

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 17, 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. Cavin moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to approve minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman, updated council on various activities in the city: 1) The Oak Hill Park dedication took place on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Mayor expressed what a beautiful addition it is to our city and encouraged everyone to visit the park. 2) Seaman Corporation is planning to expand their business in Wooster and are requesting council's approval of a tax incentive (Ordinance #2011-28). John Crum was in attendance representing the Seaman Corporation. The Mayor highlighted Seaman's many attributes and gave his support of the abatement. 3) Merchants Block groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. 4) The Wooster police union, OPBA, agreed on a two year contract freeze and the Mayor thanked them for working with the city in settling this contract.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

The following members of the audience spoke: James Green, P.O. Box 1352 (suggestions to save money on leaf pickup through staffing); Jeff Spelman, 3104 Bayberry Cover (upkeep of dog park); and Greg Gehris, 347 N. Grant (Ordinance #2011-27).

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS (none)

VI. OLD BUSINESS (none)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2011-26 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION REGARDING WAGES, BENEFITS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Steiner)

Mr. Steiner said the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association agreed to an extension of their current contract. Union officials and city administrators met and negotiated a mutually acceptable contract with a two-year wage freeze and all other terms of the existing agreement are to remain unchanged. Mr. Steiner said this is very good for the city from the standpoint of being able to control costs and keep the city running in an efficient fashion.

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, 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. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, 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).

2. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2011-27 AMENDING CHAPTER 923, SEWERAGE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO TO IMPROVE THE MECHANISM FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS WITHIN AREAS SERVED BY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (Buytendyk)

Mr. Buytendyk explained this ordinance has nothing to do with usage fees. It deals with amending existing language in Chapter 923 Sewerage so that it applies to areas served by city services, both inside and outside of the corporation limits, through cooperative agreements with other local governmental entities. Mr. Buytendyk said the city has cooperative agreements with Wayne County on a couple different sewer projects and the prosecutor was hoping to change some of the language in the ordinance so it would apply to these designated sewer districts. Mr. Benson added this has been a joint effort between the City of Wooster, Wayne County Prosecutors Office and the Wayne County Health Department to propose this amendment in order to help with the enforcement of the connections to sewer areas outside of the city limits.

Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, 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. Buytendyk 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).

3. First Reading - **ORDINANCE NO. 2011-28 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SEAMAN CORPORATION FOR TAX ABATEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)**

Mr. Ansel said this is an exciting opportunity, to support a flagship company in the City of Wooster. The Seaman Corporation would like to expand and update their Wooster manufacturing facility located on Venture Blvd. They propose to invest \$7,500,000 in new construction and new machinery and equipment, in addition to creating 12 new full-time permanent jobs. As incentive to the proposed expansion they requested a 50% tax abatement for 10 years. Mr. Ansel highlighted aspects of the project as listed in the application submitted by Seaman Corporation. Both the Wooster City School Board and the Wooster Growth Corporation unanimously supported this request. Ms. Knapic indicated she would be abstaining from the vote as Seaman Corporation is a client of hers.

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

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

4. First Reading - **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-82 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STAFFING PARTNERS OF WOOSTER, OHIO FOR SEASONAL TEMPORARY SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)**

Mr. Ansel said this request is an annual appropriation to employ temporary seasonal staffing and is a budgeted item not to exceed \$25,000. The staffing would supplement city workers on the Fall leaf pick-up in the city. Mr. Cavin questioned why this was budgeted out of both the Public Properties Maintenance and the Recreation/Community Center Divisions. City administration explained this contract is with one vendor to pay for two separate services provided for two divisions. Seasonal temporary staffing would be provided in the PPM Division for leaf pick up services and a clerical position in the Recreation/Community Center Division.

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, 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. 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).

5. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-83 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ISSUE PAYMENT TO WHITAKER MYERS INSURANCE GROUP FOR RENEWAL OF THE CITY'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE OHIO PLAN FOR PROPERTY AND GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said this pertains to the city's policy for property and general liability insurance renewals. It is a budgeted item with the total cost not to exceed \$208,000. The annual premium for this coverage is allocated through the general fund (\$115,000), the water fund (\$43,000) and the sanitary sewer fund (\$51,000). Mr. Fowler said this is the third year of a three year contract and the premiums are based on property, real estate, or anything the city owns that can result in a liability. The city's previous contract for these services was with the Public Entities Pool but at the last contract renewal the city chose to go with the Ohio Plan's proposal as it was significantly less and the outcome has been good. Mr. Benson said one thing worth noting is Whitakers Myers did a comprehensive audit of all city holdings and for the first time in many years the city has a comprehensive inventory of all real property, personal property, vehicles, machinery, down to the street lights. This resulted in a \$9000 increase for \$6.5 million worth of property that had not previously been included on the inventory, such as Oak Hill Park, biotower, several lift stations, water tower, Beall Avenue lighting.

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, 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. 2011-84 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WOOSTER TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT AN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE OHIO JOB READY SITES PROGRAM (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said this legislation is of paramount importance as one of the most important factors of economic growth is job ready sites for commercial and industrial development. City administration, along with the Wayne Economic Development Council, BioHio Research Board and the O.A.R.D.C., are requesting approval from city council to apply to the Ohio Job Ready Sites Program to secure funding incentives, which would offset costs traditionally incurred by outside commercial investment. The application requests grant funding in the amount of \$3.2 million dollars for the extension of infrastructure into the BioHio Research Park site off of Secrest Road. Mr. Ansel noted that the City of Wooster is not committing any financial support of this project and all matching funds would be provided by the Ohio State University. He said the city is doing the leg work to secure this funding, which could be a \$6.4 million infrastructure improvement at this premiere industrial complex.

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; Buytendyk-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, 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 that only one application was received for the city's Bed Tax Funding allocation (\$50,000) from the combined group of Main Street Wooster (57.5%), Wayne County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (5%) and Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce (37.5%). The application will be available for review in the clerk's office. Mr. Ansel set a finance committee meeting on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers to review the Bed Tax allocation request. Also, Mr. Ansel said council received support documentation for the Medway Issue 13 anti-drug levy, which shows the importance of this organization in our community and how the funds are being utilized. The City of Wooster funds 10% of the program and derives 50% of the results in arrests and convictions. Mr. Ansel said we are getting our money's worth for the efforts that are being achieved for our city in the war on drugs and he endorsed Medway Issue 13.

Mr. Buytendyk thanked the police department for coming to the table and offering a good deal to the City of Wooster. Mr. Buytendyk said the Oak Hill Park dedication was very nice and everyone on council received a walking stick made by Larry Hilbert. Also, Mr. Buytendyk thanked the Seaman Corporation for being a great business and wanting to expand in Wooster.

Mr. Ulbright thanked the police department for giving the city a chance to catch their breath over the next two years and deal with the financial crunch we are experiencing. He said the Oak Hill Park dedication was quite an affair and he was very impressed with all the groups and individuals involved. Mr. Ulbright said it is exciting news that the Seaman Corporation is staying in Wooster and adding to their facility. Regarding the Ohio Jobs Ready application on behalf of the Ohio State University, he said this shows that agricultural is so much a part of Wooster and Wayne County and the OARDC is a jewel in our community. Mr. Ulbright said the packet received for the Medway Issue 13 was very impressive. He urged the citizens of Wooster and Wayne County to pass Issue 13.

Ms. Knapic added her endorsement for the Medway Issue 13 levy, saying Wooster is very fortunate to have Medway who continue to fight the drug problem, which is very important for the protection of our community. She emphasized that this is a replacement tax and the millage is the same. Ms. Knapic thanked the police officers for giving the city two years as things are tight everywhere. She said their help in settling this contract is appreciated as well as what they do every single day. Ms. Knapic thanked the Seaman Corporation for re-investing in our community. She expressed they are a wonderful citizen and we are very proud to have them in Wooster. Also, Ms. Knapic said she attended the Oak Hill Park dedication and feels this park is an example of many people and organizations working together for the common good of the community, which she believes is one of the best things Wooster has going for it. Finally, she thanked the audience for their input and suggestions.

Mr. Steiner thanked the police department for their willingness to negotiate and said their continued dedication and service they provide everyday to the city is appreciated. Mr. Steiner said he supports the Medway Issue 13. Also, he thanked Mr. Crum and the Seaman Corporation for their dedication in continuing to build in Wooster. Mr. Steiner said he was unable to attend the Oak Hill Park dedication and unfortunately missed a great celebration.

Mr. Silvestri said he went to the Oak Hill Park ceremony but was not able to stay long. He thanked Larry Hilbert for the walking stick. Mr. Silvestri thanked Mr. Crum for attending the meeting and the Seaman Corporation for all their works going on in Wooster. Also, Mr. Silvestri thanked the police officers for bringing forward the agreement with their wages for the next two years. Regarding the Medway Issue 13, Mr. Silvestri said he personally does not like to mention these issues as he believes it is the responsibility of each citizen to decide if the value given is worth the investment. However, he feels this issue is key to what our police do in the City of Wooster and sees Issue 13 as critical for the task at hand in what our law enforcement needs to accomplish.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

David J. Silvestri
Acting President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council