

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held November 10, 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, and Michaels all present. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to excuse Mr. Kovach. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of October 27, 2008. 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 November 10, 2008 was presented to council. Reports from the Budget and Marina committees and an executive session to discuss water contract negotiations and pending litigation with Perrysburg were added to the agenda. Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Hermes presented the Budget; Ways & Means committee minutes of October 27th, 2008 (see attached minutes). Mayor Verbosky said that the Wood County Visitors Bureau had met with the RBA earlier this year and provided some information as to how the city might be able to work with Wood County and/or the RBA in handling this. Mr. Michaels asked if the city is currently deficient in collecting taxes and was told by Mr. Hermes that there are always some unpaid taxes and that the proposed agency-RITA- has a strong record and offers improvements in collection based on their partnering with the IRS and having other resources available. Mayor Verbosky said that we currently have one person handling all of the approximately 8600 accounts. Mr. Michaels asked how much RITA would cost and was told by Mr. Hermes about \$50-60,000.

Mr. Michaels gave a verbal report on the Marina committee meeting held today. He said this was an urgent meeting to review the November 5th Bowser Mourner report on the dredging project. Additional funds of \$54,000 are needed to finish the project and there is only \$20,000 remaining in the marina fund. He questioned whether the city could afford to fund the remainder from the general fund or whether to just dredge two hot spots and not finish entire marina. He is awaiting a cost for doing that and then will present it to council. He also said that DNR has no additional funds to give us. Mayor Verbosky asked what alternatives we had and was told by Mr. Michaels we could 1) do nothing, 2) clean up the two hot spots, or 3) have the general fund cover the shortfall. He also reported that some pipes will need to be replaced and that Mr. Jones is looking at reconfiguring the marina with fewer docks, wider spaces, and fewer pipes. Mr. Marquette said the pipes are an additional \$16,000 cost. Mrs. Eckel questioned whether the pipes were damaged prior to or during their removal and was told by Mr. Ciecka they were already damaged underwater when removed. They had been in since 1980. Mr. Oberdorf said we learned a valuable lesson in that the initial soundings were different from the final sounding probably due to the two year delay. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to accept the committee reports as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Verbosky said he received information on the soft opening of the new Country Inn Suites on November 17th and that the official grand opening would be in March. He said the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be held on November 30th.

Mr. Ciecka said he had attended the latest TMACOG transit forum and heard a presentation of their comprehensive report which included the fact that ridership has increased and that TARTA is the only system supported by property taxes. In January 2009 the report will be presented at public meetings. He also attended the Wood County Economic Development Meeting on November 5th and heard a presentation regarding alternative fuel choices to generate electricity. He notified council that the WCED will hold their Christmas party on December 4th from 4-6pm at the Holiday Inn French Quarter. He said that public works is making final repairs to storm sewer system, that leaf collection is ongoing, and that 200 tons of road salt have been delivered. Mr. Hermes asked if all road repairs have been completed and was told yes. Mr. Oberdorf noted that Randy Gardner's bill on public transportation has died because the larger cities in Ohio fund their public transportation differently.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

2008-58 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF EXERCISE EQUIPMENT FOR THE ROSSFORD RECREATION CENTER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka asked that the bidding requirement be waived as this ordinance is for specific equipment from a specific manufacturer. Mr. Richards said he had reviewed the background material provided as well as the recreation committee minutes and was prepared to move forward. Mr. Hermes asked about the limited time offer for used equipment from the closed Holiday Park and was told by Mr. Kovasevic that the lower priced items were already purchased i.e. 12 spinning bikes for \$2700. He said new ones cost \$1000 each and on E-Bay used ones go for \$400-500 each. Mrs. Eckel asked how long it will take to get the new equipment and was told by Mr. Kovasevic that the cardio-waves are built on order and take about 8-12 weeks. He said the other equipment will be shipped within 2 weeks. Mr. Richards 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. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2008-59 - AN ORDINANCE COMBINING FUNDS FOR FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Eckel moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this allows two separate funds to be merged into one combined fund. Mr. Hermes said the combined balance of the two funds amounts to \$2,000. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards 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. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2008-60 - 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

Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said that council had received the information provided by Mr. Ciecka and Mrs. Freeman. Mr. Ciecka said work began on this ordinance in July. He said that based on the current national economy being at high alert that council may have to amend this at some point. He said that estimates of general fund revenues had been decreased with no additional debt added, existing debt still being reduced, and gasoline tax revenues projected to be unchanged. On the expense side the budget reflects the 2% and 3% increases in payroll, asks for funding of one part-time police officer in addition to one new full-time, and refuse collection still being paid through the general fund. New proposals include \$300,000 in sewer improvements paid for by depleting the sewer fund. Capital improvement items include \$100,000 for road repairs, \$80,000 for a new roof on the police station, and \$60,000 for two new police cars. He said that the budget tried to address the concerns of council. He noted that of the \$4.7million budget 34% can be attributed to police and that he is really concerned about the economy saying that four manufacturers are in the cities top ten taxpayers and all four are related to the auto industry. He said that our workers comp premium had increased to \$200,000 from only \$20,000 four years ago. Mayor Verbosky said that he talked about raising water/sewer rates early in his first term and that it is a never ending battle to pay for replacing aging infrastructure. Mr. Hermes showed a graph of the 3.5m levy and said that the city is spending money on the things it said it would i.e. computer system which reaffirms that what was promised is being done. This was given a first reading only.

#2008-61 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN R.I.T.A., A REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR INCOME TAX COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said that council had received a memo from Karen Freeman outlining the reasons for this resolution. Mr. Marquette asked Kathy Shelt how she feels about this. Mrs. Shelt said she was not invited to participate in the presentation by R.I.T.A. that she is not against it but does not think the city can afford to do this at this time. Mr. Ciecka said he does not think the city can afford not to do this and that the officials from R.I.T.A. will make themselves available to talk to council. Mr. Marquette asked what tax collection entails. Karen Freeman said that Kathy does a great job but we have too many accounts to be handled by just one person. Mr. Hermes asked how many tax accounts there were and was told 8900. Mayor Verbosky said we need to spend the money to see how much were missing. Mr. Ciecka said that R.I.T.A. currently handles 44 cities and 44 counties. Mr. Michaels would

like the R.I.T.A. official to come in so that council has the opportunity to ask them questions. Mr. Hermes explained that R.I.T.A is a government agency, not a profit-making business and that they are audited by the state of Ohio. Mayor Verbosky said he will have Mr. Ciecka and Mrs. Freeman set it up with the first choice being the next council meeting. This was given a first reading only.

RESOLUTIONS

#2008-23 - A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF AGNES LANGEVIN TO THE STREET TREE COMMISSION

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this is a reappointment. Mr. Richards 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. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2008-24 - RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ROSSFORD POLICY MANUAL RELATING TO PURCHASING AUTHORITIES.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this is a policy drafted to allow department heads to requisition up to \$250. Mr. Richards said this was discussed thoroughly at and supported by the budget committee. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards 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. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Richards said he had sat in on the marina committee meeting this evening and it reminded him that the public is often not aware of the additional meetings and times council members meet in addition to the twice monthly meetings. As an example he referenced the number of times and the depth of the meetings held by the recreation committee over the last year and noted that other committees do the same. He suggested that the marina committee look at possibly franchising or privatizing the marina as a way to reduce cost.

Mrs. Eckel scheduled a public works committee meeting for November 17th at 6:30pm.

Mr. Marquette noted that it appears that FedEx lived up to its promises in building the parking area adjacent to the turnpike. He said the berm and trees look very nice. Mayor Verbosky said the neighbors in the area should appreciate that effort.

Mr. Hermes asked about the vacant former 7/11 property and the newly vacant former Muffler Bros. property. Mayor Verbosky said he has had several individuals contact him who are interested in the 7/11 property but that the sale price appears to be set very high and that possibly the owner is using as a tax loss item. Mr. Ciecka said that the operator of Muffler Bros. had a chance to open a new store in his hometown of Dayton and that is why this one was closed.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Jeff Appelhans, 177 Hannum Ave., questioned whether the new voluntary waste management plan would allow someone to have unlimited pickup as long as they were willing to pay the monthly charge for additional containers. Mayor Verbosky said the city would need to review and also get some experience with the program. Mr. Appelhans also said the street sweeper is losing bristles from its brushes and that these 10 inch steel bristles are unsafe. He was told that new brushes have been ordered.

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

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel 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

