

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held November 12, 2007

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, Michaels and Kovach all present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of October 22, 2007. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of November 12, 2007 was presented to council. An executive session to discuss the sale and/or lease of property was added. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes 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 the voters for their support in his reelection and also over the last four years. He congratulated the incumbents on their reelection and said he looks forward to the next four years. He thanked DECA for their sponsorship of the Halloween parade as well as the public works, police, and county sheriff departments for their assistance. He reminded council of the Wood County Economic Development Committee open house on November 27th and of the planning commission meeting on November 14th. He said the planning commission meeting will consist of two issues 1) the rezoning of the area south of Mandell requested by Fed Ex and a request by Wendy's for a building permit behind the Giant Eagle store. The mayor said he had personally walked the area involved in the Fed Ex request and attended a meeting last week that addressed the adjacent property owners questions and concerns. He asked council to give him a list of their three committee requests before the next council meeting and to address the questions of whether the marina committee should be rolled into another committee and how to give more focus to long range zoning issues in committees. He personally feels that the marina committee should be kept separate and that the economic development committee's duties should be expanded to address the long range issues. Mr. Hermes said he would also like to see the treasurer duties addressed and added to. Mayor Verbosky said that can be looked at and that council should also consider a charter amendment to eliminate the position.

Mr. Ciecka said he had been informed by Chief Vespi that the police department had been awarded a grant by the Department of Justice that will reimburse the city for some of the costs associated with the replacement of bulletproof vests. He said he had been notified by the Wood County Planning Commission that only one bid had been received for the Roland Ct. project and it was rejected as was over the estimate. This project will be rebid. He said he has been busy answering questions regarding the Fed Ex rezoning request and also working on the 2008 budget. He said if council has any questions to please stop and see him.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Recreation Director Patricia Sloan was read, which was her formal statement of retirement effective December 31, 2007. Mayor Verbosky said Pat has been an exceptional employee through the thick and thin times of the city and significant budget challenges and she will be sorely missed.

ORDINANCES

#2007-42 – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND FOR FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING AMENDING ORDINANCE #2006-55 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SECOND READING

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka again informed council that this will create a separate fund for storm water management. Mr. Michaels asked if any money had been spent on this yet and how much is in the fund now. Mr. Ciecka said no money had been spent and that the fund would have \$40,000 in it at this time. Mr. Richards stated that this is an accounting step and no new money is involved. This was given a second reading only.

#2007-43 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND FOR FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING OF ACCRUED COMPENSATION, AMENDING ORDINANCE #2006-55 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this ordinance will address unaccounted liabilities for accrued sick time that upon retirement can be cashed out. This fund will be appropriated to annually so that the operating budget will not be taking a major hit when a claim is made. The accrued compensation balance is reported in the annual financial report and this will fund the anticipated claims. The mayor said this was looked at a couple months ago and is a big hit item that is not budgeted for and gave an example of when Officer Hamilton retired the claim having to be spread out in annual payments. Mr. Hermes said this was talked about several times in the budget committee and asked if this will require the city to fund and whether the funds can be transferred if there is a more emergent need. Mr. Ciecka said no, the city will not have to fund, it will just create the fund, and that by action of council the funds could be transferred. He said the city is looking at funding on a modified accrual basis at \$35,000 in the budget. Mr. Richards said he always felt that this was a personnel cost that was not accurately reflected in the budget. Mayor Verbosky said this is another piece to the long range planning. Mr. Michaels said this sound like a good idea and asked how this is accrued. He was told sick time is accrued monthly and carried over and that vacation time is paid out at the end of the year. Mr. Oberdorf said this is a prudent and fiscally responsible thing to do. This was given a first reading only.

#2007-44 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF THE 2007 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN BUDGET AND EXPENSE ITEMS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said this ordinance is for transfers to keep the 2007 budget balanced and also to eliminate three funds that are no longer needed. He said it is meant for multiple readings. This was given a first reading only.

#2007-45 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR WORK PERFORMED ON THE SR 795 LIFT STATION EXCEEDING LIMITS IN ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE 113.01; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said he had authorized a work order to do protective coatings on a storage tank at the SR795 lift station. The cost of lining exceeded the initial estimate which was under his \$10,000 approval limit and thus he is coming to council for approval after the fact. Mr. Richards said the action was prudent and a number of council members knew it was being done and that this should be passed tonight with the emergency clause. Mr. Marquette asked how long this will extend the life of the tank. Mr. Ciecka said he does not know the expected additional life expectancy but it should be a number of years. 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. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2007-46 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka said each council member had received a memo from him outlining the 2008 budget. He said the 2008 budget shows some revenue increases, a \$185,000 increase in the general fund, significant funds being placed into the street and curb improvement fund, \$49,000 for a one-ton dump truck, \$30,000 to replace the fifteen year old financial software, replacement of the roof on the police station, no water, sewer, or marina rate increases, wages budgeted to increase by 2%, and an aggressive paydown on short term debt i.e. Recreation Center. Mr. Hermes said the budget committee met with Karen Freeman and Mr. Ciecka several weeks ago and went through the budget by line item over several hours. The budget is consistent with tackling infrastructure expenses and reducing debt and not looking to add back any things that were cut yet. The goal is to budget so that the 3.5 levy will not need to be renewed. Mr. Richards said that last year he had said how impressed he was with the clarity of the budget proposal and said clearly it can be seen the progress the city is making. Mayor Verbosky said the city still faces challenges such as negotiating a new water agreement with Toledo next year. He thanked Mr. Ciecka, Mrs. Freeman, and the budget committee for their hard work. Mrs. Eckel asked what the effect the performance audit had on the budget process and was told by Mr. Ciecka it was used and looked at. He said it was a major focus during the collective bargaining process. Mr. Hermes said the investment policy passed earlier this year was the result of the performance audit. Mrs. Eckel requested that Mrs. Freeman make every effort to attend council meetings despite her class schedule. Mr. Hermes said a significant risk not in the 2008 budget is the 795/Oregon Rd. water issue.

RESOLUTIONS

None

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Marquette extended his thanks to all those who came out and voted and congratulated all those elected. Mrs. Eckel congratulated all those reelected and DECA for putting on a spectacular Halloween parade. She also thanked all those Rossford businesses that participated in the morning trick or treat parade. Mayor Verbosky thanked the Rossford Record for coordinating that event. She said there was some confusion regarding no parking signs and some other issues. She recommended using a form that all the departments would review as to what their responsibilities would be before any event. She scheduled a public safety meeting for December 10th at 5:45pm.

Mr. Oberdorf said he is still working with Pat Sloan on some type of recognition for those who perform voluntary functions for the city.

Mr. Richards congratulated all the winning candidates. He hoped that everyone had taken time to read the letter from Mr. Staczek regarding the Fed Ex issue. He said it is good that we make people aware that we are listening to the phone calls and letters and are continuing to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Hermes asked Mr. Heban about the status of the reimbursement from Lyden Oil and was told that the firm of Eastman & Smith is negotiating with Lyden Oil and that he has no update at this time.

Mr. Michaels asked Mr. Ciecka if there had been a response to the letter sent to the railroad and was told no. He asked Mr. Heban if there was anything that could be done about the color paint used on the side of the building on Superior St. and was told there was nothing in any ordinance that could prevent this.

Mr. Kovach congratulated everyone on last Tuesday's election. He said it seems that the concerns of residents near the proposed Fed Ex staging area seem to be being addressed. He said the big concern was access to Bates Road and was told by Mayor Verbosky trucks would not be using this road that access would be via I-75.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Jack Roesler, Windsor Drive, Rossford, had a question regarding the disposal and recycling of compact fluorescent bulbs and said taking them to Bowling Green was not practical. Mayor Verbosky said the city will follow-up on this issue.

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

William Verbosky Jr.
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council