

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, April 6, 2009

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, April 6, 2009, with Mayor Mike Barhorst presiding. Mayor Barhorst welcomed those in attendance and explained a workshop meeting is simply a working meeting for Council.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present and answered roll call: Mike Barhorst, Frank Mariano, Katie McMillan, Tom Miller, Mardie Milligan, and Terry Pellman.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Law Director Mike Smith, Asst. City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy, Public Works Director Bill Gosciewski, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Public Transit Manager Deb Grogean, Utility Director Chris Clark, and City Engineer Scott Landon.

Discussion – Transit Building Update

Asst. City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy introduced Transit Manager Deb Grogean and she shared an update on the construction of the new transit building. She pointed out this project of \$1,375,000 was funded with \$1,237,500 in Federal funds, with only \$34,375 coming from the City. She shared a power-point presentation of the new facility; noting now the department can meet all Federal and State requirements for the transit program.

City Manager Stilwell questioned when a grand opening would be scheduled and Grogean responded they hope to have this opening the third week of May.

Discussion – Community Services/Code Enforcement/Bldg. Inspection Plans

Community Services Director Dulworth next gave an update on the combining of Building Inspection and Code Enforcement departments with Planning and Community Development to create a new department (Community Services). She reviewed some of the challenging sections of the code for Code Enforcement and property maintenance as well as a timeline for making some improvements to the code.

Mayor Barhorst commented he has a concern with having to teach people how to take care of their property and Dulworth noted this is simply a proposed option at this time.

Councilman Mariano questioned whether it might be a good idea to talk to the Homeowners Assoc. to get their thoughts on these proposals and Councilman Pellman added he questions whether property owners have the right to treat their property as they wish.

City Manager Stilwell noted City Council has looked at this same issue many times over the years.

Councilman Miller commented he doesn't feel we need more stringent enforcement but possibly clarification of what we have to make the regulations easier to work with.

Council agreed with clarification of these regulations as well as minor changes to support this.

Discussion – Business Regulations Ordinance Review

Law Director Smith explained there are some sections of the Codified Ordinances that are obsolete or the subject matter is now regulated by the Ohio Revised Code. He reviewed chapters 705, 709 and 733 as well as a proposed amendment to Section 701.15(f) of the Codified Ordinances. He explained this section contains a typographical error and reviewed the proposed change. These will all be returned to Council as legislation to consider at a later meeting.

April Planning Commission Activity

Community Services Director Dulworth reviewed the items scheduled for the April 20, 2009 Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings.

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

City Manager Stilwell next reviewed the prospective Council agenda items for the next 30 days.

Council/City Manager Comments

Councilman Pellman moved and Councilman Miller seconded a motion to excuse Councilman Hamby from tonight's meeting for a family commitment. The voice vote followed unanimously.

City Manager Stilwell reminded Council of the 5K run and dedication of the new trail markers on April 4 at Tawawa Park. He shared his thanks to Airstream and Behr Design for this project.

Stilwell also noted with the closing of Parkwood School, the school signs on Russell Road and Wapakoneta Avenue have been the subject of concern with the suggestion to have them removed. He noted the school is in support of this removal and this matter will be returned to Council for formal action at a later date.

City Manager Stilwell also introduced Patricia Hamberg in attendance tonight; noting she is the heart and soul of the Code Enforcement Department, adding she does a good job.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Collective Bargaining

At 7:35 PM Councilman Mariano moved and Councilman Pellman seconded a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining. The voice vote followed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Mariano moved and Council member Milligan seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session and adjourn. The roll call vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was held pursuant to Sidney City Council Rules.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Jocene Fahnestock
City Clerk

Mayor