

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012

6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop meeting of Sidney City Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Tuesday, January 3, 2012, with Mayor Barhorst presiding.

ROLL CALL

The following Council members were present and answered roll call: Mike Barhorst, Jeff Hewitt, Katie McMillan, Tom Miller, Mardie Milligan, Rick Sims and Steve Wagner.

Also attending was: Interim City Manager Tom Judy, Law Director Jeff Amick, Public Works Director Chris Clark, Police Chief Kevin Gessler, Finance Officer Ginger Adams and . Other staff members in attendance included: IT Manager Kenneth Van Hook, WWTP Superintendent Brian Schultz, Street Superintendent Marty Keifer, GIS Technician Ginger Gehret, City Surveyor Randy Magoto, and Underground Supervisor Dave Wood.

Mayor Barhorst welcomed Law Director Jeffrey Amick to the City of Sidney. LD Amick indicated that it “has been a great first day”.

Discussion – Downtown Parking Spaces

GIS Technician G. Gehret gave an overview of public parking available in the downtown district. The proposed ordinance change would create one 30-minute free parking space in front of the Fire Station on W. Poplar Street. The ordinance will be introduced at the January 9, 2012 regular meeting, with second reading and adoption at the January 23, 2012 meeting.

Council suggested that the public should be directed to utilize the available parking, particularly the lot south of Court Street, possibly through better signage. Police Chief Gessler explained that, due to staff reductions, the parking enforcement activity is reduced but the officers attempt to enforce the code when possible. Another suggestion made was for staff to communicate with downtown business owners and their employees regarding parking concerns.

Discussion – Review Committee Assignments/Council Liaison Appointments

Mayor Barhorst reviewed with Council members the list of Committee Assignments and Council Liaison Appointments for 2012. Council members are to make their preferences known to the Mayor or Clerk J. Goubeaux by Thursday, January 5, 2012. The assignments will be made at the January 9, 2012 regular meeting.

Discussion – WWTP NPDES (#3 of 3)

WWTP Superintendent B. Schultz brought Council up to date on the NPDES process, focusing on the I&I removal from private properties within the City. Two items of the greatest concern to staff are the new

disinfection requirements and the elimination of secondary bypasses as being dictated by the Ohio EPA. Both of these items will require large capital investments by the City.

The City has hired the consulting firm of Hazen and Sawyer to assist the city with the process. Representatives from Hazen and Sawyer were in attendance at the meeting and available to answer any questions.

Staff will bring this issue back to Council in May with recommendations and the results of a survey of other communities on how they are dealing with the compliance issues.

Mayor Barhorst and Vice Mayor Milligan noted that they recently met with Congressman Jordan regarding these unfunded mandates and the burden they place on local governments. Letters have been drafted for the WODC members to sign and mail to legislators to prevail upon them to come up with better solutions.

PWD C. Clark posed two questions for Council to consider between now and the May report: is the City authorized to enter private property to conduct the necessary inspection? And, if I&I is found, how are the corrective measures to be funded (i.e. property owner, city responsibility, split expenses, etc.)? These concerns will be included in the survey to be conducted.

Discussion – Amendment to Traffic Control Ordinance – Parkwood - Wapak Ave Intersection

PWD C. Clark reviewed the amendments being proposed for traffic control at the Wapakoneta Ave. and Parkwood Street intersection now that Phase I of the reconstruction project is concluding. Plans submitted to and approved by ODOT stipulate that Parkwood Street become a two-way stop and Wapakoneta Avenue being the through street. During the construction period, it has been a four-way stop.

Police Chief Gessler noted that the department will be in the area to enforce the amended traffic control and to curtail speeders.

Council member McMillan expressed concern that the new sidewalks will result in increased pedestrian traffic, especially those wishing to cross Wapakoneta Avenue. Staff indicated that when the reconstruction project is totally completed (Phase I and II), a new traffic study will be conducted to see if changes are warranted.

ICM T. Judy advised Council that the Traffic Control Ordinance will be introduced at the January 9, 2012 regular meeting. At that time, Council has the option to suspend the rules for a second reading and adopt the Ordinance with an effective date of January 23, 2012. Signage will be placed at the intersection advising the traffic of the impending change in traffic flow on Wapakoneta Avenue and the effective date. Council members were in favor of expediting the ordinance readings.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS ON January 17, 2012

ICM T. Judy reported that there are no agenda items for the Planning Commission to review; therefore, the January meeting will be cancelled.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will be considering one conditional use request for a home occupation in an R-1 Residential District (Ridgeway Drive).

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

ICM Judy briefly reviewed the prospective Council agenda items for the January 9 and January 23 Council meetings. The January 9, 2012 regular meeting will include an executive session for purposes of discussing Boards and Commissions (2012 terms), property acquisitions discussions and collective bargaining.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council member McMillan inquired of Police Chief Gessler about a new powdered energy drug on the street. Chief Gessler indicated that he had not heard of the drug or any issues in Sidney but the Department will investigate further.

Councilman Wagner apologized for being tardy due to a family matter. He also expressed his appreciation of the city street crews being on the job early in the morning.

ICM T. Judy distributed copies of correspondence addressing the collection of municipal income taxes and uniformity (dated December 23, 2011 from the Ohio Department of Taxation to the City of Kettering).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 PM, with nothing further to come before Council, Council member Milligan moved and Council member McMillan seconded the 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
City Clerk

Mayor