

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Minutes of the Vermilion City Council Meeting

Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Held

Monday, January 6, 2020

Videos and minutes of council meetings are available to the public to view online at www.cityofvermilion.com under 'meetings' tab (City Meeting Minutes or Videos).

Vermilion City Council: Steve Herron, Council President; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Hlovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; G. Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk. Absent: Monica Stark, Council at Large; Brian Holmes, Ward Five

Administrative Staff: Mayor Jim Forthofer; Ken Stumphauzer, Law Director; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Howard, City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER:

Steve Herron, President of Council called the Monday, January 6, 2020 Vermilion City Council Meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The members of Council, administrative staff, and audience participants were led by Cub Scout Pack 409 in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance; a moment of silence followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

S. Hlovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

G. Fisher said she received a liquor permit from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for Solo Vino Imports LTD, 450 Nicholson Road, Vermilion, Ohio.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL'S REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee:

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Vermilion Community Services Board:

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ritter Library Endowment Room.

Utilities Committee:

F. Loucka reported the next meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Port Authority:

F. Loucka reported the next meeting has yet to be determined.

Finance Committee:

B. Brady reported the next meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Planning Commission:

B. Brady reported the next meeting has been scheduled for January 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

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Health & Safety:

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Parks & Recreation:

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 21, 2020 at 7pm.

Stormwater Advisory:

S. Herron reported the next meeting is yet to be determined.

Historic Design & Review Board:

E. Skahen reported the meeting scheduled for January 8, 2020 has been cancelled.

Vermilion Tree Commission:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020 at 7pm at the Ritter Public Library.

Streets, Buildings and Grounds Committee:

S. Holovacs reported the next meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Contractors Registration Board of Examiners:

S. Holovacs reported the next meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Board of Zoning Appeals:

S. Holovacs reported the next meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Forthofer provided his submitted reports as read into the record:

Safety Director's Report: No report.

Mayor's Report:

Mapleview Ditch

December 10th. I attended the final Mapleview Ditch hearing in the Lorain County Commissioners' Chambers. At that meeting, the Commissioners unanimously accepted the County Engineers recommendation for the Mapleview Ditch project to relieve flooding. The cost of the project is \$89,000 paid from the county storm water fund and \$10,000 paid by Brownhelm Township. Commissioners said resident assessments are yet to be determined. I spoke before the commissioners regarding a fair assessment to Vermilion property owners. Purchase of a 5.5-acre piece of property to the south of the ditch is also planned as an easement to facilitate work on the ditch. However, a law suit was recently filed by the property owners. A spring project start seems optimistic to me in light of litigation and loose ends.

Dead Cell Zone Progress

Representatives from Verizon met with the city's IT manager Richard Pozywak and me at the site of VFD station 2 December 27th. Verizon plans to locate a mini cell on the site to boost cell reception in the VOL area. Once placed, the mini cell will provide improved reception for only a ½ mile radius. This placement of mini cells and others will chip away at the dead zone until Plan A can be achieved in 2020. Plan A now seems likely. Plan A is placement of a full-strength cell on the monotower at Overlook and Liberty. Both the mini and full-size cell placements are in the hands of Verizon's real-estate department and our friends in the legal community.

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IT

We are gratified to see the LifeCare IT support personnel digging into the City's IT infrastructure and identifying our vulnerabilities and urgent needs. The lead IT manager, Richard Pozywak is also instrumental in working with Verizon for better reception, not only for the public but our service departments. I believe the LifeCare arrangement is the right course to eventually running the City and its critical functions on a solid IT infrastructure.

Fire House 1

Thomas and Marker, our general contractor for the building of Fire House 1, completed the bidding process for contractors December 31. They will be reviewing and weighing results the following week and will meet with the Fire House Committee thereafter. A spring ground breaking is still planned.

Defense Soap

Defense Soap is coming along nicely. I did a walk through of their building today. They've had a quarter million dollars of concrete poured. Their landscaping plans are very attractive. The whole site should be a show place on Liberty when finished. They plan their grand opening in February.

Join Health Committee

Joint Health Care Committee, a committee of members of the administration and our unions, met 12/17/19, regarding an issue concerning the application of health care coverage for employees hired mid-year. The Finance Director was able to research the situation and provide the unions with a favorable resolution.

Labor Negotiations Continue

Bargaining has been a big part of our days in the Administration over the past months. Before Council tonight is the agreement reached between the Administration and the Fraternal Order of Police. This agreement was ratified by the F.O.P. December 30th. After Council's review, I ask that the rules be suspended, and the agreement voted on tonight.

Finally, I want to observe the December passing of Tom Pesek. Tom was a current member of the Contractor Registration Board. His contribution of time and experience to the betterment of the community is very much appreciated. Our condolences are extended to his widow Nancy and family.

S. Herron joined in the sentiment to the passing of Tom Pesek. In addition, he asked for clarification on whether the City of Vermilion was named in the lawsuit related to the ditch project. Mayor Forthofer said his understanding is that the owners of the property who have the suit are establishing a minimum price of sale to the county.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

T. Valerius advised Vermilion citizens that Columbia Gas is replacing the gas main on Liberty Avenue near the Hazelwood intersection. Their work has required the closure of one of the eastbound lanes at times, so he asked all drivers to use caution while traveling in this area.

He conveyed the Distribution Department has been dealing with main breaks, with the most recent being on Aldrich, which subsequently led to the replacement of a valve, which in turn has led to two more valves leaking and needing replacement. Door notices were handed out last Friday and they will be replacing them both on Thursday, January 9. Affected citizens can expect their water to be off for approximately three hours with a boil advisory to follow.

Lastly, he was pleased to announce that the Erie Regional Planning Commission informed them that the City of Vermilion will receive funding through the State Capital Improvement Program for the Mapleview Drive Reconstruction Project and the Liberty Avenue Water Main Replacement Project, which the City applied for through the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Mapleview Drive Project will consist of the reconstruction of the road, curb and gutter from Hollyview Drive to Forestview Drive, and the Liberty Avenue Project will see a new water main installed from Vermilion Road to South Shore Court. This section of waterline is part of the EPA mandated 10-year Water Main Replacement Program for the City.

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FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Amy Hendricks submitted and read her report into the record as follows:

Updated Property Values

Updated property values were received from the County Auditor on Friday:

	2018	2019	(=/-)	% change
Erie County Value	\$ 137,359,440	\$ 138,293,830	\$ 934,390	0.680%
Lorain County Value	\$ 158,361,460	\$ 159,859,010	\$ 1,497,550	0.946%
Total	\$ 295,722,918	\$ 298,154,859	\$ 2,431,941	0.822%

This will provide an estimated \$28,000 in additional real estate tax revenue for 2020. The General Fund will receive approximately \$19,000. The remaining will be spread across Parks (\$3,600), Fire (\$4,900) and Police Pension.

Transient Lodging Tax

The new Transient Lodging Tax that began in April 2019, added just under \$9,000 for a little over half a year's collections. This falls in line with initial estimates of \$15,000 to \$20,000 for a full year of collections originally estimated. We should experience additional growth in 2020 due to collections on all reservations prepaid through Airbnb, etc. in 2019 and early 2020, that the April start date did not include. We should also have all operators set up for collections after the transitional year. We are aware of properties operating that have not registered with the Erie County Auditor as of December. If they have not registered and paid for 2019 rentals by the end of January, we will implement additional enforcement including the fine of \$250 per day outlined in the ordinance.

General Office Update

We are working on the December month end closing as well as calendar year end. The first payroll of the year was January 3 and the new negotiated agreement be implemented for all employees of the Police Department effective January 1 for the next payroll.

We are also implementing the new medical insurance rates for 2020 for the city as well as the employee payroll deduction rates. Our consultants at NFP worked hard to bring down the initial 17% rate increase quoted to 9% in the end. The timely cooperation from all employees in providing the responses to the Form Fire Health History information allowed NFP to have real time information to present when discussing rates with providers.

Wellness screenings were moved to late fall in cooperation with the Joint Health Care Committee to allow for everything to be ready to go to start the year. Debit cards were loaded with eligible benefits to use by January 2, 2020.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Chris Howard reported the bid for the city-wide water meter replacement project will be going out this week with a bid opening of January 30.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report.

RESPONSE TO THE AUDIENCE: No response.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Joel O'Dorisio of 1001 Napoleon Road, Bowling Green, Ohio advised Council and the Administration that he is running for State Senate and is eager to learn about the issues that are important in Vermilion.

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Reading of the Ordinances:

Tabled - Third Reading – Ordinance 2019-67: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 878.04 (a) & (c) ENTITLED "LICENSE FEES" OF CHAPTER 878 ENTITLED "SWEEPSTAKES TERMINAL CAFES" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF VERMILION, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading – Ordinance 2020-1: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

F. Loucka MOVED; S. Holovacs seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

S. Holovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Discussion: B. Brady asked for clarification on this agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police as Council never heard of any of the parameters of the agreement. A. Hendricks explained the percentages for the salary increases are identical to the OPBA with 2% in the first year, 2-1/2% in the second and third years. She said these employees are part time, so they are not participating in the insurance benefits, so there aren't any adjustments to those rates. S. Holovacs reiterated that this contract in past years has pretty much mirrored the OPBA contract. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

First Reading – Ordinance 2020-2: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VERMILION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ERIE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR THE ERIE COUNTY NPDES SMALL MS4 PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading – Resolution 2020R-1: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT, FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT PURPOSES, THROUGH THE OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S COASTAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM.

First Reading – Resolution 2020R-2: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO TO ACCEPT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A CERTAIN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES RELATIVE TO THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF A MARINE PATROL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Announcement of Meeting Dates:

January 13, 2020 - Vermilion City Council Committee Meetings (All) – 7pm
February 3, 2020 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 7pm
February 10, 2020 – Vermilion City Council Committee Meetings (All) – 7pm
February 17, 2020 – Presidents Day – City Offices Closed
February 24, 2020 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 7pm

Adjournment:

Upon no further business coming before the body, Steve Herron, President of Council adjourned the Vermilion City Council meeting.

Transcribed by: Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk