

Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole of Stow City Council Meeting held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Any members of the public wishing to have a public comment read at a standing committee or Council meeting must provide their name, address, and comment in writing to the Clerk of Council no later than 3 P.M. the day of the meeting. Comments may be delivered in person, by mail or emailed to ClerkofCouncil@stow.oh.us. Any written public comments will be read by the Clerk of Council or another appropriate meeting participant during the requested meeting.

Public comments must come directly from the person requesting the comment to be read and cannot be compiled or vetted by a third-party representative. Any public comments requested to be read shall provide their name and address for the record and shall be read in the same reasonable time permitted to those speaking in person. Any public comments submitted by persons other than the indicated (signed) party will not be read.

- Council Members Present: Feldman, Licate, Harrison, Lowdermilk, McIntire, Fiocca
- Council Members Absent: Ward 1 Vacant
- City Officials Present: Mayor Pribonic, Finance Director Costello, Police Chief Film, Fire Chief Stone, Melissa Gammell, City Engineer McCleary, Law Director Syx, Deputy Clerk of Council Mottram
- Press Representatives: Akron Beason Journal (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Call to Order

President McIntire called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

None.

Mr. McIntire stated that the Fire Department presentation would begin at 6:30 PM.

Mr. McIntire rearranged the agenda this evening. The minutes were typed according to the agenda.

New Business

T-177 - ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF AKRON, THE CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, THE CITY OF FAIRLAWN, THE CITY OF TALLMADGE, AND THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT WHEREBY THE COUNTY WILL ACQUIRE, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, FURNISH, MAINTAIN AND FINANCE A JOINT PSAP BUILDING, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THOSE AGREEMENTS DEFINED IN THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WITH THE CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS, THE CITY OF FAIRLAWN, THE CITY OF TALLMADGE, AND THE COUNTY OF SUMMIT, FOR PURPOSE OF OPERATING A CONSOLIDATED PRIMARY PSAP, GUARANTEE AGREEMENTS, LEASE AGREEMENTS, AND A JOINT USE AGREEMENT FOR THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE JOINT PSAP BUILDING LOCATED IN THE CITY OF TALLMADGE.

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On January 6, 2022, Summit County and the Administration gave a presentation to Council and on January 13, 2022 Council placed Ordinance No. 2022-01 on first reading. Mr. McIntire opened the floor for additional discussion regarding the COG, Council of Governments.

Mr. McIntire opened the discussion with request for information regarding budget calculations for the City of Stow to enter the COG as a contracted Community versus a Community Member. Mayor Pribonic answered that there had not been calculations. The numbers calculated are based on membership into the COG. Once the COG has formed, other communities will be able to join on contract at a later date. Mr. McIntire requested more clarification of the budget numbers. Mr. Costello stated that he could provide numbers at the next Council meeting based on assumptions. Chief Stone stated that the City would lose a voice in how the operation would be run. Mr. McIntire appreciated the feedback. He was concerned if the City was dissatisfied with the services provided that the City would be bound to the COG.

Mrs. Harrison stated that she had sent questions to Ms. Pesci, Summit County – Director Public Safety. Ms. Pesci answered her questions via email. She clarified that that there was one discrepancy regarding the authority amounts. Summit County stated there had been a typo and both documents should have the same amount. Mrs. Harrison stated that there was a discrepancy between two documents (the intergovernmental agreement and the bylaws) regarding incurring debt. The bylaws allowed the COG to incur debt and the intergovernmental agreement provided that a 2/3 vote of the members was necessary to incur debt. Mrs. Syx advised that there was not a discrepancy, but one document allowed the COG to incur debt and the other document provide a procedure to follow to incur debt. Mrs. Harrison stated that there needed to be clarification as to which document would be the controlling document should there be a discrepancy between the two documents.

Mr. Feldman asked who would be receiving complaints once the COG was formed. Chief Film answered that the model has been establish in Stow that the complaints would be forwarded back to the participating community to a designated employee to investigate. Mr. Feldman clarified that it would be better for the COG to have a voice in the process.

Mr. Licate clarified that the City would not have a vote if they were not a member. The City would have to go through the Board for any changes to operations. Chief Film stated that the City would lose a say on decisions as a contract versus as a member.

Mrs. Syx stated that if the City of Stow was not a member of the COG, our current dispatchers would not be a guarantee employment at the new dispatch center.

Fire Safety Poster Contest Awards

Ms. Gammell presented awards to twelve students for their drawings demonstrating Fire Prevention. Ms. Gammell stated that 320 posters from 3rd, 4th and 5th graders were entered into the contest this year. The winners were treated to lunch at a local restaurant. Tyler Renard received the Graphic Award. He design will be featured on the safety education vehicle. All winning entries will be on display in the Safety Building for the entire year and a special calendar will be created featuring all twelve posters.

Executive Session

Mr. McIntire stated that Mr. Lowdermilk was not in attendance for the meeting to discuss the Ward 1 vacancy.

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Motion made by Harrison seconded by Fiocca to remove the Executive session item from the agenda. Vote – Yeas: Feldman, Licate, Harrison, McIntire, Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McIntire stated that the Fire Department Fire Safety Poster Contest was not ready to begin their presentation.

City Council recessed at 6:29 p.m.

Motion made by Harrison seconded by Fiocca to recess the Committee of the Whole. Vote – Yeas: Feldman, Licate, Harrison, McIntire, Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

City Council reconvened into Open Session at 6:38 p.m.

Motion made by Harrison seconded by Licate to reconvene the Committee of the Whole. Vote – Yeas: Feldman, Licate, Harrison, Lowdermilk, McIntire, Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Remonstrance Period

Ed Davidian, 1168 Inverness Lane, thanked the City for the snow plow service during the recent snow event. He asked City Council take action against Judge Kim Hoover for unfairness to the poor and unrepresented citizens in his courtroom. He would like Judge Hoover censored for his past actions.

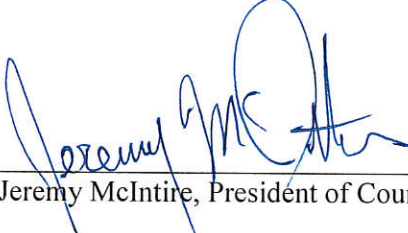
Adjournment

Motion made by Fiocca seconded by Harrison to adjourn. Vote – Yeas: Feldman, Licate, Harrison, McIntire, Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Sonya Mottram, Deputy Clerk of Council



Jeremy McIntire, President of Council