

TO BE PUBLISHED

Minutes for the Woodburn City Council Meeting on November 21st, 2022:

The meeting began at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance was Mayor Kelsey, Clerk-Treasurer Cummins, Superintendent Walls as well as Council Members Sarrazine, Gerig, and Watts. Chief Parker and Council Members Thompson and Martin were not present. Rachel Black with Allen County Department of Planning Services and David Dominguez with Baker Tilly were also present.

The Mayor opened the public hearing for consideration of an increase to the water utility rates at 7:08pm after David gave a brief description as to why the City has presented this ordinance for consideration. A resident went over data from the last several decades and had questions about why the proposed figure was so high. He also explained that he finds that the water is not drinkable. Another resident read a portion of the City's CCR report for 2021 that declares certain groups with health conditions may be more vulnerable to water contaminants, and that he is in one of those groups. The Superintendent stated that the report explains that the City of Woodburn has passed any tests that either the State or IDEM has mandated for a producer of water. Another resident asked if the City softening the water would be a possibility at a future date. They also asked if the minimum bill could be lowered below a 2,000 gallon monthly minimum. Councilman Watts explained that in order to have access to the service, there is a minimum cost, in this case, calculated in gallons, but that this could be expected for any utility service. David then explained that most communities will have a monthly minimum consumption amount of anywhere between 2,000 and 3,000 gallons. Another resident inquired as to why these increases were occurring. Another resident asked why his sewer bill is going up throughout the year. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that sewer rate increases were changed in the first billing cycle of this year and that there were no additional changes during the year. A resident asked why certain charges were listed on this ordinance and the Superintendent explained that a portion of these charges did not apply to him directly. A resident inquired as to why sales tax is charged when no-one owns it. The Clerk-Treasurer explained that this a State level tax and that the City of Woodburn has no control over it whatsoever. Another resident asked if the City could make future mailing letters more clear. The Clerk-Treasurer recognized that the mailer was difficult to read, and that in the future, will try to make it more readable. The Clerk-Treasurer referenced a letter from a resident that was submitted prior to the meeting as he was not able to attend this meeting. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:36pm.

Chief's Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor spoke with the company that sells the light bulbs that go into the units on Main Street that are currently not working. He determined with the consultant that the non-functioning components need to be replaced with a more available alternative, and that this will take place soon. The Mayor went over details regarding a light pole located in front of the Willy's restaurant that needs to be replaced by AEP. The Stellar Sidewalk project work on Carl and Becker should be completed by the end of the year with the remaining work to be accomplished next year.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report: The meeting minutes were presented from the November 7th meeting. After discussion, Councilman Gerig moved to accept the minutes from the November 7th meeting as amended, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. The warrants were presented. After discussion,

Councilman Gerig moved to pay the warrants as presented, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. The Clerk-Treasurer is still asking for assistance from Council and the Mayor in collecting annual hydrant fees that were historically paid by the Maumee and Milan Townships. These invoices have not been paid under the explanation that a change in the collection of tax levy that has now gone to the East Central Fire Territory has impacted the reasonableness to pay.

Councilmen's Report: A rezoning request was submitted through Allen County and has come for final approval at tonight's meeting in the form of Ordinance 22-1412 (Rezoning Request RE: 21801 Woodburn Road). This ordinance was initially presented at the last meeting but due to the number of Council members present at that meeting, has returned to be approved at this meeting. After discussion, Councilman Watts moved to read Ordinance 22-1412 by title only, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. Councilman Gerig moved to accept the second reading of Ordinance 22-1412, second by Councilman Watts, all present in favor. Councilman Watts moved to adopt Ordinance 22-1412 as presented, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. Ordinance 22-1412 is ratified as presented. Councilman Watts mentioned that 5 – 6 homes have started construction in the Homestead Addition.

Audience: Rachel described the reasons to introduce and pass Ordinance 22-1413 (Designating EDTA #1 as Ashler Pointe and EDTA #2 as Homestead Place). This is to designate the areas that are currently building new homes as economic development target areas in order to change the way those properties are taxed for a period of time. The collection of taxes from these areas will reimburse infrastructure costs for these areas. After discussion, Councilwoman Sarrazine moved to read Ordinance 22-1413 by title only, second by Councilman Gerig, all present in favor. Councilman Gerig moved to accept the first reading of Ordinance 22-1413, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. David went over questions regarding the potential changes to the water rates. After discussion, Councilwoman Sarrazine moved to read Ordinance 22-1411 (Amend Water Rates) by title only, second by Councilman Watts, all present in favor. Councilman Watts moved to accept the second reading of Ordinance 22-1411, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. Councilman Gerig thanked the Superintendent and his crew for doing so well with leaf pickup this season.

Councilman Watts moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Councilwoman Sarrazine, all present in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14pm.

Go to www.cityofwoodburn.org to see previously approved minutes and recent community news.