

**President Kevin Hardman called the Council meeting of September 30, 2008 to order at 7:00 p.m.** Mark Piepmeier led Council in prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Al Ledbetter followed the prayer.

### **ROLL CALL**

In attendance for Roll Call were Council Members: Kerry Rabe, Jim Dygert, Greg Pugh, Rob Tankersley, Vicki Hoppe, Bob Duerler and Janey Kattelman.

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes from the previous meeting of September 9, 2008 were approved as distributed.

### **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **MAYOR – VIRGIL LOVITT**

- Mayor Lovitt gave the oath of office to Bill Hensley who was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant
- Mayor Lovitt gave the oath of office to Derek Broenner who was promoted from Police Officer to Sergeant.
- Mayor Lovitt gave the oath of office to Brandon Vanderyt who has been hired as a new Police Officer.
- For two years in a row (2006 and 2007), the City of Sharonville has been selected for the “Making Your Taxpayer Dollars Count Award” from State Auditor Mary Taylor. This has a lot to do with the good work of Auditor Mark Piepmeier and Budget Director Amy Moore as well as the rest of the team. State Auditor Mary Taylor will personally make the presentation to Mayor Lovitt and Amy Moore tomorrow morning at 10:45.

#### **SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR – TED MACK**

- The appropriation ordinance has been revised and was redistributed this evening.
- The City is moving forward in meeting with approximately 15 parties interested in the GSA property. The meetings should be held in mid-October.
- The Formica plant in Evendale has agreed to take all of the wood chips from the storm to use as part of their process for their boiler. This will be a savings from having to dump the wood chips at Rumpke. Ted Mack noted that Public Works continues to work to get the brush material picked up. The typical daily route is now taking three to four days due to the amount of brush material to be picked up. Kerry Rabe expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for the additional hours they are working to get everything done.
- A flyer has been passed out regarding two informational meetings hosted by Duke Energy to discuss Duke Energy’s response to the public when the storm occurred. Duke Energy is also looking for input on better ways of informing the public as well as governmental agencies. Ted Mack intends to attend the meeting on Monday of next week at the Forest Park Senior Center.
- Ted Mack, Christine Johnson, Brad Sprague (City’s financial adviser) and Andy Brossart (5/3 Securities) will be meeting with Hamilton County tomorrow to discuss the financial package that will help expand the Convention Center.

#### **DEPUTY SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR – CHRISTINE JOHNSON**

- Christine Johnson expressed appreciation to those who voted to elect members for the Soil & Water Conservation Board.

- There was a meeting with Norfolk Southern Railroad last week. It appears that the railroad will grant an easement on the property to do the Millcreek Confluence project. This project is for flood control and water quality improvements. A letter was signed indicating that the railroad intends to pursue the easement. This will enable the City to continue with the funding which is \$1.8 million.

#### **DEPUTY SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR – ROBERT FISHER**

- Appreciation was expressed to City employees in various departments who have worked and continue to work overtime following the storm to respond to incidents the day of the storm as well as to take care of the damage that occurred.
- The damage and costs estimated to be incurred by the City is approximately \$100,000. There is a potential to recoup a good portion of the cost from the federal government if a disaster declaration by the President is received. Robert Fisher will be meeting next week with FEMA officials to discuss some of those details and to determine what other items may need to be prepared.
- A Voice Vote is requested this evening for the Recreation Department to apply for a grant in the amount of \$11,360 to purchase recycling containers for all of the parks. Appreciation was expressed to Carol Crawford and Pat Schehr for their efforts in preparing this application. The recycling would allow the City to divert a substantial amount of recyclables from the landfill.
- Public Hearings will be needed at the two October Council meetings on the Community Development Block Grant application. This application will be submitted in November. The Goldenview Acres property will be the focus for this three-year funding cycle. Originally, in the last three-year cycle, the Administration informed Council that the money would essentially be banked to be put toward a plumbing project at Goldenview Acres. There are some other issues that have been determined to be more important to address on that property. The roof, parking lot and water service to one of the buildings will be the focus in this grant cycle.

#### **CONVENTION CENTER DIRECTOR – WILL GREINER**

Will Greiner gave the annual report to Council for the Convention Center.

- 345 organizations convened at the Convention Center over the past 12 months. There have been over 9,000 organizations at the Center since the opening that have brought over 2.5 million people into the Convention Center.
- The staff tries to be proactive rather than reactive to conditions that may impact the business by keeping up with events, news reports and business trends. Homework is done to review the stability of the clients and the stability of the industry of the clients. Histories are conducted on the events the clients have booked at other venues.
- As a pro-active example, Duke Energy was approached about a year ago to offer the Convention Center's assistance in the event of an emergency or power failure. When the electricity went out due to the storm, Duke Energy was contacted to offer a central location to park vehicles, hotel accommodations and meals that would be needed for out-of-town workers. As the electricity began to come back on in Sharonville, the Convention Center contacted the hotels to make accommodations. With the power outage, it at first looked to be a disastrous week for the hotels. Actually over \$98,000 for the Sharonville hospitality community was generated. 551 rooms were booked by Duke generating \$42,909 in revenue for the hotels and 1,715 meals were served during those days with revenue of \$55,098. Duke Energy has since asked the Convention Center to consider being a command center in

the event of any future emergencies. Will Greiner will be meeting with Duke Energy to discuss this proposal and to request increased backup power generation for the Convention Center.

- Appreciation was expressed to the Convention Center staff for all the work done at the Convention Center during the past two weeks as well as throughout the year.
- 396 contracts have been issued during the past twelve months which is down slightly from last year. There has been some impact from the expansion announcement. While there is excitement about the expansion it also brings up concerns about the construction timeframe causing hesitation for groups to commit.
- In addition to the expansion announcement, the economic conditions also affect the Convention Center business.
- Following the cancellation of a few large groups in March and May a new payment schedule has been implemented for mostly public events. A larger deposit will be required and the payment schedule is being moved up to deter cancellations.
- Since the expansion announcement, the Convention Center has been in contact with so many associations that more business is interested in the facility than can be accommodated.
- Strategies are being changed to increase short-term business to fill dates in 2009 through 2011. The Convention Center will be maintaining primary market efforts selling the existing facility, but only through the year 2009 after which time the construction of the expansion is anticipated. Contact will be maintained with primary market potential accounts for business in the expanded Center for booking in 2010 for events to take place in 2012 and beyond.

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – KEVIN HARDMAN** – No Report

**CLERK OF COUNCIL – MARTHA CROSS FUNK** – No Report

**LAW DIRECTOR – TOM KEATING**

- Tom Keating attended the IMLA Conference with topics that included: management of people, hazardous materials, bond reinsurance problems, trademarks issued by cities, immigration and illegal alien solutions, development agreements and income tax rebates.
- The lien was filed at the Hamilton County Auditor's Office for the Grandview property demolition.
- The appointment of the receiver who will represent the bank and the owner for the Harmony Grove case is being negotiated.

**RESIDENTS DESIRING TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL** - None

**FINANCE & LAW – JANEY KATTELMAN**

- The next Law Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7 at 5:15 p.m.

**RULE SUSPENSION MOTIONS**

The motion for suspension of the regular rules of Council to allow three readings on Ordinance 2008-48 by Mr. Dygert was seconded. Voice Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE 2008-43** – Authorizing Safety Service Director And Mayor’s Court Clerk To Enter Into A Contract With Capital Recovery Systems, Inc. Of Columbus, Ohio To Collect Debts Generated By The Sharonville Mayor’s Court. The Clerk of Council gave the third reading of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mrs. Kattelman was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 2008-48** – Amending 2008 Appropriations In Three Funds And Advancing Funds. The Clerk of Council gave the three readings of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mr. Pugh was seconded. Discussion: Kevin Hardman commended the Administration for dealing with the unusual expenses within the current budget and funding. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2008-R-23** – Authorizing The Formation Of A City Of Sharonville Code Enforcement Task Force To Create A Plan To Implement Better Enforcement of Sharonville Codes. The Clerk of Council read the resolution. The motion for passage by Mr. Pugh was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

President Hardman called for a Voice Vote requesting Council’s approval for the Recreation Department to apply for a grant application in the amount of \$11,360 to the Hamilton County Solid Waste District for the purpose of obtaining recycling containers. The motion for passage by Mrs. Hoppe was seconded. Voice Vote called. Motion approved unanimously.

**RESIDENTS DESIRING TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL** - None

**OTHER MATTERS TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL**

Kevin Hardman attended the Sharonville Fine Arts Grand Opening and commended Council for getting the Fine Arts Council project started.

Kevin Hardman noted that the new ice cream shop at Depot Square will open on October 15.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Tankersley was seconded. President of Council Kevin Hardman adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**ATTEST**

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Martha Cross Funk, Clerk of Council

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Kevin Hardman, President of Council

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Date

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Date