

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 2, 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, July 15, 2014 be accepted as submitted.

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

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the minutes of the **Special Session** of City Council held Monday, August 11, 2014 be accepted as submitted.

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

LEGISLATION

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Dr. Stuart noted that the Ordinance creating additional appropriations and declaring an emergency appears within the next Ordinance on the agenda, and will no further action will be needed for the item.

Ordinance Number 53-14

Item b)

AN ORDINANCE CREATING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS; 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 creates additional funds gained through the time of payment of state tax to the City.

Director Paxton stated that the funds will be dispersed throughout the General Fund and that a transfer line was created to transfer some of the revenues to old funds that need additional funding.

Director Paxton shared that there is a transfer from the CHIP program to the Housing Program Fund, which the City has been very successful with for a good number of years.

Director Paxton explained that approximately 15 percent of the grant a recipient receives is retained and when the recipient sells that house or passes away, the City then receives the retained funding, which must be deposited in a designated account.

Director Paxton added that the Ordinance also includes the approval of funding for Golf Course operations.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any questions for Mr. Paxton, and there were none.

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

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

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

Ordinance Number 54-14

Item c)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mayor Stewart provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance, which proposes to authorize the sale of the City's former reservoir property located just west of U.S. 42.

Mayor Stewart stated that the property is approximately sixty acres and that the City has attempted to renovate the area many years ago; however, it has become a task no longer feasible for the City.

Mayor Stewart also stated that the land has been used for pasture grounds for several years and that the area is of no particular value to the City, and recommended to Council that the City sell the property.

Dr. Stuart suggested that Council add to the Ordinance that the revenue gained from the sale of the property be placed in the Capital Improvements Fund.

City Law Director, Richard Wolfe, asked if the Ordinance is an urgent matter, and Mayor Stewart specified that it is important to have this land available for sale at auction by the middle of October.

Director Wolfe suggested that with this type of substantive change that Council move to amend the Ordinance as passed on the first reading and then prepare a revised Ordinance that incorporates the changes and present it at the next Council meeting.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed as amended and that the revenue received from the sale of the property be directed towards the Capital Improvements Fund.

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

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

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

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

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

City Law Director, Richard Wolfe, announced he would have a revised version of the Ordinance for signature at the next Council meeting.

Ordinance Number 55-14

Item d)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO 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.

Mayor Stewart spoke on behalf of the Ordinance, which he stated pertains to the sale of City property across the street from Arby's on Claremont Avenue.

Mayor Stewart stated that at one time the property held an underground water tank and that he has been told that the tank has been removed; however, his office has not received that information in writing.

The Mayor added that the front of the lot includes an easement at which the City is allowed to use to gain access to the fire hydrant.

Dr. Stuart asked if it were true that the City has owned this particular piece of property for over one hundred years.

Director Paxton confirmed that the City has owned the property since the last 1800's.

Dr. Stuart also asked about how long the City has owned the reservoir property, and Director Paxton stated that the City has owned the land since the early 1900's.

Dr. Stuart recommended that Council also amend the wording of the Ordinance so that the revenue gained from the sale of the property be placed in the Capital Improvements Fund.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed as amended and that the revenue received from the sale of the property be directed towards the Capital Improvements Fund.

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

Dr. Stuart explained part of the rationale for placing the revenue gained from the sales of the properties into the Capital Improvements Fund is because of the length of time the City has owned them, but also because the funds are not expected to be a substantial amount and will not have an impact on the City.

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

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 Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed.

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

Ordinance Number 56-14

Item e)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN FUND TO DEPOSIT AND EXPEND MONIES FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

The City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, spoke on behalf of the Ordinance, which proposes to establish a fund to deposit and expend funds.

Director Paxton stated that the fund will coincide with the creation of the additional appropriations from the creation of the Property Management Fund, and added that this proposal has been approved by the State Auditor's office.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Tunnell asked Director Paxton if he could confirm that the State Auditor's office will not find any issue with this.

Director Paxton responded to Mrs. Tunnell and stated that the State Auditor will not find issue with this.

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

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

Public Hearing Items:

- **(7:10 P.M.) M-2 to M-1 Rezoning:** Portions of land west of Cottage Street, south of the railroad, between Ohio Street and just north of West 12th Street.

- **(7:20 P.M.) M-2 to M-1 Rezoning:** Portions of land west of Cottage Street, north of the railroad, between the public alley south of West 10th Street and just north of West 11th Street.

Dr. Stuart brought forward the public hearing rezoning portions of land west of Cottage Street, south of the railroad, between Ohio Street and just north of West 12th Street from an M-2 to and M-1 zoning district.

Dr. Stuart asked if the City Engineer, Shane Kremser, would like to come forward on behalf of the first hearing of the rezoning.

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, announced that the Planning Commission made a recommendation to rezone the predominantly residential area to an M-1 district based on input from various property owners, who are interested in selling their homes or do any work with financing, which current M-2 zoning makes difficult.

Mr. Kremser stated that another concern brought forward by the public is property owners' ability to expand residential use without the approval by Council.

Mr. Kremser stated that an M-1 manufacturing zone was chosen by Planning Commission because the R-S use, which is adjacent, is allowed in M-1 and because the district is in such close proximity to the railroad.

Mr. Kremser added that it is important to keep in mind, and should be taken into consideration, that someone could purchase multiple properties in the area for manufacturing use.

Dr. Stuart asked the public if anyone in the audience would like to offer testimony.

Doug Cellar, former Mayor and resident in the area, introduced himself and stated that according to the two papers he received, the area has been proposed to be rezoned from and M-2 to an M-1 or R-S district.

Mr. Cellar stated that he is in favor of changing the area from an M-2, which would simplify the financing and/or remodeling processes for property owners.

Mr. Cellar emphasized that he is completely opposed to making the area an M-1 as the entire area is surrounded by R-S and every single building is residential only.

Mr. Cellar added that Ohio Street, which is a main street in the area, is certainly not a commercial street, along with Arch Street, Elm Street and West 10th Street.

Mr. Cellar commented that if the City rezones the residential area to an M-1 district, there can be cell towers, gasoline stations, convenience stores and unwanted truck stops.

Mr. Cellar went on to explain how the areas bordering on the north, west and south are all R-S, so if Planning Commission were considering rezoning the area, it should continue with the rest of the area and be rezoned residential as well.

Mr. Cellar stated that he hoped the reason the City is interested in rezoning the area is to help the residents have an easier opportunity to remodel or expand their properties, but certainly not to allow taverns, convenience stores, gasoline stations, which the streets are not made for.

Mr. Cellar reiterated that he was totally against the area being rezoned to an M-1 and would like to see the area rezoned to an R-A or R-S district only.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Kremser if he would like to speak in terms of Mr. Cellar's commentary in terms of the rationale of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Kremser stated that the Planning Commission made the determination to rezone the area as M-1 and not R-S because of the railroad and the proximity of the area to the railroad.

Mr. Cellar responded to Mr. Kremser's comments and stated that the railroad runs along other R-S areas and that the railroad is limited and is only occasionally used.

Mr. Cellar added that the people in the area have lived with the railroad for years and years, but what they don't want is to see a cell tower, gasoline station, convenience store or tavern to go up there.

Mr. Cellar emphasized that the proposed rezoning does not only include manufacturing, but all businesses, which makes no sense to him to allow in a one hundred percent residential area.

Mrs. Detrow noted that the map does specify the proposed zoning is to rezone the M-2 district to and M-1 or R-S and that the area does seem to have become residential.

Mr. Cellar stated that the area was zoned before the area was established long ago, but has never been used as an M-2.

Mr. Kremser stated that the area was most likely zoned that way because of the presence of the railroad.

Additionally, two individuals who stated they live in the areas proposed to be rezoned expressed their opposition to the M-1 rezoning.

One of the residents expressed her concerns about an abandoned factory near her home and stated that a group of neighbors have attempted to make the property look better as they have not received any assistance from the City.

Mr. Kremser offered to discuss the rezoning proposal further with Planning Commission.

Council agreed with Mr. Kremser that would be appropriate.

Mayor Stewart asked Mr. Kremser if Planning Commission presented an option or if their rezoning proposal was strictly to change the M-2 to and M-1.

Mr. Kremser responded that the Planning Commission decided to specifically rezone the area to M-1, because of the railroad.

Mayor Stewart stated that it might be a good idea to take the proposal back to Planning Commission because what we seem to have in front of us is not what they specifically suggested.

City Law Director, Richard Wolfe, recommended that Planning Commission clarify if the rezoning should be made R-S or M-1, and that they renew their recommendation.

Mrs. Tunnell asked Mr. Kremser if the area were rezoned to R-S, if it would be easier to enforce some of the things that Mayor Cellar mentioned.

Mr. Kremser stated that an R-S district is pretty broad, which would allow multi-family homes, unlike

an R-L district.

Mrs. Tunnell asked if the district would allow a junk yard.

Mr. Valentine asked about what the City can do about the abandoned factory.

Mr. Kremser responded to Mrs. Tunnell and Mr. Valentine that the junk at the abandoned factory is on private property, and the City does not have power to force a cleanup.

Mayor Stewart added that changing the zoning wouldn't make it any easier to get the property cleaned up.

Mr. Kremser shared with Council members and the public that there are other ways the City can try to manage and regulate blight; however, zoning is specifically for use only.

Mr. Kremser shared that Mr. Cellar's concern about cell towers is very unlikely to happen, especially with the regulations that require a certain amount of space between the towers and residential areas.

Mr. Valentine commented that there is a cell tower quite close to homes on 5th Street.

Mr. Kremser commented that the cell tower Mr. Valentine referenced is an old cell tower.

Mr. Cellar commented that the reason a cell tower is on 5th Street is because of the way the area is zoned and because the company can, and has imposed, their cell tower despite Council's objection.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Kremser if the second rezoning, which is north of the railroad, is the same situation.

Mr. Kremser confirmed that the second rezoning is the same situation as the first rezoning.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that Council send back both rezoning proposals from an M-2 to and M-1 be sent back to Planning Commission and that they renew their recommendation.
Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Mr. Kremser did comment that the resulting proposal from Planning Commission was from public input.

Mr. Fishpaw asked if there were any businesses established in the area.

Mr. Cellar interjected that there are no businesses in the area, and asked Mr. Kremser if there would be a hearing in the near future regarding the rezoning.

Mr. Kremser stated that Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 8th and that it is up to the Commission to consider changing their recommendation.

Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. Kremser and the residents who provided testimony on behalf of the proposed rezoning.

Dr. Stuart announced that this concludes the public hearings.

Ordinance Number 57-14

Item f)

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM ONE FUND 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, offered testimony on behalf of the Ordinance, which proposes to transfer CHIP funds in the amount of \$44,298.47.

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

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

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

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

Ordinance Number 58-14

Item g)

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

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

Director Paxton added that his department intends to balance a negative balance of a fund with the transfer.

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

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

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

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

Resolution Number 15-14

Item a)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CLARIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

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

The City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, offered testimony on behalf of the Resolution, which requests the approval from Council the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and clarifying them to the County Auditor.

Director Paxton stated that this topic has been discussed in previous Council meetings, and that the City has now reached the stage of the budget process, where the City will need to submit approved rates for taxes to the County Auditor's office.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any questions regarding the Resolution.

There were no questions.

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

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, 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 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 Mrs. Tunnell that the Resolution be passed.

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

Resolution Number 16-14

Item b)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE 2015 PROPOSAL WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANTS THROUGH THE US DOT FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), AS AUTHORIZED UNDER FEDERAL TRANSIT LAWS, AS CODIFIED, 49 USC SECTION 5311, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR OTHER THAN URBANIZED AREAS AND FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM AND EXECUTING A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPON GRANT PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE.

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

Mayor Glen Stewart provided testimony on behalf of the Ordinance and noted that the total operation is estimated to cost \$261,072.00

Mayor Stewart added that Federal Capital Management will provide \$31,370, the State will provide \$113,534 and the City's capital will be approximately \$40,000.

Mayor Stewart also added that the City will also get one new vehicle valued a \$40,000 if awarded the grant.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Fishpaw commented that he has received a few complaints regarding the condition of the fire hydrants around town and how they are rusted.

Mayor Stewart announced that his office has discussed this particular issue as recently as this morning and was happy to announce that a volunteer group, working with Dennis Kitchen, is willing to start the painting process as well as install color-coded caps on the hydrants.

Mr. Kitchen added that his group will be working with the Fire Department and begin their painting process on hydrants in the main sections of town and work their way to other areas.

Mr. Kitchen shared that the hydrants will still be yellow; however, his volunteer group will also be installing new color-coded caps, which are designed to indicate the water pressure of the water lines connected to the hydrants.

Mr. Fishpaw also commented that he has also received questions from residents regarding collection boxes and whether or not the boxes are permitted on city right of ways.

Mayor Stewart responded to Mr. Fishpaw's comment and stated that the collection boxes in question are located on Mifflin Avenue, and announced that the City will determine whether the collection boxes are located on private property or city right of way.

Mayor Stewart added that if the collection boxes are located on city right of way, the boxes will have to be moved back.

Mr. Fishpaw also commented and thanked those responsible for taking care of the high grass at the two gas stations on Claremont Avenue.

Mrs. Detrow commented about a few complaints she has received regarding the maintenance of various properties within her Ward; however, she stated that the City is currently in the process of resolving the issues.

Mrs. Detrow went on to announce that the City of Ashland was announced as one of the most affordable cities to raise a family in a study included in the most recent edition of Times Magazine.

Dr. Stuart, the Mayor and the rest of City Council expressed delight that the City of Ashland was ranked third least expensive City in the nation to raise children.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Stewart shared with Council that the City of Wooster has made it apparent their interest, along with two other smaller communities, to join Ashland on the combined dispatch.

Mayor Stewart stated that he has spent some time on deciding how the cities will join; however, no final decision was made as the board was not present.

Mayor Stewart also announced that the Rumpke gas station has been completely demolished and that Dunkin Donuts has visited the property they purchased, which is currently being prepped for construction.

Mayor Stewart was also pleased to share that there are other areas throughout the City that have sparked the interest of businesses and that good things are happening for the community.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION: 7:50 P.M.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Gardiner, Clerk of Council