

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 17, 2017
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Garnes at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Kline gave the invocation and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Larry Dordea, James Edwards, Julie Jakmides, Cindy King, Donald Kline and Roger Rhome present.

Motion and Second to enter executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Pursuant to R.C. 121.22(G)(1) with Council members, Council President, Mayor, Safety Service Director, Law Director and Attorneys Beck, Carro, and Lute Present. Roll Call Vote: 4 in favor, 3 (Dordea, Edwards, and Jakmides) against. **MOTION PASSED.**

Council entered executive session at 7:03 PM

Council re-entered regular session at 8:04 PM

Minutes of the April 3, 2017 Regular Council Meeting were distributed electronically to all members prior to the meeting. Clerk explained that Council Rule 4.01 would have required a 2/3 vote to place Ordinance 15-17 and 16-17 on the agenda. Since the Ordinances 15-17 did not receive that majority affirmation it was not effectively given a first reading and the Minutes have been corrected to reflect a failure of the motion to place on the agenda. Motion and second to receive and file the Minutes as corrected. **MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION OF ALL MEMBERS.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Memorandum from Auditor Knowles RE: General Fund Detailed Trial Balance.
2. Notice of Executive Session of the April 17th 2017 Council Meeting to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Pursuant to R.C. 121.11(G)(1)
3. Notice of the April 19th 2017 Downtown Special Events Commission Meeting
4. Notice of the April 25th 2017 Parks Board Meeting.
5. Memorandum from Auditor Knowles RE: Report to Council of City's Finances
6. Notice from Ohio Liquor Control RE: License Stock Transfer for Don Panchos Restaruant
7. Letter from Alliance Professional Firefighters IAFF local 480 RE: "No Confidence" vote
8. Notice of the April 24th 2017 City Records Commission Meeting

Motion and second to receive and file all communications tendered to the Clerk. **MOTION PASSED BY ACCLAMATION OF ALL MEMBERS.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mayor Andreani: Noted he had nothing to add to the information in the Executive session.

Safety Service Director Dreger: Reviewed Ordinance 18-17 and asked for action tonight to permit action before it is too late for this farming season.

Announced that there is another meeting with the Westville Homeowners Association on

Tuesday evening at the Westville Skating rink.

Informed Council that Engine 11 is out of service and will be the first piece of equipment liquidated by the internet auction process authorized by Council last year

Explained that there was a minor hydraulic fluid spill at Westville Lake while Distribution employees were working in the area.

Councilman Dordea questioned the actions of Director Hastings in the incident and why he is referred to in an OEPA report as “Chief Hastings”

Safety Service Director Dreger explained the incident in more detail and stated that he did not believe Director Hastings misrepresented himself to the OEPA. Dreger further stated that he did not believe that Hastings committed any wrong doing or attempted to hide the matter from the OEPA.

Councilman Dordea questioned where Mr. Hastings lives and if he has a valid Ohio Driver’s License. Mr. Dreger stated Mr. Hastings lives at his parents’ house outside of Alliance and Mr. Hastings stated he has a valid Florida License but not Ohio. Councilman Dordea stated that it is a violation of the City Policy Manual that Hastings doesn’t have an Ohio License and that Mr. Dreger’s lack of knowledge of that is “Sloppy”

Councilwoman Jakmides questioned Director Dreger regarding his involvement with city contracts and the selection of outside legal representation. Further questioned why Law Director is mentioned in letter of engagement if Safety Service Director hired them. Law Director Arnold further explained the selection process used by City officials in this matter.

Councilman Rhome stated that there are bigger issues Council should be addressing.

Councilman Dordea questioned the Safety Service Director’s directive that no city employees are permitted to talk to Councilman and asked him to recind this directive.

Law Director Arnold: State she had no formal report but was available for questions.

Councilwoman asked Director Arnold who she represents as Law Director and Director Arnold stated “The City of Alliance”. Jakmides then asked why Ms. Arnold had directed Mayor Andreani not to answer Council questions last meeting

Went through a lengthy discussion with the Law Director reviewing cases she believes relate to the City’s current situation with hiring outside legal counsel in the Police Department matter. Director Arnold explained her opinion regarding the cited cases and how Alliance’s situation is different.

Councilman questioned why a law firm was hired as investigators regarding the Police Department when the State has BCI for investigations that would have done it for free. Director Arnold explained that BCI is related to criminal matters and she believed that this is possible civil liability not criminal in nature that would allow for a BCI investigation.

Councilman Kline stated he believed this is turning into a “witch hunt” that needs to end

Auditor Knowles: Reviewed General Fund Detailed report provided to Council.

Auditor Knowles stated that the General Fund is currently out of money based on the 2017 Budget and Council needs to meet soon to address the situation.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Properties and Lands: Cherry: No formal report.

Safety & Judiciary: Dordea: State that he is glad that the Law Director acknowledges that she represents all of the City but he is disappointed at being sued again for the actions of the City.

Went into a lengthy discussion of the recent promotions and demotions within the Police Department in an attempt to re-structure the command structure of the Department by the Administration. Dordea stated that when approached to introduce legislation to eliminate command positions within the police department as Chairman of the Safety and Judiciary Committee he refused and Director stated he would “find another way.” Dordea stated that the situation has caused severe morale problems in the City Employees and noted that both the FOP and IAFF have taken votes of “no confidence” in the City Administration. Stated this is the worst situation that he has seen in 40 years of public service and expressed his disappointment in Director Dreger for the situation the City finds itself in.

Planning, Zoning, & Housing: Edwards: No formal report.

Finance: Jakmides: Stated that she is disappointed that Council would not permit continued questioning of the Law Director and Administration on the issues she sees. Stated that in the past 6 years she has been on Council, Council has been timid and pretty much ratified the actions of the Administration without question. Jakmides stated it is about time Council begin questioning the Administration and she has questions regarding the expenditures and hiring of outside legal counsel when the City is broke. Stated as Chairman of the finance committee she will continue to question the actions of the administration.

Community Development: King: No formal.

Utilities: Kline: No formal report

Streets & Alley: Rhome: No formal report.

Public Speaks: James Dyke of 761 N. Walnut congratulated Dordea and Jakmides for standing up for the Police Officers in Alliance in this matter and stated he is ashamed of other Council members and the Administration for their actions. Further stated he is circulating a petition to have Mayor Andreani fire Director Dreger and may also look into a recall for Mayor Andreani.

THIRD READINGS: None

SECOND READINGS:

Ordinance 15-17: It was again explained by Clerk Yost that this ordinance did not receive enough votes to have been considered a first reading at the April 3rd meeting so it is not a second reading.

Ordinance 16-17: Introduced by Jakmides: An Ordinance affirming the power of Alliance

City Council to approve and authorize all Professional or Personal Service Contracts entered into by any official on behalf of the City of Alliance; and declaring an emergency. Motion and second to suspend the rule requiring 3 readings. Roll Call: Unanimous. Motion and Second to adopt: Roll Call: 3 in favor (Dordea, Edwards, Jakmides) 4 against (Cherry, King, Kline, and Rhome). Ordinance Failed. **DEFEATED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 15-17: Introduced by Jakmides: An Ordinance making transfers of funds in the 2017 Appropriations to provide for necessary adjustments; and declaring an emergency. Motion and second to suspend the rule requiring 3 readings. Roll Call: 3 Dordea, Edwards, Jakmides) in favor 4 (Cherry, King, Kline, and Rhome) Against. Motion Failed. **NO FORMAL ACTION.**

Ordinance 17-17: Introduced by King: An Ordinance authorizing and recommending the continuation of the Alliance Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Agreement Tax Abatement with Costal Pet Products CRA No. 1, Costal Pet Products CRA No. 2, Winkle Industries CRA No. 2, Lavery Chevrolet Buick Inc. CRA No. 1, Lavery Chevrolet Buick Inc. CRA No. 2, Trilogy Real Estate Partners LLC, Alliance Ventures – Western, Alliance Ventures- Koals, Alliance Ventures Mount Union; and declaring an emergency. **NO FORMAL ACTION.**

Ordinance 18-17: Introduced by Cherry; An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Director of Public Safety and Service to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for the lease of 18 + acres of its tillable land located in the NW Quarter section 14, Lexington Township, Stark County, Ohio for farming purposes; and declaring an emergency. Motion and second to suspend the rule requiring 3 readings. Voice Vote: Unanimous. Motion and second to adopt. Voice Vote: Unanimous. **ADOPTED.**

Ordinance 19-17: Introduced by Cherry; An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Director of Public Safety and Service to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for the greening and beautification of scattered neighborhood initiative program (NIP) corner lots within the City of Alliance; and declaring an emergency. Motion and second to suspend the rule requiring 3 readings. Voice Vote: Unanimous. Motion and second to adopt. Voice Vote: Unanimous. **ADOPTED.**

Ordinance 20-17: Introduced by Cherry; An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Director of Public Safety and Service to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for the construction and development of a “pocket park” within the 400 block of East Main Street in the City of Alliance; Appropriating funds for such purposes; and declaring an emergency. Motion and second to suspend the rule requiring 3 readings. Voice Vote: Unanimous. Motion and second to suspend the rule requiring Finance Committee review. Voice Vote: Unanimous. Motion and second to adopt. Voice Vote: Unanimous. **ADOPTED.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Noting no further business to come before this Council, President Garnes adjourned the meeting at 9:39 PM

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

Ordinance 15-17	FIRST READING
Ordinance 16-17	DEFEATED
Ordinance 17-17	FIRST READING
Ordinance 18-17	ADOPTED
Ordinance 19-17	ADOPTED
Ordinance 20-17	ADOPTED

ARTHUR GARNES, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

GERARD T. YOST, COUNCIL CLERK