

JANUARY 16, 2024

Council of the City of Wheeling met, on the above date, at 5:30 pm, at 1500 Chapline Street Wheeling, WV with Mayor Elliott presiding.

On roll call, the following were present:

Present: Elliott, Ketchum, Palmer, Seidler, Sklavounakis, Thalman, Thorngate -7
Absent: -0

Mr. Thalman moved, seconded by Mr. Thorngate, that the minutes of January 2, 2024 meeting be accepted as received. All in favor. Motion Carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Elliott remarked on the West Virginia Municipal League luncheon and the kick off of the legislative session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Sklavounakis moved, seconded by Mr. Palmer to accept the Board of Zoning Appeals minutes from August 17, 2023 which were held over, as received. All in favor. Motion Carried.

REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mr. Palmer thanked city workers, specifically sanitation and operations departments for their efforts to keep our streets cleared of snow and ice. Mr. Palmer also wished the Wheeling Police Department a Happy 218th Birthday.

Mr. Thorngate remarked on concerns from local baseball organizations regarding a price increase for banner policies. The city Parks and Recreation Department increased banner fees with twenty percent of the fees going back to the city. Mr. Thorngate noted many of these organizations are running on limited funds with many parents volunteering to keep fields maintained. Mr. Thorngate asked for a pause on the percentage going back to the city, as council had recently just supplied ARPA funds for baseball field improvements.

Mr. Thalman echoed Mr. Thorngate's remarks and asked for better communication from the Parks and Recreation department and the baseball organizations.

Mr. Seidler noted that there is an exemption in the prohibited camping ordinance that allows for not only a managed campsite, but exemptions to campsites that service providers would like to have can be looked at and approved City Manager. City Manager noted that he is open to short term exemptions for certain camping areas but expressed certain areas will not be permitted due to the continued crime and damage done to public property.

Ms. Ketchum noted there is no formal process to ask for these exemptions and that has caused confusion. Mr. Herron stated the Nelson Jordan Center Camp has been a major issue and that if service providers are seeking an exemption, they need to reach out to him directly. Ms. Ketchum congratulated Rabbi Lief, Rod Lee, Martha Wright and Teddy Rogan on their awards given on Martin Luther King Day and thanked them for their service to our community. Ms. Ketchum also thanked city staff, Michele Rejonis and others for their efforts to get a streetscape website posted to allow for better communication surrounding the project.

Mr. Sklavounakis also remarked on the concerns over the new banner policy that is affecting local baseball organizations. City manager noted the twenty percent kickback to the city was designated for not only field maintenance but the money would be set aside for other field improvements such as dugouts, fences, etc.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Seidler moved, seconded by Ms. Ketchum to accept the Development Committee Minutes from January 2nd, 2024 as received. All in favor. Motion Carried.

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REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

Mr. Herron stated there will be repairs done to a sewer pipe on Main and Market Street that received minor damage during the streetscape project, although minor repairs still need to be made. Repairs being made to Market Street bridge are beginning next week with a completion date in June 2024. Mr. Herron recognized Fire Chief Jim Blazier for his thirty-five years of service with the Fire Department. Mr. Herron updated that the Wesbanco Splash Pad will be completed towards the end of May, before Memorial Day. Paving Contracts will have bid openings late February and early March with work being done in April. The Engineering Department is collecting required specifications for sidewalk repair for Edgewood Park, a few fire stations, operations department and Garden Park. Mr. Herron confirmed to Mr. Thalman that Mt. Wood Road will be completed with next round of paving, and that clean up under the bridges will be completed by DOH with city assisting. Mr. Thalman asked for extra patrol at and near the Mclure Parking garage. Mr. Seidler inquired if any person has been turned away at the Winter Freese Shelter due to being at capacity, City Manager stated the Homeless Liasson said no body has been turned away. Ms. Ketchum asked for an update on demo contracts, Opioid Settlement and Tunnel Greene bridge painting. Mr. Herron stated bridge painting should begin in mid to late march and there are several demo contracts that are ready to be presented to council, waiting for recommendations from police and fire on opioid settlement allocation.

ORIGINAL PROPOSITIONS

Tyler Technologies-Annual System Maintenance- Water-UAR-General Fund

The following was then read by title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,254.37 WITH TYLER TECHNOLOGIES OF DALLAS, TX FOR THE PURCHASE OF ANNUAL SYSTEM SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE TO BE CHARGED AS FOLLOWS: \$32,957.29 TO WATER/UAR AND \$46,297.08 TO THE GENERAL FUND

Mr. Thalman motioned, seconded by Mr. Thorngate for a second read to expediate payment. All in favor, motion carried.

The ordinance was read a second time by title. Mr. Thalman seconded by Mr. Thorngate, moved that the ordinance be adopted.

The vote on the motion resulted as follows

AYES: Elliott, Thalman, Thorngate, Ketchum, Seidler, Sklavounakis, Palmer -7

NOES: -0

A majority of those elected to Council having voted in favor, the mayor thereupon declared the ordinance adopted.

Bus Levy-May Election 2024

The following was then read by title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEELING PROVIDING FOR AN ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL TAX LEVIES FOR THE FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, JULY 1, 2025, JULY 1, 2026, AND JULY 1, 2027, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF WHEELING'S SHARE OF FUNDING FOR ANY DEFICIT OF OPERATING COSTS AND THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR THE SAME PERIOD FOR A SYSTEM OF URBAN MASS TRANSIT TO BE PROVIDED BY THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.

GM Baker & Son rehabilitate Well 5& Well 6- Water

The following was then read by title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,900 GM BAKER & SON, OF COLUMBUS, OH FOR REHABILITATION OF WELL 5 AND WELL 6 TO BE CHARGED TO WATER 400- 4012.04.0636.01

Ford Office Technology- Centre Market Security System- ARPA

The following was then read by title:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,077.34 TO THE FORD OFFICE TECHNOLOGY OF CONNELLSVILLE, PA FOR CENTRE MARKET SECURITY SYSTEM TO BE CHARGED TO ARPA

THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD

Sonya Neer of Wheeling, WV spoke in opposition to the prohibited camping ordinance.

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Dr. Bill Mercer of Wheeling, WV asked for a pause in enforcement of the prohibited camping ordinance until a managed camp can be set up.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Thalman moved, seconded by Mr. Thorngate to adjourn. Time 6:07 pm

City Clerk

Mayor