

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held September 26, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mayor William J. Verbosky Jr. and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of September 12, 2011. Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of September 26, 2011 was presented to council. Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION: Donavon O'Neil, the Northwest Ohio regional representative for the Auditor of State Dave Yost presented an award to Karen Freeman, Finance Director for the City of Rossford. This auditor of state award with distinction is only given to those entities that file an annual CAFR and timely financial reports as well as receive a clean financial audit. He said this is a testament to the clean and accurate record-keeping and the commitment to accountability of Mrs. Freeman. Mr. Marquette asked how many of these awards are given out and was told a total of seven in the NW Ohio region. Mayor Verbosky congratulated Mrs. Freeman and said this is the second year in a row we have received this award and it demonstrates our commitment to open government.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky presented an engraved clock to Norm Heban who is retiring after 37 years of service to the city and said he has been the right hand man for Dave Jones. He congratulated the Rossford football team who ended their losing streak last week and said it was nice to see them back in the win column. He congratulated Perrysburg Township trustee Craig Lahote for receiving this years Rossford High School Award of Distinction. Mr. Ciecka noted that this week begins the city- wide brush pickup.

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.
SECOND READING.

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky asked for an update on where the school board was with this and Mr. Ciecka said they are still going forward. Mr. Heban said this can go three readings and Mr. Ciecka said since there were a number of questions on this at the last meeting he had asked Ruth Ann Schaefer, executive director of Habitat for Humanity to attend and respond. She said she is new and only on the job three weeks. She explained that Habitat's mission is to provide decent shelter in partnership with communities by providing new homes or revitalizing homes. They offer no interest mortgages based on a cost to the homeowner of \$75,000 plus 500 hours of sweat equity. She is glad to be here and to find out our needs. Mr. Marquette said we have money out on this property already and asked her to walk us through the process. Ms. Schaefer said the city gets money through the payment of real estate tax, that Habitat holds a second mortgage so that they have the first right of refusal as well as servicing the mortgage themselves. Selected families for housing are at 60% of the area median income and the property is usually donated but they are open to negotiate a purchase price. Mr. Scott asked how many square feet the home is and was told about 1200 sq. feet, no basement, and no garage with a 3 bedroom home the base but up to 5 bedrooms available depending on family size. He also asked if there were any current potential homeowners and was told that there are several in process. Mrs. Eckel asked if these are local families and was told no but it will be a family that wants to live in Rossford. Mrs. Eckel also asked if they use a standard set of plans for the design and was told no that plans are done in partnership with the community based on building codes and area. All homes are stick-built and built to Energy Star standards complete with donated appliances from Whirlpool. Mr. Mackinnon asked if a criminal background check is performed on partner families and was told yes. Mr. Hermes said he would like to know the

number of empty lots Habitat has available today, the number of houses they have taken back, and budgetary numbers for the local Habitat office. Mrs. Schaefer said no houses have ever been taken back, she will check on the inventory of empty lots they have, and get back to him with the budget numbers. She said the staff consists of her and a ½ day a week bookkeeper. She also noted that Habitat is the #6 homebuilder in the U.S. right now. Mrs. Eckel asked about the revitalization program and was told this is currently being explored by the Wood County Board. This was given a second reading only.

#2011 –49 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said the city health benefits contract expires October 1st and that these are the new rates based on the benefit plan of 100% that is part of the union contracts. He said city employees participate in by paying 10% of the premium for single coverage, 15% for two-party coverage, and 20% for family coverage with the average being employees paying about 16% of the premium. He said the new rate reflects about a 25% increase and that we offer a Health Savings Account program that only five employees are using. Mayor Verbosky noted that SB5 mandated employees pay 15% of the cost and our average already exceeds that. Mr. Hermes said this was talked about in budget committee and the increase will cost the city approximately \$60-70,000 more. We would need \$3m more in payroll to collect enough at 2.5% to cover that and since that will not happen this increase will need to be covered by the general fund. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott 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 Mr. Scott seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2011 – 50 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PURCHASE GENERAL LIABILITY AND PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said council approved a three year contract in 2009 and this is the final year renewal. The original ordinance required that he bring the renewals back to council for approval. Mr. Hermes inquired if the city had many claims and Mr. Ciecka said fortunately not. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott 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 Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

#2011-11 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMOUNT AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this is an annual exercise required by the auditor. Mr. Ciecka said earlier we forwarded a revenue estimate in July and these are the rates as accepted by the Wood County Budget Commission. Mr. Hermes said this is a result of our estimate given to the county auditor that they confirm with real numbers and return to us and this is a required formality. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Scott 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 Mr. Scott seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mrs. Eckel congratulated the RHS football team on their victory, commented regarding the email and pictures from Mr. Drouard regarding the Mandell Rd. ditch, and asked for an update on the abandoned property between Shubies and Nrgie and was told by the mayor that it is in bankruptcy and he is following the proceedings carefully. He said we may have to have city crews clean up the property again.

Mr. Marquette wondered why we could not list the vacant Bacon St. property while we wait for further action. He would feel better if we made some effort to sell it and recoup some of our costs. He holds Habitat in the highest regard but feels we owe the public the effort of selling the property. Mayor Verbosky thinks this would be complicated by the school owning some adjacent parcels and the demolition cost of \$8,000 is shared by the school. Mr. Hermes said the Budget committee will meet on November 14th at 5:30pm. and offered his apologies for missing the upcoming Candidates night, as he will be out of town on business.

Mr. Scott said the marina committee will meet on October 10th at 5:30pm and requested a committee of the whole meeting to discuss restructuring the standing committees of council. He provided council with a draft resolution regarding the proposed lease of the turnpike and asked council members to review. Mayor Verbosky said that the Wood County commissioners have also expressed their concern over this issue and he has also talked to our state senator and representative expressing the city's concerns over potential loss of revenue from state cuts, loss of estate tax, and loss of payroll tax from turnpike employees.

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to hold a committee of the whole meeting on October 3rd for the purpose of discussing standing committees of council. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Duricek asked if anything had been done about the loitering issue on Buck Rd. and Mr. Ciecka said he had talked to Chief Vespi. Mr. Duricek said he has found information regarding construction site mitigation plans that he forwarded to Mr. Ciecka to try to resolve the problem on Glenwood Rd. from the Stansley property. He said he had sent a letter to the state attorney general's office regarding the casino and had received a call from BCI that indicated they had no idea of adjacency of the casino to Rossford. Mr. Duricek said we will have problems with crime in the city from the casino and has talked to Chief Vespi and Mr. Ciecka regarding this. He feels we will have a huge security issue with cars and additional traffic in the city. Mayor Verbosky said the city has recognized there will be impact to Rossford and have held some meetings with Penn and all along expressed our concerns about being in effect a second host city without sharing in any additional revenue other than that distributed by Wood County.

Mr. Mackinnon offered his congratulations also to Mrs. Freeman, Mr. Heban, and the RHS football team.

Mr. Oberdorf suggested that all political candidates make themselves aware of the rules regarding placing of political signs, asked about the status of two properties on Glenwood Rd., and said with the addition of all the new equipment at the Recreation Center it is as nice as any small health club you could find. Mr. Ciecka said the one property is part of an action in process initiated by the Wood County Health Dept. and has a pre-trial scheduled for October. Mayor Verbosky said the Hofbauer property is winding through probate.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Barb Weir, 1252 Grassy Ct. wondered why the city waited until the last minute to put the health benefit ordinance on the agenda. Mr. Ciecka explained it is very difficult to get proposals and quotes on health insurance and thus it ends up being right at the deadline. He said this process started over six weeks ago and we do have other proposals but not at the level our contracts require.

Jack Rossler, 138 Windsor said he has a problem with people having large open fires in their backyards. Mayor Verbosky said we do have an ordinance regarding open burning and the police should be contacted. Mr. Ciecka will check the ordinance and report back to council at the next meeting.

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council