

Wellston City Council Meeting Minutes

January 20th, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Dave McWilliams by asking Council and others in attendance to stand for the Pledge. He then called for the roll call.

Councilpersons answering the roll call included: Angela Spangler, Rick Hudson, Lynley Carey, Teresa Lemaster, Fred Duby, and Roaby Browning.

The meeting opened by Mayor Hudson presenting past Councilpersons Keith Woolum and Tom Clark certificates of appreciation for their many years of service on City Council.

President McWilliams then opened the floor to nominations to fill the 2nd Ward Seat. Lemaster nominated Matti Vance, Hudson seconded, and all voted in favor. There were no other nominees. Jackson County Commissioner Jon Hensler took to the podium to administer the Council Oath to Vance.

Next, the floor was opened to nominations for Council Clerk. Browning nominated Mindy Eisnaugle, Hudson seconded, and all voted in favor.

Public Comments-

Ryon Stroud, 335 South Pennsylvania Avenue, was present to address his concerns with the traffic light at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street once again. This matter will be sent for discussion to the Health & Safety Committee.

A motion to approve the December 16th minutes was made by Hudson, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance who could vote on the matter.

Correspondence- Frontier Community Service alerted Council that they are planning a Senior Housing Development just outside the City Limits. The Mayor informed Council that he had been in contact with representatives from this agency. This is the same area that Council voted in July to abandon damaged sewer lines. The Mayor made it known to the developer and property owner that the City will not commit any money to this project whatsoever. The Mayor stated Frontier would need to do all of the engineering, developing, and ensuring that the lift stations could handle the upgrades. In addition, tap fees would need to be paid for every residence in order to obtain City Service.

The next piece of correspondence was a filing reminder to all elected officials to file with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Committees: Committee Assignments were passed out and are as follows:

Finance- Rick Hudson

Health & Safety- LeMaster

Public Service- Browning
Planning- Carey
Community Action- Browning

McWilliams asked for nominations to appoint a President Pro Tem. Carey nominated Hudson, Browning seconded, and all voted in favor.

Old Business- none

New Business- none

Legislation:

- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2021-69- An Ordinance vacating a portion of 12th Street running east-west from South Rhode Island Avenue to South New Hampshire Avenue.
Discussion: This alley is no longer being paved by the City and has been used as a parking lot for Clark's Body Shop for years.
Sponsor: Browning
- Second Reading of Resolution No. 2021-70- A Resolution by the Council of the City of Wellston, Ohio to approve the appointment of Vicki Arthur-Rupert by the Mayor to the Wellston Planning and Zoning Board as an At-Large Member for the remainder of the term left vacant by Wayne Cosper.
Sponsor: Carey
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2022-01- A Resolution awarding the Infrastructure Improvements 2021 New York/Broadway- Waterline Construction Contract in accordance with the Engineer's Letter of Bid Recommendation, subject to final approval of funding requirements of the project and declaring an emergency.
Discussion: none
Sponsor: Hudson
A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Browning, seconded by DUBY, and approved by all in attendance. A motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Carey, seconded by Hudson, and approved by all in attendance.
- First Reading of Resolution No. 2022-02- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston to enter into an agreement with Great Lakes Community Action Partnership to complete a Rural Development Environment Report.
Discussion: Mayor Hudson explained that this has to do with RCAP. They are going to do an environmental study concerning the possibility of building a new water plant. This new plant would close the existing two plants and save the city money.
Sponsor: Hudson
Hudson made a motion to suspend the rules; Lemaster seconded; all voted in favor of suspending the rules for immediate passage.

A motion to adopt and pass was made by Vance, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2022-03- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston to an agreement with DLZ, Inc. to perform engineering.

Discussion: none

Sponsor: Spangler

Hudson made a motion to suspend the rules; seconded by Carey; all voted in favor of suspending the rules for immediate passage.

Hudson made a motion to adopt and pass, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2022-04- A Resolution of the Legislative Authority of the City of Wellston authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Indigent Defense Contract with the Jackson County Commissioners so as to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with violations of the Wellston Municipal Code for the first half of 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: none

Sponsor: Browning

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Browning, seconded by Hudson, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Hudson, seconded by Spangler, and approved by all in attendance.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2022-05- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston to prepare and submit an application to participate in the 2021/2022 Ohio Department of Transportation “Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)” and to execute contracts as required and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: Service Director explained to Council that this was the secondary phase of the Small Cities Grant that will be used for downtown.

Sponsor: Browning

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Hudson, seconded by Vance, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Lemaster, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-06- An Ordinance vacating a portion of an alley abutting and situated between parcels numbered M240280012900, M240280013100, and M240280013200, and running from 11th Street South between those parcels.

Discussion: The Mayor said this alley has never been used. Jeffery Collins, Mohawk Electric, had requested the alley vacation.

Sponsor: Lemaster

Mayor

The Mayor informed Council of recent personnel changes within the city building. With these changes in personnel and the recent software upgrades, the transition has been unpleasant.

Mayor Hudson said to expect water breaks due to freezing temperatures. He commended the crews working in these cold temperatures dealing with water breaks and running snow plows nonstop.

He stated that he looks forward to working with this council, that there are many legacy projects to work on in the coming year.

He asked that Council decide how to handle the recent mobile home issue since the legislation died at the last Council meeting. President McWilliams assigned the matter to the Health & Safety Committee.

Service Director

The Service Director opened by congratulating the new councilmembers and let them know they are free to directly call him to deal with day-to-day issues.

He explained that city crews are broken into shift work; no one is permitted to work more than a 16-hour shift due to safety reasons. He said the crews did an amazing job keeping the streets clear. He also said more salt is expected to be delivered.

There was a water break during the recent storm and commended the water department for a job well done.

Law Director- none

Auditor- A motion was made by Lemaster, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance, to approve Statement of Cash Pos Appropriation Expenditure Report.

City Clerk's Reports- none

Treasurer Report- A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Hudson, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

Fire- none

Zoning- none

Police- Chief Robinson presented the 2021-year summary. He clarified that he has 9-full time officers, which includes two sergeants. A Dodge Charger has joined the fleet.

A motion to go into Executive Session concerning personnel matters was made by Browning, seconded by Carey, and approved by all in attendance. 7:42 p.m.

The meeting commenced at 8:08 p.m. Vance made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carey, and agreed upon by all those in attendance. This meeting of Wellston City Council ended at 8:08 p.m.


Council Clerk


Council President