

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Council President Stephen Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council-at-Large & President:	Stephen L. Stuart	Present
Ward 1:	Duane R. Fishpaw	Present
Ward 2:	Robert M. Valentine	Present
Ward 3:	Ruth Detrow	Present
Ward 4:	Sandra Tunnell	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the minutes of the **Regular Session** of City Council held Tuesday, May 6, 2014 be accepted as submitted.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

LEGISLATION

Ordinance Number 32-14

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SIMONSON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. FOR THE SHARON AVENUE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine 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: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, testified on behalf of the legislation and shared that the Sharon Avenue culvert has been failing and the City is seeking permission to enter into a contract to replace the culvert.

Mr. Kremser stated that the Ordinance will enable the City to add proper headwalls, establish erosion control, and perform regular maintenance on the ongoing storm sewer construction project.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Kremser if there is any estimated timeline for the completion of the project.

Mr. Kremser stated that a timeline has not been established; however, the City intends to complete the project by the end of the year.

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

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw,

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw Mr. Valentine

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

Public Hearing: M-2 to M-1 Pump House

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, presented on behalf of the public hearing and stated that rezoning of the property, also known as the Pump House property, from an M-2 Heavy Industrial District to an M-1 Light Industrial District has been recommended by the City Planning Commission.

Mayor Stewart asked Mr. Kremser if it is safe to say that everything west of Union Street and east of Church Street is all proposed property to be rezoned.

Mr. Kremser responded affirmatively.

The Mayor also added that the majority of the property involved in the rezoning is fire damaged property.

Dr. Stuart asked if there was anyone present in the audience to testify on behalf of the rezoning and there was none.

This concluded the public hearing for the rezoning.

Ordinance Number 33-14

Item b)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN AREA OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO FROM “M-2” HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO “M-1” LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine 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: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

Mr. Kremser provided a brief explanation to City Council that the proposed Ordinance pertains to the rezoning just discussed and heard as a public hearing item.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

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

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

Dr. Stuart announced the Council will digress from the agenda and bring forward the first Resolution, in an effort to stay as consistent as possible with the public hearing schedule.

Resolution Number 12-14

Item a)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY SALE OF BEER AT BROOKSIDE PARK AND BROOKSIDE WEST.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine 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: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Mayor Stewart testified on behalf of the Resolution, which he stated was discussed during the last City Council meeting.

The Mayor noted that this Resolution mirrors a similar Resolution that made the last soft ball tournament events possible in the past.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Resolution be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

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

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

Public Hearing: Proposed M-1 to R-S Rezoning of portions of land south of Commerce Parkway

City Engineer, Shane Kremser presented to City Council on behalf of the proposed rezoning, which he stated was recommended by the City Planning Commission.

Mr. Kremser shared that the portions of land south of Commerce Parkway involved in this particular rezoning is adjacent to existing R-S properties.

Dr. Stuart asked if there was anyone present in the audience who would like to speak to the rezoning and there was no one.

There were no further questions from City Council or the public.

Ordinance Number 34-14

Item c)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN AREA OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO FROM "M-1" LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO "R-S" RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine 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: Mrs. Tunnell Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance, which proposes to

rezone a certain area of the City of Ashland, Ohio from "M-1" Light Industrial District to a "R-S" Residential District.

The City Engineer noted that the Ordinance addresses the rezoning directly pertaining to the public hearing held immediately before the Ordinance.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

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

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

Dr. Stuart brought forward an additional Ordinance to Council, which he stated was not previously distributed to the Council members; therefore, will be required to be read aloud.

Dr. Stuart asked Council Clerk, Lindsey Gardiner, to read the Ordinance.

Ordinance Number 35-14

Item d)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE 2014 REPAIR AND RESURFACING OF VARIOUS STREETS IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO, TOGETHER WITH ALL INCIDENTALS AND APPURTENANCES NECESSARY THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Ashland needs to repair and resurface various streets in the City of Ashland; and,

WHEREAS, the Council believes it to be in the best interest of said City to maintain its streets in proper condition; and,

WHEREAS, it is immediately necessary to begin proceedings for said repair and resurfacing in order to complete said repair and resurfacing this construction season; and,

WHEREAS, for the above reasons, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety and welfare; now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Ashland, State of Ohio, _____ members thereto concurring:

Section 1. That the Mayor, Director of Public Service be and he is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts as deemed necessary for the repair and resurfacing of various streets in the City of Ashland, Ohio, together with all incidentals and appurtenances necessary thereto.

Section 2. The Engineering estimate for this work is two hundred forty-five thousand one hundred ninety dollars (\$332,649.00). That the money for said resurfacing project shall be paid from Account Nos. 202-1001-56019 (\$93,700.00), 206-1401-55501 (\$100,000.00) and 208-1401-55501 (\$138,949.00).

Section 3. That for the reason it is immediately necessary to repair and resurface the said streets as

provided for in Section 1, hereof, in order to complete said repair and resurfacing this construction season, this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety and welfare.

Section 4. That upon the acceptance of the lowest and best bid for the 2014 Repair and Resurfacing Project, Council does hereby authorize the Mayor to expend up to an additional ten percent (10%) above the awarded contract cost as a construction allowance for the purpose of addressing unforeseen construction conditions and quantity adjustments. The combined cost of the original contract and construction allowance shall not exceed the engineering estimate listed herein without further approval from Council.

Section 5. That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage by Council and approval pursuant to Section 12 of the Charter of the City of Ashland, Ohio.

Dr. Stuart thanked Mrs. Gardiner for reading the legislation.

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, testified on behalf of the Ordinance and stated that the wording of the estimated cost of the project was typed incorrectly; however, the number contained within the parenthesis is the correct estimate.

Mr. Kremser shared that after numerous meetings and careful consideration of the condition of the streets throughout the City, his office has determined that it would be wise for maintenance work to be focused on various main roads, including Claremont Avenue.

One of the reasons Claremont Avenue was selected, Mr. Kremser stated, was because the amount of traffic it receives and the fact that it is a major gateway into the City.

City Law Director, Rick Wolfe, advised City Council to make a motion to pass the bill upon the necessary revision of the wording with regards to the cost of the repairs contained within Section 2 of the Ordinance.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that the words in Line 2 in Section 2 of the Ordinance be revised to coincide with the numbers contained within the parenthesis.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Public Hearing: Proposed M-1 to M-4 rezoning of parcels of land along the east and west side of Commerce Parkway

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, stated that this is another rezoning proposal that has been recommended by the City Planning Commission and is a result from the interest in hotels coming to the area.

Mr. Kremser added that the current zoning of the property is not conducive to developing hotels, whereas an M-4 is.

Dr. Stuart asked if there was anyone present in the audience who wished to speak on behalf of the rezoning and there was no one.

There were no questions from City Council or the public.

Ordinance Number 36-14

Item e)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN AREA OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO FROM “M-1” LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO “M-4” INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK DISTRICT.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine 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: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance, which proposes to rezone a certain area of the City of Ashland, Ohio from “M-1” Light Industrial District to an “M-4” Industrial and Business Park District.

The City Engineer noted that the Ordinance addresses the rezoning directly pertaining to the public hearing held immediately before the Ordinance.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Resolution be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant Allocation Program

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, presented to City Council on behalf of the program and stated that the purpose of this hearing is to announce to the public the activities to be undertaken; including the amount and source of funding and the national objective met for each activity.

Mr. Kremser stated that \$75,000 was appropriated by the Ohio Development Services Agency for the City of Ashland’s Allocation Grant for FY14.

Mr. Kremser added that the City plans to integrate \$62,250 of the Allocation towards the Application budget for the FY14 CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant.

He also shared that the eligible activities for the Downtown Revitalization Grant include but are not limited to building façade improvements, interior and exterior building code corrections, street scape activities, and other public improvements that promote reinvestment in the Downtown Business District.

Mr. Kremser noted that the proposed integrated effort meets the National Objective of prevention and elimination of slum and blight.

The City Engineer shared with City Council and the public that the Community Development Allocation

Program grantees are encouraged by the State to integrate a portion of their Allocation program funds into any FY14 CDBG competitive set-aside programs for which they wish to apply and successfully compete.

Mr. Kremser shared that the Grant will also provide support for the City's transit system, which will further assist the City with the operation of the public transit social service.

Mr. Kremser specified that the grant requirements stipulate that a maximum of 15% of the Fiscal Year Grant Allocation can be used for public services, which amounts to \$11,250.

Mr. Kremser added that the proposed allocation assists with supplementing the City of Ashland's Public Transit social service and thus meets the National Objective for Limited Clientele by providing transportation services to qualified beneficiaries such as disabled adults and elderly persons.

Furthermore, Mr. Kremser shared that if the City is unsuccessful with receiving the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant, the City proposes to implement the Holbrook Street Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

The Project's scope is to rehabilitate the Holbrook Street asphalt pavement between East Main Street and Cleveland Avenue, which the Engineer estimated to cost \$58,750.

Mr. Kremser stated that the proposed project would provide improved public access and thus meets the National Objective as an LMI Area Benefit within an Investment Area identified as 74.6% Low to Moderate Income.

Mr. Kremser specified that the anticipated construction timeframe would be late spring to early summer 2015 and that the project would be funded entirely by the Community Development Allocation Grant.

Lastly, Mr. Kremser shared that the remaining allocation of \$1,500 would help fund the Fair Housing Program requirement of the Grant.

Mr. Kremser shared that if the City implements the Holbrook Street Paving Rehabilitation Project, an additional \$3,500 would fund administration of the Grant.

Mr. Kremser stated he would like to open up the floor to the general public for any comments, suggests or questions they may have regarding the FY 14 Community Development Allocation Grant Application.

There were no questions from City Council or the public.

Resolution Number 13-14

Item b)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATION FOR THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICE AGENCY'S FY 2014 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mr. Valentine 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: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution and stated that the legislation would grant the City permission to file an application for the Fiscal Year 2014 Downtown Revitalization Grant Program.

Mr. Kremser specified that the program is very competitive and that the City applied for the grant last year.

Mayor Stewart asked about the due date of the application, which Mr. Kremser stated is June 20, 2014.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Resolution be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Charter Review Committee Recommendations – Chairman Alan Steiner

Dr. Stuart called forward Alan Steiner, Chairman of the 2014 Charter Review Committee to present final recommendations on behalf of the Committee.

Dr. Stuart expressed sincere appreciation for the Committee's commitment and dedication to reviewing the City's Charter.

Mr. Steiner thanked City Council for allowing him the opportunity to work on such a project and added that he would like to publicly recognize the other members of the Committee:

- Jamie Andrews
- Ron Baker
- Jim Barnes
- Nevin Bowers
- Gene Haberman
- Liz Hipp
- William Strine
- Chris Tunnell
- Robert L. Valentine Sr.
- Paula Watson

Mr. Steiner expressed his appreciation for the Committee's hard work as well as the Council Clerk, who served as Secretary.

Mr. Steiner shared the following Charter related recommendations, which were also submitted to Council prior to the meeting:

1. The Charter Review Committee recommends City Council to amend Section 25 and strike the last sentence, “The salary of the Mayor first elected under this charter shall be fixed by the outgoing Council; and shall not be more than \$1,500 and not less than \$1,000 per annum”.
2. The Charter Review Committee recommends City Council remove “or City employee” within Section 47 to allow a temporary Council Clerk replacement from any other City department.
3. The Charter Review Committee recommends City Council change Section 20 of the Charter to be governed solely by the Ohio Revised Code Sections for public depositories.
4. The Charter Review Committee recommends City Council make charter changes as per the attached correspondence from Squire Sanders and Dempsey.
5. The Charter Review Committee recommends City Council remove the \$1,000 prohibition contained with Section 97 and change it to what Council deems necessary.

Mr. Steiner also shared one recommendation that was not related to the Charter, which was the following:

1. The Charter Review Committee recommends City Council submit a general recommendation to encourage the Mayor and City Council to take the initiative to explore ways to merge the City and County Health Departments.

Mr. Steiner placed emphasis on the fact that the Committee drafted the recommendations and did not intend to construct the final wording as it would be beyond the Charter Committee’s scope.

Mr. Steiner also noted that the recommendation regarding the County-City Board of Health was a direct result of numerous recommendations made by various City officials, and also commented that exploring a way to improve the issue by means of amending the Charter could be a possibility in the future.

City Law Director, Rich Wolfe, commended Mr. Steiner and the Committee for their thorough study of the Charter.

Director Wolfe also noted that the recommendations were appropriate for Council’s consideration.

The Law Director also added that the Charter Committee, although mandated to be held every seven years, City Council can call another Committee forward this upcoming year if it felt it was necessary.

He added that bringing another Committee forward sooner than seven years from now might be appropriate in the interest of finding a way to resolve the County-City Health Board issues.

Director Wolfe stated that he will formulate the proper format of the Committee’s recommendations, which he will then submit to Council for further consideration.

Dr. Stuart asked the Law Director what the deadline was to have this final step of the process completed and the Director stated that the recommendations will need to be finalized by August in order to make it on the November ballot.

Dr. Stuart proposed that Council have a meeting to finalize the recommendations by the second meeting in June.

Dr. Stuart, Director Wolfe and Mayor Stewart all expressed their appreciation to Mr. Steiner and the Committee's for their work.

Sign Permit Request – The Happy Grape

Dr. Stuart called forward the next item on the agenda and asked if City Engineer, Shane Kremser, would come forward and share information about the permit request.

Mr. Kremser shared with City Council that The Happy Grape, located on Main Street, is doing well and has been beneficial for the City's economy; however, the business is requesting approval of a proposed sign that would project into the public right of way.

One member of Council brought forward his concern about large trucks passing through Main Street and potential storm damage, which has proven to impact similar signs already established in the downtown area.

Mayor Stewart asked if the sign proposal requires any action from the City Planning Commission, and Mr. Kremser said it does not.

Mrs. Detrow asked Mr. Kremser for his personal analysis of the sign proposal and whether or not he believes the sign is reasonable.

Mr. Kresmer responded to Mrs. Detrow's question and stated he has not had the chance to look over the specific details of the proposal just yet, but plans to look it over in depth with Richland County in the near future.

Dr. Stuart asked if anyone in the audience were present to speak to the permit request.

Paul Smith, owner of The Happy Grape, came forward to speak to Council and thanked them for enabling him to speak and for considering his company's sign proposal.

Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. Smith for choosing to establish his business on Main Street and congratulated him on the success of the business.

Mr. Smith stated that there is an existing lanyard for the proposed sign and also shared that the specifications of the sign are appropriate for handling the harsh weather throughout the seasons.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to establish an illuminated sign in an effort to light Main Street at night and make the area more inviting.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mr. Valentine that City Council approve the sign permit for The Happy Grape.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

Approval of Liquor License for Ashland Food Co. LLC

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any comments regarding Ashland Food Co. LLC's request to acquire a liquor license.

There were none.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that City Council requests no hearing be heard on behalf of the application of the liquor license.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Director Paxton shared with Council and the general public a few recent events that have occurred within the State Legislature earlier that afternoon.

Director Paxton stated that income tax legislation is moving through the State legislature this afternoon, which includes a bill involving municipalities reporting income tax collection for both residential and nonresidential.

The Director stated that Senate Bill 282, which proposes to prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on nonresidents' compensation for personal services or net profits from a sole proprietorship, is being further considered by the State and could have a significant impact on the City.

Dr. Stuart asked Director Paxton if he could further explain the implications of prohibiting the City from collecting income taxes on nonresidents.

The Director stated that the City would essentially not be able to collect income tax on anyone who works within the City but does not live within City limits.

The Director also shared an update on House Bill 5, which amend current policies of municipal income tax collection and proposes unified tax collection.

The Director specified that the bill has been passed out of the House and is currently being heard in Senate Finance Committee.

Various members from Council expressed their concerns over the proposed bills and Mrs. Tunnell asked if there is anything the City can do to make their voices heard more in Columbus.

Director Paxton shared that the City has submitted a letter of opposition with regards to House Bill 5 and has also provided opponent testimony on behalf of the City in the House Ways and Means Committee as well.

The Director stated that this information came to his office's attention this afternoon and that he would be happy to provide Council with more information as it comes in.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart thanked Director Paxton for sharing his information on the status of House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 282.

The Mayor added that development activity continues in the area eastern of our City at the corner of East Main Street beyond the bypass, and in the areas beyond Interstate 71.

Mayor Stewart stated that the land in these areas continues to be of interest and continues to be up for

discussion, which is why he would like to propose Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the possible purchase of property.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

A member from the audience, Dian Hammetry, shared with Council her concerns regarding some of the vacant buildings around her neighborhood.

Ms. Hammetry shared that the buildings are getting worse without owners' maintaining the structures and that damage, vandalism and crime is becoming an increasing issue.

Ms. Hammetry asked if there is anything the City can do to help remedy the situation.

Dr. Stuart thanked Ms. Hammetry for coming in and presenting her concerns, and shared that Council is currently working on a solution for vacant buildings through legislation.

Ms. Hammetry thanked City Council for their time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:10 P.M.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Detrow to adjourn from Regular Session to Executive Session for the purpose to discuss the potential purchase of property by the City of Ashland.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow,

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION: 8:46 P.M.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to adjourn from Executive Session to Regular Session.

Ayes: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION: 8:47 P.M.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to adjourn from Executive Session to Regular Session.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Gardiner, Clerk of Council