

ZANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017

The Zanesville City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017 in the City Council Chambers, 401 Market Street, Zanesville, Ohio.

Mr. Vincent led those present in the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following members of Council answered roll call: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Foreman, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Gentry, Mrs. Norman, Miss Bradshaw, Ms. Gildow, Mrs. Osborn, and Mr. Vincent.

Mr. Roberts was absent.

Mr. Baker moved to excuse Mr. Roberts. It was seconded by Mr. Wolfe. A voice vote was taken with all present in favor. Motion carries. Mr. Roberts stands excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the minutes of August 14, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Osborn. Motion carries. The minutes stand approved. Mr. Roberts was absent.

COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Communication from Mayor Tilton-Zanesville Shade Tree Commission- Mayor Tilton is hereby recommending the reappointment of Mr. Robert Boehle to the Zanesville Shade Tree Commission. Robert's term will continue through April 30, 2019.

Ms. Gildow moved to receive and concur with the Mayor, seconded by Miss Bradshaw.

Mrs. Osborn noted the dates don't match, does that matter? One says April 29th and one says April 30th.

Mayor Tilton said it doesn't matter for one day. He will be reappointed again I would assume. He is our tree person.

Mr. Vincent: Is there a cycle?

Mayor Tilton: A one year term.

Mr. Vincent: I would say probably 30 days.

Mr. Wolfe: It is probably just a typo.

Mrs. Osborn: April 30 would be the last day of the month.

Mr. Vincent: We can amend the Agenda if you want. I am not sure it changes content here, but if someone wants to move we will go ahead and make it official.

Mrs. Osborn moved to amend the Agenda so that Section C1 says April 30, 2019.

Mr. Vincent: This motion is overriding the previous motion to make the correction.

Mr. Baker seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken with all present in favor. Motion carries and the agenda stands amended.

We are now at Item C1 as amended to change agenda to April 30th date and with that a motion to receive and concur with the Mayor.

Ms. Gildow moved to receive and concur with the Mayor, seconded by Miss Bradshaw.

All present were in favor. None were opposed. Mr. Roberts was absent.
Motion carries.

Resolution No. 17-83 – Introduced by Council – A Resolution declaring “Beggar’s Night”/”Trick or Treat” for the City of Zanesville.

Mr. Foreman moved for second reading, seconded by Mrs. Osborn.

Mr. Vincent: Is there any discussion? All present were in favor. None were opposed. Mr. Roberts was absent.
Motion carries.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 17-91 – Introduced by Council – An Ordinance amending Ordinance #17-23, which authorizes a maximum schedule of positions for City employees and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Gildow moved to waive the readings and it was seconded by Miss Bradshaw.

Mr. Vincent: I can share I spoke with the Mayor and Mr. Buck before-hand and passing this sooner is a safety matter, of Public Safety, from the standpoint we are down a couple of Communications personnel and this will give us one more if it is moved through. It is a safety issue.

Roll call vote on waiving of the readings.

8 Ayes

0 Nays

1 Absent Mr. Roberts

Motion carries.

Mrs. Norman moved for passage, seconded by Miss Bradshaw.

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Buck I am sure you are working on filling the two positions and this will add a third position. If you can share with us a little more on that issue.

Mr. Buck: We just gave the test for Saturday for the additional Communications personnel. He said Karen Schroeder is here tonight. She is our main Communications Officer/Dispatcher. She brought us some information on the volume of calls. They have been tremendous. It has raised the last three to four years with 9-1-1 being so much and the cell phone part of it. It used to be transferred in to us and sometimes we would lose them. If we can let her speak just for a moment as it does pertain to this Ordinance.

Mr. Vincent: Yes, absolutely. With that we do have Karen Schroeder as Mr. Buck shared. Karen Schroeder is a senior Dispatcher and an employee of the City and she has some information to share with us. If you have questions she is our expert on the subject. She is a special guest.

Karen Schroeder: I am not sure I am an about expert. I am speaking on behalf of the Police and Fire Communications Center. I have worked there for 25 years now. When I started we had three typewriters and one computer. Now we have 7 computers to look at and no typewriters. So manpower is something that we need to keep up on. I am just requesting that we increase our manpower by one. This person would work according to peak hours of our 9-1-1. The schedule could fluctuate. We can watch the numbers. We can print those numbers off at any time during the month to see if it needs to change the scheduling or whatever. At this time it is looking like 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. is our high peak hours for 9-1-1. At noon it seems like everybody is awake for the day and it continues until 8:00 p.m. Not that we don't have calls after that, it is just those are the peak hours. This would give us, during those times, three dispatchers in the radio room at all times during that time. Just to give you a general idea of the center and the calls that has been taken so far this year. Just on the business line we have taken 126,751 business line calls as of August 25th. We have taken 10,006 9-1-1 calls as of the same date. The work load has increased tremendously since I started there 25 years ago. We are taking more 9-1-1 hang ups than we ever have before. Last year the towers were switched to some of the cell phone towers were switched over to the City which they had always went to the County and then were transferred. Now we get some direct line 9-1-1 calls off the cell phones. So it is taking a lot more time for us. We have had 417 recorded 9-1-1 either open line or 9-1-1 hang ups. That is when somebody calls and doesn't realize they've called and have kept us on the line. Some of them are as high as 45 minutes until and if we hang up the phone will call us back. Like a cell phone you cannot tell it not to call 9-1-1 once it has. It just keeps on calling until you can either talk

to the person or the phone dies. Those calls on the average are 18 minutes. It ties up one person in the Dispatch Center because they have to stay on the line to listen for anything that would be like violence or something going on like a medical condition or anything you can hear in the back ground or whatever, but that takes one Dispatcher for example 18 minutes away from the work load that is going on where two dispatchers had been doing that work. So that is why it is important we get this third position available. Just the combined increase in all of the calls and the normal work load puts a lot of stress on the dispatchers by the end of the day. This summer we have had quite a bit of overtime because we were short. By the time you work a twelve hour day and then you have somebody hang up or have an open line and you are struggling with that for so long tensions can run high. It is not the nicest. You don't feel that good at the end of the day. It gives a lot of stress. Adding this extra dispatcher I think would alleviate some of that. That is all I have.

Mr. Vincent: Thank you very much. With that Council, do you have any specific questions?

Mr. Foreman had a comment. I think the work you do is really commendable. I think the fact that you take that many calls and I agree I am quite certain at the end of the day it is almost thankless sometimes, but I think the high stress level certainly is another facet of your job that only you would know.

Mr. Vincent: Along that line I was thinking the fire fighters and police officers that are much appreciated, being out there protecting. They are seen and talked about, where the communications dispatchers are behind the scenes. Without them it wouldn't happen. They are our first connection to rescue, safety, or protection. So thank you very much. Another thing I thought of too as you were talking about the additional calls and I wasn't aware, but I was teaching a CPR Class and we were doing a code situation and the person who was doing compressions their watch, it might have been an Apple watch, actually triggered and called 9-1-1 based on giving compressions to seek help. We heard this voice come on through the watch and I am sure those are adding to your calls too.

Ms. Schroeder: Well, that and like I said recorded 417 of the 9-1-1 calls. Some of the ones that are that we don't do a call on or have paperwork for are business line calls where like say if the hospital has to dial 9 to get out, well if they take any time at all to dial that nine or a 9 and a 1 it calls automatically. So then we have to call that back to make sure there is not a problem there. That is a lot of them. That is not even included in the numbers. These are just ones that are actually recorded as a report.

Mr. Vincent: That is significant. Thank you so much for coming and we appreciate your work.

Fred Buck: Like you said, they are very unappreciated. We call them our life line at police and fire. With thirty years on the department we needed them a lot of different times. They find whatever you need, get it out and take care of it. Plus they also contact

the Street Department after hours for emergencies, even stop signs. When the power company has power out they take a lot of calls. That is why we are looking at this and that is why we wanted to do this. We actually have a spread sheet on when these calls come in and that is how we came out with noon to eight o'clock. That is our max times. Like she said we can adjust it.

Mr. Vincent: How long will this go on, is it perpetual?

Mr. Buck: Well, this is paid for by the 9-1-1 Committee. It has to be requested by the Chief every year to be funded. So I don't foresee it changing because the 9-1-1 money is always going to be there unless somebody would have a catastrophic failure of the 9-1-1 System where we had to tie up a bunch of money. Both the City and the County have new equipment so I would say it looks good.

Roll call vote for passage.

8 Ayes

0 Nays

1 Absent Mr. Roberts

Motion carries. Ordinance is passed.

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION

Ordinance No. 17-87 - Introduced by Council – An Ordinance authorizing the proper city official to enter into a professional contract with AECOM for updating the Combined Sewer Overflow Long-term Control Plan, Phase 1.

Mr. Wolfe moved for second reading, seconded by Mr. Foreman. A voice vote was taken with all present in favor. None were opposed. Mr. Roberts was absent.
Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 17-89 – Introduced by Council – An Ordinance authorizing the waiver of utility fees associated with the construction of two new Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio's Housing Development projects on Mead Street in the City of Zanesville.

Mr. Baker moved for second reading, seconded by Mr. Foreman.

Mr. Vincent: Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of second reading signify by saying aye. All present were in favor. None were opposed. Mr. Roberts was absent.
Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 17-90 - Introduced by Council – An Ordinance authorizing the City Auditor to accept a bid for a surplus vehicle greater than \$1,000 that was not listed on the prior surplus equipment sale ordinance.

Ms. Gildow moved for second reading, seconded by Mr. Baker.

Mr. Vincent: Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of second reading signify by saying aye. All present were in favor. None were opposed. Mr. Roberts was absent.

Motion carries.

TRAFFIC ORDERS - None

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Tilton said usually when I get a phone call or an e-mail about our employees it is usually something bad. The other day a funeral director put on social media that some of our water employees up on Maple Avenue took time from their jobs to pay respect for a person going past in a funeral precession. I really think that is great of the water employees. We should be proud they do that.

Mr. Vincent: Very proud. A lot of great comments.

Mayor Tilton: It is great that our employees show that respect.

Jay Bennett, Public Service Director/Community Development Director: This Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. at the Welcome Center will be our second of a series of informational public meetings regarding our desire to seek a National Endowment of the Arts "Our Town Grant" for linking those working in the arts and City government and sustainability downtown. The first meeting was at Secrest a week or so ago. This meeting will be at 7:00 o'clock a.m. down at the Welcome Center for those makers who are engaged after 8:00 a.m. if the afternoon meetings are a difficult time to engage with us to give us their ideas around what we should be looking for. The third and final meeting that is available to learn about the grant and take feedback on potential applications would be September 6th here at City Hall in the 1st floor conference room at 6:00 p.m. So we have one a little bit before and a little bit after and one during the day so hopefully that would avail those who wish to comment or learn more, would have an opportunity to give feedback.

Mr. Baker: Did you have pretty good meeting attendance at the Secrest meeting? I wasn't there?

Mr. Bennett: Yes. There were some good ideas.

PRIVATE PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Non-agenda item petitions filed

Mr. Donald D. Stotts, 1233 Wheeling Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio speaking on sanitation increase for seniors "not right".

Mr. Stotts was not present.

Ms. Lori Wince of Weasel Boy Brewing Co & Putnam area, 328 Woodlawn Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio speaking on closure of Muskingum Avenue (Dug Road).

Ms. Lori Wince: I just wanted to express my concern a little bit on indefinite closure of Muskingum Avenue and Dug Road. I understand it is a safety issue. I have spoken with the Mayor several times and Mr. Bennett as well. I understand it is a monetary issue that the City just doesn't have a whole lot of extra money lying around to fix it. It is a connector road. It is used quite a bit. I was actually a little bit horrified when I located my business on Muskingum Avenue by the amount of traffic coming up and down the road. It used to be rather difficult for me to back the van into our driveway, but now it is rather easy because we have quite a bit less traffic with the road closed. That is a concern. I guess my main concern here, as many of you know, is in 2018 in the spring when ODOT is going to close the Sixth Street Bridge to replace the lift span on the bridge. My understanding is the lift span is one piece so the entire bridge will have to be closed. If we cannot open part of Muskingum Avenue (Dug Road) at that point people will be forced to go Underwood, Wayne, 719, and then come back or up Pine Street to Pershing and then come back. I just feel like that is a rather long detour for someone of my customers to make. It is also, I think it doesn't just affect us, I think it affects all of the businesses on Putnam. I think it affects a lot of the businesses north of SR 719 if I am saying that properly on Maysville. Just because of the way people have to come around to them. I just wanted to again express my concern and make sure that we keep potential fixes for that road in your minds. Thank you.

Mr. Vincent: Thank you, Ms. Wince. We appreciate that.

Mayor Tilton: I have been in discussion this week with Mr. Buck, Mr. Bennett, and the Law Director. We may come up with a solution to partially open Dug Road. We haven't found the money for the total fix, but I think we may have a solution that will suffice in the short term.

Miss Bradshaw: I just want to say I had a couple of other people send me messages that would have been at the meeting to support Lori and the rest of the merchants down there, but weren't able to get here tonight for one reason or another, but I just wanted to say there were other people that were willing to come and speak about it also.

Mr. Vincent: Thank you. I know we do have one person who I spoke to before the meeting that is here to support them.

Mr. Eric Jones, 221 Luck Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio speaking on Charlottesville, VA's march to "unite the right". Who's side are we on?

Mr. Vincent: As I have said before Mr. Jones, I hope you will bring this around to Zanesville as far as connecting with us.

Mr. Jones: Of course I will do that. As a matter of fact I am only here to warn you folks. I can't force you to do anything. I am here to let people know I am just warning. One of the things I spoke on before is racism. The reason I am bringing that up is because we have racism here in Zanesville. If you want you can use our all white predominately all male police force as an indication of that racism. One of the by-products of tyranny is silence. People don't speak up. They get scared. Once fear kicks in it tends to get quieter. Now we have a president who supported the Old Right, the Neo-Nazis, KKK, and the Confederalist in Charlottesville. What does that have to do with Zanesville? We have those elements in Zanesville. If you go down Pine Street and see a Confederate flag flying or other places in Muskingum County. I am pretty sure we have, if we don't have some advisors we may have supporters and or actual members to some of those groups here in Zanesville. Now, I don't know how to stop it, but we need people to speak out against it. One of the things I think we should do here in Zanesville is maybe a Resolution in opposition to hate groups. Nothing major, just don't support them. Because as I say the President did and we need as many peoples speaking out against that as we can get. That is why I try, maybe a Resolution. Thank you very much.

Mr. Vincent: Thank you Mr. Jones.

Mrs. Osborn moved to adjourn and Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present in favor. None were against. The meeting adjourned about 7:27 p.m.

Mr. Vincent: The motion carries. We stand adjourned. Thank you everyone and have a good evening.