

**COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE CITY COUNCIL
01/26/2022
7:30 pm**

Council met in regular session at 7:30 pm in the second floor Council Chambers located at 105 N. Main Street, Washington Court House, with Chairperson Dale Lynch presiding. Ms. Hernandez led the invocation and Mr. Chrisman led the pledge of allegiance.

Council Chairperson Lynch addressed Council and noted a desire of Council to amend the agenda adding proposed legislation. Mr. Lynch stated that a motion would need to be made to amend the agenda to reflect the change if Council desires.

Mr. Chrisman moved and Mr. Blair seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the Agenda be amended reflecting the addition of proposed legislation.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, "Aye"; Mr. Hawk, "Aye"; Ms. Hernandez, "Aye"; Mr. Johnson, "Aye"; Mr. Shiltz, "Aye"; Mr. Blair, "Aye"; and Mr. Lynch, "Aye".

Motion carried.

Present at said meeting were, Mr. Joe Denen, City Manager, Mr. Mark Pitstick, City Attorney and Mrs. Kelley Ford, Clerk of Council. At roll call, the following Council Members were present: Mr. Jim Chrisman, Mr. Ted Hawk, Ms. Kendra Hernandez, Mr. Caleb Johnson, Mr. Steve Shiltz, Mr. Jim Blair and Mr. Dale Lynch.

Mr. Blair moved and Mr. Shiltz seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 12, 2022, be approved as presented.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, "Aye"; Mr. Hawk, "Aye"; Ms. Hernandez, "Aye"; Mr. Johnson, "Aye"; Mr. Shiltz, "Aye"; Mr. Blair, "Aye"; and Mr. Lynch, "Aye".

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION

There was none.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Blair presented the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held January 18, 2022.

Mr. Shiltz moved and Mr. Hawk seconded the following motion:

MOTION: That the minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held January 18, 2022 be approved as presented.

In discussion, Mr. Hawk inquired about the status of the Finance Director position.

Ms. Hernandez stated that the interview process was progressing.

Mr. Shitz expressed his excitement for the candidates that had been interviewed.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, “Aye”; Mr. Hawk, “Aye”; Ms. Hernandez, “Aye”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Aye”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Lynch, “Aye”.

Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT (in writing)

Mr. Denen respectfully addressed Council and advised that 700 tons of salt had been used thus far in the winter season and over 100 hours of overtime had been consumed.

Mr. Denen stated that the Administration received the natural gas aggregation rates for next winter and beyond. Mr. Denen noted from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023, a fixed rate of \$0.548 and from April 2023, through October 2024, a fixed rate of \$0.474.

Mr. Denen reported the main break at Oakland Avenue at the rail crossing. Mr. Denen expressed his appreciation to the Water Distribution Department for their work during the inclement weather.

Mr. Denen expressed his appreciation to the Fire, Police, Water and Street Departments for their work outside during inclement weather.

Mr. Denen noted that all services were being maintained despite the staffing issues caused by Covid 19 within the departments of the city.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Director of Finance was absent.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney, Mr. Mark Pitstick had no comment.

LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS

There was none.

1. LEGISLATION PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED (in writing)

A. RESOLUTION NO. R01-2022 (second reading)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FAYETTE COUNTY FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF PRISONERS.

Mr. Shiltz moved and Mr. Hawk seconded the following motion:

Motion: That Resolution No. R01-2022 be placed on second reading.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, “Aye”; Mr. Hawk, “Aye”; Ms. Hernandez, “Aye”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Aye”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Lynch, “Aye”.

Motion carried.

Mr. Chrisman moved and Mr. Shiltz seconded the following motion:

Motion: That Resolution No. R01-2022 be adopted.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, "Aye"; Mr. Hawk, "Aye"; Ms. Hernandez, "Aye"; Mr. Johnson, "Aye"; Mr. Shiltz, "Aye"; Mr. Blair, "Aye"; and Mr. Lynch, "Aye".

Motion carried

2. NEW LEGISLATION (in writing)

A. RESOLUTION NO. R2-2022 (first reading)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOSEPH J. DENEN, CITY MANAGER, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TRANSFER ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$125,000.00) TO THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE AND FAYETTE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. Chrisman moved and Mr. Hawk seconded the following motion:

Motion: That Resolution No. R2-2022 be placed on first reading.

In discussion, Ms. Hernandez expressed her concern regarding moving on the legislation forward. Ms. Hernandez stated that she would be abstaining from the vote due to needing additional information regarding money movement before everything was in place. Ms. Hernandez noted her support for the endeavor but requested further details of the transactions be advised to Council.

Mr. Chrisman noted that the legislation only authorized transfer of funds from the City of Washington to the Community Improvement Corporation.

Mr. Johnson noted his concern with wording within the legislation. Mr. Johnson expressed concern regarding the specifics of the funding.

Mr. Denen explained that the \$125,000.00 sum was selected so that the normal operation of the CIC is not impaired.

Mr. Johnson inquired if the CIC would oversee the Parks and Recreation Committee? Mr. Johnson continued and reminded Council of the funding that was given to Parks and Recreation Committee in past years. Mr. Johnson expressed his concern with more funding being given from the City to an entity with no positive action being taken by the entity after receiving it. Mr. Johnson also noted his concern that Parks and Recreation had not attempted to apply for special grants.

Mr. Lynch noted that Parks and Recreation would be turning over the duties of the golf course to Community Improvement Corporation and the private citizen group.

Mr. Johnson noted his support to table the legislation.

Mr. Hawk stated his desire to move forward with the legislation. Mr. Hawk continued and stated that he would like to see a list from the Community Improvement Corporation and citizens group of goals for the golf course and progress updates.

Ms. Hernandez expressed her concern with moving forward without further conversation regarding the details of the transaction.

Mr. Chrisman inquired about the purpose of the Finance and Personnel meeting held on January 18th, “was it not to discuss the golf course?”

Ms. Hernandez noted she had unanswered questions.

Mr. Blair noted his concern with the different entities and moving parts within the transaction.

Mr. Lynch stated that if Council wanted to table the legislation it should be done at this point.

Mr. Hawk inquired if the motion was passed could the legislation be amended?

Mr. Lynch noted that Council was in discussion, but the legislation could be passed, tabled or not passed.

Ms. Hernandez moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the following motion:

Motion: That R2-2022 legislation be tabled.

Mr. Blair inquired with Mr. Pitstick what it meant to have the legislation tabled?

Mr. Pitstick noted that the legislation could be left tabled until the next meeting or indefinitely. Mr. Pitstick noted that a special meeting could be held to discuss the legislation, but the legislation had to be removed from the table at a regular meeting.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, “Nay”; Mr. Hawk, “Nay”; Ms. Hernandez, “Aye”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Nay”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Lynch, “Nay”.

Motion failed.

Mr. Lynch asked for roll call on the previous motion made by Mr. Chrisman and seconded by Mr. Hawk to place legislation on first reading.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, “Aye”; Mr. Hawk, “Aye”; Ms. Hernandez, “Abstain”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Aye”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Lynch, “Aye”.

Motion carried.

Mr. Blair inquired if the legislation R2-2022 was a draft? Mr. Lynch advised in the negative. Mr. Blair inquired if the wording of the legislation can be changed? Mr. Lynch stated that it could not be changed now that it was on first reading, unless amended.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Hawk expressed his appreciation for the work Council was doing regarding the process to hire a Finance Director.

Mr. Chrisman agreed with Mr. Denen regarding the work of the City Departments during inclement weather.

Mr. Johnson expressed his appreciation of the work being done by the Street Department to clear the roads for citizens.

Mr. Blair expressed his hope that better weather was coming. Mr. Blair continued and noted the progress of outside activities in our community, specifically noting Pickle Ball, Disc Golf, the splash pad expansion and the golf course. Mr. Blair noted the program and vision that the new management had of the Golf Course and wished them well on their endeavor.

Mr. Blair read a quote from Mr. Paul “Bear” Bryant- “It’s not the will to win that matters; everyone has that. It’s the will to prepare to win that matters.”

Ms. Hernandez had no comment.

Mr. Shiltz stated that he looked forward to a productive 2022. Mr. Shiltz expressed his excitement for the continued forward progression of the golf course.

Mr. Shiltz expressed his appreciation of the Water Distribution Department who had worked in frigid cold temperatures to fix the water main break.

Mr. Lynch noted that he would advise council of a couple of dates for a Council Work Session to discuss future goals.

Mr. Hawk stated that it would be appropriate to have a session to discuss all of Council’s ideas and then a second work session to condense the list.

Mr. Lynch noted that the questions that Ms. Hernandez had regarding the Golf Course were currently being reviewed and hoped would come to conclusion soon.

E. Adjournment

Mr. Blair moved and Mr. Hawk seconded the following motion:

Motion: That the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

At roll call the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Chrisman, “Aye”; Mr. Hawk, “Aye”; Ms. Hernandez, “Aye”; Mr. Johnson, “Aye”; Mr. Shiltz, “Aye”; Mr. Blair, “Aye”; and Mr. Lynch, “Aye”.

Motion carried. Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.


CLERK OF COUNCIL


CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL