

COUNCIL PRESIDENT-JENNIFER WASILK
COUNCIL AT LARGE-DAVID JANIK
COUNCIL AT LARGE-MARTIN HEBERLING
COUNCIL AT LARGE- CHUCK WINIARSKI

COUNCIL WARD ONE-BRIAN DEMBINSKI
COUNCIL WARD TWO-BECKY HARMYCH
COUNCIL WARD THREE-JAKE WACHHOLZ
COUNCIL WARD FOUR-MATT NAHORN

CITY OF AMHERST, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COUNCIL
(440) 988-2420
(440) 988-2570 fax

OLGA SIVINSKI
206 SOUTH MAIN STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001
council@amherstohio.org

Minutes of the Streets Committee Meeting held May 6, 2024, at 7:22 P.M. Present in Council Chambers were Chairman Nahorn, Mr. Winiarski, Ms. Harmych, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Dembinski, President of Council Wasilk, Mayor Costilow, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys, Law Director Pecora, Assistant Law Director Ward and Auditor Phillips. Treasurer Ramsey was absent and was excused earlier.

A-24-25 Authorization to enter into an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Co. for bridge work within the City; emergency

Mayor Costilow spoke to this subject. He spoke to safety concerns and requested repairs. The railroad has committed to repairs in phases. They understand the need to maintain traffic flow. Due to the additional cost of construction materials to heighten the bridge, they have made some changes. But he has made a commitment as well, because they are willing to raise the height, of Main Street Bridge by 1 ½ ', making it 14' tall. So due to those extra costs, they are going to close West Street. It will cause some inconveniences, but they will have to start using Main Street. Very few cities have three underpasses that close together, anyway. It's going to be a couple year project. They will also repair the concrete wall on Tenney Avenue. This contract, after some back and forth, this is the best he has worked with the railroad and it's been a pleasure. Council has to vacate West Street. Plans committed to a height of 14 feet, some lighting, and there will be some responsibilities that City may have had to take care of such as utilities, and transmission lines. They will be fairly expensive to move. But AMP Ohio owns them now, and we will do the work and AMP Ohio will pay us to do it. The water line will have to be moved - a \$70-75,000 project. Other projects that we can do ourselves. He will bring some of the projects to council for the costs of the \$75,000. They hope to send this out for bid mid-summer with construction to begin later this year. Church Street and Main Street will probably get done simultaneously. Then they will close West Street. We purchased that house and property and we have worked out a long term lease which will give us extra parking once that is closed. The new parking lot will give us over 80 new parking spots. He feels like it's almost too good to be true. He hopes Council agrees with this contract.

Mr. Janik thanked him for the wonderful news and the work he has done on this. The downtown will also look better and safety is especially important. When you walk under the bridge, sometimes you can feel water dripping on you. He asked about the West Street track and Mayor Costilow said it will be filled in with dirt and grass planted. There will be no bridge and no structure. Mr. Janik asked if we can get a commitment from the bridge about sometimes the cars sitting there. Mayor said this will be above road so there will be no obstructions. Mr. Janik wanted something that says they can't park the trains. Mayor Costilow said that's a federal thing and there is nothing we can do about that, but it's above the tracks and won't be an issue.

Mr. Winiarski was looking for an obligation that once you touch the bridge from the railroad, you own the bridge. He did not see that. It appears to him that we are only obligated to continue the work we are currently doing after the improvements are made. Mayor said that bridge belongs to the railroad along with the maintenance. It's their property and we don't have a right to go on without asking them when we need to do work on it. We will be responsible for the lights and the lighting. Mr. Winiarski congratulated the mayor on a job well done.

Mr. Winiarski motioned to take this to the floor of Council. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Voice vote 7-0 to send to the floor of council.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P. M.

Matt Nahorn, Chairman
Streets Committee