

The Council of the City of Vandalia Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Mayor David Lewis, Councilwoman Candice Farst, Councilwoman Constance Woods, Councilman Michael Blakesly, and Councilman Corey M. Follick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Richard Herbst and Councilman Robert Ahlers

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry McDonald, Daniel Wendt, Amber Holloway, Darren Davey, Bridgette Leiter, Steve Clark, Chief Althouse, Kristen Carnes, Zak Karto, Lt. Ben Walker, Chief Chad Follick, Rob Cron, and Holly Wiggins

REMOTE AUDIENCE: Mayor Herbst and Laura Wendt

Vice Mayor Lewis called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Vandalia to order at 7:06 p.m. **Vice Mayor Lewis** called for a moment of reflection followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted the next item on the agenda is Approval of Previous Minutes of which there are none.

Approval of Previous Minutes: None

Communications, Petitions and Awards: None

Public Hearing: None

Comments from Interested Citizens:

Vice Mayor Lewis addressed the audience, specifically the remote attendees, and explained per the advice of the City Attorney, anyone wishing to comment needs to personally be at the meeting; he noted Council will not be able to take comments from those participating electronically through Zoom. **Vice Mayor Lewis** prompted anyone in the room who wished to speak on a topic to step forward.

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AES Ohio representative **Ms. Holly Wiggins**, 660 Cassel Creek Drive, reminded the audience the Gift of Power program is open for citizens in need of assistance in covering their heating bills that have built up over the cold winter months. She advised citizens to go to the aes-ohio.com/gift website or reach out to the Salvation Army who manages the program. She concluded by noting the program will be open until funds expire with a target date of mid April.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information Items:

Mr. Wendt recognized the Public Works and Parks and Recreation crews for the excellent work they did with the recent winter storm. As well he recognized Chief Follick for leading the city through the event via an emergency action plan. He also advised the audience that Facilities Superintendent Rudy Wells has been recognized as the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award recipient. **Mr. Wendt** continued by noting the city has back-to-back recipients with Councilwoman Farst being the last recipient of the Marvin Link Distinguished Service Award. He advised Mr. Wells will be recognized on Tuesday, February 15 at the Vandalia Butler Chamber awards ceremony.

Mr. Wendt advised the community tour video has been posted to the website and the video has already been shared with a prospective business. He concluded by sharing on February 17 at 6:00 p.m. a virtual community event will be held to receive feedback for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Action Items: None

Old Business: None

Resolutions:

22-R-08 A Resolution Waiving The Formal Bidding Process And Awarding The Fireworks Display Contract For The 2022 Star Spangled Celebration In The Amount Of \$28,000 And For The 2023 Star Spangled Celebration In The Amount Of \$29,000 To Rozzi's Famous Fireworks Company. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 22-R-08 by

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title. **Mr. Wendt** advised the RFQ was advertised in the Daily Court Reporter as well as the City of Vandalia website. He advised two firms submitted formal proposals prior to the December 17, 2021 deadline, with a third company missing the submittal deadline. The qualifying proposals include Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. of New Castle, PA and Rozzi's Famous Fireworks of Loveland, OH. American Fireworks of Hudson, OH did not meet submittal deadline. **Mr. Wendt** recommended the City enter into a two-year Professional Services Agreement with the potential for two, one-year terms that could take the agreement through 2025 with Rozzi's Famous Fireworks for the Annual Star Spangled Celebration Fireworks Display at an amount of \$28,000 for 2022 and \$29,000 for 2023. He noted the amount for the option years of 2024 and 2025 will be determined if the City chooses to extend the agreement. In addition, staff is in the process of lining up the regular sponsors of this event. **Mr. Wendt** advised Butler Township has committed to sponsor the event for the next two years. The City's net cost for the Celebration in 2018 was \$12,703. It was moved by Councilwoman Farst, seconded by Councilman Follick, to approve Resolution 22-R-08. Motion passed 5-0.

22-R-09 A Resolution Establishing The Job Creation And Revitalization Program And Authorizing The City Manager To Take All Necessary And Proper Actions To Implement Said Program. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 22-R-09 by title. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Vision Vandalia Comprehensive Plan calls for the development of a discernable downtown area for residents to gather, dine, shop, and enjoy life in Vandalia. As a team, we have discussed several objectives in the pursuit of driving development that will improve quality of life in Vandalia. He proposed Council designate a Job Creation and Revitalization Program and Fund for the purpose of reinvesting back into the City through property acquisition, abatement of blight, improvements to utilities and the right of way, direct investment, and grants to foment desirable projects that have not heretofore occurred through the free hand of the market. **Mr. Wendt** explained this resolution establishes the Job Creation and

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Revitalization Program. The program is similar to the program in Huber Heights and would formally authorize the City Manager to negotiate and to expedite other select economic development tasks on behalf of the City. He concluded by noting the resolution serves as a guide for determining his role and the actions, and appropriate limitations, that he can take to accomplish strategic development in the outlined area. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve Resolution 22-R-09. Motion passed 5-0.

22-R-10 A Resolution Establishing The Job Creation And Revitalization Fund. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 22-R-10 by title. **Mr. Wendt** explained this resolution creates a fund and does not appropriate funds. He deferred to his previous comments on Resolution 22-R-09. It was moved by Councilman Follick, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve Resolution 22-R-10. Motion passed 5-0.

22-R-11 A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Muncity 5 Permitting And Tracking Software Along With Laserfiche Cloud Document Storage Software Including The Data Migration, Training And License Fees Required By The Development And Engineering Services Department From General Code At The Submitted Cost In The Amount Of \$ 98,255.00. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 22-R-11 by title. **Mr. Wendt** explained the Development and Engineering Services Division is seeking an upgrade to its current building and tracking software. The current software was adopted in 2013 and is no longer supported. He said the new software, Muncity / Laserfiche, will improve efficiency, customer service to residents and businesses, and integrate with our ESRI GIS Software to improve record management. **Mr. Wendt** advised the upgrade fits squarely within the Sharpen the Saw 2022 policy goal as the new software will allow staff to work directly in the field from a variety of electronic devices when conducting inspections and writing reports in the field. The system will eventually enable the City to receive digital submissions and to conduct electronic plan reviews, which will reduce turnaround times. It was moved by Councilman Follick, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve Resolution 22-R-11. Motion passed 5-0.

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22-R-12 A Resolution Designating Certain Financial Institutions As Depositories For Active, Interim And Inactive Funds Of The City Of Vandalia For The Five (5) Year Period Commencing August 23, 2021, Authorizing Depository Agreements With Said Institutions. **Mr. McDonald** read Resolution 22-R-12 by title. **Mr. Wendt** explained he will let the Finance Director's explanation during tonight's study session stand. It was moved by Councilwoman Farst, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve Resolution 22-R-12. Motion passed 5-0.

Ordinances – First Reading:

22-04 An Ordinance Amending Sections 874.08(I); 1420.01; 1424.01; 1424.05; 1482.01(G); 1482.20 And 1610.01 Of The Vandalia Codified Ordinances By To Update Specific References To Current Building Codes And Fire Codes. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 22-04 by title in the first reading. **Mr. Wendt** explained that staff recently reviewed the City of Vandalia Codified Ordinances and determined several sections that require amendments to reference the current Building & Fire Codes that have been adopted by the state. The Fire Code revisions are necessary due to increasing economic development, calls related to public health, and general staffing. He concluded by noting this is a matter of housekeeping. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilman Follick, to approve Ordinance 22-04 in the first reading. **Councilwoman Farst** inquired if the city is required to always follow the Ohio Revised Code. **Mr. McDonald** replied in the affirmative noting it would be nice if we could approve legislation that indicated the city adopts Ohio Revised Code as amended from time to time. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0 in the first reading.

22-05 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1610 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Vandalia, Ohio, Relating To Fire Prevention Code Compliance By Adding Section 1610.07. **Mr. McDonald** read Ordinance 22-05 by title in the first reading. **Mr. Wendt** advised he did not have any additional information as this accompanies Ordinance 22-04. It was moved by Councilman Blakesly, seconded by Councilman

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Follick, to approve Ordinance 22-05 in the first reading. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0 in the first reading.

Ordinances – Second Reading: None

Ordinances – Emergency: None

Reports from Boards and Commissions:

Variance: Outdoor Storage - 3325 Stop Eight Road

Mr. Wendt explained the Applicant, Megan Stepansky, on behalf of White Cap, leasee of the building, has requested a variance to allow the outdoor storage area to occupy an area larger than 25 percent of the principal building's footprint. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to recommend approval. It was moved by Councilman Follick, seconded by Councilwoman Farst, to approve the variance. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Conditional Use: 55 Elva Court - Medical/Dental Office

Mr. Wendt explained the Applicant, Ruben Begino, DDS, has submitted an application requesting a conditional use permit to allow the "Medical/Dental Clinics Use" on the property located at 55 Elva Court in the Neighborhood Business (NB) Zoning District. The Planning Commission voted 4-0 to recommend approval. It was moved by Councilwoman Farst, seconded by Councilman Blakesly, to approve the conditional use. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: December 1, 2021

Vice Mayor Lewis called for comments or questions on the Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: December 1, 2021. There were none.

Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: December 8, 2021

Vice Mayor Lewis called for comments or questions on the Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: December 8, 2021. There were none.

Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: December 22, 2021

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Vice Mayor Lewis called for comments or questions on the Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes: December 22, 2021. There were none.

Planning Commission Minutes: December 14, 2021

Vice Mayor Lewis called for comments or questions on the Planning Commission Minutes: December 14, 2021. There were none.

Council Comments:

Councilman Follick recognized and thanked the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission for their efforts as they have clearly had several meetings during the month of December. He thanked staff for the follow-up information provided regarding the ADA ramps; specifically, noting that the city is approaching an 80% completion of ADA ramps citywide. **Councilman Follick** inquired about the two raised islands on US 40 and asked if there will be any type of warning signage. He noticed that during the snow storm the raised islands would most likely be a safety issue. **Mr. Cron** advised he will look at the plans and if not he will suggest that something be installed that stands above grade.

Councilwoman Farst thanked staff for all their hard work during the last snow event.

Councilman Blakesly moved to excuse Mayor Herbst and Councilmember Ahlers from all tonight's meetings. Councilwoman Farst seconded the motion. All members present voted yes. Motion passed 5-0. He echoed previous Councilmember's comments and appreciates staff efforts during the winter snow event. **Councilman Blakesly** commented on the welcome video and noted he is very pleased with the video.

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Vice Mayor Lewis also echoed the comments of other Councilmembers regarding the recent winter storm.

Executive Session

The purpose of the Executive Session is to review a collective bargaining strategy related to the Teamsters.

No Executive Session was held.

The regular Council Meeting was then adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard Herbst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Missy Pruszynski, Deputy Clerk of Council

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