

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 5, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. with President Cindy Peterson presiding.

Call to Order

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

Chief Weyand was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Moment of silence observed

President of Council

A motion was made by Milburn and seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, January 15, as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to confirm the appointment of Laura Railing Gibson as Assistant Director of Law.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Appointment approved.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Miller to approve the Council Committee assignments as presented.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Committee assignments approved.

President Peterson presented a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a New C2 Permit from Ohio CVS Stores LLC dba CVS Pharmacy 6098, 1523 Rombach Ave. Wilmington, OH

President Peterson announced a special meeting of City Council on Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose is for the agenda item of Streets.

Mayor – Governor John Kasich has decided to present the State of the State address in Clinton County on the 24th of February. This is extraordinary for us and I appreciate Governor Kasich's support over the past years.

Mayor Riley presented the State of the City Address.

Madam President, Members of Council, fellow elected officials, city staff, citizens and friends:

Doors open and doors close.

Not long ago a major door was closed on this community. Jobs were lost. Over a short time period, many doors throughout this community were slammed closed.

Shortly following the loss of thousands of jobs locally, we saw national, state and local economies turned upside down by the October 2008 banking crisis and the recession of 2009. Our citizens were hurting.

A friend, Keith Hyde, responded. At the time Keith was the executive director of Workforce Services Unlimited. They have an office at the

county Job and Family Services building. Keith's main office is in Circleville.

The mission of Workforce Services is to find jobs for displaced workers. Keith and his team worked tirelessly to secure large national emergency grants that were used to provide education and training for thousands of employees who had lost their jobs at the Wilmington Air Park.

They succeeded. Hundreds of our friends and neighbors received training and started new careers because of the hard work of Keith Hyde and his team.

Keith retired last month. After over forty years of working to help people find jobs, Keith and his wife are going to enjoy spending time with family and traveling.

I attended Keith's retirement celebration this past December in Circleville. Keith received a Mayoral proclamation from this administration awarding him the distinction of being the very first 'Honorary Citizen of Wilmington.'

He also received a key to the city. I invited him to return to Wilmington to visit his friends and the hundreds of people who are working today because of him.

An interesting thing has happened in the six years since this community became the poster-child for the recession with the highest unemployment rates in the state. We have added hundreds of new jobs; well over a thousand.

Several new businesses have established themselves in Wilmington. Many of the longtime businesses that have called Wilmington home are expanding or making plans for expansion.

Jobs are now available, but many of the jobs are going unclaimed. On a drive around the city a few months ago, I snapped several pictures of help-wanted signs that are being displayed outside of many of our local businesses.

There are plans for more new jobs arriving in the near future. With the help of the Governor's JobsOhio initiative, with Bret Dixon, our county economic and business development director, our new Speaker of the House, Cliff Rosenberger, the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission and countless others who have dedicated themselves to economic development, we are turning the corner and, we are not just heading toward... but we are experiencing economic recovery. Jobs are now available. If you live here, apply for a job. If you live elsewhere, come to Wilmington. We can put you to work. We can help you find a job, find a house and find a wonderful community to call home. Come to Wilmington.

When people move into a new community, they expect and want certain things. They want quality, yet affordable, housing; excellent city services; opportunities for dining; entertainment; excellent healthcare; and, of great importance, they want excellent educational opportunities for their children.

It is important that a healthy, growing community is attractive to young people and especially, young professionals. Over the past decade or more, the number of residents with a bachelor's degree has sharply declined. We have identified a need to reverse that trend.

Earlier this year, we unveiled a new, multi-phased program that we have named “Wilmington Succeeds.”

In cooperation with Wilmington City Schools, Southern State Community College, Wilmington College, the Regional Planning Commission, city administration and some excellent volunteers, including Rob Jaehnig, we developed a program that can assure the students of Wilmington City Schools that a college education can be affordable and is certainly attainable for them.

Another important aspect of Wilmington Succeeds is encouraging recent college graduates, young professionals, to own a home in the city. In conjunction with the state’s Grants for Grads program and the city’s newly implemented Homestead Grants program, we have welcomed several recent college graduates to the home-ownership ranks of Wilmington.

I am pleased to tell you that the entire program appears to be working very well – better, in fact, than we had anticipated. Wilmington High School students are taking advantage of post-secondary educational opportunities. They are taking advantage of Southern State Community College’s grant program and the forgivable loan program available from Wilmington College. The program is working. Wilmington is becoming known as an excellent community that strongly supports education – from the city school system to college and beyond.

A new comprehensive plan is being produced by the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission. This plan will be completed and presented to the city and the community in 2015. I am excited to review the recommendations and to begin a strategically planned implementation of the approved plan.

Economic development and expansion were emphasized and occurred in 2014 and will continue to be a main focus in 2015.

Wilmington College has two major building projects in progress. CVS will be changing the face of the downtown as they develop their new site, which will be bordered by Main Street, Walnut Street and Sugartree Street. Expansion and traffic flow changes are anticipated on 68 South at the Ahresty plant. A new traffic flow will be developed between SR 68 and Cuba Road. A new entrance will be engineered that will enhance safety for traffic coming and going from Ahresty.

Several other projects will be in the developmental phases throughout the coming year. With most of these projects... come new jobs.

Over the past three years, we have made significant strides in stabilizing the city budget. A few years ago, Councilman Mead recommended that we maintain a 25% carryover. We have been able to do that and at times have exceeded that goal.

Through our economic development efforts and resultant job creation, we have significantly increased our earnings tax revenues over the past three years.

We were finally able to reward our employees with a much deserved pay increase.

Our employees stuck with us for the past six years without any step increases, grade increases or cost of living increases. During that time, the consumer price index increased by over 12%.

The average increase received by our employees last year was well below this 12%, but it was a good start. They are good employees. They have been loyal to the city. They deserve our support and certainly deserved their pay increases and step increases.

While the city has worked to contain our expenses and increase our revenue, the state of Ohio has balanced their budget largely by reducing distribution of funds to local governments. This has been through reductions of the state's local government fund, the estate tax, personal property tax and reductions of various state grants and funds that had been shared with local government.

I am delighted that the state has balanced their budget and increased their carryover from only 89 cents (that's right; 89 cents) to approximately \$1.5 billion dollars, but the state's financial improvements have come at a cost to local government. This is not necessarily a complaint; it's an observation.

Now, local governments, like the City of Wilmington, need to address the revenue losses we have experienced. Unlike many of Ohio's local governments, we have not only been impacted by the reduced revenue stream from the state, but we found out this year that the money lost when R&L Carriers changed their truck licensure from Ohio to Indiana (approximately \$800,000 per year) will never be returned to Wilmington; not even if R&L returns their licensure to Ohio.

To recoup these losses, I will ask city council to place an earnings tax increase on the ballot this year for the citizens' consideration. An increase of only .25% will bring in about \$1 million additional revenue. That would bring the city earnings tax to 1.25%. The state average is 1.46%. I will also propose that \$750,000 of that be earmarked for street maintenance and that the additional funds be used for safety services and capital improvements as designated and approved by city council. No one wants to consider tax increases, but due to permanent losses in city revenue from the state and the bureau of motor vehicles, and the bare-bones operational costs that have been implemented and maintained by the city, I don't see any viable alternative.

In a nutshell, we have excellent opportunities for economic development and growth in the near future. We have a bright outlook.

The State of Ohio has stabilized their funding. We need to assess and stabilize our funding. We have a 25% carryover, but we still have needs and services that our citizens deserve.

In summary, the state of the City of Wilmington is good. Our future appears to be bright. We, as a community, must not look to the problems of the past, but we must press on to the greater achievements of the future.

Thank you. God Bless you all and God Bless the City of Wilmington

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

Asset, Acquisition and Use. - Chairperson Mead had no report.

Water Committee - Chairperson McKay introduced legislation authorizing the annual advertising and purchase of chemicals for the Water Department.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Stuckert to give the first reading only on a resolution Authorizing the Advertising for Bids and Purchase of Chemicals for the Water Department, and Declaring an Emergency.
President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read resolution by title only.

McKay requested that the second and third readings be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Streets Committee - Chairperson McKay introduced legislation amending the traffic control map to make fewer spaces on the north side of Sugartree near the courthouse.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Mead to give the first reading only on An Ordinance Amending the Traffic Control Map and the Traffic Control File.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

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

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

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

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5206 passed as read.

Councilman McKay – The City is required to perform bridge inspections. ODOT has a program that allows them to provide the service to the city at no charge.

Service Director Reinsmith – This is a part of a federal program to help maintain infrastructure and to keep bridges from collapsing.

Councilman McKay introduced the preliminary legislation authorizing the Service Director to start the process.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on a resolution Adopting Preliminary Legislation for ODOT Bridge Inspection Program Services and Declaring an Emergency.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Stuckert to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

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

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Jaehnig to pass the resolution as read.

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2394 passed as read.

Councilman McKay – At the Special Council meeting next Thursday at 6:30 we will talk about how to afford to pay for our streets and bridges. The mayor mentioned what he is thinking about. Nothing is set in stone at this point. If there is a tax component in what we decide to do, it would have to be put to the voters. We will talk about it next Thursday. Everyone is invited.

Solid Waste/Recycling - Chairperson Jaehnig pointed out that the Solid Waste Department portion of the State of the City address has good information in it, especially in regards to the increased recycling rates in the City. There is a 46% participation rate. There is no reason why we all can't recycle. We have plenty of bins and the ability to do

it now. For those of you who aren't recycling, now is a good time to take the opportunity and order a bin and join the 46% of us that are.

Councilman Stuckert – Do the changes in how the county does their recycling affect our program?

Councilman Jaehnig – It doesn't really affect our program. The County Solid Waste Management is no longer able to accept cardboard, so they have removed it from our in-city collection sites. Cardboard is becoming more and more of an issue and takes up a lot of space in the landfill. The demand for cardboard has fluctuated over time and it has caused part of the issues. This is something that will be on our agenda moving forward.

Service Director Reinsmith – I think we need to get to that agenda soon because there are issues we need to discuss. Braden brought to my attention that right now the cardboard has nowhere to go in our landfill. We have to talk about how we want to handle it.

Councilman Stuckert – We could challenge our high school science departments, Southern State and Wilmington College to find an innovative use for the excess cardboard.

Councilman Jaehnig – One of the issues is the private market has worked to eliminate competition. The schools particularly took a hard hit when Abitibi shut down because a lot of them were getting funds filtered right directly back to the schools. The schools are not only not receiving those funds, but they are having to pay to have their recycling removed. Obviously, recycling is important and is something we should try to continue, but it is getting more and more expensive as we move forward.

Councilman Stuckert – I was glad to hear that we are not out of the recycling business because I helped spread the rumors that we were at one time...when I first heard that we were no longer able to recycle...period.

Mayor Riley – It is an interesting problem. The major paper manufacturers find it cheaper to manufacture paper from wood pulp rather than from recycled cardboard or paper. They have that big profit motive, so that is what they are doing. They bale and bundle up this cardboard and they are just stacking it up and stacking it up because they don't have anyone to buy it. They are hoping, as you said, that there will be a market for paper and then they will be able to cash in on all of these big pallets of paper that they have sitting around. Right now, they are just taking up space.

Councilman Jaehnig – There are warehouses and warehouses across the country full of cardboard waiting for the market to return. Unfortunately, we have gone years without the market returning.

Councilman McKay – If an industry wants to reuse their packing materials, there are machines that you can put that cardboard through and it becomes a wonderful packing product. It may be a minor thing, but it is something to think about as we are talking to folks who are trying to get rid of cardboard.

Bill Limbacher – Do the blue bins take newspaper?

Councilman Jaehnig – Yes. The blue bins will take newspapers, plastic, glass, metal. The only thing that we ask is that you are not putting cardboard in there. Also, if there is a lot of food product left on the items, it attracts wild animals.

Paul Hunter – Also, they do not take pasteboard, like cereal boxes.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Milburn pointed out that she liked the summary of the Wastewater Department in the State of the City report. They accomplished a lot last year.

Judiciary Committee - Chairperson Jaehnig presented the first reading authorizing participation in the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program. This is something we do every two years. Phil Floyd from the Transit Department is available if there are any questions.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Milburn to give the first reading only on a resolution Authorizing Participation in the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

Jaehnig requested that the second reading be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Jaehnig – The Regional Planning Commission has put a lot of work into developing an updated comprehensive plan for the City. The Judiciary Committee has been reviewing it. We will set up a Special Council meeting to present it in its entirety. We have not had one updated since the 1970s. In some cities, this is updated every ten years. Taylor Stuckert has done an amazing job. It will help set us up on the right foot to move forward as we look at new developments coming into the city, commercial opportunities, residential opportunities, and so we don't approach things in a hodge-podge manner.

Safety Committee - Chairperson Spicer introduced legislation declaring a 2008 Dodge vehicle surplus for the Police Department.

A motion was made by Spicer and seconded by Miller to give the first reading only on a resolution Declaring Surplus Property, to Wit: Police Department Vehicle Valued at More than \$1000, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Vehicle, and Declaring an Emergency.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Spicer and seconded by McKay to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

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

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Spicer and seconded by McKay to pass the resolution as read.

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2395 passed as read.

Finance Committee - Chairperson Miller introduced a legislation asking the county for payment of tax monies.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Mead to give the first reading only on a resolution Authorizing Request for Advance Payment of Settlement from the County.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution 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 resolution by title only.

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

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

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

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2396 passed as read.

Councilwoman Miller – We have a finance meeting next week. The budget process this past year was early and aggressive, and I can't thank the mayor and department heads enough for all the work. I want to start the new year out as a team to be consistent. The meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. next Thursday.

Cemetery Committee – Chairperson Mead – The committee met and discussed the things we have to do to confirm the transfer of the cemetery from the Cemetery Board to the City. We were not able to come up with enough concrete answers to be comfortable accepting the cemetery at this time. The Law Director is diligently working on getting these points straightened out. Brenda is working on gathering data. We are hoping that soon we can have a meeting to accept the cemetery.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener McKay – The Main Street group is advertising for the position of Director. If anyone is interested in the position, I urge you to apply.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Convener Stuckert introduced legislation declaring an old truck as surplus.

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Milburn to give the first reading only on a resolution Declaring Surplus Property, to Wit: Parks Department Vehicle Valued at More Than \$1000, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Vehicle; and Declaring an Emergency.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Milburn to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

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

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Milburn to pass the resolution as read.

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2397 passed as read.

Service Director - Service Director Reinsmith – I want to address political signs. I created a handout for all who are running to clarify things. No signs are permitted in the tree lawn (between the curb and the sidewalk). If there is no sidewalk, the signs are not permitted in the right-of-way, about 7.5 feet from the edge of the pavement back. Any zones besides industrial, the maximum size sign is 8 square feet, which is like about a 3 x 2.5 feet. In industrial zones, you are allowed to go 32 square feet. Don't put your sign on someone else's commercial sign, because you are going to put them in violation, because they are only permitted 50 or 100 square feet for their big sign. Be careful on corners because there is a corner clearance rule. You can't block the corner for oncoming traffic. If you have a question give us a call. We have zoning maps that you can look at.

[Discussion of political signage regulations]

Paul Hunter – In the State of the City, they didn't put in the water sold and the water furnished as we have done every year. Do you have an idea of the difference?

Service Director Reinsmith – Jerry has repaired three or four major leaks. The one on Rombach was very large and he has found two others already. You can call Jerry and get the information you need.

Safety Director – In the absence of Safety Director Russ Burton, Mayor Riley there was no report.

Reports

Councilman Stuckert noted that it appeared that the city was up 17% in the first month on the income tax report.

Mayor Riley pointed out that it was on the withholding from the employers. That's up over \$100,000 from last year. It has been a good January.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Miller that the Income Tax Report – January 2015, be accepted as presented.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Reports accepted as presented.

[Discussion of JUMP hangar employees]

Mayor Riley – As an updated on recycling, we do not accept cardboard, cereal boxes, paper plates, cups, pizza boxes or any other paper product normally used in the bathroom or kitchen.

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

Councilman Mead – I would like to bring people up to date on what is happening downtown Masonic Lodge building. The building is not presently for sale. The building has not been sold. The building will remain in the control of the Wilmington Masonic Lodge from this time forward as far as I know. Jen's Deli is still active in business. There are still other tenants there. Nothing is happening right now.

President Peterson asked if anyone else wished to address council while in session.

Councilman Stuckert – I think it is exciting to see so many young people stepping forward to file petitions to come into office. We have a fair amount of diversity. I think these are exciting times.

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

A motion was made by McKay to adjourn.

President of Council declared the meeting adjourned.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk