

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 6, 2012

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Mike Buytendyk called the regular meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers by asking everyone to rise and join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members were present: Jon Ansel, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic, Craig Sanders, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner and Jon Ulbright.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Cavin, to approve minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Buytendyk thanked Mayor Breneman for giving a State of the City address to council prior to the meeting.

Mayor Breneman, updated council on various activities in the city: 1) The Daily Record published an article on February 5, 2012 that listed the salaries of top paid City of Wooster employees. Though he did not dispute the figures were accurate, Mayor Breneman wanted to put into perspective the salaries which were somewhat deceiving, as overtime pay was added into the earned gross wages, making the total earnings look inflated. Mayor Breneman explained the steps and pay ranges in the police and fire union contracts, clarifying what the actual annual salaries are. He said the city is not grossly overpaying its employees, who work very hard to earn a fair wage. Police Chief Fisher spoke briefly about overtime costs associated with covering manpower issues, such as processing crime scenes. In addition, he said some officers were paid by outside entities for off-duty jobs. Mr. Ulbright expressed his dissatisfaction with the newspaper article, asking what was the purpose of publishing inflated numbers.

Dick Benson asked council for a brief executive session at the close of the meeting.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Ansel recognized Trenton Snoddy, a 3rd grader at Wayne Elementary School, who saw a Wooster City Council meeting on the local cable station and asked his father and grandmother to bring him to a meeting. Mr. Ansel said Trenton's interest and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS (none)

VI. OLD BUSINESS (none)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2012-5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ABS MATERIALS, INC. AND THE WOOSTER GROWTH CORPORATION FOR TAX ABATEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel and Mr. Sanders recused themselves. Mr. Buytendyk noted that with two recusals the rules could not be suspended, so the ordinance would stay on first reading. Mr. Steiner said ABSMaterials is a relatively new company that is rapidly growing and has a very innovative product which is being widely heralded throughout the United States. ABSMaterials is proposing a \$3.1 million renovation and expansion project at the former Snap On facility located at 1909 Old Mansfield Road. They will retain 35 employees and add 26 new employees, with the average wage of new hires being approximately \$35,000. ABSMaterials is seeking a 75% tax abatement for 10 years. Stephen Spoonamore, CEO, gave a brief update on ABSMaterials and said he hoped city council would support their growth and ABSMaterials will continue to do what they can to support the city. The ordinance remained on first reading.

2. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-21 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MBI SOLUTIONS OF DAYTON, OHIO FOR BILLING SERVICES RELATED TO THE CITY EMS SERVICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said this is a contract renewal with MBI Solutions for EMS billing services. The Fire Division has used this company since 2004 and their current contract will expire in March of 2012. Mr. Ansel said MBI increased their EMS billing collections, in 2011 collecting over \$800,000. MBI also agreed to reduce their 10% administrative fee to 6%, saving the city over \$36,000.

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

3. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-22 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WOOSTER SUMMER BASEBALL, INC. FOR OFFICIATING SERVICES (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin said this is to authorize entering into an annual contract with Wooster Summer Baseball for officiating and scorekeeping services. The contract will not exceed the amount budgeted for in the Recreation Division operating budget for 2012. Susan Kelley, Community Services Manager, said the cost of the contract and the number of participants remain consistent from year to year.

Mr. Cavin moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

4. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-23 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE WOOSTER SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR SOCCER-RELATED ACTIVITIES SERVICES (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin said this request is to authorize entering into a contract with Wooster Soccer Association for soccer-related activities and services, such as coaches and managers. The City of Wooster is a conduit for the soccer league in Wooster. In 2011 there were approximately 6,000 participants and the city took in \$85,000, netting \$35,000 after pay outs of \$50,000. Mr. Cavin said this is a big plus for Wooster and it also provides an excellent service.

Mr. Cavin moved, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

5. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-24 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin said the city provides transportation services to qualified participants through the Wooster Taxi Program. The participants purchase taxi passes for \$3 per transport and the city pays the taxi company \$5 per transport. Wooster Hospitality Transit System recently joined the taxi program and will charge \$1.50 per ride and the city will pay the transit system \$1 per ride. Mr. Cavin said that will be a nice alternative to save the riders and the city money. The taxi program is being utilized and Mr. Cavin believes it provides a very vital service to our town. Mr. Ansel noted that the 20% increase in rides last year raised the annual expense to the city from \$75,000 to \$90,000. He urged riders to use this service conservatively and to consolidate their rides when possible.

Mr. Cavin moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

6. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-25 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE WATER METERS FOR THE UTILITIES DIVISION (Sanders)

Mr. Sanders explained the city uses different types of water meters for specific applications and the model being requested in this resolution is different than the model being requested in Resolution No. 2012-25. The water meters currently in use are roughly 10 years old and are beginning to malfunction and replacement meters are necessary in order to receive proper metering and billing.

Mr. Sanders moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

7. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-26 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE WATER METERS FOR THE UTILITIES DIVISION (Sanders)

Mr. Sanders distinguished between the two types of meters being purchased in this resolution and the previous resolution. One is a disk meter that is used for well water pumps in the Killbuck South area and the other is a piston meter that is used throughout the rest of the city on the city waterlines.

Mr. Sanders moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

8. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-27 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT(S) WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER(S) FOR FURNISHING BITUMINOUS MATERIAL AND CONCRETE (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright explained these materials will be purchased through the bidding process unless they are available at a lower cost through the State's Purchasing Program(s). These materials are used for maintaining and repairing streets, sidewalks and water mains. In 2011 expenditures for the materials were \$442,000 and this year the cost is anticipated to be considerably less because of the decreased funding in the general budget. The original projection for 2012 was \$405,000, but with the budget cuts it has been reduced to \$306,000. Mr. Ulbright mentioned that because the City of Wooster's population has exceeded the 25,000 threshold, we will receive separate funding from ODOT for resurfacing. Jim Uhler, PPM manager, broke down the amounts spent last year and the budgeted amounts for this year. Joel Montgomery, City Engineer, indicated that there will be less ODOT funding this year and fewer grants available to us. Part of that is because Wooster is no longer considered a small city and therefore will not qualify for the \$1 and \$2 million competitive grants. We will now receive a set amount from ODOT, based on population, which is anticipated to be approximately \$400,000.

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

9. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-28 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH THE CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT TRUSTEES FOR THE FURNISHING OF EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES TO A PORTION OF WAYNE TOWNSHIP, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Steiner)

Mr. Steiner said this is to renew a one year contract with the Central Fire District to cover emergency ambulance services for the northern part of the city, from Wayne Avenue north, when our EMS crews are involved in training sessions. As reciprocity, the city's fire department will provide emergency medical services for a designated area in the Central Fire District, which is mostly west/northwest of the city. There are no changes to the agreement from last year.

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

10. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-29 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY; TO-WIT: STORAGE ARRAYS FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said the purchase of storage arrays will enhance the city's storage area network (SAN) which is essential for the stability, expandability, and recoverability of our data network. The two Dell Equallogic PS4100E storage arrays, 36 terabytes capacity, will have a one year 24/7 support coverage for a total cost of \$55,000. These two units will replace three existing Lefthand storage arrays. One unit will be installed in the City Hall service room and one unit will be installed at the maintenance garage, in keeping with the disaster recovery plan. This solution will quadruple the amount of our current SAN, for \$36,000 less than the original cost, and will meet the city's data storage needs for years to come. James Dodd, IT Manager, explained the Lefthand array units the city has been using since early 2008 have been unsatisfactory, with component failures, software glitches and unstable performance being a regular occurrence. On the contrary, he said the performance of a smaller city-owned Dell Equallogic SAN since 2007 has been superb in performance. Mr. Ansel said this is a budgeted item and \$10,000 will need to be transferred from the Operating budget to the Capital budget to cover the total expense.

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

11. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-30 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH USA POOLS FOR PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER'S SWIMMING FACILITIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin said this initiative is an effort by the city to save money and increase internal staffing efficiencies. Justin Starlin highlighted some of the opportunities available through this contract. Bids were solicited for providing swimming pool and spray ground management services for the 2012 pool season and USA Pools, Inc. had the lowest bid in the amount of \$144,950. Mr. Starlin said based on actual 2011 hard costs and estimated 2012 hard costs (personnel services, repairs, supplies, utilities, additional staffing, swim team, etc.), there is a direct hard cost savings of approximately \$15,000. Soft costs (coordinating seasonal staffing and daily inspection of facilities and equipment, etc.) are difficult to calculate, but Mr. Starlin said contracting with USA Pools would greatly alleviate a significant amount of work load by city staff. In addition, USA Pools will sponsor special events such as season kick off parties, dive in movies, back to school parties, scuba diving and events to promote membership. Revenues derived from these events will come back to the city. As in the past, Mr. Starlin said local hires will be used for seasonal staffing and the city staff will still have oversight of the facilities. Mr. Starlin said this decision comes with mixed emotions as the city staff has done a great job overseeing the management and staffing of the pools, however, with less staff and dwindling budgets, city administration feels it's an appropriate time to move in this direction. He further answered questions, reviewed the bid tabulation and discussed costs and funding. Mr. Starlin confirmed that both Friends of Christmas Run Park and the Wooster YMCA were notified of this proposal and that the Wooster YMCA chose not to bid on these services. Council had follow-up questions and expressed their thoughts and concerns. Mr. Ansel said USA Pools appears to be a successful outsourcing company and if the city can contract with them and save money and create additional revenue, why not? He said nothing ventured, nothing gained and if this venture doesn't work out, the city can go in a different direction next year. Mayor Breneman added that it is the city's intent to keep the pools open the same hours as last year, but that is assuming the city will receive the remaining funds that are in the Wayne County Community Foundation to help defray the cost of running Christmas Run Pool. Brigid O'Conner, representing Friends of Christmas Run Pool, said they are fully behind this proposal. Council and Mayor Breneman thanked Friends of Christmas Run Pool for all their hard work, efforts and support.

Mr. Cavin moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Cavin moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

12. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-31 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DOMINION EAST OHIO GAS FOR UTILITY RELOCATION SERVICES RENDERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE AKRON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright said this is to enter into a contract with Dominion East Ohio Gas for the relocation of gas lines along Akron Road (SR 585) in order to facilitate construction of the next phase of the Akron Road Improvement Project. Joel Montgomery, City Engineer, explained that Dominion East Ohio Gas has a couple gas line easements along SR 585 that pre-date the city's road right-of-way and the city is required to pay for the cost of relocating those gas lines. The proposal for this project came in at \$21,000 and Mr. Montgomery said the city and Dominion both felt that was high, as similar projects last year were around \$15,000. Dominion, who bid all of their work out at the beginning of the year, agreed to go back and bid this relocation project out separately in order to get a better price. Mr. Montgomery said they assured us that the cost would not be more than \$21,000.

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, to go into executive session to discuss litigation. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to reconvene from executive session. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Knapic thanked everyone for all the kind words, thoughts, cards and flowers while she was recuperating and said she is glad to be back.

Mr. Steiner said he will be scheduling a Safety Committee meeting to discuss the Regional Dispatch Center.

Mr. Ulbright felt the council meeting went well and tied in with the spirit of the Mayor's State of the City speech. Mr. Ulbright agreed with what the Mayor said, that this is a turning point for the city and that ultimately the citizens will decide the direction we'll go.

Mr. Cavin was encouraged by the prospect of generating revenue from the pools and also that Wooster Hospitality Transportation is offering lower costs for rides throughout the city for people who really depend on that service.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Cavin to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council