

**CITY OF SOUTH LEBANON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

1. Mayor Smith opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge.

2. ATTENDANCE

Linda Allen – Present
Linda Burke – Present
Brenda Combs – Present

Maryan Harrison – Present
Bill Madison – Present
Rolin Spicer – Present

3. GUESTS

Joel King, Warren County Career Center Superintendent - Gave a slide presentation informing the council on what they do and who they are, hands on career technical education at multiple locations. A video presentation of student testimonials was also shown. There was a handout provided and information given regarding the 2023 ballot bond issue and levy.

4. Mayor Smith opened the floor to the public.

John Laws, 89 Bedles Court, South Lebanon – Notified the council that he and John Chambers are still out there and willing to work with the city regarding the Convention of States; they have spoken at council meetings on both October 20, 2022 and September 21, 2023. He stated that among 5 of them they have hit roughly 400 homes by block walking in the last 3 months. Approximately 85% of the people they have spoken with are in favor of the Convention of States. At the state level there are 2 in the Senate and the House that are in committee, those are moving through and hopefully up for discussion at the beginning of the year.

Mayor Smith closed the floor to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Meier stated that these are competing ordinances as there were 2 separate requests.

Mayor Smith opened the floor to the council for discussion of each ordinance regarding allowing or not allowing political signs on city property.

Haddix stated that these ordinances relate to city property, parks and adjoining right-a-way up to the street. He added that typically any signs in the rights-of-way are prohibited, however we tend to let that go. He would recommend allowing political signs on private property and in the right-of way.

Combs asked if we are allowing all signs or just political signs and if the city has anything in place to prevent organizations from placing signs on private property.

Meier clarified that the way that both ordinances are drafted specifically indicates that candidates for political office either can or cannot post political campaign signs. He would interpret either ordinance to only apply to those political candidates not to organizations. Meier reiterated that these don't relate to private property, they only relate to public property.

Mayor Smith stated that we have never allowed any signs to be placed on city property before. Madison asked if that is driven by ordinance or policy to which Mayor Smith stated policy.

Meier added that in the zoning regulations there are regulations that relate to signage in the city but those relate to things like the size of signs and getting approval for business signs or things of that nature.

Madison remarked that the city needs to remain neutral and unbiased to avoid any further issues that could come up.

Burke stated that she does not think that any signs should be on city property around the Municipal Building, the Veterans Memorial, parks, or places like that. However, she does not believe we should ban signs everywhere in the city.

Mayor Smith stated that the right-a-way is under regulation now and we just need to follow that process to make that change and make it clear that there is nothing on city property. Meier stated that we would then need to provide a definition for what city property would mean and specifically where signage could and could not be located, then we can isolate those areas and address those concerns. That would be a modified statement in one of these 2 ordinances.

Allen asked what a neutral stance would look like to which Madison stated it would be unbiased, we would not endorse anyone or allow campaign signs on city property.

Mayor Smith shared that other types of signs, example being yard sale signs, are addressed in other regulations and that is why they remove them every Monday.

Harrison stated that the county has the same rule of no political signs on campuses, and she is for that.

Spicer questioned Ordinance 2023-31 as it is written, hypothetically where would you not be allowed to place campaign signs. Meier answered stating that he would need to modify that language in Ordinance 2023-31 to specifically define where political signage would be prohibited and define what city property would be; as he understands the discussion, it would not be permitted on city owned land.

Spicer stated that his concern is if you do a ban of all signs on public property you will only be able to put signs on private property and that limits a lot of candidates. Burke stated that we could put the signs in areas except for around the Municipal Building, Veterans Memorial, and parks. She does not want to see a complete ban on city owned property.

Meier stated that the topic should be tabled until he makes the modifications to Ordinance 2023-31; he will present the modified ordinance at the next meeting.

A motion to table Ordinance 2023-31 was made by Burke, seconded by Allen, all yeas.

Haddix stated that Section 1 talks about any candidates for political office, do we want to add anything about any issues being put on the ballot; councilmembers voiced their agreement with this.

Combs asked if we needed an ordinance for the area around the Municipal Building or if this would cover it. Meier stated that this ordinance relates only to political signage but if you are wanting a prohibition on any signage on public property that would be a different legislation. Mayor Smith stated that by not allowing any signage on public property, not including the right-a-way, there would be no discrimination against anyone.

A motion to prohibit all signs on city property in South Lebanon was made by Allen, seconded by Madison, all yeas.

5. ORDINANCE 2023-30, FIRST READING, AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE POSTING OF POLITICAL SIGNAGE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY
6. ORDINANCE 2023-31, FIRST READING, AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE POSTING OF POLITICAL SIGNAGE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY
7. AUTHORIZATION OF INVOICES

A motion to authorize the invoices for payment (\$41,237.57) was made by Burke, seconded by Combs, all yeas.

8. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS

Mayor Smith

- a. Thanked Joel King for coming this evening.
- b. The guys have been doing a lot of work out on the streets.
- c. We should have a traffic light update soon for the Pike Street and Main Street intersection.

Director of Finance Tina Williams

- a. Absent.

Administrator Jerry Haddix

- a. The maintenance guys have been doing crack sealing around town.
- b. The Energy Aggregation Opt-Out is next week; he is going to do a test sample to see if everyone who should be getting the opt-out is.
- c. The water/sewer rate study has started with GRW Engineers, we should have some results back early next year.
- d. TEC Engineering is doing a traffic count and study at Pike Street and Main Street.
- e. Leaf pick-up will begin next week.
- f. The bid opening for the West Broadway Street project is next Tuesday, October 10, 2023.
- g. While the guys have been crack sealing they have noticed some sections that need additional work. We've done a pavement study and have a couple of quotes/estimates for: Corwin/Nixon Blvd. at State Route 48 on the west side, N. Section St. from Mary Lane Circle to Carrie Lane, the corner of Mary Lane & Forest Ave., and Grants Frederic intersection with Frederick Court. Photos were shown of the areas. The total estimates for these 4 sections were \$230,600.

A motion to bid these sections out was made by Madison, seconded by Allen, all yeas.
- h. The Warren County Municipal League will be meeting at the Shaker Run Golf Club on October 18, 2023. If anyone would like to go, please let him know.

Assistant Administrator Jeff Boylan

- a. Absent.

Law Director Andrew Meier

- a. Nothing to report.

Deputy Troy Fox

- a. Nothing to report.

Bill Madison

- a. Thanked Joel King and Sgt. Adams.
- b. Brought up the issue of handicap parking signs and how some residents do not have driveways that face the front of their yards or level surfaces to get from their vehicles to their homes. Many residents must park on the street in front of their homes however these spots may be used by others. We need to have handicap parking spots for individuals who qualify. Mayor Smith stated that he knows of 2 requests that have been made for McKinley Street and Mary Lane Circle. The city would have the ability to remove the signs if anything changed in the future. Meier asked what information or documentation had been presented by the 2 previous requests. Adding that there would need to be a written request with verification so we could verify that this is a legit request before we would allow someone to have a sign. Meier will work with Haddix on the criteria. Haddix pointed out that this would not be a private spot.

Brenda Combs

- a. Thanked Joel King and Sgt. Adams for all the things that they do for everyone.

Linda Burke

- a. Thanked Joel King for coming.
- b. She has a meeting on October 10, 2023 with Warren County Regional Planning and Zoning to pass the budget for 2024.

Linda Allen

- a. Asked when Halloween is going to be celebrated in the city to which Haddix stated it would be on October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

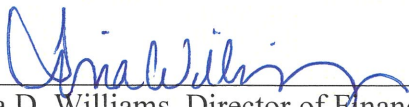
Maryan Harrison

- a. Thanked Joel King for coming this evening.
- b. Thanked Deputy Fox.

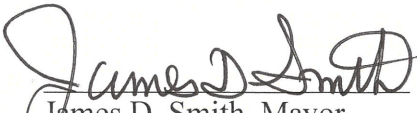
Rolin Spicer

- a. Nothing to report.

9. Mayor Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. A motion was made by Burke, seconded by Allen, all yeas.



Petrina D. Williams, Director of Finance/Clerk



James D. Smith, Mayor

For an audio copy of the October 5, 2023 City of South Lebanon Council Regular Meeting, please contact the Director of Finance at twilliams@southlebanonohio.org.