

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held February 12, 2007

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, and Kovach all present. Mr. Richards said Mr. Michaels is attending a meeting involving the Jennison Drive area and may be late or absent. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to excuse Mr. Michaels. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of January 22, 2007. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of February 12, 2007 was presented to council. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Dave Steiner, Director of the Wood County Planning Commission, conducted a brief training session per Ohio Department of Development requirements to address fair housing issues. The city has received some block grant funding for the Roland Court project which necessitated compliance with this requirement. Mr. Steiner told council that any fair housing complaints should be directed to his office or the Toledo Fair Housing Center and provided council with basic information flyers. He told them that if they are approached with a complaint they need to provide this information and who to contact. He also informed council that they hope to bid out the Roland Court project this summer. Mayor Verbosky said that most banks have the Fair Housing pamphlets available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky informed council he attended the grand opening of the House of Meats and welcomed them to the city, that he had received a letter congratulating the city for being named a 2006 Tree City USA, and that the next meeting of the Downtown Redevelopment Committee would be held February 13. The mayor congratulated the Rossford Fire Department and Chief Verbosky for being recognized by the Zenobia Shrine for their efforts in saving a gentleman in the water at Vets Park and noted that the fire department 2006 report shows 786 total runs as compared to 440 in 1996. He noted the passing of Lucille Keeton this past week and said she had worked on many cancer drives and other projects such as the building of the Rossford Library on behalf of the community. He told council he had received a letter from a Rossford resident regarding an incident and is asking the administrator to check on the time block and report back, and that Mr. Oberdorf will report on the Perrysburg/TARTA meeting under council remarks. Mr. Ciecka said that in October council had authorized up to \$10,000 in funding for negotiations. He is now asking for authorization for up to an additional \$10,000 as the original amount is almost all spent. The city is now negotiating with four bargaining units and Mayor Verbosky will update council on the status of these negotiations at the next council meeting in an executive session. *Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to authorize the administration to spend up to \$10,000 for legal fees tied to negotiations. All ayes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

#2007-03 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ANNUAL SCOPE OF WORK UNDER THE MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HULL & ASSOCIATES INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE WALES ROAD LANDFILL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said the contract will begin March 1 and will include statistical reports to the EPA and any findings. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to suspend with the third reading. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2007-04 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF ROSSFORD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. Mr. Richards said that Mr. Hermes idea for asking the state to donate some land for fire station property was a good idea. The response was that the state cannot donate but must sell for fair value. Mr. Hermes said he does not want to give up on this idea and suggested offering to buy the property from the state for the county's appraised tax value. Mr. Heban indicated the property has not been parceled out yet and we only want a portion but he will pursue this approach. Mr. Kovach suggested that an option to purchase may be a viable option. Mr. Hermes feels the agreement should not be signed yet because the city would lose any leverage it has. He said the city should consider a clause that would return the property to the state if not used for a fire station. This was given a first reading only.

#2007-05 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT WITH NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT FOR WASTEWATER OPERATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. Mr. Ciecka said the city was looking at alternative means of maintaining the pumping station since the resignation of Mr. Avers. This ordinance represents a proposal from the NW Water and Sewer District for one year of service which he recommends we accept. Mr. Kovach said that section 1 needs to have the wording "one year" added. Mayor Verbosky indicated that Dave Jones is looking at trying to get someone internally certified to perform this duty. Mr. Hermes asked if deferred maintenance recently undertaken meant there was a previous problem. Mr. Ciecka said this maintenance were things recommended by Mr. Avers in the past but there was no money in the budget to do. With his resignation his budgeted salary became available to use for maintenance. Mr. Marquette asked about any additional cost and what the contract price covered. Mr. Ciecka said the contract would cover routine maintenance of the pump stations and that all other work would have to be authorized by the city. Mr. Marquette then asked if the annual contract included emergency responses and was told by Mr. Ciecka yes, including emergency generators. Mr. Marquette said it would be wise to get someone internally trained to perform these duties and Mr. Ciecka agreed. Mr. Hermes indicated that this would involve a three year certification process. Mrs. Eckel asked if the contract covers having a licensed operator routinely check the equipment and was told by Mr. Ciecka yes, in fact more than weekly. Mr. Oberdorf asked if there would be any savings if did more than a one year contract. Mr. Ciecka said he did not think so as the contract is based on the standard wage and benefit rate and that any increased would be passed on to the city. 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. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to amend section one by inserting the wording "one year". 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.

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#2007-06 – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TESTAMERICA, INC., TO PROVIDE LABORATORY ANALYTICAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE WALES ROAD LANDFILL; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. Mr. Ciecka said the bid was opened on February 4th and was the only bid received. This is the same company that performed the service for Hull & Associates last year and he is asking council to award the contract to them at \$18,000 annually plus any additional test costs that may be needed. Mr. Hermes asked if the cost was comparable to what Hull & Associates charged us for this service the last two years and was told by Mr. Ciecka yes, that Hull had added no additional charges to the price that TestAmerica had charged them. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf 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. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

At this time Mayor Verbosky introduced the general manager of the new House of Meats to council. Mr. Greg Huntermark said he just wanted to say hello and express his gratitude for the support of the community since the grand opening.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Richards noted the death of Jerry Nellet and said he had served on several volunteer committees for the city for many years. He said the city lost a good community servant and a good friend. Mr. Richards also noted that the fire department annual report shows that over the last ten years they have received \$259,000 in grants. He said this is outstanding and something with which all departments should be aware. He said he will be scheduling a economic development meeting which will include a discussion of TARTA.

Mr. Oberdorf said he had attended a meeting in Perrysburg regarding the TARTA issue which included State Senator Gardner and State Representative Wagoner. He said they are approaching this from a voter rights perspective in that currently citizens have no right to vote on withdrawal from the transit authority. Mrs. Eckel questioned if citizens were able to vote down participation in TARTA would that mean they would not be taxed for this anymore. Mr. Oberdorf said if legislation was passed the voters would have the right to vote whether to stay in or get out of TARTA and if voted to get out a two year period would pass before the community levy would end. Mr. Richards said the Perrysburg proposed legislation will be discussed at the economic development meeting. Mrs. Eckel also thanked council and the administration for the flowers and said she will schedule a public safety meeting to discuss the fire department annual report and the letter from Mrs. Boris.

Mr. Hermes said the budget committee will meet at 5:30 on February 26th and asked if the tax deadline for the city was being extended to coincide with the IRS deadline change this year. Mr. Ciecka responded that it was. Mr. Hermes said he had stopped in to the new Heroes party facility in the Crossroads and asked how the interaction with the city had been. They responded positively and spoke highly of zoning inspector Drouard. Their official grand opening will be on February 20th.

Mr. Kovach said residents near Beech St. Park are concerned about people hanging around in the parking lot. He said the lighting is poor in the far corner and the city should check to see if more lighting is needed as well as more patrolling. Mr. Oberdorf said he will bring this issue up at the next recreation committee meeting. Mr. Ciecka said he will have Mr. Jones look at. Mr. Ciecka also added that there had been a water line break at the Rec. Center last week with some minor damage to some ceiling tiles but that it was repaired relatively quickly.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

John Folcik, Hannum Avenue, Rossford, asked what can be done about trains blocking crossings for extended periods and wondered if they are not being cited anymore. Mr. Heban responded that they are not being cited due to any citation being dismissed if the railroad fights it. Mr. Folcik said a lot of properties have not shoveled their sidewalks yet this year and with more snow coming he hopes the city will enforce the ordinance requiring walks be shoveled within 24 hours. He also asked if a police officer resigned last week and was told by the mayor that was correct. Mr. Folcik hopes the city does not wait a year to replace him. Mayor Verbosky said the civil service list is still active and that Officer Swanson should be returning.

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Debbie Boris, 163 Windsor Drive, Rossford, said she had sent a letter to the city and council which contained a list of questions regarding a 25 minute delay before police and/or fire responded to a vehicle accident involving her parents. She also had questions regarding the idling of emergency vehicles for extended periods of time. She would like someone to call or meet with her with answers to these questions. Mayor Verbosky asked Mr. Ciecka to review these questions and respond to Mrs. Boris as soon as possible.

Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council