

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 21, 2006

President Judi Mitten called the regular meeting of city council to order at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers and upon roll call, members answered as follows: Ansel, Breneman, Cavin, Griffin, Topovski, Ulbright.

Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2006 meeting as received. Motion carried unanimously.

President Mitten stated there were a couple pieces of correspondence in our packets; one was a letter from Judy Hershberger and John Columbo objecting to an annexation that is not on the agenda tonight (file it away and retain); the second piece of legislation was for a new C-2 liquor permit (wine and certain prepackaged mix drinks for take out only until 1:00 a.m.) for the S. Market Street BP station. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, not to request a hearing. Motion carried.

Mr. Topovski stated that on Monday, February 3, we had a public infrastructure committee meeting and discussed three items: one expanding the CRA #1; the audible detection pedestrian crosswalk system; and the truck traffic on Palmer Street. Mr. Topovski stated that he would address these issues as they appear on the agenda tonight.

Mr. Ulbright stated that on February 15 at 5:30 p.m., public properties committee met to discuss vandalism in the parks and city-wide. You should all have received a copy of a letter that reads "Dear Community Leader" and on the second page a proposed mailing list. Mr. Decker distributed the letter to all council members. Mr. Ulbright asked that council review the letter and get back to him or Mr. Decker with additions, deletions or changes in the letter. Mr. Ulbright stated that he'd like to have a meeting and invite all the people on the list and ask them to come aboard to discuss the approach they'd like to take on the problem of vandalism.

Mr. Breneman stated that we are on schedule for a finance committee meeting for February 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Ordinance No. 2006-1 amending Ordinance No. 2004-33 by expanding the boundaries of Wooster Community Reinvestment Area #1 was read by title, being on second reading. Mr. Topovski stated that we discussed the expansion of the CRA at the committee meeting and some of the items we discussed were listed in the handout each of you received tonight. Mr. Topovski reviewed the discussion and recommendations made at the committee meeting. He would leave this on second reading in order to give the school board the opportunity to review this expansion and give council their thoughts on this and hopefully, there will be a school board representative at our next council meeting. A short discussion followed.

Resolution No. 2006-19 authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a contract with D.J.L. Material & Supply, Inc. of Akron, Ohio for the purchase of a Crafcro Supershot Melter,

and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on second reading. Mr. Topovski stated that we all received the email from Mr. Sigg regarding the final price on this item which was \$35,290, not the \$40,000 on the request form. This is within the budget that we approved last November for 2006. Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2006-20 authorizing the Director of Administration to advertise according to law and enter into a contract with the lowest and best bidder for the purchase and installation of an audible detection pedestrian crosswalk system, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on second reading. Mr. Topovski stated that again he had passed out notes on the committee meeting where they had discussed this issue as well as responsibilities and concerns. After discussing this, the committee is recommending that council adopt this resolution but we are also recommending that the specifications on pedestrian crosswalks be changed to provide for the infrastructure to accommodate any future needs for an audible detection crosswalk device where a lighted only pedestrian crosswalk device was scheduled to be installed. Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to adopt. A short discussion followed and upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2006-2 authorizing the mayor to enter into an amended agreement with the Wooster Republican Printing Company for community reinvestment area tax incentives, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Breneman stated that when we were discussing the CRA earlier, this was a shining example of that program. The Daily Record has their main offices down on Liberty Street and they recently built a new building off of Akron Road/Long Road. When they did that, they could have easily moved their offices out there along with their printing facility, moving completely out of our downtown area which would have left a shell of a building right on our main street. They chose to be a good corporate citizen and remain in our downtown believing that it was best for Wooster. They have been remodeling that building and have expanded the scope of their project and are doing a capital investment of approximately \$2 million dollars for additional remodeling of the existing offices and are requesting tax abatement as an incentive to the additional expansion. Mr. Breneman stated that the Wooster Growth Corporation and the school board had approved this request. A short discussion followed and Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2006-3 re-adopting the traffic control file, as recommended by the Traffic Commission, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Topovski stated that this was basically a housekeeping item; he had received a copy of a report listing the locations of existing traffic control devices as they are now and as they are set throughout the city. Traffic control files are the signs that we see as we're driving around the city (the no-parking signs, stop signs, yields signs, etc.) and through the years, there have been many signs that have been installed throughout the city but had not been codified to take effect. The engineering department had an intern go throughout the city and make a list of all the signs

within the city checking them against the traffic control file. Mr. Topovski has the list of findings which were quite extensive and it shows the location of every sign in the city and their function and whether it was installed by recommendation of the Traffic Commission or by council. By passing this tonight, it will become a part of the permanent file in the Engineering Department. Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Topovski moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2006-21 authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a contract with Hackworth Electric of Wooster, Ohio for the purchase of an emergency generator, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Griffin stated that we were all aware of the massive renovation project at the Water Pollution Control Plant and electricity was a major focus in regards to the limitations and our risks because of the lack of appropriate electricity. Unfortunately, a real and present emergency has arisen in connection with the operation of the Water Treatment and WPCP in that an emergency back-up generator has failed and cannot be repaired. Without a backup generator, our city is at great risk for overflow related to rainfall and sewage as well as EPA regulations and safety to our workers and safety of the structure of the plant. Mr. Griffin stated that how we got to the point of bringing forth this resolution to purchase a \$54,000 backup generator was that the new generator that will serve the WPCP isn't scheduled to be installed until May. To get us through from now until then, we would either have to rent a product or in this case, purchase one. The acquisition and rental price to get us through to May was getting close to this \$54,000 trailer-mounted backup generator. This was a show model and hadn't been operated and we were getting this through Hackworth Electric for a really good deal. Once the main generator was installed, this can be used at the water treatment plant and moved around the city for emergencies. Mr. Hunter further expounded on the need for this generator and the reasons for purchasing from Hackworth Electric. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Topovski, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt the resolution carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2006-22 authorizing the Director of Administration to purchase items of specialized technology for the Information Technology Division, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Breneman stated that because of the large expenditure, he would leave this on first reading. These were budgeted items in the 2006 budget; they were planned. The city's software was over six years old and these upgrades were associated with the contracts and hardware upgrades needed to support them. The current software packages had fallen out of support by the vendors (Microsoft) and we're seeing an increasing number of documents sent via email that cannot be opened properly, so we are sliding behind the times. There is also a concern about security because of lack of updates and we need to address the security aspect of our system. Ty Collins, Manager of the IT Division, stated that the largest portion of this was Microsoft software upgrades. Microsoft has planned obsolescence and the lifecycle was about three years; we've gone twice that and Microsoft ceases to support the problem. Another portion of this was support agreements for the software and additional hardware that we will need. Along with that, we will need the anti-virus and anti-spy software and anti-spam filters, etc. A short discussion followed.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Ulbright asked Mr. Sigg to explain the decision to close the Iris Saunders preschool. Mr. Sigg stated that this preschool had operated for many years; when it first started, there weren't other preschools available. It was never meant to be a day care facility; it was always a preschool for two or three days a week. Over the years, our prices, because of our costs and even with subsidization, have got as high as other facilities. We decided that this was one of the programs, because of the small number of people we could serve, that we could eliminate. We are talking with some private facilities who might be interested in operating the school. But operation of this really wasn't a mission of our recreation department. The city actually does run a day care facility at the Community Center. Mayor Howey stated that the loss to the city for running this facility was about \$11,000 a year. Another thing we took into consideration was the retirement of the head of the preschool at the end of this year which makes the timing appropriate and a lot of people we were serving weren't citizens of the city or even work here.

Mr. Ulbright asked if the chief had any more information on the trucks with wide loads traveling along Palmer Street. Mr. Sigg stated that we are scheduling traffic studies and analysis and counts of what types of trucks are traveling this street, where they are coming from and where they are going, etc. We'll do that not only over a few hours but also over several days and at different times of the day.

Mr. Topovski stated that at our public infrastructure meeting, we did discuss the truck traffic on Palmer Street. We discussed the problem that Mr. Ulbright alluded to but we also talked about the history of the area, safety concerns being in a residential neighborhood and the traffic congestion at the Bowman/Palmer intersection. We asked the administration to come up with alternative routes which they did provide us with a map showing those routes as proposed by the engineering division. We talked about restricting truck traffic on Palmer from Nold to Pittsburgh Avenue but we decided to go the diplomatic route and contact the businesses in the area whose trucks were using this route.

Mr. Griffin moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Judith K. Mitten
President of Council

Sheila Stanley
Clerk of Council