

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Monday, February 7, 2011

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Monday, February 7, 2011, with Mayor Barhorst presiding.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present and answered roll call: Mike Barhorst, Mike Burns, Frank Mariano, Katie McMillan, Tom Miller, and Mardie Milligan.

Also attending was: City Manager Steve Stilwell, Law Director Mike Smith, Asst. City Manager-Administrative Services Tom Judy, and Finance Officer Ginger Adams. Additional staff members in attendance: City Engineer Scott Landon, City Surveyor Randy Magoto, GIS Technician Ginger Gehret and IT Manager Ken Van Hook. Guests included Joyce and Earl Reives. Chamber Leadership Intern Carol Johnston was in attendance.

PRESENTATION

Mayor M. Barhorst presented a Proclamation of Appreciation to Earl Reives, former Customer Representative for Dayton Power & Light Company. City Council expressed their appreciation to Mr. Reives for his valuable assistance over the years with City projects. Mr. Reives thanked Council for their kindness and expressed his pleasure in working with the City staff.

DISCUSSION – Emergency Notification System

Police Chief K. Gessler and Fire Chief B. Jones presented a PowerPoint program outlining the new emergency notification system to be implemented and known as Sidney/Shelby County Notification System. Funding for this service will be paid for with Homeland Security funds that have been acquired through the County Emergency Management Agency. Utilization of the system lets the staff reach thousands of people anytime, anywhere with critical, time-sensitive information. The result will be improved internal and public communications, increased effectiveness of emergency efforts and reduced cost of traditional communications infrastructure. The funds received through Homeland Security are sufficient to sustain the program for three years.

DISCUSSION – Alley-Street Vacation Process

CM S. Stilwell reviewed with Council the purpose of the alley-street vacation process. As a result of recent research into alley and street vacations within the corporate limits, a number of complex questions were raised including the discovery of unrecorded alley and street vacations. The first step will be to record the 29 “easy” ordinances which were already enacted by City Council but for some reason never recorded with the Shelby County Recorder’s Office. The next round will be to deal with the more complex issues on an individual basis.

GIS Technician Ginger Gehret explained the process to be followed and answered questions from Council. As a result of the recording of these Ordinances, property owners will typically gain ½ width of the alley right of way that directly adjoins their existing property. The result will be a potential of \$25 - \$45 per year increase in real estate taxes, depending on the length and width of the vacated right of way. In most instances, the owner is enjoying the rights of ownership and is currently paying property taxes. No action is required from Council since these ordinances have already been passed by previous City Councils.

DISCUSSION – Pool Rates

Parks Director D. Gaier led a discussion covering the proposed 2011 fees for the Sidney Municipal Swimming Pool. The Five-Year Plan 2011-2015 and the 2011 budget call for an overall 5% increase in pool rates. The goal of the Financial Policies is to recover a minimum of 60% of pool operating expenditures. The proposed rates brought to Council will cover 70% of operating costs in 2011; the remainder of the operating costs and all capital costs will be subsidized from income tax collections. An area survey indicates that Sidney's rates continue to rank lower than the survey average.

In addition to the standard pool passes, the City will again offer the corporate bulk purchases at a discount rate for local industries. As a community military recognition, free passes will be issued to all active military personnel on leave, with proper identification. The hours of the pool will be adjusted from 12:30 – 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate individuals who work during the day.

DISCUSSION – Analysis of Clerk/Office Manager Position

A summary of the recent survey from Ohio Municipal Clerk Association members and the responses to the January 2011 questionnaires submitted by City Council members and Senior Directors was reviewed by Council. Following the six month trial consolidation of the Clerk and Office Manager positions, it is the consensus that the City proceed with the merger of the two positions, prepare the appropriate job description and determine the correct job classification and salary range for the new position.

A Resolution will be presented to Council at the February 28, 2011 Council meeting appointing Joyce Goubeaux to the position of City Clerk, effective March 1, 2011.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING ZONING BOARD/PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

CSD Barbara Dulworth reported to Council that the February 2011 meeting for the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Tuesday, February 22 (due to President's Day on February 21). Agenda includes a Conditional Use permit for a landscape business. Due to lack of agenda items, Planning Commission will not meet in February.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

CM Stilwell briefly reviewed the prospective Council agenda items for the February 14th and 28th Council meetings.

COUNCIL/CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Council member McMillan expressed concerns about the deteriorating conditions of the City streets caused by the snow and ice problems. CM S. Stilwell commented that the budget to pave streets is very tight and the paving program getting further and further behind schedule. The street crews will be cleaning up the streets and patching the potholes as much as possible. The \$600,000 per year in the paving program will be spent quickly. Sometime in the future, Council will need to set aside more funds for the paving program.

Mayor Barhorst inquired as to the status of the water source property acquisition. The City Law Director sent a letter to the property owner in early January; no response has been received to date. This item will be on the February 14, 2011 Council Agenda.

CM Stilwell explained the recent legislation in the Ohio House regarding the proposed elimination of estate tax. If passed, the City would stand to lose \$250,000 annually in the General Fund.

City staff is doing research involving internet café businesses; more information will be coming for Council's consideration.

CM Stilwell explained to Council the need for the emergency purchase for a new grinder at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, an expenditure of approximately \$39,000.

Council members expressed their condolences to Councilman Miller upon the passing of his mother-in-law Mary Warfield.

Councilman Burns moved, and Councilman Mariano seconded, to excuse Councilman Pellman due to a conflict with work. Motion passed by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:42 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,

Joyce L. Goubeaux
Acting City Clerk

Mayor