

**WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020**

Mayor Huner called this meeting of the Wauseon City Council to order at 5:04 p.m. via Zoom Cloud Meeting. The meeting was streamed on Facebook Live. She led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence. Roll was taken by the Clerk of Council. Present were Council President Chamberlin, Councilors Jeff Stiriz, Scott Stiriz, Stickley, Griggs and Schneider to constitute a quorum for the transaction of city business.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Huner asked for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Councilor Stickley moved and seconded by Councilor Scott Stiriz to approve the minutes as printed.

All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Stickley gave a brief summary of the July 6, 2020 Buildings and Grounds meeting. He said the committee is reviewing draft legislation to ban removing fish from Rotary Pond. No action taken.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Chief Sluder: Nothing to report. President Chamberlin asked about the temporary reception area that the FD helped create. Chief Sluder said it has been disassembled and is in the FD storage area.

Chief Chittenden: Safety City wrapped up the end of last week and 41 kids went through the program.

Keith Torbet: Ridgeville Telephone has completed the work on Shoop Ave and they will come back in the fall to reseed for grass. He gave a presentation for the Small City's grant last week to redo Oak St. He explained Resolution 2020-12.

Jamie Giguere: The Finance office has been closed and will not reopen until at least Monday, July 27, 2020 due to COVID-19 exposure. The checks will be printed next week since they cannot be in the office.

Tom McWatters: He explained Resolutions 2020-10 & 2020-11 which pertain to the recreation renewal levy. He said that an additional piece of legislation will be read and voted on after the auditor certifies the amount to be collected.

**FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY**

Resolution 2020-9: A Resolution Adopting the Fulton County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to place Resolution 2020-9 on emergency moved by Councilor Jeff Stiriz and seconded by Councilor Schneider.  
Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Motion to place Resolution 2020-9 on final reading moved by Councilor Jeff Stiriz and seconded by Council President Chamberlin.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Resolution 2020-10: A Resolution Vacating Resolution 2020-8; and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to place Resolution 2020-10 on emergency moved by Councilor Stickley and seconded by Councilor Scott Stiriz.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Motion to place Resolution 2020-10 on final reading moved by Councilor Griggs and seconded by Councilor Schneider.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Resolution 2020-11: A Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Renew Part of an Existing Tax Levy for the Purpose of Parks and Recreational Purposes, Requesting the Fulton County Auditor to Certify the Total Current Tax Valuation of the City and the Dollar Amount of Revenue that Would be Generated by that Renewal and Decrease Levy, and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to place Resolution 2020-11 on emergency moved by Councilor Sticklely and seconded by Councilor Griggs.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Motion to place Resolution 2020-11 on final reading moved by Councilor Schneider and seconded by Councilor Jeff Stiriz.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Resolution 2020-12: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Electrical Supply Agreement for City Street Lights; and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to place Resolution 2020-12 on emergency moved by Councilor Sticklely and seconded by Councilor Griggs.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Motion to place Resolution 2020-12 on final reading moved by Councilor Sticklely and seconded by Council President Chamberlin.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Resolution 2020-13: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Documents Necessary to Obtain Funds from the City of Wauseon Revolving Loan Fund for the Downtown ADA Ramp Project; and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to place Resolution 2020-13 on emergency moved by Councilor Jeff Stiriz and seconded by Councilor Schneider.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Motion to place Resolution 2020-13 on final reading moved by Councilor Sticklely and seconded by Councilor Scott Stiriz.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

#### SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY

There was no legislation for second reading.

#### THIRD READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY

There was no legislation for third reading.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Motion to appoint Laura Kamp to the Tree Commission for the unexpired term of Jim Spiess to December 31, 2021 moved by Councilor Sticklely and seconded by Councilor Griggs.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

Mayor Huner asked Councilor Griggs about the Tree Commission minutes. Councilor Griggs said he has not yet received them to provide a report.

**Motion to table further discussion on the proposed legislation transferring oversight of the operation of the City's recreation programs from the Wauseon Recreation Association to the City's Park Board moved by Councilor Griggs and seconded by Councilor Stickley.**

**Vote: 3 Yeas (Stickley, Schneider, Griggs) 2 Nays (Chamberlin & Jeff Stiriz) 1 Abstain (Scott Stiriz) Motion Carries**

Councilor Jeff Stiriz asked if this motion would just table the draft legislation and was told yes. Councilor Scott Stiriz said he is still on the fence in regards to this topic and he would like to research it further.

Council President Chamberlin read the below prepared statement:

*"There was a time when I was pretty green to the operation of a City and the purpose of a legislative body such as City Council. Here I am in my 13th year as a member of the Wauseon City Council, still learning, but with a much better understanding when it comes to the inner workings of a municipality as compared to my early years. My early years involved me working on legislative issues independently, I quickly realized no matter how much I believed in an issue without the support of a majority of my fellow council members, my individual efforts would not be fruitful.*

*In 2019 I asked my fellow council members to join me in working on a topic, assigning the City's recreational programming responsibilities to the Park Board. In an unusual request from our Law Director, before he would create any work on this topic, a vote of City Council was required. Just imagine how slow the wheels of government would move if a vote of City Council was required for every piece of draft legislation. In any event, the matter was brought before Council and members voted 5 to 1 in support of our Law Department creating a piece of draft legislation, in other words a working document. Still not sure why Councilman Stickley voted against the idea, I would never stand in the way of him working on an issue, understanding in the end I might not vote in favor of the outcome, but why keep another Council member from simply working on an issue.*

*In June a memorandum was authored by our Law Department along with a draft ordinance. Wanting to gain support of other Council members I decided to let the draft proposal marinate for a while and occasionally chat with other members and attempt to gauge where they stood on the topic. I always wondered what would be the best vehicle for all members to discuss the idea of assigning recreational programming to the Park Board. In 2020 I was fortunate enough to be voted in as Council President. I then realized as Council President maybe calling a special committee of the whole meeting would be a good approach to having an open dialogue amongst members. Then the pandemic happened and I just thought hosting this meeting by way of zoom would have been a train wreck. We eventually made it back to in person meetings and I hosted a special committee of the whole meeting earlier this summer. I thought the special meeting gave everyone an opportunity to share their thoughts and hear from others, mission accomplished!*

*Now what, my thought eventually bring the matter to a vote. I learned this past Thursday morning Member Griggs is concerned with this cloud of not knowing looming over the Wauseon Recreation Association (WRA). Member Griggs wants to dissolve the draft legislation, in other words make it go away. Member Griggs shared his thoughts as to why recreational programming under the City umbrella is a bad idea. In summary, those reasons included an inability of youth sport groups to fundraise, the financial hit to the City having to pay benefits to employees, everything is okay right now why make a change, members are wanting this change simply to have control, and something along the lines of what more does the WRA need to do.*

*No worries, youth sports will be able to fundraise without the WRA. The City of Bryan's youth does not seem to go without and recreational programming there is over seen by their Park Board. We can stop with this scare tactic.*

*Yes there will be some additional cost to the City for paying employees for work they do, but this is simply nature of the business. I personally think if employees are doing work why should we legislatively keep them from receiving benefits.*

*Yes things seem to be going well right now, kudos to the present WRA Board members. But it was not that long ago things were in disarray, exhibited by the \$30,000 loss brought upon by poor decision making by past board members. Which looking back soon after the financial loss become public the WRA president and treasurer resigned. It was not that long ago WRA money (from the softball board) was used to purchase batting cages that were installed into a private citizen's barn. So instead of using the Councilman Stickleby's approach of waiting for a fire to start and then trying to extinguish it, I would rather apply fire prevention.*

*And to be honest, I am not sure if the WRA is a governing board or an advisory board. It seems they describe themselves as both. During a recent committee of the whole meeting members of the WRA were present and denied making the decision to cancel recreational programming this season due to COVID. Yet not long after the meeting a member of the WRA posted a comment on social media owning the decision of cancelling programming. They described themselves as advisory but I watched a WRA meeting not long ago on zoom where they voted to banish the softball board from affiliation with the WRA. They made a decision, much more than offering advice to our Parks and Recreation Director. Not long ago the WRA made a decision to offer the City 20% of the revenue generated from tournaments hosted at Biddle Park. This was a decision from the WRA not an opinion offered to our Parks and Recreation Director to help him/her make a decision.*

*I digress.....*

*To the idea of control, this notion is incorrect, my goal is oversight. Remember Member Griggs committee work is prevalent throughout the City's operation. The administration of recreational programming by the City would be no different.*

*And lastly to your point of 'what else does the WRA need to do', I have never asked for anything from the WRA. Other members of Council have given the financial issue some deliberation, which I have not stood in the way of, but in my opinion there is nothing the WRA can do, I am looking to make fundamental change when it comes to handling recreation programming, having it fall under the umbrella of the City.*

*In conclusion, why the resistance to oversight? Why the resistance for a layer of checks and balances? Where is the harm? These are rhetorical questions right now but something each member should give thought to. This is not my attempt at reinventing the wheel, other jurisdictions already guide recreational programming from within, such as the City of Bryan. And I am sure our Legal Department appreciated the City of Bryan already having such an arrangement, it aided Tom McWatters and his staff in creating the proposed legislation before us today.*

*Imagine if you were a subordinate within a business and your superior came to you one day and asked that you begin to generate a document that justifies your time and effort during a week and you fought this change tooth and nail. How would this be perceived by the superior? Thought provoking at a minimum.*

*Under past WRA administration, Council has asked for certain pieces of information and were told no. With this change, that would no longer be an option. Heck a member of the WRA attended a Council meeting years ago and I was asking questions of the WRA member only to be interrupted by our own Law Director and informed the WRA member was not there to answer those types of questions.*

*Again, why the resistance to oversight?*

*As members of government, if you are against a system of checks and balances, you might be in the wrong line of work. Our government is based upon a system of checks and balances, therein lies the reason for three branches of government. If we did move recreational programming under the umbrella of the City, our Parks and Recreation Director would be charged with the day to day operations of recreational programming. If the Director were to stumble upon an*

issue that needed the assistance of the legislative body, he/she would present his/her concern to the Park Board, the Park Board would decide to take no action or make a recommendation to City Council. City Council would then entertain the issue and vote in favor of or against the Park Board recommendation. Simple stuff, no different for the Police Department, the Fire Department, Public Works, or any person within the community. It works and it will work for recreational programming.

If members of Council would join me in voting against Member Griggs' motion tonight, I plan to make a motion on August 3, 2020 to adopt the draft resolution and draft ordinance as presented within the memorandum dated June 14, 2019. Let's have an up and down vote on assigning recreational programming under the City's administrative umbrella."

Mayor Huner thanked President Chamberlin for preparing the statement. Jamie Giguere said that as a city we cannot fundraise. Councilor Griggs said he wanted to table this matter due to the financial burden to the city, but that it can always be removed from the table at a later date. He said the WRA has recently implemented new policies that provide a system of checks and balances and that two council members now sit on the board as non-voting members so Council knows what is going on. Councilor Jeff Stiriz said he likes to do preventative maintenance and though the board is good now it may not always be. Councilor Scott Stiriz said that the money mentioned was funds raised by the Softball Board, not the WRA. Mayor Huner commended the Park Board for appointing someone to sit on the WRA board as a non-voting member. Keith Torbet said he thinks the WRA is doing a good job and this is not the time to torpedo the system. Tom McWatters clarified that the legislation he drafted would give Council oversight of the recreation budget, not the programming. Councilor Stickley said in 2018 he and Councilor Scott Stiriz were involved in the restructuring of the WRA and its' satellite boards. He asked for a copy of the President Chamberlin's statement as he felt it slandered his name. Councilor Scott Stiriz also asked for a copy of the statement. Councilor Schneider said he would like more clarification on the fund raising and how much work this would create for the Finance Department. Mayor Huner said this statement should have been distributed beforehand so it can be reviewed and information can be gathered to provide responses. There was a lot of discussion on the WRA and recreational programming.


#### APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Councilor Schneider moved and seconded by Councilor Stickley to approve and pay the bills as presented.  
Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays *Motion Carries*

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Huner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Jeff Stiriz moved and seconded by Councilor Stickley to adjourn this meeting at 6:16 p.m.  
All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

  
Andrea Gerken, Clerk of Council

  
Shane Chamberlin, President of Council