

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of WEST CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR Meeting

Held August 27, 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, Planning & Community Development Director Greg Gaines, Finance Director Julie Duffy, Police Chief Doug Woodard, and Clerk of Council Tracy Moore.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Tilton to amend the order of the agenda by moving the Communications and Presentations before the Public Hearings. 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 August 13, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Greater Dayton RTA Update – Nathan Owens

Nathan Owens, from the Greater Dayton RTA, addressed Council to provide a brief update on their services. Currently, the RTA offers 19 bus routes and also connect services that include a paratransit, on-demand, and 5310 program. Beginning Sunday, September 8, 2024, they will start a new route called the West Community Connector. This route will connect with 12 other routes, three Connect-On-Demand zones, and three transit centers to create better access to grocery stores, medical facilities and employment opportunities across Montgomery County. This route will go through West Carrollton.

Mr. Owens also advised Council beginning January 1, 2025, there will be a fare increase. This is the first in three annual increases. However, this is the first major increase since 2009. Finally, they are working on new signs that provide stop numbers so riders can text to find out bus arrival information. All of Mr. Owens information was presented via PowerPoint. A copy of this PowerPoint can be obtained by requesting it through the Clerk of Council, Tracy Moore.

Mr. Boyle asked Mr. Owens if riders were able to book a ride through an app. Mr. Owens answered that riders can track the bus through the app in real time, but since the buses are on fixed schedules they can't actually book a ride. He did say that customers who book paratransit trips can book them online or by calling the customer service number.

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Mr. Boyle also expressed a concern regarding a disabled passenger who was denied service. He inquired about additional upgrades to stops. Mr. Owens stated RTA loves to work with municipalities on community grants to offer 80/20 matches. He also advised Mr. Boyle that he would love to obtain more information on which stop he was referencing. Mr. Owens advised Mr. Boyle to share the information with Mrs. Moore so she could pass it along to him.

Hope for the Day's 2024 National Suicide Prevention & Action Month Proclamation

Mayor Barnhart stated the month of September is National Suicide Prevention & Action Month. The City prepared a Proclamation, and Mrs. Tomlin read it in its entirety.

Speaker from Montgomery County Prevention Coalition

Colleen Oakes, from the Montgomery County Prevention Coalition, provided Council a brief presentation to go along with the Suicide Prevention & Action Month Proclamation. Ms. Oakes explained the Prevention Coalition has 300 members from all across Montgomery County, made up of 7 subcommittees. She stated the Suicide Prevention Committee is the largest and most active committee. Ms. Oakes shared some statistics regarding suicide deaths, including there being 101 suicide deaths in Montgomery County during 2023.

Ms. Oakes also shared many resources that are available to citizens in need.

LocalHelpNow App	mc.localhelpnow.org	Connect to resources for mental health or substance abuse
Miami Valley Warmline	(937) 528-7777	Non-crisis situations, but when you need someone to talk to when you are having a hard time
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	988	National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - Will connect you with a local Ohio person in a crisis situation
Crisis Text Line	741 741	Crisis text option for anyone that doesn't want to pick up the phone.

Ms. Oakes provided some training resource organizations that are available to send employees regarding mental health and suicide prevention topics. She also provided the names of some organizations if Council and/or employees would like to volunteer. All of Ms. Oakes information was presented via PowerPoint. A copy of this PowerPoint can be obtained by requesting it through the Clerk of Council, Tracy Moore.

Mrs. Tomlin asked Ms. Oakes if her organization ever goes into the schools to speak. Ms. Oakes answered yes.

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Ms. Holloway asked what might constitute a crisis situation for someone to utilize the 988 number. Ms. Oakes answered, if you are unsure to call the number. Also, illicit drug use, alcohol use or suicide ideation would also be a reason to call.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance 3778 – An Ordinance Adopting Amendments To Chapter 159 Of The City Of West Carrollton Code Of Ordinances Known As “Planning And Development”, Amending Section 159.01, Comprehensive Plan Adopted, By Adopting The Western Lakes Master Plan As A Component Of The Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Gaines presented Ordinance 3778. He stated in 2021 the City engaged a consultant to conduct a master plan for the Western Lakes area, which comprises of 575 acres of land off of Farmersville-West Carrollton Road. The Planning Commission reviewed the Western Lakes Master Plan at the August 1, 2024, Planning Commission Meeting and unanimously recommended the adoption of the plan as an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. This plan was presented to City Council during the Work Session of the August 13, 2024 City Council Meeting. The Western Lakes Master Plan will serve as a guide for the City as it considers the future of the Western Lakes area.

Mayor Barnhart asked Council if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Barnhart opened the Public Hearing. He asked for anyone wishing to speak in favor of Ordinance 3778 to come to the podium and state their name and address for the Clerk of Council. There were no comments. Then he asked anyone wishing to speak against Ordinance 3778 to come to the podium and state their name and address for the Clerk of Council. There were no comments.

Mayor Barnhart closed the Public Hearing on Ordinance 3778. He stated Ordinance 3778 was presented as a first reading. It will be on the next agenda.

COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance 3775 – An Ordinance Vacating Central Lane Between Stadium Avenue And Cedar Street, A Public Street Comprising 1.141 Acres.

Mayor Barnhart stated this is the second reading of Ordinance 3775. He asked Council if they had additional questions or comments. There were none.

Mrs. Tomlin moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve Ordinance 3775. 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.

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Ordinance 3776 - An Ordinance Vacating A Portion Of East Main Street East Of Cedar Street, A Public Street Comprising 0.266 Acres.

Mayor Barnhart stated this is the second reading of Ordinance 3776. He asked Council if they had questions or comments. There were none.

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mrs. Zennie to approve Ordinance 3776. 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.

Ordinance 3777 – An Ordinance Extending The Moratorium On The Issuance And Processing Of Permits For Dispensaries, Cultivators Or Processors Of Adult Use Cannabis Within The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio.

Mayor Barnhart stated this is the second reading of Ordinance 3777. He asked Council if they had additional questions or comments. There were none.

Mr. Dobson moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve Ordinance 3777. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Employment Contract for Lori Denlinger

Mayor Barnhart stated under New Business there is an Employment Contract for Lori Denlinger for consideration. Ms. Denlinger's current contract is set to expire December 31, 2024. Ms. Denlinger presented Council with a contract that would allow her to stay on as the City's Law Director for another year, which would begin January 1, 2025, and end December 31, 2025. In the Council Packets, there was a detailed contract for Council's review. Mayor Barnhart asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Dobson to approve the Employment Contract for Lori Denlinger to continue as Law Director from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. 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.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

City Manager Holloway advised Thursday, August 29, 2024, will be the final in the Summer Concert Series. The band will be Stranger, and the concert will be held at 1 South Elm Street. Food trucks open at 6:30 p.m. She also reported we will begin renovations under the I75 Alex-Bell underpass. This project is scheduled to start on September 3, 2024, and is expected to take sixty days to complete. It will include updated lighting, new landscaping, decorative banner poles, etc. She stated she does not believe traffic will be impacted, but there will be sidewalk closures during this time period. Ms. Holloway also congratulated Director Gaines on a recent

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CDBG award for fiscal year 2024. The City was just notified we were awarded \$41,250 CDBG funding that will help us embark on gateway signage updates.

Law Director Denlinger thanked Mayor Barnhart and Council for the appointment and approval of her Employment Contract. She stated she looked forward to working with Council through 2025.

Director Gaines congratulated Ms. Denlinger.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Comments by the Audience

None

Comments by Council

Mr. Dobson encouraged citizens to register to vote. Applications can be picked up at a variety of locations, including the library. He also encouraged citizens to consider working at the polls on Election Day.

Mrs. Tomlin thanked all of Council for being like minded on the Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Month. She thanked Ms. Oakes for her presentation. Mrs. Tomlin also thanked the West Carrollton Schools, especially Mr. Mundy, for the tour of the building being constructed for grades two through four. She stated she attended that tour with Mrs. Zennie and they both appreciated it.

Mrs. Fryman thanked Ms. Denlinger for continuing her employment another year.

Mr. Tilton stated he attended a Hope for West Carrollton Meeting that was very informative. One organization that stuck out to him was Reading Allies, which originated in Alabama. Their mission is helping literacy in children. They are attempting to roll this program out here in West Carrollton with first graders. The organization is looking for volunteers. Additional information about the organization can be found at <https://readingallies.org/>. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit <https://readingallies.org/volunteer>. Mr. Tilton also mentioned the Pirate Packs, and Mr. Mundy elaborated on the topic. Pirate Packs feeds over 400 kids every weekend. This is a food supplement program where children are able to take food packs home with them to give them food to last them through the weekend. Mr. Mundy stated that they usually pack on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Payne Recreation Center in Moraine, and are always looking for additional volunteers. Additional information can be found at piratepacks.org. Mr. Tilton also mentioned that Pirate Packs will be holding a 5k on September 7, 2024, as a fundraising event. Mr. Tilton mentioned that he attended a meeting at the Miami Valley Communications Council that provided a Fiber Optics update. He stated they are willing to come in and provide Council an update if we are interested. Finally, Mr. Tilton recognized the importance of suicide awareness and prevention.

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Mr. Boyle congratulated Ms. Denlinger on her Employment Contract. He also stressed the importance of acknowledging the suicide prevention and mental health topic, especially with first responders. Finally, Mr. Boyle thanked all of City Staff for their hard work.

Mayor Barnhart thanked Ms. Denlinger for continuing her employment for another year. He also stressed the importance of the suicide prevention topic.

RECESS

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to recess to a Work Session to discuss the items on the agenda, to be followed by 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, and Finance Director Julie Duffy

Supplemental Appropriation – Julie Duffy

City Manager Holloway walked Council through a proposed supplemental appropriation impacting the Law Enforcement & Education, Recreation, Code Enforcement, and River District Funds. She advised that she would like to bring the supplemental back to City Council on September 10th as an emergency.

Referring to the Code Enforcement Fund request of \$30,000 for SafeBuilt, Mr. Boyle asked if we were receiving a higher permit volume, and indicated that he would be interested to see this data. Deputy Mayor Fryman expressed some concern over whether Code was being applied correctly, giving an example of an item that could have been handled in-house being sent to SafeBuilt for review. Mr. Dobson commented about the City's permit fees, noting that they were higher than before, using a sign permit as an example. He stated that his understanding was that our permit fees would be better, and wanted ensure we weren't overpricing our permits. Mr. Boyle then asked how many permits that could be in-house are being sent out because of workload capacity. City Manager Holloway stated that she believed only commercial permits were being sent out, and that Staff was handling all they could at the internal level. She went on to say that she would verify this for the next meeting.

Referring to the request to increase the appropriation for the River District Fund, Mr. Tilton inquired about the additional studies that needed to be done and why they were not included in the original budget. Mr. Boyle indicated he was concerned with the rising costs of this project, especially when you add in the Western Lakes Master Plan. City Manager Holloway advised that she believed these additional costs were outside of the original scope, more along the lines of a pre-construction item, but that she would comb through the contract to be sure. Mr. Dobson expressed concern over the rising cost of the development and asked why these studies were

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not planned as part of the initial assessment of the river to determine if we could build the park. He advised that he would like clarity on the contract, and the contract amount. Councilmember Tomlin asked when we would have all the studies we needed. City Manager Holloway responded that this was a multi-million-dollar project and that while she understood their concern, there would likely be additional needs as this project continues. General discussion on this item ensued.

Mr. Boyle asked to discuss this topic in a special meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024 to allow time for further discussion, and for the City Manager to gather additional information before this went to a vote. Council agreed.

Public Safety Hiring

City Manager Holloway presented on public safety hiring, showcasing to Council both the Police and Fire Departments and their hiring processes.

Ms. Zennie expressed that having a good reputation for our public safety departments was important to her. She inquired whether we could do more with the staff we have.

Mr. Tilton asked what our Fire Department's minimum staffing goal was. Mr. Dobson then asked how many Firefighters we aimed to have at each station. Mr. Boyle expressed concern over how frequently open positions in the Fire Department were being shared on social media.

With respect to recruitment, Mr. Tilton stated that CTC should also be a place we recruit and added that firehouse.com was a good resource. He added that perhaps we need to consider covering costs for the basic fire academy as well. City Manager Holloway advised that she was open to all options and would look into them.

General discussion about the department, hiring, and recruitment processes ensued.

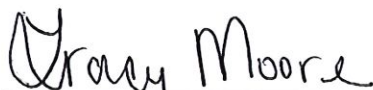
EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mayor Barnhart to adjourn the City Council Meeting of August 27, 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 9:51 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor