

**COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE CITY COUNCIL
01/22/2020
7:30 P.M.**

Council met in regular session at 7:30 P.M. in the second floor Council Chambers located at 105 N. Main Street, Washington Court House, with Chairperson Jim Chrisman presiding. Ms. Hernandez led the invocation. Mr. Chrisman led the pledge of allegiance.

Present at said meeting were, Mr. Joe Denen, City Manager, Mr. Mark Pitstick, City Attorney and Mrs. Kelley Ford, Clerk of Council. At roll call, the following Council members were present: Mr. Ted Hawk, Ms. Kendra Hernandez, Mr. Caleb Johnson, Mr. Dale Lynch, Mr. Steve Shiltz, Mr. James Blair, and Mr. Jim Chrisman.

Mr. Lynch moved and Ms. Hernandez seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 08, 2020 be approved as presented.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: "Mr. Hawk, "Aye"; Ms. Hernandez, "Aye"; Mr. Johnson, "Aye "; Mr. Lynch, "Aye"; Mr. Shiltz, "Aye"; Mr. Blair, "Aye"; and Mr. Chrisman, "Aye".

Motion carried.

B. BUSINESS SESSION

PUBLIC HEARING-

Mr. Chrisman opened the public hearing on the question of the rezone of 1.25 acres located at or near W. Elm Street/Vine Street from R1C-Urban Neighborhood Single Family Residential District to R3 (Multi Family Residential).

Mr. Denen reviewed the Public Hearing Process for the benefit of council and citizens. Mr. Denen advised that more than a simple majority is needed to reject the recommendation of Planning Commission.

Mrs. Rebecca Baughn a resident of 525 Fourth Street addressed Council and expressed her concern regarding the rezone. Mrs. Baughn noted street parking issues that the apartments would create.

Mrs. Jill Leeth a resident of 534 E. Elm Street addressed her concern regarding the rezone of the area. Mrs. Leeth noted that she was glad to see the area revived although would prefer new homes over an apartment complex. Mrs. Leeth expressed her concern with parking issues, noise, extra traffic, and maintenance of the apartments. Mrs. Leeth inquired if the apartments would have an on-sight manager?

Mrs. Joyce Spradlin- a resident of 428 Fourth addressed her concern with parking issue and excessive noise.

Mr. Jaret Bishop, Owner of JLB1 Properties, addressed Council regarding the rezone. Mr. Bishop noted his proposal of 100% off street parking and landscaped green space, along with units renting at \$600.00 per month. Mr. Bishop advised of the concessions and changes that had been made for the benefit of the neighborhood.

Mr. Blair inquired about the amount of parking spaces that would be allotted? Mr. Bishop advised that there would be approximately thirty-six spaces.

Mr. Johnson inquired if any green space would be sacrificed to place the parking? Mr. Bishop advised in the negative.

Mr. Shiltz inquired about sidewalks? Mr. Bishop advised that sidewalks would continue on Elm street and advised that Vine Street and Fourth Street sidewalks could be revisited.

Mr. Shiltz inquired about trash pickup. Mr. Bishop advised that trash was included and that an enclosed dumpster would be located on site.

Mr. Chrisman inquired if there would be playground equipment on site? Mr. Bishop advised in the negative due to liability.

Ms. Hernandez expressed her appreciation of Mr. Bishop's willingness to work with the community.

Ms. Hernandez inquired with Mr. Bryant if there was much give on the layout regarding apartment sizes etc? Mr. Bryant advised in the negative.

Mr. Lynch addressed the citizens that spoke with Council, and inquired if the changes that Mr. Bishop had stated regarding their concerns had made a difference to their concerns? The citizens advised in the negative stating that they did not want apartments.

Ms. Hernandez inquired with Mr. Bishop about the reasoning for apartments and not homes? Mr. Bishop advised that his company was constructing seventeen homes to sell adjacent to the property and noted long-term income with the apartments. Ms. Hernandez inquired how many homes could be built on the property if apartments were not built? Mr. Bryant advised that six singles would be constructed.

With no further being discussed. Mr. Chrisman closed the Public Hearing at 7:58pm.

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Denen advised that there were no communications.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were none.

CITY MANAGER REPORT (in writing)

Mr. Denen addressed Council and reported details regarding the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Mr. Denen noted an introductory tour would be scheduled in February or March.

Mr. Denen reported that the Fire Department was experimenting with a Facebook Page similar to the Police Department's Facebook page.

Mr. Denen thanked all parties involved with the public hearing and thanked everyone for expressing their viewpoints in a clear and respectful way.

In discussion, Mr. Lynch expressed his appreciation of Mr. Denen keeping Council informed on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Mr. Lynch stated that he was proud of Council with the construction of the Police and

Fire Building, but stated he believed that the best thing that Councilman has done for the community was the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Mr. Hawk inquired about the location of the road in the area of the WWTP during construction.

Mr. Denen responded that the access road is shifted towards the perimeter of the property to create more room for the improvement of the wastewater treatment plant.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Tom Riley, Director of Finance was absent.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney, Mr. Mark Pitstick was absent.

LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS

Ms. Parson, a resident of 720 Washington Avenue, addressed Council and presented a handout for the Better Angles organization. Ms. Parsons stated that the organization was an organization that united red and blue Americans in a working alliance as one group and not separate Democrats and Republicans. Ms. Parsons stated that her goal was to increase awareness and to help grow their organization.

C. LEGISLATION

1. Legislation Previously Introduced

None.

2. New Legislation (in writing)

A. RESOLUTION NO. R1-2020 (second reading)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING TO MR. HARRY WRIGHT THE APPRECIATION OF CITY COUNCIL AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE FOR MR. WRIGHT'S SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Ms. Herndandez moved and Mr. Shiltz seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No. R1-2020 be placed on second reading.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Hawk, "Aye"; Ms. Hernandez, "Aye"; Mr. Johnson, "Aye"; Mr. Lynch, "Aye"; Mr. Shiltz, "Aye"; Mr. Blair, "Aye"; and Mr. Chrisman, "Aye".

Motion carried.

Mr. Lynch moved and Ms. Hernandez seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No. R1-2020 be adopted.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: “Mr. Hawk, “Aye”; Ms. Hernandez, “Aye”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye “; Mr. Lynch, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Aye”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Chrisman, “Aye”.

Motion carried.

2. New Legislation (in writing)

A. RESOLUTION NO. R2 -2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EMH&T ENGINEERING, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Ms. Herndandez moved and Mr. Shiltz seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No. R2-2020 be placed on first reading.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: “Mr. Hawk, “Aye”; Ms. Hernandez, “Aye”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye “; Mr. Lynch, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Aye”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Chrisman, “Aye”.

Motion carried.

B. ORDINANCE NO. 1 -2020 (failed)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING E. ELM STREET; OWNED BY FROM R1C (URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO R3 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL)

Ms. Herndandez moved and Mr. Hawk seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Ordinance No. 1-2020 be placed on first reading.

In discussion, Mr. Lynch expressed that being a deciding factor on Council was not easy. Mr. Lynch noted his appreciation of all who had commented and noted that he appreciated the kindness of the conversation.

Ms. Hernandez noted her agreement with Mr. Lynch. Ms. Hernandez noted the amount of time that was spent discussing the issues with Mr. Bryant and citizens.

Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation of everyone involved. Mr. Johnson noted that the decision was a hard decision to make. Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation of the concessions that JLB1 properties was willing to make for the citizens and that he also agreed with the homeowner’s concerns in the situation.

Mr. Shiltz stated that the decision was a difficult decision. Mr. Shiltz listed four items he believed a city needs to grow. 1) water 2) utilities 3) housing 4) jobs. Continuing that each item helps the other. Mr. Shiltz thanked Mr. Bishop for his professionalism and answering all questions asked of him and reiterated that the decision was a difficult decision to make.

Mr. Lynch noted the number of votes to pass or fail the proposed legislation.

Ms. Hernandez asked the rhetorical question if the location of the development changed votes?

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: "Mr. Hawk, "Nay"; Ms. Hernandez, "Nay"; Mr. Johnson, "Nay"; Mr. Lynch, "Nay"; Mr. Shiltz, "Nay"; Mr. Blair, "Nay"; and Mr. Chrisman, "Aye".

Motion failed.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Blair noted that he had taken a tour of some of the city departments earlier in the day and expressed his appreciation of the people that work for the city.

Mr. Blair thanked Ms. Parsons for attending and noted that she was a good spokesman for the Better Angels group.

Mr. Lynch thanked Ms. Parsons for attending. Mr. Lynch expressed his concern with how polarized national politics had become.

Mr. Lynch referenced a quote, "Never give up, great things take time and patience." Mr. Lynch noted his love for being on City Council and expressed his appreciation of everyone.

Mr. Hawk noted that he hoped Mr. Bishop would revisit his pursuit of the apartment building in another location.

Mr. Shiltz thanked Ms. Parsons for attending.

Mr. Shiltz expressed his appreciation of the options.

Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Bishop to please continue his endeavor.

Ms. Hernandez thanked everyone for coming and being cordial at the meeting. Ms. Hernandez commended Mr. Bishop on his passion for the community.

Ms. Hernandez reminded everyone for the Valentine's Day Shop Hop to be held on Friday, February 14th from 5pm -8pm and encouraged Council's participation.

Mr. Chrisman thanked everyone for attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hernandez moved and Mr. Shiltz seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Blair, "Aye"; "Mr. Hawk, "Aye"; Ms. Hernandez, "Aye"; Mr. Johnson, "Aye"; Mr. Lynch, "Aye"; Mr. Shiltz, "Aye"; and Mr. Chrisman, "Aye".

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.


CLERK OF COUNCIL


CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL