

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Minutes of the Special Vermilion City Council Meeting

Meeting

GRAPHIC VILLAGE - CINCINNATI, OH

Form 6101

Monday, June 27, 2022

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: Monica Stark, Council President; Steve Herron, Council At Large; Pat Stein, Ward One; Greg Drew, Ward Two; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five. Absent: Teresa Mayle, Ward Three

Administrative Staff: Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Chris Hartung, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER:

Monica Stark, President of Council called the Monday, June 27, 2022, Special Vermilion City Council Meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

G. Drew MOVED; B. Holmes seconded to approve the minutes of June 13, 2022. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

M. Stark MOVED; S. Herron seconded to table the third reading of Ordinance 2022-47. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Brady MOVED to table the third reading of Ordinance 2022-43. Discussion: B. Brady said the city has increased a lot of fees and taxes on the residents up to this point, and this will go directly onto their residents. It is for anyone that lives here, but does not work here, and they are taking away the forgiveness, which means they are paying 1½% or 2% somewhere else, and now they are giving them no forgiveness. She felt they need to look at the cities around them and see what happens. It looks like Vermilion is high. It looks like the city's income tax is a little bit low and should be raised, but it looks like the forgiveness is already high. She said she would like them to look at this and slow it down to give the residents a breather from all the increases they are going to be seeing. NO SECOND ON THE MOTION.

Reading of the Ordinances:

Tabled - Third Reading -- Ordinance 2022-33: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1484 ENTITLED "RENTAL REGISTRATION" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Referred to Legislative Committee of July 18, 2022)

Third Reading -- Ordinance 2022-43: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 882.07 OF CHAPTER 882 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VERMILION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

G. Drew MOVED; S. Herron seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Discussion: S. Herron made it clear for the record and for full disclosure that this morning he was not going to vote for this only because of the timing. They have extremely high gas prices, and it is a challenging time for people. However, given the administration's specific representations today about the police station and the specific use of what this money is about, he finds it to be especially important and appropriate to pass at this time. He said this with a heavy heart because people are struggling, and he will hear about it from his wife when tax time comes because last time it was a huge surprise in his family and with other families from RITA. It is difficult. B. Holmes understands what B. Brady is saying and it is either them raising taxes or eliminating the forgiveness. Either way the residents are going to pay. B. Brady said it is not on the residents if they raise the income tax. It is people that live outside the city that are not paying as much. Mayor Forthofer said the residents did have a chance to vote on this and they voted in favor of it in 2014, so they are not inventing a tax and they are enacting what they voted on. B. Brady said they did not vote on the forgiveness. Mayor Forthofer said council electively chose not to collect all the tax that they authorized. B. Brady said council offered the forgiveness -- the people did not vote to lower the forgiveness. Mayor Forthofer said the

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people voted for a 1½% tax. B. Brady said the understanding was that there was forgiveness for the people inside the city, so maybe it is a technicality, but the forgiveness has been going up and they are using that as a cash cow, and she disagrees with this totally. Mayor Forthofer said some of the forgiveness has been retracted already. B. Brady said she voted against it then too and thinks it is putting a big burden on the residents that work outside the city. Mayor Forthofer said it is also a necessary capital expenditure that they probably would have liked to have gotten from another source from a big economic development partner, but it is just not materializing, and either way the need remains. B. Brady said then they need to make them move to raise the city income tax. Mayor Forthofer said before they raise any more taxes, they ought to use the taxes they already voted on. B. Brady said they did not – council voted the forgiveness, and the people voted the income tax, so it is different. G. Drew said he thought about this too and had the finance director do the math for him to figure out what it would cost his family. He said the RITA bill every year is no fun and his job takes it out, but his wife's does not. He went back to what people have talked about with DORA, and it is why they live here in this city. It is safe and the Vermilion Police Department has done an amazing job, and this is why he lives here and drives 85 miles round trip every day to work. He does not want to live where he works, but in a safe community, so he chooses to live here. They owe it to the Police Department to build them a new facility that is going to provide even better safety services to the city. It is going to cost him a good amount of money every year, but he is willing to accept that knowing they will have a new facility and better moral. A new facility is going to come with more infrastructure, new computers, faster internet, and whatever it takes for the VPD to get up to speed in the 21st century with policing and policies. They will have a new sally port and they will not be fighting people in the parking lot. The officers deserve this, and the residents deserve to have a top-of-the-line police department that is going to continue to keep them safe, so he is in favor of this. B. Brady said when people look to move here, they look at the property tax, the income tax, and they look at the forgiveness tax – it is huge! M. Stark said the actual tax in Vermilion is low compared to a lot of communities around them. B. Brady asked if she looked at it recently and M. Stark said she has. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS; 1 NAY (Brady). MOTION CARRIED.

Tabled - Third Reading – Ordinance 2022-47: AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN ENCROACHMENT EASEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE AT 699 LIBERTY ON THE TOLEDO STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

First Reading – Ordinance 2022-48: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2022-12 ADOPTED MARCH 7, 2022, TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

M. Stark MOVED; P. Stein seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

M. Stark MOVED; G. Drew seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Discussion: B. Brady said it has been mentioned from someone they all know very well that when you pass something by emergency you must have a reason and they are not stating this. S. Herron said it should be in the ordinance. A. Hendricks stated the reason for the emergency is for the efficient processing of government. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

Announcement of Meeting Dates:

- All meetings will be held at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, OH
- July 4, 2022 – Independence Day – City Offices Closed
- July 11, 2022 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- July 18, 2022 – Vermilion City Council Committee Meetings – 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

M. Stark adjourned the Special Vermilion City Council meeting upon no further discussion.

Transcribed by: Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk