

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of \_\_\_\_\_

Wauseon City Council

Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Held \_\_\_\_\_

January 15, 2018

**WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, January 15, 2018 at 5:00 P.M.

This meeting of the Wauseon City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Huner. Mayor Huner asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. After everyone was seated she asked for a moment of silence in preparation for tonight's council meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by the Clerk of Council. Present were Council President Stiriz, Councilors Stickley, Schneider, Scott Stiriz, Chamberlin, and Frey to constitute a quorum for the transaction of city business.

Also present were Bob Eyre, Cindy Reed, Doug Saul and Chuck Turnwald from the Ohio Gas Company, Clinton Township Trustees Ivan Hite, Larry Neuenschwander, and Perry Rupp, Kevin Chittenden, Mitch Huner and John Roof of the Wauseon Police Department and John Broering.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETINGS' MINUTES**

Council President Stiriz moved and seconded by Councilor Stickley to approve the previous meetings' minutes.

All in Favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Rezoning of the 1.63 acre parcel #06-014368-02.000 on the corner of North Brunell and West Oak Street from B-1 Local Business to R-3 Single Family in order to build a new house.

Councilor Stickley moved and seconded by Councilor Schneider to open the Public Hearing at 5:01 p.m.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Mayor Huner asked if there was anyone wishing to speak at this public hearing. No one came forward to speak at this public hearing.

Councilor Chamberlin moved and seconded by Councilor Stiriz to close the Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL  
AND CLINTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**

This is a joint meeting of the Wauseon City Council and the Clinton Township trustees to appoint board members to the Wauseon Union Cemetery.

Roll was taken by the Clerk of Council. Present were Council President Jeff Stiriz and Councilors Stickley, Schneider, Chamberlin, Scott Stiriz and Frey; Clinton Township Trustees present: Ivan Hite, Larry Neuenschwander and Perry Rupp.

Councilor Stickley moved and seconded by Trustee Neuenschwander to appoint James Barber to the Wauseon Union Cemetery Board for the unexpired term of Harold Stickley from 1/1/18 to 1/1/19.

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Vote: 8 Yeas 0 Nays 1 Abstain (Scott Stiriz) *Motion Carries*

Trustee Hite moved and seconded by Council President Stiriz to accept Perry Rupp to the Wauseon Union Cemetery Board.

Vote: 7 Yeas 0 Nays 2 Abstain (Scott Stiriz & Perry Rupp) *Motion Carries*

Motion to adjourn this meeting made by Trustee Hite and seconded by Councilor Schneider at 5:07 p.m.

Vote: 9 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

## OATH OF OFFICE

Chief Torbet administered the oath of office to Kevin Chittenden for the position of Assistant Chief of Police.

## INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL AND TOPIC

Representatives from the Ohio Gas Company were present to explain the base rate increase. Doug Saul, Senior Vice President of Ohio Gas Company opened up by thanking Council for allowing Ohio Gas Company to have a franchise with the City of Wauseon. He advised that they made an application for a rate increase with the Public Utilities Commission. Cindy Reed, VP of IT and Personnel, Bob Eyre, VP of Gas Supply and Industrial Marketing, Chuck Turnwald, VP and Controller were all introduced. Councilor Stickley asked about 100% increase in the base rate. Chuck Turnwald responded that the application was to go from \$5.45 base customer charge to \$10.91. He explained that the bill has three components; the customer charge, the variable surcharge and the commodity (gas) and provided an explanation of how they came to that amount. He explained that the Tax Cut and Jobs Act cut the new customer base charge to \$9.53 with the reduction in taxes. He stated that there is a verbal agreement with the PUCO, Ohio Gas and the OCC (Ohio Consumer Council) that these numbers will pass. Councilor Chamberlin asked if this rate is what every customer pays and Mr. Turnwald said yes. Councilor Schneider asked if this was the only thing that was going to change and Mr. Turnwald said yes. Mr. Schneider then stated that with the adjustments the actual increase to the base rate is about 74-75% as opposed to 100%. Councilor Stickley stated that social security went up 2% from 2017 to 2018 and that an increase of 75% will hurt a lot of residents in Wauseon who are on a fixed income. Mr. Turnwald stated that Ohio Gas Company has not raised their base rate in 32 years. Mayor Huner questioned that the average family will see an approximate increase of \$48/year and Mr. Turnwald said yes this is the increase amount for the average residential customer. Mayor Huner asked what Mr. Turnwald foresees in the future for the changes from congress and Mr. Turnwald stated that as a utility they are highly regulated and have certain channels they must go through to increase. Councilor Stiriz asked if all other villages and territories have the same customer charge and Mr. Turnwald said yes. Councilor Stickley asked if they were privately owned and Mr. Turnwald said yes. Councilor Stickley questioned why payments go to California and not Bryan, Ohio. Mr. Turnwald asked Cindy Reed to respond and she stated that the reason they outsourced the billing/payment service is because their equipment was getting old and needed replaced, the mail was very slow coming into Bryan, Ohio and they were able to reduce their workforce. The fact that Ohio Gas' owner are in California has nothing to do with why the billing service is there. Councilor Chamberlin questioned how long ago Ohio Gas started the process of researching the rate increase

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and Mr. Turnwald stated at least 5 years ago they began thinking about it. Mr. Chamberlin questioned if this customer charge is their only source of income since the gas is dollar for dollar and Mr. Turnwald said they make their money from the transportation of the gas. Councilor Chamberlin asked if the base charge and the transportation of gas are the two streams of revenue for Ohio Gas and Mr. Turnwald said that is fair to say. Councilors Stickley and Chamberlin both reiterated that increases in all utilities and services are a financial hardship for some families on a fixed income. Mayor Huner thanked the representatives from Ohio Gas for coming in and explaining the increase.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Appoint Council Committees

Council President Stiriz presented the Council Committees for the term January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019.

#### **Building & Grounds**

Harold Stickley, Chair  
Rick Frey  
Steve Schneider

#### **Finance**

Steve Schneider, Chair  
Jeff Stiriz  
Shane Chamberlin

#### **Personnel**

Shane Chamberlin, Chair  
Harold Stickley  
Scott Stiriz

#### **Streets**

Jeff Stiriz, Chair  
Scott Stiriz  
Rick Frey

#### **Utilities**

Shane Chamberlin, Chair  
Jeff Stiriz  
Harold Stickley

#### **Safety & Code**

Scott Stiriz, Chair  
Rick Frey  
Steve Schneider

#### **Parks**

Rick Frey, Chair  
Harold Stickley

Councilor Stickley moved and seconded by Councilor Stiriz to accept the appointments to the council committees as presented.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

#### Rick Sluder, Fire Chief

Chief Sluder stated that the construction to the sleep rooms and new police offices started and it should be wrapped up in the next two weeks. He stated that it has been a very busy fire season and that the EMS calls have increased with general illness and flu calls.

#### Keith Torbet, Police Chief

Chief Torbet stated that he has been working on closing up 2017 to get the year-end report out. Wednesday, January 17, 2018 will be Coffee with a Cop/Department Heads at Biggby from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Councilor Stiriz asked about radios received from the Turnpike. Chief Sluder said those were

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for the Fire Department. Councilor Chamberlin questioned how quickly they plan on filling the plain clothes detective position. Chief Torbet stated that Kevin Chittenden will be wearing both hats for the time being and he hopes to have someone hired by the end of spring. He stated that the command staff will be making that decision. Councilor Chamberlin then asked if that is a very important role and Chief Torbet stated yes it is and that you really need someone who can focus on the case instead of bouncing from call to call. Councilor Stickley requested a tour of all of the facilities in the city.

Dennis Richardson, Director of Public Service

Mr. Richardson stated that there was a bid opening for repainting the Wabash Park Water Tower and that we received three bids by the posted opening bid time and that there were three that came in 15 minutes after the deadline via Fed-Ex that we could not accept. The low bid was \$240,500 from L&T Painting and they are a preapproved contractor through Dixon Engineering. He anticipates they will start roughly April 2, 2018 at the soonest and that the tank can only be down for 60 days at the most. The only inconvenience to the public will be that Wabash Park will need to be closed while this project is going on. He stated it will be posted on the website and they will put up caution tape. Advertising has begun for the Bio-solids Handling Project for the Water Reclamation Plant and the bid opening is February 22, 2018. There have been a rash of water main breaks. There was one on January 5 in front of St. Caspar's, one on January 6 near the hospital, one on January 13 on Marshall St between Elm and Oak and one on January 15 on Howard Street in the 400 block. He stated that between the snow and the water main breaks that the Public Works Department has been very busy. Council President Stiriz asked how many years does the paint job last and Mr. Richardson stated it has been between 25 and 30 years since it was last painted. Councilor Stickley asked if all of the water had to be removed to repaint and Mr. Richardson stated yes.

Jamie Giguere, Director of Finance

Mrs. Giguere was absent for this meeting. Robin Schantz, Assistant Director of Finance was present but gave no report.

Tom McWatters, Director of Law

Mr. McWatters stated that Ordinance 2018-2 was originally drafted on emergency and that has since been revised to only be on first read for the vote for tonight. He said that they are going to start again on the work on the trails. They are talking about creating some more trails that connect the perimeter and also doing some tree removing and planting. He stated that the winter is a good time to do the planting and removal of trees. He stated that Councilor Frey would likely be involved in the project as part of the Tree Commission.

**FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY**

Ordinance 2018-1 - An Ordinance Providing For a City Law Director; Assistant Law Directors; Setting a Rate of Compensation; and Declaring an Emergency

Councilor Chamberlin moved and seconded by Councilor Stiriz to suspend the rules and declare an emergency on Ordinance 2018-1.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Wauseon City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Held

January 15, 2018

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nay *Motion Carries*

Council President Stiriz moved and seconded by Councilor Frey to place Ordinance 2018-1 on final reading and that the final reading be passed.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Ordinance 2018-2- An Ordinance Amending the Codified Ordinance - Chapter 1117 – Establishment of Districts and Maps, and Amending the Official Zoning Map

Council President Stiriz moved and seconded by Councilor Schneider to place Ordinance 2018-2 on first reading.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Ordinance 2018-3 – An Ordinance Amending Section 147.05 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wauseon

Council President Stiriz moved and seconded by Councilor Chamberlin to place Ordinance 2018-3 on first reading.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

**SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION**

There was no legislation presented for second reading.

**THIRD READING OF LEGISLATION**

There was no legislation presented for third reading.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Stickley moved and seconded by Councilor Schneider to appoint Andrea R. Gerken as the Clerk of Council for the term of February 1, 2018 to January 31, 2020.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Appointments to Various Boards & Commissions

**Planning Commission (6 Year Term)**

*Need 1*

Harold Stickley – 12/31/18

Larry Fruth – 12/31/23

**Zoning Board of Appeals (5 Year Term)**

Randy Zeigler – 1/1/23

**Pride Wauseon Preservation & Design Review Board (3 Year Term)**

Beverly Meridew – 12/31/20

Councilor Chamberlin moved and seconded by Councilor Stiriz to accept the Mayor's appointments to the various boards and commissions.

Vote: 6 Yeas – 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Councilor Chamberlin asked Law Director McWatters if there is anything legally binding the city to the Wauseon Recreation Association and if so what steps would be needed to sever those ties. Mayor Huner asked Councilor Chamberlin if he was asking on behalf of himself or on behalf of Council.

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Councilor Chamberlin stated he was asking on behalf of himself as a member of City Council.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

Councilor Stickley moved and seconded by Councilor Stiriz to approve and pay the bills as presented.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before this session of the Wauseon City Council, Mayor Huner asked for a motion to adjourn. Council President Stiriz moved and seconded by Councilor Schneider to adjourn this meeting at 5:50 p.m.

All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk of Council**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of Council**