

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held December 10, 2007

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

A moment of silence was observed to mark the deaths of Robert Zuchowski Sr., uncle of Councilwoman Caroline Eckel, and Alice Richards, aunt of Councilman Jim Richards.

ROLL CALL: Richards, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Hermes, and Kovach all present. Mr. Michaels was expected shortly.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of November 26, 2007. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of organizational council meeting minutes of December 3, 2007. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Mr. Michaels entered the meeting at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of December 10, 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 leaf collection has been just about finished up.

Mayor Verbosky thanked those that attended the tree lighting ceremony last week and thanked Mary Kay Scott, Sue Yoder, and the public works department for their help in organizing this event. He attended the fire department annual dinner and wished to congratulate Andrew Vascik and Josh Drouard for being named co-firemen of the year. He also said James Grandowicz is resigning from the department for personal reasons and thanked him for his work in the department over the last eleven years. He said regarding Ordinance #2007-48 there will be no presentations this time and any audience comments will be part of a motion to suspend with the third reading and be limited to 3 minutes per council rules.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were several pieces of correspondence, a Christmas card from the Rossford Board of Education, a copy of a release from the Wood County Economic Development Commission regarding the \$450,000 tax payment from Federal Express, and a request for a transfer of contract liquor agency and liquor license from D&S Beverage Inc. 307 Superior to BGD Investments LLC, 27250 Crossroads Pkwy. The chief had no comment and council requested no hearing

ORDINANCES

#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. THIRD READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to declare an emergency. Mr. Richards noted that this is only an emergency due to the calendar. Mr. Hermes said If not passed as an emergency it will not take effect for 30 days thus carrying over these 2007 budget items into the next fiscal year. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to adopt. 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. THIRD READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2007-47 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2007 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2006-55; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes said this establishes the storm water retention fund as a separate category and earmarks money for that, and covers professional engineering services in the general government fund incurred in 2007 which will be reimbursed by the contractors next year. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to suspend with the third reading. 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 declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Hermes moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2007-48 – AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A ZONING CHANGE FROM A “PC” CLASSIFICATION TO A “P1” CLASSIFICATION UNDER CHAPTER 1142 OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE. SECOND READING.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Verbosky explained that this ordinance was recommended by the planning commission and not voted on at the last meeting as two council members were missing. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to suspend with the third reading. Audience comments were requested. Paul Peters, 28905 Bates Rd. said this is a residential area and doing this change is not in the best interest of the city. He hopes council does the right thing and does not put this in his backyard. He feels Fed Ex has other options such as locating near I-280 and we are doing this just for their convenience. Don Staczek, 9331 Mandell Rd., Perrysburg Township said this will be in his backyard but he feels Fed Ex has done just about everything they can do and in fact have done more than ODOT and the turnpike did to minimize the effect on the neighborhood such as lowering the lights and creating mounds. Tom Warns, 9311 Mandell Rd. said Channel 13 made it sound like this is a done deal but he hopes council does what is best for everyone. Mr. Marquette said he will vote for the ordinance, as he has not seen a developer in his twelve years on council make such an effort to accommodate neighborhood concerns. He also feels that the money Fed Ex is spending to create sound barriers will help mitigate any additional noise above the noise already generated by the thousands of trucks going by that location already, and that the planning commission, made up of hard working unpaid volunteers spent a lot of time reviewing this proposal before recommending it to council. Mrs. Eckel does not question the efforts by Fed Ex to minimize the impact on the neighborhood but she does not understand why changing the zoning is the best use of the property. She feels that this site could have better uses that could, for example, employ 100 people producing revenue for the city and that approving this as a parking lot is irresponsible and a short-sighted decision. Mr. Richards said that every year or two one of these difficult neighborhood decisions comes before council in which council cannot make every one happy. He sees this as an example of regional economic development cooperation as the Perrysburg Township trustees formally asked Rossford to pass this legislation. He has been impressed with Fed Ex’s cooperation as developer and said Rossford needs to look at the big picture. Jeff Appelkans, Hannum Ave., said he is not directly affected by this but can understand the concerns and feels this property could be put to better use. Vote on the motion all ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. Richards, Oberdorf, Marquette, Hermes, Michaels, and Kovach aye. Eckel nay. Motion carried 6-1.

#2007-49 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES (NON BARGAINING) OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD, REPEALING ANY PORTIONS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Richards seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ciecka explained that 2007 has passed by and while all union negotiations have not been completed 2% has been set as the standard and he would like to request a 2% salary adjustment for non-union employees. This increase has been budgeted for but was never implemented while negotiations were ongoing. He would like this passed as an emergency measure in order to avoid encumbering these funds into 2008. Mayor Verbosky said he does not like to see this on the agenda at the end of the year but that was caused by the length of negotiations. Mr. Richards noted that the finance committee and all of council have been aware of the 2% benchmark. Mrs. Eckel asked if the finance committee discussed these salaries and was told by Mr. Hermes no but that the wage rate percentage was entered into the budget. He also said the sum of all these increases amounts to \$5,519. Mrs. Eckel asked if each raise is different or all at 2% and was told by Mr. Ciecka all at 2%. She asked if these were based on any type of performance review and was told by the Mayor a more formal review will be a priority in 2008. Mr. Marquette asked why the assistant fire chief is being changed from a salaried rate to an hourly rate and was told by Mr. Ciecka that as a part-time employee he does not meet the guidelines to be a salaried employee. Mr. Kovach feels that some kind of merit evaluation should be done rather than an automatic 2% increase. Mr. Michaels asked what the workload is for the assistant fire chief. Mr. Ciecka said that previously as a salaried employee the asst. fire chief was not required to track his hours but he believes was more than 1000 hours. Mr. Michaels also asked if we compared these salaries to other cities and was told no. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Hermes seconded the motion to suspend with the second and third reading. Audience comments were requested and none received. Vote on the motion Richards, Kovach, Michaels, Hermes, Marquette, Oberdorf aye, Eckel nay. Motion carried 6-1. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

_None

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Kovach wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Hermes asked about the Lyden Oil problem and was told by Mr. Heban a phone conference is scheduled for December 12th with the law firm that will be handling this on behalf of the city. He encouraged everyone to drive by the Christmas light display on Birch Drive put together by Bob Densic and said it is a nice thing he does for the community. He also wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mrs. Eckel said she had attended the fire department annual dinner and said it was very nice. She complimented them and the public works department for the job they do and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Oberdorf also thanked the fire department for hosting the annual dinner. He said Mr. Richards and he had attended the third TMACOG transit meeting and said the official minutes will be forthcoming for each council member to review. He reminded all council people about the DARE graduations taking place on December 13th and 14th and said it is a wonderful program. He asked Mr. Heban about the cell tower lease and was told the attorney was reviewing with his client.

***Mr. Richards moved and Mrs. Eckel seconded the motion to suspend with the January Committee of the Whole Meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Verbosky said he had attended the DARE graduations last year and it is very nice to see and shows the good going on with the program.

Mr. Richards reminded everyone that the open house retirement party for Pat Sloan will be on December 28th. He and Mayor Verbosky encouraged everyone to attend. He complimented Mr. Oberdorf for his attendance and involvement with the TMACOG transit meetings.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

John Folcik, 215 Hannum Ave., asked if anyone has been hired to be Recreation Director based on the imminent retirement of Pat Sloan. Mayor Verbosky said they have reduced the potential candidates to two and will have a second interview and hire someone shortly after. Mrs. Sloan may be retained on a consultant basis for a short period of time to assist with familiarizing the new director with the department.

Mayor Verbosky wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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