

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 21, 2012

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

President Mike Buytendyk 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, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic, Craig Sanders, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner and Jon Ulbright.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Ms. Knapic, to approve minutes of the February 6, 2012 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman, updated council on various activities in the city: 1.) Mayor Breneman recommended Greg Long be appointed to the Hospital Board of Governors for a 4 year term. Mr. Long will replace Tom Iceman, who served on the board from 1992 to 2011. Mayor Breneman thanked Mr. Iceman for his many years of service. Mayor Breneman also recommended the following individuals for re-appointment: Joe Retzler to the Civil Service Commission for a 4 year term, David Briggs to the Income Tax Board of Review for a 3 year term and Lawrence Walker to the Fair Housing Board for a 3 year term. 2.) Bill Lytle, former mayor for the City of Wooster (1961-1962), passed away over the weekend. On behalf of the community, Mayor Breneman extended condolences and offered thanks for Mr. Lytle's leadership. 3.) The Wooster City School District is in the process of making hard decisions to overcome financial obstacles. Mayor Breneman said although it is a school board issue, it does have ramifications to our community and he gave full support to the board.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC (none)

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Buytendyk called for separate votes on the Mayor's recommendations for appointments to the various boards and commissions.

Upon roll call, motion to approve Greg Long's appointment to the Hospital Board of Governors carried 5-2 (Ansel-yes; Cavin-no; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-no).

Upon roll call, motion to approve Joe Retzler's re-appointment to the Civil Service Commission carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Upon roll call, motion to approve David Briggs re-appointment to the Income Tax Board of Review carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Upon roll call, motion to approve Lawrence Walker's re-appointment to the Fair Housing Board carried unanimously (Ansel-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Sanders-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2012-05 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ABS MATERIALS, INC. AND THE WOOSTER GROWTH CORPORATION FOR TAX ABATEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Steiner)

Mr. Ansel and Mr. Sanders recused themselves. Ordinance No. 2012-05 was discussed in detail at the last meeting and Mr. Steiner said he did not have anything further to add. Glenn Johnson, Chief Operations Officer, ABS Materials, was in attendance to answer council's questions. Mr. Silvestri said he looks for ABS to become a pillar in our community and offered his support. The ordinance remained on second reading.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2012-06 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR AN ENCROACHMENT UPON THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright said this request is to grant a permanent easement in front of the Merchants Block project on Liberty Street, Lot Nos. 9575 and 9578, which involves a six inch encroachment upon the sidewalk. Mr. Ulbright read the stipulations listed in Section 1 of the ordinance and said this easement is needed in order to continue with the construction of the project. Mr. Benson said the required standard sidewalk width is 12 feet and the width of this particular sidewalk is 14 feet, as downtown sidewalks are much wider than in other areas of the city. He also pointed out that this easement would allow Merchants Block to be symmetrical with other older adjacent buildings within the block, such as the Wayne County Courthouse, who have similar encroachments that have existed for many years.

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

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

2. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO 2012-32 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ISSUE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT WITH BUREAU VERITAS NORTH AMERICA, INC. (Ansel)

Mr. Ansel said Bureau Veritas has provided professional consulting services in the ongoing data collection of the nuisance odor complaint on the east side of town. Citizens in Ward 1 and City Council have been very involved in this issue, developing the foundation for the court hearing, in terms of a cease and desist order associated with the alleged pollutant of that neighborhood. Mr. Ansel said this is very important as the necessary information could not have been complied without the professional services of Bureau Veritas. To date the original funds encumbered for this purpose have been exhausted and its necessary to appropriate \$22,000 to pay outstanding invoices to Bureau Veritas.

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

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

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Cavin spoke to the school issue, imploring the Wooster Board of Education to reject the proposal to close Lincolnway Elementary School. He asked that the school district find another way to cut costs as Lincolnway Elementary is too important to Wooster and is the only school located in the south end of town.

Mr. Ulbright concurred with Mr. Cavin's comments and urged the Wooster Board of Education to reconsider the proposal to close both Wayne Elementary and Lincolnway Elementary Schools. He feels these schools are vitally important to their neighborhoods and believes there are better ways to save money.

Mr. Silvestri also expressed his concern in regards to the school issue and said he understands these are not easy decisions and realizes there are a lot of emotions involved. He challenged Mr. Ulbright and Mr. Cavin to join him in coming up with a better solution to recommend to the schools.

Mr. Steiner reminded everyone of the Safety Committee meeting scheduled for March 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall to discuss the proposal for a Regional Dispatch Center. Another forum regarding the Regional Dispatch Center will be held on February 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Group Instruction Room at Wooster High School. Mr. Steiner noted that the Consolidated Dispatch Center Feasibility Study is now posted on the City of Wooster's website for anyone interested in reviewing it.

Mr. Ansel announced he will be removing Resolution No. 2011-99 from the table at the March 5, 2012 meeting. The legislation deals with amending the amount of funding to the Wayne Economic Development Council.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council