
Ashland City Council

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL December 6, 2005

Council President Glen Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ward 1:	Bob Valentine	Present
Ward 2:	Bernard Sargent	Present
Ward 3:	Ruth Detrow	Present
Ward 4:	Paul Wertz	Present
At-large:	Glen Stewart	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

November 15, 2005 *Regular session*

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Sargent to accept the minutes.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Valentine, Sargent, Detrow

November 22, 2005 *Special session*

Moved by Valentine and seconded by Sargent to accept the minutes.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Valentine, Sargent, Detrow

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

(a) *Leadership Ashland intern: Dr. Dan Lawson*

Stewart welcomed Dr. Dan Lawson who has chosen to do an internship with City Council as a part of his involvement with the Leadership Ashland class. He will be attending a minimum of three sessions of Council, as well as meeting with Stewart in an informational session. The Ashland City Directors and officials introduced themselves.

LEGISLATION

Ord. 78-05

Item (a) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASHLAND AREA COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE COUNCIL AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RELATED MATTERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Detrow to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Valentine, Sargent, Detrow

Comments:

Council members stated their concerns with this.

Valentine had expressed some concerns in a work session held November 30th but wished to reiterate those in order that they become a part of the public record.

One concern is that, since the City is providing 65% of the budget for the Economic Development Council, they then need more representation on that Council. He feels the board needs to be made up of seven members rather than the five members as now recommended;

seven members is neither too high nor unreasonable a number to work together comfortably. His proposal would be that since the Council President is one representative, the Mayor be the other City member along with the one that the Council and the Mayor select. He does not think that to be too many, and since this is just beginning and quite a change from what was in the past, he feels something like that needs to be done.

With the City providing 65% to 70% (\$180,000 to \$182,000) of the budget, and adding the County's share which brings the percentage up to about 80% of the finances coming, Valentine thinks that justifies the idea of the representation. Also, it has been stated that down the road the City's requirement will be reduced, and at that point then, a change could be made. However, with the situation as it is, he thinks the Board should have seven members.

Another point Valentine made is that he is not opposed to economic development, as it is beneficial to the City and to the County. It provides jobs, it helps the standard of living, it's a necessity and has to be done. However, he thinks it should be further looked into. He stated his concern that it seems a rush to judgment, and he didn't know why it had to be done so quickly, starting January 1st. But his main concerns have been that the City Council needs more control, and that the board needs seven members.

Detrow stated she hates to see five members on this board. The City had a sad example of a previous board trying to do the same thing (ISCASH), in which a whole lot of the problem was that the person running it had so many bosses that there was no way he could function. She feels that it has been good that the Mayor is the one boss the Economic Development Director answered to.

Now that things are up and running, and the City wants participation of other groups besides themselves, she thinks there must be some kind of a committee set-up. However, she wants to keep that committee as small as possible for the reasons she stated. It will become cumbersome, and the committee will waste time striving over control if the committee is large.

Valentine explained that he served on ISCASH, which had 15 to 17 members, and he is not talking about that many members but only seven. He agreed with Detrow that ISCASH was too large.

Stewart stated that this is a very important decision, a major move with the potential of taking an economic development department that has gone from a seed to the full-grown blossom, with a nice area for economic development. Through those efforts, \$500,000 has been allocated to it through the state, free; another \$500,000 from the state, interest free; and now the federal government has allocated \$300,000 for infrastructure development. This is a huge sum of money for a community the size of Ashland, and it is on the map; it is being seen. He thinks it speaks very well for the performance of the department to date for the state and federal governments to notice Ashland's effort,

Though the City hasn't landed any "trophy fish", Stewart thinks the same have looked it at, and that is so important. A city has to be looked at before it can be selected. With today's technology, it still gives no idea how many people have looked at Ashland through the electronic facilities available for searching out histories and community availabilities. There is no idea how many have looked at this community in that manner.

As to the size of the board, Stewart stated he was quite comfortable with a five-person board, and he doesn't really want to go larger with that. He thinks it is a manageable size and personally believes the City will be very well represented with two members on that board. The county will be represented well, and the City is part of the county and will be represented well, as will the south end of the county. It is a process that is joining the county from north and south, which has been a long time coming and is a tremendous effort.

Stewart had no additional comments and as there were no other comments, he asked for a motion.

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Wertz that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Sargent, Detrow Nay: Valentine

Moved by Stewart and seconded by Detrow that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Sargent, Detrow Nay: Valentine

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Sargent that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Sargent, Detrow Nay: Valentine

Motion carried.

WARD REPORTS

Ward 2: Bernard Sargent

(a) *Leaf pick-up:*

Sargent reported some inquiries as to the leaf pick-up situation, and Street Director Jerry Mack responded that the snow has slowed pick up quite a bit. They haven't stopped picking them up; however, the snow, the cold leaves and the moisture freeze the machines, causing them to go about two hours before having to stop and thaw them out. Then they will go a couple more hours. They are still going to get all they can, but if there is a lot of snow, they are in trouble. They are still working on it and have covered 70% to 80% of the City as of this point.

Both Detrow and Wertz had received questions from their wards as to leaf pick up also.

At-large: Glen Stewart

(a) *Permit process for 5 and 10K runs:*

Stewart asked if there is a permit process for foot races run on City streets, especially as it pertains to markings on the pavement and curbs (arrows and mile marks). Is it something that hasn't been encountered and/or dealt with? The markings have become a concern to some residents.

Law Director Rick Wolfe responded he doesn't recall the issue coming up before, but they shouldn't be putting any permanent markings on the streets or highways. If that is happening, maybe some kind of a permit process should be created for it. Markings should be something that would wash away in the first rain, because no one should be putting marks on the roadway like that.

Stewart stated it is in his neighborhood, but he hasn't personally tried to scrub it off. Wolfe repeated that no one has ever brought it up before, but it could be looked at if it is going to continue to be a problem.

Police Chief Bill Miracle stated that there is an existing permit process for any type of race or gathering; it goes through the Mayor's office and the City signs off on those things. As far as the specific issue, there has never been any determination made as to whether it should or shouldn't be; he's never thought about it. In the past there have been markings on the pavement as described, and it could certainly be put in a permit as a requirement or condition to authorize or not authorize a specific event. They run into the same issues with City crews or others digging up roadways and marking various water and other lines. Usually those go away after a little while.

That could be made as a condition of approval or disapproval of the permit requested.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

(a) *Request for sidewalk waiver:*

440 Parkwood Drive, Lot numbers 1433 and 1434 S.A.; Petitioner, Ron Bostic

Bostic told Council he bought the lots in the spring and built a house. There are no sidewalks in the area, but he would be willing to install one when others are put in also. He said he is for sidewalk repair and installation but noted it's difficult for those who cannot afford the costs.

Stewart explained that Council has the goal of sidewalks installed and repaired all over the City, but it is a long-term plan. He feels they have to start somewhere with putting in sidewalks; the waiver process allows them to deal with these situations on an individual basis. Cooper indicated the sidewalk program would be in this area in about five years. Stewart told Bostic they would be talking to him again in a few years, as the process of sidewalk rehab and installation work outward and reach his areas.

Detrow added that sidewalks are important as more people are walking now, and they have to walk in the streets where there are no sidewalks. That's not good.

Bostic responded that probably 95% of people walking do walk in the streets, and he gave an example of driving to work on Edgehill Avenue at 7:00 a.m. All the walkers out were in the streets, not on the sidewalks. It's dangerous, and they could get hit. Walkers can be found in the streets on West Main Street, Claremont Avenue, Main Street.

Ron Sprunger, from the audience, told of his wife who is a pianist. One night when they were walking on the sidewalk, she fell and broke two knuckles and her little finger, making her possibility of playing again almost nil. So they walk in the street because of the condition of many of the sidewalks. They feel much safer there, and they'd sooner contend with the traffic than the sidewalks at night.

Valentine added that in his neighborhood it is the same, with some sidewalks and other properties without, and it's a mess. Somewhere along the line something must be done, but it's not going to be an easy solution. That's why the people walk out on the street; he does also.

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine to grant a time extension of waiver until others in the area are ordered in.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Valentine, Sargent, Detrow

(b) *Application for advertising on private property:*

Ashland Brethren in Christ Church, 2750 Mifflin Avenue; Petitioner, Ron Sprunger

Petitioner Ron Sprunger explained that the church is doing a play and wanted to let the people in the neighborhood know about it, so they made up a doorknob hanger to distribute and invite people to the play. He asked permission to distribute the door hangers.

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine to approve the application.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Valentine, Sargent, Detrow

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

(a) *Industrial park money:*

Mayor Strine announced that the City received \$300,000 from the federal government for use in the industrial park, through the efforts of Ralph Regula.

(b) *Work sessions scheduled:*

Stewart reminded Council of a work session scheduled to begin immediately following the adjournment of the regular session. They will discuss building maintenance standards.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Valentine and seconded by Sargent to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Wertz, Stewart, Valentine, Sargent, Detrow

Council adjourned the regular session at 7:34 p.m.

Submitted by
Elaine C. Bucklew
Clerk of Council