

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. with President Pro Tem Mark McKay presiding.

Call to Order

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

Officer Estle was also present.

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Spicer to excuse the absent members (Mead and Milburn).

Motion passed. All yeas.

Absent members excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Moment of silence observed

President Pro Tem of Council

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Miller to accept the agenda as amended to include the Public Hearing for the Transit Grant.

Motion passed. All yeas.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Jaehnig to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, August 6, as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

President Pro Tem Mark McKay opened the public hearing on the Wilmington Transit Grant Programs for 2016.

Director of Wilmington Transit Phil Floyd – Each year, Wilmington Transit must prepare and submit applications and proposals, on behalf of The City of Wilmington, for the purpose of requesting grants from The Ohio Department of Transportation and The Federal Transit Administration to allow Wilmington to continue operating a public transit system for the citizens of Wilmington and the surrounding area. One of the requirements within this process is to hold this public hearing explaining our operations, and outline our plans for the 2016 calendar year.

We prepare the grant applications, which include a budget proposal and operating procedures, plus the certifications and assurances documents which indicates that we can and will meet all federal and state requirements to operate a system that will provide the public with safe, reliable and efficient public transportation. Also, that we will spend the grant funds in a responsible and prudent way and that the city, as the grantee, will make available, within its General Fund, a percentage of the total operating and capital budget presented, also known as local matching funds.

Let me start by saying that we have been extremely fortunate, here in Wilmington, to have the support and backing of our Mayor and Council, past and present, to be able to provide this service, now in its 31st year. During that time, we have raised fares only once, and our goal is to keep the fares the same through 2016.

Through the first 7 months of 2015, we are on a pace to provide over 150,000 rides, which would be a new one-year record for Wilmington Transit System. So far this year we are up about 2% from our 2014 ridership. This certainly has been one of our most pressing challenges: keeping up with demand. Through 2016, our goal is to continue to provide safe, reliable transportation for our citizens to medical appointments, employment opportunities, education, shopping and all other necessary transportation needs that our citizens require, especially our elderly and disabled to help them maintain their independence and quality of life.

While we have worked very hard to maintain a high level of service, and keep fares low, one unfortunate result of our increase in ridership and belt tightening, has been longer wait times. There are times when riders must wait over an hour for a vehicle. This, we apologize for, and hope that everyone will understand and be patient with us.

In the past, we would submit our grant proposal to The Ohio Department of Transportation, and hope that they would provide a portion of the funds needed to maintain our service. Because we have provided a level of service that places us in the top tier of Public Transit Systems in the state, which is determined by ridership, efficiency, and the multiple statistics we must provide quarterly, we have almost always received what we have requested. Beginning last year, ODOT began informing all 53 public transit systems the amounts they were going to be awarded in grant funds prior to the submittal of our proposals. So, we had to work within those allocations to operate and replace vehicles. This year we are replacing 5 vehicles, 1 LTN Large Van and 4 Modified Mini Vans. All wheelchair accessible.

Because of our continued increase in ridership, the first of this year we began a dialog with Transit and ODOT officials in Columbus, to find solutions to our dilemma.

Through the multiple meetings, and subtle persuasion, I am very pleased to announce that for 2016 Wilmington Transit will be able to expand our fleet of vehicles from 17 to 21 with the addition of 4 additional Modified Minivans that should arrive before the end of this year. And best of all, these vehicles are being provided without any cost to The City of Wilmington. This will definitely help us provide more timely pick up of passengers during our very busy times.

Also, for 2016, we will be replacing two older vehicles, including one large LTN van with wheelchair lift and one Modified Minivan. And again, I'm happy to announce that both vehicles will be provided with no matching funds required by Wilmington. They will be paid for through Toll Revenue Credits; plus, ODOT will also provide 100% of our Capital Maintenance funds, rather than the normal 80% that has been provided in the past, with the city having to provide 20% matching funds for those capital needs.

Now, here's the most exciting news: My preliminary budget calculations indicate that the amount The City of Wilmington will be required to provide from the General Fund as matching funds for 2016, will only be \$187,509.00, which is the lowest amount required since 1999. That's with a total budget of \$1,557,647.00. The vast majority of the total budget revenue will be made up from the Federal and State Grants, fare-box collection, fuel tax rebates and contract revenues, along with the full coverage of all our capital needs. That means that, for the calendar year of 2016, The City of Wilmington will be responsible for only 12% of every dollar spent for this service. Nine years ago, Wilmington's required contribution was at 29%. Through our continued efforts to improve efficiency and cost cutting, we have continued to find ways to fund this much needed service, which continues to grow each year, while keeping fares low and maintaining the same level of operation. Again, all this is made possible through the continued support of our Mayor and our Council. We thank you for that.

Finally, I want to publicly thank the greatest group of drivers and support staff for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to our community. I have said before, and I will say again, our employees are our greatest asset. Please, if you have not already done so, I ask you to sign the attendance sheets on the table as you leave.

Councilman McKay – Thank you for your report and all of your efforts.

President Pro Tem McKay closed the public hearing on the Wilmington Transit Grant 2016 Programs.

Mayor - Mayor Riley introduced Chamber of Commerce Director Mark Rembert.

Mark Rembert presented a PowerPoint presentation on a statistical analysis of the Wilmington and Clinton County workforce in terms of commuting behavior and aging. He discussed how these factors affect economic development in the area.

[Discussion of workforce aging data, education, and commuting]

Lee Hendee of the local radio station WALH 106.7 presented information regarding a petition with FCC in support of low-power FM radio stations.

Auditor - Auditor David Hollingsworth had no report.

President Pro Tem McKay reminded council that there were not enough members present for a super majority, so they will not be able to suspend the rules on any legislation.

Asset, Acquisition and Use. – In the absence of Chairperson Mead, there was no report.

Water Committee - Chairperson McKay introduced the subject of online bill pay.

Mayor Riley said that more details will be provided in early October after the program is in place.

Councilman Jaehnig expressed concern over the possibility that people would no longer be able to pay their utility bills with a credit card.

Barb McVey explained that the department currently will continue to accept credit cards over the counter. At this point, utility billing will stop taking credit card payments over the phone. The city will continue to pay the fees associated with the card payments until online bill pay is setup and is fully operational. This has a projected completion date of October 1. After that, customers will be able to log onto the city's website and click on "Pay Utility Bill." They will be made aware that in addition to the amount on their utility bill, they will be charge \$3.95 for use of a credit card or \$1.95 if they use their debit card.

Councilman Jaehnig asked why the fees were being instituted. Barb McVey explained that the fees paid by the city in order to accept credit cards have been escalating over the years. The heads of the three departments who bill services through the Utility Billing Office all agreed that the city should not pay these fees when other types of payment options are offered.

[Discussion of credit card processing fees]

Councilman Jaehnig maintained that credit card fees should be considered a cost of doing business. Barb McVey said that she had researched other municipalities and the majority of them charge a convenience fee. Mayor Riley pointed out that unlike other businesses, the City is not able to easily change the price of its products in order to pass the cost along to the customer.

Councilman Jaehnig asked what the fee would be for a person use a credit card if they are paying in-person at the Utility Billing office. Barb McVey explained that the plan is to no longer accept credit cards for over-the-counter transactions. Customers will be able to call a 1-800 number if they do not have access to a computer at home.

Councilman Jaehnig asked how much the city is paying in credit card fees per month. Barb McVey said the city paid \$1222.00 in fees in the month of August.

Mayor Riley said he would like Barb McVey to come back before council in October when the system is in place to give an overview at that time.

Streets Committee - Chairperson McKay presented legislation vacating the alley adjacent to David Raizk property.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Stuckert to give the second reading only on the ordinance Vacating the City Portion of an Alley in E.R. Mills Grandview Addition.

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

McKay requested that the third reading be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Solid Waste/Recycling - Chairperson Jaehnig had no report.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee – In the absence of Chairperson Milburn, there was no report.

Judiciary Committee - Chairperson Jaehnig thanked and commended Phil Floyd on his report and introduced the final reading on the taxi grant legislation.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Miller to give the third reading only on a resolution Authorizing the Submittal of a Proposal with the Ohio Department of Transportation for a Grant Through the U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA), As Authorized Under Federal Transit Law, As Codified, 49 USC Section 5311, Financial Assistance for Other Than Urbanized Areas and Funds Available from the Ohio Public Transportation Grant Program and Executing a Contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation Upon Grant Proposal Acceptance.

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

President Pro Tem of Council declared Res. No. 2427 passed as read.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Miller to give the third reading only on a resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the 2016 Elderly and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program.

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

President Pro Tem of Council declared Res. No. 2427 passed as read.

Councilman Jaehnig – At the next Judiciary Committee meeting, we will continue to work with regional planning in pursuit of CRA legislation, which will provide for property tax abatements for residential improvements. The CRA will be designed to lower the number of rentals, tighten the market, and entice multifamily units to convert to single-family owner-occupied units. There will also be enticements to promote infill and rehabilitation of current structures. The final CRA legislation should be ready at the next Judiciary Committee meeting.

Safety Committee - Chairperson Spicer had no report.

Finance Committee - Chairperson Miller introduced legislation for a supplemental appropriation: From the Police Fund to Canine Supplies, \$1200.00; 1st Mortgage Waterworks System Revenue Bond Fund to Transfers, \$50.00.

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

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced miscellaneous transfers: \$4,000 from Salary Acting Clerk to Salary Bailiff; \$1700 from Radio Maintenance to Communication Incidentals; \$3200 from Jail and Workhouse to Maintenance Contracts; \$46,450 from Bond Principal – GO to Interest on Bonds.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Spicer to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Miscellaneous Transfers.
President Pro Tem called for vote.
Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced then and now legislation.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on a resolution Authorizing Payment of Expenses Incurred in Prior Fiscal Year.
President Pro Tem called for vote.
Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced legislation accepting the local government assistance formula.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on a resolution Accepting Local Government Assistance Formula as Provided by the Clinton County Auditor.
President Pro Tem called for vote.
Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced legislation accepting amounts and rates of the levies.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on a resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor.
President Pro Tem called for vote.
Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced legislation for the special assessment for street lighting.

Auditor David Hollingsworth pointed out that the amount collected was reduced last year.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Spicer to give the first reading only on a resolution Declaring it Necessary to Light the Streets, Lanes, Alleys, Lands, Squares and Public Places in the City of Wilmington, Ohio, with Electric Lights, and for Special Assessments to be Levied to Pay the Cost Thereof for the Year 2016.
President Pro Tem called for vote.
Motion passed. All yeas.
Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced legislation approving liens for mowing, property maintenance and unpaid utility bills. Councilman Jaehnig pointed out that many of the entities on the list who have not taken care of the properties are large mortgage companies.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Spicer to give the first reading only on a resolution Approving Liens Pursuant to Section 729.49, 743.04 of the Ohio Revised Code and 923.09, 929.03, and 1729.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wilmington, and Declaring an Emergency.

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

Councilwoman Miller introduced legislation establishing a new fund for the online utility bill-pay system.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Stuckert to give the first reading only on the ordinance Establishing a New Fund.

President Pro Tem called for vote.

Motion passed. Jaehnig voted no. All others voted yea.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

Cemetery Committee – In the absence of Chairperson Mead, there was no report.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener McKay – Jeep Jam was great last week, and this week there is a party at the mural.

Parks and Recreation Committee – In the absence of Convener Milburn, there was no report.

Service Director - Service Director Reinsmith had no report.

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

Reports

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Miller that the Auditor Treasurer Report – July 2015 and Hotel Lodging Tax Report – 2nd Quarter 2015, be accepted as presented.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as presented.

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

Paul Fear – 527 Randolph Street – Announced to City Council that he had filed a petition to run as a write-in candidate for mayor of the City of Wilmington.

Randy Riley announced that Jonathan McKay would be emcee of the Corn Festival this year.

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 McKay declared the meeting adjourned.
Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk