

	Yes	No	Abstain	
Emergency	5	0	1	(Chamberlin)
First Reading	4	0	1	(Chamberlin)
Second Reading				
Third Reading				

RESOLUTION 2020-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURSUE THE CREATION OF A JOINT FIRE AND AMBULANCE DISTRICT FOR PURPOSES OF FUNDING THE CITY OF WAUSEON'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Wauseon provides fire and emergency medical services (“EMS”) to the citizens of Wauseon and Clinton Township, as well as to residents of certain other neighboring political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the source of funding for the EMS is a five year county-wide tax levy (“EMS Levy”) administered by and under the supervision of the Board of the Fulton County Commissioners (“Commissioners”), and proceeds received from each EMS run; and

WHEREAS, the amount of funds paid to the City of Wauseon by the Commissioners from the EMS Levy has, over the last four years of the levy, been substantially less than the costs and expenses incurred by the City of Wauseon in providing the required EMS (“Tax Shortfall”); and

WHEREAS, the amount of funds paid to the City of Wauseon by the Commissioners from the EMS Levy is substantially less than the amount of the taxes paid by citizens of Wauseon and Clinton Township for EMS response capabilities under the levy; and

WHEREAS, the amount of proceeds paid to the City of Wauseon for each EMS run is only a fraction of the amount actually billed and received by the Commissioners (“Run Shortfall”); and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Tax Shortfall and the Run Shortfall, the City of Wauseon has been required, over the last four years of the EMS Levy, to subsidize the EMS from the City’s General Fund in an amount in excess of \$250,000 each year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wauseon is no longer willing, and in any event unable, to continue to underwrite a large portion of the cost of EMS operations from the City’s General Fund due to the Tax Shortfall and the Run Shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wauseon, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees of Clinton Township, has approached the Commissioners and requested that the City be provided the following funds for operation of its EMS: (1) the full amount of taxes paid by citizens of Wauseon, Clinton Township, and the other townships for which the Wauseon Fire Department provides EMS, through the EMS Levy; and (2) the full amount of run money received from each EMS run by the Wauseon Fire Department (collectively, “Request For Full Payment”); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have not yet responded to the Request For Full Payment by the City of Wauseon and Clinton Township; and

WHEREAS, the EMS Levy expires on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, if the Commissioners deny the Request For Full Payment, the City of Wauseon and Clinton Township have committed to pursuing a funding mechanism for the EMS operations separate and apart from a county-wide levy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wauseon and Clinton Township believe the best alternative to a county-wide levy to fund the EMS is to form a Joint Fire and Ambulance District pursuant to Section 505.375 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, should it be necessary for the City of Wauseon and Clinton Township to form a Joint Fire and Ambulance District, the deadline for submitting the District’s levy language to the Board of Elections for the 2021 spring election would be February 2021; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to authorize the Mayor to pursue the formation of a Joint Fire and Ambulance District with Clinton Township, and other appropriate political subdivisions that may wish to join such a District; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution should be declared an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the health, safety, and public welfare of the City, and for the further reason that if the City is to form a Joint Fire and Ambulance District for purposes of funding its EMS, it will be necessary immediately to take the appropriate legal steps to form the District and prepare language for placement on the ballot in the spring election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Wauseon, Fulton County, Ohio, as follows:

Section 1.

That the Mayor or her designee be, and hereby is, authorized to pursue the formation of a Joint Fire and Ambulance District with Clinton Township, and other appropriate political subdivisions that may wish to join such a District.

Section 2.

That the Mayor or her designee is further authorized to enter into any agreements consistent with this resolution.

Section 3.

That this Resolution be, and hereby is, declared to be an emergency measure, necessary to request immediate preservation of health, safety, and public welfare of the citizens of the City of Wauseon, and shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its passage.

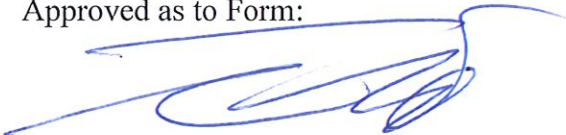
Passed: November 2, 2020


Kathy Hunter, Mayor


Shane Chamberlin
President of Council

Attest: 
Andrea Gerken
Clerk of Council

Approved as to Form:


Thomas A. McWatters III
City Law Director

