

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 15, 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	Absent
Ward 3:	Ruth Detrow	Present
Ward 4:	Sandra Tunnell	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EXCUSE OF ABSENCE

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to excuse Robert Valentine from City Council Wednesday, April 15, 2014.

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

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that the minutes of the **Regular Session** of City Council held Tuesday, April 1, 2014 be accepted as revised.

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

Abstain: Dr. Stuart

LEGISLATION

Ordinance Number 23-14

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mayor Stewart testified on behalf of the Ordinance, which will enable the City to purchase real property located near East Main Street, which is more popularly known as the Rumpke Property.

Mayor Stewart shared with Council that the City has negotiated a tentative agreement with the current owner of the property.

The Mayor specified that the lot comes across the front of the City's current police station and along the length of the Justice Center.

The Mayor noted that at this time, the property is appropriately priced at \$50,000 and with Council's approval of the funds, the City will move forward with the purchase of the property.

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

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

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

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

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

Ordinance Number 24-14

Item b)

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

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

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance which would enable the City to transfer funds from one line item within the current budget to another line item within the current budget.

The Director stated that as of last week, there was an adjustment of the debt schedule of the 2013 bonds, which requires additional funding, which is broken down in the attachment that was distributed to Council.

The Director shared that his office received the first half of the City's property tax revenue from the County and that an additional expense was incurred.

Director Paxton also shared that the City anticipates incurring similar expenses when it receives the second half of the property tax revenue.

The Director specified the Ordinance would not only help cover additional auditor expenses from the collection of property tax revenue, but it would also provide funding for additional miscellaneous expenses for various departments throughout the City.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Paxton if he could provide Council with further explanation of the debt payment adjustments.

Director Paxton responded that the budget for 2014 was based off of the bonds issued the previous year, which included a principle interest of payments.

He added that during the gap conversion of the audit of 2013, the numbers equaled out to exactly the same number issued for 2012 for the 2013 bonds.

The Director shared that his Department was not aware of any funding issues, until last week when additional principle was required.

Mrs. Detrow inquired about the auditor fees and whether or not the rates charged for collection of revenue has increased since last year.

The Director shared with Mrs. Detrow that the fees have changed for the City this year, and specified the city paid approximately seven thousand dollars last year, and the City has incurred around twelve thousand dollars in fees this year.

Director Paxton stated there were a lot of assessments paid, and when the County took in the money the County charged the City for it.

The Director did admit that there are some expenses that he has not had the time to meet with the County Auditor about, but stated that he plans to meet with her in the near future so that he can understand the expenses.

The Director stated that, unfortunately, the City has to expense the charges imposed by the County because they deduct the cost before the City receives the funds.

Director Paxton did state that the City is fortunate to have brought in 575,000 dollars for the first half of the property tax revenue, which is more than what was anticipated.

The Director placed emphasis on the fact that with an increase in revenue collection, there is also a congruent increase in fees from the County.

Dr. Stuart asked the Director if the first half of the property tax revenue was greater than anticipated because of the collection of delinquencies.

The Director confirmed that the increase was partially due to the successful collection of money the City hasn't gotten in previous years.

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

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

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

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

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

Public Hearing – Proposed Rezoning of Portions of Land South of Pleasant Street, West of Church Street and North of West 4th Street.

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided a brief explanation of the proposed rezoning, which was recommended by the City Planning Commission.

Mr. Kremser stated the rezoning recommendation, which proposes to zone an M-2 Heavy Industrial District to an R-S Residential District, does appropriately conform to the zonings in the surrounding area.

Dr. Stuart asked if there was anyone present within the audience that wished to speak to the proposed zoning change, and if Council had any questions.

Dr. Stuart stated that, with no further comments, this concludes the public hearing.

Ordinance Number 25-14

Item c)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, testified on behalf of the Ordinance which would allow the City to make additional appropriations.

Director Paxton shared with Council that this Ordinance coincides with Ordinance 23-14, which allows the City to purchase certain real property located within the City of Ashland.

The Director stated that this Ordinance allows the City to fund the expenses in conjunction to the purchase of the property.

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

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

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

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

Ordinance Number 26-14

Item d)

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY SERVICE DIVISION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO, OBVIATING FORMAL ADVERTISING AND BIDDING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

City Services Director, Jerry Mack, provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance, which would allow the Street Department to purchase an International truck.

Director Mack specified to Council that the truck will cost 81,059 dollars, which includes an 84 month warranty.

The Director shared that the truck is on state bid and that the 84 month warranty is needed.

Dr. Stuart asked Director Mack if the state included the warranty.

The Director responded that the warranty was included within the bid, and added there is a 100,000 mile limit and unlimited engine hours.

The Director noted that the transmission is not included within the warranty, but shared that he thinks that will be fine.

The Director mentioned the purchase of the truck has been a bit hurried in an effort to avoid any price increases and because this particular deal is the least expensive.

Director Mack also included the cost for the plough, bed and hydraulics, which were estimated to cost 57,707 dollars.

Dr. Stuart asked the Director if the purchase would be funded out of the Street Department Fund.

The Director confirmed that the purchase would come from the Street Department.

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

Ayes: 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 Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

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

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

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

Ordinance Number 27-14

Item e)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN AREA OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO FROM "M-2" HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO "R-S" RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.

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

Dr. Stuart brought forward the Ordinance and mentioned that the proposed rezoning from an M-2 to an R-S District is the same area heard in today's Public Hearing.

Dr. Stuart asked there were any further questions from Council, and there were none.

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

Ayes: 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 Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

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

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

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

Resolution Number 11-14

Item a)

RESOLUTION DECLARING SUPPORT FOR STATE ISSUE 1, RENEWAL OF THE STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM, ON THE MAY 6, 2014 BALLOT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution, which will declare the City's support for State Issue 1, renewal of the State Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Kremser stated to Council that the State Capital Improvements Program is a program administered through the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Mr. Kremser also shared that the program is a funding mechanism that provides grants and loans to communities to fund infrastructure projects.

Mr. Kremser added that the City of Ashland has used the service on an annual basis for many projects.

Dr. Stuart announced to Council and the audience his intent to vote against the Resolution despite the fact that the City has been a positive beneficiary of the program.

Dr. Stuart explained to Council that he believes the Resolution goes against basic principles of responsible economics and because he is a proponent of cities paying as they go and spending only what they can afford.

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

Ayes: 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 Resolution be passed on the second and third readings.

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

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

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

Abstain: Dr. Stuart

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed M-2 to M-1 Request for Public Hearing: Pump House

Dr. Stuart posed the question to Council to bring the rezoning forward for a public hearing at the next City Council meeting at least 30 days from today and at 7:05 p.m. He also added to the motion to have an

Ordinance prepared so Council can move forward if it so chooses.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that City Council hold a public hearing for the rezoning April 20, 2014 at 7:05 p.m., and to have an Ordinance drafted so Council can move forward if it so chooses.
Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart

Proposed M-1 to R-S Request for Public Hearing: Portions of Land South of Commerce Parkway

Dr. Stuart posed the question to Council to bring the rezoning forward for a public hearing at the next City Council meeting at least 30 days from today and at 7:10 p.m. He also added to the motion to have an Ordinance prepared so Council can move forward if it so chooses.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that City Council hold a public hearing for the rezoning April 20, 2014 at 7:10 p.m., and to have an Ordinance drafted so Council can move forward if it so chooses.
Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

Proposed M-1 to M-4 Request for Public Hearing: Parcels of Land Along the East and West Side of Commerce Parkway

Dr. Stuart posed the question to Council to bring the rezoning forward for a public hearing at the next City Council meeting, at least 30 days from today, and at 7:15 p.m. He also added to the motion to have an Ordinance prepared so Council can move forward if it so chooses.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that City Council hold a public hearing for the rezoning April 20, 2014 at 7:15 p.m., and to have an Ordinance drafted so Council can move forward if it so chooses.
Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mrs. Detrow

Fair Housing Presentation – Ohio Regional Development Corporation

Dr. Stuart welcomed and called forward Dale Hartle, President of the Ohio Regional Development Corporation (ORDC).

Mr. Hartle expressed his appreciation to Council as well as to the Mayor for enabling him to present at the meeting.

Mr. Hartle stated that as a result of the City receiving Federal and State funding in regards to various housing improvement programs, it is required by law that Fair Housing information be provided to citizens on a regular basis.

Mr. Hartle shared that the first Fair Housing law was passed in 1866 as a Civil Rights Act, and throughout the years additional Fair Housing legislation had been passed to fortify the law and make it more inclusive.

Mr. Hartle added that communities throughout the State and the rest of the County are required to comply with the Fair Housing laws.

Mr. Hartle specified that the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination of race, national origin, sex, familial status, and military status.

Mr. Hartle shared with Council that his organization is responsible for monitoring all Fair Housing complaints that arise within the City, and stated that the frequency of such complaints are minimal.

Mr. Hartle stated that the majority of complaints his office receives do not involve discriminatory injustice, but rather eviction notices as a result of individual financial irresponsibility.

Mr. Hartle placed emphasis on how Fair Housing laws simply protect citizens from discrimination and does not negate obligatory agreements, such as contracts, if an individual suddenly decides to breach such an agreement.

Mr. Hartle commented about two pieces of literature that includes information about the Fair Housing Act and land lord – tenant regulations.

Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. Hartle for presenting to Council, and offered to answer any questions.

There were no questions from Council.

Dr. Stuart called forward, Dan DeVille, of First Energy to present to Council.

Mr. DeVille thanked Council for allowing him to present at the meeting and shared information about how First Energy has begun its work to reinvest in the community as it is beginning the construction process of various transmission lines.

He added that the improvements will be beneficial in many ways for the City of Ashland and surrounding areas.

Mr. DeVille stated that the specific line he has come to Council to discuss is called the Jerome-Brookside line, which is a 69,000 volt line that originates at a substation located near the Ohio Department of Development facility in Ashland.

Mr. DeVille went on to describe the direction of the line, which runs southerly through the City and County and terminates just outside of Loudonville at their Mohican substation. He added that the line is approximately 24 miles long.

Mr. DeVille specified the importance of the substation as it receives electricity directly from power plants, which is then distributed to businesses and homes throughout the community.

Mr. DeVille told Council that the project, which commenced yesterday, includes the replacement of every pole, every length of wire, and every piece of hardware of the Jerome-Brookside line will be replaced.

Mr. DeVille explained that such a project is unprecedented for the company, and shared that the project is on such a fast track and is so large that it has had to contract out to local contractors.

Mr. DeVille also commented about an additional line near Ashland that will also be replaced, which brings the total to over 50 miles of transmission lines replaced in or near the City.

Mr. DeVille stated that First Energy decided to begin the replacement process this year due to the age of the current lines, but also to provide additional services to future businesses that come to the area.

Mr. DeVille stated that he has had many conversations with the City Engineer's office in an effort to make sure it complies with its regulations and to make sure the company has acquired all necessary permits for the project.

Mr. DeVille shared that the 30 million dollar project will include "remote switching", which will give operators the ability to open and close segments of line and also enable the company to repair and restore power to the community faster.

Mr. DeVille told Council that during the project, there are no planned interruptions of service nor any anticipated road closures within the community during the replacement process; however, if such interruptions do happen they will only be temporary and on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. DeVille encouraged Council and citizens within the community to call the project hotline if there are any questions regarding his presentation or any questions about the project itself.

The phone number to the project hotline is: (888) 340-3588.

Mr. DeVille thanked Council for allowing him to present and offered to answer any questions they might have.

Mayor Stewart and Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. DeVille for sharing information about the transmission line replacement project.

Dr. Stuart called forward Kathy Goon, of the Ashland Area Council for Economic Development (AACED), to present information regarding their Annual Job Fair.

Ms. Goon thanked Council for allowing her to present.

Ms. Goon explained that all staff of the AACED are excited to hold their third annual job fair, which will be held Thursday, April 17th at the Ashland University Convocation Center between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Goon shared with Council that over 40 employers will be attending the fair bringing a total of 500 jobs opportunities.

Ms. Goon specified that there will be a large variety of jobs available with skills levels that range from entry level to upper management positions.

In addition to the employment opportunities, Ms. Goon, also shared that this year the fair will be providing lap tops to enable applicants to upload resumes, as well as provide two break-out sessions which will discuss skills and preparation for job interviews.

Ms. Goon also stated that a representative from Ohio Means Jobs will be present to discuss jobs available within the public sector and to teach people about their job database.

Ms. Goon expressed her appreciation to Council and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Stewart and Dr. Stuart thanked Ms. Goon for her presentation and for her service to the community.

Dr. Stuart called forward Molly Webb to discuss this year's Christmas Decorations for the City.

Ms. Webb thanked Council for their time and stated that today she would like to give the City an update on this year's holiday decorations.

Ms. Webb mentioned the new Christmas decorations that were up last holiday season were made possible by Councilwoman Sandra Tunnell, the City, as well as numerous citizens.

Ms. Webb also thanked City Services Director, Jerry Mack, for his department's work in installing the decorations downtown.

Ms. Webb presented pictures to Council of ideas her committee has in mind for the upcoming holiday season, which included brighter bows and additional snowflake lights.

Currently, the City has four snowflake lights, and the committee hopes to acquire at least eight more.

Ms. Webb stated that she, along with others, are constantly fundraising throughout the year for the decorations, and does its best to utilize supplies from previous years.

Ms. Webb thanked Council and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Stewart complimented Ms. Webb and Mrs. Tunnell for all of her hard work, as well as Director Mack for his department's installation of the decorations.

Mayor Stewart also commented that the holiday decorations are a great addition to downtown and the rest of the community.

Dr. Stuart also expressed his gratitude for Ms. Webb's work.

Mrs. Tunnell commented that while the snowflakes are from out-of-state, the swags, lights and bows are all done locally.

Dr. Stuart brought forward another item to Council, which was a request for a permit to advertise on private property.

Dr. Stuart stated that the permit request was made by County Commissioner candidate Mike Barrett.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that the permit request for Mike Barrett to advertise on private property be approved.

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

Dr. Stuart called forward Pastor John Bouquet, of Bethel Baptist Church, to present to Council.

Pastor Bouquet thanked Council and shared that he just wanted to stop by to remind everyone that Thursday, May 1st is the National Day of Prayer.

The Pastor mentioned that Ashland, believe it or not, holds the largest breakfast event celebration in the State.

Pastor Bouquet extended an invitation to Council, the Mayor and their staff to attend the breakfast on May 1, 2014.

Pastor Bouquet also shared that this year's guest speaker will be Ashland University's Women's Basketball Coach, Sue Ramsey.

The Pastor commented that there will be a large number of civic leaders, business owners and church leaders at the event.

The Pastor then closed his presentation with a prayer.

Dr. Stuart brought forward to Council the need to establish a date and time for a work session.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that Council hold a work session Monday, April 21st, at 2:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room in the Municipal Building.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart shared with Council that he was informed by the Ohio Department of Transportation that there will be a public hearing May 21st, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Sheriff's Annex.

Mayor Stewart also stated that he would like to share a few issues his office has been receiving complaints about.

The first complaint the Mayor shared was non-handicapped citizens using a friend or family member's handicap parking permit to park in handicapped spaces.

The Mayor stated that it is against the law for anyone who is not intended to use the parking permit to abuse the permit and park in a handicapped parking spot.

The second complaint the Mayor shared involves drivers who do not turn on their headlights when their windshield wipers are on.

The Mayor stated that it is Ohio law to have headlights on when windshield wipers are on.

The third complaint the Mayor shared involved the visibility of a crosswalk for drivers along King Road.

The Mayor stated that the individual who shared this complaint expressed frustration that nothing has changed to improve the issue.

Mayor Stewart stated that the bottom line is the City has communicated and worked with Dan DeVille, of First Energy, to improve and ensure the crosswalk meets lighting regulations.

The Mayor stated that the lights have been changed and any additional changes would result with additional fixtures and generate additional costs to the City.

The Mayor also added that the Traffic Committee is currently satisfied with the illumination of the crosswalk.

Mayor Stewart also brought up another issue that his office has received complaints about, which involves prolonged parking in front of business in the downtown area.

Mayor Stewart stated that this issue has not improved since it was last addressed.

The Mayor also expressed his concern with residents raking leaves and other foliage into the street, which potentially causes a safety hazard for pedestrians and could clog storm drains as well.

Jay walking was another problem that was mentioned by the Mayor; however, he stated that despite an improvement over recent years, it is important for pedestrians to cross the streets with caution and if a vehicle sees a pedestrian wanting to cross the street it is the law for the vehicle to stop at the appropriate points on the road.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

A resident asked Council about the status of the underground storage tanks of the property the City is currently interested in purchase.

Mayor Stewart responded to the individual's question and stated that the City has conflicting information, and currently has a number of reservations on the matter.

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

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

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REGULAR SESSION:

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

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION:

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

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Queen, Clerk of Council