

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of WEST CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR Meeting

Held August 22,

2023

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sanner at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

PRESENT: Mayor Jeff Sanner, Councilmembers Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, Rick Dobson, Amanda Zennie, and Rick Barnhart. City Staff - City Manager Brad Townsend, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Planning & Community Development Director Greg Gaines, Police Chief Doug Woodard, and Clerk of Council Tracy Moore.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Jill Tomlin

MINUTES

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mrs. Zennie to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2023. A vote was taken: Mrs. Fryman-abstain, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Dobson-abstain, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Barnhart-yes, and Mayor Sanner-yes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Hope for the Day's 2023 National Suicide Prevention & Action Month Proclamation

Mayor Sanner read the proclamation in its entirety.

COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE

Lucas VanAusdoll, from 2170 West Alex-Bell Road, stated he was addressing Council to speak on behalf of the citizens of West Carrollton. He stated there is an issue in West Carrollton regarding citizens not following the rules of code enforcement. He spoke about assistance he provides to citizens who have a need in this area. Mr. VanAusdoll also spoke about a specific situation that occurred at a residence on Central Avenue last week. In summary, he expressed concerns regarding the way the city code enforcement officers handled the situation. He stated ordinances weren't followed and the residents weren't told the truth about assistance offered by others. He also stated a comment made by a Councilmember on Facebook was untrue. Mr. VanAusdoll encouraged everyone to work together to share ideas to help community members. He provided Councilmembers with a handout that includes different resources available for the elderly, disabled, or others in need of assistance. Mr. VanAusdoll also encouraged anyone struggling from mental health to contact the suicide hotline at 988 for confidential assistance 24 hours a day. He stated there were others that wanted to address Council this evening to share their concerns, but were scared of possible retaliation if they made their address known. He concluded by stating the group he works with are not a one-time wonder, but continually work to help others in need.

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Melea Butcher, from 13 Reddington Court, addressed Council to speak about her concerns regarding the zoning department and the situation that occurred at the residence on Central Avenue. She stated in her professional years and personal life, the zoning department has been under scrutiny for illegal actions, threats, lying, and favoritism. She stated many residents are too frightened to come forward for fear of retaliation. In summary, Mrs. Butcher continued by expressing additional comments and opinions on how things could be handled differently within the zoning department. She thanked Council for listening. She also commented on how well the road construction has been handled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance 3755 - An Ordinance Approving A Major Amendment To The South Alex Road Planned Unit Development District By Adding "Recreation - Commercial Recreation Facilities" As A Permitted Use Within The PUD.

Mayor Sanner stated this is the second reading of this ordinance, and asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none.

Mr. Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Dobson to approve ordinance 3755. A vote was taken: Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Barnhart-yes, and Mayor Sanner-yes.

NEW BUSINESS

None

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

None

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Comments by the Audience

Karen Findlay, West Carrollton Library Branch Manager, addressed Council to give updates on upcoming events happening at the library.

- Twenty-four-hour lobby hold lockers will be installed in the lobby.
- Bi-lingual, Spanish and Chinese, story hours are being held once a month.

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- Several events will be held this fall for breast cancer awareness, including a mobile mammography unit on Saturday, September 2, a speaker for women on post-mastectomy, and painting breast cancer awareness pumpkins.
- The West Carrollton Library is being honored with a \$2,000 grant from the Heron Foundation to do library programming that addresses multi-cultural and family issues. This will include intentional programming to address immigrants that work for Fuyao.
- The library will be doing a program called the "Living Library" to learn more about individuals in our community to try to make connections between friends and neighbors. This program will be held November 27th, and she hopes to get community input on the topics to be discussed.
- In October, Sara Kaushal who is a local author, will join the book discussion group to discuss her new book, Dayton Ghosts and Legends.

Corey Gabriel, with Capabilities Play LLC, addressed Council to thank them for their support and approval of the PUD amendment. He hopes to open the business by Halloween. He also stated he looks forward to doing a ribbon cutting with the city.

Comments by Council

Mr. Dobson advised he would read a written speech regarding the situation that occurred at the residence on Central Avenue. In summary, he thanked citizens for attending the meeting to express their feelings and concerns. He assured the public there will be an appropriate review of all actions taken by city employees to verify the appropriate protocols were followed. However, he did express his concern regarding the public who entered onto the personal property of an employee, and stated it could cause fear and intimidation. A full copy of Mr. Dobson's speech can be obtained by contacting Tracy Moore, Clerk of Council. Finally, Mr. Dobson spoke about the upcoming election in November and encouraged citizens to run for the empty City Council seat and West Carrollton School Board seats.

Mr. Tilton stated he made a recommendation for zoning officers to wear body cameras moving forward to avoid he said/she said situations. He also encouraged citizens to reach out to Councilmembers when there is a problem so they can assist. Finally, he reiterated Mr. Dobson's point about the vacancies on Council and the School Board and encouraged citizens to get involved.

Mrs. Zennie thanked the citizens who attended the meeting to share their concerns. She also thanked them for their assistance. She encouraged citizens to contact the City Manager and/or Councilmembers when they have concerns or issues versus going to an employee's residence. She shared her concerns for the employee and their family members well-being. She also assured Council will review and consider all facts in this situation.

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Mr. Barnhart thanked the citizens who attended the meeting for their input, but stated he wished it would have come sooner. He clarified for anyone watching the meeting, this situation did not start on Friday. He stated notification of the problem was made with the resident and family members earlier in the week, and they were aware this was coming at some point. He advised Council will review the situation to ensure the process was followed appropriately by city staff. He also thanked the citizens who assisted the family.

Mayor Sanner thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and sharing their concerns with Council in a calm manner. He also reiterated Council will look into the situation further.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Sanner moved, seconded by Mrs. Fryman to adjourn the City Council Meeting of August 22, 2023. A vote was taken: Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Barnhart-yes, and Mayor Sanner-yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor