

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 7, 2005

President Judith Mitten called the regular meeting of council to order at 7:30 p.m. and upon roll call, members answered present as follows:

Mr. Silvestri moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2005 meeting as received. Motion carried.

Communications from the public included two letters, one from Erwin and Susan Riedner (read by Mr. Riedner) and the other from Bill Ranquest (read by Bob Walton, chamber board president). Letters attached to these minutes.

David Silvestri stated that at 6:30 this evening, we had a Safety Committee meeting in this room; Andrea Wagner came in from Indianapolis, IN to explain to us the benefits of the reverse 911 system. It went very well and she gave us a clear understanding of all the different options offered through the program.

Mr. Topovski stated that he had attended the January 24th Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and they expressed to council their gratitude for the resolution that Ms. Cavin presented and that council adopted recognizing Mr. Webster for his work at Christmas Run Park. They wanted council to know that the paperwork had been submitted to the state for the repairs at Freedlander Pool and that Mr. Paterson said he would have the repairs done in time for the May 28 opening. There have been many positive comments about the dog park in the south part of the city and they were considering another one in the north end. With regards to Knights Field, since there has been little or no use of the tennis court, they were going to convert the court into a mini traffic town with roadways painted over the existing asphalt adding some bridge type structures which would lend itself to safety town community activity functions. In addition, three students from the Knights Field neighborhood were chosen to meet with the playground equipment supplier and members of the Kiwanis Club to choose the new playground equipment that will be installed there.

Mr. Ulbright stated that he had attended the joint township hospital board meeting on January 26; one of the things discussed was that we get \$1000 to spend on ways to promote community health and we must decide what we want to spend that money for.

Resolution No. 2005-8 authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a contract with Brandstetter, Carol & Zofcin of Cleveland, Ohio for professional engineering services related to the design of the Beall Avenue Reconstruction Project, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on second reading. Mr. Griffin stated that he recognized the complexity of this project and there will be disagreements along the way. Businesses and residents will be affected by decisions made in council chambers and their input is important. We had a nice open house this evening regarding the streetscape project and it was well attended. Mr. Griffin stated that he felt we should think of this project as two separate parts of a project. First, we have Res. 2005-8 authorizing the \$700,000 for engineering services related to the Beall Avenue street improvement. This represents 8% of the total project cost which was currently estimated at \$7.5 million dollars. The City has gone into the project with the stance that we will put into the street improvement what we would put into any other improvement such as the Quinby Avenue improvement. Beall Avenue does need improved all the way from Liberty up to Bloomington; the street was in poor shape and the curbs do not serve their intended purpose as in many areas

they were flush with the street creating flooded sidewalks and danger to pedestrians. Curb cuts and driveways exist where they are not necessary which results in dangerous traffic flow and presents a danger to pedestrians. The City was committed to separating storm and sanitary sewer lines as we've been doing and this was another one of the huge ones. These issues need to be resolved by the City and we're obligated to do so in the same manner as we've done in other street improvements projects. We will use appropriate funds and assess property owners based on the trip generation formula. We also have this Beall Avenue Master Plan and it shows how the street will be put back together. According to the plan, the College of Wooster has agreed to invest \$4 million dollars for the project and the federal government through Congressman Regula's office has authorized \$2 million dollars, all in an effort to accomplish the streetscape design; a bike lane, beautiful brick accents, a corridor that invites pedestrians and vehicle traffic to safely explore from the college to the downtown area, safer pedestrian crossings, decorative lighting and class-A landscaping were just a few of the highlights in the project. We as city council members are obligated to make sure this plan fits into the needs of our citizens and businesses. He felt this plan did meet our goals for street improvement in creating a beautiful addition to our city that's going to be welcoming into inviting people throughout that entire corridor. He would like to move this to third and final reading, depending on the discussion but we're talking about some federal money that needs to be filtered through ODOT and the sooner we get that ball rolling, the sooner we can start getting the monies available for this project. A lengthy discussion followed; Pat Hoagland from Brandstetter, Carol & Zofcin and Bob Walton from the College of Wooster were present to answer questions. It was the general consensus to keep this on second reading.

Ordinance No. 2005-2 to approve and adopt current replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Buytendyk stated that this was a perfunctory item for council; most of these are a result of a change in the Ohio Revised Code and having our ordinances updated so it reflects the ORC. It also reflects the traffic code changes by the legislature throughout the year. Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2005-10 authorizing the mayor to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to execute contracts as required, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Topovski, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to adopt. Mr. Ulbright stated that this simply calls for council approval to allow the mayor to apply for these funds and was tied into the state capital improvement program and the local transportation improvement program. This has to do with making improvements on E. Milltown Road. The backside of the resolution explains more completely the request, which was a budgeted item. Mr. Montgomery had asked that this be voted on so that all the paperwork can be completed and this project can get underway as soon as possible. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2005-11 authorizing the Director of Administration to purchase items of specialized technology, to wit: survey equipment for the engineering division, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Breneman stated that this was a specialized piece of equipment that the engineering department would be using; it was a Lyca TPS 1200 total station robotic integrated survey instrument. This would allow for more efficient field survey work and the cost was included in the 2005 budget. This will replace an older piece

of equipment that as outdated and would enable better field work, surveying and design and it was the only piece of equipment that performed the specific functions needed in this department. Mr. Topovski asked if this was just to do the TPS 1200? Mr. Montgomery stated that this was just the TPS, not the GPS which was the global position system technology. He was negotiating with the representative on a trade-in possibly on our GPS that we have right now to upgrade it. Mr. Topovski stated that having an engineering background, he had done some research on this as to what this TPS 1200 looked like and according to Mr. Cullen Fletcher who had spoken with today, the question to him was the difference between the 800 and the 1200 and the 800 was one less on the priority list and was more for construction use and the 1200 was more for surveying and mapping and worked in conjunction with the GPS 1200. Also the 800 operated manually and needed two people and the 1200 could operate with remote controls and only required one person. He was pleased to see this reduced manpower and with the information he received from his research, he was in favor of purchasing this. It was his understanding that there was only one company in the state where this could be purchased so it was a sole source.

Mr. Silvestri asked if Mr. Montgomery could give council an estimate of the savings we would see using this piece of equipment. Mr. Montgomery said that in terms of contracts where we've hired out surveying, for a year we probably spent \$20-30,000. The other thing is that this would do the work of one person, so it saved us the cost of that personnel.

Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Silvestri, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Breneman moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to adopt. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2005-12 authorizing the Director of Administration to enter into a contract with Kucera International, Inc. of Willoughby, Ohio for professional engineering services related to the GIS, and declaring an emergency was read by title, being on first reading. Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading. Upon roll call, motion carried. Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to adopt. Mr. Ulbright stated that during the safety committee meeting earlier tonight regarding the reverse 911 program, he was happy to hear that if we were to ever go that route that what we are doing here to upgrade our GIS will help reach our public even more. This resolution will authorize expenditure of approximately \$60,000 and was a budgeted item. It was sole source because Kucera is the company that helped us establish our first GIS and they were the best in the business. Mr. Ulbright reviewed the information on the back of the legislation. A short discussion followed and Mr. Montgomery explained the benefits of this system. Upon roll call, motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Ulbright stated that he had been very upset about the article he read in the newspaper and he didn't know what had transpired between Mr. Lezak and Ms. Cavin's employer but sometimes people read things and draw erroneous conclusions. He was pleased to hear that the Chamber was going to address this issue. We are all interested in economic development and we want our city to grow and prosper. Things are often controversial and often there were points on both sides but whenever we make that final decision, one would hope that's independent from any undue pressure particularly through someone's employer. When all you folks showed up tonight many because of this issue, he was pleased that they came and supported what he considered one of the elements of good government and the process of exercising that good government and he was impressed with what the Chamber people here tonight ensured that on their side of the

ledger that they would ensure that their membership of people who speak on behalf of them would avoid any impression of this kind of undue pressure in the future.

Mr. Breneman thanked the people who had shown enough interest to come out tonight to show their concern and he also appreciated the chamber board reviewing the situation and seeing that a policy needed to be set up and he commended them for working toward that.

Ms. Cavin stated that she too appreciated everyone in the community who came to show their concern and she also thanked the Chamber for acknowledging that this needed to be addressed. She appreciated the fact that the president of the company she worked for did not want to be involved in this in any way and it's unfortunate that he had to be. Any time that there is an issue that someone wants to talk to her about or present their viewpoint, she wasn't hard to find. She again thanked the people for their support.

Mr. Topovski thanked Mr. Sigg for forwarding the background information on the Beall Avenue Streetscape project. The information will be a big help in making his decision. He also thanked all the people here tonight and looked forward to putting any hard feelings between this organization, Ms. Cavin and the chamber and look forward to working with them on various issues.

Mr. Griffin reminded everyone that there would be a public utilities committee meeting on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Wheeler will be here to answer our questions regarding electric outages and why some areas of Wooster are suffering outages more so than they should.

Mr. Silvestri thanked all the people in the audience for coming to the meeting; it means a lot to us sitting up here when you come out and let yourselves be seen and heard no matter what the issue. It plays a huge part in keeping people accountable and the separation of powers is held together by a high level of accountability. Mr. Silvestri stated that he was excited about the Beall Avenue project; he felt it was something that we need as a city and 10 years from now they are going to talk about it around the dinner table and he felt it would draw people not only from this county but throughout the state. It's a great vision and we have people who have the resources to make that happen and the level of cooperation he has seen so far is very encouraging between the city, Main Street and the college.

Ms. Mitten thanked everyone for coming out this evening and looked forward to their attendance at the next meeting. We had on the agenda economic development projects as well as updating 12 year old technology.

Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Breneman, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Judith Mitten
President of Council

Sheila Stanley
Clerk of Council