

**CITY OF TOLEDO  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 2021**

**MAYOR STEVE DOBOSH CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT THE TOLEDO SENIOR CENTER. THE MEETING WAS ALSO TELEVISED LIVE ON YOU TUBE. THE FLAG SALUTE WAS LED BY MAYOR DOBOSH.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Emily Morgan, Michelle (Shelly) Thomas, Ron Neumann, and Jamie Scalise (late).

**EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Michelle Whitten, City Clerk/Treasurer; Deavon Jacobson, Clerk Assistant; Sam Patrick, Police Chief; and Mike Fisher, Public Works Superintendent.

**ABSENT:** Glend Forga was excused.

**GUESTS:** Cindy Samco, Eric Hayes, Ron and Sue Smith, Gary Reboin, Jeanine Washington, Sue Barlow, Mary Shahan, Alicia Fox Bull, Bruce Graham, Mike Thomas, Pat and Bill Caldwell, Amber Buck, and Julie Zander.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2021.** Ron motioned to approve the consent agenda; Emily seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Steve Dobosh – Mayor:** Nothing to report

**Mike Fisher – Public Works:** The meter project is going very well and back on schedule. Shelly had helped in running down some poles for the park kitchen and they will get to that work soon. Mike met with an engineer today who will write an evaluation on the park kitchen.

The Well #1 is working fine and ready to run the testing. Emily asked with the upcoming freeze if the pipes be okay, Mike answered yes. She also was concerned about a puddle on Pine Street. Mike explained this is a low spot in the road and they will be looking at it this summer.

Ron asked is picnic tables were put away, yes, they are. Is there a plan in place to put them away if someone else takes out, or will this be placed in the agreement to use the kitchen? Mike answered this will be something the Park Board needs to work out in the agreement.

Mike went on with his report stating he has now been here for two years in September. He listed accomplishments that the Council has helped him obtain: Toolbox for side of trucks, service truck and dump trailer, work to screw press at waste water treatment plant, backhoe bucket and paint striper, hauling our own solids, cleanup around park and campsites, worked with organization at jail for improvements. Still to finish the thermoplastic stop bars, radio read meters, TIB project on State Route 505, and the waste water treatment plant received an award from Department of Ecology. Ron reminded him of the purchase of the snowblower also.

**Sam Patrick – Police Department:** Everything is quiet and smooth; he has been changing his shift around. He attended the drone training last week and will test to be certified.

He has a couple prospects for a new officer with only one being certified. He is hoping to start the interview process next month. He does have a new Reserve Officer Candidate to sponsor through the Reserve Academy hosted by Morton, Brandon Svenson. Sam will be helping teach classes so there will be no cost to Toledo, with classes beginning in January going through June.

**Michelle Whitten– City Clerk/Treasurer:** Michelle reported the Housing Summit was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with more information coming. The city's current software company has recently been sold; we are hoping for a smooth transition as all our systems are integrated through this software. Mike and Michelle met with Lewis County Public Works and the engineering firm HDR. They are working on a project to map out the entire county's infrastructure needs for water and sewer. This will help in leveraging grant dollars to see those projects happen. Michelle sent them all information and mapping for Toledo's future water and sewer plans.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: PAT CALDWELL – TOLEDO**

**COMMUNITY/TIMBERLAND LIBRARY.** Pat gave a brief history of the library and how it started in Toledo. A vote of the citizens of the city limits to agree to taxing themselves for the Timberland Regional Library in 2013 was passed. Those in the county had already been paying the taxes. The Caldwell's donated their building for the library which Timberland allocated having a kiosk for their system. In order for Timberland to do a full-fledged library the City of Toledo will need to accept the building and take it over. Timberland will fund a feasibility study to see if there is enough interest in setting up a library for their system.

Currently, the utility costs are around \$2,840 for the year plus taxes and insurance. If the city takes over the building it would fall under the city's current insurance policy and there would be no property taxes. The building has been outfitted with new LED lights and carpeting. All minor repairs the Caldwell's have been doing themselves. The Friends of the Library have been hosting bake sales and book sales to fund the library, they currently have a balance of \$5,000 in their account. Pat gave a brief rundown of users of the Timberland system. They have limited hours of 12 hours a week and see between 24-30 people a day using the facility.

Pat said if the city does agree to take over the building and it is every determined it would not be used for a library, they would want in the agreement they would get the building back. Ron asked if there was enough growth of the library to need a larger facility would they be willing to allow the building to be sold and funds used for new building, which Pat said yes, they would. Pat also informed Council they own the vacant lot behind the building that could be expanded to.

**AMBER BUCK-FOOD PANTRY.** Amber gave a presentation to the Council on a new idea of a food pantry instead of using the current Food Bank. She explained she has been part of the Walk N Knock program for years. She has heard many concerns and complaints of the current building and Food Bank with concerns of donations too. She has asked for budget records of the Food Bank and cannot get them; she has farmers wanting to donate food with no response from current director. Overall complaints of checks not being cashed. Debi (Bell) is not willing to take offers of help. A new group has started meeting and trying to figure out how to make things better. They would like the building to become a hub with potential of food

deliveries. She is here to ask the Council to consider a new group with an emphasis on neighbors helping neighbors' program. They have received support from the Toledo Lions Club and Toledo Community Foundation. They will be using social media to their advantage for communicating what is going on, who to contact, food donations, etc. She wants to know what they can do to get a new program going. Jamie asked if they have talked to the Food Bank Coordinator, which Amber said yes but received no response.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Mike Thomas said he is glad to see someone wants to take over the Food Bank as it is a fire trap. He wanted to thank Amber for the time and effort.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Toledo Community/Timberland Library.** Ron motioned to accept the building from the Caldwell's with the Timberland Regional Library doing a feasibility study, Emily seconded. Motion carried.

**Toledo Food Pantry.** Emily motioned to move forward with the community Neighbors helping Neighbors and terminate current contract with Food Bank, Shelly seconded. Ron has concerns to make sure there is no violation of the current contract and lease and to make sure we follow the correct process and work with our attorney. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Ordinance No. 770 – 2021 Budget Amendments. Second Reading.** Mayor Dobosh read by title. Ron moved to accept Ordinance No. 770; Emily seconded. Shelly asked if this amendment added the purchase of another police car, Michelle said it did not. Motion carried unanimously.

**Ordinance No. 771 – 2022 Budget. Second Reading.** Mayor Dobosh read by title. Shelly moved to accept Ordinance No. 771; Jamie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Police Vehicle Options.** Sam informed Council that he cannot order a 2022 police vehicle as the order cut off date has expired. A car can be ordered at the end of 2022 for a 2023 car. The 2021 cars are still available. If we keep the 2009 Charger there is some work that needs to be done and it will need new tires. Extra equipment needed for a new car would be about \$5,000 to \$6,000. Sam's concern is hiring a new officer and to still be in transition with the car.

Michelle explained a spreadsheet she presented and explained that it does require a three-year loan from another department that would need to be paid back with interest. We started the car rotation in 2019 and it is a good plan. We need to plan for the future of our equipment. Council discussed various options, Shelly asked if there was a preference of vehicle. Sam would like the white Durango and to have it marked. Emily motioned to purchase the 2021 car; Jamie seconded. Michelle reminded them that this is not in the 2021 budget and if the dealership cannot invoice until January, we will not be able to purchase. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS: None.**

**PUBLIC:** Bruce Graham from the Lewis County Food Bank Coalition asked what the vote was for regarding the Food Bank. Ron explained it was to cautiously move forward with the

Neighbors group but not violate any contracts. Bruce asked if Council was aware of how the coalition works and it takes in all of Lewis County. There are federal dollars that city cannot get. Ron explained that we are in control of the building the Food Bank resides in and not how Food Bank operates. Bruce asked where the Neighbors program is getting food to serve Toledo. Ron acknowledged these are valid concerns, but the current situation is not working. People are not being served and it is a health and fire hazard. There is a communication breakdown. Ron asked if Bruce would work with the city and he said he would.

Alicia Fox Bull asked who has access to the Food Bank. She has been working on grants, there is no heat or a working bathroom. Her mom and brother started the Food Bank in 1986. She would like to see Council not abandon what we have but work together to improve.

Amber Buck said she has reached out to Alicia but nothing has happened. She has also tried to speak with Debi and received a door in the face.

As things became a little heated the Mayor pounded down his gavel and stopped the ruckus.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Emily made a motion to adjourn, Jamie seconded. Motion carried.

These minutes are not verbatim. If so desired, a recording of this meeting is on file and can be heard.

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**Steve Dobosh – Mayor**

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**Michelle Whitten – City Clerk/Treasurer**