

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held June 23, 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, Michaels, and Kovach all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of June 9, 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 23, 2008 was presented to council. A report from the Budget committee and an executive session to discuss contract negotiations and pending litigation were added. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Hermes presented the Budget Ways & Means committee report of June 9 (see minutes).

Mr. Richards 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 told council that Bass Pro had an unpublicized opening last week and that they are very happy with the results so far. The grand opening will be July 2 with a number of celebrity guests and he encouraged members of council to attend. He informed council that he had met with the Wood County Sherriff after the last council meeting and the sheriff said he will provide whatever help he can. The mayor also had a meeting with the safety director, president of council, and the acting chief in which they discussed recent incidents and steps that can be taken. The police will be acting on items discussed and Mr. Heban has been asked to look at any legal issues i.e. curfew enforcement. The mayor thanked the Arts Commission for hosting the June 22 Art Exhibit. He said there were many participants and encouraged anyone interested to attend the monthly meetings of the Arts Commission on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the library. He also reminded everyone of the public transit forum to be held on July 7.

Mr. Ciecka told council he has met with a developer interested in developing the property between Pilkington and I75. Even though the property is located in Toledo the city is interested in what happens there, as it is the gateway to Rossford. He said that Mr. Oberdorf, Michaels, and he had met with a group of Genoa business owners to discuss their 30 year history of downtown redevelopment. He thanked Barb Montague for putting the meeting together as a citizen continuing her volunteer efforts on behalf of downtown redevelopment.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from John Kachmarik, 301 Eagle Point Rd. against the proposed roundabout at the Lime City Rd. /Buck Rd. intersection and recommending repaving Schrier Rd. between Lime City Rd. and the carryout was read.

#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. THIRD READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said that word was received on Friday that the Supreme Court of Ohio did not accept the appeal from Perrysburg Township. Approval of this ordinance essentially ends the legal proceedings. 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. Richards, Oberdorf, Marquette, Hermes, Michaels, and Kovach aye. Mrs. Eckel abstained. Motion passed 6-0.

#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. SECOND READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said this was mentioned in the Budget committee report. This ordinance is an administrative exercise required by the county and answers an annual request from the Wood County Auditor for anticipated revenues for purpose of deciding allocations. He recommends suspending with the third reading, as this needs to be to the county by July 20. 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 declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#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. SECOND READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said this assessment has been around since 1975. It can be approved as a non-emergency as it does not need to be to the auditor until the first week of September. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes 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. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2008-30 – AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 1505 OF THE ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING.

Mr. Richard moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this ordinance was suggested by the fire chief as a potential assist for fire and police to secure access to locked buildings. Mr. Marquette asked if any feedback had been received from local businesses and was told no. He was also told that this is a lock box opened by a single master key with a key to the building inside. Mr. Marquette asked if the city is liable if someone unauthorized accesses the box. Mr. Heban said the city could be sued but whether or not the city would be liable he will have to look into. Mr. Hermes said the key would work only for the boxes in the city of Rossford and that a policy will be put in place as to who is authorized to use the master key as well as procedures for use of the key. He believes the fire chief was going to look into this further before the final wording of the ordinance is approved. Mr. Hermes said most of the new construction in the city has these boxes already and like it because in the event of a fire the door does not have to be broken down. Mr. Hermes also thought language regarding adding a penalty for vandalizing the lock box was going to be added. Mr. Richards said the safety committee had asked that the police department also have access to these master keys, as they are usually first on the scene. Before adopting this ordinance he would like to see further information as to accountability and accessibility. Mr. Michaels asked if the new national fire code recommends or insists on these lock boxes. Mr. Richards said they only recommend. Mr. Michaels asked if the manufacture will be specified or just the product. Mr. Ciecka said the product is specified and is only available from a single source. He also asked if the city is liable if the key is misused by a city employee and was told yes. Mr. Kovach asked if the information required will be ready in time to pass this after the third reading. Mayor Verbosky said if not will possibly have to table it at that time. Mr. Richards said the committee had assigned this no urgency for passage. This was given a second reading only.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mrs. Eckel said being in the new Bass Pro is like being in a different world and that it is great to have them in the community. She said she has received many comments regarding the tree street crime problem and it is a great concern. She said the public is watching where the police are also. She asked that someone check on the brush in the ditch on Lime City Rd. which is blocking the view on leaving the Grassy Creek subdivision and Mayor Verbosky said he will see that is followed up on. The next public works committee meeting is on hold pending receiving information from the NWWSD to compare to Toledo rates.

Mr. Oberdorf said the meeting last week with Acting Chief Kitzler, Mr. Ciecka, the mayor, and he brought forth a number of productive ideas for being proactive. Possible solution will be passed on to the safety committee for discussion. He said that both he and Mr. Ciecka will be attending the July 7 transit forum. He asked to be informed when the next safety committee will be and reminded council of the committee of the whole meeting on July 7 at 6:30pm to discuss water. He said that the meeting with the Genoa business owners also exposed a lot of good ideas that we could incorporate. He said that the Genoa Chamber of Commerce had indicated they would attend any meeting we have to discuss downtown redevelopment.

Mr. Richards said the safety committee will meet on June 30 at 7:00pm with one of the primary issues discussed being a curfew ordinance. He asked that any thoughts on this issue be passed on to any member of the safety committee. He has walked the Walnut St. neighborhood talking to people outside. He suggested replacing burnt out streetlights and lighting the night will help deter some activities. Comments on the police response have been totally positive with only one exception. He has visited the new Bass Pro and said the parking lot was very full.

Mr. Kovach asked for an update on the Lime City Rd. repaving project. Mr. Ciecka said he has met with the engineer but has no specific start date. He talked to the contractor about a conflict with the All Saints Festival date and was told that they hope to be finished before then.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Pam Konidaris, Ironwood Ct. asked who is responsible for contacting business owners regarding the rentability of vacant properties. Just because a building has a for rent sign does not make it rentable if the owner does not take responsibility for making it attractive to potential renters. Mayor Verbosky said that unless there is a gross violation of an ordinance we cannot force people to rent out buildings but that he continues trying to work with people on the downtown businesses. He said it will take a community effort and the owner's not just council. Hopefully as things progress in the Crossroads additional income that could be used to spruce up the downtown will become available. He reiterated that he will not sacrifice the downtown for the Crossroads but will try to balance the two and thanked her for her concerns.

Dawn Russell, 134 Walnut St., read a letter that thanked the police officers for the stepped up patrols of the streets and thanked the council members who have driven and walked the street to talk to the residents. Problems are still occurring and affecting several homeowners. Mayor Verbosky said that Walnut St. was discussed in his meeting.

The resident at 37 Santus Dr. said the road in front of his driveway approach has deteriorated and asked that someone look at it. Mayor Verbosky asked that Mr. Ciecka and Dave Jones look at and get back to him

Patrick Borucki, Eagle Point Rd. suggested turning on the lights at Beech St. Park as a way to curb vandalism in that area.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and pending litigation. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council