

SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION
609 29th Street, Vienna, WV 26105
March 17, 2022
6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Invocation was given by Chuck Noffsinger. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Russ Skogstad.

Recognition of Vienna Rec Middle School Basketball Champions: The Green Team went 11-0!

Mayor Rapp and Delegate Roger Conley recognized Chaz Elam for his experience as a Page for the House of Delegates and as Honorary Speaker of the House.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Vienna City Council met in Special Session on March 17, 2022. Mayor Randy Rapp called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

ROLL CALL:

Attendance was taken by Recorder Melissa Elam with the following Council members present: Kim Williams, Tom Azinger, Chuck Noffsinger, Jim Leach (via phone), Roger Bibbee, City Attorney Russell Skogstad, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp. Absent: None.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Alice Goodwin (710 28th Street): Not in favor of department head raises. City employee raises should be in addition to longevity. Commented on the Spencer's Landing Resolution... wants Council to come together as a unit. Asks that the resolution on the agenda be passed.

REPORT OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Council Session scheduled on 3/10/2022 have been printed, posted, and circulated. Approved as posted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None.

Mayor Rapp and Attorney Skogstad gave clarification on Robert's Rules of Order and how "Call for the Question" will be handled in the future. It has to get a second. If there is a second, it will go to a vote. If five members (2/3) vote for it, discussion stops. If five members (2/3) vote against it, discussion resumes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PRESENTATION: Parkersburg YMCA

Executive Director Jeff Olson spoke about the way the YMCA serves the community. When he came on board, the YMCA had deteriorated in programming and the facility. Since 2018, they have been tackling debt and the condition of the building. Currently have 16 capital projects going on. Debt free other than the mortgage. This is their 120th year of service. Current pool liner is 21 years old. It is 6 years overdue on replacement. Liner and gutter system will be replaced in August. Total project will cost \$125,000. He would appreciate any support given by the City of Vienna.

2. PRESENTATION: Schwendeman Agency

Mark Schwendeman presented the Employee Benefit Package. For the last 12 months, the claims to premium loss ratio has been over 100%. The city paid around \$1.3 million and claims were around \$1.5 million. The increase in premium this year will be 7.76% and includes moving dental back to Highmark from Delta Dental. This means it will be about \$2.45/pay more for individuals and \$6.25/pay more for families. Six insurance carriers competed to cover the city. Health Plan quoted a similar plan. Aetna, Cigna, and Jefferson Health declined due to not being able to be competitive. United HealthCare is pending. If theirs comes in lower than Highmark, the agency will go back to Highmark to see if they can beat or match it.

Changes to the Group Medical Plan include: Out of Pocket Max (single increases \$150 and family increases \$300), Prescription Drugs Retail (legislation requires local pharmacies to dispense prescriptions at the mail order co-insurance price), and Emergency Room (copay based on network deductible).

Estimated total monthly premium increases \$10,655.26 and estimated annual premium increase is \$103,095.12. The city pays 92% of the premium and employees pay 8%.

Changing to Highmark Dental Plan saves about 2% in total premium because of bundling. Even with the dental premium increase for dental of 14.06% (employees pay 50%), the savings on the medical side make the switch worth it.

Mayor Rapp announced that a member of the Gold Star Memorial has passed away. Junior Ray Lynch was 96 and a Vienna resident.

3. RESOLUTION: Staying Further Construction Or Demolition Projects Or Activity On Spencer's Landing

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIENNA, that it hereby stays any additional construction or demolition projects or activity on Spencer's Landing unless and until further action is taken by council or until July 1, 2023, whichever is sooner.

It is not the intent of this resolution to prohibit the public from continuing to use Spencer's Landing for recreational purposes or activity, nor to prevent the Public Works department from maintaining said property as it has with respect to mowing and general maintenance.

Councilwoman Kim Williams moved to approve the Resolution Staying Further Construction Or Demolition Projects Or Activity On Spencer's Landing. Motion seconded by Recorder Melissa Elam.

Councilman Roger Bibbee asked what the purpose of the Resolution is. Mayor Rapp responded it won't help at all. Stated the story walk and Gold Star Memorial didn't cost the city anything. He doesn't understand the limitations. The area where the trees were removed still needs filled. We also need to make sure the oil line is covered with sufficient dirt.

Recorder Elam does not see it as a financial issue. She stated we have a great opportunity to develop this area. There are going to continue to be great people with great intentions for Spencer's Landing. She sees the resolution as a way to regulate additions to Spencer's Landing. She stated that Council should be the approving authority.

Councilman Jim Leach thinks funding comes before council anyway so it doesn't add value and is a hinderance. Thinks it is a way for Council to micromanage.

Councilwoman Kim Williams doesn't see a problem with projects coming before Council. She referred to the things that have been done already.

Councilman Roger Bibbee thinks Ms. Williams is contradicting the resolution. Mr. Skogstad clarified that other than maintenance all other projects would be stayed until Council approves it.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, and Recorder Melissa Elam voting "yes". Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Jim Leach, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting "no". Vote: 3-4.

*Mr. Leach stepped away from the meeting to attend to work obligations but asked that when the budget is discussed later that someone make sure \$6,000 goes to the YMCA for the pool liner.

4. UPDATE: Park Board (Jackson Pool)

Recorder Elam reported that the Park Board met yesterday to discuss the proposal that the team she originally assembled gave them. There are two things that need dealt with. First is the current condition of the pool. The Park Board will consult with an engineering professional, the Health Department, and Duane Fluty to get an accurate assessment of the pool's condition. We will present the engineer consultant request to Council for funding. Once reports are compiled, they will be submitted to Council and the Park Board asks Council to make a decision about the Summer 2022 season. The second is looking ahead at the future of the pool. The Park Board has chosen to take on the project of developing plans for updating and revamping Jackson Pool. They will develop RFQs, build upon previous design concepts, form a subcommittee to focus on the details of the project, and report to Council each month with an update and progress report. City Council will determine how the project will be funded.

Mayor Rapp asked how much effort we want to go to to get the pool opened this year. Recorder Elam said we still need to get the assessments. Steve Black has talked to the Health Department. Duane Fluty will assess. The Park Board can get an engineer inspection. Once we have those Council can make a decision. The Park Board does not believe they should be the ones making that determination.

The mayor believes the repairs the health department identified can be repaired for a small amount of money. However, whatever is repaired will get dug up when we do the improvements.

Councilwoman Williams asked about the timeframe. Recorder Elam responded that as soon as possible. Lifeguards are being assigned to other pools.

Councilwoman Williams has liability concerns. The issues have already been identified. Stated if something seems like it's not safe, it's not safe. She is frustrated with how long it is taking to get things fixed. She hopes the resolution will be back on next week's agenda. She does not support more bandaids.

Councilman Azinger visited the pool yesterday and said potential liability is horrendous. He thinks we should close the pool this year and reopen next year. He moved to close the pool.

Councilwoman Williams stated we would be in compliance with the Ethics Commission to take a vote tonight.

Councilman Roger Bibbee thinks we should give the Park Board the time it needs to get the assessments and it should go to a vote next week.

Mr. Skogstad gave the opinion that council should wait another week.

The resolution to close the pool will be added to the next regular meeting.

Council took a break at 7:58.

Council returned from break at 8:08pm.

5. BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Mrs. Roberts compiled three balanced budgets for Council's consideration. The BCBS is built into all of them. She balanced them from unencumbered funds and Capital Reserves. The three budgets are: longevity, longevity + \$.65, and longevity + \$1.65.

Mayor Rapp stated that he confirmed that the FLAP grant match has to be in the budget.

Councilman Chuck Noffsinger confirmed that the ramp paving project is still at \$80,000.

Councilman Roger Bibbee followed up on Mr. Leach's request for the pool liner money. Mr. Rapp suggested taking the \$3,000 that was set aside for the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp and then Mrs. Roberts can find the rest from another area. It won't be included in the upcoming budget and will be taken care of as a budget revision.

Recorder Elam moved to amend the budget by adding the captain and patrolman police positions as requested. Motion seconded by Councilman Tom Azinger.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting "yes". Vote: 6-0.

Recorder Elam moved to eliminate the requested pay raises for Department Heads excluding any across the board raises. Motion seconded by Councilman Chuck Noffsinger.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting "yes". Councilman Tom Azinger voting "no". Vote: 5-1.

Recorder Elam moved to exclude the requested pay raise for the IT assistant excluding any across the board raises. Motion seconded by Councilman Roger Bibbee.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting “yes”. Vote: 6-0.

Recorder Elam asked if the \$25,000 is enough to purchase new computers. Mrs. Roberts does not think her department needs as many as were scheduled to be replaced.

Councilwoman Kim Williams moved to include non-seasonal part-time employees in whatever raises may be given to full-time employees. Motion seconded by Recorder Melissa Elam.

Councilman Roger Bibbee asked for clarification on the raises that were given last year to part-time employees last year. Mrs. Roberts said it was specific to the dispatchers in the police department and wasn't because of any raises that were given to full-time employees. Ms. Williams expressed that part-time employees are not included in across the board raises or longevity so she believes it helps keep qualified people.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting “yes”. Vote: 6-0.

Councilwoman Kim Williams moved to increase #905 line 3 by \$14,728. Motion seconded by Recorder Melissa Elam.

Councilwoman Kim Williams doesn't want to see services cut if the pool is closed. Mayor Rapp believes an employee we already have can run pickleball. An employee wants to take the Zumba instructors and participants to Williamstown to run the classes.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, and Recorder Melissa Elam voting “yes”. Mayor Randy Rapp voting “no”. Vote: 5-1.

Councilwoman Kim Williams moved to increase #912 line 19 by \$2,330 and decrease #547 Festivals by \$2,330. Motion seconded by Recorder Melissa Elam.

Councilwoman Kim Williams sees costs going up for events.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting “yes”. Councilman Tom Azinger voting “no”. Vote: 5-1.

Councilwoman Kim Williams moved to increase #912 line 23 by \$1,500 and decrease #547 Festivals by \$1,500. Motion seconded by Recorder Melissa Elam.

Councilwoman Kim Williams sees costs going up for events.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting “yes”. Councilman Tom Azinger voting “no”. Vote: 5-1.

Mayor Randy Rapp moved to increase #500 line 3 to reflect change in classification (S3 to S4). Motion seconded by Councilman Roger Bibbee.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilwoman Kim Williams, Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting “yes”. Vote: 6-0.

Mayor Randy Rapp moved to use the budget built with longevity + \$1.65. Motion seconded by Councilman Tom Azinger.

Mayor Rapp stated if we vote for the pay raise in a future resolution that we also increase the starting wage to reflect that pay raise.

Recorder Elam thinks a pay raise will help counter inflation. Suggested possibly doing \$1 across the board and an additional \$1 for the police department.

Mayor Rapp believes our employees are underpaid.

Councilman Azinger believes we need to go with the \$2 raise.

Councilwoman Williams thinks the total compensation package has to be considered. She would support a \$1 raise.

Roll call vote taken by Recorder Melissa Elam. Councilman Tom Azinger, Councilman Roger Bibbee, Councilman Chuck Noffsinger, Recorder Melissa Elam, and Mayor Randy Rapp voting "yes". Councilwoman Kim Williams voting "no". Vote: 5-1.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Rapp asked Tim Roberts to supply Council with an estimate for the engineering work so Council can move forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Melissa Elam, Recorder

Randall C. Rapp, Mayor

APPROVED: _____
 Initials Date