

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**April 4, 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: Mike Buytendyk, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic, David Silvestri and Jon Ulbright. Jon Ansel and Jeff Steiner were absent.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to approve minutes of the March 21, 2011 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Breneman updated council on various activities in the City: 1) Bids for the Oak Hill Park project will soon be awarded and construction will begin thereafter. Also, the pavilion the Rotary Club donated for Oak Hill Park has been delivered and should be going up in late Spring. 2) A Safe Routes to School Grant was awarded to the City of Wooster for approximately \$500,000.

**IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

The clerk read a notice for a hearing request from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. C S Ross Company, DBA Big Lots 838, 1925 Cleveland Road, Wooster, Ohio, applied for a new C1 and C2 liquor permit. Mr. Silvestri moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, not to request a hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

The following members of the audience spoke: Greg Gehris, 347 N. Grant (Ordinance No. 2011-09); Sherri Grande, 446 N. Buckeye St. and Amanda Gaffey, 639 B. Highland Ave. (Sloan House deterioration, 439 N. Market St.)

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS (none)**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2011-09 AMENDING CHAPTER 108, MORAL CLAIMS BOARD, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO BY REVISING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD (Buytendyk)

Mr. Buytendyk said he met with City Administration regarding the Moral Claims Board membership which currently consists of the Director of Finance, Director of Law and the City Council President. It was recommended that the two directors act in an advisory capacity to the Moral Claims Board, and the new make-up should include the Director of Administration as well as chairmen of the City Council Finance, Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committees, along with one City resident appointed by the Mayor. Mr. Buytendyk said these three committee chairs would have the best knowledge of what is going on in the City with regard to the areas where the majority of the claims originate. The Moral Claims Board potentially approves payment for claims against the City such as sewer backups, water breaks or pothole damage to vehicles. Mr. Buytendyk also felt there may be a potential conflict for the Director of Law to be a member on the board. Being recently involved in a Moral Claims Board meeting, Mr. Ulbright said he felt these changes were good and would make the process more impartial. Currently a member, Mr. Silvestri said he has enjoyed participating on the Moral Claims Board. Mr. Ulbright suggested possibly amending the ordinance to include the City Council President on the board. The ordinance remained on first reading as there were not enough council members to suspend the rules.

2. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-45 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR REPAIRS TO A CULVERT ON MELROSE DRIVE (NEAR WILDWOOD DRIVE), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright said this resolution is somewhat of an insurance policy, to approve funding for the potential replacement of a culvert on Melrose Drive. According to the city engineer, the culvert was scheduled to be replaced as part of the Melrose Drive Improvement Project later this year, but recent freezing, thawing and flooding have caused the culvert to fail. The culvert has been temporarily repaired, but will most likely need to be replaced before the roadway project is awarded. Mr. Ulbright was informed that over the last several weeks the maintenance crews have been putting rock and gravel into the holes, trying to delay the construction. If the culvert would fail without having an emergency fund in place, the process of going through a competitive bid would take at least a month and the street would have to be closed to thru traffic during that time. The estimated cost of the culvert replacement is \$30,000 and has been budgeted, although Mr. Ulbright said the actual cost may be under \$25,000. Mr. Montgomery confirmed the culvert replacement would only be done once, either before or during the scheduled Melrose Drive Project. Seeing that the work was budgeted, it was questioned if three readings were required and Mr. Benson said they were as Chapter 160.03(e) of the Codified Ordinances provides that it must be adopted with a ¾ vote. The ordinance remained on first reading.

3. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2011-46 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS (Steiner)

Mr. Buytendyk explained that the fire division was awarded a FEMA Grant for \$16,200 to purchase two new thermal imaging cameras. The total cost of the cameras is \$22,000 and the City will pay the remaining \$5,800. These cameras allow firefighters to distinguish the difference between hot and cool items and allow for rescuing victims who may be trapped in a fire, as well as being able to see the layout of the building that is consumed in smoke. They also allow firefighters to find hidden areas of fire within a structure. The cameras will replace the outdated thermal imaging cameras currently being used, which are becoming more costly to service.

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).

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Ulbright announced that the City has been awarded a Safe Routes to School Grant from ODOT, amounting to \$465,000, which will help fund the Melrose Drive Project, as well as other sidewalk issues in the designated Safe Routes to School area.

In regards to the condition of the Sloan House, Mr. Cavin indicated there are several other houses as bad or in worse shape throughout the City and said he would like to see the City follow through on those properties as well.

Ms. Knapic thanked citizens for coming to the meeting and bringing issues to the City's attention. She also gave kudos to the Safe Routes to School Grant and thanked the Wooster Rotary Club for the pavilion at the Oak Hill Park.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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David J. Silvestri  
Acting President of Council

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Cheryl K. Collins  
Clerk of Council