

**COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE CITY COUNCIL
5/27/2020
9:00 A.M.**

Council met in regular session at 9:00 A.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. Ms. Hernandez 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 Ms. Hernandez seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held May 27, 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

There was none.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There was none.

CITY MANAGER REPORT (in writing)

Mr. Denen respectfully addressed Council and expressed his appreciation of the local economy beginning to open and encouraged citizens to continue to shop local.

Mr. Denen recommended that to help reduce risk that citizens continue to practice safe virus hygiene habits.

Mr. Denen encouraged shopping local and noted the benefits to the local economy and public safety.

Mr. Denen reported that local finances will continue to be discussed with Council. Mr. Denen advised Council of economic observations and concerns. Mr. Denen continued, and stated that city reserves are strong, and that continued vigilance would be taken to maintain a stable budget as the results of Covid19 are monitored.

Mr. Denen expressed thanks to the employees of the Washington Cemetery, Street Department, citizens and the American Legion for their efforts with Memorial Day.

Mr. Denen advised that the Scarecrow Festival would be postponed until 2021. Mr. Denen noted the difficult decision of the Scarecrow Committee and the burden to provide a safe environment for those who attend, as well as the financial position of the festival.

Mr. Denen encouraged calmness regarding national news on a local level. Mr. Denen noted that although national media does impact lives, it does not necessarily reflect local conditions. Mr. Denen noted the variety of degrees of quality of information and opinions on national news.

Mr. Denen reviewed new legislation.

Mr. Denen thanked the volunteers for the flowerpots placed in the uptown area.

Mr. Shiltz inquired if there was a hiring freeze? Mr. Denen noted that the City was monitoring financial stability and if a position would need to be filled the Administration would discuss with Council before proceeding.

Mr. Chrisman inquired about the purpose of fund 102? Mr. Denen noted that it was a proactive step in anticipation of the State of Ohio distributing funds to local governments.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mr. Tom Riley, Director of Finance was absent.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney, Mr. Mark Pitstick stated that he had no report.

LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS

There was none.

C. LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE NO. 6 -2020 (second reading)

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO.

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

MOTION: That Ordinance No. 6-2020 be placed on second reading.

Mr. Shiltz inquired if the legislation could be explained. Mr. Denen advised that the legislation accepts the codification of prior actions of Council and updates any references to the Ohio Revised Code.

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. R17- 2020 (second reading)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER JOSEPH J. DENEN, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO COX PAVING FOR THE 2020 STREET AND ALLEY PAVING PROGRAM.

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

MOTION: That Resolution No. R17-2020 be placed on second reading.

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

Motion carried.

2. New Legislation (in writing)

A. RESOLUTION NO. R18-2020 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING TOM RILEY, FINANCE DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO CREATE FUND 102, CORONA VIRUS RELIEF FUND.

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

MOTION: That Resolution No. R18-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

Motion carried.

In discussion, Mr. Blair inquired about the designation of funds to the Police and Fire Departments? Mr. Denen advised that the city will be required to spend the funding in accordance to the federal statute, and that designating the funds for Police and Fire appeared at this time a safer action for the city.

Mr. Johnson inquired if the Administration would be able to do a supplement from the General Fund? Mr. Denen noted that the General Fund was the main fund for the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Denen continued and noted that Fund 102 could not be used for revenue replacement. Mr. Denen continued, any funds expended would need to be appropriated in the normal fashion.

Mr. Shiltz inquired if the money is not spent would it need to be paid back? Mr. Denen advised in the affirmative.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Johnson expressed his concerns for a second wave of corona. Mr. Johnson encouraged citizens to continue to be vigilant with wearing a mask.

Mr. Hawk stated positive benefits for children if the splash pad could be opened.

Mr. Hawk expressed his agreement with Mr. Denen's statement regarding the Cemetery looking nice.

Mr. Hawk stated that it was nice to see the flags out and support being shown for those who have sacrificed.

Mr. Lynch referenced a quote from Winston Churchill, "The price of greatness is responsibility."

Mr. Blair expressed his concern regarding the splash pad and other park equipment being closed, and that one item cannot be opened and not the other item at the park.

Mr. Blair noted an email that he had received regarding a request from an individual interested in opening a business to speak with Council. Mr. Blair continued, and stated a number of products the business could offer.

Mr. Chrisman stated that he did not have any objections to the person speaking at Council, but the disbursement of marijuana was governed by state law.

Mr. Denen noted that nothing impedes a person from opening a business if the products sold are legal and zoning etc. observed.

Ms. Hernandez noted that no other business had ever asked Council's permission open.

Mr. Shiltz noted that the gentlemen would need an Ohio vendor's license and a local zoning permit. Mr. Shiltz further noted that none of these actions involve Council.

Mr. Pitstick noted that he directed the person to the Economic Development Office for further assistance.

Mr. Johnson asked if Mr. Denen could advise Mrs. Baker to do a follow up with the gentleman and see if there was something specifically Council needs to do.

Mr. Blair stated that the email noted that it was the first step in an overall business plan. Mr. Blair continued and stated that he inquired with the gentleman why he was talking with individuals.

Mr. Denen noted that contact would be made with the gentleman.

Mr. Lynch noted that issues such as this works best in Committee.

Mr. Chrisman thanked everyone for their comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shiltz moved and Ms. Hernandez 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 10:05 a.m.


CLERK OF COUNCIL


CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL