

THIS MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM:

Amherst City Council met in a Regular Session under full compliance of State Law with President Wasilk opening the meeting at 7:02 P. M. Roll call: Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, Mr. Van Treuren, Mr. Dembinski. Also present were Council President Wasilk, Assistant Law Director Ward, Mayor Costilow, Auditor Pittak, Law Director Pecora, Treasurer Ramsey, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys. Mr. Cowger was absent.

The Prayer was invoked by Chaplain Nahorn, followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by Sergeant at Arms Dembinski.

Consent Agenda: The Clerk read the Consent Agenda. Mr. Dembinski motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as read. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 7-0 to accept the Consent Agenda.

Acknowledgement of the Public pertaining to items on the Agenda: There was no one speaking.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

- (a) A Ordinance amending Chapter 143 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Amherst of Amherst, Ohio regarding the Division of Police.

Mr. Janik motioned to pass this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to pass to second.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING:

- (a) An Ordinance establishing the salaries and benefits for the Amherst Fire Department effective January 1, 2021 and repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and declaring an emergency. (A-20-49)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its third reading. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Roll call vote 6-0 to pass to third.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING: NONE

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: There was no one speaking.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules: There were no Agenda Requests assigned this evening. Therefore, no committee meetings scheduled for 12/21/20.

Reports of the Administration:

Auditor Pittak: Reported he is working with the Law Director as far as the replacement for Carol Shawer. They are working on drafting an ordinance. He will be presenting this to Council in January. The November reports have been completed and distributed.

Treasurer Ramsey: The November reports have been completed and distributed.

Law Director Pecora: No report.

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report

Mayor Costilow: Reported the planned power outage went well. First Energy notified the city of the needed repair about a week ago. Our power could have gone out at any time so it was a repair much needed. They are grateful for First Energy's early notification and they actually continually kept us posted during the process. He spoke to several of the higher ups during this outage and they kept us posted so that enabled us to update the residents as quickly as possible. Once the city had been notified, the city has a lot of work to do. They had many customers to notify. About 90% of our customers were able to be notified, via mail carriers. The post card also notified residents about the WENS notification. He was pleased that we were able to gain 310 users. We are up to 7,567 customers on the WENS notification system. Without our IT Department, we would not have been able to do a lot of the things we did throughout this outage. We were able to keep our website updated and during the outage, we had 1,600 visits. Every department had representatives on hand during the outage. We were able to adjust our phone systems so phone calls could be transferred more easily to answer phone calls. Many phone calls were answered. Typically the police department handles those phone calls, so they were

very grateful that they were not overburdened by the phone calls during the power outage. Also, all our stop lights were checked to make sure the backup batteries were working. They were able to make those repairs before the outage. They did have one fail, but they were able to get an officer there quickly. That will be repaired for battery backup. He also thanked Council for getting the word out to residents. It's an awful inconvenience these days if there is a power outage. But giving the fair warning that we did, with Council help, he is proud of how the city managed this outage. He thanked everyone for being patient during this time. This again shows the need for the second feed to come into the city. He said all of council was on board for this. It is a long process and in the works. The completion date will be 2023. There was the acquisition of property and they had a company on board determining the best route and a company that will determine the right of ways that we will need. We are also working on engineering specifications and standards to get this engineered properly so when we plan this project, we will bid it properly. Had we already had this, there would have been a "blink" and everything would have been switched over and no one would have known the difference. So he is looking forward to that in a few years. Our own electric crew did some inspections and updates while the outage was in place.

Mrs. Wasilk said hats were off to him and the city employees who did so well in the outage.

Mr. Janik publicly thanked everyone involved in this process and also noted that a pipe burst in front of his home during the outage and those folks came out very quickly despite the outage. They appreciate it.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to accept the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 6-0 to accept the reports of the administration.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to acknowledge the receipt of the November reports from the Auditor and Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to acknowledge the receipt of reports.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 6-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Olga Sivinski, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wasilk, President of Council

