

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held June 9, 2008

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 Michaels all present. Mr. Kovach is expected shortly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of May 27, 2008. 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 June 9, 2008 was presented to council. A report from the Public Safety committee was added. ***Mr. Kovach entered the meeting at this time. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Richards presented the Public Safety committee report of June 2 (see minutes).

Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to accept the committee report as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky mentioned he and council receiving the 2007 report for Perrysburg Municipal Court and said copies will be available for the general public. He attended the May 28 meeting of the RBA, heard a presentation regarding wind power, and will provide the information received to Mr. Ciecka. He said the city has received a letter from Heather Smith Nissen of DECA asking for permission to have the Halloween Parade on October 26. He also received a letter from State Senator Mark Wagoner asking for support for Senate Joint Resolution 7 which will continue the successful "Clean Ohio" program for another 10 years.

Mr. Ciecka told council that he and Mr. Jones will be meeting tomorrow meeting with Poggemeyer and Shelly Co. regarding the repaving of Lime City Rd. and the schedule and sequence of the work. He is aware of the All Saints Festival and will keep those dates in mind when scheduling. He also received a letter from U. S. Senator Sherrod Brown in response to council's resolution on Medicaid thanking council for their support for strengthening the Medicaid program. He informed council that the planning for the Buck Rd. /Lime City Rd. intersection is going forward by the county engineer. The Wood County engineer is pursuing the roundabout alternative and additional federal funding has been allocated. The next stage is more detailed engineering by the consultant selected by the Wood County engineer. Public works crews are in the process of clearing up tree limbs brought down as a result of the most recent storm. Mr. Oberdorf asked Mr. Ciecka to send a copy of Senator Brown's letter to John Klepacz who was the citizen who brought forward the request for the resolution.

Mr. Richard moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to approve the request by DECA to hold the Halloween Parade on October 26. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Richards asked Mr. Ciecka to look at the potential safety issue of a possible live wire at a home where a tree was felled by the storm. Mr. Ciecka said the city is aware and has contacted and followed up with First Energy.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

#2008-26 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BASS PRO ROSSFORD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC; AND BASS PRO ROSSFORD REAL ESTATE HOLDING, LLC; AND THE CITY OF ROSSFORD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. THIRD READING.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said that minor changes were made to the ordinance and all exhibits are in place and he is recommending approval by council. Mr. Huffman representing Bass Pro said they are also ready for this agreement to be resolved before operations began. Mayor Verbosky said similar agreements have been done with Meijer and Ramco-Gershenson. Mr. Kovach said he really did not notice any changes between the original and the revised agreement. Mr. Huffman said they were very small changes and most were recommended by Mr. Heban. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2008-27 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A RELEASE AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAMES J. LAHAY AND STIFEL, NICOLAUS & COMPANY AND THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, THE ROSSFORD ARENA AMPHITHEATER AUTHORITY, AND MARK ZUCHOWSKI; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING.

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

#2008-28 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2009 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said the estimate of revenues was presented to the Budget committee just prior to this meeting as the first step in putting together the 2009 budget. This must be filed with the county auditor's office and can go three readings and still meet the deadline. Mr. Hermes said the budget committee discussed giving this a first reading only tonight and reminded council this is only a projection and not the final budget. This was given a first reading only.

#2008-29 – AN ORDINANCE UNDER SECTION 727.25, OHIO REVISED CODE, ASSESSING UPON THE LOTS AND LANDS WITHIN THE CITY OF ROSSFORD TO PAY THE EXPENSE OF LIGHTING THE STREETS, ALLEYS, WAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES IN SAID CITY AND FURNISHING ELECTRICAL ENERGY THEREFOR, DIRECTING THE CLERK TO CERTIFY SAID ASSESSMENT TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO BE PLACED UPON THE TAX DUPLICATE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is the special assessment for street lighting in the amount of \$180,000 and can go three readings. Mayor Verbosky reminded the audience that this is an ongoing standard assessment. Mr. Richards said the dollar amount has not changed from last year. Mr. Marquette asked what the actual amount was last year and was told approximately \$166,000. Mr. Hermes said the remainder was put into a fund to cover replacement of electric poles and future improvements. Mr. Michaels said we should consider that the company providing our lighting is not doing a good job of maintaining the lighting in the Crossroads area and they should be notified. This was given a first reading only.

#2008-30 – AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 1515 OF THE ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this ordinance was reviewed by the safety committee and involves a rapid-entry lock box system. All commercial buildings would be required to have a lock box on the outside of the building which would contain keys to the building and allow rapid access by the fire and/or police department. This

ordinance would outline the type of box required and who would be exempt. This would apply only to new construction. Mr. Kovach agrees it is a good concept and hopes it could be applied to existing businesses. This was given a first reading only.

RESOLUTIONS

#2008-10 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NORTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TOLEDO AND VARIOUS LUCAS AND WOOD COUNTY POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is a similar agreement to one approved several months ago with Wood County. This has been generated by Lucas County and the City of Toledo along with Northwood and other Wood County areas. The police chief has recommended this be looked at favorably. Mr. Richards said he cannot imagine anyone objecting to this as not only do we give mutual aid we can also request mutual aid. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and one unidentified audience member asked if there was a cost to this and was told no. Vote on the motion was 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.

#2008-11 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (D.A.R.E.) PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this would authorize the city to file an application with the Ohio Attorney General for federal funding for ½ the expense of the DARE program. The city would also request the school board to share in half the expense. Mr. Hermes 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 was 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.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Oberdorf said in respect to July and August he would expect council to continue having one meeting only in those two months. He also is recommending having a committee of the whole meeting the first Monday in July to discuss joining the NWSA. Mayor Verbosky said he agrees it would be appropriate to hold a meeting to discuss our options. Mr. Michaels said a public works committee should be held to review both the NWSA and City of Toledo options.

***Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to hold a committee of the whole meeting on July 7 at 6:30 and to suspend with the second July meeting of July 28. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Oberdorf wanted to commend Ivan Kovacevic for the nice flyer concerning the summer camp information and other new programs at the Recreation Center. He also noted a letter of commendation from Acting Chief Kitzler to Officer Swanson for his performance during the recent Click It or Ticket campaign. A letter for distinguished service went to Sergeant Revill, and Officers Skala, Cartwright, and Williams for their performance during an incident that occurred on June 3, 2008 involving a person who had stopped breathing.

Mrs. Eckel wanted to recognize the Rossford track team for their success this season. Eight school records were sent and Ricardo Ross was a state champion and Rachel Clay was a runner-up.

Mr. Marquette asked what is the procedure regarding repairing sidewalks. Mr. Ciecka said the maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner with the city paying 20% of the cost.

Mr. Hermes commented regarding the roundabout and its \$2.3million cost and a suggestion of a citizen that it would be cheaper to hire a traffic monitor for six hours a day. At \$17 an hour the breakeven for \$2.3million is 115 years.

Mr. Kovach said he has heard some complaints regarding open gym at the Rec Center and asked that this be checked into.

Mayor Verbosky asked audience members who wish to speak to come up to the podium, identify themselves by name and address, and limit themselves to three minutes.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Erik Day of 129 Glenwood said his neighborhood has gang activity and vandalism and that our 12 police officers are less than the 22 that Northwood has. He suggested a levy be placed on the ballot for additional police officers.

Jim Rodriguez of 125 Glenwood agreed with the previous comments and said he is concerned for the officer's safety when only one can respond to a domestic violence call.

Pam Konidaris of 1021 N. Ironwood, a co-owner of a business in downtown Rossford, said she has seen drug deals take place in front of her business, has had damage to her business, and said 40 mailboxes were damaged during spring break, 17 in her subdivision alone, and she feels that the kids are out of hand.

Sandy Barta of 212 Hannum Ave. asked is it possible to hire part-time police officers and are grants available to pay for this.

Joan Miller of 132 Walnut said that gangs are taking over her street primarily due to a rental property on the street. Cars have been broken into, things have been broken in her yard, and the kids are very disrespectful.

Laurie Burket of 136 Walnut St. agrees with what others have said. Since moving to Rossford her car has been broken into twice. She wonders if some type of auxiliary volunteer program or block watch program could be started.

Jeff Appelhans of 177 Hannum said that if the city has the money that instead of hiring a full time fire assistant chief the money be used for a police officer and instead of hiring a full time fire administrative assistant that the money be used for part-time officers.

Dawn Russell of 134 Walnut St. said that she knows of three rental properties on her street, one of which is the key to the gang activity. She said it is obvious they have a scanner because as soon as the police are called they disappear.

Debra Jacobs of 125 Walnut St. said she has called the police numerous times for fighting and drug activity occurring in front of her house. She said she has had enough and its time to do something about it.

Bob Poure of 507 Beech St. said he has not had any issues at his house particularly. He was a resident when we had 18 officers. He has seen spray painting of graffiti and paint balling of trucks. He agrees they must have scanners because they are always gone by time the police arrive. He thinks our police do an excellent job but that we just need more of them.

Mark Taylor of 501 Beech St. said in the past week alone he has called the police 3-4 times due to crowds in the street using profanity and his truck has been broken into. Landlords have been contacted regarding their properties to no avail. He said our police understand the problem they are just understaffed.

Jill Day of 129 Glenwood reiterated what others had said. She said the police are doing a good job but that they need more help.

Glenn Goss of the RPA said the police appreciate the citizen support and that the police will continue to be diligent in patrolling the area.

Mayor Verbosky responded that a block watch program would be an excellent idea. He realizes that a number of residences in the area of the tree streets have become rentals. He said a previous police grant program called FAST has been eliminated with most of that money being used to fight terrorism. He said no one cares more about the downtown than he does; he actively works to keep business owners in that area. The downtown area is in a transitional period but he is still committed to the downtown. The reality is that the money to improve the downtown will come from the Crossroads. Over the last four years he has wanted to add police officers but that economic conditions have precluded that. Current contract negotiations with the police do not allow him to talk about part-time officers. He commented that the fire department is not treated better than the police department.

Mr. Marquette asked if the city is aware of these problems and was told by Mr. Ciecka that the city is and he has talked to many of the residents. Additional patrols and the resumption of bike patrols have been discussed.

Mrs. Eckel said the problems in that area have been continuous since December. She and her neighbors have experienced the same problems. She feels that auxiliary police may be a good idea. She would ask the parents of the community to know where their children are.

Mr. Oberdorf said what he has heard really concerns him. He wonders if these young people do not have enough to do i.e. possibly creating a skateboard park. He feels we have an outstanding police department and he has a lot of respect for them. The block watch program is a possibility. He would be willing to sit down with acting chief Kitzler to explore any programs that would help. He said he has seen a change in the last 30 years in the kids walking around. Ideally he would like to put on 5-6 more officers but that is not economically feasible. He offered his personal help to anyone who wants to call him.

Mr. Richards said he would like to see these problems rectified. He said everyone here is proud of the service of our police department. What has to be determined is what the city can afford to do. Until then it is our job as citizens and neighbors to look out for each other. There is no easy solution.

Mr. Kovach agrees that block watch is a good idea. From his previous background as a police officer he recalled the problem with police scanners and said there are ways around that.

Mr. Michaels thinks block watch is a good idea and that the safety committee should take charge of that. He said we should consider undercover officers and making the landlords responsible.

Mr. Hermes asked if videotape is legally enough to press charges. Counsel responded that there are some problems with it but it is enough for officers to investigate. She cautioned that the person videoing must be careful to remain out of harm's way.

Mayor Verbosky said we have heard many good ideas and that the safety committee will be looking at. He also will have a meeting with the acting police chief, the safety director, and Mr. Oberdorf.

Barb Rodriguez of 125 Walnut said she has three young beautiful daughters and that she will not jeopardize their safety by being part of block watch. She said the police officers are already working overtime and said a levy needs to be put in place for more police officers. She has not heard what will be done to get more police protection and wants to know what the city is going to do for her and her neighbors to make it safe for them.

Mayor Verbosky said he is not avoiding the subject but that contract negotiations do not allow him to talk about certain things. Any levy would be up to council to put on the ballot. He is concerned with what he has heard and said this is not unique to Rossford. He knows that block watch is not the final answer but a way to help and no one who feels uncomfortable in being part of would have to participate.

Greg Linkous of 99 Hillsdale does not agree with hiring part-timers, he said we need professional police officers. He is in favor of bike patrol but that involves more overtime. The police department is down 6 officers and he had over 500 hours of overtime last year. He said the city should protect the citizens and help the police department.

Sandy Miller of 127 Glenwood asked about setting a curfew and what is involved. She thinks that might help.

Mayor Verbosky said that is something that the city can check on with other cities and police departments. He appreciates all those in attendance and the points they made.

Lawrence Bridenbaugh of 122 Lime City Rd. said to get the safety committee to review this.

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