

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held June 22, 2009

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, Michaels, and Duricek all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of June 8, 2009. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of June 22, 2009 was presented to council. Judiciary, Budget, and Public Safety committee reports were added to the agenda. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Marquette presented the judiciary committee reports of May 13 and June 9, 2009 (see written report attached). Mayor Verbosky said it is ironic in light of the publicity in Toledo this week regarding parking in front yards that we had already been working on this problem. He said the city is not trying to infringe on property rights but is trying to maintain the visual aesthetics of residential properties.

Mr. Hermes presented the budget committee report of June 8, 2009 (see written report attached). Mr. Hermes noted that the local government fund is expecting a 15% drop in funding.

Mrs. Eckel presented the public safety committee report of June 17, 2009 (see written report attached). Mayor Verbosky said that three police candidates were interviewed this week and he expects to hire one by next week. Mr. Duricek asked what the benefit of 100 hours of training at Owens is worth and was told about \$20,000.

Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to accept the committee reports as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky on behalf of the city extended condolences to the family of Willie Szabo who, while not from Rossford, had been greatly involved in the Rossford Eagles and funds given to the police and fire departments. He thanked all the volunteers involved in the downtown cleanup, said he had received two more applications for the design review committee, thanked the Friends of Toledo Day Nursery for putting on a successful garden tour of the Eagle Point Colony, told council that the RBA will meet Wednesday at noon and that they are working a small, no-interest loan program for businesses that want to improve the physical appearance of their buildings. He said letters had been sent out informing everyone that RITA was the city's new tax collector, that he is working with the library on displaying the downtown design examples, that 7/11 is now listed with a realtor, and finally told council that Perrysburg had passed the resolution opposing the TARTA sales tax proposal.

Mr. Ciecka said the fire department had received a grant of \$4300 for emergency medical equipment and training and told council that bids were out for the roof replacements and will be back on July 2nd.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

#2009 – 18 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CROSSROADS AREA AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 2008-60. SECOND READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is for additional asphalt paving in the Crossroads using TIF funds. Mr. Michaels asked how the engineering and design will be paid for and was told by Mr. Ciecka probably from the general fund.

This was given a second reading only.

#2009 -19 - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010. SECOND READING.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said this is a procedural step required by the county. Mr. Hermes 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. Hermes moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2009- 20 - AN ORDINANCE MAKING CERTAIN ADDITIONS TO AND CHANGES TO THE ESTIMATE OF REVENUES AND EXPENSE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2009 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2008-60; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING

Mr. Duricek moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said this includes the \$100,000 on #2009-18 so really cannot be passed yet. He said this is the normal accounting true up that we used to do once a year but that auditors had recommended that council be informed throughout the year so trying to do at least three times a year. This was given a second reading only.

#2009 – 21 - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AGREEMENTS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAINTAIN TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON STATE ROUTES/US HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF ROSSFORD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING.

Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this agreement will cover four intersections of high volume roadways that are part of the sequenced timing pattern. He said these are signals that are positioned at a high footage and there is a safety question in the city servicing. They could be better monitored and maintained by the state that has better equipment. Mr. Hermes said the cost would be \$12,000 a year for and asked what has been the maintenance record for these signals over the last ten years. Mr. Ciecka said they have been well maintained and previous problems have been rectified with maintenance decreasing but that maintenance on these has been contracted out and he does not have the cost at hand. Mr. Hermes said it seems like a lot of new money at this time. Mr. Richards said he knows that the signal at SR795/Clark Dr. has been serviced three times since February and that it tied up two state patrol officers to direct traffic. He is in favor of these agreements. Mrs. Eckel said that previously ODOT was maintaining the signal at SR795/Lime City Rd. but now discovered it is our responsibility. Mr. Duricek would like to know what a private contractor would charge to maintain when necessary versus a flat fee of \$3000 per signal. This was given a second reading only.

#2009-23- AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 1133.03.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this ordinance and #2009-24 are companion pieces and referred any questions to Mr. Heban. Mr. Heban said he had been directed by the judiciary committee to prepare and that one ordinance should not pass without the other being passed. Mr. Marquette he still is not sure that gravel driveways should be allowed. Mr. Richards said he is aware of several properties that have gravel driveways currently and Mr. Hermes said he is ok with gravel driveways. Mr. Duricek concurred with Mr. Hermes and said he is more concerned with the amount of front yard that can be used as a driveway. He said the object is to prevent the paving of the entire front yard. Mrs. Eckel asked how the 40% maximum was arrived at and how long someone can be parked on the grass. She was told by Mr. Heban that the 40% came from looking at other municipalities ordinances. Mr. Michaels asked if this ordinance would be retroactive and was told no. Mayor Verbosky said the intent is to stop habitual offenders who park in the front yard. Mr. Oberdorf said he could not support because the ordinance does not define what constitutes habitual. Mr. Duricek said people just need to stop being lazy and move cars in driveway when necessary. He said need to define habitual but that something needs to be done as this problem is detrimental to neighborhoods. Mr. Marquette said he will meet with Mr. Ciecka and Heban to define habitual or use some other adjective. This was given a first reading only.

#2009-24- AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 351.03(a) (19). Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Heban said this ordinance would prohibit the named items from being parked in the front yard of residences. Mayor Verbosky asked the clerk of council to read Section 1 of the ordinance in its entirety which he did. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to refer this back to the judiciary committee for further review. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky asked that comments on this be given to the judiciary committee members. This was given a first reading only.

RESOLUTIONS

#2009-14 – OPPOSING THE SALES TAX LEVY PROPOSED TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE TOLEDO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY. SECOND READING.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said that we had basically told TARTA we do not like funding them through a property tax and to find another way of funding and that now we are telling them we do not fund it by a sales tax either. He said we cannot get out of TARTA currently and we need to work on a way to fund it. Mr. Oberdorf disagreed saying there is a possibility of extracting ourselves from TARTA. Mrs. Eckel said she sees this resolution as not being against a sales tax but that the amount of the tax exceeds the service which we have no say in how it is provided. Mr. Marquette said that if we see the sales tax as an avenue to get out of the TARTA agreement why are we opposing. Mayor Verbosky said we see it as a bargaining chip but that TARTA is just not going to let us out of the agreement. Mr. Oberdorf said it was the big cities that did not get behind State Rep. Gardner's transportation resolution. This was given a second reading only.

#2009-15 – A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO REVISED CODE SECTION 5705.03(B) REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD AND THE AMOUNT OF REVENUE GENERATED BY THE MILLAGE, 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 resolution was prepared at the request of the public safety committee pursuant to placing a levy on the ballot in November for the renewal of the 1 mill fire levy. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to suspend with the second and 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.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Richards congratulated all those who organized the elbow grease effort for cleaning up the downtown and said it was a true example of citizen action.

Mrs. Eckel thanked those same people and said their efforts are going in the right direction. She asked if the bricks at the Ford Memorial were sold for money to be used for maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Duricek said the bricks sold contributed to building the Memorial and that future bricks were to be used to maintain but since the committee disbanded no one has been selling them.

Mr. Hermes said he took the Eagle Point Colony Garden Tour which was busy all day and a really nice showcase for the city.

Mr. Michaels thanked Mr. Heban for pushing Toledo Edison to fix the lighting problems in the Crossroads and said it appears they are making progress. Mr. Heban said he received an email from Edison saying the work should be completed by June 26th. Mr. Michaels asked if the Budget committee had established a benchmark for gauging RITA's performance and Mr. Hermes responded they had not but will come up with some measurement for performance but using total taxes collected would not be a fair standard as due to the economy taxes will be down this year. Mr. Michaels also took the Eagle Point Colony Garden Tour and said it was a beautiful event that brought a lot of people to Rossford.

Mr. Duricek said he had called and found out that the vacant 7/11 store is being offered at a lease rate of \$10 a square foot. He estimated that the Eagle Point Colony Garden Tour had brought about a 1000 visitors to Rossford. He will be scheduling an Economic Development committee shortly.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Glenn Goss, Dixie Hwy. said the police do get many complaints about front yard parking.

Joan Miller, 221 Birch said she is aware of a person wanting to put a driveway into his property off of Hidden Cove and that this should not be allowed. Mayor Verbosky and Mr. Ciecka both said they are not aware of any pending request for this.

John Stolar, 115 Hannum said he was run off the road by someone going the wrong way on Elm. The person said there was no sign at other end saying do not enter. Mr. Stolar checked and the sign is faded and unreadable. He is also concerned about people walking in the street when sidewalks are available, dog walkers picking up waste, and who is checking the hydrants. Mayor Verbosky said he will have the signs checked, thinks there is an ordinance on the books about picking up dog waste, and will double check on the fire hydrants.

David Baum, 1102 W. Elm Tree wanted to question the police and fire chief about hiring procedures but they are not here. He asked if a police officer had been hired. Mayor Verbosky said that the police and fire chief are not required to attend council meetings and that no police officer has been hired yet. He suggested Mr. Baum meet with him after the meeting.

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