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# Ashland City Council

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## MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL April 18, 2006

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

### ROLL CALL

Ward 1:	Robert L. Valentine	Present
Ward 2:	Robert M. Valentine	Present
Ward 3:	Ruth Detrow	Present
Ward 4:	Paul Wertz	Present
At-large:	Glen Stewart	Present

Note: Throughout the minutes, Robert L. Valentine and Robert M. Valentine are designated as to their ward representation, W1 and W2.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

April 4, 2006 *Regular session*

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

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

### LEGISLATION

Ord. 40-06

Item (a) AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006, AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 11-06.

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine W1 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Comments:

Finance Director Anna Tomasek told Council this appropriation ordinance has to be amended in order to be compliant with the City's estimated resources of revenue as filed with the County Auditor's office. The prior ordinance had some input errors; this ordinance brings the City into compliance.

Valentine W1 asked questions with reference to 1) the Economic Development fund, and 2) the income tax distribution. Tomasek explained that neither of those items were changed in the amended ordinance. The Economic Development money still goes for the City's share of salaries there, and the income tax money over the allocated percentages goes back into the general fund.

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine W1 that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Wertz 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Stewart and seconded by Valentine W2 that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Motion carried.

Ord. 41-06

Item (b) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE INCOME TAX DIVISION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO, OBVIATING FORMAL ADVERTISING AND BIDDING; 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Comments:

Tomasek explained that this would allow the Income Tax Division to purchase equipment, software that will give more efficiency in that department. It will allow scanning of income tax returns directly into the software, which will increase customer service.

Stewart asked if this is proprietary software available from only one source, and Tomasek indicated that to be correct.

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Valentine W1 that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine W1 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

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

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Motion carried.

Ord. 42-06

Item (c) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE GOLF COURSE, PARK AND RECREATION DIVISION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO, OBVIATING FORMAL ADVERTISING AND BIDDING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine W1 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Comments:

Larry Willis of the Park Department gave the details of the rough mower for the Brookside Golf Course, which will be purchased through this ordinance and from the State Purchase Contract. It is a replacement for a unit bought 11 years ago, which has 6,520 hours on it; normal replacement is between 4,500 and 5,000 hours. Also \$9,405 has been spent for repairs to the old unit over the last couple of years. Cost of the new unit is \$40,274.84; \$42,000 has been budgeted from the Capital Improvement Fund, Account No. 617-7801-55012, Park and Recreation Division budget.

The current mower will be used as a back up, and the previous piece of equipment to that will be put up for auction.

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Valentine W2 that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine W1 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Valentine W1 that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Motion carried.

Ord. 43-06

Item (d) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT DIVISION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Comments:

Water Treatment Director Bruce Wiser explained that Wastewater Treatment Plant has a disinfection system that uses an expendable item, an ultraviolet bulb that actually wears as it is used. After a couple years, replacement bulbs need to be bought to keep the system effective. They are a specialized bulb, and not a lot of vendors carry them, but he feels they can get good prices on them. The plant must have these bulbs to stay in compliance with their permit.

Stewart asked about cost, and Mayor Strine indicated with checking on that, they came up with about \$20,000; however it will still have to be bid. They are about \$135 per bulb, and 144 bulbs are needed. That does not include any spares, though they will check on that. As the bulbs wear out, they become less effective and the bacteria count rises.

Moved by Valentine W1 and seconded by Valentine W2 that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Stewart 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Valentine W1 that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Motion carried.

Item (e) AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE A CERTAIN ALLEY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (*Eastern Avenue; hearing held 4/4/06*)

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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Comments:

Mayor Strine stated that the Board of Revision of Assessments requests that Council table this request until the next meeting. Some questions have come up and need answered before the Board can make a recommendation.

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Stewart that the Ordinance be tabled.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Ord. 44-06

Item (f) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 903.02(f) AND 903.03(b) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Comments:

City Engineer Jim Cooper explained that the primary change here is to get the City's ordinances in compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. The previous sidewalk ordinance specified a trip distance of 1½ inches; ADA specifies one-half inch. As a result of the change, the Engineering Department is going through all the streets again because of the change in criteria; they had evaluated the streets two years ago.

Cooper emphasized they didn't want to take a chance on the inch and a half when the ADA is half an inch. Those are the primary changes. Assistant Engineer Kurt Brzyszc and Engineering Assistant Phil Diehm will be using the new criteria to go out and measure everything, to be sure of ADA compatibility.

Moved by Detrow and seconded by Valentine W1 that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Wertz 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: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Moved by Wertz and seconded by Valentine W1 that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Motion carried.

## WARD REPORTS

Ward 1: Bob Valentine

(a) Water problem:

Valentine reported he had a call about a water problem; however, he feels it is a situation that involves a property owner and an apartment but does not involve the City. He expressed appreciation for those he called and who handled the situation.

Ward 3: Ruth Detrow

(a) *Main Street parking problem:*

Detrow reported she and Stewart had met with Denis Fox who had come to the last Council meeting with concerns about the downtown parking situation. They discussed options and will be talking with the Mayor as to what might be done.

## OLD BUSINESS

(a) *Water Treatment Plant fuel leak situation, April 8<sup>th</sup>:*

Mayor Strine asked Bruce Wiser to bring everyone up to date regarding the problems at the Water Treatment Plant on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Wiser began by emphasizing that the City's water system is very robust, it went through this emergency very well, and it adapted to improvisations made to keep it running through the type of emergency they had. There were a couple of shaky times, but everybody worked together, and he expressed appreciation for the fact they had an emergency operation group there that helped to notify the public. It was amazing how many individuals and companies stepped up to really help them when they needed it.

Stewart asked when exactly, what time of day the odor was detected, and Wiser responded it was Saturday at noon. An operator noticed there was an odor of fuel oil coming in to one of the deep sumps at the treatment plant that carries water away from the plant and puts it into the lagoons. The odor made them suspicious, and they shut the plant down, which was the right thing to do. They searched and found the source of the contamination, and it was clear at that point there wasn't much time to work because the system tends to run cyclic. The system goes through the week, with Saturday tending to be the slow day when they start to ramp the plant back up so by late Sunday it's pretty full.

So this couldn't have happened at a much worse time, because they only had about half of their distribution tanks full, which cut the time down in which to get back into the distribution system. They had to work fast to cure the problem.

Wiser stated he was very happy with the EPA and the way they helped; they had a very good team coordinator who was very helpful all the way through this. The system had a couple of the worst calamities that a water system could have, all in a week, but it seemed that everybody kept going and worked through everything they needed to.

Wiser expressed appreciation for the kind of companies that Ashland has, as they offered to reduce their water demand. They also stepped up when parts and things were needed and essential to get things done. There was some reduction in use, but Wiser did not direct the companies to slow function. Some did reduce their operations a bit, but people need to work, and the City did not want to stop that. They did not have to, as things worked out very well.

By Saturday night, Wiser said they knew they would be able to get some water out and by Sunday it was clear that they were headed the right way. Sometimes they had a little trouble finding some things, but they were able to work right through it without too many interruptions.

Mayor Strine added the second part of the story, which was that on Thursday morning Wiser decided that the plant was back making enough water to keep up with the use and people could be told that they didn't need to conserve water anymore. Then about 2:00 p.m. a 12" waterline broke, definitely complicating matters.

To further explain the original emergency, there is a fuel line that runs to their emergency generator system; that line failed, and that is where it all started. That line is now being replaced. The vacuum truck excavated all the contaminated soil out of the site, cleaned up the spilled material and trucked it over to the wastewater plant and from there to a recycler.

Valentine W1 commented that the media really cooperated, and Wiser emphasized that he had no problems with anybody involved in all this; it all went so well. He appreciated all the help.

Stewart asked about the amount of water that would be available on a Saturday at about the time this all happened, with the point being to find out if there was a critical water shortage during this emergency. Wiser responded that there would normally be about 4 million gallons stored at that time on a Saturday, and he emphasized that the key to this situation is that the City was not out of water; it was just the fact that special arrangements had to be made to get the water where it needed to be.

Mayor Strine commented that this situation underscored the importance of having new young workers coming on to learn these processes; it was impressive to see the experience of these guys at work and the way they handled the problem. They were professional about it all.

Stewart added that the communication of the problem through the media helped immensely; people were informed that the water was safe to drink; people were talking and working together, from the citizens to the various City Departments.

Valentine W2 suggested that all Council members be informed immediately also so they could answer any questions from their wards.

*(b) Work session scheduled to tour the water and wastewater treatment plants:*

Mayor Strine and Stewart requested a work session at which Council would tour the water and wastewater treatment plants so to understand better just what they are all about, as well as to see firsthand the area of the fuel leak and the emergency situation.

Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Building, and from there they will proceed to the water treatment plant first and then to the wastewater plant for tours through them. The meeting is open to the public, as always.

*(c) City/County/Township discussions concerning a fire district:*

Stewart noted he wanted another Council member to work with him to begin discussions as to a proposed City/Township fire district, and Detrow volunteered to do that. Stewart had made a commitment that Council would get a letter out to the townships; he and Detrow will agree on a date and begin early dialog on this to see how things may go. Others will be invited to work on this.

*(d) Priority list continuation:*

Stewart referred to Council's priority list, pointing out that he was going check the items to begin evaluating what follow-up would be needed on each priority that Council has already begun work on (#1 through 6). He wanted other members' input also. Council will then discuss the additional priority rankings (#7 through 12), and he briefly outlined the status of each of those. Department heads also will be reporting to Council as to those priorities pertinent to their divisions.

Stewart and the Mayor will begin setting work session dates for remaining priorities.

*(e) Update on Council co-meeting with County and Township officials held on 4/11/06:*

Valentine W1 asked about the intent resulting from the earlier City/County/Township co-meeting. Stewart responded that his thoughts are to bring the group back together in four to six months for an evaluation of the success of the first meeting. The measure of success will depend on whether anyone has done anything about the items talked about at that meeting. Council took it on themselves to initiate discussion as to the possibility of setting up a fire district. There were other items Stewart hoped to see taken on by others who attended that meeting also. Since Council initiated that first meeting, they may want to send a letter out suggesting some actions before the whole group comes back together again. Again Stewart asked for input from other Council members.

Stewart stated that it was a wonderful meeting, but unless something results it just was not successful. Valentine W1 added that he hoped to see some kind of priorities outlined and committees chosen to work on them. It seems the County, Townships and City are all becoming more interactive with mutual interests, and he thinks this needs to be explored.

Stewart suggested working from the minutes of the meeting to develop a letter asking about further addressing the earlier issues. Valentine W1 and Stewart will draft a letter along with which the minutes will be sent out to the list of people who attended the meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

*(a) Bridge guardrail damage:*

Valentine W2 asked Cooper about the damaged guardrail on the U.S. 250 bypass bridge near the old Dalton Foundry. An accident in March caused the damage when a tractor-trailer slid into the guardrail, and he asked about the process for getting the guardrail repaired. He stated the guardrail is very weakened, and wondered how long it would be before it is fixed.

Street Department Director Jerry Mack explained the process and added they also want it done as soon as possible.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Valentine W1 and seconded by Valentine W2 to adjourn.  
Ayes: Detrow, Wertz, Stewart, Valentine W1, Valentine W2

Council adjourned the regular session at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by  
Elaine C. Hootman  
Clerk of Council