

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Vermilion City Council Meeting

Minutes of _____

Meeting _____

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Monday, March 1, 2021

Held

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; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four (late arrival at last ordinance reading); Brian Holmes, Ward Five.

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Steve Herron, President of Council called the Monday, March 1, 2021 Vermilion City Council meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The members of Council, administrative staff, and audience participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance; a moment of silence followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

S. Holovacs MOVED, B. Holmes seconded to approve the minutes of the Vermilion City Council meeting and Work Session of February 22, 2021. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

S. Herron read into the record a letter dated February 20, 2021 that is attached hereto and incorporated herein as part of the official record of proceedings.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL'S REPORT:

S. Herron stated the numbers in terms of COVID positive tests are reducing in both Lorain and Erie counties. Therefore, he is considering resuming open meetings beginning April 5 and they will wear masks and practice social distancing. This determination will be based on recommendations from the CDC, the White House and the Governor's office, and he will make his decision by March 15. He said if a Council person is not comfortable in participating in an open meeting, then they could possibly look at participating by telephone and members of the public who want to address Council has the option of sending a letter to City Council no later than Friday before the Vermilion City Council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Utilities:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Port Authority:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

Finance:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Planning Commission:

The next meeting has been scheduled for March 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Health & Safety:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

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Parks & Recreation:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Stormwater Advisory Committee:

S. Herron reported the next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Historic Design & Review:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Vermilion Tree Commission:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM.

Streets, Buildings & Grounds:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

S. Holovacs reported on the meeting held February 23. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Contractor Registration:

S. Holovacs reported on the meeting held February 23. The meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Forthofer referred to Ordinance 2021-10 that pertains to the Pilot House at Main Street Beach. The administration is asking for consideration by Council to help them auction off the Pilot House. The reason is because they originally considered moving it, but they since have received estimates on what it will cost to move this they found it will cost more than what the Pilot House is worth, so they are asking Council to declare the Pilot House as an unwarranted piece of city property, so they can move ahead with auctioning it off sooner than later, so somebody else can take possession of it so funds can come back to the city. He asked Council to consider emergency passage as it comes under the category of having it done before the beach opens.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

T. Valerius thanked South Shore Dredge and Dock for their work breaking ice last week. The ice jam broke free last Saturday evening and flowed freely out to the lake without incident. F. Loucka said he did a great job in getting the ice cleaned up and it is much appreciated in the protection of millions of dollars of boats, businesses, and residents located in the river valley.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Amy Hendricks reported the following:

New Payment Options

We are pleased to announce that our utility customers now have additional payment options to pay their bills online: PayPal, PayPal Credit and PayPal in 4. Venmo will also be available as a mobile payment option only. Any applicable fees will be shown prior to completing a transaction and go directly to the payment processor(s) to cover their services.

We will be putting advertising on social media soon to promote these new options. The City received a \$300 prize to be used for social media advertising at a workshop last fall and we have been using it to promote customer options. Some questions were asked about how much was spent on the ads, and the answer is ZERO. However, I think this type of advertising is an excellent value to keep in mind going forward after we have used our \$300. It is a very cost-effective way to get information out when compared to traditional means such as inserts in utility bills, printed flyers, etc. that cost more and often go into the trash unread.

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New Phone System Goes LIVE

This afternoon the cut over was completed to the new phone system for the entire city. The Police Department has been using the system for a couple of weeks and the Fire Department switched with their recent move as well. All phone numbers will remain the same except for phasing out some of the last 967 numbers. Callers will likely notice different options for selection when calling the city departments. Please listen carefully for the new prompts as they are designed to provide better response times and follow up to your calls. Voicemail and fax messages are routed automatically to the staff member's email make them accessible from anywhere quickly and easily. We will continue to build out internal communications within City Departments that will make things more efficient for everyone to work together.

The phone system project was undertaken by our IT Department internally without the added cost of an outside vendor for installation or programming. Our only added cost was roughly \$30,000 for equipment and software that should be recovered in less than 18 months due to the elimination of ongoing monthly service charges for extra phone and fax lines and service from CenturyTel.

Budget Discussion 2021

There are no changes from the budget presented at the February 22 meeting.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT:

C. Howard said last week he spoke with ODNR regarding the Flood Damage Reduction ordinance and he sent Council a copy of the revisions requested by ODNR, which were minor. He said this ordinance needs passed tonight, so it will be effective for the National Insurance Flood Program.

Secondly, he provided a copy of the bid recommendation letter to City Council for the demolition of the Albert Wakefield Home and former Inland Seas Maritime Museum building. The city received 13 bids and the low bidder was R&D Excavating, LLC. of Crestline, Ohio with a price of \$87,500. S. Herron said he noticed the lowest bid was less than half of the number two bid. Is there any reason how this comes out when there is such a difference? C. Howard said they were concerned so they called their references. He spoke to the City of Mansfield and the Richland County Land Bank who both highly recommended this company as they have worked with this company over the last couple of years and they have had no issues with them. He said they are a smaller company, and they do everything in house, so they are not subbing work out, which drives the costs down because there is not as much overhead, so he could not find a reason not to deny this bid.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

K. Stumphauzer clarified if Ordinance 2021-10 that dealt with monetary value of artifacts, etc. is being substituted now with the Pilot House ordinance. G. Fisher said this is correct.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Homer Taft of 3972 Edgewater Drive reported said with respect to the demolition, he had expressed concern with the mayor as he pointed out in the past that most of the concrete materials could be used onsite and it might reduce the costs of demolition and future improvements. He was sorry to see the Canopus go as it is unfortunate if folks do not know about it, but he understands if this is the decision.

Reading of the Ordinances:

Tabled - Third Reading – Ordinance 2020-34: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND 234 "DOG PARK" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tabled - Third Reading – Ordinance 2020-44: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2019-5 ADOPTED FEBRUARY 25, 2019 PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 873 ENTITLED "TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATION, ROOMING OR BOARDING HOUSES" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VERMILION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tabled – Third Reading – Ordinance 2021-1: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1270.01 "A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.02 "R-1 ESTATE RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.03 "R-2

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RURAL RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.04 "R-3 SUBURBAN RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.05 "R-4 URBAN RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.06 "R-4A TWO-FAMILY URBAN RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.07 "R-5 APARTMENT RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.08 "R-6 SPECIAL FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.09 "RS SPECIAL RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.10 "RL-1 EXISTING LAGOON DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.11 "B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.12 "B-2 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.13 "B-3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.14 "B-4 MOTORIST SERVICE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.15 "I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.16 "I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.17 "I-3 INDUSTRIAL PARK DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.18 "I-U UTILITY DISTRICT," AND SECTION 1270.19 "FP FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT" OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF VERMILION TO PROHIBIT JUNK BUILDINGS, SHOPS, AND YARDS. (PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 8, 2021 @ 6PM VIA ZOOM)

Tabled - Third Reading – Ordinance 2021-4: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1260.06 "DEFINITIONS;" 1270.01 "A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.02 "R-1 ESTATE RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.03 "R-2 RURAL RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.04 "R-3 SUBURBAN RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.05 "R-4 URBAN RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.06 "R-4A TWO-FAMILY URBAN RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.07 "R-5 APARTMENT RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.08 "R-6 SPECIAL FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.09 "RS SPECIAL RESIDENCE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.10 "RL-1 EXISTING LAGOON DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.11 "B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT;" SECTION 1270.12 "B-2 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.13 B-3 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.14 "B-4 MOTORIST SERVICE DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.15 "I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.16 "I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.17 "I-3 INDUSTRIAL PARK DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.18 "I-U UTILITY DISTRICT," SECTION 1270.19 "FP FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICT" AND SECTION 1272.17 "TEMPORARY STORAGE CONTAINERS," OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF VERMILION TO DEFINE AND PROHIBIT MODULAR STORAGE UNITS.(PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 8, 2021 @ 6PM VIA ZOOM)

Third Reading – Ordinance 2021-6: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1460 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VERMILION ENTITLED "FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

F. Loucka MOVED, S. Holovacs seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency to comply to the recent changes required by the state as reported by the City Engineer and for the health and safety of the citizens. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

Second Reading – Ordinance 2021-8: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading – Ordinance 2021-9: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE ALBERT WAKEFIELD HOME AND FORMER INLAND SEAS MARITIME MUSEUM BUILDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED, F. Loucka seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

F. Loucka MOVED, S. Holovacs seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Discussion: S. Herron said it is heartbreaking to see an old building go down as it is part of the heritage in the city. He said it has a lot of emotion tied to it and it is not a happy thing, but his opinion is they have reviewed this for several years in the best interest of the city and the amount of money it would take to rehabilitate this building. Overall, looking at the plan the mayor presented a couple weeks ago, he feels it is in the best interest of the city to demolish it as it is a health issue as well when taking it down. He understands people are upset, but this is his position. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance 2021-10: AN ORDINANCE DECLARING ARTIFACTS LOCATED WITHIN THE FORMER INLAND SEAS MARITIME MUSEUM TO BE OF NO MONETARY VALUE AND ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE PUBLIC'S ENTRY ONTO MUSEUM GROUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Arrival of Barb Brady, Ward Four

S. Holovacs MOVED, F. Loucka seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

E. Skahen MOVED, F. Loucka seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS, 1 NAY (Stark). MOTION CARRIED.

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Announcement of Meeting Dates:

- March 8, 2021 – Stormwater Committee – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- March 8, 2021 – Vermilion City Council Committee Meetings – 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- March 15, 2021 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Adjournment:

S. Herron adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

Transcribed by Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk

February 20, 2021

Vermilion city council,

I am very much against the fire station on Ohio street becoming a parks garage for the city. I live next to this location and do not want to have this become a eyesore in our neighborhood. This is a residential neighborhood in beautiful Harbortown. I do not believe it warrants having a city garage here. Many years ago, the taxpayers of Vermilion approved a permanent fire levy and the monies were to be used for fire service only! These levy tax dollars have built an addition on the building, installed a security system, painted the building, added a power generator system. I believe it was said by the fire chief, that he was building a new building but did not want to abandon this building. I was told by a member of city council the mayor has the right to do as he wishes with this building. This does not seem right that fire tax dollars can be spent on all the upgrades to the building and just given to parks. I have no problem with the city's flower water truck being housed there during their season. A mechanic's garage in this residential area will turn into the neighborhood junk yard of broken equipment that the parks can't afford to repair. Many children play in the area and go to the park. The last thing we want to worry about is the vehicles coming and going on unsecured equipment.

Sincerely,

Catherine Johnston - Catherine Johnston

Rodney Johnston Rodney Johnston

Judea Morgan

Chuck Morgan Chuck Morgan

Dennis A. Rutter
772 Exchange St.

Joseph Burkart } via text wanted added.
Linda Burkart } They are out of state.