

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Call to Order

Mayor Ronald A. D'Epifanio called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Rhodus led in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Clerk Johns called the roll of Council. Present members were Councilmember Meyers, Councilmember Judd, Councilmember Snyder, Councilmember Oler, Councilmember Senger, Councilmember Abbott, and Councilmember Rhodus.

Agenda Modifications

No Modifications were made to the agenda.

Executive Session Requests

Councilmember Snyder, seconded by Councilmember Rhodus moved to Approve a request for Executive Session to discuss employment and compensation of personnel. Clerk Johns called the roll of Council. Motion Carried 7-0.

Public Hearing(s)

No Public Hearings were scheduled.

Special Presentations and Citizen Comments

Ray McDaniels, 249 Palm Springs Drive, discussed smart meters and the importance of correct calibration. He further discussed problems with wind mills. Mr. McDaniels commented he read in the Cincinnati Enquirer about a bicycle path in the City of Hamilton that will connect the northern and southern parts of Route 4. He questioned if Fairfield will tie into this path.

Mayor/Council Reports

Councilmember Snyder discussed the annual employee recognition event and the naming of the STAR award winner of the year, Greg Morrow of the Parks Department. Councilmember Snyder commented on the African American Voice of Youth musical performance on February 25th at 7 PM at the Performing Arts Center at the High School for Black History Month. Councilmember Judd provided an update on the replacement of inefficient lighting at Public Works Department that will cut electricity cost by as much as fifty percent. He commented this savings is through a program initiated by Duke Energy and expressed his thanks to Duke Energy and city staff.

Councilmember Rhodus announced the next Planning Commission meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 6:00 PM to discuss the Emerald Lake Subdivision. He commented an empty building on Muhlhauser Road should have a tenant soon.

Councilmember Senger recognized the Public Utilities Department for the positive comments from the EPA regarding the January 22nd required Sanitary Survey of the Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System. He commented on an article in the Fairfield Flyer about Sgt. First Class Rob Corner who is still serving in Iraq and is a Fairfield Police Officer. Councilmember thanked everyone involved with the Fairfield Flyer.

Mayor D'Epifanio commented Probation Officer Scott Zeller is also serving.

Councilmember Abbott explained the January income tax revenues are tracking near projections. He further commented the Capital Improvement Plan departmental discussions are underway and will come to Council shortly.

Councilmember Meyers announced the dates of Crystal Classic Show Choir Event on Saturday, March 6th. He stated the books closed this year with golf course up about \$47,000 in revenues. He further commented the CAC is making money as well. He stated Fairfield came in second for the Recycle to Win in Butler County behind Oxford, but we were number one as far as total revenue coming in and we will get about \$37,000 back from this effort.

Mayor D'Epifanio commented on how wonderful the Crystal Classic is and the times of the event.

Approval of Minutes

The Regular Meeting minutes of January 25, 2010 were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Marty Judd, Chairman; Mike Oler, Vice Chairman; Tim Abbott, Member

Resolution declaring necessity of repairing sidewalks (including aprons).

Councilmember Judd presented the third reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Judd, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. RESOLUTION NO. 1-10 ADOPTED 7-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Oler, Chairman; Marty Judd, Vice Chairman; Mitch Rhodus, Member

Ordinance amending Section 351.15 of Ordinance No. 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio, relative to parking on private property and removal of vehicles illegally parked.

Councilmember Oler presented the third reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Oler, seconded by Councilmember Abbott moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 12-10 ADOPTED 7-0.

Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Rozzi's Famous Fireworks Inc. for the annual Red, White and Kaboom Event.

Councilmember Oler presented the second reading of this ordinance. Ordinance approved for second reading only.

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mike Snyder, Chairman; Tim Abbott, Vice Chairman; Terry Senger, Member

Ordinance to authorize the City Manger to enter into a consulting agreement with Management Partners, Inc. for training of City staff on performance measurement and declaring an emergency.

Councilmember Snyder presented the second reading of this ordinance. Ordinance approved for second reading only. Mayor D'Epifanio discussed his reason for voicing his opinion this evening. Mayor D'Epifanio discussed the combined 237 years of experience for department heads and the city manager and assistant city manager have 75 years of experience in government. He commented we have a city that is being run extremely well and Department Heads have been asked to work with as few employees as possible and they are doing that and still giving the service to the citizens that they deserve. He commented to pay \$25,000 of taxpayer money to train our department heads when they are already doing a fantastic job is wrong. Councilmember Oler commented on any elected official's right to express an opinion. He further commented he was under the impression that the training was being engulfed by management and would expect if someone on administration does not like that they would come to Council. Councilmember Meyers stated one of the successes of this city is giving the leadership tools to do the job and he feels that this is one of the tools being added to the toolbox. He commented the Council established metrics around key measurements for the various departments. He stated these key measurements are in there because you don't know if you are improving or growing without some type of a base line to do so. He further commented his understanding is the training will help train the department heads how to understand the metrics, the performance around it and also looking at productivity gains that you get out of it.

Councilmember Abbott commented there have been some tremendous savings and opportunities that have come from tracking certain things from the Community Arts Center to the Golf Course to an energy efficiency type project. He agreed that this is just another tool and any time we can offer additional training at a relatively inexpensive cost that has huge rewards on the upside is something we should always be looking at because the world continues to change and evolve and you have to know where you are at and you have to be willing to adapt to change. Councilmember Rhodus stated he has done research on this company and this company shines through in a public sector. He commented when you see the cost savings that just one idea for improvement that we can implement, the \$25,000 seems miniscule. Mayor D'Epifanio commented it is not just the \$25,000, it will also add more on to the department heads that are already doing a fantastic job, but he has not spoken to any of the department heads. Councilmember Judd commented the one thing to be guarded against is putting additional pressure and time constraints on department heads to do reports and metrics when they should be devoting that time to making this a better city. Councilmember Snyder commented he would like additional detail. He further commented initially he saw this as more of an orientation exposure to new ideas and if that is the case that is fine, but he is concerned if it will be a requirement to add additional procedures that have to be followed which will involve another level of process. Keith Davis, 1853 Vernon Place, discussed freedom of speech for any elected official. He discussed unless the people involved feel they would benefit from this and want this additional help. He further commented for the \$25,000 and the time involved are we really going to get something back from this. Ray McDaniels, 249 Palm Springs Drive, commented you can send one individual to a conference to bring back what he's done and train the people compared to this which would only cost \$25,000.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Marty Judd, Chairman; Mike Oler, Vice Chairman; Tim Abbott, Member

Councilmember Judd, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Read the following ordinance by title only. Motion Carried 7-0.

Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Path Master, Inc. for the purchase of mast arm signal poles for the intersection of Bypass 4 and Port Union Road and declaring an emergency.

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended a contract with Path Master, Inc. to purchase mast arm signal pole for Bypass 4 and Port Union Road. He commented the reason for this acquisition is this particular signal will be key during the construction. He further explained rather than have a temporary signal and have that expense and come back and put up that signal and having an additional expense. Legislative Action: Councilmember Judd presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Judd, seconded by Councilmember Abbott moved to Suspend the rules requiring three readings of this ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Judd, seconded by Councilmember Oler moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. **ORDINANCE NO. 13-10 ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY 7-0.**

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mike Snyder, Chairman; Tim Abbott, Vice Chairman; Terry Senger, Member

Councilmember Snyder, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Read the following ordinance by title only. Motion Carried 7-0.

Ordinance to authorize an amended employment agreement for the City Manager and declaring an emergency. Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended an amended employment agreement for the City Manager that is consistent with the contract terms that call for an annual performance review and modification to the employment agreement consistent with that review. Legislative Action: Councilmember Snyder presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Snyder expressed his appreciation to City Manager Pizzano for all he has brought to the city for the past 12 years. Councilmember Snyder, seconded by Councilmember Abbott moved to Suspend the rules requiring three readings of the ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Snyder, seconded by Councilmember Judd moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. **ORDINANCE NO. 14-10 ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY 7-0.**

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Tim Abbott, Chairman; Terry Senger, Vice Chairman; Michael Oler, Member

Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Read the following three (3) ordinances by title only. Motion Carried 7-0.

Ordinance to establish salaries and hourly rates for certain salaried and hourly employees of the City of Fairfield, Ohio and to authorize and limit the numbers and types of certain employees, to repeal Ordinance No. 9-10 and all amendments thereto and declaring an emergency.

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended an ordinance to establish certain salaries and hourly rates. He stated this is the third year of a three year agreement with Local 20 union. He further explained this item and item two relate to the Municipal Court and will clean up procedurally the way we have carried our court employees in our ordinances. Legislative Action: Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Suspend the rules requiring three readings. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 15-10 ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY 7-0.

Ordinance to establish salaries and hourly rates for certain Municipal Court employees of the City of Fairfield, Ohio and to authorize and limit the numbers and types of certain Municipal Court Employees, and declaring an emergency.

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended an ordinance establishing salaries and hourly rates of certain Municipal Court employees. He explained this ordinance and the previous item will allow the Court employees to be separate from the city employees because they are actually an independent group. Legislative Action: Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Suspend the rules requiring three readings of this ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Oler moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 16-10 ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY 7-0.

Appropriation Ordinance (Contractual Items) - \$53,840 for mast arm signal poles for Bypass4/Port Union Road Intersection.

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended the following contractual item: \$53,840 for mast arm signal poles for Bypass 4/Port Union Road Intersection. Legislative Action: Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Suspend the rules requiring three readings of the ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Senger moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 17-10 ADOPTED 7-0.

Meeting Schedule

Clerk Johns read the following meeting announcements:

- Monday, February 15 Special Meeting (Open Agenda) - Joint meeting of the City of Fairfield, Fairfield Township and Fairfield City Schools at the Community Arts Center, 411 Wessel Drive, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, February 20 Special Meeting (Executive Session) - Board/Commission Interviews; 8 a.m.
- Monday, February 22 Council- Manager Briefing, 6 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 27 Special Meeting (Executive Session) - Board/Commission Interviews; 8 a.m.

Executive Session of Council (if needed)

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:44 PM.

Adjournment

The Regular Meeting reconvened at approximately 8:10 PM. No announcements were made as a result of the Executive Session of Council. The Regular Meeting at 8:10 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Mayor's Approval

Date Approved