

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 3, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. with President Pro Tem Pro Tem Mark McKay presiding.

Call to Order

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Spicer, absent; Stuckert, present; Mead, present; Miller, present; Milburn, present; McKay, present.

Chief Weyand was also present.

A motion was made by Milburn and seconded by Jaehnig to excuse the absent members. (President Peterson and Councilman Spicer).

Motion passed.

Absent members excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Moment of Silence

President Pro Tem of Council - President Pro Tem McKay:

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Stuckert to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, June 19, as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

Mayor - Mayor Riley stated that there was a celebration for the opening of the JUMP hangar last week. They have already started interviewing to hire for the 259 jobs that were tied to the project.

Councilman Jaehnig added that people can receive training at Southern State for the types of jobs that are opening at the JUMP hangar.

Mayor Riley commended the Wilmington City Police Department on their recent drug bust last Thursday. He pointed out that it takes a long time to build a criminal case and this had been in the works since last year.

[Applause]

Auditor – In the absence of Auditor David Hollingsworth, there was no report.

Asset, Acquisition and Use. - Chairperson Mead asked about the status of the Rainbow Village property.

Mayor Riley – We have found discrepancies with the surveys and the parcel lines. There has been some interest in purchasing the property, but when you drive in, you are driving across DP&L property.

Service Director Reinsmith – A few years ago, we vacated that end of Columbus Street, so we landlocked ourselves right there. We are going to retain the lot on the corner, so we are going to have to try to get an easement from DP&L.

Water Committee - Chairperson McKay – We are putting together a Water Committee meeting soon, but are waiting for information from the rate study.

Streets Committee - Chairperson McKay – We are having a meeting on July 14 at 6 p.m. to discuss street improvements.

Solid Waste/Recycling - Chairperson Jaehnig – We are in process of rescheduling the Solid Waste meeting that was recently canceled. We will send out notices once we get a new date.

Service Director Reinsmith – We just got approval for the new cell, so we will be able to start filling around next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Milburn had no report.

Judiciary Committee - Chairperson Jaehnig presented legislation amending the Enterprise Zone to include newly annexed territories.

Councilman Mead – What are the benefits to being within the Enterprise Zone?

Mayor Riley – Companies can get tax credit incentives for hiring employees within the Enterprise Zone. The County Administrator is in charge of all of the Enterprise Zones in the county.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Miller to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance Authorizing an Amendment to the Enterprise Zone Agreement By and Between the City of Wilmington, Ohio, and the Board of Commissioners of Clinton County, Ohio (Amending boundaries of Enterprise Zone 391).

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes. Acting Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Stuckert to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes. Motion passed.

President Pro Tem of Council declared Ord. No. 5169 passed as read.

Safety Committee - In the absence of Chairperson Spicer, Chairperson Jaehnig had no report.

Finance Committee - Chairperson Miller introduced legislation making a supplemental appropriation to finance the previously approved UDAG loan to New Life Clinic.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Mead to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Supplemental Appropriations.

Seeing no discussion, President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed

Acting Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Mead to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes.

Acting Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Mead to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Stuckert, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5170 passed as read.

Councilwoman Miller announced that council would be reviewing the LEAP audit of the utility billing department.

Mayor Riley – One of the recommendations from the LEAP audit was to reduce our Utility Billing staff by one FTE and contract for billing services. Before the LEAP audit even came out, we have been working with a billing service.

Barb McVey – Utility Billing Supervisor – I was approached several years ago by Smart Bill to print, stuff and mail our bills. They can give us savings in postage of 13 cents per piece. The printing of the bills took us about an hour per day. That hour is now spent on tasks related to the billing outsourcing. In my opinion, our office does more than just billing. We are a customer service office, and we provide many services to our

customers. In my opinion, if a position were to be eliminated, we wouldn't be able to offer the services our customers are accustomed to.

Mayor Riley – Barb's office does all of our utility billing, which includes water, sewer and solid waste. Technically, she reports to Jerry Rowland, Water Supervisor.

Jerry Rowlands – Water Department Supervisor – One problem with the LEAP audit is they double counted employees. On the Water Department section, I added that I had 14 employees. Kelly is one of my employees that works in the utility office. They ended up double counting her. They didn't have any problems with the number of people in my department, but one of them is Kelly. Also the meter reader and the service rep work out of her office. It is a busy office. The same thing happened in Wastewater.

Barb McVey – It is a very busy office. In reality, we only have one billing clerk. The other clerk is the Accounts Receivables. We collect over \$7 million a year. That keeps us busy.

Service Director Reinsmith – It seems like the big savings is postage in billing. Is that \$7000?

Barb McVey – Yes.

Councilwoman Miller – Have we looked at electronic billing as well?

Barb McVey – This company also offers that, but I'm taking it a step at a time. That is something I am going to pursue in the future.

Paul Hunter – Does the \$7000 pay for itself in their fee? How much do they charge to be our agent?

Barb McVey – Eight cents per piece. We were doing it for four, but that doesn't include the employee's salary.

[Discussion of savings. It was determined that they saved five cents per piece mailed with the billing company]

Mayor Riley – I think it is another example of the LEAP auditors not asking enough questions and not transferring important information to the report.

Councilwoman Miller – I would be flattered if three different department considered me a full-time employee in their department.

Councilman Jaehnig – If the LEAP audit is basically implying that all utility department is doing billing, but they are counting people in other departments, they are obviously being given credit for doing something in those other departments. So obviously, they are doing something more than just billing because they have functions that are related to these other entities in order to get to the point where they can do billing. This is the lynchpin where all three of these entities come together.

Jerry Rowlands – She also handles the backflow prevention program. That is a revenue generator. She issues yearly letters that lets people know that it is time to test your backflow preventer. Also, 30 days later she sends another. Urbana probably doesn't do that. It's usually run through the county.

Councilman Jaehnig – It sounds like the LEAP audit counted the utility billing personnel in the Water Department and the Wastewater Department and says that we are over by one in Utility. If Wastewater is over by two, but they've counted two from Utility Billing. Utility has three and they are over by one, but Water is right on the money –then overall, we're right on the money.

Councilwoman Miller – I would have liked, rather than looking at people to cut, they could have looked at things like the centralization of mowing or maybe helped you

research electronic billing. I just wish that someone we paid for would have taken that initiative.

Mayor Riley – They did note that Wilmington offers additional services such as accepting credit card payments, processing remote departments and coordinating the backflow prevention program. Additional services such as these, while providing a greater convenience to the customer, could also contribute to Wilmington’s higher cost. Yes. It costs more to do more. I say that proudly.

Councilwoman Milburn – I’m stuck on the part where people were counted twice. I’m used to audits and auditors, so I have some concerns. Are there other departments that this could have happened with?

Jerry Rowlands – When I interviewed with them, they wanted to know what sections of the Water Department I managed. I told them I managed the Utility Billing office. I said I only have one employee that I pay for in the office, but the meter reader and the service rep, I pay for. I supervise Barb in the office along with distribution and plant. For some reason, they broke utility billing away separate.

Councilwoman Milburn – Whose budget do they come out of?

Jerry Rowlands – It’s split three ways. Originally it used to be water, but in 2000 or 2002, we took a hit when we lost Crysteco and Western Water, so we ended up having to have the Landfill and Wastewater split the costs.

Councilwoman Milburn – My biggest concern, when we’re looking at head count here, it sounds to me like it is happening across the board.

Mayor Riley – I’m with Randi. I’m used to being part of audits. They are usually a good thing. This, as far as I am concerned, is almost worthless. I honestly think that they couldn’t find anything, so they started making crap up.

Councilman Jaehnig – One of the things that they promised us was best practices. They had all of these best practices that they would be able to bring in and share with us. I’m not hearing many best practices.

Mayor Riley – I have not one supervisor or superintendent who has said, “I’m glad we did this,” or “I learned something from this,” or “What a great experience.” Everyone I have spoken to has been extremely disappointed in the process.

Councilwoman Miller – I respectfully submit that I encourage electronic billing because it saves trees plus it also saves time and money. Anything that we can do to help you with that, just let us know.

Jerry Rowlands – The audit did have one thing right: our water department is more efficient than our peer cities.

Marque Jones – What the Audit didn’t go into is that Income Tax and Utility Billing work hand in hand. Years and years ago, she developed a three-part form. When somebody signs up, we get that form. That has been big for us in keeping track of people. She also has to deal with returned checks. The LEAP didn’t get into hardly anything that you have to do to keep things running.

Mayor Riley – I didn’t realize until about six or eight months in that police officers routinely check with Barb for addresses because she has the latest addresses on people.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener McKay – We had a successful third Friday event that had been delayed one week. We had great weather. Several buildings are sporting new paint. The Fife Bosworth building has been totally cleaned on its face. The Escape continues to complete their makeover. The New Life Clinic is moving forward. The Sugartree Street Corridor keeps inching along. I think we’re going to see a

lot of movement on that quickly because they were able to figure out how to put a bridge across the creek.

Councilman Jaehnig – The Beauty Bar was just refaced.

Mayor Riley – We are looking at the possibility of creating an award for downtown transformations – when someone does a remodel or something like that.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Convener Stuckert – Fireworks will be tomorrow night on July 4.

Cemetery Committee – Chairperson Mead had no report.

Service Director - Service Director Reinsmith had no report.

Safety Director – Safety Director Russ Burton had no report.

Reports

There were no reports presented.

President Pro Tem McKay opened the meeting up to the general public and/or members of council to address council while in session.

Councilman Jaehnig – We had a Wilmington resident, Tyler Viars, in the MasterChef competition. I am very proud of him and think he handled himself with integrity.

President Pro Tem McKay asked if anyone else wished to address council while in session.

Seeing no one else who wished to speak, President Pro Tem McKay asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Miller to adjourn.

President Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk