

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting  
Held January 24, 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 January 10, 2011. Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried. Approval of Committee of the Whole minutes of January 20, 2011. Mr. Scott 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 24, 2011 was presented to council. Swearing in of Neil Mackinnon III as councilman and a presentation to Jim Richards were added to the agenda. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

**SWEARING-IN:** Mayor Verbosky swore in Mr. Neil Mackinnon III as the new member of council filling the seat vacated by Mr. Richards.

**PRESENTATION:** State Representative Randy Gardner thanked council for the opportunity to be here and also the city for their support of him. He gave the background of his initial relationship with Mr. Richards and a development of a relationship over the years. He congratulated him for a great career and presented him with a commendation from the Ohio House of Representatives recognizing him for his volunteerism and service as a council member in Rossford.

Mayor Verbosky then presented Mr. Richards with a plaque from the city recognizing his service to the community as a councilman and firefighter.

Mr. Richards said it has been an honor to be part of this council and congratulated council, the mayor, and administrator for working through the crisis of the past few years. He noted Ken Hermes efforts in working through our financial problems and Mr. Oberdorf's efforts in working through issues. He said he has been impressed over the last few years with the teamwork exhibited by Mayor Verbosky and City Administrator Ciecka and said both of them have been as effective if not more so than any other of the previous mayors and administrators. He thanked everyone for their recognition this evening.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR**

Mayor Verbosky thanked Representative Gardner for attending tonight. He said he is still working on the train issue at Indian Ridge and has followed up with the residents in the area, had conversations with CSX in Jacksonville, FL., received a letter from CSX which does not say much, and that he is still trying to resolve this issue. He said the planning commission met on January 12<sup>th</sup> and still has not seen an official site plan for the Rt. 20 project but did look at a couple of requested variances. The hope is for four new businesses and additional information should be available at the February planning commission meeting but the development looks promising.

Mr. Ciecka said he received a letter from the Ohio Municipal League inviting council members to a legislative luncheon on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and that he had received an email from Representative Gardner today regarding the repeal of the estate tax and seeking input from local officials. He noted that the Ohio Municipal League is organizing efforts to talk about the impact to municipalities of any reduction to the local government fund which may result from the state budget crisis. He said that at the last council meeting a complaint was voiced regarding the fire department use of social media and that he is still looking into this issue. He has talked to Perrysburg Township fire officials regarding the incident and he and the law director are looking at formulating a policy for usage. He noted an article in the Toledo Blade on January 15<sup>th</sup> that talked about the use of social media by local governments in the area as a means of getting information to the public. He said that the pictures of the tornado posted by Chief Verbosky last year received over 21,000 hits on facebook. He and Mr. Heban will look at and discuss privacy issues and then he will present a formal report to the mayor and council with a draft policy for the judiciary committee to

review. He said that Mrs. Freeman had placed the 2010 financial statements in council's mailboxes and that we had ended the year in the black despite a forecast of a deficit for 2010. He said revenue exceeded expectations and expenses were kept down and thanked all the departments for their efforts and the bargaining units who took no pay raises in 2010. Reductions in local government funds and estate tax collection could affect our 2011 budget negatively. He suggested council submit any detailed questions to Mrs. Freeman.

Mayor Verbosky commented that a cut to our local government funds could result in a \$500,000 hit to our budget and asked council to contact our state representatives and senators. He also said that ultimately council will need to decide if they want the recreation and fire departments to continue with social networking.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **ORDINANCES**

#### **#2011-04 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. .**

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka explained that this will codify our municipal code to allow for changes to the Ohio Revised Code caused by legislative action of the Ohio Legislature. These changes are primarily in the criminal code section and were prepared under contract with the Walter Drane Co. The question was asked of Mr. Heban if he had reviewed these changes and he answered yes, saying that they are all in order with the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Oberdorf 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 Mr. Scott seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **#2011-05 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENGINE REPAIRS TO UNIT 791 BY W.W. WILLIAMS-TOLEDO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka this is response to the fire chief's request to do engine repairs on the ladder truck that was purchased last year. These repairs were deferred from last year by council and the estimate for cost of repairs is the same as received last year. Mr. Duricek said he had looked over the estimate and also made some calls to people who do diesel repairs. He does not think there will be any surprised and appreciated W.W. Williams holding their price from last year. Mr. Scott asked how long the unit would be out of service and was told by Chief Verbosky approximately five days during which we would be covered by Toledo, Perrysburg, or Northwood. Mr. Duricek asked if the repair has any warranty and Chief Verbosky said he will check if there is any warranty beyond the standard 90 days. 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.

### **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Mr. Hermes asked for an update on the street light project and was told by Mr. Ciecka that Edison is currently installing a temporary power source but he still has no timetable for completion. Mr. Hermes said that the budget committee will review the 2010 financial statement for the city and that he is pleased with how it came in. He complimented the effort by the administration in controlling cost and said this is a good news situation based on the initial projection that the city would be out of money by May, 2011. He attributed the increased revenue to people returning to work and said that is good to see. He thanked the department heads and the administration for managing through another difficult year.

Mr. Scott said that when he came on council a year ago he was surprised by how bleak the financial situation was and thanked council and the administration for their efforts in thinking ahead and building a rainy day fund. The challenge will be to build on this and look at economic development to move the city forward.

Mr. Duricek said the NWSA agreement will be on the City of Toledo's council agenda tomorrow and that it looks pretty good with a first reading expected. Mayor Verbosky said he had asked Mr. Heban and Mr. Huffman to review and Mr. Heban said some small revisions had been made. The mayor said we still need to negotiate a renewal of the JEDZ agreement with Toledo.

Mr. Marquette asked for an update on the proposed internet café and Mr. Ciecka said there has been no contact from them.

Mrs. Eckel asked if the lighting contractor for the downtown lighting project is the same as earlier and was told by Mr. Ciecka it was. Mrs. Eckel thanked the department heads and Mr. Ciecka for doing with less this last year. She said she had spoken to Waste Management regarding the inconsistencies in garbage pickup and enforcement of the rules and this is being worked on.

Mr. Oberdorf congratulated Mr. Mackinnon and thanked Mr. Ciecka and Mrs. Freeman for their hard work and noted the hard work of Mr. Hermes in working on the 2010 budget issues. He asked if anyone saw a reason to hold a committee of the whole meeting in February.

*Mr. Scott moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the February Committee of the Whole meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.*

Mr. Mackinnon thanked Mr. Richards for his service to the community and also thanked the council members for selecting him. He said he looks forward to working with them and serving the community.

### **AUDIENCE REMARKS**

Judy Sikorski, 411 Superior St., said she misses seeing the lights all lit in the boulevard at Christmas and hopes we can do that again, especially with the casino coming. She said she will also be opening a vintage clothing and antique store. Mayor Verbosky said he wished the new lights had been up before the Christmas season but the project is being controlled by ODOT and is probably one year behind schedule. He said we are being told it will be completed this spring and will consist of new poles and lamps as selected by a citizen's vote. Hopefully we will have new Christmas decorations this year and be able to light the trees in the boulevard. Mrs. Eckel asked if she meant light year round or just during the holidays and Mrs. Sikorski said it would be great to have the trees lit in the boulevard year round.

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

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William Verbosky Jr.  
Mayor

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Robert P. Watrol  
Clerk of Council