

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, March 3, 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

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 17, 2015 be accepted as submitted.

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

LEGISLATION

Resolution No. 5-15

Item a)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF A FOUR YEAR CAPITAL AND OPERATING PLAN WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COVERING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018; 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 Finance Director, Larry Paxton, provided testimony on behalf of the Resolution, which would authorize the filing of a four year capital and operating plan with the Ohio Department of Transportation covering the period between January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2018.

Mr. Paxton stated that it is a requirement for the transit grant program, which is funded by the federal government, to have a four year capital improvements plan.

Mr. Paxton stated that the plan includes the purchase of a replacement transit vehicle as well as a more permanent location for the transit organization.

Mr. Paxton encouraged Council to keep in mind that this is just a four year capital improvements plan that is contingent on the funds from the federal government and the city to submit appropriate applications.

Mr. Paxton stated that the plan is sort of a wish-list for the transit program, but it is a requirement in

order to continue to receive money.

Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. Paxton and asked if there were any questions.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

(7:15 p.m.) 2015 Annual Appropriations – City Finance Director, Larry Paxton

Dr. Stuart called forward City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, to present on behalf of the annual appropriations hearing.

Mr. Paxton distributed information to members of Council and emphasized that this document is a work in progress.

Mr. Paxton went on to explain the various sections and categories of the document, which he stated is the result of over two months of work.

Mr. Paxton shared that each of the categories will stand by themselves rather than operate as a line-item budget.

Mr. Paxton commented that the past system has created numerous transfer ordinances and by doing a line-item budget, the group line items will stand on their own.

Mr. Paxton added that if the item requires additional resources, they will have to come from other appropriations.

Mr. Paxton emphasized that it is the Finance Department's intent and hope to eliminate some of the transfers that Council has been subjected to over previous years.

Mr. Paxton stated that the appropriations this year will function identical to how appropriations in the past have functioned.

Mr. Paxton specified that the appropriations are still a work in progress and there will need to be more work done over the coming weeks.

Mr. Paxton stated that the estimated income tax revenue is \$8,600,000, with 87% going to the General Fund, 6 ¾ will go to the Parks Department, and the remaining 6 ¼ will go to the Street Division.

Dr. Stuart asked if Mr. Paxton plans to continue keeping the line item appropriations for internal control.

Mr. Paxton confirmed that he will keep them for internal control.

Mr. Paxton stated that along with this public hearing, there has been a second public hearing scheduled for March 17th, at 7:15 p.m.

Mrs. Tunnell asked if the appropriations are supposed to be passed by the end of March and Mr. Paxton confirmed that was the case and will most likely require a special meeting before the end of the month.

Mrs. Detrow asked a few questions regarding the funding for the industrial park and Mr. Paxton answered her questions.

Mrs. Detrow thanked Mr. Paxton for his explanation.

Dr. Stuart asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Paxton regarding the 2015 annual appropriations.

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **The City of Ashland and the American Softball Association** – Warren Jones
 - Request for beer/liquor permit for upcoming softball events to be held in Park System.

Warren Jones presented on behalf of the American Softball Association's request for a beer/liquor permit for upcoming softball events to be held in the Ashland Park System.

Mr. Jones shared with Council that the American Softball Association has made the same request in years past for events and that there have never been any issues.

Mr. Jones stated that holding the event in Ashland helps save money and also brings business to the City.

City Law Director, Richard Wolfe, spoke to the Softball Associations beer/liquor request and stated that there has been a police presence and that there haven't been any problems.

Director Wolfe confirmed with Ashland Police Chief, David Marcelli, who stated that there have not been any problems with this event having a liquor license.

Mrs. Tunnell asked if this permit is for one or two tournaments.

Mr. Jones stated that the beer/liquor permit is only intended for one tournament as the second event is a youth tournament, which the Association does not intend on providing any alcohol.

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

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mr. Valentine to approve a temporary liquor license request for the American Softball Association for the purpose of upcoming softball events to be held within the City Park

System.

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

- **Advertising on Private Property Permit** – Jim Morris, TruGreen

Dr. Stuart called forward Jim Morris of Tru Green to speak on behalf of the Advertising on Private Property Permit request.

Mr. Morris stated that his business has come to Council in the past for the same request, which allows them to promote their business by delivering information to residents of Ashland.

Mr. Morris stated that they would like to renew their permit and continue promoting their business within the City.

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

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mr. Valentine that Council approve an Advertising on Private Property Permit Request for Tru Green.

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

- **Public Hearing Request for Proposed Rezoning** – “R-A” Residential District to “B-1” Neighborhood Business and “R-S” Residential District to “B-1” Neighborhood Business.

Dr. Stuart called forward City Engineer, Shane Kremser, and asked Mr. Kremser about the proposed date for the hearing.

Mr. Kremser specified that the City must wait for a period of 30 days after the legal notice is published in the local paper.

Mr. Kremser stated that the best date would be Tuesday, April 21st, 2015.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to schedule a public hearing for the purpose of discussing a proposed rezoning for Tuesday, April 21st, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Richard Wolfe, who served as Acting Mayor for the evening, shared information on behalf of the Director of the Street Department.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the City’s salt supply is adequate and that the Street Department is continuing to be vigilant in repairing the potholes throughout town.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the fluctuations in weather is making it difficult to make the appropriate repairs and that the Street Department is doing the best it can.

Mr. Wolfe also specified that Mayor Stewart sends his regards.

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton, was called forward by Dr. Stuart to share a report regarding possible funding of the Council of Governments (COG) dispatching system.

Mr. Paxton stated that the numbers he is presenting this evening have been presented to him by the directors of the COG.

Mr. Paxton explained the two spreadsheets that were distributed to Council.

Mr. Paxton specified that spreadsheets include the budget calculations for the labor, cost estimates for the capital equipment purchases and construction costs.

Mr. Paxton also explained that the documents include details of the annual operating costs of the COG, including items such as the LEADS programs and other necessary software.

Mr. Paxton also stated that there is also an estimated debt schedule included within the packet.

Mr. Paxton stated that the City is about ten years shy of the annual debt payment.

Mr. Paxton went on to explain the final sheet, which he stated attempts to calculate the ratio of the costs having to be allocated between the two communities based on population and calls for each service.

Mr. Paxton referred back to the first spreadsheet, which includes information pertaining to the employment of dispatchers and part-time dispatchers.

Mr. Paxton stated that these costs would be incurred later in the year as equipment is still going to need to arrive to the center.

Mr. Paxton explained that there are also going to need to be capital purchases made in order to create the center, which the City of Ashland will be responsible for half of the \$300,000.

Mr. Paxton went on to explain the “purchase of equipment” section, which he explained is estimated to cost \$496,600.

Mr. Paxton explained that the cost for purchasing equipment is where the debt schedule will come into play since the City is borrowing that money.

Mr. Paxton went on to explain the “service contracts” section, which is estimated to cost \$64,000.

Mr. Paxton explained that with the service contracts, it is important to consider various scenarios with regards to the cost of paying the Sherriff’s department.

Mr. Paxton stated that all of the information he is sharing with City Council this evening have been provided to him by the City of Wooster.

Dr. Stuart commented that it is also important to consider the fact that the equipment costs have come down from over \$710,000 to \$490,000.

Mr. Paxton confirmed that Dr. Stuart was correct.

Mr. Fishpaw asked if the costs for the directors and dispatchers included salary and benefits.

Mr. Paxton confirmed that the cost for the directors and dispatchers include salary and benefits.

Mrs. Tunnell asked about the City's responsibility in paying 43% of total estimated cost which is \$1,660,000.

Dr. Stuart commented that the figures Council is seeing this evening are "worst case scenario" as the costs can go down significantly if another city decides to join the COG.

There were no further questions for Mr. Paxton.

Dr. Stuart thanked Mr. Paxton for his work.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

Mr. Wofle requested that Council adjourn to Executive to discuss imminent litigation.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSION TO EXECUTIVE SESSSION: 7:39 p.m.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Detrow to adjourn from Regular Session to Executive Session to discuss imminent litigation.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REGULAR SESSSION: 8:05 p.m.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSSION: 8:06 p.m.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey M. Gardiner, Clerk of Council