

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held May 23, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President of Council Larry Oberdorf followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Staczek, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Ruse, Wagner, Minarcin all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of May 9, 2016 regular council meeting were presented to council. Mr. Minarcin moved and Mr. Ruse seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of May 23, 2016 was presented to council. Mr. Minarcin moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance committee report of May 9, 2016 was presented by Mr. Minarcin (see written report). Mr. Marquette asked what the capital improvement fund being down \$431,000 is attributed to. Mrs. Freeman said it has been spend on roads or is encumbered for future road improvements.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Mackinnon and City Administrator Scott are both out of town at a conference.

CORRESPONDENCE

Three pieces of correspondence 1) Thank you letter from the Jakubec family in recognition of the tree planted on Arbor Day, 2) thank you letter from the Cot Marquette family; 3) notice that hearing date on the James Ferrell liquor permit application has been moved to June 7th. Mr. Heban said this is the permit that the city objected too as no specified use for permit at this time and that he has been in contact with the attorney for Mr. Ferrell who offered to create an agreement that would specify a time period in which the permit would have to be used or revert back. Mr. Wagner asked if Mr. Ferrell is a Rossford resident and was told no. Mr.

Staczek said he would still object to issuing the permit as he sees this as a salesman coming to town to make money from a valuable commodity we have. Mr. Minarcin asked Mr. Heban to clarify that it is not against the law to buy a license which he did. Mrs. Eckel asked Mr. Heban if he had said there were two others wanting this license and Mr. Heban said there was a waiting list and there are two people behind Mr. Ferrell. Mr. Marquette asked if the attorney for Mr. Ferrell indicated that he planned on opening an establishment and Mr. Heban said yes. Mr. Staczek suggested he come back when he has a plan in place because we don't want to see this permit in escrow for years. Mr. Minarcin noted that we don't know what the people next in line for the permit intend to do with it either. Mrs. Eckel and Mr. Oberdorf both said they agreed with Mr. Staczek that they would like to see a plan in place or a two year time frame for the use of this permit. Mr. Wagner noted that there are plenty of liquor licenses in the entertainment district available but this permit is for anywhere in Rossford and that if Mr. Ferrell did not get this one he could still get one in the entertainment district if he located there. Mr. Heban said the entertainment district is the Miller property. Discussion ensued regarding holding up this permit even for a two year period when someone else might use it immediately. Mr. Ruse does not like setting a precedent of allowing someone to hold a permit without a plan for use in place. Mr. Heban said he has never seen a permit issued without an end use in place.

Mr. Wagner moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to continue the objection to the issuance of the liquor permit to James Ferrell. All ayes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

#2016-20 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD AND TO ADOPT A NEW INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR TAX YEAR 2016 AND THEREAFTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. THIRD READING

Mr. Staczek moved and Mr. Wagner seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Staczek read from his written remarks saying this is a divisive issue in the community and on council but he was asking council to reconsider their vote on this as he feels a failure to reverse this tax credit issue will cause the failure of all future levies, both for the city and the schools. He said council has failed to listen to the voices of the community and need to find a middle ground. He said his attendance at meeting regarding the schools has been seen as he not being a team player. He said it is unrealistic to continue with this division in the community as we have taxed our residents to the breaking point. He said telling people to leave if they can't afford or don't want to pay the tax is reprehensible. He asked council to pass this ordinance and choose family over asphalt. Mr. Wagner said tonight is a turning point for the city of Rossford saying we can't do both – have great roads and great schools and that a school levy will never pass due to this tax credit issue. He said that last week a resident was told by a council member that she pays nothing to the city if gets 100% tax credit, yet many levies have been passed in the city by these people. He also said that people are ready to vote for improved schools but won't if this tax credit issue isn't reversed. Mrs. Eckel said people have a way of twisting words and that no one has mentioned this decrease in reciprocity will not affect those retired or who work in Rossford like a city levy would. This gives people who work in Rossford or are retired the ability to vote for the school levy which they likely would not do if they had to pay a road levy and she disagrees that this issue will sink any school levy. Mr. Ruse said he echoes Mrs. Eckel comments and disagrees that this tax will end the hope of a school levy passing. He said these are two separate issues, both equally important to the community, and this was the solution the finance committee came up with for funding roads and he is standing firm on that decision. Mr. Wagner moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to adopt. Wagner, Staczek, and Marquette aye. Minarcin, Oberdorf, Eckel, and Ruse no. Motion fails 3-4.

RESOLUTIONS

#2016 -16 - AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE TREASURER OF THE STATE OF OHIO'S OPEN CHECKBOOK INITIATIVE.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Freeman said she had sent a link to all council members at their rossfordohio.com email address to review and that this has been talked about previously beginning a year ago but council still needs to approve our participation. This gives anyone the ability to see where our money is going. She said this can go multiple readings to give council time to review. This was given a first reading only.

#2016 – 17 - A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCY, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Oberdorf asked if this can go three readings and Mrs. Freeman said she would prefer to see this passed on the second reading so as to meet a RITA deadline. This was given a first reading only.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Marquette thanked everyone on council and in the community for their support on his father's passing. He said as much as the community loved his father so did his father love the community. Mrs. Eckel reminded everyone that the Memorial Day parade will be Sunday, May 29th at 1:30 and in the event of rain the ceremony will be held in the George Wolfe fieldhouse. She asked Mrs. Freeman to check on if tax receipts have increased since we begin requiring the registration of rental properties. She congratulated Chief Goss on the police memorial ceremony and for being awarded the grant to refurbish the police shooting range.

Mr. Staczek thanked the police, fire, and public works departments for a nice job in hosting the Wood County Police Officers Memorial, thanked Mr. Kolb and his crew for their efforts at the Marina, and thanked Mrs. Freeman and Mr. Scott for finding a way to fund the banners at the marina.

Mr. Oberdorf said the Police Memorial was a very moving service which Chief Goss did an excellent job of putting together. He said deceased Rossford officer Clifton Miller's daughter gave a very moving speech. He said that Chief Goss is the most professional chief he has served with since being on council.

Mr. Minarcin said the memorial service was a great event, well attended and organized. He thanked Hollywood Casino for providing an outstanding luncheon for all those who attended.

Mr. Wagner offered his congratulation to the RHS graduating class of 2016.

Mr. Ruse congratulated Chief Goss for obtaining the grant for the refurbishment of the police shooting range.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Bob Densic, 107 Birch thanked Mrs. Freeman for getting the Open Checkbook going saying it is a great program. He also said that posts need to be put in the rear of the north wall docks at the marina as in rough weather the boats are being almost pushed into the dock face.

Doug Glick, 410 Forest Drive commended everyone for the discussion on the tax. He noted it is said that \$3.6 trillion dollars in road repairs are needed in this country by 2020 and he hopes we get ours taken care of.

Ruth Babel-Smith, 628 S. Main Bowling Green introduced herself as a candidate for Wood County Sheriff in the November election.

Erin Crawford, 544 Bruns said that one of the arguments Mrs. Eckel made in favor of the tax credit reduction was that it would have no effect on people with fixed incomes or those who work in Rossford.

Mrs. Crawford said it would be fairer to have an income tax in the city that would affect everyone equally and this tax credit reduction was a back door way to get the money without going to the citizens. She said council should allow the referendum to be put on the ballot.

Mr. Staczek moved and Mr. Minarcin seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

*Larry Oberdorf
President of Council*

*Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council*