

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 Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Cowger, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, and Mayor Costilow. Present via ZOOM were, Treasurer Ramsey, Law Director Pecora, Auditor Pittak, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys and Assistant Law Director Ward. Ms. Smith was absent and had a letter on file. Mr. Dembinski motioned to excuse Ms. Smith as she had a letter on file. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Voice vote 6-0 to excuse Ms. Smith.

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. Cowger. Voice vote 6-0 to accept the Consent Agenda as read.

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

- (a) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety Service Director to solicit bids for the renovation of the City of Amherst Fire Station and award the contract for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and declaring an emergency. (A-22-11)

Mr. Janik motioned to suspend all council rules so that this may be passed in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Winiarski felt it was important to get this work done quickly. What follows behind it is important as once the work is done, they will know how much money they will have left over for the truck they need to buy. So this kind of sets the stage for that next step. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Janik motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-23-11.

- (b) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to accept American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds in the amount of \$400,000.00 for improvements to sewer, water and road Infrastructure; and declaring an emergency. (A-23-13)

Mayor Costilow asked for suspension of rules and explained that we don't have a lot of money in the budget right now. He explained how adopting this would bring our road project funds available quicker to begin our road project quickly. Mr. Heberling motioned to suspend all Council rules so that this may be passed in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-23-12.

- (c) An Ordinance to approve the current replacement pages to the Amherst Codified Ordinance and declaring an emergency. (A-23-12)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to suspend all Council rules so that this may be passed in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-23-13.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING:

- (a) 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, 2023, repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith, and declaring an emergency. (A-23-08)

Mayor Costilow noted that there is not enough money in our temporary budget right now for the road and OPWC projects to push these projects up. We are close to at least sending the road project out for bid because we awarded the engineering dollars a while ago. If this moves forward tonight, we could possibly have the bid opening by April 15 for the road program. Another reason is that this has to be adopted by March 31. Mr. Heberling motioned to suspend all Council rules so that this may be passed in its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-23-14.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING: NONE

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

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

- A-23-14 Police and Fire Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for upgrades of signal timing equipment on St. Rt. 58; emergency
- A-23-15 Finance Authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to accept reimbursement assistance through the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Service grant funds in the amount of \$98,150.00 to solicit bids for the procurement of Body Worn Cameras for the City of Amherst Police Department; awarding the contract for such equipment to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and approving additional funding not to exceed \$170,000 payable in annual installments over a five-year period; emergency
- A-23-16 Finance Accept grant from Ohio Office of Criminal Justice for the purchase of body cameras
- A-23-17 Finance Authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to solicit bids for the 2023 street Rehabilitation Program Part 1; and authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to award the contract for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; emergency
- A-23-18 Finance Authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to solicit bids for the 2023 street Rehabilitation Program Part 2 and authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to award the contract for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; emergency
- A-23-19 Finance Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for professional service with Bramhall Engineering and Surveying Company relating to the 2023 Street Rehabilitation Program; emergency
- A-23-20 Finance Ordinance authorizing the Safety/Service Director to solicit bids for the 2023 OPWC Round 36 Middle Ridge Road project; and authorizing and directing the Safety/Service Director to bid and award the contract for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; emergency
- A-23-21 Finance Ordinance establishing the salary of the members and secretary of the Amherst Civil Service Commission; repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith; emergency

Finance March 20, 2023 at 7:00 p. m. A-23-15, A-23-16, A-23-17, A-23-18, A-23-19
A-23-20, A-23-21

Police and Fire March 20, 2023 at 7:15. p. m. A-23-14

Remaining committee Meetings for 3/20/23 are cancelled.

Reports of the Administration:

Auditor Pittak: The February report has been completed and distributed.

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

Law Director Pecora: No report

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report.

Mayor Costilow: Reported that Route 58 project by Columbia Gas seems to be going very well. They have had lane closures and a police officer has been working with them and with the signs they have out, it's been going as smooth as it can. There will probably be more of a headache when they get to Cooper Foster intersection. They started at Kresge and it seemed to go very well. The public awareness the city is providing seems to be helping. He will have some agenda requests about the construction dollars for the road program, and more than likely for the OPWC project for this year. We have the engineering but not the construction. Mr. Winiarski has been working hard on the DORA, he has reviewed it; it needs maybe one more day of tying it up and then he will present to Council.

Mr. Cowger motioned to accept the reports of the administration. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Voice vote 6-0 to accept the reports.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the monthly February 2023 reports from the Auditor and Treasurer

Mr. Dembinski motioned to acknowledge the Auditor and Treasurer February 2023 reports. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Voice vote 6-0 to acknowledge the reports.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Voice vote 6-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Olga Sivinski, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wasilk, President of Council