

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford City Council Meeting
Held December 28, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Neil Mackinnon III followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Staczek, Oberdorf, Marquette, Ruse, Wagner, and Minarcin all present. Mr. Wagner moved and Mr. Minarcin seconded the motion to excuse Mrs. Eckel who is out of town on business. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of regular council meeting minutes of December 14, 2015. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Ruse seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda for regular council meeting of December 28, 2015 was presented to council. Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to accept the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Insurance committee report from 11/23/15 was presented by Mr. Minarcin (see written report). Mr. Staczek asked about the three year maintenance agreement with Physio-Control wondering if the chest compressor came with a warranty or maintenance package. Mrs. Freeman said it did but is now past the one year warranty period and reminded Mr. Staczek the ordinance authorizing this agreement was already approved.

Mr. Heban said the executive session regarding pending litigation was not needed as the matter had been resolved.

REPORT OF MAYOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Mackinnon presented proclamations to several members of the RHS football team who were in attendance noting those that received NBC honors. He complimented them for the great enjoyment they gave to the community this season.

Mr. Scott said the work on the Colony Rd. pump station continues, public works received a new truck and snow plow, that one of the 49 trees planted was stolen, civil service accepted the new police list and is doing background checks on the top ten, that a civil service exam for one new and one replacement public works employee will be next year, that the Rudolph Run was a great success with 167 runners participating, that of the 738 identified rental dwellings in Rossford 94% have registered with approximately 46 more yet to be registered and that the landfill readings were all in the good range. He said the Planning Commission will meet on January 20th regarding the rezoning of property adjacent to Hunger, that city offices will be closed on January 1st, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ORDINANCES

**#2015-60 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD AND ADOPTING A NEW ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD.
SECOND READING**

Mr. Staczek moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. This was given a second reading only.

#2015-61 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD AND ADOPTING A NEW ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD. SECOND READING

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. This was given a second reading only.

#2015 – 62 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROSSFORD AND TO ADOPT A NEW INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR TAX YEAR 2016 AND THEREAFTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. SECOND READING

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor Mackinnon said he thinks this is a good thing for the city, is desperately needed, and if council passes we will be able to fund millions of dollars in road improvements. He would think all the proceeds of this would go towards capital improvement projects and that this will make us better. He thinks this is supported by council overall but does not think it has the support to pass tonight as an emergency but that it would be easier from an accounting standpoint for RITA and the administration if it did pass tonight and he would like it brought to a vote this evening. He is for this and encourages council to vote tonight. Mr. Wagner said he has been against this from the beginning and said this issue had not really been brought out in meetings prior to vote in November on the 3.5mill renewal levy. He feels this was kept from the public in order to get the 3.5mill levy passed. He said the Mayor said this will cost the average taxpayer \$1.50 a day but for some of us it will be a \$900 annually. He feels we should go to the voters for a bond issue and let them decide if they want their roads fixed. Mr. Minarcin said this has been kicked around for a while and was recommended 2-1 by the Finance committee. He wants at least 80%-90% of this to go to roads and said council has the authority to make this happen and we need to get this done. Mr. Oberdorf said this is not a direct democracy but indirect and that council is elected by the people to make decisions both easy and hard. He gave a list of increased expenses against stagnant revenues and said the 50% credit will generate approximately \$750,000 in revenue and not affect seniors. He said this is a difficult decision but he believes the citizens of Rossford have faith in council. He said good luck with any plan to go to the voters for a bond issue and again pointed out that revenues are decreasing and expenses increasing and at some point our reserve fund will be depleted. Mr. Wagner said Mr. Oberdorf keeps referring to the 50% mark for the reserve but that was self-imposed by council and can be changed to be less as it is almost double what Standard & Poor's considers acceptable. Mr. Oberdorf said Mr. Wagner's statement is well taken but the point is we would be digging deeper into the reserve. Mr. Wagner said that earlier he stated that we should borrow \$1million dollars to do the two projects already committed to. Mayor Mackinnon said this will take roads off the table forever and not get into the pockets of our senior citizens. Mr. Oberdorf said it was healthy to have discussion of opposing viewpoints and respects everything Mr. Wagner is saying. Mr. Marquette asked how the 50% was decided on and the Mayor said we were looking for a revenue stream that took care of all the infrastructure projects and Mr. Minarcin said this amount was discussed in committee as meeting the needs. Mr. Marquette said his biggest concern is the number of homes for sale in Rossford will sit longer and that people with jobs in other communities will look at this added cost. He noted that the schools will be looking for more money also and said while he appreciated the finance committee's work on this he would vote against. Mr. Ruse said this was talked about in finance committee for months and apologized for bringing to council so late. He said we need to show progress in the city and until we do something like this and until the schools get their act together for something the community will pass we will lose money in property values.

Mr. Ruse moved and Mr. Minarcin seconded the motion to amend the ordinance to specify that 100% of proceeds will go to roadway projects.

Mr. Wagner agrees that if this does pass 100% should go to roadway projects but he does not agree that this will take care of all the road projects. Mr. Ruse said this money will go to road projects on the CIP list and how we use this money to finance all those projects is yet to be determined. Mr. Scott said the original spreadsheet seen by the finance committee showed only \$500,000 going towards road projects

but if 100% will allow these projects to be done much faster and we will use this money to borrow either through notes or bonds. Mr. Minarcin said this will affect only W2 wages and not senior citizens so seniors would not be doubly hit if the school passes a levy. Mr. Marquette asked how much is budgeted for roads now and was told by Mrs. Freeman \$150,000 who also said \$750,000 is an estimate. Mr. Marquette asked if we will dedicate \$900,000 to road improvements if this passes and Mayor Mackinnon said this could free up that \$150,000 for other uses and Mrs. Freeman said that is a determination we make on an annual basis. Mr. Scott said this would fund road work and relieve pressure on the general fund. Mr. Staczek said we are a republic and that he agrees with Mr. Marquette and 110% with Mr. Wagner. He sees the need but does not like the way we are going about doing it. He said a person with a \$50,000 salary would see a \$560 increase and along with the school tax and increase in water/sewer bills would see their taxes going up \$1000 in a year without a vote. He said we are sitting here saying we do not have the money to do things but yet we continue to give raises. He asked where is the Plan B saying only Mr. Wagner has offered a Plan B. He does not agree with ramming this through because council has the right and that his needs to go to the people and give them a voice. He said why not just take 100% not 50% because we can't say that this or some future council will not do this again and go after the other 50%. Mayor Mackinnon said no one has ever suggested that this go above 50%. Mr. Ruse asked how long the 100% credit has been in effect and Mrs. Freeman said the since the payroll income tax was enacted in the early 80's. Mr. Ruse said based on the fact it took council 35 years to get to this point he would hope it would be another 35 years before this was even talked about again and called for the question on his amendment.

Vote on the amendment was all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Ruse moved and Mr. Oberdorf seconded the motion to suspend with the third reading. Audience comments were requested and Bob Densic, 107 Birch Dr. said this just came to the public eye in December. He asked why we are seeing decreased revenues in this town and why are citizens and businesses not coming to town? He said perhaps it is the tax rate already being too high or because we have shown there is a constant pattern of going for more and that we need to get more taxes by getting business to come here i.e. maybe a 50% decrease in taxes in the Crossroads for a period of time. This is something that would bring business in and is the better way to increase revenue than asking businesses and residents to pay more. This will not take roads off the table forever and as other costs increase revenue will decrease and this will accelerate that pattern. Council needs to look at ways to bring more business and thus revenue to the city. He said this is a tax increase on more than ½ the workers in the city and the citizens should have a voice when money is taken from their wallets. He did say this will not affect him. Tony Koprowski, 545 Maybar said he agreed with some of what was said on both sides and asked council and the mayor how they determine what the citizens want? He said his experience has been that no one responds to him i.e. his creek problem and wondered how the mayor and council can know what people are thinking. Mr. Marquette said he talks to people at various places in town, takes phone calls, and talks to neighbors and friends. Jeff Appelhans, 177 Hannum said he hasn't received a year in ten years until this year, the city of Toledo is getting ready to put a .50 income tax increase on the ballot and that council should think twice about this. Mr. Minarcin asked Mr. Heban if Toledo's increase has to go to the voters and was told yes because it is an increase and clarified that to Mr. Appelhans who responded he understands that but wanted to point out that if that increase passes he will be seeing an increase in what he pays Toledo plus paying Rossford. Bob Watrol, 119 Homestead Dr. said this may be legal for council to do but that does not make it right or fair but rather an expedient and easy way to raise more money. He said previous councils have looked at this and decided it was unfair to penalize a portion of the city to pay for the entire city. He said that new roads may not entice people to move to the city when they know they will be paying in effect a 3.375% income tax if they work in Toledo. He noted that if this passed along with the 5.7mill school levy that will appear on the January tax bill, along with water

and sewer bill increases a family could be looking at an approximately \$1400 increase a year in total taxes. He feels we should try to pass a road levy first and that this should be a last resort. Mr. Oberdorf asked Mr. Heban to determine if the clerk of council was allowed to address council. Vote on the motion was Ruse, Minarcin, and Oberdorf aye; Wagner, Staczek, and Marquette no. Motion fails on 3-3 vote as five aye votes required to suspend. This was given a second reading only.

#2015-64 - AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION ROSSFORD OHIO UNIT (PATROL OFFICERS) AND OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION ROSSFORD OHIO UNIT (COMMAND OFFICERS); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Staczek seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Scott noted that both the bargaining units have ratified the agreements and council had the opportunity to review this in executive session and what was talked about is in the agreements. Mr. Ruse said council did discuss in executive session and subsequently turned in all the information. He said council should have that information for future reference. Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Minarcin 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. Marquette moved and Mr. Minarcin seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Marquette moved and Mr. Minarcin seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

#2015 – 65 - AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ROSSFORD MUNICIPAL CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Oberdorf moved and Mr. Marquette seconded the motion to read by title only. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Scott said this is the semi-annual update of the municipal code and the replacement pages have been vetted through the law department. Once approved the pages will be replaced in all the municipal code books. Mr. Ruse moved and Mr. Wagner 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. Ruse moved and Mr. Wagner seconded the motion to declare an emergency. All ayes. Motion carried. Mr. Ruse moved and Mr. Wagner seconded the motion to adopt. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

None

COUNCIL REMARKS

Mr. Staczek thanked Mr. Scott for scheduling the civil service public works test for one employee but said we need more to correct the understaffing in that department.

Mr. Wagner said he was glad for the debate tonight on #2015-62.

All the councilmen wished everyone a Happy New Year.

AUDIENCE REMARKS

Jeff Appelhans, 177 Hannum Ave. asked if sidewalks would be required if the zoning change on Lime City Rd. is approved and would they be extended across Mr. Hermes and Dr. Jackson's property. Mr. Ruse told him that those properties would require sidewalks as determined by the planning commission.

Bob Densic, 107 Birch Dr. said he echoes Mr. Staczek's comments that we need more public works department employees, thanked the community for their support of the Christmas Light Display saying over \$1800 was raised for charity, and asked council to personally resolve in 2016 to get a copy of Robert's Rules of Order as he believes some things are not done properly and also avoid suspending with the second and third readings when not necessary

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

Neil Mackimmon III
Mayor

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council

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