

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held October 8, 2007

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

Council observed a moment of silence in respect of the death of Alice Bauer, mother of former mayor Louis Bauer Jr.

ROLL CALL: Richards, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Hermes, Michaels and Kovach all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of September 24, 2007. 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 October 8, 2007 was presented to council. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Ciecka said the marina will close on 10/14, that the fire contract was not signed by the union due to the direct deposit of checks clause and that the contract would go to a fact-finder, that they are still trying to contact the fact-finder for the police contract, and that they are looking for dates to begin negotiations on the AFSCME contract. He asked council to note the letter to the editor in the Rossford Record from the postmaster, said he will be gone the next three days for training on storm water programs, and told council that new countertops had been installed in the city hall kitchen.

Mayor Verbosky noting last weeks article in the Rossford Record said that the downtown revitalization grant project had been put on hold for a year, as businesses are not ready to commit. He said the city will work one to one with businesses over the next year who are interested in order to put together a solid grant application. He thanked Dave Jones and his department for a successful brush pick-up program, mentioned the marina grant that was received and thanked Ken Sczesniak for putting the application together, and said the planning commission will meet Wednesday Oct. 10th to look at plans for another hotel in the Crossroads. The mayor noted the ordinance on the agenda asking to change the name of Arena Drive to Bass Pro Blvd and said he had received some information regarding TARTA ridership numbers that he had placed in council's mailbox. He said he had received a letter from the Wood County Commissioners in regards to the Northwood property behind Jennison Dr. asking what they could do to rectify the situation and said the letter was also sent to the Northwood Mayor and Administrator. He also received a letter from Governor Strickland introducing Eileen Granata as the Regional Economic Development Director.

Mrs. Eckel questioned the TARTA ridership numbers and the mayor said he is just reporting the numbers given him but he will recheck them.

CORRESPONDENCE

One letter was received from the Rossford DECA chapter thanking city officials for their donation of \$200 to be used towards the annual Halloween parade.

ORDINANCES

#2007-36 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE 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. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2007-37 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO A STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS TOLLING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PERRYSBURG TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF ROSSFORD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. THIRD READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards asked if there had been any change in the situation involving this ordinance and was there any need for an emergency clause. Mr. Heban said there was no change in the circumstances prompting this ordinance and that it did not need to be passed as an emergency. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2007-40 – AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF ARENA DRIVE TO BASS PRO BOULEVARD.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said that Bass Pro has been asking what their address would be. He said on the preliminary plat for the road from Crossroads Parkway to the Bass Pro site it was designated Bass Pro Boulevard. He is bringing this forward to council and has already contacted the Carpenters Union who said they would have no problem with an address change. Mrs. Eckel said she would like this to go through the readings so that anyone who objects may do so. This was given a first reading only.

RESOLUTIONS

#2007-09 – A RESOLUTION ADOPTING SELECTED POLICIES FOR THE CITY OF ROSSFORD POLICY MANUAL RELATING TO USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT, EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND PERSONNEL. This resolution was tabled after three readings and given a date of October 8 to bring back to council. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards continues to have a problem with the language that limits political activities of employees. He understands that it conforms to state law but it seems to deprive employees of certain rights and would like clarified. Mr. Heban has not researched this issue totally but feels that the state law would override any city ordinance. He feels that the statute protects employees from being pressured by the city administration from campaigning for a particular candidate or issue. Mr. Richards is conflicted with the definition of partisan versus non-partisan and would still like to see this clarified further as he thinks this limits rights of employees. Mayor Verbosky described the background of the ordinance to the audience. Mr. Heban said the law department is not taking a position that the language should be in there. Mr. Hermes also questioned the language limiting political activity and Mr. Ciecka responded that the definition of partisan/non-partisan is crucial to understanding this and that Rossford elections are non-partisan. Mr. Michaels also would like to see further clarification of this issue. Mr. Richards still is not ready to accept the reasoning behind this. Mr. Ciecka suggested that the resolution be amended omitting the political activity section and adding an amendment concerning public records. Mr. Marquette thinks whether we pass this or not with the political activity language that the ORC will still prevail.

**Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to amend the resolution to delete Section 2.3 of the policy manual. Vote on the motion was Richards, Kovach, Michaels, Hermes, Eckel aye and Marquette and Oberdorf nay. Motion carried 5-2. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to amend the resolution to add Section 4 regarding public records law to the policy manual. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to adopt as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Oberdorf said that he had attended the transit forum and then passed out a list of transit issues formulated at previous meetings and specifically referenced the needs of the elderly not being fulfilled. He will distribute the minutes of that meeting when received and said he would appreciate any input from council before the next transit meeting.

Mr. Richards also attended the transit forum and said one of the final points was raised by Wood County Commissioner Carter who asked what entities are providing transportation services in various forms and how much money is being spent by specific groups. Mr. Richards also attended the fire department open house this evening and said it was a rewarding experience, said that he had been assured by the postmaster that the realignment of carrier service will have no impact on the local retail post office services and that any changes won't be notices by the community, and congratulated the administration and public works for a fine job on brush pick-up this fall. He said he noted only one or two instances of people violating the intent of the service.

Mr. Michaels said that in April of this year in discussing TARTA he had stated that the Wood County Committee of Aging provided transportation services. He wished to clarify that only one person provides transportation services for the agency north of Rt. 20.

Mr. Hermes asked Mr. Heban if he had any response yet regarding the Lyden Oil reimbursement and was told he should have answer in a few days. Mr. Hermes asked Mr. Ciecka how our 6% hotel/motel tax compares to others and was told that Lucas County charges 10%. Mr. Hermes said we need to look at adjusting ours.

Mr. Marquette asked if the weather had any effect on the brush pick-up and Mr. Ciecka said not any that he was aware of any. Mayor Verbosky said it seemed very orderly this year.

Mrs. Eckel asked if leaf pick-up starts on 10/15 and was told either then or the following week. She also congratulated the public works and fire department for a job well done. She said she had attended the last tree commission meeting and the commission was supportive of restarting the plantings in the boulevard. They discussed alternative plantings that would be drought resistant, perennials versus annuals, using mulch, sponsors and donations. They agreed that past experience shows that adopting a garden is not a good idea and suggested using Penta to get three different landscape plans.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Jeff Appelhans, 177 Hannum, Rossford, OH. said he several issues to bring to the attention of council; 1) he is concerned about the quality of the work done on Hannum Ave. and thinks the slurry seal is of inferior quality, 2) since the city is going to wait for a year to apply for the revitalization grant he wants to know if another fee will be involved and said the city should get the RBA to commit again, 3) he questioned if the policy manual covers the personal use of a police car by the police chief and said the city should be concerned whether the chief is using it for personal reasons in Pemberville and asked if that adds additional liability, 4) he asked if the demolition of some of the old Pilkington buildings would cause a reduction in taxes collected by the city. Mr. Hermes responded it probably would and Mayor Verbosky said some minimal decrease in tax value could be expected. The mayor also responded that the RBA was the lead group in getting the initial revitalization grant and it is not up to them to pay but that they did contribute to the initial process.

Paul Nawrocki, 1129 Schreir Rd., Rossford, OH. said that the signs at the marina regarding feeding water fowl have the word fowl misspelled. He brought in one of the signs as an example.

Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council

