Willard, Ohio

March 6, 2023

The Council of the City of Willard met in regular session on Monday, March 6, 2023, with the President of Council calling the meeting to order. The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Mike Leonard.

**ROLL CALL:** The Clerk called the roll and reported the following councilpersons present: Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, McKenzie, and Sattig. Johnson and Olson were absent.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the Regular Council and Council Work Session meeting held on February 21, 2023, were presented for approval. In that copies were furnished to each Councilperson prior to the meeting, there was no request they be read. Moved by Babcock seconded by Daniel that they be approved as received. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, McKenzie and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**CITIZENS DISCUSSIONS:**

* Mike Leonard-708 Kennedy- thanked the City of Willard for their investment in the study of the flooding issue in his neighborhood.

**BID PROPOSALS:**

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

* Moved by Sattig seconded by Daniel that Alan Babcock be nominated to serve as the City’s Representative on the Southern 5 Regional Sewer District. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, McKenzie and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** None.

**TABLED ITEMS:** None.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

1. Charter/Legislative – McKenzie, Johnson
2. Finance –Olson, Sattig
3. Public Works – Babcock, Daniel
4. Safety – Babcock, Daniel, Olson
5. Utilities – McKenzie, Daniel, Olson

**REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:**

**REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER:** The City Manager’s report was reviewed as it was presented to Council.

Before you you’ll find the 2022 City of Willard Annual Report. This will also be available online.

The next food giveaway is March 20th.

The creation of the Southern 5 Regional Sewer District petition was approved in the Huron Common Pleas Court by Judge James Conway on Friday, February 24. The Southern 5 Regional Sewer District is now a separate governmental entity. The approval of the district allows the Southern 5 Regional Sewer District to accept outside sewage into our wastewater treatment plant.

The Water Plant project upgrade did not receive any construction bids. The project engineer, Prime AE, had the cost estimated at $6.8 million. Bids can come 10% above that, which would be $7.48 million. We are renominating the project with DEFA in case the project gets delayed into next year. We will keep you updated as we continue to move forward with this project.

We did receive one bid for the 224 Storm Sewer Replacement Project. This bid came in at 6.1% over the engineers estimate. There is an Ordinance tonight for you to accept that. We will also be receiving funding from O.D.O.T. to assist with the project.

The city will be flushing the hydrants the week of April 24th. This is done twice a year and normally takes four days to complete.

We are working with Huron County EMA for next year’s Solar Eclipse that is happening on April 8th. The total eclipse event has only happened 21 times in the entire existence of the United States, and the last total eclipse was visible in Ohio in 1806. The reason we are meeting with the EMA is to prepare for the influx of people visiting Willard and Huron County. The EMA is working with the Huron County Health Department to make sure there are available camping sights and fuel. For more information about the 2024 solar eclipse visit Eclipse.Ohio.Gov

The Police Department received $59,371.04 in insurance money for the 2021 Chevy Silverado police truck that was totaled in a fire on December 26, 2022. It does not appear that this vehicle will be replaced with a truck due to availability.

As part of the ARPA money, the police department contracted with Lexipol to update the police policies. With these updated polices it makes it easily accessible to the police officers. In addition, every shift that they come in they must read up on a certain policy and take a quiz. This allows the department to get closer to meeting the requirements of the Ohio Collaborative to standardize police policy through the State of Ohio.

The fire department held two meetings recently to review the Blossom Healthcare Fire that happened on January 19th. This meeting was to discuss the pros and cons of the incident and how they could improve. They came to the agreement that it is best for there to be at least four people on duty at the station to get a fully staffed ambulance immediately out. That night there were only three people on duty. This allowed for a second ambulance to go out but with just one person occupying it they had to wait for a second person to arrive. A quick recap about the fire; the first truck arrives and had three people on, one full-time firefighter, and two part-time fire fighters. The second truck also had a part-time worker on and a new hire that hadn’t finished basic training. The third truck arrives 14 minutes later with an experienced firefighter and two new hires that just finished training. So, you can see that the first 14 minutes of being on the scene was with inexperienced firefighters. Over the next two hours, with the help of mutual aid, over 80 firefighters were on scene working the fire.

The second meeting was with the Fire Department and Blossom Healthcare. This was to discuss the evacuation process. They concluded that everything went as planned and were very fortunate. One change in any area would have been catastrophic. For example, there was not another call during this incident. The second was where the lighting strike hit. Which was on the assisted living side, if hit on the skilled nursing side it would have been much more difficult evacuating the residents. It appears the lightning struck in the unoccupied assisted living dining room with a firewall separating the dining facility and resident’s living quarters. The third thing that made the incident fortunate for us was this all happened right at a shift change, which allowed additional staffing for the evacuation.

Our code enforcement/IT coordinator, Ryan Gilmore, has been organizing and updating the technology at the City Hall. A dedicated server room is being established to coordinate the network switches and internal servers into a place that provides a layer of physical security. New Category 6 ethernet cables have been run and the phone lines have been separated to enable future expansion and isolation of each.

The maintenance department repaired a collapsed 24” sewer main on Clark Street. They received 150 tons of salt. Altogether we have 300 tons contracted with ODOT for the 2022-2023 winter. With 150 tons still to store we are uncertain where this salt will be placed but will find a designated location soon. Concrete floor and drains are being worked on at the fire department as well.

President asked for Questions-

Hamons updated McKenzie on where the new server room is located at the City Hall and stated that the Police Station is not on the same server. McKenzie thanks all the helped with this project.

Sattig thanked Hamons for putting together the City of Willard Annual Report binder.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

 **ORDINANCE. NO. 5937-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH BUCKEYE EXCAVATING AND CONSTRUCTION, INC. TO AWARD BID NO. 2023-01 FOR THE US 224 STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF $136,419.00,** was presented by Council President for its first reading by title only. This was done by the Council Clerk.

**COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS:**

Moved by Babcock, seconded by Daniel that Council adjourn. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, McKenzie, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

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 President of Council Clerk of Council