

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 20, 2010

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, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner and Jon Ulbright. Mike Buytendyk was absent.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to approve minutes of the September 7, 2010 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman, updated council on various activities in the city: 1) On 9/16/10 a tornado touched down in the Wooster area causing major damage to the OARDC and homes in that vicinity, but fortunately there were no serious injuries or fatalities. The Mayor recognized Wooster Police Chief Steve Glick and Wooster Fire Chief Rob Eyler, commending them for their leadership at the scene of the storm and during clean up efforts. There was no major damage to city infrastructure and the city remains on standby to further assist Ohio State as needed. The Mayor asked anyone wanting to volunteer at the OARDC to contact them directly. 2) Wayne County Fair was held on September 11-16 and once again was a success. 3) Interviews for the position of director of administration are being conducted by the city administration and council's input will be requested during the second round of interviews. 4) As requested at the last meeting, comparable 2009 and 2010 Table of Organization charts were distributed, illustrating the proposed changes. The Mayor asked council to consider approving Ordinance #2010-26, the Table of Organization, so the city can move forward with the process of cross training and reorganization.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

The Clerk read a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control requesting the transfer of a D-5 and D-6 liquor permit to Tumbleweed Restaurants, Inc. aka Tumbleweed, Inc., 4147 Burbank Road, due to a stock transfer. Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, not to request a hearing. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

The following member of the audience spoke: Brigid O'Connor, 907 N. Grant (Friends of Christmas Run Swimming Pool raised \$94,000).

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2010-26 AMENDING CHAPTER 123, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THAT DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Buytendyk)

Ms. Knapic stated the ordinance provides for the reorganization of the administration departments and it was discussed in detail at the last meeting. Ms. Knapic commended the city administration for streamlining the information council received. Mr. Ulbright and Mr. Silvestri expressed appreciation for the clarified organization charts and the hard work done by the administration.

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

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2010-27 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF TWO PUBLIC PARKING LOTS TO THE WOOSTER GROWTH CORPORATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic asked Justin Starlin, Economic Development Administrator, to explain the transition of the transfers and the need for them. Mr. Starlin stated the request is for the transfer of two city-owned parking lots to the Wooster Growth Corporation. The two parking lots are the Trinity parking lot, located on N. Buckeye Street behind Critchfield, Critchfield and Johnston law firm, and the South Market Street lot, located on S. Market behind SoMar Wine Cellars. He said this is essentially to facilitate and support more economic development in downtown Wooster. He could not mention the proposed projects as they are sensitive in nature at this time. The transfer of the city-owned parking lots to Wooster Growth would allow for efficient negotiations between individuals/private businesses and government. Mr. Starlin said the best way to explain the advantage of the transfer is the City of Wooster cannot negotiate with private business whereas Wooster Growth can and they would work with individuals looking to make long term plans to reinvest in the downtown. Mr. Starlin said the South Market lot is under utilized at the present time and if Wooster Growth were to receive this lot they would reconfigure it to support additional parking. As far as the Trinity lot, Mr. Starlin said it is heavily utilized but there is interest for more parking in that area and Wooster Growth could actively look for neighboring properties in the area to possibly put additional parking lots. Ms. Knapic said it was her understanding that no one currently parking in these lots would be displaced, that they would be permitted to continue parking there. Mr. Starlin indicated that was correct although possibly down the road there may be some reconfiguration of the parking arrangement and the transfer of ownership would give Wooster Growth flexibility to evaluate future parking needs and be proactive in acquiring additional property when opportunities arise. Mr. Starlin answered council's questions and spoke of reconfiguration plans for the lots. Mr. Ansel wanted to make an additional point on behalf of the Wooster Growth Corporation, that if council approves the transfer, the corporation will establish a parking lot commission to oversee management of parking issues in the downtown. Ms. Knapic stated that although she does not normally move for third and final reading on first reading, she would be requesting to do so as her questions had been satisfied by the city, that this transfer would not impact the people currently leasing the parking spaces and the city would like to move forward with the process in order to make the accommodations.

Ms. Knapic 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; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Ulbright asked if this transfer would result in fewer public parking spaces in the City of Wooster. Mr. Sigg said the goal is to increase the parking spaces. Mr. Sigg said it would be his recommendation that the management of all downtown parking be turned over to a parking authority, consisting of business owners and property owners, relieving the city of the business of managing parking lots. He said certain projects require long term commitments and the city cannot enter into that type of agreement, but Wooster Growth can.

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-no; Knapic-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

2. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2010-28 AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT AND APPLY MONIES FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Cavin)

Mr. Cavin stated this ordinance would authorize the city to accept funds from the Wayne County Community Foundation, donated from the Friends of Christmas Run Swimming Pool. Mr. Cavin said he whole heartedly endorsed this and commended Friends of Christmas Run Swimming Pool for their efforts, stating it was good to have the pool open during such a hot summer. Other council members also thanked Friends of Christmas Run Swimming Pool for taking on this project and keeping the pool open.

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

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Knapic thanked all the emergency responders for their fast work Thursday night when the tornado struck and wanted to underscore her admiration for them.

Mr. Cavin thanked the Wooster Police Department, Wooster Fire Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Office and all the neighboring departments as well as all the volunteers who responded to the tornado. He stated they are true heroes in the community to risk their lives to make sure the rest of us are safe.

Mr. Ulbright added his thanks to the Wooster Fire and Police Departments and everyone else who responded to the tornado call. He said his heart goes out to all the victims and expressed how lucky our community is even though a great deal of damage was done to the grounds of the OARDC. Mr. Ulbright reminded council of the Public Infrastructure meeting scheduled for Monday, October 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Ansel remarked on the extraordinary work done by the all the local safety services during the tornado, as well as the community initiative by Friends of Christmas Run Swimming Pool to save a pool during a much needed time, both being classic examples of what makes Wooster truly an all American city.

Mr. Silvestri expressed appreciation for everything our emergency response staff did and wanted to emphasize that if the tornado had occurred a mile further north or an hour sooner, it could have been seriously devastating to our community and we are truly blessed in so many ways.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

David J. Silvestri
Acting President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council