

MINUTES
WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2021, 5:00 p.m.,
City Council Chambers

PRESIDING: Bob Thurber, *President of Council*

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: *None*

Mr. Thurber called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Clerk of Council called the roll. She also noted an item of correspondence.

CORRESPONDENCE: The City Auditor had submitted a fiscal certificate corresponding to Ordinance No. 21-052 on the agenda that day. It verified funds for payment represented by the ordinance.

LEGISLATION:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21-11 (1st RDG.): A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONEOHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Ralph Copley

Ms. Guenther read the resolution and **Mr. Copley** asked Safety Director Hiscock for an explanation.

Mr. Hiscock thanked Council for meeting that day. He wished he'd had the information before the last regular meeting of Council on August 3, but unfortunately it came after that meeting.

The Safety Director had provided extensive documents to the Council in an email. He hoped they'd had the opportunity to read through some of those. Mr. Hiscock attempted to direct them to a logical path for understanding what was being asked of the City. He would boil it down and then defer to the Law Director for further comment.

Essentially, there was a national movement to hold responsible, in this particular matter, the distributors of opioids that caused negative impacts to all of society in regard to opioid-related addiction. Certainly, the City of Wadsworth and its constituents had been affected by this epidemic. The legislation provided them with an opportunity to join the national settlement. The resolution allowed them to do that. The benefits of that were fiscal at that point in terms of tapping into some of the settlement funding, which would be

earmarked and limited in its use at the local level. It would certainly go toward addiction-related services. It could go toward drug-related enforcement activities and those centered around the opioid epidemic and addiction matters. This was why they asked for Council's consideration that day.

Mr. Hiscock explained what would happen if they didn't take action. The City would not be able to tap into the settlement terms that were going on at the national level. There were larger players involved in the opioid epidemic, not only distributors, but makers and manufacturers and a whole chain and list of litigants that were potentially responsible to all of them for what had happened in that particular drug-related matter.

The legislation allowed them to get into the settlement proceeds and to be a further continuant in those aspects of the litigation. Mr. Hiscock apologized for sounding very "lawyerly" in expressing what they were being asked to do. He asked Mr. Morris, as all of their legal counsel, to weigh in with his opinion as to the actions they would take that evening.

Mr. Morris said it was a \$21 billion settlement between the attorneys general of and the three distributors of the opioids. The Ohio portion of that was \$900 million. There were some jurisdictions that had initiated litigation outside of the attorneys general lead. So what they were trying to do through this memorandum of understanding was to see how many local jurisdictions were going to pursue this avenue versus continuing with their strides to do it through their own counsel.

This way, his predecessor Mr. Bague advised Mr. Morris, was that there was not going to be litigation. The City was not involved in any of the litigation when that opportunity arose. But this approach allowed them to use the litigation initiated by the attorneys general for the state of Ohio. Mr. Morris anticipated about \$107,000 as the amount they looked for over a long period of time.

But, this was a memorandum of understanding just to see how many localities would be involved. It put the City in a tier, and the distributors in this complex litigation would have a chance to decide with what to go forward. The legislation provided a placeholder for Wadsworth to try and get the monies. It was horribly complicated, but Mr. Morris said it did not bind them to anything at that point. It was just a memorandum of understanding, not a legal contract between the City and everybody else.

Mr. Copley made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Haskins, to suspend the three reading rule on Resolution No. 21-11. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Stugmyer, Haskins, Copley, Yurchiak, Darlington, Williams. Nays: none. Mr. Copley called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Haskins, Copley, Yurchiak, Darlington, Williams, Stugmyer. Nays: none. **Resolution No. 21-11 declared to have been adopted August 10, 2021.**

ORDINANCE NO. 21-052 (1st RDG.): AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE DRAWING OF A WARRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$21,090.40 FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT DUE UPON A CONTRACT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WADSWORTH AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by President of Council Bob Thurber

Mr. Stugmyer commented that the legislation was related to the Akron Road annexation at Leeds Gate. The payment to the Township corresponded to the expedited type 1 annexation agreement. Hearing no questions, he went forward with a motion.

Mr. Stugmyer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Copley, to suspend the three reading rule on Ordinance No. 21-052. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Copley, Yurchiak, Darlington, Williams, Stugmyer, Haskins. Nays: none. Mr. Stugmyer called the question. Mr. Thurber called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Yurchiak, Darlington, Williams, Stugmyer, Haskins, Copley. Nays: none. **Ordinance No. 21-052 declared to have been adopted August 10, 2021.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Council President asked for any other business or comments. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Copley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Stugmyer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:08 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council