

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 7, 2011

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

Acting President David Silvestri 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, Mike Buytendyk, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner and Jon Ulbright.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to approve minutes of the February 22, 2011 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman updated council on various activities in the city: 1) Within the last two weeks Wooster has dealt with two major snow storms, flooding and a major rain event. The Mayor complimented the City's safety forces, public property maintenance crews and utility crews for doing an outstanding job in dealing with these situations. He said the flooding was the worst this area has seen since 1969, but there were no injuries or fatalities. The City had minor flood damage at the Water Pollution Control Plant in the basement of one of the buildings, but it is back in operation. The City has also received numerous reports of residents with flooding in their basements. 2) Potholes are abundant and City crews are trying to keep up with patching them. 3) Next week is a big week at the State and Federal levels. The Governor's budget comes out March 15, 2011 and on March 18, 2011 the second continuing resolution at the national level expires. The City will get its first glimpse at what state and federal funding may be cut. 4) Senate Bill 5 is a very important bill being considered before the State legislator but Mayor Breneman said there are many other bills that will impact the City as well. House Bill 114 addresses OPWC monies and the city currently receives \$250,000-\$500,000 a year from OPWC for sewer, water, water towers and infrastructure. The Estate Tax Repeal will have a big impact as the City has received \$911,000 a year over the last 10 years in estate tax money. Also, the City receives \$1.2 million in Local Government Funds and there is a possibility of a 10-20% reduction. CDBG funding cuts at the federal level could impact approximately \$100,000 the City receives each year for revitalization of our downtown. CHIP funding cuts at the federal level could affect the \$250,000 we receive yearly. Since 2001 the City has received \$2.7 million in CHIP funds. Transportation funding cuts at the federal level could affect the City anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million. Mayor said all these bills have a strong potential to affect the City's funding. 5) In closing, the Mayor commended the City of Wooster employees who he said are wonderful and dedicated employees that receive a fair wage for what they do. He knows they are angst in these times of financial uncertainty.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Following member of the audience spoke: Greg Gehris, 347 N. Grant (general).

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2011-06 ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR THE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF FRIENDSVILLE ROAD, SOUTH OF ITS INTERSECTION WITH RIFFEL ROAD, AND CONTIGUOUS TO THE CORPORATION LIMITS (Robert J. Reynolds, Esq., Agent for Petitioners) (Buytendyk)

Mr. Buytendyk said there will be a public hearing on the zoning of this property at the next City Council meeting, March 21, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. and therefore the ordinance would be kept on first reading. He said this is a piece of property that is actually in the township but is surrounded by the City of Wooster. Mr. Reynolds was in attendance and answered several of council's questions. He indicated all surrounding land was annexed into the City which formed this island. Mr. Reynolds confirmed the annexation will not create additional strain on the City's fire and police departments as this is an extension of the Acres of Fun property which is already being served by City services. The ordinance remained on first reading.

2. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2011-07 AMENDING TITLE ELEVEN, ZONING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, SO AS TO ZONE NEWLY-ANNEXED LAND (3.443 ACRES) TO A C-5 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF FRIENDSVILLE ROAD, SOUTH OF ITS INTERSECTION WITH RIFFEL ROAD (Buytendyk)

Mr. Buytendyk said the ordinance would remain on first reading as any objections to the C-5 zoning would be heard at the public hearing on March 21, 2011. There was no further discussion.

3. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-34 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE PAYMENT TO THE WAYNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said this legislation is to issue payment to the Wayne Economic Development Council for economic development services for 2011. The amount of \$40,000 is the same as in prior years and Mr. Ansel highlighted the significant return on that investment as it relates to the City of Wooster. WEDC's total revenues for 2010 were \$450,000 and the City's portion represents just under 9% of that total. He gave a very detailed summary of the contributions and accomplishments of the WEDC (attached to minutes). Rod Crider, President of WEDC, answered questions and spoke about their plans for the coming year(s).

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

4. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-35 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RESURFACING OF SR 302 WITHIN THE CITY OF WOOSTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright said this legislation is to authorize resurfacing the portion of SR302 that is within Wooster's corporation limits and the construction is tentatively scheduled for 2011. ODOT will assume 100% of the preliminary engineering costs and environmental studies and 80% of the roadway construction and construction engineering costs. The City will assume 20% of the construction costs. Mr. Ulbright reviewed the resolution which lists other costs and responsibilities being split between ODOT and the City. The total estimated cost to the City will be \$8,000. Mr. Montgomery further explained funding.

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

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

5. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-36 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PORTAGE ROAD (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright said this is to authorize advertisement and award of a contract to the lowest and best bidder for resurfacing and repairing the pavement on Portage Road between Cleveland Road and Highland Avenue. This project follows the waterline construction project completed in 2010. The trench and existing pavement have deteriorated and significant pavement repair is needed near Highland Avenue. Estimated cost of the project is \$214,500 and is a budgeted item. Mr. Ulbright indicated this project should reduce maintenance costs by repairing the deteriorating road.

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

6. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-37 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT(S) WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER(S) FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OAK HILL PARK (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic said the total estimated cost of this project is \$632,000 with approximately \$532,000 of the funds coming from generous contributions made through the Wayne County Community Foundation and \$100,000 authorized by Resolution #2008-96 from the Capital Improvements Fund. She noted the City saved approximately \$80,000 in design fees when the City's Division of Engineering assumed the majority of the tasks originally contracted to an engineering consulting firm. Operation and maintenance cost of the park should be minimal. Ms. Knapic said this will be a wonderful addition to the City. Council members expressed their gratitude for this project, especially during these tough economic times.

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Ansel noted a Public Hearing will be held on March 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall to review the Wooster financial update.

Mr. Buytendyk addressed comments made by Mr. Gehris earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Ulbright said he would like a list of the state and federal bills mentioned by the Mayor that may affect the City's funding. Also, he commended the City workers for doing a great job during these tough weather conditions.

Mr. Cavin questioned if there was a cost associated with the flooding damage at the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Mayor said some motors were damaged but they were reconditioned and are back in operation. There may be some maintenance costs but nothing significant. There was a lot of overtime in the maintenance division and safety forces. All these costs are being tracked in case FEMA monies could be involved, although at this point, the Mayor did not believe we would reach that level.

Ms. Knapic said she would also like the list of state and federal bills which could cut municipal funding. Ms. Knapic reiterated that City crews did a phenomenal job during the bad weather. She feels everyone helping each other out is a very commendable thing about our community.

Mr. Silvestri said these are cloudy times, but we are blessed to live in a community this size that is able to offer the tremendous level of services and assets we do.

At Mr. Gehris' request, he was given a brief moment to speak in rebuttal to Mr. Buytendyk's comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

David J. Silvestri
Acting President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council