

Amherst City Council met in a Regular Session under full compliance of State Law with President Wasilk opening the meeting at 7:00 p. m. Roll call: Ms. Harmych. Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Mowcomber, Mr. Janik Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Winiarski , Mr. Dembinski, Also present were Mayor Costilow, , Auditor Phillips, Treasurer Miller, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys, Law Director Pecora. Safety/Service Director Jeffreys was absent and had a letters on file. Mr. Dembinski motioned to excuse Mr. Jeffreys as he had a letter on file. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Voice vote 7-0 to excuse Mr. Jeffreys. Also present in council chambers was Mr. Bob Butkowski.

The Prayer was invoked by Chaplain Janik, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Sgt. At Arms Dembinski.

Consent Agenda: The Clerk read the Consent Agenda. Mr. Dembinski motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Voice vote 7-0 to approve 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 the Mayor of the City of Amherst, Ohio to enter into an agreement to amend the Joint Economic Development District with Amherst Township pursuant to Section 715.70(K) of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring an emergency. (A-26-24)

Mayor Costilow asked for approval of this ordinance. The two property owners are planning on developing those lands. Township has done all this work and this would put it in place sooner. It would firm things up if we adopt this. Mr. Nahorn motioned to suspend all council rules so that this may be adopted in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Mowcomber. Roll call vote 7-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Wachholz motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 6-1 with Mr. Dembinski voting no to adopt. Becomes 0-26-20

- (b) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor of the City of Amherst, Ohio to enter into a Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement for the purchase of a certain portion of Parcel No. 05-00-039-104-019; and declaring an emergency. (A-26-25)

Mayor Costilow said he had originally talked about adopting this quickly, but a few more weeks will not negatively affect anything. He has found out a few more things about expenses and the shapes of the facilities there. The bleachers were examined and they seemed sound. He and the building inspector went over there one day and basically, there are no code violations. No updates would be needed, we could use it as it is. One toilet needs to be replaced. Depending on which group uses it, whether there are concessions or what, it could be used as a lower level of a food license. It might need updates depending on what the group using it wants to serve. It could be used as it is now – there is a dilapidated gutter there right now, but the church said they will repair it. The actual closing costs should be somewhat minimal. They are all typical, like splitting the warranty deeds. A \$600,000 warranty deed is somewhere around \$4000 so that's split 50/50 between buyer and seller and would be north of \$2000 a piece. He spoke further of these type of costs. He is not real aware of what the escrow charge would be. He could work with a title office to get a real estimate of what closing costs would be. But predicts they will be minimal. Drainage is something our sewer department has looked at about what improvements might be needed. He spoke to some people who were part of the original building, and they had some ideas of how things were done, and what's under the ground. But he's sure our own people can figure this out. The ballfields - since it's not that many years ago since they were used so they are in pretty good shape. We can get some volunteers who can assess the fields and even in worst case, you are looking at \$8000 in sand and labor if you completed restore the sand fields. But he does not think the little league needs that. But he would rely on the expertise of some of the groups. He does not think fixing the fields would be an astronomical cost and feels there would be volunteers to get them up to standards. The parking and driveway can be used "as is." In the future we can look at our budgets and see what can be fixed. We can do various things to make things work as it exists. He has a good feeling there will be money in the budget to do that next year. We can do this as we have the money and we see fit. He advised to pass this on the next reading, as this is a large project.

Mr. Bob Butkowski of 823 Moss Canyon, S. Amherst spoke. He is with the Amherst Athletic Association and has been with them about 15 years now. He has been in contact and working with Mr. Winiarski. It's been a lot of work over the years. The St. Joe's thing is beautiful. It's about time that something happened with this. Our last use of that field was pre-COVID. For whatever reason unbeknown to us they never opened the fields again. So he is very anxious to see about this. He is very, very eager to partner and be a sounding board. They used to get a lot of use out of those fields. Right now if we were to revert back to how we were, there would probably be 36 teams to use those four fields. Tee-ballers and coach pitch would be primary. He has questioned every year – people come and ask and church members who are volunteers ask about these fields. He feels there would be community support to get this up and running. There are a lot of parents who have kids playing on those fields when they themselves have played there. He is over the moon about this and hopes we can get this done.

Mr. Winiarski said to add to what Mr. Butkowski said, as far as the cost, what they experienced, they had a fixed field. The numbers came in a bit north of \$15,000 but would have been more had we not had about 50 volunteers to help. He named some items that would be needed to get this done. He noted that Mr. Janik was there for that day, along with AFSCME employees. Labor could be free and city could help with expenses.

Mr. Winiarski motioned to send this to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski, Mayor Costilow invited all to his office if anyone has any questions. Roll call vote 7-0 to pass to the second reading.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING: NONE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING: NONE

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: Mr. Nahorn pointed out that the post office box has been replaced on Park Avenue, across from Main Street. It had been taken down when the street was redone a few years ago. He has gone through a number of hoops and heard from a lot of individuals asking about this post office box. He finally talked with Congressman Latta, who was very helpful and got a letter to the post master general. Finally, we were able to get this post office box back and many people will be able to use this and not fight traffic on 58 just to mail a letter. Hopefully, that will be useful and convenient for many people in town.

Mr. Mowcomber thanked Mr. Butkowski for coming down. It is great to know that 36 teams will be using these fields and it justifies and makes it easier passing this ordinance.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

No Agenda Requests were presented, so all committee Meetings for Monday, May 18 are cancelled.

Reports from the Administration:

Auditor Phillips: The April Auditor Reports have been distributed

Treasurer: The April Treasurer Reports have been distributed.

Law Director: Reported that he, Mr. Ward and Mr. Jeffreys had a meeting with the Ohio Supreme Court about the Mayor's Court and the progress and we are moving in the right directions for the Mayor's Court. Additional forms will be filled out then it will all be handed over to our Mayor.

Mayor Costilow: Reported he may have one item for next week committee meetings but is waiting for information. He was advised that we will be applying for some grants for the WWTP. There is interest free EPA funding available. He will try to get us that information as quickly as possible. He will ask for that to be adopted quickly. He spoke further and reminded us that we just paid off our previous loan. As far as DORA, everyone knows he is against it. But he is truly concerned and wants to make sure it's done right. If anyone wants to talk to him about this, they are welcome to come to his office for conversation. He will help with the legislative process to make sure we are doing this right. He can oppose this, but also make sure it's done correctly. He feels that possibly there are steps that are being missed and he wants to catch those. There are possibly some improvements that can be made to the plan that would benefit both the downtown and city of Amherst. He again invited conversation to this matter. Call his office.

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

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the Auditor and Treasurer monthly reports for April, 2026:

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

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Olga Sivinski, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wasilk, President of Council