

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 19, 2005

President Protem Robert Breneman called the regular meeting of City Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers and upon roll call, members answered present as follows: Breneman, Buytendyk, Cavin, Griffin, Silvestri, Topovski, Ulbright. (Ms. Cavin was ill and left shortly after the meeting began, prior to New Business)

Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2005 meeting as received. Motion carried.

Mr. Sigg stated that we have a new code enforcement officer, Mark Nussbaum, who started this morning and we're pleased to have him on board.

Mr. Dordea stated that he had provided each council member with a copy of the city's 2004 CAFR for their reading pleasure.

The Clerk read a letter addressed to city council from Police Chief Steve Thornton regarding the issue brought up at last council meeting by area residents (speeding on Billiar Street and Rebecca Street) and the steps that had been taken to monitor and address the problem.

Bob Ross, 2783 Eastwood Drive, stated that he was concerned about the recent prediction of the increase in natural gas rates – it was recorded to go up about \$775 per household this winter for the Midwest area. If that were to happen, it would impact Wooster alone at about \$8 million dollars and with Wayne County, it could go up as much as \$34 million dollars. Dr. Ross asked if we might take steps ahead of time before that occurs by looking at municipal aggregation to deal with natural gas rates. He had spoken to the mayor earlier this week who had suggested he come here to council and put that issue out in this forum to see what we could do to address that. Mr. Breneman stated that was a very good question and he would like to address that during the miscellaneous section of council.

J. R. Bowling, 1315 Quinby Avenue, stated that he was unable to attend the last session but he wished to speak about the resolution that was passed regarding construction of sidewalks on Quinby Avenue and N. Bever Street. He stated that he wasn't happy about paying to put a sidewalk in at someone else's behest. Mr. Breneman stated that Mr. Ulbright was the sponsor of the legislation, however, it has gone through three readings of council. Mr. Ulbright stated that all residents were sent letters advising them that this would be on council's agenda and when it was passed, they were sent notification of the three methods of payment available to them for the cost of installing the sidewalk. Mr. Ulbright commented that he wished Mr. Bowling could have attended any of the three previous meetings when he could have addressed council on this issue. Mr. Ulbright stated that he was surprised that no one had actually called him during the two-month time period that this had been discussed. Mr. Bowling was advised of his options for redress.

Ordinance No. 2005-29 authorizing the Mayor to execute an easement for an encroachment upon a public alley, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on second reading. Mr. Ulbright thanked Chief Thornton for the report regarding this area. He further stated that he had spoken with Mr. Benson earlier today and he had told him that the 25 m.p.h. signs would be erected on Bardon and Rebecca and hoped they would make a difference. A short discussion followed.

Resolution No. 2005-75 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 a water line serving the Campbell Street area, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Griffin stated that this was a budgeted item for this year and the major benefits of this were that it would create a loop and it would service areas with fire hydrants where there were currently none there so it was an area at risk. We'd like to get this going so that the project may be completed during this construction season. This would replace a 50-year-old 2 in. galvanized line. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2005-76 authorizing the Director of Administration to advertise according to law and enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder for the extension of a sanitary sewer line serving Melrose Drive, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Griffin stated that this 700 ft. extension brings up one of our favorite topics of nipping away at an island that we've annexed around. Typically, when a resident's septic system goes bad, they ask to come into the city to tie into city water and sewer services. This extension would service one of those properties recently annexed into the city and it also makes sewer available for five properties along the way and at some point, we believe those properties will need city water and sewer, again helping to take those islands and annex them. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Topovski, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2005-77 amending Resolution No. 1992-43 by authorizing the Mayor to periodically provide for the filling of the swimming pool at the Ellen Shapiro Natatorium at Wooster High School was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Topovski stated that since this natatorium had been constructed, there had been an agreement for the operation of the pool. The agreement was with three parties, the City of Wooster, the school system and the YMCA. From time to time it's been necessary to fill the pool, top off the pool and drain the pool for ongoing maintenance and in the past, it had always come before council for permission to fill the pool at the city's expense. The last time the pool was drained was April 2000 and since then it's been partially drained and refilled and each time that had occurred, council gave permission to fill it as part of the agreement the city has showing our support for community activities in a community pool. The pool has been filled with about 640,000 gallons of water at a cost of around \$2,000 for water fees. It's been suggested by the administration that instead of asking

council each time this need arises, that we would give them approval to provide this service no more than one time a year or on an as needed basis, therefore eliminating the need to come to council every time this was done. Discussion followed and it was decided that this would remain on first reading.

Resolution No.2005-78 adopting a policy and procedure manual for the City of Wooster's Community Housing Improvement Program was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Breneman stated that before she left, Ms. Cavin had requested that this remain on first reading as she had some questions concerning this manual. This was regarding our CHIP funding and this brings millions of dollars back to our community from federal/state coffers so it has been a wonderful program for us. In the past, we've not had a policy manual but this was something new that the Ohio Department of Development has required during this CHIP funding period. The manual is on file in the Clerk's office for anyone's review. Our housing advisory committee designed this and an outside consultant was hired to put this together (Patricia Lines of Lines & Associates) and the manual was approved by ODOD. Mr. Sigg stated that when we started with the CHIP program in 2000, we basically had to create the program ourselves working with Wayne Metropolitan Housing who administers the program and does the contract work etc. They also administer the county program. As the program progressed, we developed policies as needed and some were written and some were verbal and some were just known. This year, the state asked us to put all that stuff into one book; there were also some federal requirements that needed to be included in the manual. We aren't really making any changes in the program but rather getting it all committed in one procedure and policy manual for the CHIP program. We've tried very hard to keep the two programs – city and county – as closely aligned as possible to keep the rules similar for both government entities. Mr. Sigg noted that we cannot draw down any of the CHIP money until this has been passed, so right now all the projects are on hold. Mr. Breneman stated that it was his understanding that the people at WMHA were waiting to start the Habitat for Humanity project as well as all the other programs such as emergency home repair, home loans, etc. and if this were held tonight, it would be at least another two weeks before any of this could begin. The city was notified only last week by the Ohio Dept. of Development that this manual required a resolution of council. Mr. Breneman indicated that he personally felt it should move forward this evening but didn't think there were the votes to support suspending the rules. Mr. Ulbright hoped that Ms. Cavin's request to hold this would be honored and Mr. Topovski concurred. Mr. Griffin stated that there were some good people in need who were waiting for these projects to get started and we have a responsibility to them. The people at the state who are responsible for this program have signed off on it and nothing but good has come from this program so he urged Mr. Breneman to move this along. Mr. Silvestri stated that he would not be in support of passing this tonight as he had not had time to review this manual, and he would like the time to review it before voting on it.

Resolution No. 2005-79 authorizing the Director of Administration to purchase items of specialized technology was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Ulbright stated that this would remain on first reading. Mr. Ulbright stated that we had a very interesting precouncil presentation and he thanked the speakers who came to discuss and explain the proposal for taping and airing the city council meetings. Mr. Ulbright opened his comments from a quote that appeared in Friday's Daily Record from a guest speaker at the College of Wooster (John Dean) who stated something to the effect that government operates best when everyone in a

community, state or the nation has access to their government. Mr. Dean was also quoted as saying that “to me, democracy doesn’t work unless we know what is going on” and “democracy works best in a fishbowl.” Mr. Ulbright said he couldn’t think of two better quotes to use to support the spirit behind this resolution which will call for the reestablishing of television broadcasting, working in cooperation with the Wayne County Schools Career Center and spending no more than \$55,000 but could be less for all the equipment here and at the school. A very lengthy discussion followed. This would be held and given two more readings for further public and council input.

Miscellaneous

President Protem Breneman stated that Mr. Benson had passed along to him a matter that was inadvertently left off this evening’s agenda; however, John Wise from the Wayne County Emergency Management services was present and would like to explain the legislation and asked if he could speak to this issue. It would be on the October 3 meeting. Mr. Wise stated that this was a product of Homeland Security directive #5, which was a presidential directive and it addresses the national incident management system that has been advocated in that directive and the intent is to provide a consistent national approach for federal, state and local governments to work together in large and small incidents regardless of size and complexity. Katrina aside, this was a product of the terrorism program and the fact of the matter was that future funds that come out of the Department of Homeland Security will be dependent upon communities implementing the NIMS program. The implementation is to be completed by September 30, 2005; however, the resolution was only going to impact us at the time that we put in a grant request. For example, let’s say hypothetically, you don’t act on this until the middle of next month and you don’t put in a grant request until the first of January; there are no consequences for you. There is training involved in this program and was commonly known as IS 700 or NIMS and was a basic introduction course and has been given to law enforcement officers and fire personnel in the county. It is an independent study course and can be taken on-line for those interested. Full implementation of the program will need to be completed by September 30, 2006 and will require additional training. This will also provide a resource management system, a mutual aid system and we are in the process of revising our emergency operations plan to incorporate this program. The program will be aimed at everyone who is likely to be either a responder or who is likely to be at the training center or emergency operations center. It’s there for anyone interested in taking the training.

Mr. Topovski stated that he was glad to see all the residents here at the meeting tonight to participate and know what we’re talking about and hoped to see more of the same at future meetings.

Mr. Griffin commented that he was disappointed that the CHIP procedure manual didn’t pass; he didn’t know what the consequences of holding this up would be but maybe it’s the difference between someone having a house this winter, having a home loan, having employment, but he was sorry it didn’t go through. This was a wonderful program and the legislation we all received on Thursday clearly stated that a copy was on file in the Clerk of Council office so any one of us could have gone down there to look at it and review it and be prepared tonight. Anyone with concerns could have prepared those concerns or had consulted with colleagues here or city

administration. Mr. Griffin stated that he wished to give accolades to Wooster Community Hospital – he and his wife welcomed a new baby last week at the hospital and it was a wonderful experience; the hospital nurses could not have been more polite, they even treated Mom and Dad to a steak dinner and sparkling grape juice!

Mr. Breneman stated that a question earlier had arisen about gas aggregation and natural gas prices were going to be tough this winter. It is fear driven because if you look at the natural gas situation in our storage fields, they're probably anywhere from three to five times fuller coming into this winter than we've been in the past four winters. We have discussed gas aggregation before and he had visited with Mr. Sigg and Mayor Howey regarding this and there are still some problems with this and we think it should probably be put to a vote of the public to go that route for the City.

Mr. Breneman stated that bed tax applications were available and had been advertised in the newspaper and were sent to past recipients. The closing date for those applications to be received by the Mayor would be Monday, October 17.

Mr. Breneman stated that he would email his finance committee members to set up a time for a finance committee meeting to review the CAFR and start thinking about the 2006 budget.

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

Robert Breneman
President Protem

Sheila Stanley
Clerk of Council