

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting  
Held November 14, 2005

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of October 24, 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. Reports from Budget committee and Tree commission added. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Jakubec seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET, WAYS, AND MEANS

Mr. Hermes presented the Budget Committee report of November 10, 2005. Items discussed were the 2006 budget in detail, audit ideas from previous performance audits, 2004 fire improvement levy spending, reimbursement for the sewer breach in front of Subway, and a performance review process for non-union staff. The committee thanked the voters and all those involved in the passage of the 3.5 mill tax levy. Mrs. Jakubec asked if the collection of the past due refuse fee will be done in-house, by whom, how much money has been allotted in the 2006 budget for the performance audit, and how many non-union employees are there that would be reviewed. Mr. Hermes responded that the collection of past due refuse fees would be done in-house by current staff, that the amount in the 2006 budget for the performance audit is still being decided, and that there are six non-union employees. Mrs. Jakubec said using volunteers for collection of refuse fees should be considered and Mr. Hermes said that there may be a confidentiality issue. Mr. Marquette questioned whether the refuse rules would be changed in 2006 with the elimination of the refuse fee and Mr. Ciecka said no, the contract is not affected. Mr. Marquette also asked who handles the city's grant applications. Mr. Ciecka said they are done both internally and using outside consultants. Mayor Verbosky said the city will be diligent in pursuing as many grants as possible.

TREE

Mrs. Jakubec presented the report of October 27, 2005. The commission reported that trees had been trimmed very high in the Bock's block, that the commission was still in need of another member, would like the administrator or mayor to attend one of their meetings, and that Mrs. Jakubec will need to be replaced after November 30, 2005. A question was also raised whether the trees planted at Island View Park were being used as a barrier or as nursery stock as was the original intent. Mrs. Jakubec also said the trees in the Bock's block were not trimmed but massacred and asked Mr. Ciecka exactly what happened. Mr. Ciecka took responsibility and said that in response to a complaint from a business owner in that block regarding the birds and bird waste it was thought that thinning of the trees would help alleviate that problem. Unfortunately the public works department trimmed much more than anticipated. Mayor Verbosky thinks this was a miscommunication in how the trees should have been trimmed and that in the future the tree commission would be more involved before any trimming was done. Mrs. Jakubec believes that the tree ordinance says the approval of the tree commission is needed before any trimming is done, that very bad judgment was used, and that as a designated tree city this looks very bad. Mrs. Eckel said that trimming was counter-productive to the efforts of the RBA and their efforts to create a better looking downtown.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to accept the reports as given. All ayes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Ciecka reported that the city's application for a grant to resurface Lime City Rd. came in third on the initial application and after review by the county commission dropped down and probably won't be funded this year. Mayor Verbosky said that even though it appears the city won't get the grant this year that at least we are on the list and hopefully next year this may be funded. He also requested council's approval to go out for qualification statements for consulting services for the closed landfill. Mr. Richards asked how this differed from bids and was told that after the qualification statements are received they will be ranked for suitability and then a price will be requested from the selected firms per Ohio law. Mayor Verbosky commented that this is a specialized field and that in the twenty-seven years that the landfill has been closed there have been only two or three firms that have done this work. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to authorize the administrator to proceed with the qualification process for environmental concerns regarding the closed landfill. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka also asked that council consider amending Ordinance #2005-32 with a revised list of items to be surplus. Mayor Verbosky said that two police cars were eliminated from the list after being inspected by a local auto repair shop and a decision being made to use them for parts. Mrs. Eckel has a copy of the evaluations of the vehicles for anyone who would like to review. She said the evaluation was done at no cost to the city.

Mayor Verbosky thanked the citizens of Rossford for passing the tax levy and all those involved in working to get it approved. He also commented on the city's efforts to reduce expenses. He made a presentation of a plaque to Chris Nietrzeba who is retiring after 26 years of service to the city and thanked Heather Nissen-Smith and the DECA program for their efforts in making this year's Halloween parade one of the best ever. The mayor also said he had received letters of congratulation from Luci Gernot, Superintendent of Schools, and the Rossford Schools Administration for the successful levy campaign. He told council that the 2006 budget will be presented at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for a first reading and asked council to consider passing at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. He congratulated all the council candidates for their efforts in seeking office. He reminded council to return their committee assignment requests to him by November 28<sup>th</sup> so that he can make these assignments at the organizational meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. He also told council that at the October Planning commission meeting a preliminary approval had been given for a 75,000 square foot indoor soccer complex to be located in the Crossroads.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you notes were received from the Ciecka family and the Tisdale family for the city's expression of sympathy on the death's of their respective family members.

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. 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. Hermes seconded the motion to amend the ordinance with the revised exhibit A list. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to declare the amended ordinance an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to adopt the amended ordinance. All ayes. Motion carried.

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. THIRD READING

Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said based on the information presented by Mrs. Eckel at the last meeting he

is not in favor of changing our existing ordinance but that he would move to adopt in order to get the ordinance on the table for a vote. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to adopt the ordinance. All nays. Motion failed.

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

Mrs. Jakubec moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky commented said that with the passage of the levy \$40,000 has been budgeted for this but that every effort should be made to get through this with the utmost diligence but trying not to spend the entire \$40,000. Mr. Marquette wondered if the departments mentioned are the ones everyone wants audited or if some additions or deletions should be made. Mr. Richards said he is not sure this is precisely what is wanted but he thinks it is a good place to start. Mr. Kovach said to do this right he would like to see a comprehensive audit done and that the other audits for cities available online may be similar to us but we have some unique projects that led the city down some roads that became overwhelming. He would like to see exactly what went wrong and thinks the city owes some answers to the citizens. Mayor Verbosky said he thinks the projects, related debt, and how to get out of it will be covered in the audit of the administration/finance area. Mrs. Eckel asked what cuts will be made to be made to cover the \$40,000 expense or is it levy money. Mr. Hermes said the levy has nothing to do with this ordinance as that money will be spent as committed to in the levy request. This audit expense would be paid by continuing with cuts such as not hiring people back, not replacing positions vacated by retirement, or taking money out of the 2006 budget that would have been spent on roads and other things. He said he had passed out a review of other audits for council to look at and many of the things that will be recommended are things the city already does. He feels that \$40,000 for this is too much spending for what possible savings the city might get. Mr. Kovach believes that there is \$40,000 unencumbered in the Star Ohio account that could be used for this. Mr. Hermes said that is not a correct comment concerning the Star Ohio fund. Mr. Ciecka explained that the money the city appropriates to various accounts is what is in the Star Ohio fund. This is money that is already allocated and if used for other purposes must be covered by reducing expenses from another account. He said the budget being prepared has a line item for the audit expense but that allocation will be covered by cuts in other areas. Mr. Richards said that there is a perception that the community will feel more confident in council's actions if the \$40,000 is used and that council realizes this is money that can't be used for other things. Mr. Richards then moved that this ordinance be declared an emergency which was seconded by Mr. Kovach. Mrs. Eckel said she has looked at the suggestions made in other performance audits and that they are the same in many of them. She feels that this would be money misspent if told to do things we already do such as apply for grants and agrees with Mr. Hermes that the city should try the free ideas available in the previous audits. Mr. Oberdorf said he is very much in favor of this ordinance and he would like to see comprehensive audit but can live with this. He has heard many explanations as to how the city got in this position but he would like some experts to come in and tell him how this happened. Mr. Hermes said based on Mr. Oberdorf's comments that a forensic audit is what he is asking for, something that looks back, and that a performance audit won't accomplish this, it looks forward. Mr. Ciecka said a performance audit will make suggestions for improvements in the departments reviewed. Mayor Verbosky feels that some of the prior events will be covered in the audit of the administration/finance department. Mrs. Jakubec said that she in good conscience couldn't vote for a \$40,000 audit to tell us that the city experienced a loss of revenue since 1999. Mr. Marquette said he is for an audit to a degree but doesn't know what an auditor could tell him to make the Public Works department more efficient. There are a lot of things he would like to see audited but not what is in this ordinance. Vote on the motion to declare an emergency was all ayes except for Jakubec and Eckel who voted nay. Motion passes 5-2. Mr. Hermes moved and Mrs. Jakubec seconded the motion to amend the ordinance to not exceed \$20,000. Mr. Marquette asked what that covered and was told by Mr. Hermes \$7,000 for the contracts audit and \$13,000 for some other department. Mr. Marquette would like to see the Public Works department eliminated from the audit and just auditing the Administrative/Finance and Police departments along with the contracts which would amount to \$29,000. Mr. Hermes then withdrew his motion and Mrs. Jakubec withdrew her second. Mr. Marquette then moved and Mr. Kovach seconded the motion to amend the ordinance by eliminating the Public Works department from the areas to be audited and setting the

maximum cost at \$29,000. Mr. Richards said he is shocked at the proposed amendment and he believes the entire \$40,000 should be spent and thus he would advocate a no vote on this motion. Mr. Hermes said that if something was found during the audit a separate ordinance could be done to extend the scope of the audit. Mrs. Eckel said she agrees with that line of reasoning. Vote on the motion was Marquette, Eckel, Kovach, Jakubec, and Hermes aye with Oberdorf and Richards voting nay. Motion to amend passes 5-2. Mr. Marquette moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to adopt as amended. Marquette, Kovach, Jakubec, Hermes aye; Eckel, Oberdorf, and Richards nay. Motion to adopt as amended passes 4-3.

**ORDINANCE #2005-38 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF POLICE BULLETPROOF VESTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this was brought before the Safety committee, a large part of this funded by grants, and in view of the officer's safety he would think council would want to pass tonight. Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third readings. Audience comments were asked for 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.

**ORDINANCE #2005-39 – AN ORDINANCE REJECTING THE REQUEST OF PAUL AND MELLA PETERS FOR DETACHMENT OF TERRITORY FROM THE CITY OF ROSSFORD TO PERRYSBURG TOWNSHIP, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky said this parcel is part of a larger package that came into the city by annexation. Mr. Ciecka said this is a 3.4 acre parcel and in essence is a reverse annexation and that the ordinance rejects the request to detach. Mr. Marquette asked if the city has any idea why the Peters want to detach. Mr. Ciecka said no explanation was given. Mr. Hermes suggested that we try to find out why they want to detach before voting on this ordinance. This was given a first reading only.

**COUNCIL REMARKS**

Mr. Marquette thought the discussion regarding the audit was the best one he has been part of since he's been on council.

Mrs. Eckel thanked the citizens of Rossford for passing the levy and congratulated the other elected candidates.

Mr. Oberdorf said he has received a reply to an email he sent to Todd Kitzler and that he is doing well

Mr. Richards commended the city's employees who did an education job on the levy especially Officer's Goss and Linkous. He said that an Economic Development committee meeting is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. He also said that the November Committee of the Whole meeting was not officially suspended and moved that it be. Mr. Hermes seconded the motion. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Kovach congratulated all the candidates that ran this year and thanked the school and the group that put on Meet the Candidates night.

Mrs. Jakubec added her congratulations to all the candidates and she is sure everyone is going to do an excellent job for the city.

Mr. Hermes thanked the citizens for passing the levy and said that twenty-four votes is not an overwhelming number. He said that this does not make the city's job any less to continue to contain costs. He also said the Star Ohio fund is not a rainy day fund that the city can go spend. It is money that is already appropriated for future expenses.

**AUDIENCE REMARKS**

Jeff Appelhans, Hannum Ave., Rossford asked if the city checks the tonnage tickets for refuse taken to the landfill to see if being overcharged, what the Marina profit was with the increase if rate and whether it was enough to pay back the \$35,000 loan from the water/sewer fund, and wondered if the city would consider looking into wind turbines as an energy source with the Pilkington property as a possible site. Mr. Richards said the tonnage taken to the landfill is audited by the county landfill authority as to volume and source so figures as to charges are available. Mr. Ciecka said the city's contract for refuse is a two part contract with one part being cost per household and the other cost per ton taken to the landfill. He says with the increase in recycling that the cost per ton should be reduced. He also said the Marina committee will meet shortly to review the season-ending figures and that there was no loan made to the Marina fund from the utility funds. There was a discussion regarding doing this if necessary but it was never done. Mr. Appelhans then voiced his complaints over the exorbitant water and sewer fees. Mayor Verbosky commented that water and sewer projects are never done and that the city still has 100 year old lines that need to be upgraded and that compared to other municipalities our rates are not that high.

Pam Simenski, 171 Maple St., Rossford, said the suggestion was that in order to not lose the Marina grant that money would be transferred from the water/sewer fund to cover the city's share if there was a shortfall. She questioned whether this was done and if so was it paid back? Mayor Verbosky said Mr. Ciecka will have an answer to this at the next council meeting.

Tony Koprowski, 545 Maybar, Rossford asked when the contract with Waste Management ends and was told by Mr. Ciecka that there is four years left on the current contract.

Glenn Goss, Dixie Hwy., Rossford, thanked the city officials and citizens who supported the levy.

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