

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 17, 2014

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. The following members were present: Jon Ansel, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic, Scott Myers, Craig Sanders, David Silvestri, and Jon Ulbright.

City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Director of Administration Joel Montgomery, and Finance Director Andrei Dordea, and Law Director Dick Benson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to approve the March 3, 2014 meeting minutes. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sanders moved, seconded by Mr. Myers, to approve the March 4, 2014 special meeting minutes. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Silvestri moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to approve the March 5, 2014 meeting minutes. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman thanked council members for holding special meetings to get three time-sensitive pieces of legislation passed. Mr. Breneman noted that Governor Kasich was in Wooster on March 6th for a Lincoln Day banquet. Mr. Breneman stated that Mr. Kasich acknowledged the recent announcement that Wooster is the number one micropolitan area in the country. Mr. Breneman also stated that he has recently spoken with State Representative Ron Amstutz about some legislative matters that will be coming before the state legislature. Mr. Breneman also shared that he met with Mayor Hanwell of Medina and Mayor Handwerk of Orrville. Mr. Breneman also stated that he attended a presentation by Bill Sheron of Wooster Community Hospital in which Mr. Sheron expounded on the state of health care.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Notice was received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control that Mara Vee, LLC, applied for to transfer a liquor permit for safekeeping from 150 W Liberty Street to 350 E Liberty Street. Mr. Silvestri moved, seconded by Mr. Sanders, not to request a hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Ansel stated that council members were just given an amended version of the proposed changes to Ord. No. 2014-05. He will comment further on the Finance Committee meeting during discussion on Ordinance No. 2014-05. Mr. Ansel also shared that the Finance Committee received a briefing on an update to the City's investment policy, which had not been updated for about 16 years.

Ms. Knapic announced that she would hold a Laws and Ordinances Committee meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers to discuss zoning.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Third Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 162, MANAGEMENT BENEFITS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel stated that this proposal brings the benefits and compensation program more in line with the real world. Mr. Ansel noted that this initiative took a little longer than normal because there are a lot of cost increases to city workers. Mr. Ansel stated that council received a lot of feedback on accrued vacation leave payout in section 162.03 'Leaves,' paragraph B. Mr. Ansel stated that the finance committee had agreed upon reducing the number of hours from 600 to 360 instead of the originally proposed 240. Mr. Ansel also said that the finance committee decided to keep the sick leave incentive in the ordinance instead of removing it as originally proposed. Mr. Ansel also stated that the retirement incentive payout of \$6,000.00 was also a topic of discussion, and the finance committee ultimately determined to allow that benefit to be removed as it no longer serves its original purpose. Mr. Ansel stated that the finance committee believes that the resulting changes are competitive with the private sector while still providing good benefits for city workers. Mr. Ulbright thanked the finance committee for reaching a compromise, for restoring the sick day incentive, and for increasing the leave payout to a figure higher than the state minimum. Mr. Silvestri asked for clarification on the method of the mark-up on the proposed changes.

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to substitute Exhibit A amended for the Exhibit A that was originally proposed. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Myers-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; and Ulbright-yes).

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

2. Second Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel stated that the city was grateful to have been granted extensions to finish the downtown projects funded by CDBG funds. This legislation would allow the city to appropriate and use the grant monies.

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

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-09 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$3,040,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF IMPROVING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM BY CONSTRUCTING A MUNICIPAL WATER TOWER, TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY SITE WORK, FENCING, AND DRIVEWAY APPROACH, AND CONSTRUCTING A WATER PUMP STATION, TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY WATERLINE EXTENSIONS AND CURB CONNECTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ALL TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO AND ACQUIRING ANY REAL ESTATE OR INTEREST THEREIN REQUIRED THEREFOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel stated that he would leave this piece of legislation on first reading to give council members time to review it. Mr. Ansel stated that the approximate cost of the project is \$4 million for the water tower and \$650,000.00 for the infrastructure preparation, easements, piping, etc. The bonds will be earmarked to pay for approximately 65% of the project cost, and the remaining money will come from other funds as well as the \$1.5 million contribution from the

Wooster Community Hospital. Mr. Ansel stated that the 20-year bonds would be sold in an online auction to the lowest bidder. Mr. Ansel added that the city has done used this process once or twice in the last several years when it needed to fund large projects. Standard and Poor's rating services have given the city's bond rating at AA- as of November 2013. Mr. Ansel stated that this rating indicates that the city is a lower risk investment. Mr. Buytendyk added that the city funds used will come from user feed's and not the general fund.

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2014-22 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO PURCHASE VEHICLES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2014 (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin stated that the police department is seeking to purchase four new vehicles: three vehicles for undercover officers and one to be used as a patrol car. Mr. Cavin noted that, due to the weather experienced during the past winter, the police department has chosen to purchase three all-wheel drive vehicles and the fourth vehicle will be a sedan. Mr. Cavin added that the vehicles will be 2015 model year vehicles. Mr. Ulbright asked why the police department chose Fords. Chief Fisher replied that it was because they were on the state bid and that the Ford Interceptor and the Chevy Tahoe were the only SUV options available. The Tahoe is larger and more expensive than what the department needs. Chief Fisher also added that, since the department already has a few of the Interceptors, they wanted to try to make the fleet match as much as possible. Chief Fisher also noted that some manufacturers have stopped making vehicles with the features the city needs, which has further limited the options available.

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

3. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2014-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF BURBANK ROAD (SR 83) AND SMITHVILLE WESTERN ROAD WITHIN THE CITY OF WOOSTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (PID 94668) (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright stated that they have been talking about roundabouts and the proposed location for some time. Mr. Ulbright pointed out that the total cost of this project is \$1.6 million, and that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has committed to fund 90%, or \$1.4 million of the cost. The city would then provide 10%, or \$200,000.00. The city has also agreed to share in 10% of the right-of-way services, which should be an additional \$160,000.00 Mr. Ulbright also noted that there have been two public meetings to provide information to the public and to take questions. Mr. Ulbright stated that this intersection has long been a safety issue and Mr. Kobilarcsik added that ODOT has identified it as one needing improvements for safety purposes.

Mr. Silvestri stated that he has spoken with some of the affected property owners near the intersection and is pleased to note that the plans for the roundabout will not significantly infringe on the owners' property on the south and west sides. Mr. Silvestri also added that a representative from the Grace Church was also in attendance at one of the informational meeting and did not have any objections to the plans.

Mr. Ansel noted that the state engineers and members of the safety board acknowledge the accident reduction and safety that this type of traffic flow system will generate. Mr. Ansel added that the farmland affected by this proposal was earmarked to become retail development years ago and there was not much discussion at that point regarding farmland preservation, though 70 acres of it would have been used for that development. Mr. Ansel stated that this project will use a couple of acres.

Mr. Ulbright noted that problems using roundabouts tend to occur when there are two lanes that go around the center instead of just one. The one proposed here will have just one lane that goes around. Mr. Ulbright also stated that the notices of an upcoming roundabout will be posted further away from the intersection to provide plenty of warning to motorists.

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; Myers-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; and Ulbright-yes).

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

4. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2014-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ADVERTISE ACCORDING TO LAW AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER LINE SERVING BRANSTETTER STREET (Sanders)

Mr. Sanders stated that the proposed project would replace a 6” water line that was installed in 1947 as well as replacing 22 water services and 4 fire hydrants. Mr. Sanders added that Branstetter Street is also in need of repaving, so the city would like to replace the water line first.

Mr. Sanders 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; Myers-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; and Ulbright-yes).

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council

Amy M. Hamilton
Clerk of Council