

**Rittman City Council Met in a  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 25, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

The invocation was given by Philip Decker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2021**

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

**Citizens Forum**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

a. **Ord. No. 8256 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance 8200, as Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8256 was read on first reading. Carey moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Res. No. 8257 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 into 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. 8257 was read on first reading. Shows 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.**

c. **Ord. No. 8258 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to make Appropriations for Current Expenses and other Expenditures of the City of Rittman, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022 and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8258 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

d. **Ord. No. 8259 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Emergency Medical Services Section 993.01 (a) (1) and (2), (b), (c) and (d) – Rates of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman. First Reading.** Ord. No. 8259 was read on first reading. Shows moved to place on second. Williams inquired what the old rates were

compared to the new rates. Beshara stated that she would get the information out to everyone. Chief Sweigert commented that rates haven't increased since 2015. Chief Sweigert also explained that the increase is based on the recommendation of Accumed. One of the reasons for the increase is the increase in cost of supplies, fuel and payroll. Also discussed was what the fee is for Accumed to do the billing for EMS. Decker inquired if Medicare or Medicaid will pay these rates. Chief Sweigert responded that they pay a percentage. Shows added that they pay based on diagnosis of the transport. Chief Sweigert responded that the billing company gets 5.8% of what they collect. On average collected has been \$160,000.00 to \$180,000.00 per year. Their fee should be about \$11,000.00. Carey inquired if we would revisit this rate a little more often than every five – six years. Chief Sweigert responded that he thinks it should be done every year.

### **City Manager's Remarks**

We received our health insurance rate for 2022. The increase is 30%. The insurance company suggested that employees fill out the FormFire to review/make changes as necessary. We will then go back to Medical Mutual to see if they will lower the 30%. There are two other companies who would like to quote. We will look into that after Magis gets back to us with rates.

I received a call from Navigate Power that the Solar Panel project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will commence in mid-November as they will prep the property. This will include fence removal and putting in posts. I am working with Mike Brown, Navigate Power and the Police Chief to ensure security measures for the plant. Also, we will have a pre-construction meeting soon with Navigate Power.

The Nature Preserve will be open on October 29<sup>th</sup> for the public to enjoy. Much preparation and work has gone into the opening, however, due to the weather changing, we will have a grand opening in the spring. Also, on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, the kayak launch will be installed. Please remind your constituents of the rules of the Nature Preserve which will be posted by the 29<sup>th</sup> on the two kiosks on the property. Garrick will forward the rules to all of Council later next week. First Energy has donated 520 trees to the Nature Preserve which will be planted by volunteers on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. There will be 25 students from Rittman High School and 25 students from Norwayne High School who will be helping out. Ohio Edison is expecting to have 20 volunteers come out, and we will have 20 volunteers from our local community and surrounding areas. A Ranger from CVNP, Josh Bates, will be bringing 75 shovels, 75 hammers and 75 pairs of gloves plus his expertise on planting the trees. All are welcome.

Also, please remember we have a Friends of the WJR Nature Preserve on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Rec Center to introduce the board. This is our kick-off event for the official Friends group. All are welcome to attend and hopefully to join and become a volunteer.

Leaf Collection for the City residents will begin on October 25<sup>th</sup> and go through December 2<sup>nd</sup>, weather permitting. The schedule can be found on our website, on Facebook and on the back of your water bill. Our leaves will no longer be deposited on the Fritz Park parking lot but rather, for this year only, be deposited on a small portion of the UR II property with permission from one of the partners of UR II, John Hull. The Service Department is working to locate the leaves on the Service Department property on Front Street next year. Smith Brothers will continue to pick them as they have for the last several years.

As a reminder, Trick or Treat in Rittman will be held on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM. Police will be patrolling to ensure the safety of our little Ghouls and Goblins.

Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, and former EMS Chief, Andy Baillis has turned in his resignation to Chief Sweigert.

Andy started with Rittman Fire as a volunteer firefighter in 1993, and in 1994 started volunteering for Rittman EMS. In 2003 Andy was promoted to full-time EMS Chief where he served until the merger of Fire and EMS in the City. After the merger on January 1, 2019, he became the Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for the city. Although he is leaving his full-time position, he hopes to continue serving the community as a volunteer firefighter paramedic.

Some of Andy's achievements during his tenure include transitioning Rittman EMS to the part-time staffing model that is still used today, successfully writing and being awarded the MARCS radio grant, a grant for the FD's air compressor, the SAFER grant, our recent grant of an Exhaust System for the Fire Department, plus many other grants for the city totaling nearly \$2 million dollars.

Andy graduated from The Ohio Fire Executive Program in 2007 and has been active in the Ohio Fire Chief's Association serving on numerous committees and boards. He serves on the Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation Board, which is the educational leg of the Ohio Fire Chief's Association, as the northeast district trustee. Andy is a credentialed Fire Chief in the State of Ohio, having recently completed the re-credentialing process. Andy is currently a Board Member for the Rittman Exempted Village School District. He is currently is working to complete his Bachelor's degree in Public Safety Management and Leadership.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Andy will assume the role as the Director of the WARCOG (Wooster Ashland Regional Council of Governments) Dispatch Center. This Center is one of two 911 centers in Wayne County and provides dispatching services to the cities of Wooster, Orrville, Ashland, and the Village of Kidron. He has been an integral part of Rittman FD and our community for many years. We wish Andy the very best in his new venture (and we are all better for knowing Andy Baillis.)

### **Finance Director's Remarks**

Nothing (Finance Director Bubp was absent from meeting)

### **Council Remarks**

Williams – thanks to the Safety Services for what they are going to do this weekend with Halloween, keep our families and kids safe. I have had citizens email me about a variety of things and I have brought them to Bobbie's and Chuck's attention. They have been handled quickly and professionally and thank you for that. And I want to thank WARCOG for their services.

Carey – thanks to Don for the clarification on the many questions tonight and thanks to the Chamber for their Halloween event.

Shows – I'll echo the same. I know the Safety Services are going to be out in force this weekend, they always are and do such a great job with our kids. It was great to see the Fire Department in the schools recently. Very excited to see that the Nature Preserve is going to open this week. I also want to acknowledge the resignation of Andy Baillis and make sure that we thank Andy for his years of service. He was the EMS Chief for most of my tenure in dispatch working with him and wish him the best of luck moving on to his new endeavors and know that our departments will still step up to the plate and function seamlessly as they transition into new rolls. Beshara stated that there will be lunch on Friday for Andy from noon to one. Beshara also stated that when the solar payment panel project is completed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony. And there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony across the street. There will be dignitaries

attending both. I think the solar panel project might attract senators and people of that sort. If we could pull it off and have both on the same day, that would be awesome. Williams stated that he saw that Delaware County opted to not have any solar or wind power in their county. It was the local senate bill that said that counties can choose whether or not they choose solar or wind power. Perhaps we got ahead of ourselves and maybe set a nice precedence for our county.

Nelson – thank you to businesses and citizens and kids that came out on Saturday to the Meet and Treat. There was 50 plus kids.

Decker – nothing tonight.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

b. **Motion to Go into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Purchase or Sale of Real Property and to Invite the City Manager, Mayor and Law Director – 7:23 p.m.** Weirick moved so moved. Shows seconded the motion, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Come Out of Executive Session – 7:41 p.m.** Weirick so moved, all Yeas and **motion carried.**

**Adjourn: 7:42 p.m.** Nelson moved to adjourn, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

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Mayor

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Clerk of Council