

JANUARY 2, 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, Thalman, Thorngate -6
Absent: Sklavounakis -1

Mr. Thalman moved, seconded by Mr. Thorngate, that the minutes of December 19, 2023 meeting be accepted as received. All in favor. Motion Carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Elliott presented a proclamation to Oglebay Institute Museums for their 50+ years of accreditation, declaring January 7th 2024 as Museums of Oglebay Institute Day. The proclamation was presented to Cristin Byrum OI Museum Director and Holly McCluskey Curator of Glass.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Downtown Streetscape Project Small Retail Business B&O Tax Credit and Monetary Relief Program

The following was then read by title:

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A SHORT-TERM RELIEF PROGRAM ENTITLED "DOWNTOWN STREETScape PROJECT TO PROVIDE SMALL RETAIL BUSINESS B&O TAX CREDITS AND MONETARY RELIEF FOR LOST REVENUE OF SMALL RETAIL BUSINESSES"

The ordinance was read a second time by title. Mr. Palmer moved; Ms. Ketchum seconded that the ordinance be adopted.

The vote on the motion resulted as follows:
AYES: Elliott, Ketchum, Seidler, Thorngate, Palmer -5
NOES: -0
ABSTAIN: Thalman -1

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

Mr. Palmer moved, seconded by Ms. Ketchum to accept the Historic Landmarks Commission Minutes from September 7, 2023, Planning Commission Minutes from September 11, 2023 and Traffic Commission Minutes from November 16th, 2023 which were held over, as received. All in favor. Motion Carried.

REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mr. Seidler thanked Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration for their efforts to encourage dining and support of local restaurants downtown with a punch card program that enters individuals in a chance to win \$1,000.

Ms. Ketchum asked for support to pause or delay prohibited camping ordinance until a managed camp is complete, and asked for guidance on how and where individuals experiencing homelessness can store their belongings.

Mr. Palmer also thanked Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration for their efforts and encouraged other businesses to show support, and create other incentives to get more residents downtown.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Thalman moved, seconded by Mr. Thorngate to accept the Finance Committee Minutes from December 19, 2023 as received. All in favor. Motion Carried.

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REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

Mr. Herron stated the WVU Hospital's demolition of the OVMC structures starting next week with the former Northwood Health Building first. The city has received its first Opioid Settlement in the amount of \$727,000, this is the first of two payments the city will receive. The use of these funds criteria is strict and must be met, once reviewed recommendations will be given for use of the funds and must be passed by a resolution. Mr. Herron introduced Stephanie Hockenberry she is the new Growth and Retention manager for Ohio County, her position was created by numerous agencies, the city being one. Mr. Herron noted officer discretion is being used for the cleaning up of homeless encampments, the police department will try to assist these individuals to get them to local agencies to help find placement. Ms. Ketchum asked for an update on Pulaski Park improvements, Mr. Herron stated they are paused due to winter weather but are under contract and will continue in the spring.

REPORT OF OTHER OFFICERS

Mr. Thorngate moved, seconded by Mr. Seidler to hold over the Board of Zoning Appeals minutes from August 17, 2023. All in favor. Motion Carried.

ORIGINAL PROPOSITIONS

Resolution- Budget Revision for Fund Allocation

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEELING AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO ALLOCATE FOR THE DOWNTOWN STREETScape PROJECT SMALL RETAIL BUSINESS MONETARY RELIEF PROGRAM

The resolution was read by title Mr. Seidler, seconded by Ms. Ketchum, moved that the resolution be adopted.

The vote on the motion resulted as follows:

AYES: Elliott, Ketchum, Thorngate, Seidler, Palmer	-5
NOES:	-0
ABSTAIN: Thalman	-1

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

THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD

Crystal Bauer of Wheeling, WV asked for a delay to the prohibited camping ordinance, until another solution can be established.

Bill Mercer of Wheeling, WV asked for an alternative solution plan be made before enforcing the prohibited camping ordinance.

Ashlie Kotson of Wheeling WV asked for a delay to the prohibited camping ordinance until a managed camp can be established.

Nic Cochran of Wheeling WV asked for assistance to safely accommodate more of the unsheltered population at the Winter Freeze Shelter and to delay the prohibited camping ordinance.

There being no further business to discuss Mr. Thalman moved, seconded by Mr. Thorngate to adjourn. Time 6:00pm

City Clerk

Mayor