

Minutes
Wyoming City Council
September 18, 2023

The Wyoming City Council met in regular session on September 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Monich called the meeting to order. In attendance were:

Council Members:

Dan Driehaus
Grant Hoffman
Melissa Monich
April Robles
Sarah Stankorb Taylor
Chris Woodside

Others:

Rusty Herzog, City Manager
Emily Supinger, City Solicitor

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- August 21, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
- August 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- Resolution Authorizing the Then and Now Certificate
- Resolution Honoring the Services of Bobbi Strangfeld on the Urban Forestry and Beautification Commission of the City of Wyoming, Ohio

Mr. Woodside moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda carried with all voting yes.

Mayor Monich read the Resolution honoring Bobbi Strangfeld and presented it to her.

SPECIAL REPORTS/MINUTES:

None were received.

VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Herzog shared that the Village Green project is coming along. It is hopeful that the front lawn or formal lawn will be ready for Fall Festival and hopefully the pavilion will follow a few weeks later. Fall Festival is Saturday, October 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the downtown business district. We have over 100 vendors participating this year. There will be live performances throughout the day at Crescent Park and activities for kids including free face painting by the Cincinnati Circus Company and a petting zoo.

Mr. Herzog reported that fall leaf collection begins October 9. Residents can rake leaves to the curb (not into the street) and City crews will pick them up. There is no

schedule for the pickup, the trucks will simply run their assigned routes daily until pickup ends on December 1. For questions contact Rob Nicolls at 513.821.3505 or email him at rnicolls@wyomingohio.gov. Lastly, Mr. Herzog reported that the City is accepting applications for part-time paramedics. The application for employment can be found on the City's website.

REPORTS OF STANDING COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

No comments were received.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

No comments were received.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Werner Lange, 60 Oliver Road, addressed City Council. Mr. Lange expressed concern regarding Issue 22 on the upcoming November election ballot. Issue 22 refers to the passage of a City of Cincinnati Ordinance regarding the sale of the Cincinnati Southern Railway to the parent company of Norfolk Southern Corporation. Mr. Lange shared his reasons why he believes the voters, who will have this issue on their ballot should vote no on Issue 22. He encouraged City Council to pass a Resolution opposing Issue 22 for those who will have this on their ballot in November.

BUSINESS:

A. Third Reading of the Ordinance Approving the Development Plan for the Brave Like Brayden Community Dog Park Located at 514-520 Van Roberts Place and Amending the Zoning Code: Mr. Driehaus moved to adopt the Ordinance Ms. Stankorb Taylor seconded the motion. Mayor Monich commented that she received a petition this morning signed by eight residents on Van Roberts Place who are opposed to the dog park. She noted that the public hearing was conducted last month, however she wanted to be sure that Council was aware of the petition in opposition to the proposal.

Mr. Hoffman asked clarification that when the City, in the past, has sold property, for example, the City has put out an RFP (Request for Proposals) to solicit ideas for the development of a property. He asked if this proposal needed to be done through the RFP process. Ms. Supinger stated that there is no requirement to do an RFP for this type of project. It was presented and proposed to the City as a private/public partnership opportunity. Additionally, the City will not be losing control of the property, the City will continue to own the property and maintain the property once it is developed. The maintenance details will be spelled out in the Memorandum of Understanding that will be forthcoming. The City will be responsible for ensuring that the park is constructed under the rules that the City will require be put in place.

Mr. Hoffman asked if the City would have any kind of claw back agreement in the proposal. Ms. Supinger explained that the City will always own the property and the City will always maintain the right to use the property however it sees fit. If, at some point in time, the dog park is not what the City feels is the best use of the property or if a better opportunity comes along, the City will have the right to explore it.

Mr. Hoffman commented about the increase in economic development that the dog park will bring to the business district, and he asked if the DORA district will be extended to cover the park area. Mr. Herzog explained that the City will be seeking to expand the DORA district into three different areas and the dog park land would be one of them. The process to expand involves many layers of approval and the public will be invited to comment when we get to that point.

Lastly, Mr. Hoffman asked what the annual or monthly maintenance costs might be and has the City budgeted for this. Mr. Herzog stated that there is no specific maintenance budget for the dog park, however it will simply be incorporated into the existing park maintenance budget that already exists for all City parks.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor commented that there was at one time a proposal for a restaurant on the property constructed from recycled shipping containers. That application did not take the same path as the dog park, and she asked if there is any history that can be provided about the parking lot and how the park land came to be. Mr. Herzog stated that, from what he can remember, the parking lot has been there for many years following a lengthy environmental remediation process because the property was a former gas station. The residential properties that were once on the east side of Van Roberts Place were demolished over the years. The proposed container restaurant would have consumed the entire parking lot and it was determined that this particular proposal was not the best fit for the property.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor asked if it becomes necessary, can additional trees be added to the dog park property to provide additional visual enhancement to the area and to the neighborhood. Mr. Herzog explained that the City would be at liberty to add more trees and vegetation buffers if necessary. He explained that up to this point, we have been dealing with renderings of a concept plan. If the park is approved, the next steps will be to obtain final construction plans to ensure that the landscaping plan meets the City's expectations. The Brave Like Me Foundation fully plans to create a beautiful park and the City will guide them to be sure that this happens. This would be the ultimate goal-to create a beautiful park that continues to accent everything that Wyoming has to offer.

Mr. Hoffman asked for clarification that if the proposal is rejected by Council or does not receive enough votes to pass, what happens to the concept? Ms. Supinger explained that from a process standpoint, the same concept would not come back through

this procedure. There would have to be some changes to the plan in some significant way or a different location, the Foundation cannot return to Council with an identical application.

Mr. Herzog explained that the next big hurdle would be for the finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to make sure that we have all details worked out and then once that is completed, a bid package design would be created. Once the bid package is prepared, we will be able to provide the Foundation with an estimate of how much they would need to fundraise to build the park. The City will not be moving forward with the project unless the Foundation is able to fully fund it.

Mr. Woodside commented that he feels good about the dog park, but he does not feel great about it. This is because of the questions that are still unanswered on how the neighbors are going to be impacted by this. He wants to be sure that this is not just an enhancement for the city, he wants to also make it an enhancement for the people that live closest to the park and if that is not accomplished, he will not feel great about the situation. He is hopeful that we can make this a winner for everyone and not just a winner for people that do not live on Van Roberts Place; he wants to be sure we get it right.

Mayor Monich noted that the Ordinance has been moved and seconded. By roll call vote, the motion to Adopt the Ordinance Approving the Development Plan for the Brave Like Brayden Community Dog Park Located at 514-520 Van Roberts Place and Amending the Zoning Code carried with all voting yes.

B. Report from the Finance Committee on the Proposed Fees and Charges for 2024, on the Operating Philosophy and Financial Policy, on the Water Works Revenue Fund Operating Philosophy and Financial Policy, on the Investment Policy, and on the Debt Policy: Mr. Jeremiah Caudill, Finance Director, presented a verbal report to Council. The Finance Committee met at 8:00 a.m. on September 18, 2023 to review the policies and fees.

Review of Investment Policy: The Committee reviewed the existing Investment Policy. No changes have been recommended by City Staff. No changes were recommended by the Committee.

Review of Operating Philosophy, Financial Policy, and Water Works Revenue Fund Operating Philosophy and Financial Policy: No changes were recommended by City Staff and no changes were recommended by the Committee members.

Review of Debt Policy: The Committee members reviewed the Debt Policy. No changes were recommended by City Staff. No changes were recommended by the Committee members.

Mr. Caudill explained that annually, the Finance Committee reviews each of the four policies to be sure that they are up to date and reflect the financial policies and goals of the City. The Committee also reviewed the proposed 2024 fee schedule, and the Committee will be meeting again next week to continue to review and finalize the fees for next year.

Mr. Hoffman moved to receive the report. Ms. Robles seconded the motion. Mr. Hoffman commented that he always feels good coming out of the Finance Committee meetings and that all questions get asked and/or explained well. Ms. Stankorb Taylor asked clarification that if the Committee determines any fees need to be revised after it meets next week, how do the changes work procedurally within the Ordinance approval process. Ms. Supinger explained that Council can by motion amend any Ordinance during the course of its three readings. Between now and the second reading, those changes would be incorporated into the version that would be reviewed at the next meeting and Council can move on from there. The Ordinance would reflect those changes. There being no additional comments or questions, the motion to receive the Report from the Finance Committee on the Proposed Fees and Charges for 2024, on the Operating Philosophy and Financial Policy, on the Water Works Revenue Fund Operating Philosophy and Financial Policy, on the Investment Policy, and on the Debt Policy carried with all voting yes.

C. First Reading of the Ordinance Adopting the Revised Fees and Charges for 2024: Mayor Monich noted this is the first reading and set the second reading and the public hearing for the October 16, 2023 City Council meeting.

D. First Reading of the Ordinance Amending the Personnel Ordinance and Declaring an Emergency: Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to suspend the rules carried with all voting yes. Mr. Woodside moved to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Stankorb Taylor seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to adopt the Ordinance Amending the Personnel Ordinance and Declaring an Emergency carried with all voting yes.

E. First Reading of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 144 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wyoming Pertaining to Contracting and Competitive Bidding Requirements and Declaring an Emergency: Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to suspend the rules carried with all voting yes. Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Hoffman seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to adopt the Ordinance Amending Chapter 144 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wyoming Pertaining to Contracting and Competitive Bidding Requirements and Declaring an Emergency carried with all voting yes.

F. First Reading of the Ordinance Appropriating Revenues Within Certain Funds, Transferring Revenues from Certain Funds, and Transferring Certain Funds Within Certain Accounts: Mr. Hoffman moved to suspend the rules. Ms. Stankorb Taylor seconded the

motion. By roll call vote, the motion to suspend the rules carried with all voting yes. Mr. Hoffman moved to adopt the Ordinance. Ms. Stankorb Taylor seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the motion to adopt the Ordinance Appropriating Revenues Within Certain Funds, Transferring Revenues from Certain Funds, and Transferring Certain Funds Within Certain Accounts carried with all voting yes.

NEW BUSINESS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA:

No new business was received.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Robles commented that she is excited for Fall Festival and for the number of new vendors that will be participating. She is hopeful that we will have many visitors from outside Wyoming but also from our neighboring communities as well.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor commented that as her son is running cross-country for the high school, she is being provided daily reports from his pedestrian point of view about good and bad sidewalk conditions and the pedestrian crossing sign that is not working in Woodlawn, as well as other notes around town. She is hearing through her son how much the students are enjoying running around Wyoming and that they feel safe doing so and are making memories in the process.

Mayor Monich thanked the Public Works Department and Rob Nicolls for construction that the department has taken on this summer. She and Council are very appreciative of the enormous amount of work being taken on at once and that we are close to the end.

EXCUSAL OF ABSENT MEMBERS:

Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to excuse Ms. Woffington. Mr. Woodside seconded the motion. There being no comments, by roll call vote, the motion to excuse Ms. Woffington carried with all voting yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Stankorb Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Robles seconded the motion. All voted yes, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Martin, Executive Assistant

Karen Zeilman, Clerk of Council

Melissa Monich, Mayor