Willard, Ohio

April 3, 2023

The Council of the City of Willard met in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2023, with the President of Council calling the meeting to order. The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor James Pomerich.

**ROLL CALL:** The Clerk called the roll and reported the following councilpersons present: Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson and Sattig.

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the Regular Council meeting on March 20, 2023, were presented for approval. In that copies were furnished to each Councilperson prior to the meeting, there was no request they be read. Moved by Olson seconded by Babcock that they be approved as received. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**CITIZENS DISCUSSIONS:**

* George Rohaly- 569 Butte- asked if the handicap ramps at intersections were still being installed and thanked the workers that did the clean up around the community after the storm.

**BID PROPOSALS:**

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

* Diana Olson and Joe Daniel were nominated members to the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council. All council members were in favor.
* Moved by Olson seconded by Babcock that council accept the lateral transfer of police officer, Aaron Gibson. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** None.

**TABLED ITEMS:** None.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

1. Charter/Legislative – McKenzie, Johnson
2. Finance –Olson, Sattig
3. Public Works – Babcock, Daniel
4. Safety – Babcock, Daniel, Olson
5. Utilities – McKenzie, Daniel, Olson

**REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:**

**REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER:** The City Manager’s report was reviewed as it was presented to Council.

Reminder that this Friday is Good Friday, and the City Hall will be closing at noon.

The next food giveaway is April 17th, from 3-5 pm.

Columbia Gas has pulled permits with the city to start their Howard Street Gas Replacement Project the week of April 17th. Some other partially affected streets include Tiffin Street, Ash Street, Spangler Street, Olive Street, Crestwood Drive, Hillcrest Drive, Maplewood Street, Leonard Street and Conwell Avenue. The Spring Street Replacement Project was previously scheduled for 2023 but has been delayed to next year.

The city has contracted with AccuMed Group for our new EMS billing. Customers will still be charged the same rate for EMS services. The only difference is AccuMed Group will be issuing the invoice instead of Change Health.

The fire department received a $10,000 grant that will be used for equipment.

The City of Willard is accepting applications for the Community Garden. Applications are available to print at [www.willardohio.gov](http://www.willardohio.gov).

Reminder to all the residents that with the warmer temperatures, the grass will start growing. The Ordinance states that grass/weeds must be maintained to a height less than 6 inches.

The police department welcomed motivational speaker, Lauren Sisler. She shared her story to students in grades 6th through 12th. Her message to the students was not to let past experiences define their dreams. We appreciate the School Resource Officer Tackett for arranging the assembly for the students.

The LandBank is selling vacant property at 319 Keefer Street. Bids are being received on this property until Monday, May 22. Interested parties can download an Application to Acquire Property Form at [www.huroncountylandbank.com](http://www.huroncountylandbank.com).

The city has submitted a grant to BWC to purchase two drones. These drones will be used in an array of applications around the city, with its primary focus being search and rescue. Drones can go into incidents to survey situations that may not be safe for humans. Modern drones can operate in harsh conditions, in the day and night, with infrared and thermal sensors, and drop essential items such as life preservers.

The maintenance department has been busy picking up debris and trash. A new concrete pad has been laid at the east end of City Park Drive. A broken sewer line was replaced at the intersection of Park Street and Howard Street. A special thanks to the city workers and community volunteers that assisted in picking up litter around the city.

The Willard Business Associations and Kiwanis held an easter egg hunt this past Saturday that was well attended and appreciated.

The Clock Tower is scheduled to be installed April 11th.

**President asked for Questions**-

Johnson informed Hamons about the Tree City USA signs being updated.

Hamons stated that volunteers are being sought in the creation of gateway signs for the city.

Olson expressed her appreciation for the fire department grant received.

Elmlinger appreciated the city workers cleaning up debris.

McKenzie thanked all who cleaned up the litter.

**Moved by Olson seconded by Babcock that council adjourn to Executive Session at 7:15 pm to discuss pending court action. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried. The council returned from session at 7:25 pm.**

**COUNCIL/MAYOR COMMENTS:**

Daniel stated that the grant for drones will be very useful.

Johnson wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Babcock that Council adjourn. In a called vote therein Babcock, Daniel, Elmlinger, Johnson, McKenzie, Olson, and Sattig voted yea. Motion carried.

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President of Council Clerk of Council