

**COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE CITY COUNCIL
02/26/2020
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. Mr. Blair led the invocation. Mr. Lynch 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. Caleb Johnson, Mr. Dale Lynch, Mr. Steve Shiltz, Mr. James Blair, Mr. Ted Hawk, Ms. Kendra Hernandez, and Mr. Jim Chrisman.

Mr. Lynch moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held February 12, 2020 be approved as presented.

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

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Denen advised that there were no communications.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Hernandez presented the minutes of the Economic Strategies and Cooperation Committee meeting held February 18, 2020.

Mr. Lynch moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That the minutes of the Economic Strategies and Cooperation Committee meeting held February 18, 2020 be approved as presented.

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Lynch presented the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held February 18, 2020.

Mr. Shiltz moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held February 18, 2020 be approved as presented.

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

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT (in writing)

Mr. Denen respectfully addressed Council and noted that the raw water supply was in good standing.

Mr. Denen noted that the day was Ash Wednesday and noted that Easter was in forty-six days. The hope of Spring being with us.

Mr. Denen noted that road salt was in good supply. Mr. Denen continued and stated that surplus salt will be stored at the old Service Garage. Lastly, Mr. Denen advised that due to a minimum order conundrum with cooperative purchasing with ODOT, the salt order will need to be re-evaluated for the 2021 supply.

Mr. Denen advised of the recent hires of Mr. Branton Mitchel and Mr. Cody Ahrens in Street Department, Mr. Dylan Arnold in the Water Department and Mr. Alec Haggard in Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Denen reported that a new safety siren had been ordered to replace the siren located at Mulberry Street.

Mr. Denen reported that the Police Department was operating on the new software platform.

Mr. Denen noted that the Temple Street Bridge was being bid by the Ohio Department of Transportation and noted a projected start date of June 1, 2020.

Mr. Denen reported that the Administration had requested that ODOT inspect the asphalt on Washington Avenue due to some observations of the placement.

Mr. Denen reviewed in length the progress of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Mr. Denen expressed his appreciation of Mr. Jay Myers, Fayette County Building Inspector upon his retirement.

Mr. Denen welcomed Mr. Craig Breedlove to the position of Fayette County Building Inspector.

In discussion, Mr. Blair inquired who the city hired for the Cemetery Secretary position and what date the person was hired? Mr. Denen advised that Mrs. Nancy Stillings was hired approximately three weeks prior to today's date.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Tom Riley, Director of Finance presented the statement of cash for the month ending in January 31, 2020.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney, Mr. Mark Pitstick had no report.

LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS

Mr. Eric Gerber, a resident of 1218 High Street, addressed Council and expressed his concern with debris on the bike path.

Mr. Denen advised that the City would resolve the issue.

C. LEGISLATION

1. Legislation Previously Introduced

A. ORDINANCE NO. 2 -2020 (second reading)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO.

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

MOTION: That Ordinance No. 2-2020 be placed on second reading.

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

Motion carried.

2. New Legislation (in writing)

A. RESOLUTION NO. R3 -2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. RON SOCKMAN TO THE BOARD OF TAX REVIEW FOR A TERM CONCLUDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021.

Mr. Lynch moved and Mr. Blair seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No. R3-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

B. RESOLUTION NO. R4-2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE REAPPOINTMENT OF MRS. NANCY HAMMOND TO THE BOARD OF TAX REVIEW FOR A TERM CONCLUDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021.

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

MOTION: That Resolution No. R4-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

C. RESOLUTION NO. R5-2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE APPOINTMENT OF MS. MEGAN DHUME TO THE FAYETTE COUNTY TRAVEL AND TOURISM BOARD FOR A TERM CONCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Mr. Shiltz moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No.R5-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

D. RESOLUTION NO. R6-2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE REAPPOINTMENT OF MRS. SUSAN WOLLSCHIED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM CONCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Shiltz seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No.R6-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

E. RESOLUTION NO. R7-2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, WITH JRG CONSULTING LLC., DBA AS ENTERPRISE ADVISORY GROUP.

Mr. Shiltz moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That Resolution No. R7-2020 be placed on first reading.

In discussion, Mr. Blair inquired if the agreement was a renewal and if anyone thought that JRG also working for the County was a conflict? Mr. Denen noted that utilizing JRG worked well from a coordination standpoint.

Mr. Blair continued and inquired what businesses JRG Services had brought into the city? Mr. Denen and Mrs. Baker listed some of the businesses as well as noting that JRG Services had helped with the certification of the Industrial Park.

Mr. Chrisman noted the benefit to both the city and county of JRG's Services.

Mr. Blair inquired how it can be discerned if JRG Services helps push new business to be located in the County or the City?

Ms. Hernandez stated that in her opinion as long as the business locates in the County and is what the client wanted she did not object if the client went to the Mega Site. Ms. Hernandez continued and noted that she would not be upset as a Council person because the client was still located in the county and that benefits our community.

Mrs. Baker reiterated that JRG Services submits for both locations to every interested business. Mrs. Baker noted that the location is customer driven depending upon what each location has to offer.

Mr. Denen stated the only event remotely close to a conflict in his recollection was that of McKesson.

Mr. Blair expressed concern for costs involved with Economic Development. Also, Mr. Blair stated that most local businesses were owned by local people. Mr. Blair questioned the usefulness of Buxton?

Mr. Denen noted that analytical information derived from Buxton had been a benefit in several situations.

Ms. Hernandez stated that she viewed Buxton as a partner with the City. Ms. Hernandez noted that if a business inquiry was made, they are directed to Mrs. Baker for the analytical information that is given to her by Buxton.

Mr. Denen noted the benefits from the data derived from Buxton. Mr. Denen continued that the data was a tool that was utilized by Mrs. Baker regarding new business interest not only with commercial development but the industrial park.

Mr. Johnson inquired if the County shared the feeling of a mutual benefit from JRG? Mr. Denen noted that the County has been pleased with JRG. Mr. Denen noted that utilizing JRG has helped make the growth of the community a team effort and not the past practice of controversy and conflict; which in the past wasted a lot of the time.

Mr. Johnson inquired if the County feels the same gut reaction as Mr. Blair regarding the competition? Mr. Johnson stated that the city is a separate entity in the county although the city is in the county.

Mr. Shiltz noted that JRG does not benefit more financially whether a business comes into the city or county.

Ms. Hernandez stated the community benefits with a business locating in either location.

Mr. Shiltz inquired if the city benefits from taxes from the Megasite? Mr. Denen advised in the negative but reiterated that a cooperative relationship with the county is a better alternative and indirect benefits exist.

Mr. Lynch noted the importance of the cooperation between the city and county. Mr. Lynch continued and noted the requests of citizens for the city; reduce drugs and to do more for Economic Development. Mr. Lynch noted that the city hired more Police Officers to help with the drug problem as well as hired the companies to help benefit the growth of the economy within the community. Mr. Lynch noted that all have been hired to help improve our community. Mr. Lynch noted the benefits have been witnessed within the area and the benefit of using JRG who was originally a local person. Mr. Lynch also noted that if there was a time that it didn't improve, the city does not have to continue the services of those separate entities.

Ms. Hernandez noted that Buxton had originally noted the time involved with development and growth.

Mr. Shiltz noted the length of time that some corporations take to negotiate locations and noted the importance of a company such as Buxton and JRG for the analytics and assistance.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the agreement with the Fayette County including the City within their agreement since the City is within the County?

Mr. Denen stated that the County retains JRG for economic services in much the same way as the city. Mr. Johnson stated that by the city having an additional agreement and would the Administration not say JRG was being incentivized by doing work within the city? Mr. Denen responded in the affirmative.

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

Motion carried.

F. RESOLUTION NO. R8 -2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE APPOINTMENT OF MR. TERRY FEICK TO THE BOARD OF TAX REVIEW FOR A TERM CONCLUDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021.

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

MOTION: That Resolution No.R8-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

G. RESOLUTION NO. R 9-2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE APPOINTMENT OF MR. TERRY FEICK TO THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE.

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

MOTION: That Resolution No.R9-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Blair expressed that Dayton Avenue should be renamed the Daytona Speedway. Mr. Blair then explained that his concern was speeding on Dayton Avenue.

Mr. Blair inquired if the cease and desist at Red Mile was still standing? Mr. Denen responded in the affirmative. Mr. Blair stated that people were working at Red Mile.

Mr. Lynch expressed his appreciation of the article in the Record Herald pertaining to Chief Hottinger.

Mr. Lynch referenced a quote; "Results happen over time not over night; work hard, stay persistent and be patient."

Mr. Hawk referenced a trip to New Jersey.

Mr. Hawk inquired how Buxton gathered their information? Multiple persons advised of a range of means by which data is collected.

Mr. Shiltz noted the collection of data corporate entities use when choosing locations. Mr. Shiltz expressed his appreciation of all of the entities used by the Administration that move progress forward in a positive way for our community.

Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation of the article in the Record Herald pertaining to Chief Hottinger.

Mr. Johnson expressed his agreement with every tool being used as an advantage. Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Blair for the conversation.

Ms. Hernandez reminded everyone for the St. Paddy's Day Shop Hop to be held on Friday, March 13th from 5pm-8pm. Ms. Hernandez encouraged everyone to shop local.

Mr. Chrisman expressed his appreciation of Chief Hottinger's return to full duty at the Police Department.

Mr. Chrisman thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Chrisman expressed his appreciation of the employees in all departments, and noted the support given at a benefit luncheon for a fellow employee.

Mr. Chrisman thanked Dale Butler for his services within the community.

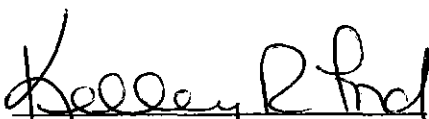
ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion: That the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

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

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.


CLERK OF COUNCIL


CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL