

MEETING WAS HELD 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 was Ms. Smith, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Cowger, Mr. Wachholz, and Mayor Costilow. Present via ZOOM were Assistant Law Director Ward, Law Director Pecora, Safety Service Director Jeffreys, Auditor Pittak, Treasurer Ramsey and many members of the Public. Among the public were Mr. John Seletar, who was receiving an award for his involvement with the Memorial Wall and Patriots Park.

Mr. Dembinski noted that since there were so many residents present to recognize Mr. Sekletar, he thought it would be nice to actually deputize him as Deputy Sgt. At Arms and ask him to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Prayer was invoked by Chaplin Janik, followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by deputized Sgt. At Arms Mr. John Sekletar.

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

Acknowledgement of the Public pertaining to items on the Agenda: There was no one speaking at this time, but would speak later on the Dewey Road item.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

- (a) An Ordinance authorizing an increase in appropriations for repayment of debt to the Ohio Public Works Commission; and declaring an emergency. (A-22-34)

Mr. Cowger motioned to suspend all council rules so that this may be adopted in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 7-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 7-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-22-25.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING:

- (a) An Ordinance vacating a portion of North Dewey Road and retaining utility and drainage easements on a portion of the area vacated. (A-22-32)

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING:

- (a) An Ordinance authorizing an Increase In appropriations for collection fees to Keith D. Weiner & Associates Co., L.P.A. (A-22-23)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. . Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 7-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-22-26.

- (b) A Resolution recognizing and commending John Sekletar for his efforts which resulted in the completion of Patriot's Park. (A-22-26)

Clerk Sivinski read the title. Mr. Winiarski said he has known Mr. Sekletar for a long time. He is a heck of a good guy. He has gifted our city with Patriot's Park and the Memorial Wall. He thanked two groups, the group in front of him this evening and considers John the leader. A task like this does not happen in a vacuum and takes a lot of people, be it moral support or actually going to fund raisers or doing the labor or being an ear to listen to or a voice to talk to. He thanked everyone here that helped make this happen. He motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 7-0 to adopt. Becomes R-22-05.

There was a standing round of applause for Mr. Sekletar. Mayor Costilow approached and signed the Resolution. He noted that this does not happen often and held up the signed Resolution for all to see. This brought another round of applause. Mr. Winiarski said he has been working on this for a while and was not sure about the right words he should use so he

called on Mr. Tony Melendez who prepared a video presentation which highlights the works of Mr. Sekletar. The video was viewed on the screen. This brought another standing round of applause. Mr. Winiarski asked Kathy and John Sekletar to approach the podium.

Mr. Sekletar spoke and said this began 10 years ago when his son approached him and asked for his help in painting a large mural in Amherst. He agreed and here they are, 10 years later and he never expected or imagined this would happen. He spoke to the vibrancy of our downtown area and all the occupations that are established there. The addition of Patriot's Park and Veteran's Mural Wall has actually made this a destination point. The City has many nice things to offer and he's happy to be a part of it. He gave a shoutout to all the local people who made this possible for him. He listed the names of the companies and what their offering was. He thanked everyone for providing him with this award. He invited everyone to attend the ceremony on November 11 when they will uncover 11 new paintings on the wall. Mr. Winiarski presented a plaque to Mr. Sekletar.

Mrs. Barb Smith, a retired teacher from Amherst City Schools and she is also an "army brat." Every year she's had her students recognize all the veterans by decorating their classroom doors or office doors and having them come speak to the students. It was always a festive and special day. She knows the students liked it as well as the staff who was recognized. When she retired in 2013, she thought about how she would now honor her dad, and decided she would put his name on as many pavers as she could. She contacted John at that time and she thanked him for this amazing story. If those walls could talk..... She shared some stories and spoke about the framed pictures of murals that have been provided by John, that she has been presenting to places in other states.

Mrs. Wasilk allowed a few minutes for those that wanted to take photographs and allow those that want to leave to leave. The meeting resumed.

Johanna and Thomas Lyman of 45610 N. Ridge Road spoke regarding their concerns on the new development on Dewey Road. Mrs. Lyman said this development butts up against their property where the pond is. She does not know a lot of the details and what was discussed; but her concern is the pond. All these houses are going in and no fence is going up. She feels a fence is a necessity because it's a large three acre pond. The pond sits a ways back from their home. So they cannot see the people going out on the property. She feels it's the new developer's responsibility to build a fence and keep people safe. They are already cutting down the trees and there really is no buffer. She does not know what the plans are, but her personal feeling is that there should be some type of a fence there for safety reasons. Mr. Lyman explained where their property is in relation to the pond. He said it would be almost impossible to monitor from where they are at. He is aware of the 20 foot right of way, but they don't feel this will keep people from going to the pond. This is not a shallow pond, it's a few feet deep. Mr. Dembinski said that being they are neighbors to the development, were they were notified of the PDD and the process and those things? Or was it just what they read in the paper? Mrs. Lyman said it was just what she read in the paper. Mr. Cowger asked if they had any problems with the trailer park being there and people from the park coming onto their property. Mr. Lyman said there have been some younger people that have come there. They are very fortunate that most of the people that live there are older.

Mrs. Kathy Gilles of 6050 N. Dewey Road and 6024 N. Dewey Road asked about the vacating of the road and what it actually means and which portion. She described other addresses and wondered if those were affected. She also asked who would be retaining the utilities, including fire hydrants which were promised many years ago but never received. She also asked about the easements not posted on Thomas's property. She said she has a lot of questions about what's going on down there and what's not going on down there. If the road is vacated and nothing develops there, what will happen? Mr. John Sekletar asked if perhaps the contractor can put up a fence there? It would only have to be on one side of the development.

Mrs. Barb Smith, a resident of Oberlin, wanted to recognize the whole point of that gorgeous wall downtown Amherst, which is to honor the active members of the military as well as well as the loved ones who gave their lives, the ultimate sacrifice. She wanted to recognize Mrs. Mary Miller, a Gold Star Mother, who is present at this meeting. Her son's image, Sgt. Lane Tollette is one of the 12 boys in the mural on The War on Terror. On April 28 she "honored" his 15 years of not being here with us; because he sacrificed his life for our country. She thanked Mrs. Miller for all she has done since his passing to promote his

memory and all she had done to educate children and other adults about Gold Star Mothers. There was a round of applause for Mrs. Miller.

Mr. Cowger said where it was said that many people in the trailer park are retirees and kind of help keep track of what's going on there; the new community going up there is a designated retirement community. So that should help as well. It has to have a certain percentage of people over the age of 65. Mrs. Wasilk said the restrictions on a PDD is much different than Amherst Village. Amherst Village is a different legal status. There are much stricter requirements on the ages in the new community going in. There isn't the restriction on age in Amherst Village as there is in the actual official ordinances of the PDD.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

- A-22-35 Finance Increase appropriations for debt payments to Ohio Public Works; emergency
- A-22-36 Finance - A Resolution requesting that the County Auditor of Lorain County, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03(B), certify to the City of Amherst the Total Current Tax Valuation of the City and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by One (1.0) Mill for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, and sites therefor for the Fire Department of the City of Amherst, Ohio pursuant to Section 5705.19(I) of the Ohio Revised Code; repealing all Ordinances and Resolutions in conflict herewith; emergency
- A-22-37 Ordinance – authorizing the Safety/Service Director to make an Application to the state of Ohio to establish a designated outdoor Refreshment area
- A-22-38 Bld. & Lands – Update ACO 1121 to include “Zoning regulation Notice and hearing”

Finance – June 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. A-22-35, A-22-36

Building and Lands – June 6 at 7:05 p.m. A-22-38

Ordinance – June 6 at 7:15 p.m. A-22-37

No other Committee Meetings scheduled for June 6, 2022

Reports of the Administration:

Auditor Pittak: Apologized for missing the last meeting. He said his day job “got the best of him.” He explained further.

Treasurer Ramsey: No report

Law Director Pecora: No report

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report

Mayor Costilow: Thanked Mr. Sekletar for staying for the meeting. He appreciates all he has done and everyone knows how beautiful that wall is and how important the significance is for our veterans. He hopes that everyone recognizes that everyone depends on the government very often for near everything – funding and dollars. Mr. Sekletar took this challenge on and found ways to fund this without asking the government to fund this. This was a big challenge and he hopes he was not hard on him when John asked if he could do this. He is so very proud of him and his group for what he did for Amherst. They found the funding and did this, and if the rest of the world would do more of this, we would be in a much better place. He announced the Veteran's Day Parade coming up. Gerri Rice has a big parade planned. As far as the fence at the development by Dewey, he does not know if one is planned, he has to look at the plans. He said that the residents should call his office and discuss these things with him. He spoke further on this. He explained what “vacate” means. He will check on the fire hydrants. There is a process for another developer if this project is not completed. The paving portion and catch basins on Milan and Cleveland Ave will begin after Memorial Day. The sewer improvements along with freshwater improvements on Cleveland Ave should be complete mid-week after Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Cowger motioned to accept the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Voice vote 7-0 to accept the Reports of the Administration.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

