

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 17, 2006

President Judi Mitten called the regular meeting of Wooster City Council to order and upon roll call, members answered present as follows: Ansel, Breneman, Cavin, Griffin, Silvestri, Topovski, Ulbright.

Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2006 meeting as received. Upon roll call, motion carried.

Mayor Howey announced the appointment of Rob Eyeler as the new Fire Chief for the city.

The Clerk read a letter from John Geib complaining about a truck at the intersection of Palmer and Bowman forcing him to back up in order to make the turn and also that the driver called him dirty names.

Mr. Ulbright stated that on April 5, we had a Public Properties committee meeting and we called it a community vandalism roundtable; my committee was present along with Mindy Cavin, Daryl Decker, Steve Thornton and Garrett Rucinsky. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from additional members and guests of which we had a total of eight comprising people from the legal field, education, and the Wooster Lacrosse Club. We had a good hour and a half discussion with much input and suggestions. We're going to take the input from this group to the next Public Properties Committee meeting sometime in May and develop an initial draft proposal. Then we'll send that proposal to the round table group to seek their approval, changes and hopefully their signing on to this proposal. Once we finalize this proposal, we'll bring it to the floor of council.

Mr. Ansel stated that he had scheduled a Laws & Ordinances Committee meeting on May 8 at 5:30 p.m. and he would email council the agenda items at a later date.

Resolution No. 2006-40 authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a technical services contract with Boylan & Cannon Electronics, Inc. of Akron, Ohio for maintenance services for city-owned two-way radios, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Topovski, to adopt. Mr. Breneman stated that this was a yearly contract for the radios that we use throughout the city for our fire, police and maintenance as well as the outdoor warning sirens and the a.m. radio station. It's a technical service contract as Boylan & Cannon is the authorized Motorola contractors for our area and we've been dealing with them for the past 15 years or so. They haven't increased their cost to us in the past three years and we need these radios to work properly to ensure the safety of our community. A short discussion followed and upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2006-41 authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a sole source contract with the US Filter-Davis Process for the purchase of Bioxide for the Water Pollution

Control Division, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Griffin stated that as we continue on the renovation of the Water Pollution Control Plant, we've been updated on that progress all along the way and he thanked Mr. Borton for that. This bioxide purchase was an operations purchase relevant to the plant renovation because we are going to have some tanks offline in the near future and the bioxide product helps to accelerate the oxygenation of the second step of treating our sewage. This will allow us to take tanks offline, use the product and maintain the capacity we need to for our EPA mandates. This was a sole source because the patented product was only distributed by this company. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2006-42 authorizing the Mayor to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Program, to execute contracts as required, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to adopt. Mr. Breneman stated that he was pleasantly surprised to be bringing this forward tonight. We're getting a new library downtown which will serve as a beautiful anchor for our downtown area. Mr. Sigg was thinking of ways to make the area more aesthetically pleasing and ways to complement the library; you may have noticed that some of the sidewalks surrounding the proposed library weren't in the best state of repair. Mr. Sigg found a grant we can apply for using an historical aspect. The cost of the project was \$500,000 but we can apply for a grant that will pick up \$400,000 of the cost for a project to put in new sidewalks and curbs all the way around the new library. Liberty Street was part of the old Lincoln Highway which was the first highway that stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, thus the historical aspect. The library will have on display an historical analysis of the Lincoln Highway and on the outside perimeter sidewalk surrounding the library itself, each state the highway passes through will be represented. Within the sidewalk leading up to the library, all the counties of Ohio that the highway passed through will be represented. Mr. Sigg stated that actually, his wife, Doris, and Justin Starlin had been working very heavily on this; we submitted a preapplication earlier this year which was the necessary first step. Based on the strength of the preapplication, we were requested to submit a full application and it is completed and ready to submit. Discussion followed and upon roll call, motion to adopt the resolution carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Cavin asked Mayor Howey if there had been any progress on the railroad bridges we talked about at the last meeting. Mayor Howey stated that he had called and spoken with someone today but it's not CSX any longer. He left a message for the person at Norfolk & Southern that Sandra Hull has been dealing with and he was waiting to hear back from him.

Ms. Cavin asked about the trash situation and if there had been any further developments; she noticed there was a lot of trash put out early this past week and there was a huge pile of debris on the front lawn of a residence on the south side of Bowman Street just west of McDonalds where

it didn't look as though they had even took it to the tree lawn to be picked up. Mayor Howey said he would have Mr. Nussbaum check this out. He had spoken with Mr. Nussbaum who had sent the letters out to the property owners who were in violation; there's a process in place which gives them seven days to take care of the situation.

Mr. Topovski stated that we were all very pleased to get the OARDC annexation into the city at which time a 30 day clock started on the Hilton Garden Inn area for a proposed annexation and he wondered whether legal proceedings had been started to force that annexation in. Mr. Sigg stated that this was progressing with due speed.

Mr. Griffin stated that he distributed a memo to city council and the administration about outdoor wood furnaces. This matter had been brought to his attention a couple months ago and he knew of at least one of these within the city limits. He did attach a picture of this furnace to the memo and with gas prices on the rise, people are being creative and this was one strategy to heat your home. However, he would like council to consider that nationwide there were cities dealing with this relative to the smoke output from these outdoor wood burning furnaces. He had actually visited the neighborhood when this particular furnace was in full operation and it was quite a cloud of smoke and this type of smoke would permeate windows and the inside of people's homes. He has asked Mr. Ansel to consider this in his Laws & Ordinances Committee meeting to see what we as a city would like to do about this. He felt we should do it now so that in this off season if people were planning this for the upcoming winter, they would be aware of our regulations.

Mr. Silvestri stated that a lot of us have put resources into our downtown; it's nice to see a little more life coming into the downtown, a few more vacant buildings being filled. It's great to see people settling in on Beall Avenue and hopefully over the next couple years as we do the Beall Avenue Streetscape, it will be an even nicer walk.

Mr. Ulbright stated that last Wednesday, April 12, you recall that was the day of very high winds and he got some phone calls and around 6 p.m. visited with two folks down on E. Henry; Mr. Large, 1021 E. Henry and Ms. June Pacek at 1023 E. Henry. Their concern is with Orrville Trucking and Grading, which is just over the ridge, and when you look in their back yard, you see a huge pile of what looks like busted up old cement, possibly from Route 30 construction. That company has put up a real fine looking structure; he went down on Freedlander Road where he could get a better view of the total operation and they have several very nice piles of different size gravel, sand and so on. But what these people are subjected to is that every morning around 7 a.m. to at least 5 p.m. or so, this loud grinding noise (they don't need an alarm clock because this grinder is their alarm clock) and this has adversely affected their lives. But on this particular day with high winds, the dust was unbelievable and they showed me evidence of this dust and not only does it affect the homes right along that ridge, but it blows northward, north even of Lincoln Way. These folks have been there long before this company was situated there and before this company started this rather large-scale grinding operation. I'm wondering, when you travel along interstates, now even more so than in the past, particularly in suburbs you see the erection of sound barrier walls and to some extent maybe even dust barrier walls along interstate highways protecting the integrity and privacy of various communities, particularly in the suburbs. Could we as a city contact the folks at Orrville Trucking; we had a meeting about a

year and a half ago at Lincolnway School and two of the employees were present and these folks were very very cooperative from Orrville Trucking and Grading, so we have positive people to deal with. But I'm just wondering as a community could we contact these folks and ask them if some thought could be given to erecting some kind of fence that would be like a screening and tall enough to catch the bulk of the dust created by winds blowing up this loose stuff. The looks of their yard is quite neat and the building they have erected looks fairly new but I think the folks there who have lived in that part of Mindy's first ward also need to have some help on our part and I was hoping that maybe someone in the administration could contact them and maybe we could sit down, maybe the administration and if council wants to get involved. I also was interested, just as a side note, to travel Freedlander Road, right in front of me a company that busts up concrete and makes gravel, the condition of Freedlander Road was strictly mud. I noticed something to the south of the road like three abandoned tractor trailers with some tires and there was a lot behind a company (Keim Concrete) that looked a little unsightly. He was wondering whether the city was aware of those situations. Could we maybe get some gravel on Freedlander Road if we want people to use that park and whether or not those tractor-trailers that belong to somebody could not be removed because they are not only an eyesore but also a safety hazard.

Mr. Breneman stated that he would hold off setting a finance committee meeting until the next council meeting but urged council members to advise the administration if they have any comments or have received any input regarding the economic development issue. Mr. Breneman stated that on another issue, the natural gas prices have dropped dramatically so if we had locked into a price earlier with city aggregation, we would have locked in at the high on the cycle. We took the wiser road on that. If someone is personally thinking about locking into a price, now was probably the best time as March and April was normally the lowest price for natural gas.

Mr. Ansel moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to adjourn. Motion carried and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Judith Mitten
President of Council

Sheila Stanley
Clerk of Council