
Ashland City Council

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL Tuesday, February 19, 2013 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 Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the minutes for the **Regular Session** of City Council held Tuesday, February 5, 2013 be accepted as written.

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

LEGISLATION

Ordinance Number 6-13

Item a):

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw 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, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

Mr. Kremser stated this is the annual material bid ordinance done every year for water, street, engineering and sanitation for raw materials. This year the line item account number is listed for the benefit of the Finance Department. The quantities are estimated and those amounts will be included in the bids.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.
Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine

Moved by Mr. 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. Tunnell, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

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

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

Resolution: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Valentine stated he had received a few phone calls and an email regarding the speed limit change on Claremont Avenue from Smith Road to the University. He deferred the call to Patti Schumaker.

Mayor Stewart read the statement he sent to Council regarding the speed limit reduction. He explained generally about the Traffic Committee and its process which has been in place for many years. The Mayor stated they meet every three to six weeks.

Chief Marcelli has recorded any traffic changes in his manual.

Mr. Wolfe stated there is a break-in period of 60 days.

Mr. Valentine stated he felt it should have been in the paper the day before. Mayor Stewart stated he did not know the signs had arrived and had been posted. Mr. Valentine stated his call came in to him at 9:00 a.m., and he had no knowledge of the change.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Paxton stated Larry Rose, Income Tax Administrator, had retired at the end of January after 17 and a half years. Mr. Paxton appointed Nikki Skafec to replace Mr. Rose, others in the office moved into positions to where there is a need to hire another person in the Finance Department.

Mr. Paxton stated the 2012 audit has begun. The auditors have been working for three weeks in the Finance office. The Finance Department uses Rea & Associates for GAAP, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Mr. Paxton reviewed for those in attendance House Bill 5, which is the income tax overhaul. HB 5 proposes to abolish the City Tax Code and requires cities to adopt the State Tax Code Section 718. HB5 impacts 300 municipalities (out of 600 in the State of Ohio) that collect income tax. Last year it was called House Bill 601.

The Ohio Municipal League is attempting to interject amendments. It is currently in the House and will go to the Senate.

Mr. Paxton will be requesting two public hearings for the 2013 appropriations. One will be held next week and the second one will be held prior to the next Council meeting. Appropriations will be distributed to Council before that time.

Mr. Paxton requested an Executive Session be held for the purposes of personnel and property matters.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

The Mayor stated there is a meeting on Thursday with ODOT regarding the 250 and 42 bridge and intersection. They have collected feedback, and that will be discussed.

Mayor Stewart also requested an Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property, potential litigation, and personnel matters.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Missy Loar from the Times Gazette asked further about the speed limit change on Claremont. She had a comment that there was a concern that the City was catering to jaywalkers. She wondered why it appears the drivers have not been considered.

Mr. Stuart stated there are more activities on that side of campus that cause more people to cross that street. He stated the speed limit of 25 is likely a standard in university towns on well-traveled streets.

Mrs. Detrow stated people should use crosswalks. The speed limit is being lowered to keep them safe, but the people crossing also have to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Mayor Stewart stated the university administration has equal concern for safety while crossing streets. In the near future there will be articles in the school newspaper and additional lighting will be established. The extension to Smith Road of the 25 speed limit was to take into consideration the students crossing from area schools. He stated the comments he has received are comments about people crossing outside the crosswalks.

Mr. Fishpaw stated he has received comments about the poor lighting from Jefferson down to College Avenue. The drivers have indicated it is difficult to see pedestrians. He asked for clarification of when a driver needs to stop for a pedestrian.

Chief Marcelli stated it depends where they are crossing. State law states that in order for it to be jaywalking, there has to be a traffic control light at both adjacent intersections. He stated King Road does not have a traffic control light, so it is legal to cross mid-block. They must, however, yield to traffic. When a pedestrian is at a crosswalk, traffic must yield to those people when they step off the curb. When standing at the curb, traffic does not have to stop UNLESS the pedestrian is downtown and standing on the curb. At that time, the traffic must stop when they see a pedestrian waiting to cross the street. Chief Marcelli added that even though there is a footbridge, pedestrians can still legally cross at the street/curb level. There is a specific ordinance that allows that.

Chief Marcelli stated the area on Claremont by the elementary school is not within a school zone. Therefore, the 25 mile an hour speed is thought to be a wise decision for increased safety.

Mr. Fishpaw reiterated for clarification: People are not jaywalking if they are crossing the street underneath the elevated walkway on Claremont at the University. Chief Marcelli stated that is correct.

Mayor Stewart stated he agreed with Mr. Fishpaw and suggested he take his concerns also to the traffic committee. Mayor Stewart stated all of you are welcome at the traffic meeting.

Missy Loar asked for further explanation of what happened that the signs went up overnight and no one knew anything about them.

Mayor Stewart stated the City doesn't normally make a big public announcement that speed limits are changing. He also stated he did not know the signs were in, but he was not criticizing that

they were put up. It had been discussed in the traffic committee meeting that the signs would be ordered and going up.

Mr. Valentine stated the students are adults. He stated he has stopped numerous times when students cross at the crosswalk from the Rec Center. He pointed out that there is an overhead bridge that no one uses and two crosswalks, but the people crossing the street are not in the crosswalks. He stated at the AU building near the carwash on Claremont at Fairbanks and Davis, the University should have more responsibility to “police their own.”

Mr. Valentine stated the speed limit has been the same since the ‘50s and there’s never been an accident. Now it is 25 beginning just north of Smith Road. He doesn’t feel it should be the City’s responsibility to make the change.

Chief Marcelli stated the crosswalk was moved to a spot further north on Claremont to avoid the long expanse for children to cross that was formerly at that intersection.

ADJOURNMENT to Executive Session in the Mayor’s Office for the purpose of discussing the purchase of property, personnel matters, and potential litigation. 7:26 p.m.
(No action will be taken.)

Moved by Mr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to adjourn to Executive Session.
Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Stuart

ADJOURNMENT from Executive Session: 9:48 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to adjourn.
Ayes: Mr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

ADJOURNMENT from Regular Session: 9:49 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to adjourn.
Ayes: Mr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

Respectfully Submitted by
Kimberly S. Calhoon, Clerk of Council