

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of *Council*
BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Meeting
Form 0101

Held *September 7, 2021*

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Called to Order at 7:04 P.M. by President Warner.

Roll Call: Council Members Samantha Cahill, Mike Conway, Linda Hall, Richard King, Jeff Patterson, Howard Wade, and Jennifer Warner. Also attending were Assistant Director of Finance, Jackie Tiberio; Chief of Police, Chris Floyd; and Water and Sewer Clerk, Taylor Patterson.

Absent Member(s): None.

Quorum Declare: 7 present, 0 absent.

Prayer: Ms. Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Cahill.

Motion to Amend the Agenda by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Conway.

Roll Call: All yeas.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda by Mr. Conway and seconded by Mr. Wade.

Roll Call: All yeas.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the August 16, 2021 Council Meeting by Mr. Wade and seconded by Mr. Patterson.

Roll Call: All yeas.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Motion to Adopt the Minutes of the August 20, 2021 Special Council Meeting by Ms. Hall and seconded by Mr. Conway.

Roll Call: All yeas.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Old Business:

New Business:

Resolution 21-071, temporarily waiving Section 549.09 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of West Jefferson, thus allowing bow hunting on certain land within the Village of West Jefferson with a permit issued by the Nature conservancy and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

Discussion: President Warner invited comments.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 21-071 by Mr. Conway and seconded by Mr. Wade.

Roll Call: All yeas.

Motion Carries 7-0.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Committee Chair, Ms. Hall, said nothing at this time.

Police: Committee Chair, Ms. Cahill, said nothing at this time.

Employee Benefits: Committee Chair, Mr. King, said nothing at this time.

Public Service: Committee Chair, Mr. Wade, said nothing at this time.

Development: Committee Chair, President Warner, said nothing at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Committee Chair, Mr. Patterson, said nothing at this time.

Special Events: Committee Chair, Mr. Conway, said nothing at this time.

Department Reports:

Mayor's Report and Recognition: Mayor Martin said the annual Ox Roast has come to an end. The entire community of West Jefferson came together to make this happen. Let's remember this emotional

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

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part of the year for the victims of 9/11 terrorist attack twenty years ago. Also, October 22 is the West Jefferson Free Fall Festival, Trunk-or-Treat, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Discussion:

Director of Public Service Report: None.

Discussion:

Recreation and Special Events Manager: Mr. Stanley said we have Sensory photo shoot on September 16. We just meet about the haunted house. We are meeting again next week. We are also going to see about a haunted hay ride.

Director of Finance Report: Ms. Tiberio said over the next few weeks and months there will be training in the finance and other departments to better serve the community. August figures are not final yet for the Income Tax Department. But Income Tax collections appear to be approximately up 14% for August and still up 45% for the year. Lastly, we paid J&J Schlaegle Inc, Boone Water, and Dublin Technical Systems.

Discussion:

Chief of Police Report: Chief Floyd said the new signs have arrived. The Ox Roast was a success.

Recognition of Guests: Council extends a welcome to Chief Snyder for a presentation.

- Jeff Pheil, Representative from the West Jefferson Community Association, said thank you to the Council for the generous donation for the Ox Roast this year. First of all, thank you to the Police Department. On the grounds of the event, we did not have any bad experiences. They were visible during the event and parade. Second of all, the Street Department was wonderful. They set up for the parade. When I talked to Brian Farley about needing equipment, he not only sent equipment but he sent man power. Third of all, John Mitchell took care of the dumpsters for us. Shelton Stanley took care of several hours of games. Fourth of all, the Ohio Party Bowl provided the inflatables. They gave us a great price. Lastly, Sandy Voucher has been doing the parade for close to 30 years and is retiring. Please tell her thank you if you see her.
- Chief Snyder said in the past there have been talks about revenue sharing between the Village and the Township before but nothing gaining any traction. This is likely because the Township never obtained legislation to be part of these agreements unlike the schools. Consequently, the burden of fire protection is left to the township and has a single funding source of property taxes. What must be understood by the residents are businesses ask for the abatement incentives, the Village approves or denies, or negotiates the abatement between 0-100%. Currently most, if not all, of the businesses are getting 100% abated property taxes for a fifth teen period. During this fifth teen year time period, fire and rescue is supported by the remaining businesses and residents.

Last Tuesday night, Village and Township residents were given a presentation with three topics, namely, (1) the 5.5 Mill Levy; (2) Understanding Jurisdiction Boundaries; and (3) Warehouses and Tax Abatement.

At present, the Fire Department does not have a seat at the table for negotiations for revenue. The schools received 50% of the income tax collected by the Village from each abated building. The Township and the Fire Department, on the other hand, receives 0% of the income and no additional property tax on the buildings and improvements for 15 and 30 years.

How do we operate this way? The entire burden of services is paid for by the property owners of West Jefferson and Jefferson Township who are not abated. We do recognize that the Village passed a one-time fee of up to \$50,000, \$0.50 per sq. foot, for each new structure. Additionally, a one-time fee of up to \$4,000.00 for plan reviews was legislated too.

While we are grateful for these fees, at the same time, they cannot be used for budgeting purposes due to a one-time fee. For example, in Tax Year 2020, the Fire Department received \$31,293.06, the Village collected \$2,051,962.13, and Jefferson Local Schools received \$1,025,981.07 from nine properties.

In the same Tax Year, the Fire Department had foregone \$1,431,214.69, taxes that we could not receive due to abatements and TIF agreements. During our meeting, I presented a proposal to seek 40% of our foregone taxes from the Village on an annual basis. If the Township is successful in our proposal, then our 5.5 mil levy would be reduced by 2.3 mil, reflecting this proposed amount, to a 3.2 mil levy. We are extremely interested in your response.

With all due respect, I am presenting to Council tonight what we believe to be a fair proposal and not an offering for negotiation. We would like to get your response at the October 4 meeting.

- Mayor Martin asked what's the total millage.
- Chief Snyder said \$2,415,320.00. This is the 2021 projected revenues.
- Mayor Martin said that doesn't answer the question. But you are saying we are down some \$400,000.00.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Council

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BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

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Held September 7, 2021

- Chief Snyder said no we are projected to spend \$417,000.00 more than our revenue.
- Mr. Conway said we did meet with you and went over the same things. Council asked at that time for some information. Council is still waiting for that information.
- Chief Snyder said I told Jen I will provide that to you. I can tell you now that 18% of our responses are in the industrial park. Also, I told Jen that I am willing to provide that but not willing to discuss because it cost me the same amount whether there is one or fifteen runs per day. It comes down to us providing information and then arguing individual points.
- Ms. Cahill said there seems to be a problem with the difference between one or fifteen runs per day - its awash.
- Chief Snyder said how can property owners and the Fire Department settle the issues? After the passage of the 5.5 Mill Levy, we are going to reduce it to 3.5 Mill, which will save all the Jefferson Township property owners on taxes.
- Ms. Cahill said you are still 2.3 Mill and its not a reduction.
- Chief Snyder said the 5.5 is what is on the ballot. We cannot change that and approach the Budget Commission to reduce the collections on that 5.5 Mill Levy.
- Mr. Conway said if it's passed at 5.5 the tax payer still pays 5.5.
- Mr. Patterson asked Chief Snyder if he is asking for 40% of the income tax.
- Chief Snyder said he can tell where the funds will come from but its 40% of their foregone value. The Village would need to decide where that came from.
- Ms. Cahill said we talked about this months ago. Why wasn't this discussed with the Village prior to the ballot levy?
- Chief Snyder said the timing is never good. We need to educate the voters. For example, after we posted this levy increase responses came in with certain question. One question was why aren't the warehouses paying their share?
- Mr. Conway said its important to stop saying that they are not giving you all anything. The Mayor and Mr. Patterson worked really hard to get revenue for the Fire Department.
- Chief Snyder said I mentioned that ...
- Mr. Conway said you mentioned it but every time you talk about it you don't mention it.
- Chief Snyder said its part of the presentation. The one-time fee of \$50,000.00 can not be budgeted. We get zero.
- (Mayor asked a question about property taxes and income taxes but paper shuffling disrupted the sound quality.)
- President Warner said she supports the Fire Department. We went to a School Board meeting some years back and they said they miss out on 3 million dollars of abatement ...
- Chief Snyder said they do.
- President Warner continued and said no they don't. You have to abate the properties in order to get the building.
- (Some comments were said between the guests over the top of each other.)
- Chief Snyder said he would like to point out the three political bodies represented by the income tax; Jefferson Township, the Village of West Jefferson, and Jefferson Public Schools. Right not they tax share. In my opinion, the only reason this is going on is because, legislatively, the schools have a seat at the table. Legislatively the Fire Department does not have a seat. I presented the proposal. Please give us a yes or no by October 4.
- Chief Snyder also commented on the various locations of fire stations.
- President Warner said she saw the presentation and disagreed. You came to us for the property. You never asked to bye it you asked us to give it to you. Then people responded asking why Council would not give the property to the Fire Department? It was not personal. The fact is that the property was just purchased and we have goals for it. This is misleading to the people.
- Mayor Martin said the various parties involved should meet together to come to an agreement.

Recognition of Clerk and Council:

Discussion:

Additional Business: None.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Passed by acclamation of Council.

Motion to Approve "Then and Now" Certificates over \$3,000.00: None.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:38 P.M. by Mr. Patterson and seconded by Ms. Cahill.

Passed by acclamation of Council.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

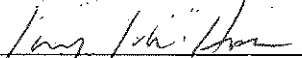
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Held September 2, 2021


Jimmy John Hall
Clerk of Council


Jennifer Warner
President of Council