

**COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE CITY COUNCIL  
5/13/2020  
9:00 A.M.**

Council met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. in the second floor Council Chambers located at 105 N. Main Street, Washington Court House, with Chairperson Jim Chrisman presiding. Mr. Lynch led the invocation. Mr. Chrisman led the pledge of allegiance.

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: Ms. Kendra Hernandez, Mr. Caleb Johnson, Mr. Dale Lynch, Mr. Steve Shiltz, Mr. James Blair, Mr. Ted Hawk, and Mr. Jim Chrisman.

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

**Motion:** That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held April 22, 2020 be approved as presented.

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

**Motion carried.**

**COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Denen advised that an email that was distributed to all City Council members.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

There was none.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT ( in writing)**

Mr. Denen respectfully addressed Council and expressed his appreciation of the local economy beginning to open.

Mr. Denen recommended that to help reduce risk that citizens continue to practice safe virus hygiene habits

Mr. Denen encouraged shopping local and noted the benefits to the local economy and public safety.

Mr. Denen reported that local finances will continue to be discussed with Council. Mr. Denen advised Council of economic observations and concerns. Mr. Denen continued, and stated that city reserves had been strong, and that continued vigilance would be taken to maintain a stable budget as results of Covid19 are monitored.

Mr. Denen expressed congratulations to the graduating seniors. Mr. Denen thanked businesses in the community for their support with photographs in store windows.

Mr. Denen expressed thanks to the parents of the seniors for their cooperation and understanding during this time.

Mr. Denen noted the video that was created by himself and Whitney Gentry, President of our local Rotary Club that honored the Rotary Scholarship winners.

In discussion, Mr. Shiltz inquired if there were projects that would not be completed due to Covid19. Mr. Denen noted diversity in the street balances and that adjustments to projects, such as park projects would be made. Mr. Denen noted that paving would continue. Mr. Denen continued, and stated that the expenses of the General Fund were people driven and that the Administration would exercise caution moving forward into 2021. Mr. Denen noted that if the Federal and State Government continue positive actions that the result would be helpful to local government.

Mr. Denen noted that the local retail sector had performed better than expected during the Covid challenge.

Mr. Shiltz inquired if parks and the splash pad would be opening? Mr. Denen advised in the negative, that there would not be a change in status of the parks at this time.

Mr. Hawk noted his concerns with the orders given by the Governor. Mr. Hawk inquired about the weight of the law on the requirements and restrictions.

Mr. Denen noted that the health order had the force of law.

Mr. Johnson noted that General Assembly had questioned the Governor on shutdowns and he could not advise how long it would be for the Governor to keep things closed.

Mr. Hawk noted his concerns regarding stipulations on many items, but that health precautions that were voluntary like masks were ok.

Mr. Blair inquired if Stage's closing would affect unemployment in the area? Mr. Denen advised in the affirmative.

### **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

Mr. Tom Riley, Director of Finance addressed Council and reported the cash statement ending April 30, 2020.

In discussion, Mr. Chrisman thanked Mr. Riley and Mr. Denen on their consistent communication with Council.

Mr. Shiltz inquired about the impact from Covid19 on city finances.

Mr. Riley reported that as of right now he could not speculate concerning the outcome from Covid19 on city finances. Mr. Riley advised that the General Fund and income taxes were being reviewed closely.

Mr. Denen noted that revenue would be impacted.

Mr. Riley stated that local finances would also be impacted of decisions made on the state budget.

### **CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney, Mr. Mark Pitstick stated that he had no report unless Council had inquiries for the Law Department.

Mr. Hawk inquired about the legality of following the Governors orders?

Mr. Pitstick stated that it was imperative to follow the direction the Governor advises. Further, Mr. Pitstick noted of the legal ramifications and liability of businesses not adhering to regulations.

Mr. Pitstick noted that people have personal responsibility.

**LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TAX PAYERS**

There was none.

**C. LEGISLATION**

**A. ORDINANCE NO. 6 -2020 (first reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO.**

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

**MOTION:** That Ordinance No. 6-2020 be placed on first reading.

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

**Motion carried.**

**B. RESOLUTION NO. R17- 2020 (first reading)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER JOSEPH J. DENEN, OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO COX PAVING FOR THE 2020 STREET AND ALLEY PAVING PROGRAM.**

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

**MOTION:** That Resolution No. R17-2020 be placed on first reading.

In discussion, Mr. Hawk inquired about specs in the blacktop? Mr. Denen advised that the city had changed the testing requirements for asphalt.

Mr. Blair inquired who does the testing? Mr. Denen advised that samples are sent to a lab.

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

**Motion carried.**

**2. New Legislation (in writing)**

**None**

## D. MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Hernandez expressed her concerns of opening her business to the public at this time.

Mr. Shiltz noted the importance of wearing a mask in public and stated, "Give space, live safe".

Mr. Blair expressed concern about the perception of public participation at Council meetings.

Mr. Chrisman stated that many citizen concerns are directed to the Administration. Mr. Chrisman noted that 99% of concerns are handled prior to City Council meetings and expressed his appreciation of the way they are handled.

Mr. Johnson noted that maybe it was a cathartic experience for citizens.

Mr. Denen noted that every member of Council has been dedicated to the concerns brought to them.

Mr. Shiltz noted that no one has ever told a citizen not to come to a Council meeting.

Mr. Blair advised of his Facebook page.

Mr. Blair referenced a quote from Ben Franklin, "It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to change it."

Mr. Lynch advised his support of citizens attending Council meetings, in compliance with reasonable health precautions.

Mr. Lynch referenced a quote from David McCullah, "It is extremely dangerous, very disastrous, to assume because people are in a position of responsibility, that they are behaving responsibly." Mr. Lynch noted that he disagreed with Mr. Hawk's statements. Mr. Lynch noted the responsibility of City Council, State Government and Congress. Mr. Lynch continued and referenced past aspects of pandemics and war.

In continued discussion, Mr. Hawk expressed his concern for others, specifically his children. Mr. Hawk noted his disagreement with certain mandates. Mr. Hawk stated that he felt citizens should be responsible as the country gets back to work.

Mr. Shiltz stated that he believed we must trust in the bigger picture and do the right thing.

Mr. Johnson noted the aspect of people being scared as the health and economic ramifications. Mr. Johnson stated that everyone was working on a narrow path between safety and common sense. Mr. Johnson agreed with Mr. Hawk regarding the personal aspect, as well as his agreement with Mr. Lynch regarding the politics of the situation.

Mr. Johnson spoke regarding quarantine issues and the self-sacrifice that are made to help others. Mr. Johnson noted that Council does not know the answers and are hostage like everyone else.

Mr. Chrisman noted his concern for common sense and the decreased respect of law enforcement.

Mr. Chrisman thanked everyone for their comments and concerns.

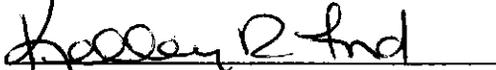
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Motion:** That the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

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

**Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.**

  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL