

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held January 25, 2010

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of January 11, 2010. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of January 25, 2010 was presented to council. Recreation and Public Safety committee reports and Ordinance #2010-07 were added to the agenda. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety committee report from today was presented by Mr. Richards (see written report). Mr. Richards gave a short verbal report on the fire department request for replacing the ladder truck and said the written report would be provided by the weekend. In his verbal report Mr. Richards said the committee is recommending the replacement of the existing ladder truck with a used truck with a top end cost of \$250-275,000. Based on the current financial situation a new truck (\$750,000 approx.) is not possible and it is impossible to refurbish the existing truck because of its age (35 years). The committee wanted to ascertain the support of council before looking at a used truck. Mayor Verbosky said the current truck is over 35 years old and the last time it was repaired the fire department was told those were the last available parts for that truck. He said the fire department has been searching the country for a 1995 or newer used truck. Mr. Hermes indicated the fire chief has found a 1995 vehicle in another state and with council's indication of support will go look. In response to a question from Mr. Marquette, Andy Herr of Sutton Fire Equipment said that the miles and hours on the truck are irrelevant, that the age and safety factor are more important. Mr. Marquette asked who services the department's equipment and was told by the chief that W.W. Williams does and that a mechanic from there would be going with him to look at the potential truck.
****Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to refer this to the budget committee. All ayes. Motion carried.*

Recreation committee report of January 21st was presented by Mr. Oberdorf (see written report). Mr. Richards said he is aware of the activity at the Recreation Center and finds it impressive but he would like a report indicating the number in individuals who use the facility. Mr. Kovasevic said the center is in the process of converting to a new card system which when completed will allow him to provide membership numbers and breakdown by category.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to accept the committee reports as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky first introduced Mayor John Davoli of Fostoria who gave a short presentation on his qualifications, and presented council with a brochure regarding his election campaign for Wood County Commissioner.

Mayor Verbosky then handed out to council, Mr. Ciecka, and Mr. Heban a copy of correspondence he received this afternoon from State Representative Gardner regarding his efforts to assure the fair treatment of Rossford by the casino developers (see attached copy). Mayor Verbosky said that he has had informal meetings with Penn National – three before the November election and since then two in person and two by phone to voice the city's concerns with the proposed casino project. He said he has had constant contact both pre and post election with Mr. Schippers and the president of Penn National and contact will continue but this will not be a fast process. He knows that Mr. Duricek and former mayor Bauer have had contact with Mr. Gardner and that we all want to do what is best for Rossford. The mayor reminded council of the RBA meeting to be held January 27th at 12:00 at Bass Pro with Wood County commissioner Jim Carter to discuss downtown redevelopment.

Mr. Ciecka noted it was timely in view of the recent school bus tragedy in Sylvania but that the city had received word from ODOT late last week that our application to receive funding to support developing a school travel plan

had been selected. He said we will begin the process of putting together information and the scope of work needed and then present a final contract in the next couple of weeks. The travel plan is a requisite to apply for Safe Route to School funding. Mr. Marquette asked if there was a cost for this and was told the travel plan will cost a very small amount initially.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

#2010-04 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 1335.11, FLOOD PREVENTION ELEVATION.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. Mr. Heban said in the flood prevention elevation chapter passed just a couple of months ago the elevation was inadvertently left blank and this ordinance will insert 2 feet and will correct. Mr. Hermes wondered if his property will be in a flood plain now with this two feet freeboard inserted. Mrs. Eckel said this has more to do with detention areas and will not affect flood plain insurance ratings. Mr. Ciecka said it does not alter the flood plain maps. Mr. Scott questioned if it would effect any commercial development in the Crossroads and Mrs. Eckel said she did not believe so. Mr. Heban said it only applies to flood plain areas. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. 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 adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2010-05 – AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE ROUTE 65 (SUPERIOR STREE/DIXIE HWY.) LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN DOWNTOWN ROSSFORD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said ODOT has our plans and that the final step is that council adopt an ordinance in support of the project and stating that any cost over \$263,000 is the city's responsibility. He said council basically adopted this nine months ago but he needs to follow ODOT's rules. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. 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.

#2010-06 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, OHIO AND THE TOLEDO METROPOLITIAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR CONTINUING AND COOPERATIVE REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING; 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 a requirement for a NPDES permit is to have a storm water management plan. There are six major components to the plan including a public education outreach, public participation, and several technical components. He is asking council to approve this ordinance to become part of the TMACOG coalition working on storm water management. Dues are paid on an annual basis based on a total number of parcels and run about \$2100 a year. This will help us achieve compliance with the two public components of the plan, but has not been reviewed by the public safety committee therefore he is just introducing tonight and does not need it passed tonight. Mrs. Eckel asked if the coalition would help with resources such as literature needed for public education and experts to go to schools and was told yes by Mr. Ciecka. Mr. Hermes asked what the \$2100 goes toward i.e. a staff of 15. Mr. Ciecka said no, the money goes to TMACOG and its use is determined by the coalition members. Mr. Duricek asked if we had problems with TMACOG some years back on storm water plans that saddled us with some expenses. . Mr. Ciecka said no, that we had our own plan developed in 2002. This was given a first reading only.

#2010-07 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. Mr. Heban said council passed a surplus property ordinance several months ago but this will correct the VIN numbers for two vehicles already surplus. Mr. Duricek said he was the one who made Chief Vespi aware of the correction. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

#2010-03 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Mr. Ciecka apologized for bringing this to council so late saying it should have been done in the fall. He said these amounts have all been approved by the voters and need to be certified and returned to the auditor. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. 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 adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Hermes offered his congratulations to the city for obtaining the ODNR buoys and thanked Mr. Carroll for his assistance.

Mr. Scott said Wood County Commissioner Carter will talk about the downtown redevelopment of Grand Rapids that took place while he was mayor. This will be at 12:00 pm at Bass Pro on January 27th.

Mr. Duricek said he has a challenge for council that involves six questions for council that he would like some answers to very soon (written questions attached). He would also like to schedule an economic development committee meeting to discuss. He then read a prepared statement that dealt with the original ODOT grant, our cooperation with Toledo on the initial plan for this site, lack of negotiations, empty-handed promises by Penn National, deals already struck by Penn with Toledo, conversations he has had with Representative Gardner over several months, rumors that Rossford is seeking legislation to put a casino in Wood County, and using our past experiences of dealing with the RECG and RAAA and how it damaged our credibility. Mayor Verbosky responded that he understands Mr. Duricek's concerns, reiterated that the RAAA problem was resolved while he was mayor and that our credibility with Perrysburg Township has been reestablished. On the casino issue he said the idea that the city is not doing anything is incorrect. He has had conversations with Representative Gardner before the November election, he has had two face to face conversations with the president of Penn and they are aware of our concerns and needs, he understands the concerns but that is the site selected by a vote of the citizens of Ohio, that the president of council and Mr. Ciecka have been part of the meetings so that council is part of this issue, that Penn is aware of our concerns about impact on schools and churches. The mayor said rest assured that the city is watching and talking to the right people and the right people are looking out for our best interests. Mr. Richards asked for a copy of the questions. Mr. Duricek said he is not trying to beat anybody up but feels that at times we are a bit rudderless and would just like council's comments. He also keeps hearing rumors about a casino in Wood County. Mayor Verbosky said if a developer is out there on his own making statements we cannot control that but that if anyone has a name for who is spreading these rumors he would like to know.

Mr. Richards said he was happy to see that the vacant storefront (former donut shop) is being remodeled and he has been told it will reopen in early spring as a ice cream/sandwich shop. He also saw workers in the old 7-11 store.

Mayor Verbosky said that T.J. Maxx is moving into the former Linen's N Things location.

Mr. Oberdorf said it is amazing of what can happen when people work together in unity instead of going in separate directions. He told Mr. Hermes that a response to his question about a joint venture for operating the Recreation Center with the YMCA will be forthcoming in a few days.

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

Mrs. Eckel asked how our road salt supply is holding up and Mr. Ciecka said he will get that information for her. Mrs. Eckel volunteered to attend any school travel plan and TMACOG storm water meetings with Mr. Ciecka.

Mr. Marquette commented that the new lights at Lime City/SR 65 intersection look great. Mr. Ciecka commented that someone is moving in to the vacant Bad Bob's location.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Louis Bauer, 271 Margaret Place; Perrysburg wanted to clarify that Representative Gardner does deserve a lot of thanks for bringing up the Penn National/Rossford issue at the state level, said he had sent a memo to Mayor Verbosky, Mr. Oberdorf, and Mr. Duricek regarding legislative action that allowed Penn National to switch its location in Columbus and also Mr. Gardner's efforts on behalf of Rossford. He referenced pending legislation and the effect on Rossford and encouraged council to keep its eye on. When reminded of the five minute audience remark limit Mr. Bauer stated that he would hurry up as he realizes we don't think this is important. He said the rumor mill is harmful and is coming from the developer. He said council needs to take an aggressive position on this issue as something could happen at the state level at any time. Mayor Verbosky responded by saying he is disappointed that Mr. Bauer would say he does not think this is important. Mayor Verbosky said as a lifelong resident he has the absolute concern of the city in mind on this issue. He is keeping his eye on this and appreciated Mr. Gardner also being involved and said his face to face meetings and conversations with Penn National are also evidence of this. There are no secret emails coming from a realtor, they have been disseminated to many people and are simply the realtors ideas for development. Mr. Bauer apologized for his comment saying the mayor does not care about this issue. Mayor Verbosky said there are different ways of keeping an eye of this that may be less visible than former mayor Bauer would like but he will handle in his own style.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing fire department contract negotiations. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to return to regular session.

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council