

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

OCTOBER 12, 2010

Call to Order

Mayor D'Epifanio called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

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

Agenda Modifications

No modifications were made to the Agenda.

Executive Session Requests

No requests were made for Executive Session.

Public Hearing(s)

No Public Hearings were scheduled.

Special Presentations and Citizen Comments

- Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio - Cynthia Stever CEO of Lifespan

Cynthia Stever, CEO of Lifespan, briefly discussed the upcoming Elderly Services Program. She discussed the various programs and services provided by the Elderly Services levy, which is on the ballot on November 2nd for 1.3 mil renewal and will cost \$37.23 for a home valued at \$100,000. Councilmember Rhodus reiterated that it is not a tax increase.

School Board President Jerome Kearns expressed gratitude and appreciation for the collaboration with the Homecoming parade. He recognized Police Officers Pete Lageman and Dennis Valentini and Fire Captain Jim Howell for their assistance in organizing and coordinating this parade. Kenny Rhodus, representing the Parade committee, discussed the 2010 Homecoming parade and thanked the City, Fairfield Township, and the Dare officers for their help.

Fairfield Chamber of Commerce President Kert Radel thanked everyone for supporting the Chamber Business Showcase.

Mayor/Council Reports

Councilmember Meyers announced the upcoming interactive science comedy show, Doktor Kaboom, on October 22nd and 23rd. He further announced the 17th Annual Pumpkin Patch Festival will occur on Saturday, October 23rd at Harbin Park from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Councilmember Meyers further commented the Cincinnati Playhouse is performing "The Happiest Worst Day Ever" at the Community Arts Center on October 30th.

Councilmember Oler announced the Police Department's securing of a Federal grant in the amount of \$49,365 that will allow the school district to develop a comprehensive school safety assessment and to purchase seven video systems for school buses. He congratulated Chief Dickey on securing a grant.

Councilmember Abbott commented things are in good shape, but we are now tracking a couple percentage points below projections.

He explained we have put together a very conservative budget and projections this year and it is finally starting to catch up. He further explained we have done all the right things, but we need to be cautious now that we are tracking below projections.

Councilmember Judd gave an update of the paving program in the Hicks Manor subdivision area. Councilmember Judd briefly discussed the ByPass Project, which is on schedule. He commented paving will be taking place from Port Union Road north and the contractor is continuing to place the embankment for the road widening and the bridge widening construction.

Councilmember Snyder recognized former Planning Commission member Peg Collins, who was recently recognized for involvement in the Groundwater Consortium. Councilmember Snyder recognized former columnist Ercel Eaton for her new book "Caramels", which is a collection of poetry. Ms. Eaton is donating the proceeds from the sale of her book to fund the Virginia Budge Award for the Performing and Creative Arts.

Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting of September 27, 2010

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2010 were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mitch Rhodus, Chairman; Mike Snyder, Vice Chairman; Tim Abbott, Member

Ordinance to amend various sections of the Zoning Code of Ordinance No. 166-84, The Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio.

Councilmember Rhodus deferred third reading of this ordinance pending Planning Commission's recommendations.

Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to execute the FY 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and agreement and declaring an emergency.

Councilmember Rhodus presented the third reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Rhodus, seconded by Councilmember Abbott moved to Adopt. Planning Manager Erin Donovan introduced Kevin Smith, a partner with First Highland Management and Development Corporation, that the City is partnering with to submit our CDBG application. She explained the proposal is to remove some of the vacant buildings and structures on the north side of the property in order to redevelop it for outlets for redevelopment. Kevin Smith, partner with the First Highland, owner of the former Fisher Body Plant now called Fisher Park, explained it is approximately 1.2 million square feet under roof sitting on about 100 acres of land. He further explained they have been working with the City in trying to better the approximate 20 acre parcel of land situated on the north side of the building fronting Route 4. Mr. Smith discussed by removing the structures on this parcel, grading the land and creating an industrial park where there could be 6-8 parcels of land for future businesses. He stated they see it not only as beautification, but also future development, job creation and future taxes. He discussed the current occupancy and number of employees. Mr. Smith briefly discussed improvement plans for the north side of the property as well as the east side of the property to create a multi-use industrial park. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 93-10 ADOPTED AS AN EMERGENCY 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Terry Senger, Chairman; Tim Meyers, Vice Chairman; Marty Judd, Member

An Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with GRW Engineers, Inc. to conduct a study of existing water and sewer rates.

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

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended a contract with GRW Engineers to conduct our periodic study of water and sewer rates. He explained the last study was four years ago. Mr. Pizzano further explained this periodic review of our rates and periodic small adjustments of the rates on an annual basis has avoided the large increases that some cities get when they do avoid the minor increases. **Legislation:** Councilmember Senger presented the first reading of this ordinance. Ordinance approved for first reading only.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE
Tim Abbott, Chairman; Terry Senger, Vice Chairman; Michael Oler, Member

Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Rhodus moved to Read the following two (2) ordinances by title only. Motion Carried 7-0.

Appropriation Ordinance (Non-contractual Items) - \$6,400 Keyscan access control system installation - Public Utilities; \$9,980 audio/video upgrades- Fairfield Greens/ South Trace Clubhouse and Phalen Center; \$15,500 computer hardware - network plotter; \$9,000 Neighborhood Improvements/Re-investment program tree plantings and removals.

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended the following non-contractual items: \$6,400 keyscan access control system installation for Public Utilities; \$9,980 for audio/video upgrades - Fairfield Greens/ South Trace Clubhouse; \$15,500 computer hardware network plotter; \$9,000 Neighborhood Improvements/Re-investment Program tree plantings and removals. Legislative Action: Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this ordinance entitled "Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 149-09 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2010, and ending December 31, 2010." Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Meyers moved to suspend the rules requiring three readings of this Ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Senger, seconded by Councilmember Meyers moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 94-10 ADOPTED 7-0.

Appropriation Ordinance (Contractual Items): \$26,000 water and sewer rate study.

Background: City Manager Pizzano recommended the following contractual item: \$26,000 for a water and sewer rate study. Legislative Action: Councilmember Abbott presented the first reading of this Ordinance entitled "Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 149-09 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2010, and ending December 31, 2010." 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 Senger moved to Adopt. Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 95-10 ADOPTED 7-0.

Meeting Schedule

Clerk Johns read the following meeting schedule:

Monday, October 25 Council-Manager Briefing, 6 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, November 8 Council-Manager Briefing, 6 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, November 22 Council-Manager Briefing (2011 Budget Review), 5 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.

Executive Session of Council (if needed)

Adjournment

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Mayor's Approval

Date Approved _____