

Regular Council

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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. Bruno. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and led by Mr. Borowski.

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

Mr. Frey moved to excuse the absence of Mr. Bruno. Mr. Rozic seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

Zac Bingham – Deputy Fire Chief by video conference

Citizens Present:

Karen Gerhardinger, Mirror Newspaper by video conference

Mary Morrison and Kelsie Hoagland, TARTA by video conference

Dave Kerscher, 437 Canal Ct. by video conference

John Henry, Third St. Cigar by video conference

Jamie Beier Grant and Nate Green, the Montrose Group by video conference

Presentations

A. TARTA – 2020 Report to the Community

Kelsey Hoagland and Mary Morrison were in attendance to discuss TARTA's 2020 Report to the Community. Council members received a hard copy of this report in a prior Council meeting packet. TARTA is also planning to again pursue the replacement of its current 2.5 mill property tax levies with a 0.5% sales tax. A recent change in state law allows TARTA to add members without the unanimous consent of all its member communities. TARTA is expected to request the City to pass a resolution in July to add Lucas County as a member of TARTA and to submit the sales tax request to voters on the upcoming November election ballot. After a power point presentation by Ms. Hoagland, she answered questions from Council members.

B. The Montrose Group – Downtown Redevelopment District Proposal

Jamie Beier Grant and Nate Green of the Montrose Group were at this evening's meeting to present to Council a proposal for the creation of a Downtown Redevelopment District (DRD) in the City of Waterville. A DRD is an economic development tool which would allow the City to divert increases in property tax revenue to finance redevelopment projects in the district, which must contain historical buildings, through grants, loans and public infrastructure improvements. A DRD would function similar to the City's existing Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) located on Pray Boulevard which has been used to finance past infrastructure improvement projects. The City is considering a contract with the Montrose Group to handle the process of setting up a DRD. This would include meeting with business property owners, determining which properties would be placed in the district, hosting public hearings and coordinating with the City Law Director. The Montrose Group would also develop an economic development plan as part of the DRD process. Council received a copy of the Montrose Group's proposal for Waterville as well as a

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copy of a recently completed downtown redevelopment plan for the City of Chillicothe, Ohio.

John Henry, Third St. Cigar, was asked by Mayor Pedro to attend this evening's meeting to share that they will be sponsoring the Waterville Summer Concert Series. The series will feature monthly concerts on North Third Street beginning with the Jazz Dance Party on Saturday, June 12, the Blues, Brews and Brats on Saturday, July 31 and Oliver Hazard Day on Saturday, August 14. Mr. Henry stated that they want to make the Waterville Summer Series an annual event that will continue to grow and bring people downtown.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rozic moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Council meeting. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

Citizens Comments

None

Staff Reports

Administrator: Jon Gochenour –

- Confirmed the Late Summer/Fall 2021 Unlimited Pick-Up Days for Saturday, August 21 in Area A and Saturday, August 28 for Area B with Republic Services.
- Reported that the annual joint meeting of the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District with the City of Waterville, the Village of Whitehouse and Waterville Township will be held by video conference on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. A draft agenda was included in Council's packet.
- Stated that the City of Waterville has made its budgeted contribution to the WACC Roche de Boeuf Festival which is moving forward and will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Law Director: Phil Dombey – No report.

Finance Director: Mark Williams –

- Reviewed details from the March 2021 Month End Finance Report highlighting fund balances, investments and income tax revenues.

Treasurer: Steve Schult –

- Reviewed details of the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2021.

Police Chief: Joe Valvano –

- Reported that officers are stepping-up on traffic enforcement in areas where they have received complaints. These areas include: North and South River Rd., Village Pkwy., Wilkshire Dr., Waterville-Swanton Rd. between Pray Blvd. and Noward Rd. He added that they are also watching the exit ramps for rolling stops.
- Stated that the National Prescription Drug Drop-Off Day was held on Saturday, April 24. He stated that 55 lbs. were collected at the Waterville Fire Station, along with the 58 lbs. collected from the drug box in the lobby at the Municipal Building, we turned in a total of 113 lbs. of prescription drugs to the DEA.
- Reported that our three new officers will be finishing up their field training within the next few weeks. He stated that our fourth officer is just finishing his physical and psychological testing and hopefully will be sworn in by the first week of May.
- Met with Street Superintendent Al Bruns this morning at Canal Rd. and the Anthony Wayne Trail to discuss the possibility of re-stripping/painting the road to stagger the stop bar to allow clear views.

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- Reported that they had one construction theft (18 sheets of OSB) on Henline Way. Reports of theft in this construction area have been low.
- Asked Council to consider allowing the Department to sell their Harley Davidson Motorcycle and purchase a golf cart. He added that a golf cart could be used at community events, festivals and would be more approachable.
- Reported that Officer Tina Nicolai will be retiring from the Police Department after 25 years of service on Saturday, June 19. The process of recruiting and holding a civil service exam for a replacement officer is in process.

Mr. Rozic thanked the Chief for the additional traffic enforcement. He also wanted to warn residents about potential unemployment fraud. Mrs. Bruno stated that the Public Safety Committee fully supports trading the motorcycle for a golf cart. Mrs. Duncan stated she also supports the golf cart and also asked that the City to consider installing solar powered light-up stop signs at South St. and the AWT and S. Third St. and South St.

Fire Chief: Doug Meyer –

- Reported that three full-time positions have been posted. The job will close on May 19.
- Reported that Chief Valvano set up a meeting with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft to discuss river safety. He stated that they will be looking at installing signage/flags to warn kayakers/canoers of the “dangerous water ahead.” He added that they also learned about the “Ohio Boater Freedom Act” which states that law enforcement personnel may only stop a boat if they have reasonable suspicion that the boat or operator are in violation of marine law or engaged in criminal activity. They cannot stop a boater to conduct safety checks. They are going to try and put the Fire Department Rescue Boat out when the weather is nice and the water is deep enough to be friendly and pass out education materials on boater safety.

Discussion continued on river safety and ways to inform boaters of dangerous water in the river.

Public Works Director – Ken Blair - absent

Communications from Council Members/Committees

The City of Waterville’s appointment to the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Board of Trustees is required at the upcoming annual joint meeting of the Cemetery District scheduled for May 10, 2021 at 6 p.m. The appointment is for 3 years. Council member Rod Frey is the City’s current board member. A draft agenda of the joint meeting of the Cemetery District was included in Council’s packet for their review.

Mr. Rozic made a motion to reappoint Mr. Frey to the FTUCD Board of Trustees. Mrs. Bruno seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Pedro –

- Thanked the Montrose Group, TARTA and John Henry for coming to this evening’s meeting. He stated that he felt that a great conversation was held.
- Stated that the Waterville Economic Development Corporation is holding discussion on the possibility of forming a CIC (Community Improvement Corporation).
- Attended the April Waterville Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting.
- Informed Council to look out for more information on HB 157 in the future.

Mrs. Duncan – No report

Mr. Frey – No report.

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Mr. Borowski –

- Stated that he noticed people picking up trash along Pray Blvd. He stated that they did a great job.

Mr. Rozic – No report.

Mrs. Bruno –

- Questioned if Mr. Blair was still planning on the Park Clean-up Day at Baer Park on May 8. She asked that this be shared on the Pray Park Sign.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION 18-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PROUDFOOT ASSOCIATES INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES TO PREPARE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE 2021 PAVING PROGRAM

The Public Works Director and the City Engineer have completed their annual update of the City's Pavement Inventory. As listed on the enclosed March 11, 2021 letter from City Engineer Thomas Yurysta, 11 streets and 2 alleys are recommended for rehabilitation work. At their April 19, 2021 public meeting, it was the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to Council to proceed with the rehabilitation of Maple Lane (Edgerton Dr. to Wilkshire Dr.), Canal Court, Cherry Lane (Edgerton Dr. to Wilkshire Dr.), S. Third St. (South St. to 200 feet short of Mt. Vernon Dr.) and the alley behind Zion Lutheran Church between Mechanic and Farnsworth Rd. This Resolution would authorize the engineering work to prepare plans, specifications, and bid documents for this year's paving and crack sealing program at a cost of \$29,000.

Mrs. Duncan moved to adopt Resolution 18-21. Mrs. Bruno seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

- B. RESOLUTION 19-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO THE AMERICAN FIREWORKS COMPANY FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO A DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS ON JULY 4, 2021 FOR THE CITY OF WATERVILLE

American Fireworks of Hudson, Ohio submitted the only bid to provide a fireworks display on July 4 at a cost of \$19,400. Although the only bidder, American Fireworks was selected by the City among multiple bidders in 2015, 2017 and 2018 to conduct the City's fireworks displays. The City staff has found American Fireworks personnel to be professional and easy to work with in these prior years. Based on this prior experience, a contract with American Fireworks Company is recommended.

Mrs. Bruno moved to adopt Resolution 19-21. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

- C. RESOLUTION 20-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO FET CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE DOWNTOWN STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE 7

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This Resolution authorizes a contract with FET Construction Services of Sylvania, Ohio for the installation of seven (7) streetlights in the downtown area: 2 on S. River Road between South and School Court; 2 on N. River Road between Mechanic and North Street; 2 on S. Second St. between South and Farnsworth Road and 1 on the corner of the Anthony Wayne Trail and South Street at a cost of \$91,204. Bids were opened on April 21, 2021 and the City received three competitive bids for this project. It was determined by the City Engineer and the administrative staff that FET Construction Services submitted the best and most responsive bid and recommends awarding them the contract. The City has the option to install the 6 streetlights only at a cost of \$78,944.50 with the new light on N. River Road near North St. being eliminated. Approximately \$78,000 was appropriated in the 2021 budget for this capital improvement. Completion of this project will finalize the replacement of all of the original street lights in the downtown area.

After discussion, it was decided to replace/install all seven streetlights in the downtown area at a cost of \$91,204.

Mr. Frey moved to adopt Resolution 20-21. Mrs. Bruno seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. RESOLUTION 21-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

This Resolution authorizes a contract with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of six (6) portable and one (1) mobile radio for the Police Department at a cost of \$23,535.68. This purchase, which was included in the 2021 appropriation ordinance, will allow for the replacement of 6 portable radios carried by the officers and 1 patrol car radio which are currently 10 years old. Special pricing from Motorola enabled the City to purchase 4 more portable radios than was in the 2021 budget.

Mr. Rozic moved to adopt Resolution 21-21. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

Mayor Pedro suggested that Council consider the following dates for their summer meeting schedule: Monday, June 28, July 19 and August 23. This will be discussed at their next scheduled meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, Mr. Borowski made a motion to close the meeting at 10:08 p.m. Mrs. Bruno seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jon D. Gochenour, Clerk of Council

Timothy G. Pedro, Mayor