

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, October 5, 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, October 5, 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, Mike Burns, Katie McMillan, Tom Miller, 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 Gosciwski, Community Services Director Barbara Dulworth, Street Supt. Marty Keifer, and Street Secretary Joyce Reier. Three Tree Board members were also in attendance.

Discussion – Snow Removal Policy Update

Street Supt. Keifer shared a power point presentation reviewing the City's snow and ice management plan. He reviewed the goals for service to the community, along with statistics of the miles of streets, alleys and the number of cul-de-sacs to maintain. Keifer noted the salt price currently is at \$66/ton; noting salt was \$150/ton before the end of last season. He shared some challenges for the 2009-10 season with the reduction of staff with present revenue figures, but assured Council streets would still be maintained with the assistance of staff from other departments.

Discussion – Community Services Department Status Report

Community Services Director Dulworth gave Council a brief review of combined departments Code Enforcement, Building Inspection, along with Planning and Zoning. She reviewed short-term as well as long-term goals for the department and pointed out the benefits of the new GIS programming now available. In the area of long-term goals, Dulworth shared a goal of a Neighborhood Preservation Program; noting they will be proposing some amendments to the code for improvements in this area. She also reviewed projects presently underway in these combined departments. Dulworth mentioned recent success Lima, Ohio has had with an ordinance requiring boarded-up properties to be boarded for no more than six months, and Council voiced interest in obtaining more information concerning Lima's success.

City Manager Stilwell urged Council to provide addresses of properties they feel need to be demolished.

Discussion – Tree Ordinance

Public Works Director Gosciewski introduced members Ann Asher, Jerry Kauffman and John Laws of the Tree Board in attendance and gave an overview of some proposed changes to the City's Tree Ordinance, as recommended by the Board.

Councilman Pellman thanked the volunteers who serve on the Tree Board; adding they do a lot of work and spend much time seeing the City's trees are cared for.

Mayor Barhorst questioned whether a brochure could be prepared to address this proposed ordinance as well as some guidelines for trees and Gosciewski agreed education of the residents will be a key item.

Street Secy. Reier commented work has already started in preparation of such a brochure.

Council member McMillan also questioned whether language could be added to this brochure to address care of trees on private property.

This will return to Council in the form of legislation at the October 26 meeting.

Tree Board member Jerry Kauffman commented he feels if the City has a problem with the ash bore on private property, language needs to be included in this legislation to permit the City to go onto private property in order to keep the infestation from spreading to City trees.

Discussion – Municipal Court Administrative Fees

City Manager Stilwell advised Municipal Court is looking for ways to increase revenue, and noted the Ohio Revised Code permits the City to be reimbursed for certain services if Council passes the necessary legislation.

Law Director Smith noted the City has always been authorized to pass legislation to allow the Police Department to establish fees for service of warrants and subpoena where performing these services for Municipal Court inside the City. He noted there has been no change in these charges in the past 30 years. Proposed legislation would simply adopt the State charges and these charges would then be collected as court costs. Smith noted Municipal Court Judge Luce is in support of this proposed legislation.

Council agreed to consider the necessary legislation.

October Planning Commission Activity

Community Services Director Dulworth reported no items scheduled for the October 19, 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

Councilman Pellman commented on the new turn intersections in the downtown area (new truck route); adding he wonders why other communities haven't done this same thing. Pellman added he feels this is a very positive step for the City to take.

Councilman Pellman moved and Councilman Miller seconded a motion to excuse Councilman Mariano and Council member Milligan from tonight's meeting as they were both out of town. The roll call vote followed unanimously.

City Manager Stilwell reported Northbrook Mobile Home Park is now connected to City water; adding no major problems have been experienced to date.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:48 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Burns 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

Mayor