

Minutes for July 6, 2020 Work Session, gaveled into session at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor Garry stated that Councilman Kulak and Councilman Miller could not attend the work session.

Mayor Garry asked if there are any questions regarding the employee handbook.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that he sent out a new draft to everyone the biggest questions should be discussed in executive session. The other changes that he put in the last few days were minimal.

Council had discussion regarding eliminating some of the holidays, employee duties, and hiring of an individual to start learning positions to assist the remaining two office personnel.

Discussion then turned to an ordinance regarding fireworks. Solicitor Pappasergi stated that there is a general noise ordinance under the Zoning Ordinance that they could fall under. The City cannot make an ordinance that is more or less restrictive than the state fireworks law. State law allows you to shoot off fireworks 150 feet from any building. The City wouldn't be allowed to make it more than or less than state law.

Chief Harris stated that his concern is the areal style fireworks that could come back down onto buildings.

Solicitor Pappasergi there were several fire calls over the weekend in Pittsburgh, Monessen, and Rostraver due to fireworks. If they were legal fireworks set off in legal manners there is no citation that can be drawn from those fire calls. Given everything being in close proximity to the City, he doubts that there are many places you could shoot of areal fireworks where you are not within 150 feet of a building. Even if they were shooting them off in the middle of the infield of the Mounds Park, chances are you are probable within 150 feet of one of the houses or buildings.

Discussion then turned to loud vehicles from the vehicle exhaust and radio that actually vibrate windows in houses as they pass. Chief Harris stated that what is unreasonable to one person isn't unreasonable to someone else and that is the issue as to what is unreasonable.

Mayor Garry stated that we have two businesses that are having issues with dumpsters being picked up due to the dumpsters being blocked by vehicles legally parked in the parking lot.

Councilwoman Williams stated this has been an ongoing issue for these two businesses and had spoken to the Street Department regarding the curb and removing two meters to allow for the garbage company to pick up and empty the dumpsters.

Mayor received a call from Judy Caudill stating that Tom Caudill would be unable to continue on the Transit Authority Board and need to find a replacement.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated he would have to look into the requirements to be on the board. Council has potential candidates but would like to speak to them first.

Mayor Garry then stated the Police Department is having staffing issues such as some part time officers are leaving for other positions.

Chief Harris states that there has been an increase of open positions in other departments due to retirement and less individuals coming out of the academy. The availability to hire is limited and compared to other areas our contract requires that we start out part time police officers at \$15.00 per hour and after six months it increases to \$20.60 per hour. With that first six months at \$15.00 the officers that would be available are making more than that at other departments as a part time officers. He is requesting that we waive the \$15.00 per hour for new officers be waived for this year and that we start them at \$20.60 to try to get some officers hired so that the City doesn't have to pay overtime which wouldn't be cost efficient.

Council asked the Chief to work the figures to see if hiring full time officer's is cost effective opposed to increasing part time pay.

Mayor Garry stated there is questions regarding mercantile and mechanical taxes.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated he has looked at mercantile and per capita tax ordinances are outdated and probably need to be revamped. These are ordinances that were passed in 1974 and it's the way it has always been done but is it the proper way to do it.

