA ZOOM
June 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Josh Evans of Now Church, Rittman, Ohio followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2021.

Williams moved to approve, upon roll call Williams – Yes, Weirick – Yes, Shows – Yes, Nelson – Yes, Carey – Yes, Decker - Abstain and **motion carried.**

Workshop

a. **Rittman Fire and Rescue Operation Plan Proposal** – presented by Fire Chief Sweigert. Chief Sweigert stated that the purpose of this proposal is to establish funding for the City of Rittman Fire and Rescue for staffing and operations for the next five years. This Levy would have to be placed on the ballot by the deadline, if Council wishes to proceed, in order to have the citizens vote on November 2, 2021.

Citizens Forum

Bill Goebel - 449 Rufener Extension. Thanked everyone for what they do. Everyone works hard on what you do. Thanks for getting the information I asked for.

Old Business

a. **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. Second Reading.** Ord. No. 8234 was read on second reading. Nelson moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8237 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8200, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8237 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Nelson moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

Nature Preserve - I am happy to report that today we awarded the Nature Preserve construction contract to Haynes Construction for \$882,000, which is the base bid amount. The contract also includes an alternate bid of specific projects extremely important to the project of an additional \$101,200. The mayor has done a great job in working with Hull Incorporated, Garrick. Moose and myself in determining what projects could be performed

in the two project areas of the Nature Preserve, while staying within budget. A pre-construction meeting will be held within the next two to three weeks and construction should commence the 1st week of August. This construction needs to be completed by October 29th. We had received three bids and short-listed Haynes and Cavanaugh. At the end of the day, we went with Haynes due to the fact that they came in \$11,000 under Cavanaugh. Both are quality companies and we want to thank Haynes, Cavanaugh and Platform for bidding.

We hope that you can all make the ground breaking ceremony to be held on Tuesday, June 29th at 3 PM at the Nature Preserve property. This Saturday, June 19th at 10 AM we will be holding a groundbreaking and thank you to the volunteers who have gone above and beyond to help with achieving volunteer hours. They have cleared out pathways, cleaned out buildings, removed invasive species, mowed grass, removed wire, fencing and much, much more in showing their unwavering dedication to Rittman.

Hiring of new FT police officer - We will be interviewing our top three candidates once we receive our law enforcement professional assessment conducted by PRADCO. We had 10 applicants in total who took the Civil Service test on Saturday, May 29 which was conducted by Ramsey and Associates. Thank you to the Civil Service Commission for their assistance in certifying the list of candidates. This hiring brings us back to full staffing of our police department and our next step will be promoting a sergeant. Officer McComas has been the acting sergeant since October 28, 2020.

Fritz Park parking lot – Fritz Park parking lot is going to be paved tomorrow, Tuesday, June 15th, by Most Paving...weather permitting!

Solar Panel update - Over the last month we have met with Verde who will be installing our solar panels at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We now have a new configuration of the panels on the property that will be less intrusive on any future plans we may have for needed growth or EPA requirements. Due to the reduction of the solar panels, we will now consider another solar field at the Water Plant. I will provide more information as we work through both projects.

Wastewater Treatment Plant - Today we met with GPD on working on a Capital Improvement Plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant as it is aging quickly and will require many upgrades. We will bring information to Council as soon as we have funding opportunities sorted through.

In person meetings - We will resume in person Council and commission meetings in July and are having our Council Chambers thoroughly cleaned to be ready for the meetings.

Trudy Arnold retiring - Finally, effective July 1, 2021, Trudy Arnold is retiring after 29 years of service to the City of Rittman. Trudy has been an absolute joy to work with and will be greatly missed. We wish Trudy the very, very best in her retirement. She is the consummate professional and when you think of someone who has left a legacy to follow, it is Trudy. If you have time, please stop by anytime to say goodbye and give your best wishes to Trudy by June 30th. Shelley Roberts has been learning her new roles as Deputy Treasurer and Payroll Clerk and we wish her the best, as well.

Finance Director's Remarks

Thank you for the passage of the Appropriation Amendment, I have been trying to get in the habit of sending a memo ahead of time, so you had a summary of what we were asking for and why. We are really glad that the Fritz Park parking lot is going to get paved. It needs done badly. We had a preliminary budget meeting with the department heads last week. The goal is to go over the budget more thoroughly this year and try and prevent some of the need for so many Appropriation Amendments next year. Also, I would like to second what Bobbie said as far as Trudy and her contributions to the city. I only had the pleasure of working with her for the last 14 months or so. She has been incredible. I'm not sure how

much success I could have possibly had in the position without such a good Deputy Treasurer to back me up. Thanks to her for everything she has done and I wish her the best.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for May, 2021.** Shows moved to approve, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Show – Yes, Carey – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Weirick – Yes, Williams – Yes and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Williams – I'd like to congratulate Trudy, just an outstanding job, just one of those people you can depend on and just helps the city each and every day. Good luck in the future. I'd like to thank the Sleepwalker Committee and all those helping out with that event. With Covid it's going to be a much-needed time for just people to get out and visit. I really appreciate the leadership on that. Good luck to Chief Shows with the selection and the promotions coming up. And thanks to the citizens, Kelly and Traci and Bill for attending the meeting.

Decker – I just want to congratulate Trudy on her retirement. Thank you Chief Sweigert for your presentation and giving us things to consider.

Carey – I want to thank everyone who attended that attended tonight and thank you to Chief Sweigert for the presentation. I know it took a lot of time and effort and a lot of care to put that together, so thank you very much. Again, congratulations to Trudy.

Nelson – I want to remind everybody that there are still sponsorship opportunities for the Sleepwalker Festival. I will be posting on that this coming week what's left. We depend on those sponsorships to give a good festival. Pass that along that there are still opportunities.

Shows – I would also like to echo everybody else and congratulate Trudy. We all look forward to that day when we get to retire, but I know it's not easy to do. Thank you, Don, for your information and looking forward ahead. I am also excited to see the new officer, very proud of the fact that the top three did come within our own department as part timers. I think that shows a lot of good things that do happen here. Thank you to the citizens that came and joined us. Just to remind everybody that the elementary school provides lunch every day here at school. Any child in the city can come in, they do not necessarily have to be of school age. Anyone under 18 comes in gets a free lunch, adults are, I think are \$1.00 or \$1.50. We are not getting a big turnout but we have a consistent turnout. A lot of that is funded through grants, so the more we use it the more likely we are to be guaranteed money in the future. Help spread that word. Our food pantry moved to the Server for the summertime.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 14061 thru 14226 and Memo #'s M52101 thru M52117.** Weirick moved to approve, upon roll call Decker – Yes, Show – Yes, Carey – Yes, Nelson – Abstain, Weirick – Yes, Williams – Yes and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 8:00 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council