

September 22, 2022

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Meeting in Council Chambers

Harry Brumbaugh, William Garner, Don Gephart, Reilly Hopkins, Tyler McCollister and Josh Parks were present. Mayor Carman presided over the meeting. Due to Zoom connection issues, meeting didn't start until 7:30 p.m.

Mayor: At the last council meeting there was a motion and a second to add public comment back on the agenda but there was no time mentioned. When do you want this to start? Mr. Gephart would like public comment to start at the next meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

PARKS/HOPKINS: Motion to add public comment after agenda and to resume at tonight's meeting. All voted yea except for Mr. Gephart.

MCCOLLISTER/PARKS: Motion to approve the agenda as presented. All voted yea.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Carman announced public comment and reminded everyone of the three minutes rule.

Mr. James Constable, resident at 135 Orchard View Lane, would like Mayor Carman, solicitor or someone to check into the number of signatures needed for a referendum petition. The original number of signatures needed for the income tax petition turned out to be twice as more than the number given by someone at the Mayor's Office. They also indicated the Charter requiring more than the state law. They were told they needed to go by the Charter instead of the state law. He doesn't believe a Charter can override a state law. The solicitor stated the Charter takes precedence over a state law.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from September 8, 2022 were presented to Council.

MCCOLLISTER/GEPHART: Motion to approve minutes with spelling correction of William Garner's name. All voted yea.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS & REALLOCATIONS:**

Mr. Parks would like to discuss line #19. He thought council had agreed to discuss reimbursement before paying for reimbursements. Mayor Carman reported that reimbursements is on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Parks asked for clarification before approving the bills. Mayor Carman presented a memo from May 2021 between the former fiscal officer, auditor on site, and himself. The end result was that they prefer a W-9, but not all bands provide W-9. All bands want to be paid after the event which is usually after office hours. The other option that the auditor gave us for audit paper trail was to create a policy. All documentation must accompany can be found attached to check reimbursement. A letter/memo was created by the fiscal officer. It states that band that is being paid and how much they are receiving from the Chairman along with their flyer. Then we reimburse Mr. Tom Lee after the bills are approved. All documents are attached to the memo and filed.

Mr. Hopkins argued the fact that Tom Lee shouldn't be paying the bands out of pocket. Where is the comparison to do this for someone else? He stated that Mayor Carman compared this to paying utilities. If an employee gets charged a bad bill, they will get a check for reimbursement. Mr. Hopkins didn't agree that the comparison was accurate. Mr. Hopkins doesn't think this is a sufficient way of doing things. Mr. Hopkins asked the solicitor if he agreed with this method. Scott Sollmann, solicitor, agreed that this documentation is sufficient. Tom Lee brought up the fact that bands do not want to issue a W-9.

HOPKINS/MCCOLLISTER: Motion to pay the bills and reallocation. All voted yea.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance-

Safety/Service-Change meeting time to 6:30 p.m.

Street-Curb work has started.

Cemetery-Dale Cochran, cemetery sexton, has leveled several grave sites and we are continuing to maintain the grounds

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Richard Formmeyer  
Q/A-

Do we give you all of the books at one time?

They can take all the books at once and scan them as quickly as possible and send them back or they can take one book at a time.

How long will we be without the books?

They will try and work as fast as possible and they have been doing this since 1934. As they scan the books in a PDF file, they can start sending them to us.

If your company went out of business, how does that affect us?

If that happens, we would have the entire code in word. We could switch to another company or trying to do it ourselves. He suggested to use single column format.

Mayor Carman mentioned cost to put on file to send to us. Mr. Formmeyer suggested we get a copy of the code and ask for an updated copy. The branches are located in Cincinnati and Columbus.

Mayor Carman asked to go over cost.

Mr. Formmeyer mentioned the following rates:

40% down acceptance of agreement

40% when they send us a draft-legal review, and approval

Balance when project is complete

All is negotiable.

Mayor Carman asked if 20K is the initial cost.

Mr. Formmeyer confirmed that 20K is the initial codification fee and to get it on line is \$1495.00 (first year \$1495-thereafter \$495 year to keep on line).

He suggested we budget \$3k a year for additional unknown changes.

Is the \$20k a base price for all municipalities?

Mr. Formmeyer stated the price is based population size.

Is the \$20K negotiable size?

if the page amount is less than 650, they will issue a credit.

MCCOLLISTER-Motion to do it with the offer presented.

HOPKINS: Motion to negotiate 40% down

MCCOLLISTER/GEPHART- Amended motion to let our solicitor review the agreement before we sign it then allow Mayor to bring it back to council and negotiate terms.

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Department Reports

Solicitor- Public Request Policy to be discussed next council meeting. Hopkins commented that some have complained about how vague our charter description is. Allowing something to be put on the ballot for future votes on an updated charter. He would like to the process.

Parks –Mr. Tom Lee announced the Blue Grass Festival is coming up and Halloween Bash. The Fishing Derby was a success.

Police –Chief Houghton had a meeting with the Blanchester 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about bullying in conjunction with Talbert House. Four officers will be attending active shooting training. They are in the process of hiring a full-time/step A officer, Dallas Miracle. He is a backfill for Miller who is now a part-time auxiliary officer.

HOPKINS/PARKS-Motion to move forward with hiring Dalla Miracle

Street –Curb work has started.

Zoning –Tabled a few issued until FURTHER REVIEW next meeting. BZA hearing for conditional use permit is scheduled for 10/17/2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Fiscal Officer—Cyndi reported that the \$60k Legacy Grant has arrived and this week she contacted the County Engineers Office to request the \$117k as partial reimbursement for the road resurfacing. The Engineer will request that the commissioners release the money to us.

Mayor--

Taco Bell is still working on the title. Map office about zoning questions and the eluded they are still working on it and their attentive closing date is November.

Executive Session

none

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.  
HOPKINS/MCCOLLISTER:

Approved: 10-13-2022

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Cynthia J. Vandenberg

