

WOOSTER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 15, 2015

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. All members of City Council were present except Councilwoman Barbara Knapic.

City Administration present: Mayor Bob Breneman, Finance Director Andrei Dordea, Development Coordinator Jonathan Millea, Police Chief Matt Fisher, Zoning Manager Andrew Dutton.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Myers moved, seconded by Councilman Cavin to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2015 regular meeting. Upon voice vote the motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Breneman shared recent awards the City received from Foreign Direct Investment; Top 10 of Micro cities in cost effectiveness, Top 10 of Micro cities for Human Capital and lifestyle, and Micro cities best for FDI Strategy. The Mayor reported details of his attendance to the Heritage Ohio Conference and how Wooster remains the “downtown standard” for other cities and his attendance at a recent NAACP dinner.

IV. PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

1. Greg Gehris of 347 N. Grant Street spoke regarding Resolutions 65 and 66.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS; PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Finance Committee Report:

-Councilman Ansel gave a brief overview of the positive report the committee received from Finance Director Dordea. The report detailed a very positive financial position of the city. Councilman Ansel highlighted some of the figures and referred council to their copies for more in-depth review.

2. Public hearing:

Planning Commission to re-zone 0.475 acres from General Commercial to Single Family Residential at 1967 E. Smithville-Western Rd (PIC#71-00281.000).

-Councilman Ulbright opened the hearing and gave a brief overview of the request for a zoning change. Mr. Dutton went over the visual maps provided to council of the location of the parcel and gave the history of the request coming to the Planning Commission to rezone the parcel. Chris Green who owns a neighboring property explained the rationale for neighbors requesting the zoning change. Councilman Cavin inquired as the type of structure currently on the property, which is a home with 750 square feet. Councilman Silvestri asked if anyone has been in direct contact with the current property, and learned that no one has. Mr. Dutton communicated the current property owner has been sent all appropriate notifications vial mail. Council expressed their concerns about rezoning the property without first speaking with the current owner. Councilman Ulbright closed the hearing.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading – ORDINANCE NO. 2015-35 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE ELEVEN, ZONING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WOOSTER, OHIO, SO AS RE-ZONE LAND TO AN R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1967 E. SMITHVILLE-WESTERN ROAD (Knapic)

Councilman Ulbright reiterated the details of the public hearing and noted he is leaving the ordinance on first reading and requested Mr. Dutton to get in touch with the current owner and obtain agreement on the zoning change or at the least attend the next council meeting to express an objection if one exists.

2. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2015-65 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WOOSTER TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT AGREEMENTS (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel detailed the annual process of review completed by the Tax Incentive Review Council and went on to share details about their April 2015 meeting to review CRA agreements. There are currently 25 open agreements which have resulted in almost 28 million dollars of investment, 86 added jobs and retained 289 jobs in the downtown area. Councilman Ansel left on first reading to allow for additional review. Councilman Ulbright shared his thoughts on the importance of CRA's and how they have benefited Downtown Wooster.

3. First Reading – RESOLUTION NO. 2015-66 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WOOSTER TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENTS (Ansel)

Councilman Ansel reiterated the annual process of review completed by the Tax Incentive Review Council and went on to share details about their April 2015 meeting to review Enterprise Zone agreements. There are currently 13 active agreements with over 45 million dollars invested in property since 2014, which has generated over 1 million dollars in property taxes. The investments resulted in the creation of over 600 jobs, which generated almost \$350,000 in taxes revenue. Councilman Ansel left on first reading to allow for additional review.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

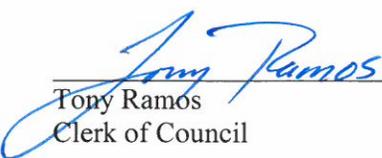
Councilman Silvestri noted the successes of Wooster with respect to citywide improvements and economic growth. Councilman Ansel noted Wooster is a business friendly environment and is growing and is a productive community. Councilman Ulbright noted the citywide improvements as well and noted it is affirmation of the city's promise to use the tax increase money to improve infrastructure.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ulbright moved, seconded by Councilman Myers, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned.



Michael G. Buytendyk
President of Council



Tony Ramos
Clerk of Council