

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 21, 2012

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Mike Buytendyk called the regular meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 8:00 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, Craig Sanders, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner and Jon Ulbright. Barbara Knapic was absent.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Sanders, to approve the May 7, 2012 meeting minutes. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman, updated council on various activities in the city: 1) An article appeared in the Daily Record this week informing the public of possible cuts the City will be facing. The Impact Group will begin a telephone poll on May 31, 2012 to inquire what residents' needs and priorities are for city services. Residents are encouraged to participate in the telephone survey or take part in the online survey posted on the City of Wooster's website. 2) Freedlander pool and the Knights Field Spray Park will be open Memorial Day weekend. Christmas Run will open the following week. 3) Part time summer employees are beginning which will help with the summer workload.

Law Director Dick Benson distributed to council the URS evaluation report of the findings and recommendations of the Water Pollution Control Plant. He said a Public Utilities Committee meeting has been scheduled for June 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. to review the report.

Finance Director Andrei Dordea informed council that on June 4, 2012, a resolution to approve the 2013 Tax Budget will appear on the agenda and at 6:30 p.m. the Finance Committee will meet to review the tax budget. A public hearing will also be held on June 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the 2013 Tax Budget, as required by law.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Two alley vacation petitions were received for intersecting public alleys: 1) 380' public alley running in an east/west direction from N. Market Street to N. Buckeye Street and 2) 128.75' alley running in a north/south direction from N. Buckeye to Bowman. The petitioners own all land abutting the area of the proposed alley vacations. Mr. Ulbright set a Public Hearing for June 4, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the petitions.

Mr. Buytendyk noted a Public Hearing was set for June 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, with regard to the 2013 Tax Budget, which is required by law.

The following member of the audience spoke: Ross Winkler, 292 Branstetter Street (Moving Ohio Forward Grant Program/Resolution No. 2012-58).

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS (none)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2012-17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT FOR AN ENCROACHMENT UPON A PUBLIC ALLEY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright said the residence located at 214 Pearl Street is a two-story frame house that was built approximately 100 years ago and it has a detached garage. The corner of the garage extends into an adjacent public alley and this ordinance is to authorize the Mayor to execute a permanent easement for this encroachment. Mr. Ulbright said the easement is subject to the following limitations: (1) that it will not under any circumstances be enlarged beyond that which exists as of the date of execution of the easement authorized by this legislation; (2) that it will be dissolved immediately upon the destruction, dismantling or removal of the garage which is the cause of the encroachment; and

(3) that the property owner assumes all responsibility and liability for that which it owns, erects or otherwise places upon the easement, and for damage occurring to persons or property attributable to such. Mr. Buytendyk said the property owners are trying to sell the real estate and the encroachment has held up the sale. He said the garage has been there for a number of years and hasn't significantly impacted the use of the public alley.

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

2. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-58 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOVING OHIO FORWARD GRANT PROGRAM (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said the Ohio Attorney General's Office was successful in receiving a \$75 million settlement from the nation's largest mortgage servicer providers to help offset many of the foreclosure abuses, frauds and unacceptable mortgage practices. The State of Ohio has announced a new grant program that will allow counties to file an application for these funds to help pay for the demolition of blighted or abandoned structures. The City of Wooster has identified a need in our community and would like to participate in the program to receive financial assistance for demolition under the Moving Ohio Forward Demolition Grant Program. Mr. Ansel said Wayne County was notified of an anticipated grant award from the program in the amount of \$426,204. The allocation is based on the number of home foreclosures filed within the county from 2008-2011. The grant requires that there is a lead entity within the county and the City of Wooster is discussing the possibility of requesting to assume this role as the facilitator of property review and fund allocation. The City of Wooster has a proposed list of seventeen targeted properties for demolition and would like to secure \$130,000 of grant funding for this purpose. Mr. Ansel said the these homes have been identified for sometime, but due to lack of funding, the city has been holding off in taking action. Council members agreed this grant program is a great opportunity for the city to take advantage of, to help residents reclaim their neighborhoods for both safety and aesthetic purposes. Justin Starlin further explained the grant program and said the deadline to apply is June 30, 2012 and implementation of the program will occur from July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2013.

Mr. Ansel 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; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

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

3. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2012-59 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; THE RECREATIONS TRAILS PROGRAM & CLEAN OHIO TRAIL FUND AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin said the City of Wooster would like to apply for funding through the Recreational Trails Program and/or the Clean Ohio Trails Fund for the construction of the Oldman Bike Path to be used as a connector trail between Oak Hill Park and the Kinney Property. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes and the Oldman Bike Path trail project is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the ODNR programs.

Mr. Cavin 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; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Ansel reminded everyone of the Finance Committee meeting on June 4, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss: 1) City of Wooster's 1st quarter financials and 2) 2013 Tax Budget. Mr. Ansel congratulated Wayne Economic Development Council who was recognized by Site Selection magazine as having the best record for new business growth of any small community in the Midwest and the second best record in the nation. WEDC was also named one of the country's Top Development Groups for the second time in three years.

Mr. Sanders noted there will be a Public Utilities committee meeting on June 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall to discuss the findings and conclusions of the URS report.

Mr. Ulbright commended Mr. Sanders for having the Public Utilities committee meeting to review the facts of the lengthy URS report. Mr. Ulbright said it was a good council meeting with a positive agenda and good news. He said Wooster is truly some place special.

Mr. Cavin said the potential to add to our exquisite park system with the Oldman Bike Path is very exciting, as is the grant to demolish some of the blighted houses in Wooster. He said these houses are in absolute terrible condition and neighbors have been living next to them for quite some time.

Mr. Silvestri is glad the city is continually looking for opportunities to improve Oak Hill Park and he commended the Mayor and his staff for their work in putting this together. He also thanked residents who came to the meeting regarding the alley vacation petitions.

Mr. Buytendyk wished everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend and asked everyone to take a moment and thank those that gave their lives so that we can live in this great country, as that is what Memorial Day is all about.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council