

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, November 23, 2009

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barhorst called the regular meeting of Sidney City Council to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, November 23, 2009. Councilman Mariano 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, Mike Burns, Frank Mariano, Tom Miller, and Terry Pellman.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Law Director Mike Smith, Asst. City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy, Police Chief Kevin Gessler, Fire Chief Stan Crosley, Parks Director Duane Gaier, Public Works Director Bill Gosciwski, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Finance Officer Ginger Adams, Human Resources Manager Vickie Allen, and Utility Director Chris Clark.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 9, 2009 Regular Meeting of Sidney City Council were presented for approval.

Councilman Miller moved, with Councilman Pellman seconding a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

(A-2626) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 911.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING PLANT INVESTMENT CONNECTION FEE CHARGES

Utility Director Clark explained the Plant Investment Fee is a program established as an equitable way to pass the capital value of the water system assets to new customers as a "buy-in" charge. He noted the City's present Plant Investment Fee will expire December 31, 2009 and this ordinance would extend this fee, but with reduced amounts for 2010 as the water plant debt has been paid off. He pointed out this fee will provide a basis for future planned expansion and main construction and extensions.

It was moved by Councilman Mariano, seconded by Councilman Pellman to adopt this ordinance as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Ordinance A-2626 was declared adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

(A-2627) AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2009

Finance Officer Adams explained this ordinance would authorize supplemental appropriations for the 2009 budget. She noted the net effect of these changes would decrease 2009 appropriations by \$4,206,970. Adams reviewed the various funds affected.

This will return to Council's December 14, 2009 meeting for further consideration.

(A-2628) AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF SIDNEY, OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010

Finance Officer Adams explained this ordinance would authorize appropriations totaling \$52,618,314 for the City's 2010 expenditures. She noted this amount is approximately 21.5% less than the revised 2009 budget. Adams pointed out this budget is based on a projection of a 13% decline in income tax collections in 2009, followed by 2% growth in income tax collections in 2010. She noted should actual results indicate a decline of 13% or more, staff will be making further reductions to maintain the minimum cash fund balances.

This also will return to Council's December 14, 2009 meeting for further consideration.

(A-2629) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 911.01(b), SECTION 915.05(a), AND SECTION 917.02(a)(1) AND (2) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO WATER, SEWER, AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION RATES

Finance Officer Adams explained this ordinance would establish utility and sanitation rates with approximate increases of 5% for water, 1% for sewer and 3.25% for sanitation.

This will return to Council's December 14, 2009 meeting for further consideration.

(A-2630) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 131.13(b) AND (g), 131.17, 131.191(a) AND 131.151 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

Assistant City Manager Judy explained this ordinance would amend various sections of the personnel ordinance regarding policies, procedures and regulations. He reviewed each of the proposed changes.

This will return to Council's December 14, 2009 meeting for further consideration.

(A-2631) AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 131.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING PAY TABLE II, SCHEDULES A,B,C AND D, AND PAY TABLE III FOR 2010

Assistant City Manager Judy explained while it is customary at this time of year to amend the pay tables to grant a “cost of living” increase, the 2010 budget provides for no such increases for non-bargaining unit employees. He noted this proposed ordinance simply makes some cosmetic changes and updates verbiage.

This will also return to Council’s December 14, 2009 meeting for further consideration.

(A-2632) AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE; SPECIFYING THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS DIRECTLY BENEFITING THAT PROPERTY; REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THAT PROPERTY TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND; AND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND A COMPENSATION AGREEMENT

Assistant City Manager Judy explained this ordinance would approve a tax increment financing arrangement to finance construction of public infrastructure to serve the area of the Echo Business Center subdivision on VanDemark Road. With this TIF, the property owner would be exempted from paying property taxes on the increase in tax valuation that will occur as the parcel is developed. Instead, the owner would be required to make payments in lieu of property taxes to the City in the amount he otherwise would have paid in property taxes. The City in turn would pay 20% of those TIF funds to the Sidney City Schools to compensate for their property taxes foregone. The remaining TIF funds would be used for construction of public infrastructure improvements that benefit the exempted property. Judy noted this TIF would continue for 30 years or until the infrastructure is paid off. Judy recognized property owner Tim Echemann in attendance for tonight’s meeting.

This will return to Council’s December 14, 2009 meeting for further consideration.

Mayor Barhorst recognized former Mayor Rafe Echemann in attendance tonight.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Comments

Councilman Mariano moved and Councilman Pellman seconded a motion to excuse Council members McMillan and Milligan from tonight’s meeting as they are out of town. The roll call vote followed unanimously and they were excused.

Councilman Burns thanked the Police Department for inviting Council to observe their training exercises on Fair Road recently; adding it was very informative.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Stilwell reviewed some points from the weekly newsletter and advised Council, Parks Director Gaier had been notified the City would receive an \$18,000

matching grant from Game Time for playground equipment. Stilwell commended the Parks Department for doing their part to help make ends meet during these tough economic times.

Stilwell also noted proposed workshop topics have been established for 2010 and urged Council to let us know if they had other items to be added. Council was also urged to review the present list of liaison appointments to the various boards and commissions and advise if they wanted to make any changes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:58 PM with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Burns moved and Councilman Pellman 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 Fahnstock
City Clerk

Mayor