

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____ Thursday, April 1, 2021 _____ 20 _____

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

Mayor Williams directed those speaking tonight to speak directly into the microphone for the benefit of people trying to listen online. It is not as easy as it is in person.

ROLL CALL: Council attendance was as follows: Ms. Campbell, present; Mr. Denning, present; Mrs. Franklin, present; Ms. Fry, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Teaford, absent; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present was as follows: Mark Carpenter, City Manager; Chris Lohr, Assistant City Manager; Tom Garrett, Finance Director; Jim Hart, Battalion Chief; Frank Robinson, Police Chief; Kathy Bartlett, Public Services Director; Gary Burkholder, Community Development Director, Dalma Grandjean, Law Director; and Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Deputy Mayor Lommatzsch motioned to excuse Mr. Teaford. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Denning motioned to approve the agenda. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES: Mr. Denning motioned to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2021 work session and the March 18, 2021 council meeting. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Carpenter stated that applications have been received from citizens to be appointed or reappointed to positions on various boards and commissions. Ms. Lewallen stated that Mr. Timbrook and Mr. Broach who have applied for appointments were joining them on Zoom. Mayor Williams asked if they were approve reappointments for new terms. Ms. Lewallen stated that two applications were received for reappointment: Mrs. Julie Denning for planning commission and Mr. Reece Timbrook for BZA. Two other applications were for new appointments: Mr. Jonathon Hairston for planning commission, and Mr. Christopher Broach for Board of Tax Appeals. Mr. Denning asked if they had open seats for all the positions. Ms. Lewallen confirmed they did. Letters of appointment will be issued upon approval by council.

Deputy Mayor Lommatzsch motioned to approve the above-mentioned applicants to their selected board or commission. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Williams thanked the citizen volunteers for serving on the boards and commissions.

WRITTEN CITIZEN PETITIONS: Mayor Williams advised citizens present or on Zoom who would like to speak about agenda or non-agenda items there will be opportunities to do that later in the meeting. Zoom participants need to write a comment to Mr. Lohr, who is monitoring the Zoom portion.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

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A) Police Department – Chief Robinson: Last month, remember I told you about the Sterling Roberts case, how it got postponed; they have a date set for June 14, 2021. We think he will plead out prior to that; we will see what happens. It is important to get that done and over with as it has been a long time. A couple of years ago we adopted a thing called the virtual block watch. We asked the citizens of Riverside if they had any video, cameras, or ring door bells, if they would allow us to use that if we needed it in case there was something that happened in their area. We created a database where we could contact them if there was something that happened in that area. At this point, we have about 40 folks in our city that are in the program. I talked to Officer Toscani, who is heading this up, and I said I would mention it tonight so anyone out there listening, if you still want to get involved in that please do that. We'd love to have you onboard with us to give us any help from the public; we appreciate that very much. We have been doing a lot of training lately. One of the main things we do is make sure everyone in the whole department gets training, including the records clerk. We were very consistent every year, we bring in our records clerk for Sunshine Law and records retention training. She went to that this month. All the officers are in phase two training at the county, which basically is CPR and emergency first aid, and some gas mask training. We fortunately have only had one employee out with COVID-19 this past month and he is back to work as of now. We do have one of our detectives still out recovering from surgery. We have another one that is a possibility he may be going out on a surgery with some issues he is having. We wish him the best, but think there are going to be some issues there. We have moved some folks around to get another detective at this time to take his place as we are running too short in there. I want to give a shout out to a couple of employees in the police department. We had two employees get written commendations this past month. Detective Sullivan regarding a felonious assault case he worked; I can't give you the details of that, but let you know he got a commendation for that. Also, Skye Roberts, our victim advocate, was given one with her work on a domestic violence case involving the elderly. I want to make sure they are recognized for their efforts for doing outstanding work and we appreciate them. Also, Officer Toscani brought to my attention the charity for St. Jude's and asked if it was okay if we could get involved. I told him, of course he can, what are we talking here. He came up with a 20-yard dash challenge with a police officer in full uniform. Not sure if you have seen the video yet, it is out there on our Facebook page and also on Instagram. They've done very well; it was just put out last week and so far, they have raised \$525 for St. Jude's Hospital. We are always trying to give back and those guys are really good at getting out there and doing those kind of thing. I really appreciate Toscani reaching out and getting that done for us. I also want to mention Officer Brookshire. He is a relatively young officer of the department, but he has a lot of potential to be just like another Toscani, if he will, he is really motivated and wants to get out there and help people here and the kids. This past week we sent him to cops and kids camp. Its a camp with all these kids from different areas and different officers from different departments and they get together and they talk about all the issues the young people have going on in school like bullying, cyber bullying; they even work on manners. They have conversations about drug interdiction, online safety, social media, stranger danger and things like that. The age group is about 8 – 13 years. That is a great age to get a hold of them and training and talking with them, having conversations, and letting them know police officer's are here to help you and not to be scared of a police officer. We appreciate his efforts. He is working very hard. He won the community service award this year, just like Toscani did, and those guys really get out there and get after it. There are several officers that work in our department that I am really proud of, and every year, who make a conscientious effort to not only do the police work they have to do, but also go above and beyond to help our people of all ages. We really appreciate them.

B) Fire Department – Battalion Chief Jim Hart: I'm filling in for Chief Stitzel who is currently on vacation. Right now, in the fire department, the big issue that we are having is our fire engines and ambulances. We do have the Dayton Medic that we have on loan/renting for the month-to-month-and-a-half. We go that Monday. It is in place an operating. Everybody is getting used to it. It is a little bit larger, medium duty medic compared to the ones we have so there is a little bit of training with that. The ambulance that

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was at Aamco having the transmission rebuilt, it is still with them. It actually had to go to Germain Ford as they are having issues with a computer. That is still in process. Engine 5, we are having issues with the pump where it is corroding due to similar metals where they come together at the fire pump that is still at the Dayton garage. They are working to get the parts sent in and hopefully get those covered under warranty; and get Engine 6 in because it is a sister engine and they are pretty much identical so they will get it evaluated to see if there are the same issues. Lastly, the medic that was in the crash that had the damage went back to Burgess this Monday as well, so it has started the process of getting repaired. That will be a month to a month-and-a-half it will be gone. In that time frame, we have the Dayton medic to cover that medic's position.

C) Public Service Department – Ms. Bartlett: Airway west timing was adjusted again today for peak hours, morning and evening peak. We are coordinating the shopping center signal there by the McDonald's with the Woodman/Airway intersection and that should alleviate back ups in the peak times. We are going to continue to monitor this and if additional study is needed we will do that. We are hoping we get good benefits from just making these adjustments. The East Springfield Project, we had a meeting with WPAFB, the contractor, ODOT, about their annual carnival they have along the street there near the east end. They really want to do the carnival this year. The contractor is only going to have the outside lanes closed so there will be one lane in each direction. It was sort of thought it could go on without a hitch other than some minor traffic backups. The contractor has been delayed a few days on the project, getting asphalt to make the change over from the inside lanes to the outside lanes. That is what you will notice next is the closing of the outside lanes. The Olentangy Bridge, we are working on an intergovernmental agreement with Montgomery County Environmental Services to add their sewer to our plans where they will pay us or reimburse us for that cost. We would be designing it with our consultant, and then, there will be another resolution to come later for the construction, but the resolution for design will be coming at the next council meeting. We had a meeting today with the STP grant that we want to go after next on the Woodman/Harshman wall area. ODOT and MVRPC was in the meeting along with Choice One. Together they threw out some new funding options for us to look at. I'm doing a presentation at the work session next week on grants. This may actually be a presentation all to itself because it is pretty complicated and we have a variety of options. Then, we have the Harshman wall, one side of that was inspected this Tuesday, but due to weather, the other side is scheduled for Monday.

D) City Manager Report – Mr. Carpenter: We have been contacted by Montgomery County Health about using the Wright Point buildings as a vaccination distribution site on April 17. I am still waiting on some of those details, but I believe this is for some of the set asides for the minority population and we will have more details of that coming shortly. Earth Day is April 22; on Saturday the 24th, we are going to have a cleanup in the city parks. We are also encouraging everyone in the community to get out there and do some cleanup in your neighborhoods. I know there are some team leaders in the neighborhoods that are trying to organize some of the neighbors to get some of that work done. Also, at the dais, I put together a draft of the budget committee. Please look that over and at the work session next week we will have some discussion on that. We had some properties mentioned at the last meeting, one being at Forest Home, it has been scheduled for demo for quite some time, but it is still tied up in probate. We have budgeted the money and set aside. We are waiting for the right time we can go and demo the property. The other was the picture of a car with a tree on it. What we know, I believe the resident passed away in December. They are behind in taxes. We have reached out to the landbank for some assistance and then we may try some other avenues to get that problem resolved. GBU Financial life, you may recall they donated \$1,000 to the Fire/EMS department. They have reached out to us to say they still have matching funds available, up to \$2,500, per donation and so if anyone out there would like to contribute to the fire department and EMS, just contact the city and we can help you with that.

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Ms. Fry: I saw in the letter they had sent that the matching grant was available for 30 days. Do you know when that expires? Mr. Carpenter: I don't know the exact date. It was mentioned and they got a little bit of a late start so sometime in the middle of April.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Mayor Williams stated no one was present in council chambers at this time. He asked Mr. Lohr if anyone was on Zoom that wished to comment. Mr. Lohr stated that no one has messaged him to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

- I) Resolution No. 21-R-2668 – authorizing the city manager to enter into an agreement with Pester Plumbing Inc. to complete the Wright Point II backflow preventer project under certain terms and conditions.**

Mr. Carpenter stated that this was the resolution to install the backflow preventer for the Wright Point 5100 Springfield Street building.

Mr. Denning motioned to approve Resolution No. 21-R-2668. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion.

All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

- II) Resolution No. 21-R-2669 – authorizing assessment of delinquent charges for the cutting and removal of weeds, vegetation and/or grass to be placed on the Montgomery County Property Tax Duplicate.**

Mr. Carpenter stated this is for assessing delinquent charges for cutting and removal of weeds and vegetation. Mr. Denning asked if this was for what they did last year. Mr. Carpenter confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Denning motioned to approve the Resolution No. 21-R-2669. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion.

All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

- III) Resolution No. 21-R-2670 – declaring a 2007 Sterling truck to be surplus and no longer needed for city purposes and authorizing its sale by sealed bid, a broker, direct sale to a public entity, or auction.**

Mr. Denning motioned to approve the Resolution No. 21-R-2670. Mrs. Franklin seconded the motion.

All were in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Mayor Williams asked for anyone wishing to speak on non-agenda items not covered in the meeting to let Mr. Lohr know and to state their name and address and keep comments to three minutes. No one wished to speak.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Mayor Williams: I wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know that April is National Arab-American Heritage Month. A wonderful citizen here in Riverside and friend of Mr. Carpenter's and myself, Youssef Elzein has wanted to make sure they were aware of this month. We want to take this opportunity to

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thank the many Arab-Americans in our community and in the State of Ohio and the United States that have contributed so richly to our society, to medicine, to law, to our military, and to our communities. I know we certainly benefit from those contributions and we want to make sure that they know in Riverside we honor those. Thank you to our neighbors and friends in this community that are Americans of Arab heritage, and this month is for you. I also want to say this is a very special week for many people in our community in their faith life. I know that since I have become mayor I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to meet so many people in the community through our churches and it has been a real treat for me. I do go to a church here in town, and admittedly did not do much branching out before I became mayor, but it has been great to meet so many people in the city who care deeply about the city. It is through their faith life they impact our neighborhoods. I know there are a number of services happening between tonight and Sunday and I just wanted to thank those people who take so much time in their faith live and it reflects in their quality of community that they try to espouse themselves. Thank you to so many people like Pastor Dan and so many others.

Deputy Mayor Lommatzsch: I just had another MVRPC Zoom meeting today. No critical updates at this time; going forward with 35.

Ms. Fry: April is also Autism Acceptance Month. It is a subject that is near and dear to my heart as someone who hails from a multiply neuro-divergent family. I think a lot of people over the years have grown accustomed to expecting autism awareness in April, but the Autism Society of America has made a shift in recognition of what autistic people have been asking for, which is a shift away from awareness to acceptance. I have some things to share. Christopher Banks, the president and CEO of Autism Society of America, says, "While we will always work to spread awareness, words matter as we strive for autistic individuals to live fully in all areas of life. As many individuals and families affected by autism know acceptance is often one of the biggest barriers to finding and developing a strong support system." I also reached out to our community and I spoke with an autistic woman named Alicia, who lives in the community, and since it is so very important for autistic people to be able to speak for themselves and to be acknowledged and heard, I asked her what would you like to share on the subject of autism acceptance. She said, "It is important to remind people that autistic people are intelligent people and that we are all from different backgrounds and we community in different ways. All of our experiences with autism are different. We may communicate differently or socialize differently or need different accommodations for learning, but we have so much to contribute to our community and we need life long supports. People have to realize that autistic people don't outgrow autism when they become adults. Many of the supports stop when they transition to adulthood. We still exist and still need people to invite us to the table on discussions about services and programs that affect us. In general, we just want to be included in our communities. We want to share like normal people. I firmly believe that nothing about us without us that the autistic self-advocacy network believes in. I have done art about it and I believe that autistic people have many talents, wise words, and important ideas to contribute to the world."

Mr. Denning: I want to ask everybody to get their vaccine that can. Anyone 16 and over can get it now, you just have to get an appointment. I got my second vaccine, yesterday. I am here. I mean my left arm is a little sore, but no worse for the wear. Unlike a lot of the rumors, you will not turn into a zombie when 5G turns on just because you had the vaccine. I don't know where these people come up with this stuff, but it is crazy. This weekend there are a lot of social things going on, Easter egg hunts at churches and Beverly Gardens, please, you still need to wear your mask and socially distance, if you can. Please enjoy the social aspect of it, but be safe in doing it. We aren't out of the woods, yet. We can see the light, but we still need to be careful. If you don't feel comfortable then don't do it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Denning motioned to go into executive session for the purposes listed on the agenda: Section 103.01(7) – Specific Business Strategy. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mrs.

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Franklin, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Ms. Lommatzsch, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

RECONVENE: Council reconvened at 7:16 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn. Mr. Denning seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.



Peter J. Williams, Mayor



Clerk of Council