

This meeting was in Hybrid Form (Council members and visitors in Chambers and all others via ZOOM)

Amherst City Council was brought to order in a Regular Session with President Wasilk opening the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present in Council Chambers were Ms. Smith, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Cowger, Mr. Wachholz, and Mayor Costilow. Present via ZOOM were, Auditor Pittak, Treasurer Ramsey, Law Director Pecora, Assistant Law Director Ward, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys. Also present was Mr. Tom Anderson, the new President of the Amherst Athletic Association.

The Prayer was invoked by: Chaplin Janik, followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by Sergeant at Arms Dembinski.

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

Acknowledgement of the Public pertaining to items on the Agenda: Mrs. Wasilk noted that we will go out of order and allow Mr. Tom Anderson to speak. Mr. Winiarski introduced Mr. Tom Anderson who was recently elected President to the Amherst Athletic Association. He noted that those that grew up here might be very familiar with the Association which was established in 1954. He explained that the Association was established in 1954 and there are over 1,000 members, one of the largest privately funded summer recreation programs in the State. Mr. Anderson spoke and said he was born and raised here and one of the fondest memories in his life was being involved and hitting his first homerun. He spoke of more memories and said his daughter is now playing softball. He said he's told her stories and of friendships that began in the dugouts. He feels it's a blessing to become President of the Association. Last year the organization served about 868 kids, about 600 families. He spoke of having 20 teams play even during COVID. So it's been consecutive years since 1954 where fields are prepared, sponsors are provided and new jerseys are purchased and that kind of thing. Their association wonders if people know what this association is doing year after year. This year he has been charged with, along with the rest of the members, to get to these "tables" in hopes that they can shine some information on how they are doing these things. He spoke of cementing partnerships. He spoke further and asked that everyone support these endeavors through public and social medias and suggest partnership with their association. Mrs. Wasilk thanked him for coming and he answered Mr. Winiarski's question that there are adult softball leagues also.

There was no one else speaking.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

- (a) An Ordinance creating a training/transitional employment position within the Auditor's Office of the City of Amherst, Ohio; and declaring an emergency. (A-22-06)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Roll call vote 7-0 to pass to second.

- (b) An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Amherst, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; and declaring an emergency. (A-22-07)

Mr. Winiarski said he had a change to speak with the Fire Chief and Police Chief, about four hours each, and he is very impressed with their talents. They spoke to many things in the budget and how their offices are run. They spoke to long- and short-term goals. He gives Mayor Costilow and Safety/Service Director a lot of credit. Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 7-0 to pass to second.

- (c) A Resolution recognizing and commending Bella Dellipoala for her bravery and willingness to act calmly and quickly while assisting and helping an Amherst senior citizen in the City of Amherst. (A-22-08)

Mr. Janik said he made contact with Bella and she is interested in receiving this Resolution and we will have her present at the meeting in March. Mr. Janik motioned to pass this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 7-0 to pass to second.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING:

- (a) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter Into a Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General. (A-22-02)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its third reading. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Ms. Smith asked Mr. Ramsey if he was able to get confirmation about the third-party fees and the fee schedule that we would be charged? Mr. Ramsey said he has attempted to contact someone but has been unable to at this time. He will continue to attempt contact. Roll call vote 7-0 to pass to third reading.

- (b) An Ordinance forming an advisory committee to Identify and assess annexation opportunities and make recommendations regarding such opportunities to the Annexation Committee of Amherst City Council. (A-22-03)

Mr. Wachholz motioned to pass this on to its third reading. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 6-1 with Mr. Cowger voting no to pass to third.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING: NONE

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public:

- ((a) Economic Development (TRES) Transfer of liquor permit for C1 (Beer only in original sealed container for carry out only) and C-2 (Wine and mixed beverages in sealed containers for carry out) for Sheets, at 799 N. Leavitt Road.

There were no objections.

The Clerk read the letter from the Mayor recommending the appointment of Mr. Bob Pallente and Mr. Jim Yorks to the Design Review Board with Mr. Winiarski serving as Council representative. Mr. Dembinski motioned to confirm the appointments. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 7-0 to confirm the appointments.

There was no one else speaking.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

A-22-09 Community Development – Recognize Gerri Rice for her years of service to the City of Amherst

A-22-10 Police and Fire - Agreement with various Lorain county political subdivisions for mutual aid known as Lorain County Special Weapons and Tactic Team (SWAT); with emergency.

A-22-11 Ordinance - Provide description of the four wards in Amherst per 0-21-46

Submitted 2/17/22:

A-22-12 Finance - Authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to bid and award the annual 2022 Tree Trim Line Clearance Program

A-22-13 Finance - Bid and award the 2022 Street Rehab program; and authorizing a contract with Bramhall Engineering to remaining engineering costs; emergency

A-22-14 Streets – Authorization to allow the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to perform maintenance work on SR 2 during the summer of 2023; emergency

Community Development – February 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. A-21-09

Police and Fire – February 21, 2022 at 7:05 p.m. A-21-10

Ordinance - February 21, 2022 at 7:10 A-21-11

Finance – February 21, 2022 at 7:20 P. M. A-22-12, A-22-13

Streets – February 21, 2022 at 7:25 P. M. A-22-14

The remaining Council Committees for the February 21, 2022 meeting are cancelled.

Reports of the Administration:

Treasurer Ramsey: Reported the January monthly reports have been distributed. The tax filing deadline this year is April 18. New this year is residents can file taxes electronically on the City's web site. Residents have ability to make payments, change address and other items and file income tax returns. As long as you have filed with the City in the past, you can do this. He explained how this is done. Residents can still file the same way they have in the past.

Auditor Pittak: Reported the January monthly reports have been distributed. He said per Mr. Winiarski's request, their office is working on a format on their financial reports so that everyone is able to understand more about the City's finances. He will have question and answer sessions about these.

Law Director Pecora: No report

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report

Mayor Costilow: Thanked Council for approving his recommendation of appointments to the Design Review Board. This is an important board and they will be meeting at the end of the month.

Mr. Winiarski thanked Mr. Pittak for the extra work their office is going to be doing. He asked Mr. Ramsey about RITA and their wrestling with Buckeye Institute in regard to people working at home and being able to get a refund if you paid into RITA? He gave an example of his status in this. Would this benefit Amherst at all? If people work from home, does that impact their tax obligations? Mr. Ramsey said he thought they impacted in some way. He will try to get the information he has on this to Mr. Winiarski this week.

Mr. Winiarski motioned to accept the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Mr. Heberling asked if there was a fee for filing on line? Mr. Ramsey believes the ACH fee is \$1.00. He will check on this. Voice vote 7-0 to accept the reports.

Acknowledge the receipt of January 2022 monthly reports from the Auditor and Treasurer:

Mr. Dembinski motioned to acknowledge the receipt of the January 2022 monthly reports from the Auditor and Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Voice vote 7-0 to acknowledge the receipt of reports.

Mr. Heberling motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Olga Sivinski, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wasilk, President of Council