

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 7, 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 G. 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, June 16, 2015 be accepted as submitted.

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

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that the minutes of the **Special Session** of City Council held Monday, June 22, 2015 be accepted as submitted.

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

LEGISLATION

Ordinance No. 47-15

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS THROUGH THE GOVDEALS PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT 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 the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

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

Finance Director, Larry Paxton gave testimony to sell a 1983 Ford Dump Truck.

Mr. Paxton stated there was a \$14,000 dump body put on the truck which raised it above the \$5,000 threshold for fixed assets.

Mr. Paxton explained that the truck was put back on the appreciation schedule for 10 (ten) years.

Mr. Paxton stated the truck is actually worth less than the \$5,000 we have been carrying on the books for it.

Mr. Paxton stated we have a buyer for the truck and it has been sold.

There were no additional comments.

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

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

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 48-15

Item b)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF A “THEN AND NOW” CERTIFICATE FOR THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED EXPENDITURE 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 the 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, Mr. Valentine.

City Finance Director, Larry Paxton gave provided testimony.

There were no additional comments.

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

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

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

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that the Ordinance be passed.

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

Ordinance No. 49-15

Item c)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ASHLAND COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

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

Finance Director, Larry Paxton provided testimony.

Mr. Paxton stated that this plan provides response actions for natural disasters, and is required by the state.

There were no additional comments.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance 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. Detrow 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: 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: Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnel,.

Ordinance No. 50-15

Item d)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHLAND MAKE AVAILABLE TWO DAYS OFF WITH PAY FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES TO SUPPORT THE UNITED WAY OF ASHLAND COUNTY; 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. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow , Mrs. Tunnell, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Fishpaw

Human Resources Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mr. Burgess stated that the City is a “Pacesetter” for the new United Way Campaign.

Mr. Burgess stated that the two days off will be offered by raffle and all departments have worked together to make it possible.

There were no additional comments.

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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM:

- **Alley Vacation - 9th Street (Pence – Res. 14-15)**

Mr. Kremser provided testimony.

Mr. Kremser stated that the alley’s in question are dead ends and the City retains the right for access to City maintained property or utilities.

There were no further comments.

Moved by Richard P. Wolfe II and seconded by Mayor Stewart, on behalf of the Board of Revision of Assessments, for a vote in favor of the Walnut/Washington Alley Vacation:

Ayes: Mr. Paxton, Mr. Wolfe.

Nays: Mayor Stewart.

Ordinance No. 51-15

Item f)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE CERTAIN ALLEYS SITUATED IN 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 the Ordinance 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

There were no additional comments.

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 52-15

Item g)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE APPLICATION FOR ASHLAND COMMONS, LLC.

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

Shane Kremser provided testimony.

Mr. Kremser stated that Chris Wiest was present to speak for Ashand Commons.

Mr. Wiest stated that they intend to purchase the old Carter Lumber property to develop it for high end retail.

Mr. Wiest stated that a map of the plan is available.

Mr. Wiest stated that Olympia Sports is in contract to lease, as well as Famous Footwear and others he is unable to discuss at this time.

Mr. Wiest stated that the sale is closing in August, with demolition and heavy construction starting in September.

Mr. Wiest stated that these tax incentives make leasing in Ashland very attractive to retailers.

Mrs. Tunnell questioned if the restaurants interested could be discussed.

Mr. Wiest stated that they could not at this time.

There were no additional comments.

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 53-15

Item h)

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR DISPATCH EQUIPMENT FOR THE ASHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE TO PROVIDE DISPATCHING SERVICES 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 the Ordinance 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

Mr. Paxton provided testimony.

Mr. Paxton stated that the invoices and letter from Sheriff Risner were attached to the Ordinance.

Dr. Stuart questioned the 12 month maintenance agreement contract with VASU that expires in April.

Dr. Stuart questioned why we are paying a full year and not month to month.

Mr. Paxton stated that it is an incurred expense and the Sheriff stated that it is required for dispatch operations.

Mrs. Detrow questioned if we could just pay it month to month.

Mr. Wolfe questioned Chief Marcelli about costs for Leads and the contract for VASU.

Mr. Wolfe stated that in the past, Chief Marcelli stated that the VASU contract is not and has not been necessary.

Mr. Wolfe stated that on the itemized list, 90% of the items pertain solely to the County.

Mrs. Detrow questioned if the Ordinance could be amended to change the amount paid to the County.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he saw no legal problem with changing the stated amount as long as it was done in agreement.

Mr. Wolfe stated that more dialogue concerning these type of payments is needed.

There were no additional comments.

Motion made by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that the Ordinance be amended and the amount paid to the County changed to \$1,170.81, to cover the City's share of expenses.

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

Mr. Paxton asked for confirmation not to pay the VASU bill from the County.

Dr. Stuart confirmed.

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

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

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

Ordinance No. 54-15

Item i)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE APPROPRIATE ZONING DISTRICT OF A CERTAIN AREA OF 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 the Ordinance 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

Shane Kremser provided testimony.

Mr. Kremser stated that this zoning pertains to the newly annexed property south of US 250, and holding off on part of the property until more study and discussion has taken place to zone.

Mr. Kremser discussed the existing zoning and the remainder of the property.

There were no additional comments.

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

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

- **Alley Vacation - Pearl to High (Snader – Res. 13-15)**

Testimony was provided by City Engineer, Shane Kremser.

Mr. Kremser stated that the private property owners gain from the closure, but not the public.

Mr. Kremser stated that making it private could cause disputes between the property owners.

Mrs. Detrow asked if only the property owners would benefit.

Mr. Kremser confirmed that would be the fact.

Cost of maintenance was discussed.

Mr. Kremser stated that the petition was requested by only one of the four adjacent property owners.

Law Director, Richard P. Wolfe II stated that the Board of Revision of Assessments does not feel it is beneficial to the public to close the alley.

Moved by Larry Paxton and seconded by Glen P. Stewart, on behalf of the Board of Revision of Assessments, for a vote in favor of the Walnut/Washington Alley Vacation:

Nayes: Mr. Wolfe, Mayor Stewart, Mr. Paxton.

Mr. Wolfe stated that since there was a negative vote, Council cannot vote on the Ordinance.

Dr. Stuart stated that Ordinance e is now struck from the agenda.

- **Tax Budget - Finance (Larry Paxton) 7:22p.m**

Mr. Paxton provided testimony.

Mr. Paxton stated that it is required to have a public meeting regarding the Tax Budget.

Mr. Paxton explained the pages of the distributed budget.

Mrs. Detrow asked for clarification that the red numbers are negative.

Mr. Paxton confirmed that at this time those numbers are not balanced.

Mr. Paxton stated that there are many tax code changes and unknowns in the new 2016 code.

Mr. Paxton discussed the estimated amount of next year's income tax revenue compared to this year's.

Mr. Paxton stated that besides the income tax revenue and local revenue funds, the budget is in the black.

Mr. Paxton stated that a 1% operating increase was figured in for the proposal.

Mr. Paxton explained the nature of the various revenue funds.

Mr. Paxton stated that this is a working document.

Mr. Paxton stated that the State requires local governments to have their budgets filed by July 20th.

Mr. Paxton requested that the Council schedule a Special Meeting to accept the finished budget within the next week.

There were no further comments.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Advertising Permit – Advance America (Ashleigh Groscost)**

There were no additional comments.

Moved by Mr. Valentine and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw to approve Advertising Permit – Advance America
Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mrs. Detrow, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Valentine.
Nays: Mrs. Tunnell.

- **Zoning Permit – Reconstruction/Expansion (Sarah Chronister)**

Mr. Kremser stated that the “M-2” zoning requires approval on requests for reconstruction.

Mr. Wolfe stated that there have been requests in the past.

Mr. Kremser stated that the Planning Commission is recommending changing zoning in “M-2” zones.

Mr. Wolfe stated that in the past that residential improvement in Heavy Industrial areas has been discouraged.

Mr. Wolfe stated that Mr. Kremser has established that the character of “M-2” areas has changed and that there is probably no harm in granting improvements if it does not cause a safety hazard.

Mrs. Tunnell asked for clarification on the map.

Mr. Kremser provided clarification.

Moved by Mr. Valentine and seconded by Dr. Stuart to approve Zoning Permit.
Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mrs. Detrow, Dr. Stuart, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Tunnell.

- **Sign Permit – Truly Yours Fashion (Dorea Kellem)**

Mr. Kremser stated that any requests in Downtown, when infringing on the public right of way must be voted on.

Mr. Kremser stated that Ms. Kellem was present for questions.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the main concern in right of way situations is the safety of pedestrians on the sidewalk.

Dr. Stuart stated that he felt it was tastefully designed.

Moved by Dr. Stuart and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw to approve Sign Permit for Truly Yours Fashion.

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

Abstaining: Mrs. Tunnell.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Fishpaw stated he has received a complaint that on Katherine Avenue where work is being done, the asphalt was cut into and is not draining improperly.

Mayor Stewart questioned Mr. Kremser if this was a contractor issue.

Mr. Fishpaw stated that this is at the High School in front of the new auditorium.

Mr. Kremser stated that his department would look at the problem and address it.

Dr. Stuart expressed extreme pride in the Bicentennial 4th celebration and what will continue.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart stated that he has received a letter from the contractor removing the US 250 bridge.

Mayor Stewart stated that the bridge will be closed from July 17th to July 20th.

Mayor Stewart expressed his thanks at the delay to allow easier traffic access to the Dream Cruise-In.

Mayor Stewart stated the Orrville has agreed to join the WARCOG.

Mayor Stewart stated his thanks to all involved in the Bicentennial events.

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Paxton stated it is coming Tax Budget time and he requested a public hearing be set for the 7-7-2015 Council meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Stewart asked when a draft of the document will be available.

Mr. Paxton stated it is still being worked on and should be ready sometime next week.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

County Commissioner Denny Bittle presented a letter from Sheriff Risner regarding a possible dispatch agreement.

Commissioner Bittle stated that his concern is that if the City leaves the dispatch, the County's costs will go up, causing an increase to residents from a possible tax levy.

Commissioner Bittle stated that if an agreement cannot be reached, he will look into putting an issue on the November ballot to stop the City from moving forward with the COG dispatch.

Commissioner Bittle requested the City work with the County and step away from the COG and stay in the combined dispatch with the County.

Commissioner Bittle stated that he feels the new dispatch agreement is much more accommodating.

Mayor Stewart questioned if the County has studied the value and cost of new equipment and the duplication of costs.

Commissioner Bittle stated that they have, that no one knows what technology will be relevant in 10 years, and he feels the City residents are much safer with a local dispatch.

Mayor Stewart stated that the City has been told for many years that we have only been paying for our share of the dispatch, which means that the City stepping away should cause a net zero change to the County's dispatch costs.

Mayor Stewart questioned what has changed.

Commissioner Bittle stated that he does not know the past history.

Mayor Stewart stated that instead of paying for actual charges, the City has been paying for a service.

Mayor Stewart stated that the when he had previously met with the commissioners, they stated that they had no power over the Sheriff's decisions except for budget allocations.

Commissioner Bittle stated that it is not control, but the Sheriff is coordinating with them to find a solution.

Mrs. Detrow stated that she acknowledged that Commissioner Bittle is new to the County and does not know the history, but the offer is too little too late.

Chief Marcelli stated that the goal of the COG is to improve the safety of the residents of Ashland and that the County had the option to come on board three years ago and have the COG dispatch center in Ashland.

Chief Marcelli stated that this issue should not be about politics and that if the County had been truly concerned they would have acted years ago to preserve the relationship and safety of our citizens.

Sheriff Risner thanked the City for the Fourth of July weekend and stated that this has been coming on for about 3 years and that Mr. Fishpaw had agreed with him in his office.

Sheriff Risner stated that he has always supported his dispatchers.

Mr. Valentine stated that Sheriff Risner had "thown them under the bus" in the newspaper and he would not argue about it.

Sheriff Risner stated that he had not done so, that he had stated that everyone makes mistakes.

Sheriff Risner stated that Chief Anderson had not contacted regarding Dispatch Issues.

It was stated that the City had been directed to contact Captain Hamilton and had done so.

Chief Marcelli stated that the only agency requiring complaint forms is the County Dispatch.

Chief Marcelli stated that Sheriff Risner had accused the APD of being liars and Chief Marcelli of over exaggerating issues.

Sheriff Risner stated that Chief Marcelli did over exaggerate.

Chief Marcelli challenged anyone to come down to the Police Station and listen to the dispatch recordings regarding mistakes.

Chief Marcelli stated that there is a difference between an honest mistake and bad management/information or policies and procedures that don't exist.

Sheriff Risner stated that that's what happens, honest mistakes.

Officer Craig Kiley stated that compared to other counties he has worked in, the County Dispatch has trouble and needs improved.

Officer Kiley stated that someone will be injured because of mismanagement at the Dispatch.

Officer Kiley stated that he was injured and no one knew where he was because of dispatch.

Officer Kiley questioned what other counties the Sheriff has worked for.

Sheriff Risner stated that he has worked for no other counties.

Officer Kiley stated that he has worked for Holmes and Lorain County, and they do much better because of better management.

Sheriff Risner stated that the Dispatch operates at a high level and they do a good job.

Chief Marcelli states that he has received dispatch from the County and the lack of information relayed to officers is insufficient and unacceptable.

Sheriff Risner stated that another fire chief had stated that the dispatch does a great job.

Dr. Stuart stated that he felt there had been enough said regarding this issue.

Sheriff Risner stated that he too felt it was enough and the City should stay with the County Dispatch.

Dr. Stuart stated that he felt that the right decision for the residents of the City and the County would be for the County to join the COG.

Sheriff Risner stated that he disagrees.

Sheriff Risner stated that the Council had stated that if the County would have agreed in the past that the dispatch would have been set up in Ashland and he felt that was a lie.

Dr. Stuart stated that he and Mayor Stewart had met and discussed that option of the new dispatch being located at the Justice Facility with the Sheriff and toured his facility.

Mayor Stewart stated that he questioned Sheriff Risner, with Mayor Brennamen (Wooster) present, if his facility could handle the new dispatch.

Mayor Stewart stated that the Sheriff's answer was "If I manage it."

Sheriff Risner stated that he is confident that this issue will go to ballot.

Shane Kremser stated as a new resident, that the elected officials are stewards of the community, and that they should move forward with fiscal responsibility and safety in mind, not who gets to control what.

Sheriff Risner stated that we have never been through a disaster and questioned what would happen if there was a disaster in all three of the COG communities.

It was stated that that problem occurs now with the current set up and not enough dispatchers to help.

Mayor Stewart stated that we don't know at this point, that we have to make the best decision with the information available.

Mr. Burgess stated that he has been retired from the AFD for five years and the issues were already there and being discussed when he was Chief.

Ret. Chief Miracle stated that before he retired in 2009, he met with Ret. Chief Burgess and members of the Sheriff's department to discuss this exact issue.

Ret. Chief Miracle stated that the Sheriff's response at that time, was that he runs dispatch.

There was additional discussion regarding policy and procedure.

Officer Lee Eggeman stated that he worked for Loudonville Police Department and Holmes County handles the dispatch.

Officer Eggeman stated that it has always run seamlessly and he has never heard that the residents there worry about their safety.

Dr. Stuart stated that this concluded the discussion regarding dispatch.

ADJOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSSION: 8:43 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Valentine and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to adjourn.

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

Respectfully Submitted by
Elizabeth A. McClurg, Interim Clerk of Council