

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held September 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor William J. Verbosky Jr. and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Joanie Tucholski, wife of former clerk of council Ed Tucholski and mother of city employee Patty Ogdahl.

ROLL CALL: Mackinnon, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Hermes, Scott, and Duricek all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of August 8, 2011. Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of September 12, 2011 was presented to council. Mr. Duricek moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky thanked Mr. Oberdorf for presiding over the last council meeting in his absence. He offered several comments regarding the public hearing held at that meeting and said it is a unique situation in the city of a retirement and rehire. He thought it was a good idea due to 1) just becoming a part of NWSD 2) the number of retirements in the public works department in the last year with still more possible 3) middle of testing for new hires 4) would leave a void at a critical time for the department. He noted that Mr. Jones is being rehired at a reduced salary and knowing that his continued employment is subject to being reappointed by the next mayor. Mayor Verbosky said he understands the double-dip comments but does not think it falls in the same category as someone who goes for one position to another. He himself has not received any negative comments. Mayor Verbosky explained that in regards to the property on Bacon St. the intent of the city was to demolish the structures and hope someone came forward to revitalize the property. Talks had already taken place with the Bd. of Ed. about sharing the maintenance cost equally and also about the property going to Habitat for Humanity as possibly the best course of action. The arson fire caused a quicker demolition than expected and ordinance #2011-45 is a result of this. He said the Planning Commission will meet this Wednesday at 7:00 in council chambers, said the light project Phase I has finally started with the bases in and that Phase II from Duricek's to the library should hopefully begin early next year. He congratulated the RBA for spearheading the requests for donations for funding the fireworks this year and said he had received a lot of positive comments on them. He said the Fun at the Fountain was also a successful project and thanked the RBA for a successful Labor Day weekend. He said the new RBA directory has been sent out and thanked the Rossford Record for helping deliver 8900 directories, and that over 50 attended the last RBA meeting. He congratulated the Rossford School Board for the excellence with distinction ranking achieved by Rossford Schools, reminded council of the open house at the JETC showcasing the wind turbine, congratulated Mr. Ciecka on the city's receiving the Employer of the Month award from Wood Lane, said that DECA has requested the Halloween Parade be held on October 30th, and offered his congratulations to Fire Chief Verbosky and Lieutenant John Wojtski for their work in the Hurricane Irene disaster as part of the Ohio DMAT headquartered in Connecticut.

Mr. Ciecka said the Civil Service Commission met on September 2nd and certified the eligibility list of those who took the test for public works. He said the list is posted in the lobby. He recommended that council designate trick-or-treat night, said that brush pickup will begin September 26th and that the schedule will be posted on the webpage and distributed to the media, and that the Tree Commission will meet this Wednesday. Mr. Hermes referenced a memo from TMACOG regarding the I75/Buck Rd. exchange and a construction cost range of between 2 and 15 million dollars of which he has a negative reaction to such a broad range. Mr. Ciecka said the range is very broad as so preliminary with no plans yet and many things to be determined before this project would ever go forward, such as potential right-of-way acquisition, additional lanes, ramps, etc. Mr. Hermes said we would be forced to pay a share in spite of this being caused by Fed Ex, Penta, and other entities none of which are in the city. Mr. Hermes also referenced projected cost for the Buck Rd. roundabout and the potential \$350,000 share the city may have to pay for what is 15 minutes of traffic congestion twice a day during school days. Mrs. Eckel asked if we were not still paying our share of the last improvement to that location and what precipitated this memo. Mr. Ciecka said yes we

are still paying and that a traffic study on behalf of Fed Ex, Owens Community College, Perrysburg Township, and Rossford due to safety concerns for that corridor and ways to improve traffic flow. The long term projection may call for more entrance/exit ramps in 10-15 years. Mrs. Eckel said it would be hard to place a project like that on our high priority list when it's basically caused by entities on each end neither which are in Rossford and would severely impact our paving budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

#2011-45 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONVEY CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE WOOD COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Marquette said he was not for giving away any land before we try to sell it. Mayor Verbosky said the primary reason is to avoid the lot languishing empty as it previously was offered at sheriff's sale with no takers. The idea is to put to a productive use as soon as possible and create a positive way to kick start the neighborhood. Mr. Ciecka said we are looking at possibly having Habitat for Humanity purchasing the property for the price of the demolition cost. His idea is to return the lots to housing and Habitat has been a very good program for this with new homeowners paying real estate taxes. Mrs. Eckel questioned why we would have to use the Port Authority to do this instead of us doing directly and Mr. Ciecka said we could do directly but since the school board cannot he thought we would just do it in conjunction with the Port Authority. Mr. Heban explained that the city can do but that the school board by statute is not allowed to transfer property for cost – it has to be bid. Mr. Ciecka said the Port Authority is able to sell without going through a public auction. Mrs. Eckel asked if Habitat would have to submit building plans to Rossford and was told by Mr. Ciecka yes and that they would have to comply with our building and zoning codes. Mr. Scott said the Port Authority did a similar deal a number of years ago and asked if they are going to charge us for this. Mr. Ciecka said they probably will look to recoup their basic expenses. Mr. Scott said that since we pay annually to support the Port Authority he hoped they would waive their charge. Mayor Verbosky said they are aware of this and that if council is in favor of doing this we can make sure that council sees the final agreement before it is executed. Mr. Hermes said he is not prepared to vote yes on this tonight and that he would like to hear from Habitat as to a demand for this project and how soon it would be done. Mr. Ciecka said the Habitat board has already passed a resolution in favor of this and has a potential homeowner. They have never done a project in Rossford and hope for one home by next spring depending on the donations they receive. Mr. Hermes also noted that other cities have used property like this for community farms or gardens. Mr. Mackinnon asked if the homes are under private ownership and was told yes. Mr. Duricek noted that process is complicated by the school boards involvement and he still does not understand what their motives were for taking this property. Mr. Oberdorf said we need to look at the here and now and also reestablish our working relationship with the school board. He said Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful organization that relies on volunteer help and donations of skilled labor and materials. These are stick built homes and it would be a good idea for them to come in and answer questions to alleviate any fears. Mayor Verbosky said that over the last year he has had personal participation with the school board during the levy process and he feels the city has reached out to them over the last 1 ½ years and there has been no lack of effort on our part. This was given a first reading only.

#2011-46 – AN ORDINANCE ORDERING A MORATORIUM PREVENTING THE ISSUANCE OF ANY PERMITS, LICENSES, OR APPROVAL FOR INTERNET SWEEPSTAKES TERMINAL CAFES OR SIMILAR BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF ROSSFORD FOR A PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DAYS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Heban said that there had been prior interest shown for location an internet café in our downtown and that our current code has no regulations regarding internet cafes. He is looking at putting something together, taking it to the Planning Commission and then bringing to council and that this ordinance would prevent someone from coming in now and being grandfathered. Mr. Hermes asked about the use of the phrase “or similar businesses” and was told by Mr. Heban he is trying to keep the language as broad as possible. Mr. Scott asked if the 180 days is per statute and Mr. Heban said no but that should be enough time to get it done and if not we can always extend. Mr. Duricek asked if this affects lottery people as that is also gaming. Mr. Heban said will not affect the lottery. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion 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.

#2011-47 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THE 2011 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said the bids were opened on September 1st and analyzed by Mr. Fredrickson our city engineer, who recommended that we award the bid to Geddes Paving. This will be the paving project involving Sioux Trail, Elm Tree, and Indian Ridge. Mayor Verbosky said this is part of the effort to increase repaving in the city. Mr. Hermes said Ebony's bid was only \$400 more and would not there be some cost effectiveness in using them for both projects. Mr. Fredrickson said no as they are on two separate construction schedules with Phase I in the first part of October and Phase II at the end of October. Mrs. Eckel 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 all ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2011-48 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THE 2011 HVAC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is being funded with grant dollars and that bids were opened on September 8th. Mr. Fredrickson said his engineering estimate had been \$52,700 and that in light of the low bid he had talked to IPS and made sure they were clear on the specifications and scope of work and verified that they understood the requirements. Mr. Ciecka said there may be some contract amendments as they get into the coils and electrical systems. He also said any addition to the scope of work in order to use the remainder of the grant money could only be done after petitioning to the state. Mr. Duricek noted that this is a local company. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion 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.

RESOLUTIONS

#2011 -08 - A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF A SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Duricek moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said a public hearing had been held as required on August 8th. Mr. Hermes asked Mr. Heban about the job title and wondered if it should not be called department head. Mr. Heban said our code calls for a superintendent of public works and Mr. Ciecka preferred to keep it that way based on existing agreements with the bargaining units. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2011 -09 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said he had applied to the OPWC for a grant to resurface Glenwood Rd. last year and it was turned down. He is asking council to allow him to reapply again this year. Mr. Hermes asked for the financial numbers and was told by Mr. Fredrickson that the city share would be 41% of the project cost with the grant being approximately \$200,000. This would repave Glenwood Rd. from SR.65 to Schreier Rd. Mr. Scott asked if any matching money is coming from NWSD and was told by Mr. Ciecka that their money was factored into our local share. Mr. Fredrickson said it is a very small amount as they are using a different route for their project. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mrs. Eckel said the job done on cleaning up the Bacon St. property after the fire was excellent. Mr. Ciecka credited Mr. Drouard for getting three to four bids and seeing to it that they did an excellent job. Mrs. Eckel thanked the RBA for hosting a nice Labor Day event including the fireworks. She asked a question regarding the property between Shubies Ice Cream and Nrgie saying it is an eyesore and does not seem to be in operation. Mayor Verbosky said the property has been abandoned and is involved in a bankruptcy proceeding and that the city is working on this. She asked for a contact name for the casino project and was provided a name by Mr. Fredrickson.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to approve the Halloween Parade being held on October 30th at 2:00 pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Mackinnon seconded the motion to approve trick-or-treat night to be October 31st from 6-8pm. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Oberdorf said he was asked by Jeff Appelhans of Hannum Avenue to bring the issue of refuse containers not being replaced back far enough from the street after being emptied to council’s attention as a dangerous situation. The question was asked if he had contacted Mr. Ciecka and the answer was no. Mr. Ciecka said he will look into this.

Mr. Mackinnon congratulated and thanked the Rossford Bd. of Education on attaining an Excellent with Distinction rating. He said he had met the general manager and assistant general manager of our new Hollywood Casino.

Mr. Duricek thanked the RBA for the Fun at the Fountain/Fireworks Labor Day event.

Mr. Scott echoed those same sentiments.

Mr. Hermes said the Budget Committee will meet on 9/26 at 5:30pm prior to the regular council meeting. He also said there was a lady selling glow sticks and he had asked her if she had a permit to which she said she obtained one from the YMCA. He wondered if we had authorized and Mr. Ciecka said we had not.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Barb Weir, 1252 Grassy Ct. asked if there was any city ordinance pertaining to beggars and cited specifically a lady at the corner of Buck and Lime City Rd. this past weekend. Mr. Heban said that would fall under the city’s loitering code. Mayor Verbosky noted that this also happens along the Crossroads Parkway. Mr. Heban said he would follow-up with Chief Vespi.

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council