

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, January 26, 2009

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, January 26, 2009, with Mayor Mike Barhorst presiding.

Councilman Hamby opened the meeting with a moment of prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present and answered roll call: Mike Barhorst, Steve Hamby, 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, Police Chief Steve Wearly, Fire Chief Stan Crosley, Parks Director Duane Gaier, Public Works Director Bill Gosciewski, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, City Engineer Scott Landon, Police Captains Rod Austin and Mike Lundy, and Utility Director Chris Clark.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the January 12, 2009 Regular meeting of Council were presented for approval.

Councilman Hamby moved, with Council member Milligan seconding a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. The roll call vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Barhorst recognized Sheriff Dean Kimpel in the audience who shared he wanted to attend tonight's meeting to meet some of the new faces on Council as well as share some thoughts on his new position as Shelby County Sheriff. He noted the department is working to combine some services with the City in order to provide better service to the community.

Mayor Barhorst congratulated Kimpel on his new position and wished him good luck. Kimpel commented he is looking forward to working with the City; adding Council and staff should feel free to contact him with any concerns.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

(A-2596) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP ESTABLISHED BY SECTIONS 305.01 AND 305.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING HANDICAPPED PARKING (CAC Office)

Public Works Director Gosciewski explained this ordinance would designate one handicap parking space at 1431 N. Main for use by Tri-County Community Action Corporation. He noted this designated handicapped parking would be one space immediately south of their office driveway, along the west side of Main Avenue. In response to an earlier concern of Council, Gosciewski advised he had again checked parking in this area and felt there will still be plenty of parking available for residents.

Councilman Mariano moved and Councilman Miller seconded a motion to adopt this ordinance as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Ordinance A-2596 was declared adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

(A-2597) AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF CERTAIN DESCRIBED SIDEWALKS IN THE CITY OF SIDNEY, OHIO (2008)

Public Works Director Gosciewski explained this ordinance would assess the actual cost of the 2008 Sidewalk Construction and Repair Program. He noted one objection had been received from the property owner at 604 Chestnut; but noted after reviewing the sidewalk policy, staff is recommending no modification to the assessment be made for this particular property.

This will return to Council's February 9, 2009 agenda for further consideration.

(A-2598) AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2009

Finance Officer Adams explained this ordinance would authorize supplemental appropriations totaling \$231,925 for the 2009 budget year and reviewed each of the funds affected. Question was raised on the video arraignment project and Adams noted she would furnish additional information on this program to Council.

This too will return to Council's February 9, 2009 agenda for further consideration

RESOLUTIONS

(5-09) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE RESURFACING OF A PORTION OF RUSSELL ROAD, WITHIN THE CITY OF SIDNEY, OHIO

Public Works Director Gosciewski explained this resolution would authorize the City to enter into an agreement requesting ODOT proceed with widening Russell Road and replacing the bridge over I-75. He noted recent estimates from ODOT Central Office have increased significantly for this project, but following much discussion with ODOT, they have agreed to pick up the majority of this added construction cost. Gosciewski noted the City's share of this project has increased approximately \$14,515; adding he feels this figure is high and the actual project will come in lower than estimated.

Councilman Miller questioned the timeline for this project and Gosciwski noted ODOT hopes to start this project the end of March and expect completion of the bridge by September/October.

Councilman Mariano then moved and Councilman Pellman seconded a motion to adopt this resolution as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Resolution 5-09 was declared adopted.

(6-09) A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PLAT TITLED "ECHEMANN SURVEY OF LOT 7045"

Community Services Director Dulworth explained application has been made for replat of property located on the east side of North VanDemark Road, north of the Village West Apartments. She noted this Echemann property is in the preliminary planning stages at this point and this replat is simply the first phase in the development process.

Councilman Mariano questioned access to this new lot and Dulworth responded access would be made at the northern boundary of this lot. She noted eventually there will be a connection between Folkerth Avenue over to VanDemark Road. Dulworth noted this planned development would be for commercial and retail use.

It was moved by Councilman Hamby, seconded by Council member McMillan to adopt this resolution as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Resolution 6-09 was declared adopted.

(7-09) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ERIC KINDIG TO THE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City Manager Stilwell explained this resolution would confirm the appointment of Eric Kindig to fill the unexpired term of Bob Stough on the Airport Advisory Board as the Chamber representative. He noted this term would expire May 31, 2010.

Councilman Pellman then moved and Council member McMillan seconded a motion to adopt this resolution as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Resolution 7-09 was declared adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS

Discussion – Police Chief Selection Process

City Manager Stilwell reviewed with Council the process to fill the position of Police Chief following the retirement of Police Chief Steve Wearly effective March 20, 2009. He noted it will be a challenge to find someone of Steve's work ethic and ability. Stilwell explained with the Charter changes in 1996, it is now possible to fill this vacancy from "outside" applications. Stilwell noted the Civil Service Commission will be helping with this process. He reviewed the timeframe for filling this vacancy, and noted the City will be working with a professional firm to do the assessment center portion of this process. Stilwell noted it is hoped to have three qualified candidates at the completion of this search process and it will then be his responsibility to make

the final selection. He added the City hopes to have a new Police Chief on duty by June 30. He advised Captain Mike Lundy will be serving as Acting Chief after Wearly retires on March 20.

Council member McMillan questioned where this vacancy is being advertised and City Manager Stilwell indicated the information has been placed in the Sidney Daily News, International Police Chief Association publication; as well as the Ohio Police Chief Association.

Councilman Hamby again commented he is a strong advocate to hire from within and encouraged current officers to apply for this position.

Council member Milligan questioned how many “inside” candidates could qualify for this vacancy and City Manager Stilwell responded the City’s records would indicate there are two possible candidates. Milligan commented she felt the City deserves the finest people working in the department, adding she feels it is important to get the right person in this position.

Council Comments

Councilman Mariano commented he has received phone calls concerning the City’s snow removal policy and City Manager Stilwell again explained the City’s pattern of salting intersections, hills, and bridges, trying to balance needs with the economy.

Councilman Miller commented on a recent news spot concerning the renovation of one of the City’s DARE vehicles and whether the individuals were recognized for this contribution. Police Chief Wearly responded the department felt those involved were recognized; adding this donated renovation certainly saved the City a lot of money. City Manager Stilwell advised Council more information on this project will be included in their packet this week.

Councilman Pellman commented it is going to be hard to see Police Chief Wearly retire; adding he wants him to know how much he is appreciated.

Staff Comments

Fire Chief Crosley next recognized Christi Thomas for her efforts in compiling and publishing a history of the Sidney Fire Department and thanked her for all her hard work with this project. Council was each given a copy of this printed history.

Mayor Barhorst commended Christi for this work; adding this was a very valuable project.

Mayor Barhorst also recognized Vice-Mayor Pellman on his birthday today and after everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to him, he was also congratulated for becoming a new Grandfather.

Government students were recognized and thanked for their attendance at tonight’s meeting.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Stilwell recognized the efforts of Purchasing Manager Gary Gerkey in negotiating a reduction of the City’s gas price; adding the City should realize approximately a \$90,000 savings per year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 PM with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Mariano moved and Councilman Hamby seconded a motion to adjourn. The voice 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