Minutes of WEST CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR Meeting

Held_____ April 23, 2024

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Rick Dobson, Jill Tomlin, Amanda Zennie, Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, and Mike Boyle. City Staff - City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Police Chief Doug Woodard, Fire Chief Chris Barnett, Service Director Rich Norton, Finance Director Julie Duffy, and Clerk of Council Tracy Moore.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Barnhart stated that he would like to amend the agenda per City Manager Holloway's request to include a second Executive Session topic pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the employment or compensation of a public employee.

Mr. Tilton moved, seconded by Mrs. Fryman to amend the agenda to include a second Executive Session topic pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the employment or compensation of a public employee. A vote was taken: Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

MINUTES

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 9, 2024. A vote was taken: Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-abstain, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Barnhart stated there are three proclamations on the agenda that honor the city's employees.

Proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week

Mrs. Fryman read the proclamation.

Proclamation for National Police Week

Mayor Barnhart read the proclamation.

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Proclamation for National Emergency Medical Services Week

Mr. Tilton read the proclamation.

Oath of Office for Patrol Officer James Hunter Bowling

Chief Woodard gave a background on Patrol Officer Bowling. He also conducted a badge pinning ceremony, which involved Officer Bowling's wife, family, friends, and coworkers. Mayor Barnhart administered the Oath of Office.

Mayor Barnhart and Councilmembers congratulated and welcomed Officer Bowling to the city. They also thanked all of city staff for what they do to serve the community.

COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE

The following citizens expressed their concerns regarding the potential lane reduction and addition of bike lanes on South Alex Road:

Philip Reynolds of 1805 Sheltering Tree Road

Brenda Doran of 395 East Blossom Hill Road

Charles Belknap of 1631 Longbow Lane

Steven Pierce of 1357 King Richard Parkway

Leanne Nash of 754 Heincke Road

Jeannett Pett of 22 East Pease Avenue

Melea Butcher of 13 Reddington Court

Debbie Seman of 1625 Longbow Lane

Many of these same citizens complimented the services of the City, Police and Fire Departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

<u>Ordinance 3771</u> – An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of West Carrollton, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024, Amending Ordinance 3765, And Repealing Any Ordinances In Conflict Herewith.

Mayor Barnhart stated this is the second reading of this ordinance. He asked if there were additional questions or comments for Ms. Holloway. There were none.

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Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mrs. Zennie to approve Ordinance 3771. A vote was taken: Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-abstain, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

NEW BUSINESS

None

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

City Manager Holloway congratulated Patrol Officer Bowling and welcomed him to the city. She also congratulated Mike Long on his retirement. Finally, she thanked all of City Council on behalf of city staff for their proclamations honoring the EMS, Police and Public Service Recognition Weeks.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Comments by the Audience

None

Comments by Council

Councilmembers thanked the citizens for their attendance and offering their perspective. They encouraged citizens to stay engaged. They reassured citizens the work session this evening is to gather information and for Council to be educated and given concepts to help make the best decisions regarding the roadway.

Mr. Dobson stated he personally believes the community should be aware of things that may or may not happen in the city. He assured there would not be a vote this evening.

Mrs. Tomlin encouraged citizens to reach out to Councilmembers if they have questions.

Mr. Tilton further explained there is a need to pave Alex Road, but to be eligible for grants and federal funding the lanes of the road would have to be widened. He also encouraged citizens to reach out to Councilmembers with questions.

Mr. Boyle mentioned the financial numbers vary greatly with the different options. He also encouraged citizens to contact him if they have questions.

Mayor Barnhart mentioned he attended the Lions Club 77th Charter Night with Mr. Dobson on April 16. He stated the group partners with many organizations, including the city, and does good for the citizens, especially the children. Mayor Barnhart congratulated the Lions Club on their 77th year. He also stated several members of Council and City Manager Holloway attended the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 18. Mayor Barnhart stated on Saturday, April 20 several Councilmembers attended a Ribbon Cutting for

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Capabilities Play for All Abilities. This facility offers year-round activities for kids with all abilities. He also stated that he attended the Riverway Summit with Deputy Mayor Fryman and Parks and Recreation Director Christian Mattingly. He stated many communities are looking at ways to build upon the riverway and offer activities to keep people in Ohio.

RECESS

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mrs. Tomlin to recess to a Work Session to discuss the items on the agenda. A vote was taken: Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mrs. Zennie to recess to an Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the employment or compensation of a public employee and 121.22 (G)(2): To consider the sale of property that is unneeded, to return for adjournment. A vote was taken: Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Rick Dobson, Jill Tomlin, Amanda Zennie, Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, and Mike Boyle. City Staff - City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Service Director Rich Norton, Police Chief Doug Woodard, and Fire Chief Chris Barnett.

Strand and Associates presented on the S. Alex Road Traffic Study. Jeff Heiman from Strand explained that the study area was from Kimberly Lane to Watertower Lane. He noted that S. Alex Road used to function as a main route in and out of town prior to the improvements to Exit 47, noting that there were 17,500 vehicles per day in 2009, and as of the traffic count in 2022, that number had been reduced to 12,500 vehicles per day. He explained that S. Alex Road currently maintains substandard lane widths. He presented crash data and then went on to present three potential alternatives to the current roadway configuration, two of which included reducing the lanes of travel from 5 to 3.

Council members asked a series of clarifying questions about the presentation.

Mr. Tilton asked if weekend traffic was evaluated. Mr. Heiman stated that traffic counts were taken from weekday a.m./p.m. peak hours. Mr. Tilton stated that traffic was a concern at 725 and Watertower Lane on the weekends.

Mr. Dobson noted that some of the traffic counts were from 2021. Mr. Heiman said crash data was 2017-2021 and traffic counts were 2022. He noted that the traffic counts could be recounted however an analysis was performed and evaluated against a growth factor. He explained that they would have grown the volumes in the model. He added that the background growth rate used in the model was 1/3 of a % annually, which was higher than what MVRPC long-range models suggest.

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Mr. Dobson asked about the downtown development and how that might impact S. Alex Road. Mr. Heiman acknowledged that this concern was raised last April. He explained that Strand performed a sensitivity analysis to understand how much growth could a 3-lane section of Alex Road handle before you see a drop in the level of service. Evaluated higher growth rate. 1% means 1% per year. Mr. Boyle said he felt that traffic counts needed to be redone.

Ms. Holloway asked Mr. Heiman if he had any concerns with the timing of the traffic counts. Mr. Heiman said no that it was not uncommon to use traffic counts done in the last 3-5 years.

Discussion ensued about traffic calming measures.

Mayor Barnhart suggested that we conduct updated traffic counts to see where they align with the 2022 counts. Ms. Zennie asked about the cost involved in leaving S. Alex Road as it is and repave it. Mr. Heiman advised that they estimated that it would cost approximately \$2-\$2.5 million.

Strand and Associates then presented the Central Avenue traffic study. Discussion ensued about bus patterns and the impact of restriping Central Avenue. Ms. Holloway noted that if we were to proceed, Central Avenue would have marks for several years from grinding off the old striping.

Work Session ended at 9:23 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Rick Dobson, Jill Tomlin, Amanda Zennie, Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, and Mike Boyle. City Staff - City Manager Amber Holloway and Law Director Lori Denlinger.

Council met in Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the employment or compensation of a public employee and ORC 121.22 (G)(2): To consider the sale of property that is unneeded.

Executive Session concluded at 10:16 p.m. and Council returned to the regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mrs. Tomlin to adjourn the City Council Meeting of April 23, 2024. A vote was taken: Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes. The meeting was adjourned at 10.16 p.m.

of Council

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