

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of _____

Minutes of the Vermilion City Council Meeting

Meeting _____

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6101

Held

Monday, July 23, 2018

Videos and minutes of council meetings are available to the public to view online at www.vermilion.net under meeting videos/minutes.

Vermilion City Council: Steve Herron, Council President; John Gabriel, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five. G. Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk. Absent: Monica Stark, Council at Large

Administrative Staff: Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Ken Stumphauzer, Law Director

CALL TO ORDER:

Steve Herron, President of Council called the Monday, July 23, 2018, Vermilion City Council Meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The members of Council, administrative staff, and audience participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance; a moment of silence followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

S. Holovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

G. Fisher reported she received a letter dated July 11, 2018, from Mayor Forthofer requesting Council's confirmation of his appointment of Susan Cairns to the Historic Design and Review Board to fill the unexpired term and resignation of Chris Riddle. Susan holds a master's degree and certifications in speech pathology. She has lived in Vermilion since moving from Port Clinton four years ago. While living in Port Clinton, Ms. Cairns and her family restored an 1885 Victorian house which was their home for 24 years. She has been an antiques vendor and has served on the boards of the Ottawa County Family and Children First Council, Heartbeat of Ottawa County and Ottawa County Children's Action Network.

Secondly, she noted she received a letter dated July 22, 2018, from Dana Corogin with regards to the proposed cell tower installation at the west entrance of town. This letter is attached hereto and incorporated herein as the official record of proceedings.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL'S REPORT:

S. Herron said pursuant to the letter council received from Dana Corogin he wanted to address Chapter 1275 entitled "Wireless Telecommunications Towers and Facilities". He noted the last update on this legislation was October 24, 1999, so Ms. Corogin's statement that technology is changing is very true and he believes council needs to look at it. Therefore, in conjunction with the mayor, he sent to council an article from the law director concerning the new House Bill 478, which will go into effect on August 1, 2018, about cell phone towers. He referred this matter to the Legislative meeting of August 13. He asked the clerk to obtain a copy of North Ridgeville's newly adopted ordinance on cell towers. He said this needs to be addressed and D. Corogin's concerns are valid and she is not the only person with these concerns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Historic Design & Review Board:

J. Gabriel reported the next meeting has been scheduled for August 1, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

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Planning Commission:

J. Gabriel reported the next meeting has been scheduled for August 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Streets, Buildings and Grounds Committee:

F. Loucka reported on the meeting held July 16. The next meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Port Authority:

F. Loucka reported on the meeting held July 12. The next meeting has been scheduled for August 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Utilities Committee:

S. Holovacs reported on the meeting held July 16. The next meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Contractors Registration Board of Examiners:

S. Holovacs reported the next meeting has been scheduled for July 24, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Finance Committee:

B. Holmes reported on the meeting held July 16. The next meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Parks & Recreation:

B. Holmes reported the next meeting has been scheduled for August 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Tree Commission:

S. Herron reported the next meeting has been scheduled for August 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm at Ritter Public Library.

Legislative Committee:

The next meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Vermilion Community Services Board: No update.

Health & Safety Committee:

B. Brady reported on the meeting held July 16. The next meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Board of Zoning Appeals:

B. Brady reported the next meeting has been scheduled for July 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Forthofer reported that on July 16, Fire Station #2 had an incident which caused damage to one of the fire trucks and the bay door; there were no injuries. An insurance claim has been filed and this incident does not compromise the station's effectiveness.

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He reported the Harborview Beach Project Committee; formally the Inland Seas Museum Development Committee, met to further discuss the evolution of the Main Street Beach area. Councilman Loucka is a member of that committee and he asked Peter Corogin and Eileen Bulan to take the leadership of this important committee despite their busy schedules. The committee operates under the Parks and Recreation Board and fundraising is a current challenge as well as creating a vision for the overall development of the master plan of Main Street Beach.

Also, the administration is working on an employee manual for a number of good reasons; there is no current manual and changes in workplace law have required updated policies. They are using the Metropolitan Planning Organization's model, as well as advice from the legal department for guidance.

He reported the City will receive \$22,697 from the Lorain County Commissioners as a reward for recycling Solid Waste collected by Republic. The money is designated to help pay for a street sweeper, advertising of recycling events, and a visit from the Shred Truck once a year, as well as office supplies and traffic safety equipment, and recyclable products as designated in the grant specifications.

He said Ritter Library's 100th Celebration was yesterday and a good crowd was downtown for a "Chalk Walk" fundraiser that was coordinated by Main Street and a picnic was hosted by Ritter Library and their staff. It was a very important milestone for this City's important Vermillion asset.

He addressed recent news coverage about dead fish washing up on the shores in Vermillion. He spoke with ODNR Fish and Wildlife and they explained fish kills this time of year is normal as it depends on many things including the oxygenated water and the wind direction. So as far as dead fish washing up on Vermillion's shores, ODNR has said there is nothing abnormal detected.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

T. Valerius reported that Herk Excavating has been repairing and rebuilding collapsed catch basins. There are nine on the list including one new installation and one ditch enclosure.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Amy Hendricks reported the June 30, 2018; financials will be ready by the end of the week. July postings will also be a focus rapidly following the June closing.

The City's 2017 GAAP Financial Statements will be completed by the end of the month. Most of the site work for the audit has also been completed with a submission deadline to the Auditor of State at the end of August. She said they were outnumbered by audit staff for a week or so as they were wrapping things up and it took a significant portion of the Finance staff's time.

She noted Ordinance 2018-42 establishes Fund 850 "Unclaimed Funds" which will establish the mechanism for closing out a number of outstanding transactions. After five years in the fund, monies can be returned to the fund the transaction initiated from.

She said the 2019 Tax Budget (Ordinance 2018R-6) is on the agenda tonight for adoption. The public hearing was held in conjunction with the Finance Committee of July 16.

The debt refinancing has geared up since the meeting last Monday. There are several ordinances on the agenda (Ordinance 2018-44-47) which need emergency approval by Council as they are necessary to roll the notes and get the payoff's done for mid-August as they continue to consolidate the larger package. They would like to include the 2017 financial reports in those official statements rather than sending out addendums shortly after filing the report. It will make the City appear more organized. Also, necessary paperwork has been filed with the Ohio Water Development Authority for the City's existing loans for the year.

She reported that she along with Beth Williamson, Payroll/Benefit Coordinator has joined the Mayor as well as Anne Maiden to review and update the policies and procedures in place for the City employees.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Minutes of the Vermilion City Council Meeting

Meeting

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S. Herron asked if she needed all the ordinances that were under a first reading adopted by emergency and A. Hendricks said she would like them all to be adopted by emergency.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT: Not present.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Brian Crandall of 657 Main Street (Owner of The Silly Goose) said he attended the Council Committee meetings of July 16, 2018, and was glad that City Council is business friendly. He asked for council's help and noted he spoke with Councilman Gabriel last Friday regarding his concerns of the Farmer's Market in the park. He said a Farm Market should be just that; not t-shirts, jewelry, pictures, wine glasses, etc. His business is year-round and their store has been in Vermilion for nine years and within those nine years they have been selected twice on Cleveland's Hot List as #1; they were selected by Lake Erie Magazine as the best gift shop, which is only 900 square feet and for a gift shop of that size and to get that type of recognition, he thinks they add quite a bit to Vermilion. What used to be their good days and now their worst days is Saturday. If they are going to have a market in the park it should only be vegetables and produce; not grab and go's; where they grab the money and then they go! They are in Vermilion year-round; in the winter and during storms, and they are an asset to the community. He said it's killing them and they are not the only retailer. He said his wife taught him about retail as she has been involved in the retail business with her mom for 30 years. What's happening is bad for their business and this is how they make their livelihood, and for having a market of this stature for an organization that is supposed to promote downtown; they're not doing their job! They tried to talk with those individuals and there was a petition circulated from Lee Landing's and basically it was thrown away. He said his wife was invited last year to attend a meeting of this organization only because of the untruthful. He didn't know who that gentleman was but he doesn't want to see him. With that being said, they cannot continue to have these fly by nights going in because they are hurting them. He said when he heard about the food trucks they certainly need to be worried about the people who are in Vermilion year-round. The other thing killing them is the 'Chalk Walk'. When that road is blocked off; there are three events that kill them. During the Chalk Walk there was garbage/trash along Main Street. It's funny because when the Chamber of Commerce has events all the trash is bagged and put in the proper receptacles. If somebody is going to hold an event then they should at least clean up after themselves. He said the parking is killing them and these events are not bringing in people to the stores. He has video of every hour starting at 11:30 am on July 14 (Saturday) and it was pitiful. During those hours, he counted maybe 16 people in that timeframe, so you can imagine what the receipts on the cash register said, but yet he walked the perimeter of the so-called Farmer's Market and it was packed with cars and a lot of people. It's just so frustrating because they put their sweat equity into a business to be taken away by individuals that come in and get their money and leave for \$10 a table; this is insane!

He said the other issue is they have a car show of which he has nothing against. However, he is against them being on Main Street. They had over 200 cars parked on Liberty Avenue and in the parks and this is killing them. They even had one business owner who had to spend \$75 out of his pocket to move a car because he was in PA and couldn't move his car behind his business, so he's out \$75 because they wanted to put a vehicle in his space. This is another person who has a store in Vermilion that has been here for 25 years, if not more. He said Tiffany from Tiffany's Flowers is relocating and during this process she couldn't park in her designated space which is owned by the property owner. Here is a person who wants to improve herself in moving and they are being told by people who are only here a short time that they can't do this or that. He said they are in Vermilion year-round and they get treated like this. These three events could leave and they would not miss them because they know what receipts are coming in the door, and this is why they need Council's help. He doesn't understand how everything is taken care of and cleaned up when the Chamber has events, but these other people from different things he has read, even have as much as dues supplemented and paid for by the city. He will put in a public records request for the city things to make sure it's true. He said at one point of time he served on City Council in a city. He said he really needs Council's help on the big issue; the Farmer's Market, Car Show, and the Chalk Walk. He is frustrated! B. Holmes advised him that the Parks and Recreation Board meet on August 21 at 7:00 pm and encouraged him to come as the board approves the permits for these events.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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He said he recently spoke with Parks Director, Dana Corogin about these events. Brian Crandall said it's frustrating because the people voted for the parks levy and when he has people come into the store he can't do anything about it, but when people want to have a wedding in the park and want to use the gazebo they are told they can't. It's their vote that passed the tax levy and it's the taxpayer's dollars that are paying for the parks; granted it was a maintenance issue, but the resident's should have the ability to rent the gazebo, and not take up 12 Saturday's of the summer.

Shawn Jeffrey of 658 Main Street (Owner of Ancient Celtic Shop) said she is in support of what the Silly Goose has said. She was at the last committee meeting when discussion on the food trucks was brought up. In regards to the food trucks and being a small business owner in downtown, she would love the opportunity to have food trucks downtown during the events, and specify them as council sees fit. Reason being is that she is an event planner and has been in business 20 years; weddings, events. The food trucks have a following and they bring people wherever they are and their maintenance on their vehicles has much higher standards than that of the carnivals or the food kiosks. Their garbage, water, and electrical systems are contained. Therefore it's also a safety issue because they are much safer than the carnival food truck with all those lights because they are not running wires, hoses, and putting tarps over the lines. They come in and they leave and the cleanup is much easier and quicker, and less painful for the city. Secondly, council had addressed the issue of being restaurant friendly; stating that these food trucks would be in violation or damaging the existing restaurants, which she doesn't see it being that. Since council is stating they are business friendly for the restaurants she would hope in the same turn they are business friendly for the retail aspects for all the reasons Brian Crandall stated. She came to Vermilion a year ago and was a coordinator and ran Grand Pacific Junction in Olmsted Falls for 10 years. She also did their Heritage Days Program for 10 years and was the coordinator for the Huron Irish Festival. She did events in Grafton which have been going on for 20+ years. So they need to be business friendly on both sides of the businesses and restaurants. She thinks the events bring people into the city but you have to reevaluate them every so often, which now is the time to reevaluate those and the effectiveness of them. She said during the Chalk Walk she was there from noon to 6pm and she had not one sale through her register. She understands she is a different kind of business that people don't get up in the morning and say they are going to buy a sword. However, there are other gifts in her shop. When they have an outdoor event people want to come because they want to see what they can get for free, but then they leave. It's a double-edge sword and she loves events because it brings awareness to the area and the downtown market, but at the same time, she doesn't mind giving up a day or two days of this nature, but they have a limited window from May to September and having a Farmer's Market every Saturday that is not strictly a Farmer's Market, but a free for all is concerning. She is also concerned about the regulations on a Farmer's Market because Cuyahoga and Lorain counties require certain specifications for it to be labeled a Farm Market. Anyone selling any types of foods and vegetables need a certain agricultural license. Her concern is whether these people are providing these licenses. They are on public property so therefore if something happens, who are they going to come back on? They are going to come back on Main Street and the City, so they need to realize these things, and she isn't sure this has been brought up. The other thing is do they have vendors licenses; either one through the city or one through the state as a transient vendor, and do they have insurance. She has no idea how these people are being evolved because when she is trying to set up an event she is talking to different people who have been to these events previously, and they don't know what she is talking about when she asks them for a vendor's license or insurance. She has not done an event in the last 15 years where a city hasn't required her to have a \$3 million liability, which is an expense she has to pay. She said the City needs to do this correctly and above board, and do it by the law! She has to do this every day in her business and she has done it for 20 years. She respectfully asked the City to reevaluate some of these events and see if they are above board; see if these people are above board that are being brought into the city, and then that they can make adjustments so everyone is happy and can make money to pay their bills.

B. Holmes encouraged Ms. Jeffrey to attend the Parks and Recreation Board on August 21 at 7pm. A lot of questions on the insurance and licensing can be answered at that meeting. Shawn Jeffrey stated that if somebody falls and trips under their tent it becomes a 'sue fest' and these concerns need to be addressed.

Charl Gabel of 5487 Liberty Avenue (Owner of Encore Consignment Shoppe) reiterated everything that Brian and Shawn said and would 100% support and agree with them. She said Saturday's are dead and

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Minutes of

Minutes of the Vermilion City Council Meeting

Meeting

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Horrible and Third Thursday's blocking off the street is horrible! If it's a safety issue then correct it, don't correct it by blocking off the street and putting people at this end or that end to the wind; it's just not right! With regards to food trucks, the day after the last council meeting she was alerted to a response from somebody so she went to Gab About Vermilion and there were three different statements about the fact that they would love to see food trucks in Vermilion for some of these events because they try to get in the restaurants and they can't because they are packed by 6pm. They have tried to order food for carryout and were told they don't do carryout on Third Thursday. They tried to get food at one restaurant to walk around with and were told they change their menu for Third Thursday and it's not walkabout friendly food; in other words they want to keep them in their restaurant; smart move. However, are they going to lose people because they want to come to a family-friendly event, but they also want to eat? Food trucks could be a good thing and she doesn't think they should place them out of the way like they do in Amherst because people will leave the area, but with 30+ bands she can't believe that somebody couldn't get a decent thing to eat at a food truck and still hear the music. It's not even logically feasible. She thinks food trucks would bring more people that would enjoy the event. If she is hungry she is not going to stay at the event and if she can't get into a restaurant or get something to eat, she isn't going to stay. She said there are comments about the golf carts on Gab about Vermilion; some good and some not so good! She encouraged council to read them.

NEW BUSINESS:

F. Loucka MOVED; S. Herron seconded to amend the third reading of Ordinance 2018-40 per the Legislative meeting of July 16, 2018. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Holovacs MOVED; J. Gabriel seconded to approve the Mayor's appointment of Susan Cairns to the Historic Design & Review Board to fill the unexpired term of Chris Riddle. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

READING OF ORDINANCES:

Third Reading - Ordinance 2018-39: AN ORDINANCE TO OFFICIALLY SUPPLEMENT THE MINIMUM CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED BY BRAMHALL ENGINEERING & SURVEYING COMPANY BY VIRTUE OF ORDINANCE 2018-5 ADOPTED JANUARY 2, 2018, BY AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SERVICES RELATED TO THE VERMILION ROAD REHABILITATION PHASE 2 PID 100432 PROJECT; PRESCRIBING THAT THE FIRM SHALL BE PAID FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATE SCHEDULE SET FORTH IN THE PROPOSAL DATED JUNE 8, 2018, IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS(\$76,400.00), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

Third Reading - Ordinance 2018-40: AN ORDINANCE SECTION 1042.05, ENTITLED "USE OF PUBLIC SEWERS" OF CHAPTER 1042 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

B. Brady MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading - Ordinance 2018-42: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FUND 850 'UNCLAIMED FUNDS' AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED; B. Brady seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Holovacs MOVED; J. Gabriel seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading - Ordinance 2018-43: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2018-15 ADOPTED MARCH 19, 2018, TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF VERMILION, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

F. Loucka MOVED; S. Holovacs seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Continued: Ordinance 2018-43:

F. Loucka MOVED; S. Herron seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-44: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$115,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF ACQUIRING REAL ESTATE AND INTERESTS IN REAL ESTATE FOR USE AS A MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Holmes MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-45: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED 770,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF IMPROVING STREETS AND ROADS IN THE CITY BY RESURFACING, PAVING AND MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AS DESIGNATED IN THE PLANS APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Brady MOVED; J. Gabriel seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-46: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,480,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF IMPROVING STREETS AND ROADS IN THE CITY BY RECONSTRUCTING, RESURFACING, GRADING, DRAINING, CURBING, PAVING AND MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AS DESIGNATED IN THE PLANS APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED; B. Holmes seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Holmes MOVED; B. Brady seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-47: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$365,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING DRAINAGE FACILITIES ALONG ELBERTA ROAD, TOGETHER WITH ALL APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

S. Holovacs MOVED; B. Brady seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Holmes MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-48: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 475 ENTITLED "GOLF CARTS" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-49: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Third Reading – Resolution 2018R-6: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2019 TAX BUDGET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

F. Loucka MOVED; J. Gabriel seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

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Announcement of Meeting Dates

August 6, 2018 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
August 13, 2018 - Vermilion City Council Committee Meetings (All) – 7:00 pm
August 20 & 27 – No Meetings – City Council Break
September 3, 2018 – Labor Day – City Offices Closed
September 10, 2018 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
September 17, 2018 – No meeting
September 24, 2108 – Vermilion City Council Committee Meetings (All) – 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon no further business coming before the body, Steve Herron, President of Council adjourned the Vermilion City Council meeting.

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk

Dana L. Corogin
5366 Portage Drive
Vermilion, OH 44089

July 22, 2018

Dear City Council members;

Recently, I read in the photo journal the consideration of a request from Verizon Wireless to install a cell phone tower at the west entrance of town.

To my knowledge, the City does not have an ordinance to prevent cell phone towers from being erected within the city limits.

If we want to protect the aesthetics of our community, there should be regulations established to prevent these structures from infiltrating our green spaces. Areas zoned for industrial use or land where other utilities currently exist seem more appropriate for these types of structures.

Technology is improving rapidly. There are plenty of ways for the cell phone companies to add booster type antennas to existing towers or utility poles. It is obvious good cell phone coverage is important to our residents and businesses so it is important to explore additional options.

I am confident City Council will ask numerous questions before entertaining the idea of saddling our community with yet another eyesore. What are the dimensions of the tower, fence, and ground utilities? Who maintains the area around the tower? How often is the tower maintained and checked for safety? Who pays for the maintenance? What is the nature of the service and range of coverage? Who monitors the amount of radiation permeating from the tower? Will other companies be permitted to add antennas to the tower? If so, does the city benefit from that revenue? What is the financial benefits to the city? Is there a lifetime lease? How will the tower be removed someday and at whose expense?

I am strongly opposed to any cell phone tower being erected at our most scenic entrance to the city of Vermilion! Lake Road or Route 6 is a designated scenic highway and the proposed location at the west entrance of town, between the road and the RR track behind the City Welcome Sign, is not an acceptable location! In addition to the tower, there will most likely be fencing and other structures which will ruin the rural and resort feel as you enter our harbor town.

Once a cell phone tower is installed, it will be there for our lifetime even if the technology no longer requires it. Look around at all of the overhead utilities and poles that are not necessary and continue to clutter our streetscape.

I spoke with Vermilion Township, Berlin Township, and the City of Huron about their policies on permitting a cell phone tower to be installed along Lake Rd.

I was happy to hear from Bob Kurtz that the Vermilion Township already turned down an attempt by Verizon to place a tower on private property between a private residence and the RR tracks along Lake Rd. because of set-back rules.

Linda from Berlin Township said they are not permitting any more cell phone towers in their township. They are already plagued with towers and one exists on Rt. 61.

The City of Huron has an ordinance against towers being installed within the city limits.

Sooooo..... If our other neighbors along the lake and scenic highway are not permitting Verizon to install a tower, why would the City of Vermilion?

Bob Kurtz said the RR has a large parcel of land for sale that is zoned industrial that Verizon can purchase to put up a tower if the need is that great.

Respectively submitted;

Dana L. Corogin

PS Please see the article in the Elyria Chronical on July 21, 2018 about cell phone tower rules. chroniclet.com/.../Lorain-County-municipalities-work-on-small-cell-tower-rules