

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held March 23, 2009

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

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Louis "Lefty" Bauer, father of former mayor Louis Bauer.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of March 9, 2009. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of committee of the whole meeting minutes of March 16, 2009. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of March 23, 2009 was presented to council. Executive session was added for purpose of discussion of appointment of public official. . Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Ciecka said Fire Lt. Sean Baney will be deploying to Iraq for six months and will be replaced by Andrew Vascik, that the Fire Dept. will be holding two open house forums regarding the upcoming fire levies on April 13 and 27th at 7:00pm at the fire station to allow residents the opportunity to look at the equipment and ask questions, and that the Fire Dept. annual report had been given to council and would be discussed at the next safety committee meeting. He said Waste Management will pick up yard bags on the 1st, 15th, and 29th of April and then weekly beginning in May, and that the city brush pickup will take place the week of April 27th. He also said that marina applications are beginning to come in, that all docks are in, and that he will probably be asking for a marina committee meeting to discuss the unresolved dredging cost and payment.

Mayor Verbosky reminded council of the RBA Business Fair on March 28 and asked council members to consider spending an hour or so manning the city booth. He said that all booth spaces are sold out with 73 vendors, including the city, participating. In regard to the water contract issue he said he had placed a letter to the editor in both the Rossford Record and Toledo Free Press and stated that he was disappointed by the inaccuracies of the Blade article in the March 18 Neighbors section. He said he is trying to make the citizens of Rossford aware that the city is doing everything it can to get a fair and equitable agreement. He then introduced Mr. Tony Szilagye the new city representative on the TARTA board for some brief remarks. Mr. Szilagye said he has now attended two TARTA board meetings and relayed the following information. He said at the February board meeting they reviewed the 2008 ridership numbers and that it was a record breaking year for ridership with 4.6m riders,, that it showed an increase in revenue and decrease in expenses, that a change had been proposed to the downtown loop route by replacing the loop with a downtown transit station, that TARPS ridership also increased in 2008, and that discussion took place on replacing the levy with a sales tax. He said they also talked about the City of Perrysburg resolution to allow communities to leave TARTA and said that TARTA is seeking a legal opinion on this from the state attorney general. He provided council with copies of a memo regarding February 2009 ridership results for Call-A-Ride, a possible resolution regarding the removal of Perrysburg and a related ORC section. He gave details on the Call-A-Ride usage in Rossford showing 2064 passengers in February, averaging 74 daily for an increase of 58%. He said Rossford has the highest ridership in the system for Call-A-Ride. Mayor Verbosky appreciates his stepping forward to serve on this board and keeping council aware of what is happening. Mrs. Eckel asked what the hours are for Call-A-Ride and Mr. Ciecka responded they are 6:00am to 10:00pm Monday thru Friday and 7:00am to 10:00pm on weekends and holidays. Mr. Michaels asked if the ridership number is actual individual passengers or if one person going and coming counts as two trips. Mr. Szilagye said he will get that question answered, as he is not sure.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion of the appointment of a public official. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to return to regular session. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Verbosky thanked all those who put their name in for consideration for the open council seat, reiterated that during the last week he did not contact any council member in any way to involve himself in their decision, and said that in the last five years a lot of progress has been made and he is looking forward to the next three years and continuing to move forward as a team.

***Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to nominate Chuck Duricek to fill the vacant seat on council due to the untimely death of Richard Kovach. Vote on the motion was Oberdorf, Richards, Michaels, and Marquette aye. Hermes and Eckel no. Motion carried 4-2.

CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of a thank you letter from Jeanne Zajac and a letter from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control already given to council.

*****Mr. Richards left the meeting at this time due to illness.

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Oberdorf thanked Tom Blaha for his part in the recent Wood County Economic Development Dinner and said that the speaker Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher was excellent. He asked Mr. Ciecka if he had any word on arranging a visit to an existing Herman & Kittle project and was told that Mr. Miller is working on scheduling a date. Mr. Oberdorf asked if there was a need for an April Committee of the Whole meeting and seeing none . . .

***Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to suspend with the April Committee of the Whole meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hermes said he is looking forward to the RBA Business Fair on March 28th.

Mr. Michaels in a tongue in cheek comment suggested that Rossford pursue the naming rights for the new downtown Toledo arena.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Pam Konidaris, 1021 Ironwood, asked where does the city stand on the downtown revitalization project and can we use money from the hotel/motel tax for it, are there any plans for angled parking in the downtown area, and can the city make property owners responsible for maintaining their buildings. Mayor Verbosky responded that the hotel/motel tax money must be used to promote tourism in conjunction with the county and state, that angled parking has been discussed previously but that the problem is because of the boulevard angled parking reduces two lanes to one each way, that a lot of effort was put into trying to get a downtown revitalization grant last year but that not enough commitment from business owners was received to pursue, and that physical appearance of properties is up to the existing building owner and that the city can only use existing zoning code to determine if a nuisance violation. Mr. Ciecka said the Rossford Municipal Code does not have a maintenance section. Ms. Konidaris feels that downtown has been ignored in favor of the Crossroads. Mayor Verbosky disagreed and said he has always maintained he would not abandon the downtown but that right now other than Pilkington the majority of payroll income tax revenues is coming from the Crossroads.

Sandy Tilimon, 610 Bruns, said she appreciates the efforts in the Crossroads but that downtown is in desperate need of revitalization and that she and others would like to work on that issue. She asked if any of the closed buildings in downtown are considered historical. She said even placing planters of flowers in the downtown would help improve the appearance. Mayor Verbosky said he has been a very active member of the RBA and that they are working on something that may help the downtown but he is not at liberty to talk about now, that he had been mayor for two weeks when the 7-11 closed and that since he has been in contact with the real estate people for 7-11 in Dallas and

taken at least five buyers through the building but that the out-of-state owners have put a high price on it. He reiterated that even angled parking will not be enough, that business people in downtown want a parking lot. Mr. Michaels encouraged Ms. Tilimon and anyone else interested to submit an application to be on the Architectural Review Commission. He also said the downtown revitalization grant required a commitment to match a portion of the money from the business owners and no one would make that commitment. Mayor Verbosky said anyone with interest or concerns should direct them to city hall to the attention of Mr. Ciecka. He also said none of the buildings are officially considered historical.

Ahmed Saleh, 916 Jennison Dr., asked if city council could do something about boarded up buildings or come up with a resolution for owners to maintain their building or be forced to sell. Mayor Verbosky said that as long as a building is kept up reasonably an owner can leave it vacant and boarded up as long as he wants. Mr. Heban said there is no legal recourse to force someone to sell a building.

Chuck Duricek, 143 Jennings, thanked council for their vote of confidence. He also said he has knowledge that the closed 7-11 still has not received an NFA from the EPA and talked about other properties that sold in Rossford without obtaining the proper documentation by selling for cash.

Mrs. Eckel said the Tree Commission has been talking about planters for the downtown area but that the problem has been who would maintain and water. She said the commission is meeting this Wednesday and encouraged anyone interested to attend and that any business interested in adopting a planter let the commission know.

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council