

## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**December 1, 2008**

**7:30 p.m.**

### **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, Ed Schuch, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner, Keith Topovski and Jon Ulbright.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting.

### **III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Breneman updated council on various activities in the city: 2009 budget outlook and the community City Hall Open House, December 2nd.

### **IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None

### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS**

An Infrastructure Committee meeting was held December 1, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers of City Hall to discuss potential sites for sidewalk projects in 2009. Mr. Ulbright reported the committee had a very thorough discussion, addressed a lot of good ideas and discussed the general area of Melrose School for a possible sidewalk project. He noted there will be another meeting held within the next couple months to further discuss ideas and proposals.

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Second Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2008-32 APPROPRIATING FROM VARIOUS FUNDS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF WOOSTER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel stated council members have had a few weeks to review the 2009 financial plan. He announced the Finance Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 and if necessary a follow-up meeting on Friday, December 12, 2008 to review the 2009 budget. The 2009 budget, even with cuts being made, is a projected deficit budget and there is a proposal to go into the city's rainy day fund. Mr. Ansel indicated there are going to be challenges and demands in terms of spending cuts, capital improvements and infrastructure, which are very important issues that require conservatism and strong fiscal control, but Wooster is still very fortunate in comparison to other cities of its size throughout the state and nation. The ordinance was kept on second reading.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2008-34 REVISING THE AUTHORIZED RANGE OF PAY SCALES AND BENEFITS FOR HOURLY RATED AND SALARIED EMPLOYEES AT WOOSTER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, AND REPEALING FORMER ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel stated this is an annual ordinance whereas Wooster Community Hospital performs a comprehensive comparison wage survey both for hourly and salaried employees. The hospital's budget will be part of the Finance Committee's budget review at their committee meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The 2009 impact is summarized as a 2.5% wage structure increase, effective January 4, 2009, representing \$869,115 annually to the hospital. The ordinance was kept on first reading.

2. First Reading -           **ORDINANCE NO. 2008-35 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ADVANCE MONIES FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)**

Mr. Ansel stated this is an ordinance that will allow the allocation of expenses to meet funding guidelines provided by both the Ohio Department of Development and the Community Development Block Grant project funding. The Secrest Road project, funded by the ODOD, has expended approximately \$12,000 and the city won't receive its first credit draft until the \$20,000 expenditure level has been met. This legislation will allow the city to proceed with those budgeted and projected expenses so they can petition the state for reimbursement in the first quarter of 2009 based on 2008 expenditures. Also the Walnut Street project will possibly be incurring engineering expenses in 2008 for which funding will be reimbursed in 2009 from the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Ansel highlighted a change that was made to the original copy of the ordinance. In Section 1, a qualifier was added stating expenditures shall be documented in advance to the mayor who in turn will report such expenditures to council. Therefore, council will have full visibility of any of those expenditures in future council packet summaries.

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

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

3. First Reading -           **ORDINANCE NO. 2008-36 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO TRANSFER FUNDS AS NEEDED FOR YEAR-END PURPOSES, BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE (Ansel)**

Mr. Ansel indicated there has been some feedback on this ordinance and he would be leaving it on first reading based on follow-up being done by the finance director and city administration. The ordinance will allow city administration, on behalf of council, to interchange funding allocations from one department to another. Currently the city charter allows inner-departmental fund transfers on budgeted line items without council approval. This change will allow discretionary fund transfers from one department to another department, based on budgetary surpluses and shortfalls. These transfers would be very nominal, not large funds. Referring to Section 1 of the ordinance, Mr. Ansel indicated a question was brought forth regarding the language "through the end of the current fiscal year". Mr. Ansel stated it was questioned as to whether the language was referring only to 2008 or includes each year as it comes forward. Administration indicated it was 2008 specific. Mr. Dordea will provide, at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, projections of potential reallocations by department for those anticipated expenses. If approved by council, an after-the-fact summary will also be provided to council of the actual transfers. Mr. Silvestri underscored the confusion as to which fiscal year(s) was being referred to and the need for clarification by possibly amending the ordinance. The ordinance was kept on first reading.

4. First Reading -           **RESOLUTION NO. 2008-99 AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS APPLICANTS FOR THE USE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONIES (Ansel)**

Mr. Ulbright recused himself from discussion due to a possible conflict of interest. Mr. Ansel stated as of October 2008, this year's bed tax receipts are up significantly ( \$147,000) compared to the 2007 receipts (\$149,451), with two months yet remaining in 2008. Available funds to be distributed are in excess of \$70,000. As in prior years, the sole applicant is a consolidated group comprising of Main Street Wooster, Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce and the Wayne County Convention and Visitor Bureau. Allocation would be as follows:

Of the first \$50,000

Main Street Wooster	57.5%
Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce	37.5%
Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	5.0%

Of all funds over \$50,000

Main Street Wooster	50%
Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce	30%
Wayne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	20%

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

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Schuch, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Buytendyk-yes; Schuch-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Topovski-yes).

### **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Schuch announced that Wooster Parks & Recreation received state recognition for Kiddie City at Knights Field Park and he felt it was tremendous that they were able to do such a fine project at such little cost.

Mr. Topovski asked administration if the city has its allocation of salt supply for the coming winter. Mr. Sigg indicated that not only are we in good shape as far as supply, but we also received a good price on the salt.

Mr. Ansel thanked Mr. Steiner for filling in for him in his absence at the last council meeting. He also set a time for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. He noted this would be a lengthy discussion to review both the Wooster Community Hospital and City of Wooster 2009 projected budgets. Mr. Ansel tentatively scheduled a follow-up Finance Committee meeting, if required, for Friday, December 12, 2008 at noon, also at City Hall.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned.

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David J. Silvestri  
Acting President of Council

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Cheryl K. Collins  
Clerk of Council