Minutes of WEST CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR Meeting

Held February 25, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barnhart at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Mike Boyle, Amanda Zennie, Rick Dobson, Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, and Jill Tomlin. City Staff: City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Assistant City Manager Dan Wendt, Police Chief Doug Woodard, Fire Chief Chris Barnett, Finance Director Julie Duffy, Civil Engineer John Vance, Communications Manager Yvonne Concepcion, and Clerk of Council Tracy Moore.

MINUTES

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mrs. Zennie to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 11, 2025. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-abstain, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

2024 Police Department Annual Awards

The following citizen and employees of the police department were presented awards for their actions and accomplishments during 2024:

- Citizen Recognition Award: Kathi Parker
- Perfect Attendance Officer John Garwood, Officer Jared Moore, Officer Cameron Johnson and Officer Alex Sanchez
- Exemplary Service Officer Eion Hogston
- Employee of the Year Administrative Assistant Teresa Eitel

Chief Woodard highlighted the accomplishments of all award recipients. Deputy Chief Wessling presented each recipient a certificate and/or plaque.

Mayor Barnhart, Councilmembers, and City Staff congratulated the award recipients. They thanked all of the police department staff for the level of service they provide to the citizens of the city. Finally, they thanked Kathi Parker for everything she does to serve the community.

Mayor Barnhart introduced Resolution 13-2025. He also read the resolution in its entirety.

<u>Resolution 13-2025</u> – A Resolution Acknowledging The Appreciation Of The Citizens And Public Officials Of The City Of West Carrollton For Services Rendered Unto Said City By Douglas M. Woodard.

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Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve Resolution 13-2025. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart presented Chief Woodard with a signed copy of the resolution.

Chief Woodard expressed gratitude for his time serving the City of West Carrollton. He thanked the members of the West Carrollton Police Department for filling the mission and goals of the department which accounts for its success. He also thanked the citizens for the support, cooperation, and assistance they provide to the police department. Finally, he thanked Mayor Barnhart, Councilmembers, and City Staff for their support and confidence in the department.

Mayor Barnhart, Councilmembers, and City Staff expressed gratitude to Chief Woodard for the thirty-seven (37) years that he dedicated serving the City of West Carrollton. They also wished him well in his retirement.

COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Barnhart introduced Resolution 14-2025.

<u>Resolution 14-2025</u> – A Resolution To Continue Participation in a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in Conjunction with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management.

City Manager Holloway presented Resolution 14-2025. She explained this resolution accepts the 2024 Montgomery County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The county wide planning effort was undertaken by the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management. According to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, any local jurisdiction seeking funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must maintain an up-to-date disaster mitigation plan. By co-championing this mitigation plan, West Carrollton will meet FEMA requirements and remain eligible for funding. She further explained this plan is typically updated every five years.

Mayor Barnhart asked Council if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mrs. Zennie moved, seconded by Mr. Tilton to approve Resolution 14-2025. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

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Mayor Barnhart introduced Resolution 15-2025

<u>Resolution 15-2025</u> – A Resolution Declaring The Necessity That Certain Sidewalks, Drive Approaches, Curbs, And Gutters Shall Be Constructed For The 2025 Program.

City Manager Holloway presented Resolution 15-2025. She explained this resolution declares the necessity of the 2025 Curb and Sidewalk Repair Program. The areas include Gray Goose Court, Mansion House court, Orchard Hill Drive (West of Alex Road), 263 Ridgecrest Drive, Sherwood Forest Drive, Trumpet Drive and Yeoman Court. Ms. Holloway stated a full list of the properties is attached to Resolution 15-2025 as Exhibit A.

Mayor Barnhart asked Council if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve Resolution 15-2025. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

<u>Ordinance 3792</u> - An Ordinance Levying Special 2-Year Assessments For The Repair Of Certain Described Sidewalks And Curbs In The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio For The 2024 Program.

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3792. She explained this ordinance would authorize the 2-year assessments for the repair of the 2024 Curb and Sidewalk Program. The work is complete. These assessments total \$40,639.83. Ms. Holloway stated a full listing of the properties is attached to Ordinance 3792 as Exhibit A.

Mayor Barnhart asked if there were questions or comments. There were none. Mayor Barnhart stated Ordinance 3792 was presented as a first reading. It will be on the next agenda.

<u>Ordinance 3793</u> - An Ordinance Levying Special 5-Year Assessments For The Repair Of Certain Described Sidewalks And Curbs In The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio For The 2024 Program.

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3793. She explained this ordinance would authorize the 5-year assessments for the repair of the 2024 Curb and Sidewalk Program. The work is complete. These assessments total \$171,366.62. Ms. Holloway stated a full listing of the properties is attached to Ordinance 3793 as Exhibit A.

Mayor Barnhart asked if there were questions or comments. There were none. Mayor Barnhart stated Ordinance 3793 was presented as a first reading. It will be on the next agenda.

<u>Ordinance 3794</u> – An Ordinance Levying Special 10-Year Assessments For The Repair Of Certain Described Sidewalks And Curbs In The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio For The 2024 Program.

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3794. She explained this ordinance would authorize the 10 -year assessments for the repair of the 2024 Curb and Sidewalk Program. The

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work is complete. These assessments total \$157,401.89. Ms. Holloway stated a full listing of the properties is attached to Ordinance 3794 as Exhibit A.

Mayor Barnhart asked if there were questions or comments. There were none. Mayor Barnhart stated Ordinance 3794 was presented as a first reading. It will be on the next agenda.

Ordinance 3795 – An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of West Carrollton, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025, Amending Ordinance 3784, Repealing Any Ordinances In Conflict Herewith.

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3795. She explained this ordinance would approve a supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 2025. She stated Finance Director Duffy provided a memo, that was included in their packets, that details this request.

Mayor Barnhart asked if there were questions or comments.

Mr. Dobson asked what the cost of inflation was for concrete/repairs between 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Civil Engineer Vance answered he did not have that information in front of him. He stated unfortunately the prices are going up. Mr. Vance stated he could look into it. Mr. Dobson stated he would be curious to see what impact the inflation has on residents. Ms. Holloway stated that information could be provided to City Council before the next meeting.

Mr. Boyle stated if anyone has any confusion or questions on budgetary numbers, feel free to reach out with those questions.

Mayor Barnhart stated Ordinance 3795 was presented as a first reading. It will be on the next agenda.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

City Manager Holloway thanked Parks and Recreation Director Mattingly and Communications Manager Concepcion for planning the city-wide blood drive that was held earlier in the day. This is a quarterly event. Residents are encouraged to participate.

Communications Manager Yvonne Concepcion gave an update on the following events:

- For The Birds It will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on March 8, 2025 at the Civic Center.
- <u>Pool Passes</u> Pool passes for the 2025 season will go on sale on March 3, 2025. They can be purchased in-person at the Civic Center or on the city's website:
 <u>https://www.westcarrollton.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/preseason-pool-pass/</u> until May 23 at noon. After that point, the purchase must be made at the pool.

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UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Comments by the Audience

James Napper, from 43 Reddington Court, addressed Council to advise the West Carrollton Lions Club will have their corn beef and cabbage and chicken and noodles dinner from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025. The dinner will be held at the Memorial United Methodist Church. The cost of the dinner is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child. Mr. Boyle asked if tickets can be purchased in advance. Nate Mundy stated anyone wishing to purchase tickets in advance can contact him at 937-694-0906.

Melea Butcher, from 13 Reddington Court, addressed Council to express her gratitude to Chief Woodard for his years of service and dedication. She thanked the award recipients for their time to the city. Mrs. Butcher also thanked the city street crews for their work in keeping the streets clean with the last snow fall. Additionally, Mrs. Butcher expressed several concerns. Her first concern was regarding issues with the zoning department and how the city manager is currently handling these issues. Mrs. Butcher expressed several concerns regarding the hiring of Dan Wendt for the assistant city manager position. Additionally, Mrs. Butcher shared concerns regarding the search and recruitment for the new police chief. Finally, Mrs. Butcher encouraged City Council to truly be involved and question what is going on.

Comments by Council

Mr. Boyle thanked those in attendance for coming and supporting the police department awards ceremony. He also congratulated all of the award recipients. Mr. Boyle expressed gratitude for all members of the police department, and also for citizens who dedicate their time to the city.

Mrs. Fryman inquired if city staff will look into reinstituting the annual shredding event, which allowed citizens to shred their confidential documents. Ms. Holloway answered yes, staff will definitely look into it.

Mr. Tilton congratulated all of the award recipients. He also thanked citizens for their attendance at the council meeting. He encouraged residents to get involved with the city.

Mrs. Tomlin encouraged everyone to attend the Lions Club dinner to be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

Mayor Barnhart stated he wanted to take some time to address recent accusations and comments that were brought to City Council's attention. Mayor Barnhart addressed who is responsible for the hiring and firing processes for city employees, the history of the assistant city manager position, the hiring process and selection for the assistant city manager position, the police department hiring process, and code enforcement / zoning issues. Mayor Barnhart concluded by saying he felt it was important to address these items for the citizens.

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RECESS

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to recess to a Work Session to discuss the items on the agenda. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to recess to an Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the compensation of a public employee, to return to the regular meeting for adjournment. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Mike Boyle, Amanda Zennie, Rick Dobson, Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, and Jill Tomlin. City Staff: City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Assistant City Manager Dan Wendt, Fire Chief Chris Barnett, and Finance Director Julie Duffy.

Presentation by Mark Langdon

Mr. Langdon was unable to attend the meeting. City Manager Holloway explained that Staff was working with Mr. Langdon to reschedule.

PACE Financing

Assistant City Manager Dan Wendt introduced the next item, PACE Financing for the property at 128 S. Elm Street. Mr. Wendt went through a presentation to City Council, explaining what PACE Financing is, how it helps the property owner, and the City's responsibility.

Mr. Tilton asked if the property was sold, would the assessment go to the next owner. Mr. Wendt stated that was correct. Mr. Tilton asked about zoning issues on the property. Mr. Wendt explained that he believed they were in compliance, and would confirm.

Mr. Boyle asked what would happen if they went out of business. Mr. Wendt explained how it would work if there was a default, noting that it does not expose the City, and we are not responsible for the owner's taxes. Mayor Barnhart asked about deadlines for payments. Mr. Wendt explained that there was a cure period if there would be a lapse for some reason, he also highlighted that Council was under no obligation to allow this if they did not want to.

Mr. Boyle added that with really no risk to the City, this seemed like a no-brainer. Mr. Dobson asked for further clarification on the process which Mr. Wendt provided.

Deputy-Mayor Fryman asked Staff to inquire with other communities about potential downfalls. Mr. Wendt said he would, adding that this is a fairly common tool, but would be new for the City.

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Mr. Wendt stated that this would come back to City Council on the next meeting agenda.

Employee Climate Survey

City Manager Holloway presented a slide deck on the Employee Climate Study. She noted that Council had received the full study document via email, and the presentation would cover high-level themes identified in the study. She explained that while the study was not "statistically valid," and results should be interpreted cautiously, there was good information in the study that could help us improve.

Some discussion about the survey results ensued.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Mike Boyle, Amanda Zennie, Rick Dobson, Angie Fryman, Keith Tilton, and Jill Tomlin. City Staff: City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger.

Council met in Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the compensation of a public employee, to return to the regular meeting for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mayor Barnhart, to adjourn the City Council Meeting of February 25, 2025. A vote was taken: Mr. Boyle-yes, Mrs. Zennie-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mr. Tilton-yes, Mrs. Tomlin-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

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