

Minutes of the Special Vermilion City Council Meeting

Monday, November 15, 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: Monica Stark, Council at Large; John Gabriel, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; G. Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk. Absent: Steve Herron, Council President. Steve Holovacs, Ward Three

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Monica Stark, Council At Large called the Thursday, November 15, 2018 Special Vermilion City Council meeting to order at 8:00am at City Hall, 5511 Liberty Avenue, Vermilion, Ohio.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

F. Loucka MOVED; B. Holmes seconded to adjourn into executive session to discuss property acquisition. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Upon the conclusion of executive session, the Special City Council meeting was reconvened by M. Stark.

Reading of the Ordinances:

First Reading – Ordinance 2018-82: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE NORTH CENTRAL STATION 7, LOCATED AT 1011 DOUGLAS STREET, VERMILION, OHIO 44089 FROM NORWALK AREA HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

F. Loucka MOVED; B. Brady seconded to suspend the rules. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

F. Loucka MOVED; J. Gabriel seconded to adopt this ordinance by emergency. *Discussion:* Mayor Forthofer explained in August the City of Vermilion's current provider for ambulance service met with him and the finance director. Currently, the City of Vermilion pays North Central EMS for ambulance service and this service was also provided to Vermilion Township and Brownhelm Township. North Central EMS conveyed to the city that Vermilion Township was going off on their own by creating their own ambulance service. Therefore, their source for revenues would be reduced and the City of Vermilion would have to pay an additional \$100,000 per year to North Central. The city decided quickly this wasn't feasible for them. He noted at another previous meeting during executive session he brought this matter to the attention of council and after proceeding to look for other options they realized there were not many options with other providers. However, Mayor Forthofer and Finance Director Amy Hendricks met with Lifecare Ambulance and Lifecare initially said Vermilion was out of their zone and it would be expensive for them to cover us, but they reconsidered and said they would be willing to cover the City of Vermilion for a total cost of \$100,000. Previously, they would have had to pay \$150,000 to North Central EMS. However, Lifecare required the City to provide cover for their ambulances or if they had to provide it the city's charge would increase significantly. So, they examined several options and looked at Fire Station #2 on Overlook but realized it wasn't built for an ambulance department as there are no sleeping or kitchen facilities. They examined the possibility of incorporating this into their new proposed Firehouse #1 and the architect integrated a drawing with including an ambulance department at a cost of approximately \$200,000. The third option was to purchase the current North Central EMS Central Station 7 on Douglas Drive, which will be vacated by North Central EMS. Upon speaking with Lifecare they were agreeable to moving into Station 7 on Douglas Drive as it would be an appropriate facility for them. Therefore, North Central EMS agreed to sell their station to the City for \$180,000. The ordinance before Council gives the Mayor the authorization to pursue an agreement with Norwalk Area Health Systems, Inc. as they are the owners of the building. He said the purchase price of \$180,000 is reasonable for this building. J. Gabriel said as they are looking at spending a \$100,000 in additional costs if they were to stay with the existing ambulance service or if they were to spend \$25,000 above and beyond to rent this building per year, the purchase of the building seems to be the most economical option. He said this decision is something he fully supports. Mayor Forthofer said the goal is to have this transition happen by January 1, 2019, which is why they needed to meet for a special meeting. No further discussion. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon no further business coming before the body, M. Stark, Council at Large adjourned the Special Vermilion City Council meeting

~ Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk