

President Kevin Hardman called the regular Sharonville Council meeting of September 28, 2010 to order at 7:00 p.m. Greg Pugh led Council in prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Keating followed the prayer.

ROLL CALL

In attendance for Roll Call were Council Members: Kerry Rabe, Paul Schmidt, Greg Pugh, Rob Tankersley, Vicki Hoppe, Ed Cunningham and Janey Kattelman. Ted Mack was absent with notice.

MINUTES

- ◆ The Minutes from the regular meeting of September 14 and the special meeting of September 21 were approved as written and distributed.

Economic Development Specialist Tammy Riddle and Jeff Chemot from the Gateway 75 TIF project were available for any questions involving the TIF or the following legislation.

ORDINANCE 2010-51-E – Declaring Improvements To Parcels Of Real Property Located In The City Of Sharonville, Ohio To Be A Public Purpose Under Section 5709.41 Of The Ohio Revised Code, Exempting Such Improvements From Real Property Taxation, Authorizing The Execution Of A TIF Agreement, A Tax Incentive Agreement And Such Other Documents As May Be Necessary, Establishing An Urban Redevelopment Tax Increment Equivalent Fund And Declaring An Emergency. The motion for suspension of the regular rules of Council to allow three readings on Ordinances 2010-51-E by Mr. Tankersley was seconded. Voice Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously. The Clerk of Council gave the three readings of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mr. Tankersley was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

MAYOR – VIRGIL LOVITT

- ◆ There was an open meeting this afternoon with the employees regarding some of the budget issues. Appreciation was expressed to President Hardman for sharing the podium with the Mayor and answering questions from the employees. Appreciation was also expressed to the six members of Council who attended.
- ◆ Legislation for the early separation incentive is on the agenda this evening. A new attachment that is recommended by Administration has been distributed with the following revisions:
 - ◆ At the request of one of the Department Managers, the agreement lowers the years of service from ten to seven.
 - ◆ The agreement now says “must occur no later than 12/31/10” rather than “will be effective 12/31/10”.
 - ◆ The agreement now says “within 3 business days” rather than “until 11/30/10”.
 - ◆ Payments would be made “within 10 business days of the last day” rather than on “the last day of service”. This will still be encumbered as an expense by contract for 2010. But for tax reasons, those opting for this incentive may want to receive some of the money in 2011.
- ◆ Council agreed that the vote would occur on the ordinance and attachment with the revised changes noted above.

- ◆ Based upon a question from Tom Keating, Mayor Lovitt clarified that the “last day” referred to the last day of employment.
- ◆ Greg Pugh asked how many additional employees may choose the incentive with the change from ten to seven years. Mayor Lovitt identified that there was a department manager who had a specific request from an employee. There is also a department where a retirement is occurring. The individual is retiring with age (60) but only has seven years. If the bar were to be lowered to eight, it seems improper to not lower it to seven for someone with a pension retirement.
- ◆ Mayor Lovitt requested feedback from Council on any benefit reduction changes. A Voice Vote may be requested as early as the next Council meeting on expectations for 2011 benefit reductions to put some things to rest.
- ◆ Mayor Lovitt requested direction from Council on changes to the payroll structure before the Administration begins to develop a model.
- ◆ President Hardman noted that his intention would be to have a Voice Vote on the proposal that is before Council now. This still leaves the question of what Plan B is if the separation incentive does not meet the goal.
- ◆ Mayor Lovitt noted that he was looking to provide feedback to the employees on the issues that have consensus. The other issues would depend upon the money available at the end of the year.
- ◆ Based upon a question from Janey Kattelman, Mayor Lovitt clarified that the issues would not be formalized until passed with the formal budget ordinance.
- ◆ Tom Keating requested that the Voice Vote be based upon issues put in writing and numbered for individual votes so that no one misunderstands what is included in the proposals.
- ◆ President Hardman identified that there is a proposal before Council and each item has certain amounts associated with it to reach a number that a majority of Council has specified for next year. The Administration has put forward a proposal that is believed to prevent layoffs and reach that number. President Hardman noted that no one likes this. It is what the majority of Council is willing to do considering the numbers projected. There will be variables based upon whether the goal is not met, met or exceeded. President Hardman reiterated that his intention would be to have a Voice Vote on the proposal that is before Council now.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR – TED MACK – Absent with notice

DEPUTY SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR – CHRISTINE THOMPSON

- ◆ Administration requested that the Employee Policy Manual legislation be tabled until the December 14 Council meeting. It is proposed that the manual would be passed at the same time as the budget due to the changes being discussed during the budget process.

DEPUTY SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR – ROBERT FISHER

- ◆ The City was awarded the Traffic Safety Grant of \$20,000 that was applied for to allow a traffic safety study for the Route 42 Corridor. Those funds will be budgeted for 2011 and the City will be reimbursed once the funds have been expended. This will allow the City to determine the issues throughout the corridor and then plan for future changes based upon the information.

- ◆ The Hamilton County Engineer's Office has allocated funding to resurface the bridge over the Mill Creek on Sharon Road. The project will begin next week and should be completed by the second week of November.
- ◆ The amended ordinances for the electric and gas endorsement programs are on the agenda this evening. These companies (First Energy and Vectran) will provide the best opportunities for savings for the community. The price quoted for First Energy is 5.95 cents per kwh. The natural gas opportunity is to lock in a price for the winter while the gas price is a bit lower than in the winter. Duke Energy will still be the local utility supplier for both gas and electric. Notices will be sent out to all of the accounts within the City for this opt-in program.

CONVENTION CENTER DIRECTOR – WILL GREINER

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

- ◆ Jill Heltman is a new Banquet Manager in the Food and Beverage department.
- ◆ With the expansion project, it was expected that business would be down during the construction period. While business is down, it is better than expected.
- ◆ 208 contracts for future business have been issued this year compared to 206 last year at this time.
- ◆ The usage days were 70.4% compared to 78% at this time last year.
- ◆ Revenues are down about 11%. The stabilization fund is in place to cover any shortfalls in operating expenses, so the expenses are being covered. The average revenue per organization of the 155 organizations so far this year is a little higher at \$3,730 than last year when the average group was spending \$3,439.
- ◆ The facility will be going from eight rooms to nineteen rooms. This has opened a very nice amount of new business potential.
- ◆ The expansion revenue goal is \$2,386,000.
- ◆ Short-term strategies include:
 - Coordinating all existing business with the construction.
 - Promotions and being more aggressive toward alternate date selections.
 - Re-booking existing short-term customers immediately.
 - Offering incentives to groups that have outgrown the facility to limit the size of events until the construction and renovations are completed.
 - More prospecting of short-term business, utilizing lead services and working with the hotels.
- ◆ Long-term strategies include:
 - Growing the list of prospective mid-sized conventions, corporate annual meetings and trade & public shows.
 - Expanding involvement with Meeting Professionals International and the state association market.
 - Expanding banquet business.
 - Conducting Fam trips, include clients in final expansion details, expansion unveiling promotions leading to the Grand Opening and new sales materials.
 - Additional exposure through the expanded CVB services.
- ◆ There will also be new services and policy changes.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – KEVIN HARDMAN

- ◆ Appreciation was expressed to Mayor Lovitt for inviting him to participate in the employee meeting this afternoon.

CLERK OF COUNCIL – MARTHA CROSS FUNK

- ◆ A thank you card was received from Ted Mack expressing his appreciation to the Elected Officials and Clerk of Council for the planter basket with flowers sent to him while recuperating following surgery.
- ◆ Happy Birthday wishes to Ed Cunningham on October 6.

LAW DIRECTOR – TOM KEATING

- ◆ The hearing for the Garage Bar liquor license case is scheduled for October 13 in Columbus. A new potential purchaser for that business has surfaced and wants to discuss operating a family-style restaurant. Tom Keating as well as representatives from the Administration and Police Department will meet with the potential purchaser this week.
- ◆ There is a resolution to get involved in a legal claim on the agenda. One of the prime contractors for the Convention Center has walked off the job because the company's assets were seized by the bank. The City is dealing with the company, the bank and the bonding company. Compounding the issue, one of the subcontractors has filed a legal procedure document against the City. Mayor Lovitt clarified that the contractor was the electrician for the parking lot so the issue is not slowing down the construction of the building.

RESIDENTS DESIRING TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL - None

PUBLIC WORKS – GREG PUGH

- ◆ Appreciation was expressed to Kevin Hardman for representing Council at the employee meeting this afternoon.
- ◆ Concern and well wishes were expressed for Public Works employee Chad Meadows who has been in the hospital for the past two days.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – ED CUNNINGHAM

- The Community Relations Committee has not come to a unanimous decision on whether to have a public forum to discuss the budget with the residents. The Committee's discussions led to the recommendation for some type of publication, approved by Council, providing a message regarding the state of the City.

FINANCE & LAW – JANEY KATTELMAN

- The next Law Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5 at 5:15 p.m.

RULE SUSPENSION MOTIONS

The motion for suspension of the regular rules of Council to allow three readings on Ordinance 2010-50 by Mrs. Hoppe was seconded. Voice Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2010-35 – Approving 6th Edition Of The City Of Sharonville Employee Policy Manual. The motion to table the ordinance until December 14 by Mr. Tankersley was seconded. Voice Vote. Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2010-40 – Authorizing The Safety Service Director To Enter Into An Agreement With A Preferred Electric Supplier For The Residents And Businesses Of The City Of

Sharonville. The Clerk of Council gave the third reading of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mr. Pugh was seconded. Roll Call Vote. Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2010-41 – Authorizing The Safety Service Director To Enter Into An Agreement For Natural Gas Supply Program With A Preferred Supplier For The Residents And Businesses Of The City Of Sharonville. The Clerk of Council gave the third reading of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mrs. Kattelman was seconded. Roll Call Vote. Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2010-47 – Authorizing The Safety Service Director To Enter Into An Agreement With The Princeton City School District To Compromise And Settle Joint Tax Payment Obligations. The Clerk of Council gave the third reading of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mrs. Hoppe was seconded. Roll Call Vote. Motion approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2010-48 – Enacting The Codified Ordinance Changes Provided By The Walter Drane Company. The Clerk of Council gave the second reading of this ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2010-50 – Amending 2010 Appropriations For The Termination Benefits And Convention Center Expansion Project Funds. The Clerk of Council gave the three readings of this ordinance. The motion for passage by Mr. Schmidt was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2010-R-17 – Resolution Adopting Early Separation Incentive For Full-Time Sharonville Employees With Seven Years Of Service. The Clerk of Council read this resolution. The motion for passage by Mr. Cunningham was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2010-R-18 – Authorizing Law Director To Represent City Of Sharonville In Legal Claim Against Butler County Electric And Its Insurance Providers And In Defense of Legal Claims Filed By Subcontractors Of Butler County Electric. The Clerk of Council read this resolution. The motion for passage by Mr. Tankersley was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2010-R-19 – Resolution Accepting The Amounts And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission and Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor. The Clerk of Council read this resolution. The motion for passage by Mr. Cunningham was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2010-R-20 – Commending The Northeast Fire Collaborative For Improving Public Safety Through Intergovernmental Cooperation And Congratulating The Collaborative For Its Recognition At The International Association Of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference In Chicago. The Clerk of Council read this resolution. The motion for passage by Mr. Tankersley was seconded. Roll Call Vote on passage. Motion approved unanimously.

RESIDENTS DESIRING TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL - None

OTHER MATTERS TO BE HEARD BEFORE COUNCIL - None

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Rabe was seconded. President of Council Kevin Hardman adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

ATTEST

Martha Cross Funk, Clerk of Council Date

Kevin Hardman, President of Council Date