

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, April 12, 2010

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, April 12, 2010. Council member McMillan 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, Katie McMillan, Tom Miller, Mardie Milligan, and Terry Pellman.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Asst. City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy, Law Director Mike Smith, 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, City Engineer Scott Landon, and Utility Director Chris Clark.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 22, 2010 Regular Meeting and March 23, 2010 Special Meeting of Sidney City Council were presented for approval.

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

PRESENTATION – Cargill’s Support of Brookside Park

At this time, Trip Brubaker, Manager of Sidney Cargill, presented the City of Sidney a check for \$100,000 for development of Brookside Park. He noted this includes a payment of \$80,000 at the present time, with \$5,000 each of the next five years. City Manager Stilwell explained the local Cargill operation pledged \$25,000, with a matching \$25,000 from the local business unit. Cargill’s corporate administration then matched this \$50,000, bringing the total to \$100,000. Stilwell noted staff will be working closely with Cargill as this project develops. Council member McMillan (Cargill employee) was thanked for her drive and inspiration with this project.

Mayor Barhorst commented with the present economy, this donation will make it possible to open this area up long before the City could have done so.

PROCLAMATION – National Occupational Therapy Month

Mayor Barhorst read a proclamation declaring the month of April as National Occupational Therapy Month and presented a copy of the proclamation to Mollie Verdier. Mollie thanked Council for the proclamation and acknowledging the importance of occupational therapy.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

- (A-2640) AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF CERTAIN DESCRIBED SIDEWALKS IN THE CITY OF SIDNEY, OHIO

Public Works Director Gosciewski explained this ordinance would assess the actual cost of the 2009 sidewalk construction and repair program for those property owners who had the City contractor complete this sidewalk work. Gosciewski explained the process of advertisement of these costs as well as the two weeks allowed for objections to be noted. No objections have been received. Notices of payment will now be sent to residents, with a 60-day period to pay the bill or have it placed on their property taxes.

It was moved by Councilman Mariano, seconded by Council member McMillan to adopt this ordinance as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Ordinance A-2640 was declared adopted.

RESOLUTIONS

- (19-10) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOYCE GOUBEAUX DEPUTY CITY CLERK

It was moved by Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilman Pellman to table this resolution until Council's April 26, 2010 meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous and Resolution 19-10 was declared tabled.

- (20-10) A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO IMPROVE STREETS, AVENUES, PUBLIC HIGHWAYS, AND PUBLIC PLACES IN THE CITY OF SIDNEY BY LIGHTING THE SAME WITH ELECTRICITY

Public Works Director Gosciewski explained this resolution is the first step in the legislative procedure for assessing the cost of street lighting to the residents of Sidney. He noted the current charge is \$0.31/lineal foot for standard street lights, and \$1.11/lineal foot of decorative street lighting will stay the same over the next two years.

Councilman Mariano moved and Councilman Pellman seconded a motion to adopt this resolution as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous and Resolution 20-10 was declared adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS

Discussion – Comp Plan Acceptance

Community Services Director Dulworth introduced Dottie Baker from the Comp Plan Steering Committee and Paul Culter of Jacobs, Edwards, & Kelcey (consulting firm). Baker proceeded to review the proposed *Imagine Sidney 2025* plan with Council, pointing out the purpose of the plan and key statistics as well as recommendations. She noted the establishment of 18 Policy Areas in Sidney, divided by similar characteristics.

Mayor Barhorst thanked the Steering Committee for their hard work in preparing this recommendation, adding a resolution will be scheduled for Council's next meeting to accept this *Imagine Sidney 2025* plan. He added this is the final stage in the comprehensive process to guide the community over the next several years.

Discussion – Financial Status

City Manager Stilwell commented he wanted to spend some time with Council regarding the continuing financial challenges, noting we are down 19.2% in total income tax collections from 2007. Comparing the first three months of 2008, 2009 and 2010, shows a decline in income tax collections of 8.8%. Stilwell added corporations are starting to turn around, but small businesses are continuing to struggle. He pointed out water and sewer usage is also down, thus reducing revenue in those areas. Stilwell advised this information is being discussed with individual departments; adding he will be bringing some suggestions to Council for consideration at their April 26 meeting.

Councilman Pellman commented he feels staff is being very prudent not to be expecting a lot of improvement during the rest of 2010; adding he feels the City has done a great job of dealing with this situation. Pellman added staff will need to educate the public that "City government doesn't operate in a vacuum, but is dealing with the same issues as everyone else."

City Manager Stilwell advised Council he will be bringing ideas to Council by the end of the month concerning what steps the City will be taking financially. He added he didn't feel layoffs would be discussed at that time; adding changes will be incremental.

Councilman Mariano commented he felt staff has done a fantastic job so far dealing with the financial challenges and it comes as no surprise we have reached the point to look at additional suggestions to make. Mariano applauded staff for their efforts.

Councilman Miller commented we can't overlook the work staff has done to carry the City to this point; adding staff is doing a tremendous job and he appreciates this.

Mayor Barhorst commented he thought from what the top executives are telling us, that the City's financial picture would also be turning around. He added he is very disappointed; adding he feels it will be a slow recovery process.

Council member McMillan questioned whether WODC is bring in any business; adding she feels something has to be moving. City Manager Stilwell responded some restaurants are looking to come back and WODC is working to aid their efforts.

Council Comments

Mayor Barhorst introduced Joe Raterman in attendance for tonight's meeting; adding Joe is preparing to return to NATO training in Afghanistan. Raterman responded he appreciated listening and learning from tonight's meeting.

Councilman Mariano voiced his appreciation to Raterman for his service to our country.

City Manager Comments

City Manager Stilwell noted the Sidney Fire Department has recently been awarded a \$4500 grant for paramedic training and a \$41,850 grant for the replacement of the Fire Safety Trailer. He congratulated the department for their efforts to obtain both these grants.

Stilwell also advised according to the Annual Sewer and Water Rate Survey completed by the City of Oakwood, Sidney's rates are the fifth lowest out of the 63 communities surveyed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Board and Commissions

At 7:33 PM, Councilman Miller moved and Council member Milligan seconded a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss Boards and Commissions. The roll call vote followed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 PM with nothing further to come before Council, Councilman Mariano moved and Council member McMillan seconded a motion to come out of Executive Session and 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