

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
March 30, 2009
7:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL & ORDERING OF AGENDA

Acting President David Silvestri called the special meeting of Wooster City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers. The following members were present: Jon Ansel, Mike Buytendyk, Ed Schuch, David Silvestri, Jeff Steiner and Jon Ulbright.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

An Ad Hoc Committee meeting was held at 5:30 p.m. on March 30, 2008, for the purpose of interviewing two candidates to fill the vacant Ward 2 council seat left open by Keith Topovski's resignation. Members of the committee, Mr. Silvestri, chairman, Mr. Ulbright and Mr. Schuch, interviewed the two candidates who submitted their letters of interest by the deadline date. Mr. Silvestri stated both candidates, Rev. Dr. Alan Nathan and Bob Henery, answered questions regarding economic development, personal goals for council, downtown concerns and financial issues. Following the conclusion of the interviews, the committee could not reach a consensus as they could not make a determination between the two candidates and Mr. Silvestri stated they discussed moving forward with the process of the mayor making the nomination to fill the seat.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Nominations for Ward 2 Councilperson

Mr. Silvestri opened the floor for comments from council members.

Mr. Ulbright commended Mr. Henery and Mr. Nathan for coming before council and stated he felt they both did an excellent job. After listening to both candidates, Mr. Ulbright stated he could not make a decision to recommend one over the other. If the decision to fill the vacant seat is deferred to the mayor, Mr. Ulbright indicated he would recommend these two candidates be considered by the mayor first.

Mr. Ansel commended the ad hoc committee for their efforts and mentioned he too was impressed by both candidates. He stated there is really no right or wrong choice and unless there is a nomination from the committee, he was prepared to pursue the option of the mayor filling the vacant seat. However, if there were to be a nomination, Mr. Ansel stated he would be prepared to vote.

Mr. Schuch too found both candidates exhibited the desire to serve Ward 2 and the citizens of Wooster, but at this point did not feel he could make a decision between either of them. He stated he felt very confident in the ability of Mayor Breneman to appoint someone to fill the vacant Ward 2 seat.

Mr. Silvestri stated the sole purpose of this meeting was to fill the vacant Ward 2 council seat. Typically special meetings are not opened for public comment, however out of respect for the process, he opened the meeting up for public comment. Martin Shull (824 Northwestern) questioned if the committee determined the candidates were qualified democrats. Mr. Ulbright stated the political status of one candidate was questioned and the law director researched and determined both candidates were qualified democrats according to the rules of the State of Ohio and the Secretary of the State.

Mr. Silvestri asked if there was a nomination for either of the two candidates to fill the Ward 2 seat and there were none. Mr. Silvestri stated these are very difficult decisions, but out of respect for the two candidates, he felt he would not be acting in the best interest of the citizens of Wooster if he did not make a nomination. Based on the breadth of the experience and the clearly outlined goals of the candidates and although the committee did not reach a recommendation, Mr. Silvestri stated he felt compelled to make a nomination for Rev. Dr. Alan

Nathan to fill the Ward 2 seat. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. Upon roll call, motion carried 4-2 (Ansel-yes; Buytendyk-yes; Schuch-abstained; Silvestri-yes; Steiner-yes and Ulbright-abstained).

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Buytendyk moved, seconded by Mr. Ansel, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

David J. Silvestri
Acting President of Council

Cheryl K. Collins
Clerk of Council