

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 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

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF ED HOWARD

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, February 3, 2015 be accepted as submitted.

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

LEGISLATION

Ordinance No. 5-15

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ENTER INTO THE AGREEMENT WITH REA & ASSOCIATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORTS (CAFR) FOR THE CITY OF ASHLAND; 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 the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

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

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, presented on behalf of the Ordinance which will authorize his office to enter into an agreement with Rea & Associates for assistance in developing annual comprehensive financial reports (CAFR) for the City of Ashland, Ohio.

Director Paxton stated that the annual report converts the financial data of the city from a cash basis to a gap report.

Director Paxton commented that the Consolidated Financial Report is then utilized by investors because the City is carrying the debt.

Director Paxton explained how the information is then filed with the Securities and Exchange

Commission on an annual basis.

Director Paxton emphasized that this reporting is very important for not only for reporting the information, but also for filing purposes.

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

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

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

Resolution No. 2-15

Item a)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PROVIDE BACK-UP PERSONNEL TO ENFORCE THE RESIDENTIAL CODE OF OHIO WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHLAND; 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 the Resolution has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

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

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution.

Mr. Kremser stated that it is a requirement to have a state certified residential building department to enforce the residential court of Ohio.

Mr. Kremser stated that the City must have back-up personnel for purposes of conflict of interest, vacation, etc.

Mr. Kremser stated that the City will be utilizing services from Richland County for back-up purposes only.

Mr. Kremser added that Richland County does not enforce plumbing provisions, so the City will be coming up with another agreement for back-up personnel to enforce those provisions.

Dr. Stuart asked if the additional agreement will be forthcoming and Mr. Kremser confirmed that it will.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any question for Mr. Kremser and there were none.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Resolution 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 the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution 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 Resolution be passed.

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

Resolution No. 3-15

Item b)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATION FOR THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICE AGENCY'S FY 2015 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM; 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 the Resolution has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

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

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution, which would authorize the City to file an application for the Ohio Development Service Agency's FY 2015 Downtown Revitalization Grant Program.

Mr. Kremser stated that the program falls under the CDBG program, and is intended to provide incentives to remove slum and blight in downtown areas.

Mr. Kremser stated that improving facades of buildings and improving pedestrian-friendly walkways are projects that could be included if awarded the grant.

Mr. Kremser stated that there will need to be public hearings, which he expects to schedule in the near future.

Dr. Stuart asked Mr. Kremser if he had an idea of the potential for the City to receive the grant.

Mr. Kremser stated that CDBG funds are very limited, which makes it very competitive.

Mr. Kremser explained that the City was not awarded the grant last year despite having a pretty strong application; however, his office has met with the State recently which was encouraging.

Mr. Kremser emphasized that the City's bicentennial celebration could increase our chances of getting the grant.

There were no further questions.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Resolution 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 the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution 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 Resolution be passed.

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

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell

Resolution No. 4-15

Item c)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATION: FY 2015 STATE OF OHIO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Resolution has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

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

City Engineer, Shane Kremser, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution, which would authorize the City to file and application for the FY 2015 State of Ohio Community Development Allocation Program.

Mr. Kremser stated that the application is filed on an annual basis, which typically awards \$75,000.00 for qualifying activities that benefit low to moderate income individuals, or remove slum and blight.

Mr. Kremser explained that the City has utilized the funds for paving projects in LMI areas.

Mr. Kremser shared a recommendation his office received from the State regarding allocating a good portion of the funds to revitalization projects downtown, which he explained may help in getting awarded the grant.

Mrs. Detrow asked Mr. Kremser if he had any idea of when the City will find out if it is awarded the grant.

Mr. Kremser stated that the applications are due June 26th, and between now and the due date there will need to be numerous public hearings.

There were no further questions for Mr. Kremser.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Resolution 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 the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Resolution 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 Mrs. Tunnell that the Resolution be passed.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Downtown Revitalization Presentation – Ashland Main Street Board and Bicentennial Committee

Dr. Stuart called forward Rob Ward to begin the downtown revitalization presentation.

Mr. Ward, who serves as Chair of the Beautification Committee, stated that he would like to present to Council this evening in regards to the work that has culminated from two subcommittees; the Logistics and Planning Committee, and the Beautification Committee, of the Ashland Main Street Board.

Mr. Ward shared a number of updates to Council, including the hanging baskets had been delivered to Green Valley Growers in preparation of having them ready for hanging downtown in May.

Mr. Ward stated that representatives of the Ashland Main Street Board are here before Council today to request support for proposals involving parking, alleyways and site amenities.

Rick Ewing, Chair of the Logistics Committee, began his presentation by stating members of the committee have worked over a span of several months to come up with the recommendations Council sees before them today.

Mr. Ewing referred to a presentation outline and city map, which had been distributed to members prior to the meeting, and explained his committee's proposal for "on street parking".

Mr. Ewing's proposal included possibly limiting on street parking from South Street to 3rd Street and Cottage Street to Union Street to 2 hour parking between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ewing stated that the change would accommodate any downtown residents in the area and would also be beneficial to patrons visiting downtown businesses.

In addition to street parking, Mr. Ewing stated that the committee has also been looking at several lots throughout downtown, which would also be 2 hour parking between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ewing explained that there are also plans to create nine new parking spaces on the north side of Union Street in addition to the existing parking.

Mr. Ewing emphasized that there is a significant need for long term parking throughout the downtown area, which he explained to Council as well.

A long term parking proposal involving the Municipal lots and County lot was also explained in more detail by Mr. Ewing.

Mr. Ewing asked if there were any questions regarding the parking proposal.

Dr. Stuart asked if the committee had a time line established for implementing the plan.

Mr. Ewing responded that the committee has agreed to begin putting the plan to use as soon as possible, and noted that there is a process the committee must follow to begin the changes.

Mr. Ward shared that the committee is ready to begin the process of implementing the parking plan and will need the support of Council to go forward.

Mayor Stewart added that it is important that City Council be prepared to support residents if there are any questions and concerns.

Mr. Ward explained that there are a few changes in parking that will probably not be very popular among some members of the community, but they are actually in the best interest of moving the City forward.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that City Council supports the proposed parking plan devised by the Ashland Main Street Board.

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

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell

Mr. Ewing moved on to discuss the committee's proposal to close four alleys to vehicular traffic to make the area more pedestrian friendly.

Mr. Ewing explained that the alleyway that connects South Street and Main Street; the alleyway across the street from Home Hardware; the alleyway across from Lot H; and the alley next to Union Street have been recommended to be closed to traffic by the committee.

Mr. Ewing stated that the committee does not request to close the alleyways now, but requests support from Council before pursuing the funds needed to complete the project.

Mr. Ward added that the committee has contacted utility service providers regarding some of the wires that are hanging within some of the alleys downtown, and reported that the companies will begin working with them in removing some of the dead wires and improving the area in that aspect.

Mr. Ward asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that City Council support fundraising efforts for the closing of four alleyways located within the City of Ashland, Ohio to make the downtown area more pedestrian-friendly.

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

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell

Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. Ward and Mr. Ewing for their work and dedication to the Ashland Main Street Board.

Paul Frederick, member of the Beautification Committee, explained that the committee has worked to find the best locations to install benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks throughout town.

Mr. Frederick stated that the committee's plan has been changed several times and depending upon the final parking plan, the locations of the amenities may change further.

Mr. Frederick explained that the amenities are intended to be installed in the main areas of downtown, which includes Main Street and Center Street.

Mr. Frederick referred to a diagram of the benches to show Council members where and how the benches will be used in the City.

Additionally, Mr. Ward stated that the amenities will be powder coated and durable enough to last a long time.

Mayor Stewart asked about the color of the benches and explained his concern for black benches being too hot during the summer months.

Mr. Ward explained that the benches, along with the bike racks and trash receptacles, are all going to be black in an effort to maintain consistency with other features throughout the City.

Mayor Stewart also asked if the Board had met with business owners yet to discuss the changes discussed today.

Mr. Ward stated that the Board has not held meetings with business owners yet due to the unknown amount of support from the City and because there are so many other parts of the process that still need to happen.

Mr. Ward stated that he would be happy to hold meetings with business owners in the future.

Dr. Stuart recommended that the Board hold a meeting for residents to attend and provide the public updates on their plan.

Mrs. Tunnell commented that the Board has held a meeting at the Ashland Public Library to discuss the bench placement throughout town.

Mr. Ward shared that there is still room for tweaking everything and make the Board available for feedback from the public.

Mr. Ward asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart commented about his concern involving cleaning snow off of sidewalks.

The Mayor stated that it is unacceptable to pile snow in front of sidewalks and not maintain the walkways in front of their homes and businesses.

Mayor Stewart stated that the City does not want to start handing out citations for failing to properly maintain sidewalks and encouraged residents use common sense.

Mayor Stewart shared that Wooster City Council is currently in the process of approving a funding stream for the WACOG and wanted to make sure Council was aware.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

In regards to the WACOG, Karen Emery, asked Council and the Mayor why Wooster was chosen for the location of the dispatch center.

Ms. Emery expressed her concern for the dispatch center being held in the Wooster Hospital and the problems that could result should there be a sale of the hospital or an outbreak of a possible epidemic.

Mayor Stewart stated that the dispatch center will be in a building separate from the main building of the hospital, and added that he does not think there has been a lot of hypothetical discussion involving the possible sale of the hospital in the future.

Mayor Stewart commented that the WACOG has looked at numerous places within the City of Ashland to have the dispatch center, but found that the locations are not sufficient for a dispatching facility.

Ms. Emery asked the Mayor if he felt comfortable with the dispatch center being established at the Wooster Hospital if there is a possibility for the City of Wooster to sell it.

Mayor Stewart responded to Ms. Emery and stated that he cannot predict the future, but believes that since the building is separate from the main hospital building it is less likely for the dispatch center to be impacted by any future sale of the hospital.

Mayor Stewart thanked Ms. Emery for her questions.

Dave Yanchunas shared his concerns regarding snow removal along Claremont Avenue and how the snow plows sometimes block sidewalks.

Mr. Yanchunas acknowledged that it can be nearly impossible to avoid blocking the sidewalks.

Mayor Stewart thanked Mr. Yanchunas for his comment and added that he does not have an answer for his comment.

There were no further questions from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSSION: 8:13 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Gardiner, Clerk of Council