

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

June 6, 2011

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

Acting 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: Mike Buytendyk, Mark Cavin, Barbara Knapic and Jon Ulbright. Jon Ansel, David Silvestri and Jeff Steiner were absent.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Cavin, to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 regular meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Cavin, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011 special meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

III. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. Buytendyk said many of those who signed in to speak did so at the Infrastructure Committee meeting which was held prior to the council meeting. It was not clear as to who also wished to speak during the council meeting and since the majority intended to remark about the proposed closing of Gasche Street, Mr. Buytendyk said they would be given an opportunity to comment when Mr. Ulbright introduced Ordinance No. 2011-17.

The following members of the audience spoke: Bob Cline, 2385 Tatum Lane (income tax for retirees) and Becky Shingleton, 1020 E. University (traffic flow and crosswalks on Beall Avenue at the College of Wooster).

A letter was received from the Wooster City Planning Commission recommending to council a zoning amendment at 238 East Larwill Street from an R-T (Traditional Residential) District to a C-1 (Office-Institutional) District. A public hearing was set for July 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Public Infrastructure Committee meeting was held at 6:30 p.m., prior to the council meeting, for discussion and public comment on the petition to vacate the portion of Gasche St. between University Street and Wayne Ave. Mr. Ulbright said he wished to dovetail his committee report with the second reading of Ordinance No. 2011-17.

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman updated council on various activities in the City: 1) Explained tax structure for City of Wooster. Only those who earn income or receive a W-2 form pay income tax, which in turn supports city services. 2) Thanked the Memorial Day Parade Committee for a successful parade. 3) City pools are all open and in use.

Susan Lent of Waste Management gave a presentation on the new single-stream recycling program for the City of Wooster which will begin on July 1, 2011. She explained that every household in the City of Wooster will receive an 18 gallon plastic bin to be used for curbside recycling collection. Distribution of the bins will begin on June 7, 2011. Blue bags for recycling will no longer be necessary but will still be accepted for overflow. The bins and blue bags should be placed 10 feet away from any trash bags set out for trash pick up. Ms. Lent answered several questions from the public in attendance at the meeting.

Wooster Police Chief Steve Glick gave a detailed report on special event services the police department provides. In the past some entities have been paying for these services while others have not. Due to rising overtime costs and limited staffing, a new fee schedule has been established requiring all organizations to pay for extra duty police services for both city and non-city events. Chief Glick also announced that the Wooster Police Department, along with Medway Drug Enforcement Agency, made a major drug bust earlier in the day. Further details will be forthcoming.

Mr. Buytendyk thanked Chief Glick for his years of service and devotion to the City of Wooster, not only as police officer, but as police chief for the last four plus years.

Mr. Buytendyk pointed out that there was a quorum with three council members absent from the meeting, but not enough members to pass legislation on a non-emergency reading.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Reading - **ORDINANCE NO. 2011-17 VACATING A PORTION OF GASCHE STREET, BETWEEN WAYNE AVENUE AND UNIVERSITY STREET (Ulbright)**

Mr. Buytendyk turned the meeting over to Mr. Ulbright, who in turn asked Joel Montgomery, City Engineer, to explain the assessment costs, construction costs and standard requirements to improve Gasche Street from Winter to Bowman. Mr. Montgomery said an improved street has curbs, gutters, storm sewers, sidewalks, usually requires widening and improving the pavement section of the street. A typical residential street has a 60 ft. wide right-of-way which includes all utilities under the street. The cost to improve Gasche Street from Bowman to Winter would be \$2.6 million and from only Wayne to University, approximately \$700,000. Based on other recent street projects done, Mr. Montgomery said assessment costs to improve Gasche St. would be approximately \$205 a front foot which would be assessed to the property owners. The city cannot assess more than 98% of the project or the intersections. He did not feel trip generation assessments could be justified for Gasche Street. Mr. Montgomery answered questions from the audience. Public comment followed with numerous questions and concerns, mostly in opposition to vacating Gasche Street. City administration fielded questions. Signed petitions in opposition to the closing of Gasche Street between Wayne and University were submitted to the Clerk of Council.

After an extensive discussion, Ms. Knapic asked that the ordinance be tabled until the July 5, 2011 meeting, as she would be out of town for the next scheduled council meeting on June 20, 2011. Gasche Street is located in Ward 2 and therefore she felt it was very important that she be able to vote on the issue.

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Cavin, to table Ordinance No. 2011-17 until July 5, 2011 for the third and final reading. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading - **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-55 PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR 2012 (Ansel)**

Mr. Buytendyk said City Council must pass the annual tax budget for 2012 by July 15, 2011 and submit it to Wayne County by July 20, 2011. The tax budget is the finance division's best estimate as to what kind of revenues are coming in and what kind of expenditures the city will have in the upcoming year. Mr. Buytendyk explained that the tax budget is different from the appropriations budget which is done in the latter half of the calendar year. There were no comments and the resolution remained on first reading.

A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall to discuss the proposed tax budget for the year ending December 31, 2012. Copies of the tax budget are available for inspection in the finance division and on the City of Wooster's website.

2. First Reading - **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-56 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ISSUE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED UNDER CONTRACT(S) WITH VENDORS OR FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE MUNICIPALITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Ansel)**

Mr. Buytendyk said this is to authorize payment to the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, in the amount of \$4,820.38, for services related to the promotional testing for the chief of police position. There were no further comments and the resolution remained on first reading.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Ulbright said he was very pleased with the turn out for the Infrastructure Committee meeting and City Council meeting to discuss the proposed closing of Gasche Street. He encouraged residents to come back to the July 5, 2011 council meeting when Ordinance No. 2011-17 will be taken off the table, discussed and voted on.

Mr. Cavin said he would like to see another full house at the July 5, 2011 meeting for further public input.

Ms. Knapic thanked all those who contacted her about the Gasche Street issue. She said it is very important to her as it is in her ward and she would welcome any further calls.

Mr. Buytendyk thanked everyone for attending and for their participation. He said he resented anyone who would think that council members have already made a decision, if that were so, public comment would not be invited. He said it is council’s job to listen to the what the citizens of Wooster have to say. The College of Wooster has the right to submit the petition and the citizens have the right to voice their opinions, but ultimately the decision is made by city council and a decision has not been made. He invited everyone to come back to council meetings, particularly the meeting on June 5, 2011 when the ultimate vote on the Gasche Street issue will be made.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Cavin, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Michael G. Buytendyk
Acting President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council