

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held January 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor William Verbosky Jr. and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Hermes, Scott, and Duricek all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of December 13, 2010. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of January 10, 2011 was presented to council. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky said that after he and Mr. Ciecka finish with their reports he will ask the clerk to give council updated information as to the applicants for the vacant council position and ask Mr. Oberdorf to discuss the deadline and the handling of applications. He told council if they do not reach a decision in 30 days he will give them extended time. He informed council he had received some concerns in mid-December from Indian Ridge residents regarding problems with CSX and stopped trains being left running 24-48 hours. He contacted CSX leaving his name and address and received no reply so he then contacted State Rep. Gardner's office and recontacted CSX. Gardner's office promptly returned his call and also contacted CSX. The mayor received a call from CSX Jacksonville, FL. on the third day and was told they would look at the issue over the weekend and get back to him. As of this evening he has not heard from them but will continue to work to get this resolved.

Mr. Ciecka said the city audit being conducted by Plattenburg & Associates has begun. The final report on the 2010 city financials is being prepared and should be ready by the end of this week. The preliminary numbers indicate that the city is moving in a good direction. 2010 income tax receipts are up 22% from 2009 which was unexpected. We also saw an increase in the collection of past due income tax collections. Estate taxes were also over \$250,000 for 2010 which exceeded the \$140,000 collected in 2009. City departments did a very good job holding expenses down in 2010. He said that the FCC has mandated that all public safety radios convert to 12.5 MHz narrow bandwidth effective 1-1-13. It appears that the police department radios can be upgraded at a minor cost but that the fire and public works radios will have to be replaced and this issue will need to be explored by a council committee. He is also looking at the city's technical infrastructure and looking at upgrading our system which is currently five years old. He is looking at converting to the new "cloud" technology and that issue will also need to be referred to committee. He anticipates a reduction in local government funding due to the state budget deficit and the new governors efforts to reduce it. A decline was budgeted into this year's budget but is still a concern and we will need to continue to watch what may happen. Mayor Verbosky noted the increase in income tax collections as proof that the hiring of RITA is paying for itself. Mr. Hermes noted that RITA after only the third of fourth month had helped collect \$19,000 of prior unpaid and delinquent taxes we probably would have never caught. Mr. Scott asked if we were looking to the county for any help on the new radios. Mr. Ciecka said Wood County did have a communication study done but we have alternatives rather than waiting or depending on the county. Mr. Scott hopes that this is looked at on a regional basis. Mr. Marquette thought we had just upgraded the fire department radios in the last year and was told no. Mr. Marquette asked what the advantages are of a narrow bandwidth and was told there is no real advantage but the push is from the FCC to free up bandwidth for cell phones, radio, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

A resignation letter from City Treasurer Leonard Michaels was received effective December 13, 2010 and thank you cards were received from Mr. Ciecka and the family of Delphine Wrucha (Kathy Shelt's mom) for the expressions of sympathy from the discretionary fund members. Resumes for the vacant council position were received from Jackie Brown, Dennis Foy, Robert Ruse, Jerry Staczek, and Craig Tymiak.

Mr. Oberdorf suggested this process to choose Mr. Richards replacement – setting a deadline of the 18th of January for applications, holding a Committee of the Whole meeting on the 20th or 21st to interview candidates and then a special meeting immediately following or prior to the council meeting on the 24th to discuss. After discussion among council members as to dates and times the following occurred:

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to hold a committee of the whole meeting on January 20th at 6:00pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to hold a special council meeting on January 24th at 6:00pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Scott asked a question about whether the appointed member would run for a 2 year term and Mr. Heban explained that the appointee term will expire this November and the ballot will have a council seat up for election to complete the remaining two years of Mr. Richards term.

ORDINANCES

#2011-01 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL 2954, OHIO COUNCIL 8, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said the agreement with AFSCME is ready to be signed. The agreement is for a 0% wage increase in 2010, a lump sum \$500 payment in 2011 with a wage reopener in 2012. Life insurance has been increased to \$50,000 and a safety committee will be formed that will meet twice a year to discuss safety issues and training for the department. Mayor Verbosky said this contract had been previously discussed in executive sessions. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third reading. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2011-02 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF WOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COORDINATION OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CHIP); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka described the CHIP program and explained that this ordinance will allow the city to use the firm procured by Wood County to handle the application process rather than procuring a firm ourselves. Our funds will only be used for applications from the City of Rossford. Mr. Hermes asked who would hold the actual funds and was told by Mr. Ciecka that the city does and that the only thing the county does is handle the application process. Mr. Hermes also wondered if this program was available to organizations and Mayor Verbosky thought no, only individual homeowners. Mr. Hermes would like to see the rules and regulations for this program as soon as available. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third reading. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2011-03 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS WORKERS UNION (UAW) LOCAL 12; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this covers the clerical staff of the police and recreation department and the administrative offices. It calls for a 0% raise for 2010, a \$500 lump sum payment in 2011, and a wage reopener on 4-1-12. The meal allowance was eliminated, personal leave time revised, life insurance increased to \$35,000 from \$25,000, and Good Friday added as a full holiday. Mayor Verbosky said this had been discussed through 2010 in executive session. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third reading. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Hermes asked for an update on the street light project and was told by Mr. Ciecka that the contractor and ODOT are making progress in resolving some issues and working with Toledo Edison to provide temporary lighting. He

said there is one or two minor issues that ODOT is waiting for an answer from the contractor and than work should be scheduled.

Mr. Scott said the hotels on Clark St. would like a streetlight installed at the intersection with SR795 since that is a dark corner since the BP station closed and he asked Mr. Ciecka to take a look at this issue. He also voiced a complaint about trains not clearing the crossing by enough margin for the gates to come up.

Mr. Duricek said he had noticed that the state has been brining SR65. He referenced a letter from Deb James regarding an issue with the height of a secondary building versus the main building and said he is looking at other cities ordinances regarding this issue as well as location and appearance. He thinks council needs to look at its current committees and their responsibilities. He hopes the new flashing stop signs at Lime City Rd. /Buck Rd. get drivers attention.

Mr. Marquette said he agrees that council should look at the current committee responsibilities and possibly revise and congratulated Sgt. Kitzler upon his graduation from the University of Findlay.

Mrs. Eckel thinks that council talked previously about adding zoning to one of the committees. She had a question about the timing of a traffic light by the new casino. Mr. Ciecka it is a yellow caution in the evening and Mayor Verbosky said during the day it is operating basically for the traffic exiting and entering the construction site. Mr. Ciecka thinks that it is a temporary signal based on the plan.

Mr. Oberdorf encouraged council to have questions ready for the council candidates and agreed that council needs to look at the functionality of the committees.

Mayor Verbosky commented that he would not like to see more committees but would prefer the possibility of adding to their duties.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Jodi Johnson, 27960 Glenwood Rd, Perrysburg said she recently had a garage fire and thanked all those Rossford firemen who came to assist the Perrysburg Township fire department. She then voiced a complaint regarding Rossford fire chief Jim Verbosky who she said was more interested in taking pictures of the fire for posting to the Rossford Fire facebook page than assisting at the scene. She thinks pictures of her loss are wrong and doesn't think it is part of the fire chief duties. Mayor Verbosky said this is the first he has heard of this and asked if this concern had been conveyed to Mr. Ciecka and was told no. The mayor expressed his view that the proper protocol would have been to go to Mr. Ciecka or himself before coming to council. Mr. Marquette asked if this had been a mutual aid call and was told by Ms. Johnson yes. Mr. Oberdorf appreciated her voicing her concern.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council