

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held October 24, 2005

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, Jakubec, and Kovach all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of October 10, 2005. Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried. Approval of special council meeting minutes of October 11, 2005. Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of October 10, 2005 was presented to council. Executive session to discuss pending and imminent litigation with Perrysburg Township added. Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Jakubec presented the recreation committee meeting report of October 20, 2005. Items discussed were efforts to obtain a cost estimate from Poggemeyer for the building repairs, vandalism at Beech St. Park and the receipt of a grant from Wood County Park District for a swing set and safety surfacing at Bacon St. Park. Mrs. Sloan with the agreement of the committee is going to inquire if that grant money can be used for repairs to the Bruns Tot Lot instead. Mr. Gary Yoder will be submitting a letter of resignation to the board due to time constraints in his personal schedule. A request from Mr. Yoder regarding placing his son in a higher league for the 2006 baseball season was also received and a recommendation will be made by Mr. Baumgartner after the spring clinic. Mrs. Jakubec commended the public works and recreation departments on the excellent condition of the parks and the recreation committee agreed to support the city tax levy.

Mr. Oberdorf inquired if Mr. Ciecka had been able to contact Poggemeyer yet and was told a cost estimate should be received by Friday afternoon, October 28th.

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 reminded everyone of the Halloween Parade to be held Sunday, October 30th at 2:00 and commended the Rossford DECA for handling the parade arrangements again this year. He congratulated and thanked Chris Nietrzeba, the night custodian, on her pending retirement at the end of this month after 26 years and expressed condolences to Mr. Ciecka on the death of his father-in-law. He told council that a report from the Secretary of State's office regarding the state issues on the November ballot was available at the front desk or on the State's website, said signs supporting the city tax levy were available for anyone who wanted, and said he has a vendor inspecting the police cars who will give a report on their condition and asked that Ordinance #2005-32 be given a second reading only pending this report.

Mr. Ciecka said the marina is now closed with one boat assessed a charge for late removal. He then presented information regarding the 2006 budget explaining he is preparing a budget with the levy passing and one without the levy passage. He also said the 2006 budget would be affected by the potential cost of a performance audit and that he is working on setting up meetings with the budget committee to review. He indicated that in working on the budget he has seen that since 2001 the revenue has remained basically flat

while operating expenses i.e. wages and benefits have increased 17% of which over half is from health care cost. He said that since the beginning of 2004 through the end of 2005 he anticipates a total reduction in wage and benefit cost of \$300,000 through the reduction of part-time hours, layoffs, and retirements. In addition the city has not purchased any police vehicles since 2000, no public works equipment has been replaced or purchased since 2001, no road resurfacing projects have been done since 2002, the unions deferred one year of negotiated wage increases, and non-union employees have had no wage increases in two years. The city also instituted a one year refuse fee. Passage of the proposed tax levy would probably mean the expiration of the refuse fee, some vehicles being purchased, and roads resurfaced. Mayor Verbosky said the reduction in staff was probably the biggest item in balancing the 2005 budget and even though hard to do needed to be done. He said the levy needs to be passed so that items deferred can be done. Mr. Oberdorf asked if a worst case scenario has been prepared if the levy fails and how will that information be given to the general public. Mr. Ciecka said a door flyer has been prepared for distribution prior to the election and Mayor Verbosky said he will have a letter to the editor in the Rossford Record. Mayor Verbosky said he had instructed Mr. Ciecka to maintain contact with Ms. Bashore of the Auditor's office to keep a time slot available for the performance audit pending the election and how much money council authorizes to spend on the audit.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE #2005-32 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky asked that this be given a second reading pending receipt of the report being done on vehicle condition. Mrs. Eckel asked if this wasn't already scheduled for auction on Saturday and the mayor said it had been cancelled. This was given a second reading

ORDINANCE #2005-34 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 1323.04 AND 1171.03 ON FENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SWIMMING POOLS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this came about because of some problems with the inflatable (blue) pools and our 48 inch fence requirement. He said that insurance companies say that a 42 inch fence is adequate. Mr. Hermes asked if existing 42 inch fences could be grandfathered and only new fences required to be 48 inches and was told by Mr. Heban this could be done. Mrs. Eckel said she is not in favor of grandfathering because of potential ways to misuse this option. She also did some research and found that 48 inch fences are readily available; the national building codes recommend a 48 inch fence, the Ohio Revised Code calls for a 48 inch fence for public pools with the height requirement based on the documented ability of children under the age of five to climb over certain heights. Mr. Oberdorf commended Mrs. Eckel for her research in this matter and said he had looked at other cities requirements using the internet and found that the majority of cities in Ohio require a 48 inch fence. He is not opposed to change if done for the right reason but does not believe we should lower our standards in this matter. This was given a second reading

ORDINANCE #2005-35 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A PERFORMANCE AUDIT BY THE AUDITOR OF STATE, PERFORMANCE AUDITS SECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved that the ordinance be tabled until the next meeting until the funding question is answered. Mayor Verbosky said he has told Mr. Ciecka to keep the time slot open pending funding issues and recommended that this be given a second reading only. Mr. Richards withdrew his motion. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. This was given a second reading.

ORDINANCE #2005-36 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN SURPLUS PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is hose no longer needed by the Rossford Fire Dept. and is to be donated to another political subdivision and to the Explorer Post. Mr. Hermes asked if this material meets adequate standards. Chief Verbosky said the hose to be used by the Explorers does not have to meet standards because it will not be used for live-saving and the hose being given to Washington Twp. has been tested and passed. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were requested and none made. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE #2005-37 – AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,000 FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FOR THE ROSSFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURES OF GRANT FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Jakubec seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is a grant that requires a \$5000 match from the city and will be used to purchase air masks. This ordinance accepts the FEMA grant and asks for a supplemental appropriation to cover the total cost of \$111, 337 with the additional funds coming from the fire levy money. 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. Richards seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Hermes said there will be a finance committee meeting on November 10th at 6:00, thanked Larry's Auto for volunteering to inspect the police vehicles at no charge, thanked the people working on getting the levy information out, and said that by the next meeting he will try to have a summary prepared of previous performance audits for council's review.

Mrs. Eckel said she saw the TARTA Call-A-Ride in Rossford and was glad to see people were using the service. She also commented on the email from Todd Kitzler from Iraq and was glad to hear he is doing well, thanked Chris Nietrzeba for her years of service, and said a safety committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Mr. Oberdorf said he was also glad to hear from Officer Kitzler that progress was being made in training the Iraq troops and thanked the individual or group responsible for the large levy signs. He said he

respected what Mr. Hermes was doing in reviewing the prior audits but he thinks that this audit needs to be handled by experts. He said he had received a letter from a Rossford citizen regarding the Row House development and appreciated the effort it took to work on this information. Mayor Verbosky said an engineering study is being done on this issue.

Mr. Richards reminded candidates that no campaign signs are to be placed in the tree lawns between the curb and sidewalk.

Mrs. Eckel questioned the Row House development and the third story. Mayor Verbosky said it is not a third story but that the two stories are above the garage. Mr. Ciecka said that it does not exceed the city height requirement.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Jim Verbosky, 303 Jennings, Rossford, said that at the last meeting part-time departments had been mentioned as contributing to the city budget problems. He said that as the fire department is the only part-time department in the city he would welcome a performance audit being done on the fire department. He is not worried about anything it would show and said as Chief he had applied for six grants this year with three granted.

Leonard Michaels, Dixie Hwy., Rossford, suggested that council consider an ordinance limiting the number of unrelated persons able to live in a dwelling as Toledo has. He said this may prevent problems with rentals in the proposed Row House development.

Pam Simenski, 171 Maple St., Rossford, asked how much money was in the Star Ohio fund and wondered why it could not be used to fund the performance audit. Mr. Hermes explained that this is a government secured fund that holds money the city does not need currently but it is money that has already been appropriated for later expenses.

Tony Koprowski, 545 Maybar, Rossford, said he supports the city tax levy based on what he has heard in attending city council meetings over the last several months.

At this time Chris Nietrzeba who is retiring from her position with the city entered the chambers and was presented with a plaque and gift certificate by Mayor Verbosky on behalf of the city.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to go into executive session. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council