

**(NO PRE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY)**

**AGENDA FOR PARKERSBURG CITY COUNCIL,  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017, 7:30 PM  
SECOND FLOOR, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Council President, JR Carpenter
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. MINUTES - Council meeting November 28, 2017
- IV. REPORTS FROM STANDING OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES
- V. MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE
- VI. PUBLIC FORUM
- VI. RESOLUTIONS
  1. Supplemental resolution concerning the City of Parkersburg becoming a participating employer of the WV Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, for Municipal paid professional firefighters. (Sponsored by Councilmen Reed, Kuhl, Barber, and Stanley)
  2. Supplemental resolution concerning the City of Parkersburg becoming a participating employer of the WV Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters System for municipal police officers. (Sponsored by Councilmen reed, Kuhl, Barber, and Stanley.)
- VII. ORDINANCE, FINAL READING
  - 3 An ordinance amending and re-enacting Article 781.05, Subsection (a) and (b) Assessment of fire protection fees, increasing the same. (amended Nov. 28, 2017) (Sponsored by the Finance Committee of City Council)  
**PUBLIC HEARING**
  4. An ordinance amending and re-enacting subsections (a) and (b) of Section 789.04, Assessment of police protection fees, increasing the same. (Sponsored by the Finance Committee of City Council)  
**PUBLIC HEARING**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT (NOTE – NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 19, 2017)

The Council of the City of Parkersburg met in regular session Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building at One Government Square, Parkersburg, and joined in the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance prior to the beginning of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, JR Carpenter, who presided over the meeting.

The Clerk noted those members attending as Councilmen Dave McCrady, Sharon Kuhl, Bob Mercer, Eric Barber, Mike Reynolds, John Reed, Zach Stanley, Jeff Fox, and JR Carpenter.

MINUTES – Mr. Stanley moved, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the City Council minutes from November 14, 2017, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

REPORTS FROM STANDING OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES – Councilman John Reed reported on a recent *Finance Committee meeting concerning increasing fees to fund police and fire pensions*. He thanked his committee and subcommittee and the administration for hours spent over the past seven months, and explained the history of how the pensions got behind over the past 21 years. Now the City is paying \$4.5 million per year for the pensions, but \$7 million per year is needed. Several options were considered and the committee unanimously agreed to increase fire fees by 115%, and police fees 100%. Old pension plans have been closed, and the ordinance are being presented tonight.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE – Mayor Tom Joyce thanked Bosley Construction and our Public Works Department for building a safe walking path recently from the Edison Hill housing community to Edison School and Martin School.

The Mayor also mentioned the successful Turkey Trot Race at City Park over Thanksgiving, and announced that our Christmas parade will be December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM with a tree lighting at 6:30 PM, Holiday in the Park is open, as well as a holiday walk through our Juliana Square Historic District.

PUBLIC FORUM – Sherry Dugan, #1 Wharton Drive, said she understood the situation we have with our pension funds, but asked them to phase the fee increases over time and not all at once.

President of the F.O.P., Officer Beniah Depue, asked Council to adopt the ordinances, as the alternatives would be detrimental to the safety of our citizens. Cuts should be made through attrition, he said.

Sue Ellen Waybright, Division Street, stated that we were asking people to dig deep into their pockets to pay this increase, and thinks Council should go back to the budget and make cuts, and she offered to assist them.

Don Godfrey, 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that former Councilman, Dorsey Chevront, wanted to address the pension problems 10 years ago, but it did not happen. He thought we did not need a big increase on the police and fire fees.

An Ohio resident and long-term investor in Wood County, stated that the fees should be spread out over everyone, not just property owners. He said everyone appreciates the police and firemen, but the only retirement he has is what he saves, and to fund their retirement, he is taking from his retirement.

Nancy Wilcox, 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, former Councilman, stated that in 2014 they started collecting on delinquent fees and the City collected \$1.5 million more put in the pension funds. She asked the City to collect what is owned first, as she knows there are a lot of delinquencies.

Harry Dietzler, Vienna, commended Council for taking on these hard decisions. He stated that when you live in the City limits, you get a quick response from the police and fire departments. Everything we have is paid for by the taxpayers, and each of us has to pay for the services they receive.

Councilman Reynolds stated that he will move to amend the ordinance this evening. He said they have worked hard to make some budget cuts amounting to approximately \$400,000.00 which is about a 20% reduction for these fees, and through attrition.

Councilwoman Kuhl stated that when she ran for office, she thought we could cut fees, then she found out that things are not what we think, or what they had been told. She apologized to the citizens for supporting these fee increases. The policemen and firemen take an oath, and they don't know if they will be able to go home at night after putting their lives on the line. They were told they would be guaranteed a retirement and we have to make sure they get it, she said.

ORDINANCE, FIRST READING:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING  
SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF SECTION 781.05,  
ASSESSMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION FEES,  
INCREASING THE SAME

MOTION – Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Kuhl, to adopt the ordinance on first reading.

MOTION TO AMEND – Mr. Reynolds moved, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to amend the ordinance to reduce it from a 115% increase down to a 95% increase.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT – the amendment was adopted by majority vote, as follows:

VOTING 'YES'

Mr. McCrady  
Ms. Kuhl  
Mr. Mercer  
Mr. Reynolds  
Mr. Reed

VOTING 'NO'

Mr. Barber  
Mr. Stanley  
Mr. Fox  
Mr. Carpenter

MOTION TO REFER – Mr. Fox moved, seconded by Mr. Barber, to refer the ordinance back to the Finance Committee.

VOTE – the motion failed by majority vote, as follows:

VOTING 'YES'

Mr. Barber  
Mr. Fox  
Mr. Carpenter

VOTING 'NO'

Mr. McCrady  
Ms. Kuhl  
Mr. Mercer  
Mr. Reynolds  
Mr. Reed  
Mr. Stanley

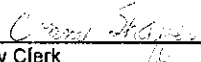
VOTE ON MOTION, AS AMENDED – the motion was adopted by majority vote with all members voting 'yes' with the exception of Mr. Barber, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Carpenter.

ORDINANCE, FIRST READING:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING  
SUBSECTION (a) AND (b) OF SECTION 789.04, ASSESSMENT  
OF POLICE PROTECTION FEES, INCREASING THE SAME.  
(doubles fee)

MOTION – Mr. Reed moved, seconded by Ms. Kuhl, to adopt the ordinance on first reading, and the motion was adopted by majority vote with all members voting "yes" with the exception of Mr. Barber, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Carpenter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

  
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City Clerk

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Council President

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG  
BECOMING A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA  
MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
FOR MUNICIPAL PAID PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS**

WHEREAS the City of Parkersburg by Resolution duly made and lawfully passed by the majority vote of its City Council and dated October 24, 2017 did elect to become a participating employer and join the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System pursuant to Chapter 8, Article 22A, Section 28 of the West Virginia Code; and

WHEREAS by said action the City thereby will include all of its municipal paid professional firefighters who are eligible for membership in the said Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG AS FOLLOWS:

The Municipality hereby agrees to pay its employer contributions, and withhold applicable employee contributions monthly and remit same to the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System no later than fifteen (15) days following the end of each calendar month. This municipality understands that if contributions are delinquent, the employer will be required to pay the actuarial rate of interest lost, on the total employee and employer contributions per day, with a minimum charge of fifty dollars. This municipality further understand that once it becomes a participating employer of the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, the municipality may not withdraw from participation in the retirement system without express statutory authority.

Sponsored by Councilmen:

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG  
BECOMING A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA  
MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS**

WHEREAS the City of Parkersburg by Resolution duly made and lawfully passed by the majority vote of its City Council and dated October 24, 2017 did elect to become a participating employer and join the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System pursuant to Chapter 8, Article 22A, Section 28 of the West Virginia Code; and


WHEREAS by said action the City thereby will include all of its municipal police officers who are eligible for membership in the said Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG AS FOLLOWS:

The Municipality hereby agrees to pay its employer contributions, and withhold applicable employee contributions monthly and remit same to the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System no later than fifteen (15) days following the end of each calendar month. This municipality understands that if contributions are delinquent, the employer will be required to pay the actuarial rate of interest lost, on the total employee and employer contributions per day, with a minimum charge of fifty dollars. This municipality further understand that once it becomes a participating employer of the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, the municipality may not withdraw from participation in the retirement system without express statutory authority.

Sponsored by Councilmen:

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING SUBSECTIONS (a) and (b) of Section 781.05, ASSESSMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION FEES, INCREASING THE SAME**

 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG that Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 781.05, Assessment of Fire Protection Fees, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Parkersburg be and they are hereby amended and re-enacted to increase said fees as follows:

**781.05 ASSESSMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION FEES.**

- (a) There is hereby imposed upon the respective owners of all buildings in the City an annual fire protection fee for each fiscal year, in an amount equal to the total number of square feet contained in the building multiplied by 0.08775 cents.
- (b) There is hereby imposed upon the respective owners of all buildings in the City containing three or more stories an additional annual fire protection fee for each fiscal year, the sum of one hundred ninety-five dollars (\$195.00) for the third story and each story in addition thereto.

The same shall be effective July 1, 2018.

Sponsored By the Finance Committee

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**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING SUBSECTIONS (a) and (b) of Section 789.04, ASSESSMENT OF POLICE PROTECTION FEES, INCREASING THE SAME**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG that Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 789.04, Assessment of Police Protection Fees, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Parkersburg be and they are hereby amended and re-enacted to increase said fees as follows:

**789.04 ASSESSMENT OF POLICE PROTECTION FEES;**

- (a) For the continuance, maintenance and improvement of the special service of police protection by the City, there is hereby imposed upon the users of all institutional and commercial premises, as defined in Section 789.01, an annual fee or charge of one-hundred and ninety-two dollars (\$192.00) per unit.
- (b) For the continuance, maintenance and improvement of the special services of police protection by the City, there is hereby imposed upon the users of all residential premises, as defined in Section 789.01, an annual fee or charge of ninety-six dollars (\$96.00).

The same shall be effective July 1, 2018.

Sponsored By the Finance Committee