

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 21 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 Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the minutes of the **Regular Session** of City Council held Tuesday, October 7, 2014 be accepted as submitted.

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

LEGISLATION

Ordinance Number 68-14

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN A FUND FROM ONE LINE TO ANOTHER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Dr. Stuart announced that since the agenda was developed for this evening, there is an additional Ordinance that will need to be presented and read.

The Ordinance was read by City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, as follows:

WHEREAS, it is necessary, in order to meet the immediate financial needs of the City of Ashland, Ohio for the calendar year 2014, to transferring appropriations within a fund from one line to another; now therefore,

Be It Ordained, by the Council of the City of Ashland, State of Ohio, ____ members thereto concurring:

Section 1. That the following transfers of the appropriations for the calendar year 2014 for the City of Ashland, Ohio, be, and the same are hereby, made as follows:

Transferring Appropriations within a Fund – Exhibit attached

Section 2. That in order to meet the immediate financial needs of the City of Ashland, Ohio this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, property, health and welfare of said City of Ashland, Ohio.

Section 3. 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 Director Paxton for his reading.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Construction Update: First Energy – Dan DeVille

Mr. DeVille proceeded to share information about a conductor replacement project for multiple steel towers that run westerly from their Brookside substation, near the Ohio Department of Transportation, all the way through State Route 13.

Mr. DeVille stated that the line that will be involved in the construction project is a shared line between First Energy and American Electric Power (AEP).

Mr. DeVille commented that that the shared line does stop near the State Route 13 area, at which point the line is solely owned by AEP.

Mr. DeVille emphasized that the line replacement work will be done in an effort to maintain and continue service to the City as the previous lines had reached a certain age and needed replacement.

Mr. DeVille stated that the work will start by the end of October and there has been some initial preparatory work for the crews that will be coming in.

Mr. DeVille advised that a letter has been issued to property owners informing them about the construction project, when it will begin and also contact information if they have any questions or concerns.

Mr. DeVille announced that contractors have been selected to work on the said project as well as a contractor designated for restoration and clean-up purposes.

Mr. DeVille stated that the project, from start to finish, will take up to five to eight months to complete and that First Energy needs to have the line back in service by the middle of May.

Mr. DeVille offered to answer any questions the Mayor or City Council may have.

Mayor Stewart asked Mr. DeVille is all six or seven conductors will be worked on.

Mr. DeVille stated that only one side of the tower is going to be worked on and that the line actually splits towards Richland County as well.

Mr. Fishpaw asked Mr. DeVille whether he has seen any cost savings as far as it goes for energy efficiency improvements?

Mr. DeVille responded that technological advances in lighting has come a long way since the incandescent light bulb and that he has heard of many institutions moving forward in implementing fluorescent light bulbs and even LED lights in an effort to save money.

Mr. DeVille noted that there are many benefits to making energy efficiency improvements but recommended that property owners and business owners do their homework on which kind of lighting would benefit them the most. (Mr. DeVille recommended the public visit www.energysaveohio.com to learn more.)

There were no further questions of Mr. DeVille and Mayor Stewart and Council thanked him for his update.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: None

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart commented about the Bicentennial and Main Street Committees have announced that they have secured a donor that would like to donate \$50,000 to the renovation of the street scape in the form of removing the oversized trees on Main Street.

Mayor Stewart stated that the trees along the sidewalks on Main Street have been growing for almost three times the recommended time period and are beginning to cause damage to the curbs and sidewalks.

Mayor Stewart announced that the City has started the removal process of several trees downtown and stated that the majority of the trees will be replaced with ginkgo trees.

Mayor Stewart added that the trees are going to be planted using donation funds and the wiring downtown is also going to be refurbished to power white tree lights, which will be lit from dawn until about 11:00 P.M.

They Mayor added that now is the time to plant the trees as it is currently tree planting season.

Mayor Stewart also discussed the downtown trick-or-treating event that will take place October 27th, and stated that precautions will be taken in covering up the places where trees have been removed.

The Mayor placed an emphasis that the tree replacement is being funded solely by private funds.

Mayor Stewart added that he would like to gather all Council members for a meeting to go around downtown and identify buildings that are in need of improvements and to help get the community ready for the City's 200th birthday.

Mayor Stewart shared that Council will not be making any decisions, only notes regarding the improvement of the area, and added that Rob Ward would like to accompany City officials at the meeting.

Mayor Stewart also commented about leaves being raked or dumped in the streets and how they are becoming a problem and absolutely against City Ordinance.

Mayor Stewart stated that the City will not have leaf pick-up until the first week of November, but until then residents need to keep their leaves out of the streets.

Mayor Stewart also commented about a power point presentation regarding two tax levies included on the November ballot, and offered to present the presentation to anyone within the audience that has not seen it.

Mayor Stewart stated that the presentation has been presented numerous times by himself and various Council members over the last few weeks, and that he would also like to schedule another presentation Tuesday, October 28, 2014, in the first floor conference room of the Municipal building at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Stewart also shared that another presentation will be held on Friday, October 31, 2014 at 1:30 P.M., in the first floor conference room of the Municipal building.

The Mayor emphasized the importance of educating the community about the tax levies and that among the five tax presentations held, about 40 people have attended.

The Mayor stated that both tax levies are very important to the City and he encouraged residents to learn more about the levies before the election.

Mrs. Detrow commented that she has been working to spread the word about the income tax and stated that she has taken hard copies of the tax presentation to various senior citizen residences and would be happy to provide copies of the presentation to any other places that might need more information.

Mrs. Detrow noted that the levies are very important and that senior citizens, who usually are very active voters, can share the benefits of the additional funding for the City without actually paying out of pocket since the levy is an income tax.

Mayor Stewart took the opportunity to announce that City wide trick-or-treat night will take place Thursday October 30th from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Finance Director, Larry Paxton, asked if Council would consider adjourning into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

A member from the audience, David Yanchunas, inquired about glass recycling within the City.

Mayor Stewart responded to Mr. Yanchunas and stated that the City is still working on figuring out the best way for the City to recycle glass and working to find ways to afford equipment needed to recycle glass material.

The Mayor added that the price of glass does not pay but the City is interested in recycling as it can help alleviate other costs.

There were no further questions.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:30 p.m.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Detrow to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION: 8:04p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION: 8:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Gardiner, Clerk of Council

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