

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-31

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDED CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE KILLBUCK WATERSHED LAND TRUST FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF WOOSTER MEMORIAL PARK, AND ALLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE ENACTMENT

WHEREAS, the city of Wooster is the owner of Wooster Memorial Park, which consists of approximately 325 acres located west of the city in Plain and Chester Townships; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Wooster Memorial Park, an interest group dedicated to the protection and preservation of the park, has proposed that the city enter into an amended conservation easement agreement by which additional acreage of approximately 100 acres of the park would be protected against future development for other than park purposes. A map of the park and the two additional parcels is attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute, by and on behalf of the City of Wooster, an amended conservation easement agreement with the Killbuck Watershed Land Trust providing for the preservation and protection of the existing Wooster Memorial Park and approximately 100 additional acres. The terms of such amended easement agreement will include, but not be limited to: (1) preservation of the existing park and its ecosystem in perpetuity; (2) prohibitions against subdivision, development, and extraction of timber or minerals, except in accordance with the direction of the Trust; and maintain an advisory committee to make recommendation to the city on matters affecting the park and the conservation easement.

SECTION 2. This Council finds and declares that all formal actions concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance occurred in an open meeting of this Council or its committees, in compliance with law.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be necessary to the immediate preservation of the public health, peace, safety and welfare of the City, or providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department or division; wherefore, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its passage and approval by the Mayor; provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the members of Council; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

1st reading 12-4-2023 2nd reading → 3rd reading 12-4-2023

Passed: December 4, 2023

Vote:

7-0

Attest: Amy M Hamilton
Clerk of Council

Michael E. Byloff
President of Council

Approved: December 5, 2023

R. F. Brannen
Mayor

Introduced by: Barb Knapic