

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2020
7:12 p.m.**

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Bud Olszewski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2020.

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

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Ord. No. 8182 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8141, as Amended According to the Attached Sheets(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8182 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Discussion was held regarding if the expenditure for Office 365 qualifies for the Corona Relief fund? The idea is that it is an effort to streamline the City electronically so that it is easier to be away. All Yes upon roll and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 8183 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Certifying that when a Municipal Obligation was Incurred Sums were Lawfully Appropriated in the Funds to Satisfy the Obligation and Sufficient Sums Currently Exist to Satisfy this Obligation According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8183 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Councilman Williams stated that this has been a long time coming and this is money well spent. All Yes upon roll and **motion carried.**

c. **Res. No. 8184 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Approving a Contribution Sharing Agreement Regarding the Sharing of Initial Funding of the Wayne County Land Reutilization Corporation, Subject to Potential Repayment with the Cities of Orrville and Wooster, Wayne County, and the Wayne County Land Reutilization Corporation and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8184 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll and **motion carried.** Williams moved to adopt. Discussion was held regarding the steps that the Wayne County Commissioners are taking for the land bank. Land banks are utilized for buildings that need to be torn down. There are several houses in town that have issues and they need to be torn down. The land bank takes the burden off of the city. This is still in process. Wayne County is looking for startup

money. Hopefully this will be reimbursable back to the city. We need to stay in step with the other communities as we go forward with this great proposition that the County is looking into. Also discussed what the max cost would be. At this time that is unknown, it is going to be county wide paying into the land bank. Discussion was also held regarding Orrville, Rittman and Wooster paying in, is it prorated by how many housing units are in each municipality? It was advised that the startup is split three ways. All Yes upon roll and **motion carried**.

d. **Res. No. 8185 A Resolution of the Council of City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Pursuant to Section 1724.10(A)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code Designating the Wayne County Land Reutilization Corporation as the Agency for the Reclamation, Rehabilitation, and Reutilization of Vacant, Abandoned, Tax-Foreclosed and other Real Property in the City, Directing the Corporation to Act on Behalf of and in Cooperation with the City in Exercising the Powers and Performing the Duties of the City Under Chapter 5722 of the Ohio Revised Code; Directing the Preparation of an Agreement and Plan in Furtherance of these Matters; and Authorizing Related Matters and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Res. No. 8185 was read on first reading. Discussion was held that if this is the Wayne County land bank and we have a happen to have a house that is in the Medina side of Rittman that would exclude that being in a different county? It would probably be excluded. Luckily, we don't have many properties that are in Medina County and the ones that are in Medina County are unlikely to be reclaimed in such a way. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas upon roll and **motion carried**. Carey moved to adopt. It was stated that all of the communities have to approve this legislation to continue forward. Discussion has held regarding if all communities are part of this too or just Rittman, Orrville and Wooster? It was advised that every municipality in Wayne County, they are all part of it. Orrville, Wooster and Rittman are probably more likely to utilize this. The other villages and townships would fall under the Wayne County jurisdiction. It was also discussed if the other municipalities would also pay a fraction of the cost. It was stated that it is unsure if they are paying part of the startup fee, we are part of the three that were asked to help out with this. Also asked if this was part of the Comprehensive Plan? It was stated that this was under the former City Manager and not sure. The former City Manager had tried prior to get the County to set up a land bank. It was stated that Derek started a really good thing. Could this be considered part of the Covid funds because these properties became distressed because they didn't have the means to take care of their properties? It was stated that it can be looked into. They are putting a lot of weight, at least right now, of City Council deciding something is necessary. If City Council says yes, they seem to be weighing that pretty heavily. It also has to be substantiated why that decision was made. Although probably not. All Yes upon roll and **motion carried**.

City Manager's Remarks

Beshara stated that there was nothing else to add other than what was stated in the memo.

Williams inquired about the Ordinance about parking on the street and the history of it and why it is still in effect. The parking tickets generate approximately \$4,500.00 per year. Maybe explain why we have this ordinance, snow plowing, safety? Williams stated he wasn't looking to change it, just educate the community regarding this. The other issue that was brought to Williams was years ago there was a contract with Kimble. We saved the tax payers about \$4.00 - \$5.00 per month. Instead of returning that money to them it went into a fund to build a waste fund. Bulp advised that the money is going into the solid waste fund. Without it we would start to fall behind in other areas. Williams stated that he understands that it is needed to stay as is.

Finance Director's Remarks

Bubp discussed Coronavirus Relief Fund money the City received. The City received about \$261,080.00. He is still figuring out what this money can be applied to. A draft allocation was sent out to Council with expenditures. Bubp also stated he is keeping up with office and budget management, FAQ's on the U.S. Treasury website.

Also discussed was possibly increasing the automation of the payroll and purchase order processes. Payroll is still done by turning in hand written time sheets of hours worked. We are looking into electronic timesheets. Bubp also discussed the change of a purchase order for every expenditure. He advised that it would be hand in hand with the automation of purchase orders. Part of the reasoning behind the automation is that the printer that prints the three-part purchase orders is nearing its lifespan.

Also stated the Audit was completed the end of July, normally it would have been the end of June but an extra month was given for Covid 19. That has been submitted to G.F.O.A. We were notified by Payment Service Network that the cost of paying through them is going up. In conjunction with that and the fact that the utility bill printer, Bridgestone, is going out of business at the end of the year, we are looking into options to update that process. City Manager Beshara and I are looking into the upcoming Union negotiations. We are looking at the current contracts, making notes and preliminary work.

Shows inquired about the online billing payment fee being reinstated in August. Some citizens are having concerns about this. She stated that they were notified in July that it was going to be put back on and that's a \$1.00 per transaction? Correct? Bubp replied that there are several somewhat outdated forms of online payments, people can do the charge card at 2.75%. Some of it is that, if you want to call in and talk to a person, they are pumping it up to 2.95%. At this point, from my prospective, it is not required at all in any way to pay online that way. If people were choosing to do that before, that's great, if they don't want to, we do have a 24 hour drop box that is always accessible. They still have the capability of dropping off. Shows inquired if we knew how many were paying online. Bubp replied he did not have those numbers. We paid a little over \$4,000.00 for covering the fees over the last 3 or 4 months. That is the other issue, eventually it does become a big drain, we had to increase appropriations and bank fees to cover that.

a. **Approval of Financial Report for July, 2020.** Shows moved to approve. Williams stated that at some time he wanted to discuss what we pay the Prosecutors Office. We are paying them nearly \$34,000.00 per year. He wanted to go on record again stating that the is not happy with the representation. Our police officers do a lot of hard work and the cases don't always get picked up. Our safety and justice to Rittman needs to go to the Prosecutors Office. Bubp responded now that the tax filing deadline has passed, the comparison of the income tax that we received is a little more meaningful. We are down about 9.75% from last year which is not great, but not as bad as some municipalities. From here on out it is going to be very dependent on the strength of our withholdings going forward. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Williams – thanked the City for the land banks and Landis Ditch it shows we are moving they City forward and trying to take care of infrastructure and cosmetics. It shows we are taking action on our campaign promises and to better the City to attract commerce. Also thanked the Mayor for his continued work with the nature preserve and Bobbie as well.

Carey – nothing tonight.

Shows - updated everyone that school is starting on Tuesday next week for students. The majority are going face to face. There is a large population that has decided to go remote. Right now, remotely they are seeing a little over 100 families signed up for the online learning. Be extra alert, children will be walking to school. Be alert and aware.

Nelson – nothing other than the Chamber Golf Outing is still going forward as planned, August 24 at Rawiga. All the information is available at the Rittman Chamber Facebook site if anyone is interested in sponsoring or getting a team together. Also thanked officer Ries and Bobbie for diligently dealing with her complaint about properties in the City.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

a. **Approval Voucher #'s 12581 thru 12752 and Memo Expense #'s M72001 thru M72025.** Weirick moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to go into Executive Session to Consider the Appointment, Employment, Dismissal, Discipline, Promotion, Demotion or Compensation of a Public Employee and to Invite the Mayor, Law Director, Finance Director, City Manager. – 7:45 p.m.** Weirick so moved. Shows seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 8:28 p.m.** Williams so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 8:29 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council