

## **MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**

Held on Monday, June 1, 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, June 1, 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, Acting Police Chief Mike Lundy, Fire Chief Stan Crosley, and Finance Officer Ginger Adams.

### **Discussion – Land Acquisition Process**

City Manager Stilwell reviewed since the City has completed efforts to identify a new water source and in light of the current economic picture and what the water rates would need to be in order to proceed with this project, Council has advised to proceed with the purchase of the land only at this time. He noted the three property owners involved in this project are Barrett, Milligan and Hoge. Stilwell advised the City has worked to keep all property owners updated with appraisal figures and progress with this project. He noted he felt it appropriate for Council to understand the statutory process that allows the City to acquire property such as needed for this project. Stilwell stressed he is not talking condemnation at this time; but simply wants Council to understand the process of acquiring the necessary property.

Law Director Smith noted while the U.S. and Ohio Constitutions authorize condemnation of property if necessary, he wanted to review the steps involved in acquiring property. He reviewed each of the steps along the process with eminent domain and condemnation.

Councilman Mariano questioned whether distance alters the ability for eminent domain and Smith responded property outside the City can fall under eminent domain as long as its purpose is for City use. Councilman Mariano also questioned whether another party could purchase adjoining property and take the water away from any property the City would acquire and City Manager Stilwell responded this could happen.

Mayor Barhorst questioned when legislation for acquiring this property would come to Council and City Manager Stilwell responded the City is still working with the property owners, but necessary legislation could come the last meeting in June.

Council member Milligan advised she would be abstaining from voting on this legislation because of her connection to the property.

## **Discussion – Fire Department Standard of Coverage Part 1 – Risk Assessment**

Fire Chief Crosley shared Part 1 of a review of the Standard of Cover and Community Risk Assessment report completed by the Fire Department in March. He noted the primary purpose of the report was to analyze objectively if the need for an additional fire station in the north end of Sidney is warranted. Crosley reviewed statistics for the City as well as the current level of equipment in the department. He noted current response times for service as well as various sectors in the community and specific risk factors in each. Non-fire risks were also reviewed and how these could affect the community.

This review will be continued at Council's June 8, 2009 meeting.

Mayor Barhorst asked to move this second review to the June 22 meeting of Council as a couple of members will be unable to attend the June 8 meeting. This was agreeable with Council and staff.

## **June Planning Commission Activity**

City Manager Stilwell reviewed the items scheduled for the June 15, 2009 Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings.

## **Upcoming City Council Agenda Items**

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

## **Council/City Manager Comments**

City Manager Stilwell reminded Council there will be no Workshop meeting on July 6.

Councilman Mariano advised he is once again receiving some questions concerning the property at 1406 N. Main.

Stilwell advised he needs to receive a formal complaint so this can be turned over to the Health Department for them to follow through.

City Manager Stilwell passed out a press release announcing the employment of Kevin Gessler as Sidney's next Police Chief. Stilwell added he feels Gessler has long-term experience needed for the position; adding he is very happy with the selection and proud of the process used to make this selection. He added he is very pleased the inside candidates did great as well.

Councilman Miller commented it had been a pleasure to serve on this selection committee; adding a lot of time was spent and it was a very educational process.

Mayor Barhorst thanked Councilman Miller for his participation on this committee and representing Council.

Councilman Mariano moved and Councilman Pellman seconded a motion to excuse Councilman Hamby from tonight's meeting due to work obligations. The roll call vote followed unanimously.

Council was reminded of the Capital Tour scheduled for Saturday, June 6 from 9:00 – 11:00.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:15 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Mariano moved and Council member McMillan seconded a motion to 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

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Mayor