

Regular Council

November 23

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The regular meeting of the Waterville Council was called to order by Mayor Timothy Pedro at 7:30 p.m. by video conference with Council members.

The prayer was offered by Mrs. Duncan. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and led by Mr. Rozic.

Present at roll call were Mr. Bruno, Mrs. Bruno, Mr. Frey, Mayor Pedro, Mr. Rozic, Mr. Borowski and Mrs. Duncan.

Also present this evening in Council Chambers was Jon Gochenour, Municipal Administrator and Clerk of Council and Melissa Cook, Recording Secretary. Steve Schult, Treasurer and Phil Dombey, Law Director, were present by video conference.

Staff Present:

Mark Williams – Director of Finance and Administration by video conference

Joe Valvano – Police Chief by video conference

Doug Meyer – Fire Chief by video conference

Ken Blair – Public Works Director by video conference

Citizens Present:

Karen Gerhardinger – Mirror Newspaper by video conference

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bruno moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 Council meeting as amended. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

Citizens Comments

None

Staff Reports

Administrator: Jon Gochenour -

- Reported that he has finalized dates for unlimited pick-up and the delivery of refuse and recycling containers for residents with a representative of Republic Services. He then stated that information packets have been mailed to residents explaining the dates for unlimited pick-up (“Area A” – December 5 and “Area B” – December 12), the delivery of refuse and recycling containers (beginning Nov. 30), and the start of the automated refuse and recycling collection (December 7). Also provided in the packets, were educational information from Republic Services along with a collection calendar and collection area maps. He also noted that the cost of an extra bag tag has increased to \$6.00 each and a bulk item tag is now \$12.00.

Mayor Pedro asked if there were any updates on the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District. Mr. Frey stated that things are moving along and that the new Cemetery Sexton is doing a great job. He also stated that they are currently in the process of working out the potential purchase of some equipment from Waterville Township. Mayor Pedro then asked Mr. Gochenour about item 15 on his report to Council regarding the Fallen Timbers Family Recreation Center. Mr. Gochenour stated that the membership is planning on making some improvements to their pool facility. He met with club representatives to go over the Special Use Permit application process and other questions pertaining to their proposed expansion.

Law Director: Phil Dombey –

- Explained that a recent Ohio Supreme Court ruling will prevent the State of Ohio from charging local governments 5% on all municipal business income taxes that it collects through a centralized system.

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Finance Director: Mark Williams -

- Reviewed details of the October 2020 Month End Finance Report highlighting fund balances, investments and income tax revenues.

Mrs. Bruno asked if the Fund Balance Spreadsheet total included the CARES Act monies. Mr. Williams stated that the ending balance does include those funds. He added that the City is a sub-grantee of Lucas County. Our deadline for submitting any unspent or unencumbered funds was November 20. We received approximately \$661,000 and returned \$136,000 to the county. He then stated that he feels that we made very good use of the money that we received. Mayor Pedro stated that the ending fund balance was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Dombey added that the monies that are not spent by the City are sent back to the County. They in turn have until December 1 to redistribute and whatever is not spent, the County has to return to the Office of Budget and Management by February 1, 2021. Mrs. Bruno wanted to state for the record that she thinks that it is an inappropriate use of federal funds and that we should be more fiscally responsible as a people. Discussion continued on the distribution of the CARES Act monies.

Treasurer: Steve Schult –

- Reviewed details of the Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 2020.

Police Chief: Joe Valvano –

- Reported that they had 17 applicants for the 4 police officer’s positions. Nine applicants went through testing at the Fire Department on Saturday with the remaining 10 scheduled to test this Wednesday. He added that it will take approximately one week to receive the test results.
- Stated that beginning in January the department will go to 12 hour shifts until the four new officers are trained. This process will take 12 -14 weeks.
- Stated that on December 17, a representative from the Ohio Police Collaborative will be at the Department to review documents related to our efforts to become a certified Police Department by the State of Ohio.
- Reported that on November 14, the Churchill’s Half Marathon came across the Waterville Bridge. Approximately 800 runners were able to use the causeway sidewalks.
- Stated that a COVID-19 pop-up test site was held at the Waterville Urgent Care this past Sunday. Tests were given by appointment only which made for a much smoother testing event.
- Reported that the total for the last drug drop off was 98 lbs. The drugs were collected from the box in the lobby at the Municipal Building and also from the drive-thru at the Fire Department.

Fire Chief: Doug Meyer –

- Congratulated Rachel Keizer, a Waterville resident and paid-per-call volunteer firefighter, who finished first in her class for Firefighter I through Four County Career Center. She will move on to take the state test.

Public Works Director – Ken Blair

- Reported that the Public Works Department has been very busy with leaf collection and hanging holiday lights in the downtown area.
- Stated that the bridge project is now complete adding that we ran short of one Carruth Piece so we added a plaque instead that reads, “Waterville Bridge 2020.” The plaque is located in the middle of the bridge on the downstream side.

Mrs. Bruno asked that a discussion be held at the next Public Works Committee meeting on the age, condition and replacement of sewer and water pipes in the city.

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Communications from Council Members/Committees

Mrs. Duncan – No report.

Mrs. Bruno –

- Reported that a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. They will begin discussing plans for Parker Square.

Mr. Borowski – No report.

Mr. Frey –

- Wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Mr. Bruno – No report

Mayor Pedro –

- Attended the Waterville Economic Development Committee Annual Meeting on November 19.
- Conducted site visits to developing businesses in Waterville. These included the frame shop and the micro-brewery.
- Was invited by the Mayor of Whitehouse to attend a special Veterans Day Program on November 11 in Whitehouse.
- Attended the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Mercy Health Family Physicians office on Pray Blvd.
- Wished all residents a happy and safe Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Stated that he shared with Council this morning an advisory from the Lucas County Health Department on the significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the county, including Waterville.

Mr. Rozic –

- Mr. Rozic stated that he was on the call with the County this past Wednesday and they have reported that the numbers of new cases of COVID-19 have been raising significantly these past few weeks. It is a concern to the Health Department as well as to area hospitals which are filling up fast. He added that Franklin County in Columbus is now designated as a “Purple” County but most of the counties in the state are “Red.” He then stated that the Governor of Ohio has issued a curfew until December 10 from 10:00 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- Stated that Small Business Saturday is November 28. He encouraged residents to patronize and support Waterville businesses.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION 43-20 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF WATERVILLE FY 2021 FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLANNING PROGRAM FOR ALL MUNICIPAL FUNDS AND DEPARTMENTS

This is the annual 5-Year Capital Planning Program. The Finance Committee discussed and recommended approval of the program at a special meeting on October 16. This item is for ongoing discussion throughout the budget preparation process. According to the typical annual budget schedule, Council action to approve this Resolution would not be taken until the second Council meeting in January.

Mayor Pedro opened the Public Hearing at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Gochenour briefly went over his cover memo which gave an overview of the FY 2021 Five-Year Capital Budget Proposal and the recommendations listed on page 1 of

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the actual document. Council addressed questions to Mr. Gochenour and held a brief discussion on some of the components of the Five-Year Capital Planning Program.

Mayor Pedro closed the Public Hearing at 8:35 p.m. He then encouraged Council to continue to review the Five-Year Capital Planning Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 45-20 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FEDERAL SIGNAL SERVICES FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TORNADO SIREN

This Resolution would authorize the purchase of a used tornado siren and its installation near the intersection of South River Road and the Anthony Wayne Trail. The siren would replace the approximately 50-year old siren that is no longer functioning which is located in Waterworks Park. The Lucas County Emergency Management Agency has recommended that the replacement siren be moved from the park to improve its range for the southwestern portions of the City. The used siren, which is still in production, will have a one-year warranty and replacement parts are readily available. The cost of the siren, pole and installation is \$22,500. To purchase this model of siren new with installation costs would be \$34,985.37.

Mr. Rozic moved to adopt Resolution 45-20. Mrs. Bruno seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

B. SET SALARY OF THE MUNICIPAL TREASURER (*MOTION*)

Recently, the staff received a notice from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) that the minimum amount that members must earn each month to qualify for full service credit will be increasing from \$673.00 to \$684.86 per month. In developing the 2021 Operating Budget, it was noticed that the Municipal Treasurer currently earns \$675.00 per month and would not be eligible for a full year of OPERS service credit in 2021. Since the Treasurer's salary has remained unchanged since 2016, it is the recommendation of the Administration to raise the Treasurer's salary to \$700 per month effective January 1, 2021 in order to meet the new contribution requirements established by the state retirement system.

Mr. Borowski made a motion to raise the Treasurer's salary from \$675 to \$700 in order to meet the new contribution requirements established by OPERS. Mr. Bruno seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

Mayor Pedro stated that received a call from a resident regarding the on-going issue of trash blowing from the recycling containers in the parking lot at Kroger. He added that he has noticed that some do not have lids. This is something that they will be addressing. He then stated as the Mayor of Waterville he would like to officially recognize and wish Aunt Rita Leskoske of Syracuse, NY a very happy 102 birthday on December 13.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, Mrs. Duncan made a motion to close the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jon D. Gochenour, Clerk of Council

Timothy G. Pedro, Mayor