

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
February 25, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Ken Park, Brian Smith, Philip Decker, Josh Carey, Dave Williams and Leah Weirick
Members Absent: None
Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

The invocation was given by Philip Decker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2019 – Special Meeting.

Smith moved to approved, upon roll call Williams – Abstain, Weirick – Yes, Park – Yes, Smith -Yes, Carey – Yes, Decker - Yes and **motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2019.

Weirick moved to approved, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

Citizens Forum

Jay Craig – East of Chicago. Mr. Craig spoke on behalf of Valor House in Akron. Valor House is a home for disabled Veterans. Once again representatives from Valor House will be going door to door asking for a \$20.00 donation for a coupon card from East of Chicago. All of the proceeds will go to Valor House. Mr. Craig inquired if this would be permitted again this year. It was noted that there were issues last year with the representative being overly aggressive. Mr. Craig informed Council to let him know immediately and he will take care of the issue. The representative is instructed to check in with City Hall to let them know he is in town.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. **Motion to Appoint Rick Hanlon to the Wayne County Health District Advisory Council as the City of Rittman Representative for Another Three Year Term.** Smith moved to approved, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Ord. No. 8099 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 8081 As Amended According to the Attached Sheet(s) and Declaring an Emergency. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8099 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Decker – I was going to make the motion to

(recording failed)

Decker ... the whole appropriation ordinance as a whole. Obviously, I am understanding the need to purchase salt to keep the roads clean and I would like to approve that appropriation, but I was personally going dissent on the other two for the rec center. And so, in order for that motion for that account to get reconciled, I was in favor of splitting them. Mayor Robertson – do you want to provide any detail on why?

Decker – Well... yes. There is a decrease in the personnel services fund or at least in whatever category that is, which is good. But then the increase for the contractual services, I would be in favor of just finding somebody to do the job and maintain the same standard. We could hire somebody rather than outsource.

Park - can we do that for the same cost as the outside service?

Keener – I looked back to 2009 and there has always been an expenditure line item for custodial services.

Decker – so it has been an ongoing expense?

Smith – so what you are suggesting is you keep that line item and hire someone to do the job rather than eliminate the line item.

Carey – have we tried that in the past to hire somebody new since the person decided to quit?

Keener – we have not advertised for it.

Feuerstein – no, my thought was the person has been cleaning and doing a good job, but her hours have been declining over the last two years. So right now, with one person at that rate we would probably have each spot of the rec center cleaned once a week. With the cleaning service, I really would like to bring that number down to \$15,000.00. It would only be a net increase of about \$5,000.00. That would get us cleanings of three times per week and our staff would still do additional cleanings within that time frame. So really the bathrooms, the floors, the gymnasium and the weight room would be cleaned three times per week and the staff would still keep doing what they are doing, allowing them to focus on other aspects. About ten years ago we had three cleaners, now we are down to one. I thought maybe with the cost, yes, it is costing us a little bit more but we are getting more cleanings out of it. And the company we are looking at they clean rec centers. They have record of what they have done with others, I just want to offer that idea out to Council, if you are not for it, I understand. If you are great. If not then we move on and we figure something different out.

Carey – how many years left do we have on the mortgage?

Keener – 2021.

Carey – so one year left.

Williams – when I worked at the Boys and Girls Club in Orrville, I was just a college kid who helped in the gym and did summer programming and after every shift about a half hour before the shift was to end that's when it was our job at each designated part of the building to clean our area. If it was in the gym you had to wet mop the floor, clean the trash cans out, inflate the balls, clean the bathroom out, things like that. I guess if we have staff up there could we do that. Would they do just as good a job as a cleaning crew?

Feuerstein – I don't necessarily think so, not against anything of the staff, but I think they can do other items. Then have the cleaning company do the other heavier lifting stuff. It would be a team effort. Because we had one cleaning person in the whole building. That's a big building and bathrooms take a lot of work. The floors take a lot of work. It's just an epiphany I had while walking around on the island somewhere and thinking. I just wanted to see Council's reaction, that way I know and we can move past this debate.

Weirick – Garrick don't they do that now?

Carey – they do that already.

DiSalvo – Yes, we have cleaning for each shift for each position, just like you are saying Councilman Williams we empty the trash cans, we mop along the floors and bathroom. We do windows, we sweep.

Smith – what is the heavier lifting stuff?

DiSalvo – getting the floors done, getting the bathroom floors done, scrubbing down showers, scrubbing down toilets.

Smith – so our staff doesn't do that?

DiSalvo – I have been doing it for seven months.

Smith – nobody else on the staff can do it?

DiSalvo – actually I haven't been paid for it either, sir.

Smith – I struggle with our average loss the past five years. It is just shy of \$147,000.00 per year. Adding on to that is not the direction I want to take that building. I agree with you; salt and cleaning staff are two separate issues.

Williams – so I guess I always like to have a plan, if we don't approve this cleaning crew coming in what will the rec center look like? I know that when my family goes in, my wife goes in if, it is not clean, we don't become members. It is just a cleanliness hygiene issue.

That's business and we need business up there, because we are losing money at times. We didn't go into this to make money, we all know that. What would this look like if we don't approve this? Business as usual or...?

Weirick – not good for him either to have to clean, it is not his job as the director is to clean.
Carey – would you build a two-million-dollar house with a pool and then have to clean it if it was your own house?

Feuerstein – to be fair it would be business as usual. We would use the current money in there and try to find someone that could try to do it. I personally don't think that's the correct path, but I respect the wishes of the six members here. If that's the direction we are going to go, then that's the direction we'll go in. But if not, then it's my job to figure that out. I am asking for this for the rec center and if you say no, I respect that and I move forward on the different path and try to get that accomplished. This is my recommendation and I think this is better overall for the rec center.

Mayor Robertson – I am thinking like you are Dave I like to go and know it's been deep cleaned. You get a lot of kids in there.

Weirick – if you get new people that are going to try it out and it's not clean, they're not coming back. They are not going to buy a membership.

Park – the three years – four years I have been on Council here its been we're losing money up there, we're losing services and the place isn't clean enough. That's the three things that I hear all the time about the rec. center. I don't know what else there is to complain about. I'm not an expert on it, I don't go up there myself, so I can't comment on it looks or anything like that. There certainly needs to be something done, that's one of the three biggest complaints. We've got to figure out something. Having Garrick clean it isn't an answer as far as I'm concerned. There has got to be something.

Decker – I'm just trying to figure out how long then has that \$9,540.00 gone unused if you have been doing it for seven months?

Feuerstein – just the last few months since the cleaning person stopped. I wanted to see how it would go with the staff picking up.

Decker – what was the hesitation of even just a job posting for replacement? Like any other operation.

Feuerstein – I asked Garrick if the staff could handle and we wanted to at least see how it would operate. At least for me and nothing against Garrick but it's just not the same results.

Decker – right, you're down a person whose dedicated to do that.

Feuerstein – at the time we didn't know anyone right off the bat that could have stepped in to do that. So, ok let's see how it goes for the next few months. It's not going the way I would have liked it and that's why I am asking for now. I probably should have asked a little bit earlier but other things held me back and that's on me. I should have stepped up a little earlier.

Carey – I haven't been there as often in the last year due to several things, but even when that person was working, the little bit that she was cleaning it wasn't necessarily as clean as it probably should have been in some cases. So how ever many times she was cleaning it probably needed to be at least double that.

Park – that's all she did was clean? For the \$9,000.00 she wasn't doing anything else?

Smith – if Josh saw it then the staff should see it too. If it's dirty, I'm there all the time, but I see what I see and if I see an empty water bottle sitting there for three days then I am assuming everybody else sees it for three days. I don't know why you don't just pick it up and throw it away. That's not a deep cleaning thing, that's just hey it's an empty water bottle, throw it away.

Williams – when it comes to the heavy stuff like waxing the floors or steam cleaning the locker rooms, who does that commercial type business with us? Would it be this particular company that they would wax the floors or put a shine on everything?

Feuerstein – we would have to talk with them. I know it would just be mopping the floors three times per week. That wax and stuff we wouldn't do all the time.

DiSalvo – I have no idea how to wax a floor. The last time those floors were waxed was August 25, 2009. That's the day I got married. So, we haven't had a good wax on since that time. I don't know how to wax the floor. I'm happy to run a machine on it but more so this company would be doing the floors three times per week. The salt is wreaking havoc on the floors. It is all we can do to try to keep up on it in the winter time. Is it easier in the summer,

yes. We might be able to cut down some days in the summer. Instead of three days maybe its two days. Right now, it's been the traffic.

Williams – I guess what I was getting at was I didn't expect you to be doing commercial work like that. I didn't know if we needed first impressions you go in there and we could use some waxing and polishing. Is that going to be additional money on top of the \$23,000.00? I am assuming yes.

Feuerstein – for the three times per week around \$15, 000.00 for the year. I will talk to them to find out exactly what is included in that \$15,000.00.

Weirick – that company is going to send more than one person probably. It is a big job for more than one person to do. So that's why they are hitting only one area. If you have a cleaning company in there, they are going to hit more areas and the whole thing will be cleaner. It's a big job for one person if we did hire somebody.

Carey – so instead of \$23,000.00 we are looking at \$15,000.00?

Decker – so the amendment that is in front of us isn't actually accurate.

Keener – you could keep it in there if you want to but I was telling Derek any contractual services we can have that cushion in there and we can move those appropriations to another line item. But also, if you are going to add on additional services like the waxing there is at least money that's already been set aside.

Feuerstein – if Council was willing to grant this, I would rather keep it at the \$15,000.00 and that would have to come back to explain why I am asking for additional funds instead of just giving me a lot more cushion. I don't think that's fair that if you are going to be gracious enough to offer this to me then we can at least come back and look at things. I would understand if you would want to put it down \$15,000.00.

Williams – what has the input been from the rec center board? Josh are you a representative?

Carey – we didn't get to have our meeting, so I am not sure, but I would assume that they're all probably on board with this. Trying to get the place clean a little bit better. We were at \$9,540.00 before and if that person was only cleaning once a week if they were cleaning twice then you are at \$19,000.00 so the contractor for \$15,000.00 for three times per week seems better than having somebody on staff to do it twice.

Decker – but that logic then says just contract for one day a week if it's still everybody coming in and you're cleaning all the rooms at one time once a week take that bargain, if that's what we are getting for the \$9,500.00.

Keener – she was cleaning more than once per week.

Carey – it was one area once a week so technically she was cleaning the whole place once a week.

Decker – hire the contractors to do it once a week you're saving even more money and things are cleaned.

Weirick – I think it needs cleaned more than once a week.

Decker – I'm not saying it doesn't, I don't think the issue is whether or not the place gets clean. I think the issue is the more money being spent to do it. So, my only initial question is if the money has been there but no attempt has been made to find an employee to do it that seems to be the big jump is to go from, we are just skipping over trying to hire.

Feuerstein – I understand. I don't know if there is one person out there that can do it three days a week at that price. Danny Tanner maybe.

Carey – they all probably want more money per hour than what she was making as well to do it, I would guess.

Decker – minimum wage is \$8.55 now?

Keener – she was making more than minimum wage.

Decker – I think it's even probably \$10.00 per hour 20 hours per week.

Williams – this would be an annual contract at \$23,000.00 would be for the year?

Feuerstein – yes.

Keener - \$10.12.

Decker – at how many hours?

Keener – it varied.

Keener – her health became an issue, that's why it declined. She was cleaning more hours then even up to two years ago her line item was actually more. But when it was put together this year it was based on the trend over the last three years.

Decker – I'm hard pressed to say that there's nobody in Rittman that's willing to work for \$10.00 per hour, 20 hours a week? It's a part time job. Somebody would want to do it.
Williams – plus we have staff that's there to pick up the slack. Which we already have.

Mayor Robertson – the motion on the floor is to adopt as it's written. Call the roll. Upon roll call Decker – No, Park, - No, Carey – Yes, Smith – No, Weirick – Yes, Williams – No and **motion failed**.

Mayor Robertson – is there another motion from the floor. from Council on this item?

Decker – I motion to approve the appropriations amendment for \$23,650.00 from the State Highway fund to the Service/Street Funds.

Mayor Robertson – so you want to amend it and remove the two rec center items?

Decker – that is correct.

Williams moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Decker moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

City Manager's Remarks

Nothing at this time. I know with some of the winds that we had yesterday, we had some trees causing damage and crews are out trying to respond to those. I know we are waiting on First Energy. There is a tree on N. Main Street that is impacting some residents, but First Energy has been alerted. They are responding to not just Rittman but surrounding areas. Kudos to First Energy. There was a tree that fell on one of our lift stations and they were able to respond quickly because that was impacting our utility services and they responded pretty quickly to help with that. I know our area rep was in touch with Mike Brown, our utility supervisor to try to get that rectified. Even with everything they had going on they stepped up to help us, especially with our utility service. I just wanted to say thanks to them and thanks for the crews for responding both service and safety on all the different calls that we had.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing other than what I told you last time that the audit was going to be starting. You got correspondence today from the State Auditor's office which we will probably getting more than previous Auditors. Any point of your questioning or what they are sending you or what it means just feel free to email me and I'll explain.

Council Remarks

Weirick – nothing tonight.

Park – nothing, thank you.

Smith – thank you all for your time.

Carey – nothing tonight.

Williams – I had an opportunity this week to stop down at the Server Café it's neat to see a service like that help our citizens and I have encouraged people to support it by volunteering or financially. It's really helping out the needy of Rittman and it's a good program.

Decker – I just stopped over there before the meeting, had a cup of coffee and talked to them. It is a nice neat thing to have. Thanked them for doing what they are doing, encouraged them. It's a good thing to have in town. Garrick, I thank you for the stepping up as you have done. I recognize that the last several months have not been easy and I am sorry that Rittman has compounded that by making more work for you. We are not trying to make things worse. We want to do what we think is best. Everybody else thanks for working through that amendment.

Mayor Robertson – I put a card at your desk on servicing on the for the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan and on that card, there are 4 meeting dates where we are looking for input from the community into the development of the Wayne County

Comprehensive Plan. It would be great if anyone would go. You can hear where we are at that point. It mostly applies to Wayne County but Rittman has come up as a point of interest as an area in the county that needs a lot of help. People around it noticed the downtown and lack of businesses and the need for economic development. It has come up as part strategic plan, so things aren't going to be specifically pointed at Rittman, but there are indications as we are developing through this that they are concerned about the other cities and areas of the county and finding ways to help. If you are able to go that would be great. Don't forget your Ohio Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure.

a. **Approval of Voucher #'s 9536 thru 9641 and Memo Expense #'s M21910 thru M21912.** Williams moved to approve, all Yeas upon roll call and **motion carried.**

b. **Motion to go into Executive Session and Invite the City Manager, Law Director, Finance Director and Mayor: 7:38 p.m.** Williams moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. **Motion to Come out of Executive Session 8:29 p.m.** Carey moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 8:30 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council