

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held March 28, 2011

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

ROLL CALL: Duricek, Scott, Hermes, Marquette, Eckel, and Mackinnon all present. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to excuse Mr. Oberdorf. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of March 14, 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 March 28, 2011 was presented to council. Judiciary committee report was added to the agenda. Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Marquette presented the judiciary committee report. He said they met last week and he does not have a written report yet. He noted that council has a copy of an example IT policy from the state of Ohio and the committee will review and discuss in a few weeks. He then had Mr. Heban discuss a suggested charter change regarding primary elections. Mr. Heban explained that our primary election schedule as it is now conflicts with federal law. He suggested that primary elections either be eliminated or moved to a May election date. He said that as our primary election is now we would have to pay for a special election. He said since council anticipated having a charter amendment on the ballot in November for the treasurer position that they may want to add an amendment regarding primaries. Mr. Marquette said the full committee is going to look at this issue but initial conversation favored eliminating the primary. Mr. Duricek noted that to his memory only one primary election has ever been held and that was to reduce 13 council candidates to 12. He said that if three people ran for mayor with no primary it could result in a mayor being elected with less than 50% of the vote. The city would then have to pay for a runoff election or change the charter to allow for election with less than 50% of the vote. Mr. Ciecka said that a runoff election would have problems date-wise with complying with federal election law.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to accept the committee report as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky said he attended the NWWSD annual meeting and found it very informative with about four Rossford residents in attendance. He said they are working hard on a number of items to help the entire district such as smart meters. He said that last Saturday's RBA Fair had nice attendance and he thanked the major sponsors Meijer and ProMedica, Mr. Ciecka for putting the booth together, and any administration members or council members who attended. He noted the city bond rating had been upgraded from A+ to AA- and congratulated Mr. Ciecka, Mrs. Freeman, and the budget committee for this improvement during difficult economic times. He also noted that the State of Ohio budget had been announced by the governor and as anticipated shows a 25% cut in local government funds for this year. He said the city's budget had been cut by 25% in that fund and said that was due to good planning by the budget committee, Mr. Ciecka, and Mrs. Freeman. Finally he said the Wood County Auditor 1st quarter report showed Rossford receiving \$1,091,786 which was up about 1% primarily due to TIF collections while other levy collections were down about 3% due to property reevaluations.

Mr. Ciecka thanked the budget committee and council for approving financial management policies and said that had contributed to the upgrade to the city bond rating. He said council's willingness to consider and adopt financial policies resulted in the bond rating improving during an economic downturn. He said that tomorrow bids will be taken on the notes and council will be notified when the rate is known. He noted the city had been awarded an ash removal grant of \$9,100 with a 50% match from the city which will allow for 32 trees to be removed and replaced. An ordinance to increase the tree appropriation will be forthcoming. He said that last Friday the city received word from ODOD that our application for an Energy Efficiency and Conversation Block Grant had been awarded and we had been awarded \$210,474 to upgrade street lighting, school flashers, and upgrade traffic signals to LED. He said this grant will provide for new street lighting from the boulevard to Eagle Point. He said the firm of Mannik &

Smith did a great job on this grant application and that they are still working with ODOD on another grant that would help with replacing the heating and air conditioning units in the municipal building. Mayor Verbosky congratulated Mr. Ciecka and all the department heads for their work on obtaining these grants. In response to a question from Mr. Marquette Mrs. Eckel explained that the ash tree grant money can only be used for trees located on city right-of-way or in city parks, not for any on private property.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

#2011-02 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES RICHARDS AS MUNICIPAL TREASURER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. This was given a second reading only.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Mackinnon asked about the two different street lighting projects and was told that the poles will be the same but that the second project will have LED lights as now mandated.

Mr. Marquette recognized the passing of Mike Knorek and said that all committees of council need to be commended for the good work done behind the scenes that people don’t see. Mayor Verbosky noted that committee work is taken very responsibly by council.

Mr. Hermes echoed the mayor’s comments regarding the RBA Fair and said it was a nice event and that he appreciated all those who worked on setting it up and the businesses who participated.

Mr. Scott said the hard work done in working through the projected city budget deficit resulted in this upgrade to our bond rating. He said the Business Fair gets bigger and better every year and is a great event. He also attended the NWWSD annual meeting and was able to view the pump station communication process.

Mr. Duricek said the Business Fair was a nice event and that he also attended the NWWSD annual meeting and was able to look at their GIS mapping system.

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

AUDIENCE REMARKS

None

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