

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

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. Dembinski motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as read. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. 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: NONE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING: NONE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING:

- (a) An Ordinance approving the final development plan for Amherst Mini Storage at 700 Mill Street. (A-23-24)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-23-26.

- (b) An Ordinance amending Section 1145.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Amherst, Ohio regarding temporary accessory structures; and declaring an emergency. (A-23-25)

Mr. Winiarski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-23-27.

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: Mrs. Sue Conkle of 161 Jackson Street shared her concern about the property at 167 Jackson Street. Things were not taken care of even tho promises were made. She thanked the city for doing some of the cleanup. She said the property is slipping again. She shared pictures and described the dreadful state of the outside of the home and how the back door was temporarily held up with a table and propane tanks. Then it had fallen in and one could hear animals inside the house. A new door was brought but never installed. There are two vehicles sitting in the driveway that have not been moved. Mr. Heberling said the residents have reached out to him. They have made contact with the Board of Health to see if there is anything they can do. One person from the Board of Health did visit the property and called him back clarifying exactly what she had seen. She provided some actions that can be taken by the Board of Health. They can react when it comes to wildlife and anything that may get inside the house. Other than that, there is nothing they can do about the inside of the house or on the property. They will be mailing a directive to the property owner. He has 30 days to reply and if he does not, then a second and more stern warning is sent out. If nothing is done, they will proceed with boarding up all the entrances to prevent any wildlife from getting into the house. That's where they can go to at the moment. As far as the city, the would like to meet with the Mayor to see what we can do to proceed. His discussion with the Board of Health, the lady agreed that high grass would encourage rodents and other animals to access the property and house. He spoke further.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

A-23-27 Building and Lands – Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Community Housing Impact and Preservation partnership with the Lorain County Commissioners and certain cities for 2023; with emergency.

A-23-28 Executive – To Retroactively Amend 0-22-06 Training/Transitional Employment Position in the Auditor’s Office to extend the time period through February 2023. Previous Ordinance was for March 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022.

A-23-29 Community Development – Resolution recognizing small business owners within the Historic Downtown area of the City of Amherst that have operated and supported our community for over 25 years; emergency

A-23-30 Ordinance/Resolution to approve or disapprove the application for a DORA no earlier than thirty days but not later than sixty days after the initial publication of notice

Building and Land on May 15, 2023 at 7:00 p. m. A-23-27

Executive May 15, 2023 at 7:10 p. m. A-23-28

Community Development May 15, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. A-23-29

NOTE: Special Council Meeting on May 15, 2023 at 7:20 P. M. to consider A-23-27.

Remaining committee meetings for 5/15/23 are cancelled.

Reports of the Administration

Auditor Pittak – The April monthly report has been distributed. The state auditors are in their offices right now doing the yearly audit

Treasurer Ramsey: The April report have been distributed.

Law Director Pecora: No report

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report.

Mayor Costilow: Spoke to the Jackson Street issue. He said the only call he has received was to due with the two cars in the driveway. We sent the police out and they are registered. The ordinance that we have is not real clear about the operational issues. We do look closely at the back yard. There is a process. Last year it took pretty much the entire summer to get the right processes to get into the back yard. He explained the process for tall grass. He feels badly for the residents who live close by, but unfortunately, the home owner also has rights. He reminded everyone that we just can’t go into the back yard. If one of the neighbors wants to invite the Building Inspector to view this from their property, he can do that. Mrs. Linda Turley asked if there are any violations of the Zoning Code as far as this house is being used for storage? Mayor Costilow said that there is no law against storing personal items in your home. Mrs. Turley asked if the house could be condemned. Mayor Costilow said there are a lot of violations that have to be see in order for that to happen. He noted that we have to follow the laws.

Mr. Heberling motioned to accept the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Voice vote 6-0 to accept the Reports of the Administration

Acknowledge the receipt of the April reports from the Auditor and Treasurer:

Mr. Wachholz motioned to acknowledge the receipt of the April reports from the Auditor and Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Voice vote 6-0 to acknowledge the receipt of the reports.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:25.