

**Rittman City Council Met in a
REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Ken Park, Brian Smith, Josh Carey, Philip Decker, 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 – May 13, 2019.

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

Citizens Forum

None

Old Business

a. **Ord. No. 8110 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 351.03 of the Codified Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading.** Ord No. 8110 was read on second reading. Smith moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

New Business

a. **Proclamation – Amateur Radio Week – June 17 - 23, 2019.** Mayor Robertson proclaimed Amateur Radio Week as June 17 through June 23, 2019.

b. **Res. No. 8113 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Finance Director to Make Advances and/or Transfers to or From Appropriate Accounts. Three Readings.** Ord. No. 8113 was read on first reading. Park moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt. Williams inquired about the playground equipment that is in storage. Would this proposed employee, would he be a part of coming about the solution to getting that playground equipment out? Feuerstein responded yes and no. We are looking at the first week of July to install that playground equipment. I have been working with them pretty hard to try to figure out a good schedule for that and also possibly doing the parking lot at Fritz Park that we talked about. The gentleman here, we brought him on to a. help with some of the work that we are doing along with GIS. That took a different direction as we tried doing some other personnel changes in the City. I still want to use him later on when have set up the data bases, which I thought I could set up myself. I realized that I was in over my head on that. Hopefully once we have them set up; he can help with collecting after we start to get all the data bases set up. The work that we thought he would do in the spring might not happen until more in the fall. He has helped with a lot of the mowing and cutting and a lot of projects that we have. The street maintenance probably can't be used for park stuff because that has to be more general fund and that's more street work. We will have some crack sealing and possibly when we use the paver later on that can be used for that. And also, the other reason Kyle was brought on is because he is also a volunteer firefighter so that will help with the daytime response. It was done at the end of the year when the budget originally wasn't set, but it was to try to provide, to try to use as many of the resources and dollars as we spend them to help with fire response during the day as well as work that needs to be done throughout the community. As we try

to look for ways of utilizing that dollar as much as we can. So, kind of but we are working on a plan to have that installed. Decker stated, so I think your question is we're moving money from the general fund to streets because he's ended up putting a lot more time in that department rather parks? Feuerstein replied yes that's why. Decker stated so the question is that what are the risks then that he's just going to end up becoming fully ingrained in streets work and not get over and deployed into doing work in the parks? According to Pam's letter we're going to be billing all the mowing that he does to parks which is going to come out of that budget, but that's only one component to working parks is keeping them mowed. Is he getting an unbalanced schedule? Feuerstein replied as they do their work though the week we look to see where they spent their hours and charge each fund accordingly. This is just the cover. We didn't anticipate him spending as much time in that fund right away. So, to make sure we have enough to pay throughout the course of the year, she wants that. I know in her letter she said this might be a little more than what is needed but she would rather be safe than sorry. Then at the end if there is anything left over then we can put it back in the departments. Working on the plan depending on where we move the employees to what jobs they do making sure they are paid correctly out of each fund instead of just the general fund. Decker inquired if you know the difference between this Ordinance and then the following one where we are doing the exact same movement of funds between those departments once duplicated. Feuerstein stated that you are transferring funds to that and then you are appropriating those dollars then for the use of that. It's a two-step thing, you have to move it there, that way they are available and then you have to tell us this is where we want you to spend it. That's why there are two steps. Williams inquired if there are any Union issues to consider with job swapping? Feuerstein replied that no, we have talked to them before but oddly in the AFFCME contract they are all the same position. In Lorain they were very detailed and classified positions. Here they are classified as the same position. We can literally move anyone around where we want to, we try not to though. We try to keep people on the same job that they do on a daily basis, unless there is an emergency. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

c. **Ord. No. 8114 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. 8114 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**. Smith moved to adopt. Decker inquired on the same \$39,125.00 it appears that, is that categorized as the other uses or is that the \$29,125.00 and the \$10,000.00? How is that split out? Weirick responded that the \$39,125.00 at the top is the transfer, appropriating the transfer out of the general fund to the streets fund. Then the \$29,000.00 and the \$10,000.00 is how that is going to be spent out of the street fund. Decker stated his question is that other \$10,000.00, \$10,000.00 of what we agreed to transfer is not all salary, but is maintenance supplies and contingencies. Am I understanding that correctly? Feuerstein responded yes. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**

d. **Res. No. 8115 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to Provide an Election to Renew a Five (5) Year 1.0 Mil Levy Commencing Tax Year 2019 (Calendar Year 2020) and Expiring December 31, 2024 (Calendar Year 2025) for the Purpose of Providing a Minimum of Twenty Five Percent (25%) for the Capital Improvement and the Remainder for the Maintenance and Operation of the Fire Department and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading.** Res. No. 8115 was read on first reading. Weirick moved to move to second. Williams stated that he supports this, however isn't it possible that one of the questions that the citizens are looking to have is that we have combined EMS and Fire Department together this year and the other issue is going to be up is also for an EMS levy as well. Going into approach this as it was done for a money saving, for a way of being more fiscally sound with the City. Maybe Chief Sweigert if you could help us and the citizens understand. I thought we were getting a savings and now we are going for two levies if you could explain that. Chief Sweigert responded that he would be happy to do that. Feuerstein stated that he would start, the reason why we are going for two levies is that there are certain renewals of what

we currently have on the books. These are the funds that help provide the operations that we need to operate both departments. Originally when we first talked about the two departments the thought was that the levy expired in 2020 so we would have a year of kind of reviewing what we have done for the first year. But when you go to ask the voters for it you have so many chances on the ballot. This is the first chance of what we have in November of asking that. You don't want to chance a renewal with only one chance on the ballot. That's why we are doing it this year so we would have November then we would have March because it is a Presidential Primary so it is moved up to March and then we will have November again of next year. By losing, if these aren't renewed, then those operating dollars completely go away and then the general fund will be on the hook for that. Yes, you are correct we combined both departments to become more efficient and more cost effective. However, at the cost of those it might not go down for that but because the cost of providing the services might be going up with trying to provide daytime response. We had a lot of concerns about daytime response we had concerns about other things that combined and that help provide work leadership and bringing them more as a team as we work through that. So it's only been about six months, we are still working through trying to transition from two departments to one department and having an opportunity to do that has shown a lot of things that we need to work on and other places that how do we shore up some of those inefficiencies and we just haven't had that time. Asking for it now, that's a help, basically asking for that money to remain the same right now as we try to figure out what cost line; do we need to operate and what type of services do we want to provide to the public. Costs across different industries go up and yet we have not really asked for any new dollars since then. They generate enough to operate right now but as we look at how we want to operate, more important that's a question we are going to be coming back to the Council, possibly next year or the year after once we figure out what that looks like. My thought was to renew now, keep it the same, allows us a baseline to review how we operate. Chief Sweigert stated that in 2012 or 2013 so Kasich took away the homestead roll back and any new monies since that time, like replacement levies, we lose the homestead roll back. So, we sent it back to the State. The Fire levy was just renewed in 2015 so we kept that money in the City of Rittman for the citizens. If we combined the two levies then we lose that, and it may only be \$8,000.00 - \$9,000.00 but still I don't want to send that back to Columbus. If we just renew it then we keep that homestead rollback monies. The EMS levy was replaced in 2015 so we lost that so it's pretty much a wash. The biggest benefit is the efficiency behind what we are doing with the combined leadership and combined department. I can show on paper as far as the number of people responding. We are seeing some improvement there; you may not see that right now reflected in the lower cost. Unfortunately, the cost of everything is going up. We may not realize the efficiencies up front. Then to combine the two levies, which I think was your second question, mainly because it would keep the money separate, we can keep that rollback money from going back to Columbus. Williams stated that he thinks one of things that helps people at the dinner table when they discuss these issues is knowing how much it is going to directly cost them. Have there been any financial figures, if you have a \$100,000.00 house it will cost you this much per year? Sweigert responded that he suggests that we ask Jara Underwood to come in for next month's Council meeting, because we will need to have this on two readings so we can get it on the ballot. Decker stated that was going to be his other question, on three separate reading are we going to have this in time, knowing the deadline? Feuerstein responded that we wanted to have it where there are enough readings so we would as for a hearing then in the next month ask for passage because the next Council meeting or have a special meeting in July. We thought we had next year but we have to have it on this year's calendar to have it because it expires. Williams inquired worst case scenario what would happen if one would pass and one would fail? Feuerstein replied that right now fire brings in about \$88,000.00 per year, failing that would go away and the general fund would have to, either that or cuts. You either cut or replenish the general fund which means other departments will be impacted. The EMS levy brings in \$203,000. Decker inquired when does that one expires? Sweigert stated that they are both the same. We have two more opportunities in which to pass the levies. The whole key to passing levies is to promote what you are providing for that money and that's what we have had to do. Obviously, if it fails, we didn't do a good enough job showing why we needed that. So, we need to make sure we explain that to the citizens.

Mayor Robertson stated that being a renewal you get no additional dollars. Sweigert stated that the City would not gain any additional revenue and it would not cost the taxpayers any additional. All Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

e. **Res. No. 8116 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, to Provide an Election to Renew a Five (5) Year 2.3 Mil Levy Commencing Tax Year 2019 (Calendar Year 2020) and Expiring December 31, 2024 (Calendar Year 2025) for the Purpose of Providing Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services and Declaring an Emergency.** First Reading. Res. No. 8116 was read on first reading. Carey moved to move to second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

f. **Ord. No. 8117 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manager to Solicit Bids for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Bottles, Face Masks, and all other Peripheral Component Parts Associated with the Use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Declaring an Emergency.** Ord. No. 8117 was read on first reading. Park moved to suspend the rules, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.** Weirick moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

The Mayor helped me highlight the Wayne County Comprehensive Plan. There is going to be a road show going on, we are going to have displays at different cities throughout the county. Rittman will host one at the Rec Center from July 15 - 21. It's a way to go in and see everything and provide your thoughts it's a more casual way and you don't have to drive everywhere. Two items I wanted to bring up, we had a meeting this past week with the Library and City Hall with the proposed new building. We should hopefully have a set design and cost assessments to a 10% contingency at the end of August. It's going to become real, fast. We are really excited about it and sometimes this building makes you want it even faster sometimes. We are working hard on it; we have a pretty good architect working on it and we both seem to be on the same page with a lot of things. Hopefully by the August meeting I have some more updates on that as well. And the last thing we are going to be publishing on our website about Kimble, wanted me to reach out to everyone about an issue the Councilman Williams brought up before with China not accepting a lot of recycled material has really hurt the recycling business and has caused a lot of increase in price throughout the region. Not just our region, throughout the country. There are many cities that saw a lot of their rates double, a lot of rates just being imposed on them. A lot of cities lose out on the recycling program. Kimble has stayed committed to us; we are still working with them on what that means for their business. One thing that we want to try to do is educate the public on how recycling should be done. Before the tough thing was trying to get everyone to recycle, so we said if you are unsure recycle. Now we are flipping that and it's if you are in doubt, throw it out. We are trying to educate people because the contaminates that are on plastic or aluminum or glass, China's not accepting it. They want pretty much 99% clean recycled material before they will even accept it. That leaves us in a pinch, we want people to recycle, we want to preserve the landfills. Right now, with the way the pinch is hurting the market, it's causing us to say throw it out more instead of recycle. We are going to try to post this on our website and our social media platform to try to educate the public more. I can provide copies of these flyers to the Council members if you would like to have them. As well as trying to educate people more because if we help Kimble out that also helps us out in the long run. Outside of that I don't have any other updates but I'd be happy to answer any questions or try to address any concerns you might have. William inquired going back to that conversation, did they mention anything about rates? Feuerstein stated that he had meeting about a week and a half ago, they said that they would be proposing some new rates within our current contract. It's one of those we can either take it or let our contract at the current price run out and go out for bid again next summer. The problem with that is you don't really know where the market is. I am waiting to see the final price. What would happen is they would give us a new price for the remainder

of the contract and then each renewal year that we have within that contract period. We can either look at a locked in price or a price through the end of the contract, through the renewal program or end the contract and go out for bid next year. I guess it's one of those how do you weight the market? I do have a friend now in the trash industry so I can try to bounce some ideas off of him to see what his thoughts would be on the market. It's not looking good. I do know that a local city around here had their rates double when they went out for bid and I don't want that at all so I am going to try to what I think is best and provide a recommendation to Council to seek guidance on how to move forward. The fact that they have waited this long is surprising me but it's beneficial to us. I think that if we work with them, we might have a win win with both sides. I will keep you updated when I hear back from them.

Finance Director's Remarks

Nothing

Council Remarks

Park – nothing tonight, thanks.

Smith – thank you all for attending.

Carey – nothing tonight.

Weirick – nothing tonight.

Williams – thanks Dan and Katie for coming tonight. Thanks to the Chiefs that came tonight. Ken as well.

Decker – nothing further.

Mayor Robertson stated that on June 25th is a live presentation of the Strategic Plan. The other ones are just a static read things over, make comments. That one is an opportunity to interact with members of the steering committee, members of County Commissioners. If you think you have some input that might be a good one to try to get to. It's a great time 5:30 – 7:30. I went to a meeting on the library last week and we are starting to talk about fundraising. There will be some significant efforts going on in the Rittman area, trying to do some fundraising and we are not going to raise the total cost of the library and we are doing it as a library fundraiser, explaining that it is going to be a combination building. It's going to be a library fundraiser. It's great to have people and businesses in the community buy in by way of donating to that. I think that's the purpose of doing that. We will be doing a few months of that. I'm kind of going to kick it off maybe during the sleepwalker. They will have a float in the parade and set up downtown, to get people information on what they are building and then try to build more interest so that we get talking about that. If anybody has any great ideas for fundraising for a library Derek and I would be more than happy to talk to you about those things.

b. Motion to go into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Property Acquisition and Invite the Mayor, Law Director and City Manager 7:35 p.m. Williams moved to approve Weirick seconded, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

c. Motion to Come out of Executive Session – 7:58 p.m. Decker moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: - 7:59 p.m. Weirick moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council