

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 7th, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. with President Randy Riley presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call: Purkey, present; Spicer, absent; Stuckert, absent; J. McKay, present; Swindler, present; Liermann, present; M. McKay, present.

Chief Weyand was present.

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded by Liermann to excuse the absent members. Motion passed.

Absent members excused. (Spicer)

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded by J. McKay to excuse the absent members. Motion passed.

Absent members excused. (Stuckert)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge was led by Boy Scout Troop 155.

MOMENT OF SILENCE**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

President Riley stated that because there were only 5 members present, they do not have a super majority and will not be able to do three readings in one meeting on the legislation. Miller stated it might be necessary to do a Special Council meeting, due to the urgency of some of the finance items.

A motion was made by Purkey and seconded by M. McKay to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed.

Agenda approved as presented.

A motion was made by J. McKay and seconded by M. McKay to approve the November 16th minutes as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

President Riley presented a notice to Legislative Authority from the Beverage Dock and noted that it would be on file in the Mayor's Office.

Public Hearing opened 7:36pm.

President Riley opened the floor for the Public Hearing on the Water Rate Increase and invited Councilperson Swindler, who serves as the Chair of the Water Committee to begin the discussion. Swindler stated she would like to use this time for the members of council, who have now had time to really look at the Water budget, to ask questions. Swindler stated that there is a significant variance due mostly to the algal bloom, and in turn also brought to light a lot of issues at the Water Plant. Swindler stated Rick Schaffer has been very proactive and did an overview of the Water Plant and provided Council with recommendations to continue to provide clean and safe water. Schaffer also provided a budget variance where he highlighted and explained the changes and increases. Swindler stated the Water Fund is currently at \$1.67 million The Water Fund estimated revenue for 2018 is \$3.8 million, and the budgeted amount is \$4.39 million, which is unsustainable. Swindler stated they would be \$10,000 away from not meeting their debt service coverage and that will prevent them from obtaining their loans. This rate increase would amount to a 10% increase for next year, 5% for 2019, 5% for 2020, and 2% for 2021.

Swindler stated this would be changing the rates from around \$6.42 to \$7.18 for the end user, which would indeed be felt, but has to be done for the safety of the water supply. Swindler

stated they did want to emphasize they would not be spending any funds on fluoride in 2018 unless the entire cost was covered and are 100% reimbursed. M. McKay asked if the increase from \$6.42 to \$7.18 was a monthly cost increase, Miller stated it would be per 1,00 gallons. No other questions were brought forth and President Riley declared the Public Hearing closed.

Public Hearing closed at 7:41pm.

MAYOR

Mayor Stanforth addressed the recent news from the Clinton County Visitor's Bureau audit and investigation. He stated even though the news of the misappropriation of funds by the late Executive Director Debbie Stamper was heartbreaking but no one is infallible to mistakes. Stanforth said restitution has been completed and the CVB has been made whole, but this is a reminder that we must be vigilant regarding the trust that the public has given us. Stanforth stated after the release of the report and receiving permission, Board President Doug Devilbiss reached out to the office and Judiciary Committee Chair Matt Purkey to discuss the results of the audit and assure the city that the CVB Board is actively updating the organizations bylaws, to bring closure to the situation. Stanforth stated the city trusts and remains supportive of the CVB and remain committed to supporting its mission.

Mayor Stanforth read a letter of thanks from Jean and Pat Guzzi, who had a carbon monoxide alarm go off and called the Fire Department. The letter stated the responders were efficient, prompt, and courteous and they remained at the residence until the carbon monoxide count was down to zero. (*See Exhibit A*)

Stanforth stated the new members of council would be sworn in at December 21st City Council meeting. Stanforth thanked the Action Club for decorating the Municipal Building for the holidays. The Mayor also stated he had recently attended a great CPR and first aid training for the city, and complimented Firefighter and CPR Instructor Jack Coates. Stanforth stated the Transit Department had been awarded its grant for 2018.

AUDITOR

Auditor – Auditor Hollingsworth presented his report to council highlighting the changes in the budgeted and actual amounts in the 2017 Budget (*See Exhibit B*). Hollingsworth emphasized this document is a worksheet and the numbers are based on a lot of assumptions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION

Asset, Acquisition and Use – Chairperson Purkey had no action items.

Cemetery Committee – Chairperson J. McKay had no action items.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener M. McKay gave an overview of the \$25 Days of Christmas with the Chamber of Commerce for those who are shopping local. M. McKay stated they received a lot of compliments on Holidazzle and the downtown tree lights. M. McKay stated “Blue Christmas” will be held December 21st at Clinton Memorial Hospital. The Hope House Christmas Tree Fundraiser is going on in the Jen's Deli building benefitting. M. McKay stated the Murphy Christmas show would be taking place at the theatre and “Santaland Diaries” would be a dinner show at the General Denver Hotel. M. McKay also mentioned the Holdren's Christmas Display was at the Wilmington Nursing and Rehab and it is open to the public.

Finance Committee – Chairperson M. McKay had four pieces of legislation. The first reading on Ordinance O-17-73, making miscellaneous transfers from “Jail and Workhouse” to “Maintenance Contracts” the sum of \$4,500.00, from “Jail and Workhouse” to “Police Incidentals” the sum of \$500.00, from “Uniform Maintenance” to “Maintenance Contracts” the sum of \$1,500.00, from “Appointed Counsel” to “Supplies” the sum of \$1,000.00, and from “Water Treatment” to “Supplies” to sum of \$13,636.50.

A motion was made by M. McKay and seconded by Swindler to give the first reading only on Ordinance No. O-17-73, Making miscellaneous transfers.

All yeas.

Motion passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

M. McKay asked that the second and third reading be put on the next available meeting agenda.

M. McKay introduced Ordinance O-17-74, making supplemental appropriations from the “General Fund” to “Transfer to Jump Hanger Fund” the sum of \$4,500.00, from the “Jump Hanger Fund” to “Service Payments” the sum of \$6,000.00, from the “Police Evidence Fund” to “Program Expenses” the sum of \$3,000.00, from the “General Fund” to “Trans. To Retained Hotel Lodging Tax Fund” the sum of \$821.41, from the “General Fund” to “Trans. To Hotel Lodging Tax Fund” the sum of \$830.72, from the “Hotel Lodging Tax Fund” to “Convention & Visitors Bureau” the sum of \$829.72, from the “Insurance Fund” to “Insurance Deductibles” the sum of \$325,000.00, from the “UMR Fund” to “Deductible Payments” the sum of \$325,000.00, from the “Cemetery Fund” to “Contract Opening and Closing” the sum of \$4,000.00, from the “Waste Fund” to “State/Local” the sum of \$11,000.00, and from the “Fire Pension Fund” to “Fire Pension” the sum of \$3,640.00.

A motion was made by M. McKay and seconded by Swindler to give the first reading only on Ordinance No. O-17-74, Making supplemental appropriations.

All yeas.

Motion passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

M. McKay asked that the second and third reading be put on the next available meeting agenda.

M. McKay stated they would be doing a second reading only on the 2018 Budget.

A motion was made by M. McKay and seconded by Swindler to give the second reading only on Ordinance No. O-17-69- Making appropriations for current expenses and other expenses and expenditures of the City of Wilmington, Ohio during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

All yeas.

Motion passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

M. McKay asked that a third reading of O-17-69 be on agenda for the next meeting agenda.

M. McKay introduced Ordinance O-17-75 and briefly spoke about the TIF agreement. M. McKay asked Auditor Hollingsworth to explain. Hollingsworth stated the TIF is in regards to the Jump Hanger that was built by ATSG. The State, ATSG, and the City of Wilmington had previously entered into an agreement with Wilmington City Schools and the Joint Vocational Schools where the City gets the real estate tax on the assessed value of the Jump Hanger, and that money is used to make payments back to the State on the money they loaned ATSG to build the Jump Hanger.

Hollingsworth stated ATSG’s commitment was they would have at least 249 or 259 full time employees by October of 2017. The schools are giving up their portion of the real estate tax that they would normally collect, but still get a small portion, but in order to make up for the difference, the agreement states they get 1/3 of the income tax contributed by the employees. Hollingsworth stated while this does make the City whole, but it makes the Joint Vocational School more than whole, they would have getting more than they would have collected normally through the real estate tax. There was discussion with the City and JVS’s legal counsel and an agreement was made. Hollingsworth stated the City will continue to make them whole, but will not be giving them 1/3 of the income tax and this agreement will help with any future issues that arise about the contributions and payments. This is considered an emergency because this legislation needs to be passed before the December 15th payment is due.

A motion was made by M. McKay and seconded by Liermann to give the first reading only on Ordinance No. O-17-75- An Ordinance approving a Great Oaks Compensation Agreement and authorizing its execution and delivery to the Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development, also known as Great Oaks Career Campuses, together with the initial TIF compensation payment thereunder, and declaring an emergency.

All yeas.

Motion passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

M. McKay asked that a third reading of O-17-75 be on agenda for the next available meeting.

Judiciary Committee – Chairperson Purkey had no action items.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairperson Liermann had no action items.

Safety/ Transportation Committee – Chairperson Spicer was absent and had no action items.

Solid Waste/Recycling – Chairperson Spicer was absent and had no action items.

Streets Committee – Chairperson Spicer was absent and had no action items. Liermann commented on the repaired railroad crossing on Doan Street, stating it was much improved.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Stuckert had no action items, but Clerk Miller stated they may need a special committee meeting on pending legislation.

Water Committee – Chairperson Swindler had one piece of legislation, a second reading on Ordinance No. O-17-72 regarding a rate increase.

A motion was made by Swindler and seconded by M. McKay to give the second reading only on Ordinance No. O-17-72- An Ordinance Amending Chapter 929 of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Wilmington in order to provide for an increase in water rates, repealing any and all legislation inconsistent herewith.

All yeas.

Motion passes.

The Law Director read the Ordinance by title only.

Swindler asked that a third reading of O-17-72 be on agenda for the next full regular meeting.

Safety/Service Director – Director Shidaker gave a brief update and stated the Doan railroad crossing was repaired for \$190,000 of state and federal money. Shidaker stated the City did not have to pay for any of the repairs. Shidaker stated the projects for next year focus on City streets, and this year alone 450,000 feet of street were paved in the Northwest Quadrant. Shidaker stated the projects will continue on by Quadrant, and will begin in the Northeast, east of North South Street and east of East Locust including all the way down Rombach Avenue. Shidaker stated the streets have all been analyzed and have a color coding system; the goal now is to get many of the streets repaired. Shidaker stated the process will be a lot quicker in 2018 than the previous year. Bidding for the projects will start in January with the projects beginning in spring. Shidaker stated they were lacking in funds to finish all of the projects in the Northwest Quadrant, but they are hopeful for more funding in the future.

Shidaker stated in 2018 they will actively be repairing sidewalks and working closely with Code Enforcement. Property owners will be able to repair their own sidewalks, or contact the city and become a part of a larger, bidded out sidewalk project. Mayor Stanforth stated the city can negotiate a better price for sidewalk repair when they are a part of a larger repair project.

Swindler stated she had a question from a constituent who wanted to know if there will be any paint touch ups to streets that are not scheduled for repaving. Shidaker stated whatever the complaint was could they should contact the Service and Safety Department to report it.

M. McKay inquired about the progress on the Xenia Avenue intersection. Shidaker stated there have been a lot of safety concerns, but the intent was to prevent the traffic from going left of center as they turned travelling in either direction. Shidaker stated they have explored a few safety measures for that intersection one being would have required taking properties and would have been very expensive. The second idea

involves a traffic island which Shidaker stated will force traffic to maintain its lane and not go left of center. Shidaker stated it also forces traffic to slow down. Shidaker stated there still is the chance of being in an accident there, but with the island in place, the rate of speed will be greatly reduced, and any accident to be much less severe than it would have been at a higher rate of speed.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

A motion was made by M. McKay and seconded by J. McKay to accept the Income Tax Report.
Motion passed.
Report accepted as presented.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

President Riley and Mayor Stanforth commended the leaf pick up crew on their work this season.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by M. McKay.
President Riley declared meeting adjourned.
Council adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk