

Toledo City Council Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and roll call

The regular meeting of the Toledo City Council for February 5, 2025, was called to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Mayor announced that public comments would be limited to the public comment section only, not during agenda items.

The Mayor also noted that due to the length of the first executive session, items 1 and 2 under Discussion/Decision Items would be moved to after the second executive session.

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Councilor Mix, Councilor Kauffman, Councilor Silvia, Councilor Burns, Council President Bush, Councilor Keating, and Mayor Cross. All members were present.

Visitors/Public Comment

Three members of the public addressed the Council:

- The first speaker expressed support for City Manager Doug Wiggins, stating they were glad to see some of the turmoil being resolved and urged the Council to use common sense and continue mending the city. They advocated for bringing Doug back.
- Greg Musil, who identified himself as having 33 years of fire service experience, spoke in support of Doug Wiggins. He noted Wiggins' background as a police officer, sergeant, firefighter, and city manager, describing him as level-headed and caring for the community. He expressed concern about the difficulty of finding qualified city managers and noted that firefighters from Toledo, East Lincoln, and Seal Rock supported Wiggins.
- Crystal Sjostrom spoke about the importance of communication and giving people a chance to learn from mistakes. She suggested that there might be a personality barrier issue rather than something warranting termination, and encouraged the Council to work more closely with staff.

Consent Agenda

There were no items for discussion.

Discussion/Decision Items

Approving a scope of services contract and authorizing a signature and execution of the contract

Public Works Director Brian Lorimor presented information about the contract with Civil West Engineering for replacement of the Ammons Way water tank. City Attorney Mike Adams clarified that this is part of the bond measure that had been previously approved. The projected cost for Civil West's services is \$202,489, and the total cost to replace the Ammons water tank is \$2,600,000.

During discussion, Council members asked about potential difficulties with the project. Lorimor indicated no foreseeable issues. When asked about the construction method, he explained the tank would be fabricated and brought in pieces to be assembled on-site, which

would also make future repairs easier. Councilor Keating suggested installing a webcam for a time-lapse of the construction.

There was also discussion about who should sign the contract given the significant amount involved.

Motion by Councilor Silvia, seconded by Councilor Burns, to approve a scope of services contract with Civil West Engineering for the replacement of the Hammond water tank, authorizing execution of the contract, and authorizing City Attorney Mike Adams to sign said contract. Motion carried 7-0.

Approve an expenditure up to \$96,866 for street improvements on NW French St. and SE Alder Way

Public Works Director Lorimor presented information about sewer lining improvements for Northwest French Street and Southeast Alder way. He explained that the city has been experiencing issues with inflow and infiltration (I&I) due to aging infrastructure. The cure in place pipe (CIPP) lining process would help solve these issues by reducing the amount of wastewater entering the sanitary sewer system.

Lorimor explained that less product to process means fewer chemicals used, ultimately saving money. These sewer lining jobs have been part of the capital improvement projects for I&I improvements since 2017.

During discussion, Councilor Silvia asked about the significant difference between the two bids received. Lorimor confirmed the project was budgeted as part of the capital improvement projects. There was also discussion about building in a contingency amount and bringing the final contract back to Council for review.

Motion by Mayor, seconded by Councilor Keating, to approve an expenditure of up to \$105,000 for street improvements on Northwest French Street and Southeast Alder Way and authorizing the city attorney to prepare a contract and have that brought back to council for final review. Motion carried 7-0.

The Council then recessed the regular session for an executive session.

Consider a decision on employment of City Manager

Upon returning from executive session, the Council addressed the employment status of City Manager Doug Wiggins.

Motion by Councilor Tracy Mix, seconded by Council President Bush, to terminate the employment of City Manager Doug Wiggins. Motion passed 4-3, with Councilors Kauffman and Burns and the Mayor voting against.

Resolution No. 1567, appointing a temporary Purchasing Manager until the position of City Manager is filled

City Recorder Figueroa explained that the previous week, Chief Pace and Public Works Director Lorimor were assigned to sign off on invoices for payables. However, the city's purchasing policy identifies only the city manager or their designee for approving more significant contracts and expenses. In the past when the city lacked a city manager, the council appointed an interim purchasing manager.

She recommended City Attorney Mike Adams for this role as he is most qualified and is an employee of the council. It was noted that the purchasing manager can approve contracts up to \$25,000 without council approval.

Motion by Councilor Mix, seconded by Councilor Silvia, to adopt Resolution Number 1567, appointing City Attorney Michael E. Adams as temporary purchasing manager until the position of city manager is filled. Motion carried 7-0.

Reports and Comments

Police Chief Pace reported that talks with the new WVCC have resumed and they are pursuing both going forward. He noted they've lost some positions toward the end of the month and are relying on other agencies to fill those spots.

Public Works Director Lorimor reported that the city's Mutual Agreement Order (MAO) with the DEQ from 2017 regarding infiltration and inflow issues has been removed, meaning the city is no longer under scrutiny and is performing up to standard. He also reported that the DEQ will continue further testing for the gas station lot next door.

City Recorder Figueroa announced that City Hall would be closed the following day due to lack of front staff, but the planning department would be available by phone.

City Attorney Mike Adams announced he would be away for a week.

Councilor Keating mentioned that he had been discussing with the City Recorder potential technology upgrades for the City Council and asked for the Council's blessing to continue working with Lisa and Justin to develop a proposal. The Council agreed.

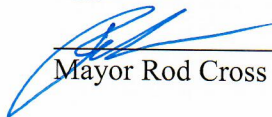
Councilor Mix expressed her emotional reaction to the difficult decisions made during the meeting, stating it "sucks" but that she felt led to serve her community.

The Mayor gave closing comments emphasizing the need for mercy, forgiveness, and giving people grace. He noted that the city has never had a perfect city manager and that the applicant pool is getting smaller. He stressed the importance of finding people with humility who would admit when they're wrong and do what they can to change. The Mayor called for healing in the community, stating that the town has been divided for over four months and needs to come together.

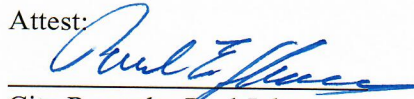
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved:


Mayor Rod Cross

Attest:


City Recorder Paul Johnson