

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 18, 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. Fishpaw that the minutes of the **Regular Session** of City Council held Tuesday, November 4, 2014 be accepted as submitted.

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

LEGISLATION

Ordinance Number 72-14

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN A FUND FROM ONE LINE TO ANOTHER; 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: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance which proposes to transfer appropriations within a fund from one line to another.

Director Paxton stated that there are lines that run negative through payment of bills and making payments for wages and benefits, which has resulted with the need to transfer funds to cover the above referenced expenditures.

Director Paxton also shared that his office anticipates some year-end expenses from wages as well, which will also need to be covered by the transfer of funds.

Additionally, the Finance Director stated that the City has also experienced up to four pension/retirement payments for the last two payrolls, which has impacted the need for funds as well.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Paxton whether or not the City had a rate increase on insurance.

Director Paxton responded and said that the cost for insurance has increased by about five or six thousand dollars, but the property insurance has dropped by about ten thousand dollars.

There were no further questions for Director Paxton.

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

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

Ordinance Number 73-14

Item b)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF A “THEN AND NOW” CERTIFICATE FOR THE EXPENDITURES FOR 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: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, offered testimony on behalf of the Ordinance which will authorize the issuing of a “then and now” certificate for the expenditures for the City of Ashland.

Director Paxton stated that the State has required the City to utilize the purchase order system, which requires a purchase order be made prior to purchasing anything.

Director Paxton stated that the system encourages cities to anticipate expenditures; however, there are times that cities cannot always anticipate expenditures.

The Finance Director shared that one of the expenditures included in the Ordinance is fuel, which the City purchases at the best price possible offered in the market.

Director Paxton added that unfortunately it is difficult to know exactly how much the final cost will be on this particular item, which is why it has been included in the Ordinance.

Director Paxton also shared that other expenditures include transit costs and the health department costs, which also need funding.

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

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

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

Ordinance Number 73-14

Item c)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR FY 2015 STATE OF OHIO ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE DISCRETIONARY URBAN CAPITAL PROGRAM

Moved by Mr. Valentine and seconded by Mrs. Detrow 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

Mayor Stewart provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance, which authorizes the City to file an application with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the FY 2015 Elderly and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program and the Discretionary Urban Capital Program.

Mayor Stewart stated that the ordinance is approved on an annual basis and announced that the General Manager of the Ashland Public Transit, Christina Alt, was available to speak on behalf of the Ordinance.

Ms. Alt shared with Council information about the most recent invoice her department has received, which she reported was higher than normal due to an increase in the number of elderly and disabled passengers who use public transit services.

Patti Schumaker, Executive Assistant to the Mayor's Office and Administrator for Ashland Public Transit, also shared information regarding the ordinance.

Ms. Schumaker stated that the funding for elderly and disabled transit fare the Ashland Public Transit receives is determined by ridership.

Ms. Schumaker added that the City is expected to receive an additional twenty six thousand dollars due to the increase in elderly and disabled riders.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Tunnell asked if the City has more elderly or disabled people riding the public transit.

Ms. Schumaker responded that the number of elderly and disabled has steadily increased along with the number of Job and Family Services riders, who are down at least one driver.

There were no further questions.

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

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

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

Resolution Number 19-14

Item a)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE, TO ENTER INTO A CONSENT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE UPGRADING OF FOUR SIGNALS LYING WITHIN THE CITY CORPORATION LIMITS; TO BE FUNDED BY ACCOUNT NO. 405-4610-55006 WITHIN AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$17,060.00; 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 Resolution 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

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution, which authorizes the Mayor to enter into a consent agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the upgrading of four signals lying within the City of Ashland.

Mr. Kremser shared with Council that he was advised by ODOT to present the Resolution as soon as possible.

Mr. Kremser stated that the upgrading of the four signals goes back to the safety program project, which determined an upgrade would help improve the safety of the areas where the traffic signals will be improved and/or replaced.

Mr. Kremser shared that the traffic signal located at Lee Avenue and Sloan Avenue will be replaced, the traffic signal located on Liberty Street will receive an upgrade, the signal on the east side of the St. Rt. 42 overpass will be upgraded, and a temporary signal will be installed at the ramp located near the Bob Evans restaurant.

Mr. Kremser stated that the temporary signal will be transferred due to anticipated construction in the area.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Kremser why the City would be charged to share a temporary signal.

Mr. Kremser explained that the City is not expected to pay for the temporary signal, but the City is expected to pay the difference in cost between a base bid and any type of preemption system.

Mr. Kremser also added that the funding will also include three vehicle units, which the City has only one right now.

Mr. Kremser stated that this system is safer and would provide the City with additional units the City can use for emergency responders.

Dr. Stuart called forward Director Paxton to recommend an account number to fund the consent agreement with ODOT.

Director Paxton stated that account number: 405-4610-55006, which is a capital improvements fund is appropriate to use for the funding at this time.

City Fire Chief, Richard Anderson, advocated on behalf of the GPS system and explained to Council that the signals with the GPS system are a preferred system as it a smart sensing system that offers a huge safety benefits for emergency responders.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Resolution 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 Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Approval of Liquor License Request** – Ashland Drive Thru, LLC.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that Council not request a public hearing regarding Ashland Drive Thru, LLC.'s request for a liquor license.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Fishpaw asked about some of the stop signs around town that have red reflectors attached to their posts and whether or not the City intends to add reflectors onto all stop signs.

Mr. Kremser responded to Mr. Fishpaw's question and stated that the stop signs that have reflective tape on the posts were funded by the Safe Routes to School program, which fortified stop signs around school areas.

Mr. Fishpaw asked if the reflective tape was a requirement and Mr. Kremser stated that it was not, but recommended.

Mr. Valentine brought forward a concern about the leaf pick up within the City and how numerous residents have complained about following the law by keeping their leaves away from the curb; however, residents who do rake their leaves in the street get better pick up than those who do not.

Mayor Stewart and Dr. Stuart responded to Mr. Valentine's comment that it is important to keep leaves clear of curbs; however, the trucks can only reach so far when it comes to picking up the leaves.

Mayor Stewart noted that there will be a second leaf pick up, which will provide residents another opportunity to have their leaves picked up.

Mrs. Detrow shared that she attended the Heroin Summit last week and stated her concerns about drug addiction and the need to bring awareness to the issue.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

The Finance Director, Larry Paxton, commented about an account that is beginning to dawn for EMS and that his office has a few more hoops to get through, but they are getting there.

The Director stated that as of last week, they are beginning to transmit those invoices to his office, so we're getting there.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart concurred with Mrs. Detrow's statement regarding the need for awareness for heroin addiction within the community.

The Mayor added that there is also a need for more awareness when it comes to the abuse of prescription medications, which has been linked to the beginning of addiction.

Mayor Stewart shared how he learned of the excessively high number of prescriptions for medications compared to the number of residents within the County, and how much of a problem it can cause.

Mayor Stewart also commented about leaf pick up and reported that the City had to take five truck-loads of leaves from one property.

The Mayor stated that such a pick-up is unacceptable and is not the intention of the leaf pick up service.

Mayor Stewart added that he has received word that residents are also adding yard waste to their leaves, which has also been causing problems with the pick-up process.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:33 p.m.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss contracts and potential litigation.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION: 7:58 p.m.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION: 7:59 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Gardiner, Clerk of Council