

**MINUTES**  
**WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**January 7, 2020**

*The regular meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Tuesday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m., in City Council Chambers:*

**PRESIDING:** Bob Thurber, *President of Council*

**MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT:** Ralph Copley, Bruce Darlington, Patty Haskins, Jeanne Hines, Tom Stugmyer, David Williams, Jon Yurchiak

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Robin Laubaugh, Director of Public Service Robert Patrick, Director of Public Safety Matt Hiscock, Director of Law Director Tom Morris, Asst. Director of Law Brad Proudfoot, Clerk of Council Tammy Guenther

**VISITORS SPEAKING:** *Shiy Smith-Medrick, Medina County Auditor's Office,  
144 N. Broadway St., Medina*

**PRESS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** *Jonathan DeLozier, Medina Gazette  
Emily Canning-Dean, The Post*

**Mr. Thurber** called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was given by the Council President. The Clerk of Council called the roll.

**MINUTES:** **Mr. Copley** made a motion, which was seconded by **Mr. Stugmyer**, to adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of **December 17, 2019**. An all-in-favor vote was taken, and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE MINUTES of the Regular Council Meeting of December 17, 2019 WERE APPROVED.**

Mr. Thurber stated that their first meeting in January marked a new term of Council, which came with a number of assignments and appointments. The first was approval of City Council's Committee and Commission Assignments (list of proposed assignments were distributed to all Council members prior to the Council meeting that evening, along with the Rules of Council).

**APPROVAL OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE & COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS:** Mr. Thurber entertained a motion to approve those for the 2020-2021 Committees, Commissions and Boards. Ms. Haskins made that motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members voted in favor of the motion. **Committee & Commission Assignments for the 2020-2021 Term of Council were approved.**

**ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF COUNCIL:** Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley, to nominate Bruce Darlington for the President of Pro Tem of Council assignment. There were no other nominations. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members

present voted in favor of the motion. **Bruce Darlington was elected President Pro Tem of Council for the 2020-2021 Term.**

**ELECTION OF A VICE PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF COUNCIL:** Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to nominate Ralph Copley for the Vice-President of Pro Tem of Council assignment. Mr. Darlington made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to nominate Patty Haskins for the Vice-President of Pro Tem of Council assignment. Mr. Thurber said they would take a roll call vote on the first nomination of Ralph Copley. Ayes: Williams, Stugmyer, Hines, Yurchiak. Nays: Haskins, Darlington Mr. Copley abstained. The vote was four Ayes and two Nays with one abstention. In that case, Mr. Thurber declared that **Ralph Copley was elected Vice President Pro Tem of Council for the 2020-2021 Term.**

**APPROVAL FOR THE RULES OF COUNCIL FOR 2020-2021:** Mr. Thurber asked for a motion to approve the Rules of Council. Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the Rule for the 2020-2021 Term. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **The Rules of Council for the 2020-2021 Term were approved.**

**VISITORS:** *Ms. Smith-Medrick* offered news for the month from the Medina County Auditor's office. She began by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Tax bill would be going out soon. People were asked to please make sure that if they were receiving the owner-occupied tax deduction that it was showing up on their tax bills. The Auditor was also accepting property appeals if individuals thought their taxes were too high. Board of Revision forms could be filed at the Medina County Auditor's office. The form could also be found and filed online. There were many forms online, also including owner occupancy. Lastly, Ms. Smith Medrick noted that the county was in the middle of dog licensing season. The deadline to get a dog license was January 31 without penalty. The cost was \$14.00 per year.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Ms. Guenther said the message came to the Council office in an email from an individual from Connellsville, Pennsylvania. The email had been distributed to all of Council and the Administration. The Clerk read the following:

I was in Wadsworth for a funeral and as the procession began to enter into the cemetery, my wife, in a seemingly startled voice said, "look at that". Standing in a yard, on West Prospect Street, were three young boys, (at a guess 10 to 13 years of age) standing at attention, with their hands over their hearts.

It was a very touching moment to all who witnessed and was discussed by almost everyone at the meal after the funeral.

I know how much hard work and planning it takes to make a community attractive to outsiders, but what we witnessed on Saturday outweighs any park, museum or development.

Please pass this on to the powers to be and if possible to those three young men who really left a great impression of Wadsworth Ohio.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:**

**Mayor Robin Laubaugh** commented on the correspondence, saying that it was a heartwarming story to hear and it did their community proud. The Mayor also extended a welcome to the two, new Council members, Jeanne Hines and Jon Yurchiak. They looked forward to meeting and working with them, along with the rest of Council. She said it was going to be a great year. Speaking of that year, she mentioned, as was well-known, they always had a lot on their plates and they were busy getting ready for the new year. There were many great projects and the Administration was excited to work together with Council and City employees to make sure they got those accomplished. She thanked them.

Mr. Thurber appreciated that.

**Public Service Director Robert Patrick** wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also welcomed the new Council members and said he looked forward to working with them and the existing members for another great year in moving things forward.

One item to note for residents, if they had not yet disposed of their Christmas tree, that week was the last week for collections for trees put out on the curb on the day of regular trash pick-up. The Street Department would also be spreading salt for snow and ice if the need arose. The City had a full amount of salt supply. They'd had nice temperatures recently and if those did not continue, they were prepared.

The Service Director invited the public to reach out to him at the department office phone.

**Public Safety Director Matt Hiscock** did not have a report that evening and noted that he'd previously commented on legislative matters at the Committee prior to Council that evening.

**Law Director Tom Morris** said, as required by the Ohio Revised Code, he was to give an annual report at the first meeting of Council for the year. He was there to do that. Since they did not handle money at the Prosecutor's office, the statute really did not apply to them. All the money that came from the prosecution of cases went directly to the City through the Court. He thought he would give the goals for the year instead. The goals were obviously to extend the legacy of Norman Brague and what he did for the Law Department. They wanted to continue to do that. Mr. Morris said he wanted to try and bring it up a little more modern than it perhaps was through the use of technology, computers and spreadsheets.

Mr. Morris had hired an Assistant Law Director, Brad Proudfoot, who was in attendance. Mr. Proudfoot had worked in Wadsworth at the Palecek, McIlvaine Law Firm. He'd also worked for the Critchfield Law Firm. He had represented not only cities, but also school districts, and would bring a lot of very good information to be a resource for both purposes of the Law Department, which were to provide legal advice to the City, Council and the Administration and to prosecute cases in the Wadsworth Municipal Court.

As for an annual report, they were four days in and doing fine.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:**

**Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee did not have meeting that evening.

**Public Service Committee – Bruce Darlington** reported the next meeting was scheduled for January 14, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Public Safety Committee – Ralph Copley** reported the next meeting of Public Safety Committee was scheduled for January 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., in Council Chambers.

**Public Ways Committee – David Williams** reported the next meeting of the Public Ways Committee was scheduled for January 13, 2020, at 5:30 .m., in Council Chambers

**Economic Development & Planning Committee – David Williams** reported that the next meeting of Economic Development and Planning Committee was scheduled for January 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in Council Chambers. That was a changed date from the previous report.

**Committee of the Whole** –The next meeting of Committee of the Whole was anticipated for January 21, 2020, with meeting time to be announced.

**Airport Commission – David Williams** reported no meeting scheduled at that time.

**Stormwater Commission – Ralph Copley.** No scheduled meeting at that time.

**Shade Tree Commission – Jeanne Hines** reported that the Shade Tree Commission was scheduled for February 5, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room. *The meeting was subsequently changed to meet in Council Chambers*

**Planning Commission – David Williams** reported that the next regular meeting of the Planning Commission for January 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Cemetery Board – Jon Yurchiak** reported the next Cemetery Board was scheduled for January 22, 2020, at 5:45 p.m., in Administrative Conference Room.

**Cable TV Commission – Bruce Darlington** reported that the meeting of the Cable TV for was tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers.

**Senior Citizens' Commission – Tom Stugmyer** reported the Senior Citizens Commission would next meet on February 3, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at the Soprema Center. *The meeting time was subsequently changed to meet at 3:30 p.m., same day and location.*

**Architectural Design Committee** – The next meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., in Council Chambers.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** was next scheduled for January 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers.

**LEGISLATION:**

*The following legislation was read for the first time and acted upon as follows:*

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-01 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE DETERMINING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX**

**OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY AN ADDITIONAL CONTINUING LEVY OF 1.1 MILLS FOR EACH ONE DOLLAR OF VALUATION TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee December 17, 2019
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole January 7, 2020

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to place Resolution No. 20-01 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Resolution No. 20-01 advanced to second reading for the meeting of January 21, 2020.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-02 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE DETERMINING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY AN ADDITIONAL CONTINUING LEVY OF 1.5 MILLS FOR EACH ONE DOLLAR OF VALUATION TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee December 17, 2019
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole January 7, 2020

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to place Resolution No. 20-02 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Resolution No. 20-02 advanced to second reading for the meeting of January 21, 2020.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-03 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE DETERMINING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS OR OTHER FIRE**

**EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY AN ADDITIONAL CONTINUING LEVY OF 2.0 MILLS FOR EACH ONE DOLLAR OF VALUATION TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee December 17, 2019
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole January 7, 2020

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to place Resolution No. 20-03 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Resolution No. 20-03 advanced to second reading for the meeting of January 21, 2020.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-04 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE DETERMINING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY AN ADDITIONAL CONTINUING LEVY OF 2.3 MILLS FOR EACH ONE DOLLAR OF VALUATION TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee December 17, 2019
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole January 7, 2020

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to place Resolution No. 20-04 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Resolution No. 20-04 advanced to second reading for the meeting of January 21, 2020.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-05 (1<sup>st</sup> RDG.): A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.03 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE DETERMINING THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND**

**MAINTENANCE OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY AN ADDITIONAL CONTINUING LEVY OF 2.5 MILLS FOR EACH ONE DOLLAR OF VALUATION TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley
- Forwarded by Public Safety Committee December 17, 2019
- Discussed in Committee of the Whole January 7, 2020

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer, to place Resolution No. 20-05 on second reading. An all in favor vote was taken and all Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **Resolution No. 20-05 advanced to second reading for the meeting of January 21, 2020.**

*The following legislation was read for the fourth time, having been previously read at different meetings on different days, and acted upon as follows.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-16 (4<sup>th</sup> RDG.): A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF MONEY THAT MAY BE IN THE MEDINA COUNTY TREASURY TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

- Sponsored by President Pro Tem of Council Bruce Darlington

Mr. Darlington called the question on Resolution No. 19-16. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was Ayes: Williams, Stugmyer, Hines, Copley, Haskins, Yurchiak, Darlington. **Resolution No. 19-16 declared to have been adopted January 7, 2020.**

That concluded the reading of the legislation.

**NEW BUSINESS AND/OR COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS:**

*None*

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Copley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer. All were in favor. **The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.**

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council