

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**March 15, 2010**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, to approve minutes of the March 1, 2010 meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Breneman updated council on various activities in the city: 1) Welcomed boy scouts attending meeting for their Citizenship and Community badge; 2) Delegation from Russia visited Wooster focusing on the Parks & Recreation Division; 3) Wooster received Efficient Gov Now Competition Award; 4) Encouraged public to submit 2010 Census forms; 5) Wooster/Wayne County micropolitan was ranked by Site Selection Magazine as No. 2 in the United States; 6) Acknowledged businessmen attending meeting from Speed North American and Speed France; 7) Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director of the Ohio Department of Development will be the keynote speaker at Wayne Economic Development Center's annual meeting which city officials will be attending; 8) Administration began the peer review process which will help identify more efficient ways of operating and reducing costs; 9) Civilian Labor Force estimates show the area's January 2010 unemployment growing at a rate of 9.6% whereas in December it is was 8.7%; 10) City's housing permits for the year have exceeded the totals for all of 2009; and 11) Health & Leisure Committee held a very informative meeting to discuss possible closure of Christmas Run pool this season as a cost-savings measure. Mayor Breneman indicated there was a lot of public input and the city is looking forward to working with the residents to find a solution.

**IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

The clerk read a notice from the Ohio Division Liquor Control regarding the transfer of D1, D2 and D3 liquor permits to SNOSAM LLC, 1931 Portage Road from Wooster Foods, Inc., DBA Ciao Bella, 150 W. Liberty Street. Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to waive the hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

A petition was received to vacate the north/south public alley running from E. Liberty St. to East South Street. The petitioner, Matthew A. Long, Manager of Liberty Street Partners, owns all the adjoining properties. Mr. Ulbright set a public hearing for April 5, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Following members of the audience spoke: Mark Gooch, 1636 Gasche St., chairman of the Friends of Christmas Run Pool, gave an overview of their fundraising efforts to raise \$100,000 to keep Christmas Run pool open. They have already received \$6,000-\$7,000 in verbal commitments. Contributions will be placed in a fund with the Wayne County Community Foundation to be used as a temporary measure to meet the needs of the operation and maintenance of Christmas Run Pool until the economy and the city's budget situation improve. Mr. Gooch asked that the city accept their offer in good faith and make the decision to open Christmas Run Pool this summer. Greg Gehris, 347 N. Grant (Christmas Run pool).

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Mr. Cavin reported on the Public Health and Leisure committee meeting which was held on March 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the potential closing of Christmas Run pool. An update on the financial health of the city was presented by Mayor Breneman and pool statistics and its condition were cited by Chuck Malta, Parks & Recreation Manager. Many concerned members of the public were present and voiced comments ranging from quality of life issues, to transportation problems, to questioning administration's statistics. Mr. Cavin indicated that a group of citizens have decided to raise money to keep the pool open.

A Finance Committee meeting was held prior to the council meeting on March 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.. According to Mr. Ansel, it was a very informative meeting, discussing quantitative figures for January and February. The first

of six bi-monthly financial reviews in 2010, designed to give a greater awareness of the city funds, showed numbers for the first two months better than expected. Mr. Ansel indicated the statistics show all income revenue generating funds are slightly up over this time a year ago and correspondently the expenses are down. Although the first quarter is deceiving with beginning of the year expenses versus the end of the year expenses, at least for the first two months the budget is positive with a \$36,000 net variance. Mr. Ansel also mentioned the finance committee members will be involved with the city's departmental peer review process which is an internal look into reducing the city's operating expenses.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS (none)**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. First Reading - ORDINANCE NO. 2010-10 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT FOR AN ENCROACHMENT UPON A PUBLIC PARKING LOT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Knapic)

Ms. Knapic introduced Bill Erdos who presented the proposed project to city council. Mr. Erdos is the owner of the building located at 209/213 S. Market Street and recently completed improvements there, opening Somar Wine Cellars and now desires to construct a 30 x 24 outdoor deck to the rear of the building in order to enhance the business. The rear lot line of the property adjoins a public parking lot and the South Market Street property has approximately twelve feet of additional space to the rear of the building. Mr. Erdos indicated they would like to secure an additional twelve feet in order to construct the proposed patio and is requesting an easement for an encroachment upon the public parking lot. The Engineering Division has examined the location and determined that the encroachment will not interfere with any current municipal interest, and city administration believes the proposal will promote the development of business in the downtown business district. Mr. Sigg confirmed that there would be adequate parking for the business and also city-owned leased parking. Council commended Mr. Erdos for his work in downtown Wooster.

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

Ms. Knapic moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, 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).

2. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2010-34 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RVI, INC. OF WOOSTER, OHIO FOR THE CLEANING OF THE STRIPPING TOWERS IN THE SOUTH WELL FIELD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Silvestri)

Mr. Silvestri stated one of the ongoing maintenance costs for the water treatment plant is to periodically clean the VOC Stripping Towers and replace the media. There are three VOC Stripping Towers in the South Well field and Related Ventures (RVI) of Wooster, Ohio is the sole source of supply for this service. Cost of the project will not exceed \$25,000 and is estimated to be around \$20,000. Mr. Silvestri gave an explanation of the process used to remove the VOC media.

Mr. Silvestri moved, seconded by Mr. Steiner, 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).

3. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2010-35 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2009-81 BY AMENDING THE AUTHORIZED COST OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT (Ulbright)

Mr. Ulbright stated city council authorized Resolution No. 2009-81 which approved entering into a contract with Kucera International, Inc. for engineering services related to the city's geographic information system (GIS) to photograph areas of Wooster that have changed. Wayne County wishes to obtain the same services from Kucera

and would like to participate with the city under one contract. The city's current contract is \$60,400 and fees for Wayne County mapping would increase the contract by \$75,450, for a total contract amount of \$135,850. The County Auditor will reimburse the city for the county's costs, plus some additional administrative costs. This cooperation saves both entities money and will not have any effect on the city's operating budget and therefore is not a budgeted item. It is a sole source contract. Mr. Silvestri added that Kucera International is highly regarded in their industry.

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; Buytendyk-yes; Cavin-yes; Knapic-yes; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-yes).

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, 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).

4. First Reading - RESOLUTION NO. 2010-36 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AND APPLY A GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Steiner)

Mr. Steiner stated the Police Division received a grant from the State Homeland Security Grant Program to purchase a license plate reader which scans license plates, access databases, alerts officers to warrants, drivers without driver's licenses and other law enforcement alerts. It is also possible to enter information on local alerts as well. The cost of the unit is \$17,150 which is entirely covered by the grant. The department will need to fund some training costs and service plans after the first year, totaling \$4,800 for years two through four and \$800 thereafter for the service plan.

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

Mr. Steiner moved, seconded by Mr. Ulbright, 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 thanked those who attended the council meeting and commended Mr. Gooch and the 500-600 people who have already committed themselves to raising funds to keep Christmas Run pool open. He has faith they will raise the entire \$100,000 and hopes the mayor will be sympathetic to their cause by keeping the pool open. Mr. Ulbright stated we do not want to abandon the community spirit of government that brings us together. City Council is elected to make sure services are provided and efficient in a quality way, but there are times when emergencies arise and he was glad to hear Mr. Gooch use the word temporary as Mr. Ulbright has confidence the economy will recover and the city will be able to handle this financial responsibility in the future.

Mr. Buytendyk stated citizens, like those in attendance regarding Christmas Run pool, are the reason why Wooster is a great city. He also welcomed the boy scouts attending the meeting and noted they got to see local democracy in action and hopes they understand and appreciate how precious the first amendment right and freedom of speech is.

Mr. Ansel praised Friends of Christmas Run Pool on their initiative and the quick work with the task at hand. He mentioned it was a pleasure to see the participation of the boy scouts as its very important to have a sense of community and understanding of local government. Mr. Ansel introduced special guests from Speed North America and Speed France and highlighted their business.

Mr. Silvestri thanked everyone in attendance, whether for purposes of earning a Citizenship and Community badge, as a member of the public to voice their opinion or show involvement on the Christmas Run pool issue, or just to observe and learn more about city government, it was a great evening to do that.

Mr. Steiner thanked everyone for coming and particularly thanked all the individuals who have taken on the Christmas Run pool issue and knows they are going to do a fabulous job.

Ms. Knapic indicated she was humbled by the presence of the guests from Speed North America and Speed France and thanked them for their presence in Wooster. She too thanked the boy scouts for attending the meeting and told them she appreciates everything they do in our community. Ms. Knapic feels Friends of Christmas Run Pool is an amazingly dynamic group of people and although the pool is the responsibility of the city, these citizens stepping forward to help on a temporary basis is an amazing thing and hopes everyone participates and contributes. The purpose of raising \$100,000, which is more than needed to keep the pool open for this summer, is to cover any future shortfall. Any extra funds will be put into the foundation and used solely for Christmas Run pool. Ms. Knapic wanted to make her position known that she would like Christmas Run pool to remain open this summer.

Mr. Cavin echoed everyone's sentiments and thanked Friends of Christmas Run Pool for being involved and helping out the most vulnerable of our citizens, the children.

Mayor Breneman stated he is thankful for the community we live in, that people don't just wring their hands and complain about things and offer no solutions. Friends of Christmas Run Pool have an objective in mind, have a goal they want to reach and have decided how they are going to achieve that goal and the Mayor commended their efforts. A similar group, Friends of Wooster Memorial Park, who have been in existence for a number of years, also serve the city by maintaining trails at Wooster Memorial Park. Mayor Breneman wanted to recognize these volunteers as a grass roots effort who work for the good of our community and believes the Friends of Christmas Run Pool is the same type of group. Mayor Breneman stated he is willing to take a leap of faith and open Christmas Run pool this year. He added that hopefully this is a temporary circumstance and the city can go back to maintaining all of the city pools but indicated he would love to see this group continue their support of the pools, Christmas Run specifically, but if they wanted to expand their scope to pools in general, that would be great too. The Mayor thanked the group for their efforts and especially thanked Mr. Gooch and Perky Davis for their leadership.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ulbright moved, seconded by Mr. Buytendyk, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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David J. Silvestri  
Acting President of Council

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Cheryl K. Collins  
Clerk of Council