

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**MARCH 25, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Taylor at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Fogt, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Groat, Mr. Reams, Mr. Berbee EXCUSED: Mr. Gore

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Schmenk, Director of Administration Froment, Law Director Aslaner, Tony Eufinger, Clerk Patterson

REPORTERS PRESENT: Ryan Horns – Journal Tribune, Lin Rice – ThisWeek

CITIZENS PRESENT: Jason Orcena, Jim Damask, Marianne Berbee, Steve Kaifas, Heather Dukette

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the Joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting on March 9, 2010 were approved as written.

There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the City Council meeting on March 11, 2010 were approved as written.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: The Mayor asked that the following individuals be appointed and confirmed by Council.

### **Planning Commission**

Steve Kaifas – Planning Commission – 4-year term expiring April 1, 2014

Mayor Schmenk gave some background information. Mr. Kaifas moved to Marysville from Medina. He lives in Scott Farms with his wife and two children. He holds the position of Fiscal Officer for Madison County Department of Job and Family Services. He has been part owner of a small remodeling company, as well as a regional business officer for a long term care company. Is currently very active in his children's school, serving as PTO Treasurer and has children in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten. We are lucky that he wants to get involved in our community and feel with his background, he would be a good fit for Planning Commission.

Mr. Kaifas said he has lived in Marysville about 3 years and looks forward to joining the Commission and giving any insight that he can for the Planning for the city for the future. He looks forward to working with everyone on the Commission and is anxious to get started.

### **Union County Board of Health**

Donna Burke – Union County Board of Health – 5-year term expiring March 31, 2015

Donna is a pharmacist. She and her husband, Dave, own Dave's Pharmacy. Donna is very active in the community, has two children and has interest in public health.

### **Fire Code Board of Appeals**

Travis Headings – Reappointment – Term to expire June 1, 2012

Don Martin – Reappointment – Term to expire June 1, 2014

Steve Streng – Reappointment – Term to expire June 1, 2011

Joe Oiler – Appointment – Term to expire June 1, 2013

Steve Bell – Appointment – Term to expire June 1, 2014

### **Union County Joint Recreation District Board**

Tina Platt – Reappointment – Term to expire February 28, 2012

Jeannie Wolf – Reappointment – Term to expire February 28, 2013

### **Assistant Law Director**

Tony Eufinger - Tony is a long time member of the community and cares a lot about the community. Mr. Eufinger will be replacing John Eufinger as Assistant Law Director. John left his law practice and Assistant Law Director position for a position with the State. Tony has been helping out at the private law firm and also helping out with a lot of city prosecution work. He's doing a great job. Mr. Aslaner said he and the city are very fortunate to have him here. He's committed to becoming an assistant and asked for Council's confirmation in hiring Tony as the Assistant Law Director. The position is funded in the budget. No new money is needed to fund his position.

REPORT OF CLERK OF COUNCIL: No report.

**REPORT OF PLANNING COMMISSION:** Mr. John Cunningham, Planning Commission Chairman, addressed Council. He said this is his last official act as a Commissioner of the Marysville Planning Commission. He said the Planning Commission will be taking back the work which was reviewed at the Joint City Council/Planning Commission to further review it and prepare it to come back to City Council. He thanked this body of City Council, as well as all the other City Council's that he's worked with previously since 1994, for their support, encouragement and cooperation in helping to make the city what it is today. It has grown quite significantly. When he began with Planning Commission, they were just beginning to look at the plans for Mill Valley. We've come a long way since then. He also thanked the Mayor for his most recent appointment and her predecessors for their appointments. "It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve on the Marysville City Planning Commission." He remains willing and able to assist the city in any way should an opportunity present itself. "Thank you and it's been good working with you."

Mr. Taylor said, "The thank you should be from us to you and your family. So on behalf of Board and the previous Boards, thank you."

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** Mr. Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner, handed out copies of the new 2009 Annual Report. This Report was completed for the District Advisory Council. He began by saying it's been a tough year all the way around. They've seen a lot of things happen, and there are still some challenges on the horizon. For the Health Department, they definitely had funding changes. Long standing funding sources disappeared last year. They dealt with H1N1 all through the fall. Their primary care clinic is still without a provider. Lack of health care in the community is still a concern. For every challenge, they had a number of successes. They were able to replace almost every dollar they lost last year from expiring funds, with new funds, from one location or another. They were able to get a hold of some new funding streams they've never tapped into before, so are able to stay flush through their budget in 2010-2011 at this time. They are still looking at a number of cost saving measures through this year. They have looked at personnel very tightly and have had to make some changes in personnel to keep themselves whole. Staff performed admirably through the H1N1 campaign.

Mr. Jim Damask of the Health Department gave a brief overview of the financials. Cash balance increased 1.8% for the year, largely due to some new grants, \$599,000 of new grants, including some grants that they administer on behalf of Harden County. They implemented a consumer- oriented, high-deductible insurance plan. They are looking forward this year to seeing results of that. Anticipate that that's going to help control health insurance costs as a part of their broader personnel costs. Those total about 75% of their entire budget. They are in the service business. That's roughly in line with what its

been in recent years. Their two levies bring in just under 54% of their revenue. Grants account for just under 20%. Fees, licenses and permits account for just over 10%. One concern is the state funding of grants and other issues that could be flowing from both Federal government and the State, as well as the continuation of their tangible personal property tax replacement. They are not certain that will remain in place, as they're anticipating. The Board is currently budgeting and anticipating revenues and expenditures on a five-year cycle. That's really helping them to forecast and anticipate changes. It's a very useful exercise for them. They revise that semi-annually and is something that the Board definitely wants to continue.

Motion was made to confirm the appointments brought forward by the Mayor.

Given the city's pressing budget, Mrs. Richardson asked a question about the need for an Assistant Law Director. Mr. Aslaner explained that there is a certain salary budgeted for an assistant. It's been in place for about ten years. The Charter allows for the law director to appoint an assistant. As City Law Director, Mr. Aslaner is in charge of prosecuting all the cases that occur in the City of Marysville, and he is also in charge of prosecuting all the cases that occur in the County that are not in the incorporated areas. That includes all the cases from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's office as well. The Law Director and Assistants are subsidized by the County. He gets about \$42/43,000 to cover salary and also gets a stipend from the County amounting to about \$11,000 for office support. That money is all funneled through city coffers. He can provide case counts at the next meeting. Criminal and traffic cases are on the rise.

Mayor Schmenk added that Administration has met with Mr. Aslaner several times over the last year looking at the need for an assistant. There is definitely a need. She agreed that case load has dramatically increased. She feels the trend is that they will continue to climb, unfortunately.

Mr. Taylor added that "we're not actually adding a person, we're replacing a person."

Mr. Aslaner said the two assistants split one salary.

Motion to confirm all of the appointments as noted above was made; affirmative voice vote was unanimous.

**RESOLUTIONS** - None

**ORDINANCES**

“AN ORDINANCE INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT FUND (FUND 51) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 FOR THE PURPOSES OF ELEVATED STORAGE TANK INSPECTION, REHABILITATION AND PAINTING AS NECESSARY AND MODIFYING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION” was presented for first reading, title only. Ms. Froment said this item was budgeted for in 2009. It was intended to be done by the end of 2009. Due to some circumstances, including revising the bid process, the bid was not out in time to have the money encumbered last year, and they overlooked the fact that the budget had already been turned in at that point and it had not been included in the 2010 budget as a carryover item. This work is required for maintaining the elevated storage tank (water tower). It requires specialized personnel and care. They go inside the tank and paint it with special coatings to make sure to maintain the integrity of the tank so it won't rust, etc. They also inspect the inside for any possible leakage. An outside firm is hired to do this work because they use people who dive. This money is out of the Capital Fund.

#### COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PERSONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Froment reported that the city has begun using the water from the reservoir. The lines were opened on March 10<sup>th</sup> and they began flushing off some of the idle water. Beginning on March 16<sup>th</sup>, began treating the water at 100% through the actual water plant. The city has been drinking off of that water since that time. There are no quality concerns. She commented that there have been no calls with concerns. It is operating just as planned.

Ms. Froment reported that the city received formal notice from the Ohio Public Works Commission that the city will receive the grant needed to complete the streetscape in the uptown area. “That streetscape is one of the rare opportunities that we have to do something that helps in the revitalization of the uptown and in our economic development efforts that will literally cost no money, other than staff time, the engineer to oversee it and to work with the consultants.” \$170,000 will come out of the CDBG Tier II grant that will be utilized in that project and roughly \$180,000 from the Ohio Public Works Commission. This will include both the mast arm lights and the extension of that to 5<sup>th</sup> and Walnut and will also include the brick work, rebuilding some of the curbs in the areas that don't currently have them and burying the lines. In planning ahead, there are some areas that they may want to install some conduit or water lines. Will hopefully put that in that same sidewalk area. Ms. Froment said some concern had been expressed about saving the sidewalk in that area. At this point, she is uncertain. The design firm is on hand and city is committed to limiting the damage to the sidewalk, which will keep costs down, but also wants to make sure there is enough area for the water line and underground utilities and

make that an area that helps expand the gateway for the city. Ms. Froment said, “In the last twelve months when we turned back \$4M in grant money because we couldn’t afford the match, a rare opportunity to leverage two grants against each other and use no city funds, so that’s something we can be proud of.”

With regard to the water from the reservoir, Mr. Berbee asked if the water is pumped back into Mill Creek and then taken or do we pump it directly. Ms. Froment said it is pumped direct. There is a line that runs from the reservoir down to the current water plant. Mr. Berbee said he was told during orientation that once the city taps into the reservoir, there would be potential savings. He asked if city was tracking it for savings. He said by taking the water from the top, all the sediment is on the bottom, there should be more than 50% savings for using that water. Ms. Froment said we should start to see the trending. It won’t be a short term trend; it’ll be over the year. What you will see is less use of chemicals, potentially less electric bills, but it won’t suddenly drop off, because those things are bought in bulk, so savings will be seen over time.

Mr. Reams has discussed this issue with John Mitchell, the Public Service Director. He said they already have some preliminary information put together. They are calculating some costs per million gallons as part of the design work for the new water treatment plant. They are looking at electric usage for the new pump station and the chemical usage. Very rough numbers will be given at the April Public Service Committee meeting.

Mr. Reams added that they are pumping into the reservoir and then it’s gravity from the reservoir to the water plant.

Mr. Berbee noted that a month ago the city was knee deep in snow and a lot of people were involved in snow removal. In reviewing the February financials, he said he couldn’t believe how much money was saved by doing it the way it was done. He gave a big “thank you” to everybody. It wasn’t just one person, it wasn’t necessarily the Street Department alone; it was Council, Administration, along with other offices that were all able to help. “Something that could have definitely been a budget buster for us, we had a slight (inaudible) and were off by maybe 5% over budget for personnel for Street Department in February, but thank you to everybody that helped to get us through that difficult time.”

Mrs. Groat expressed her personal appreciation to Mr. Cunningham for his work on Planning Commission and other things he has done for the City.

Mrs. Groat noted three upcoming meetings.

- 1) Ward 3 meeting, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Marysville Library, Meeting Room B.
- 2) The Public Affairs Committee met on March 22 and along with Administration, the Committee discussed a program to recognize beautification and maintenance of city properties, both residential and business. This initiative will begin some time this spring. It will also require reactivation of the Property Maintenance Commission, as stipulated in Marysville Codified Ordinances, Chapter 1319. The Committee is requesting each Ward Council member, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Fogt, Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Groat, as well as the Mayor, to bring one nominee back to Council for appointment on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The next Public Affairs Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. At that time, the Committee hopes to move forward on recognition programs. She commented, “There is a lot going on good in this city right now and that would be one of the things that’s going to be fun for us to work on.”
- 3) The Cemetery Advisory Board met on March 18<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. The public is requested to come to the Board with ideas. The focus of the Cemetery Advisory Board is to develop short and long term plans for maintenance and funding.

The public is welcome to attend all of the above meetings to express their thoughts and concerns.

Mrs. Richardson reported as Parks & Recreation Representative. A meeting was held on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

- As of that date, \$2,445 had been donated to the pool fund.
- It was announced that pool hours would be cut this summer, except for Friday night, when the pool will remain open until 8:00 p.m. All other nights, the pool will close at 6:00 p.m.
- The 5-year Capital Improvement Plan was discussed. The Plan will not change for 2010. The Commission will vote on adoption of that Plan at the next meeting.

Mrs. Richardson reminded everyone to send in their completed Census forms.

There will be a benefit for the Aikins and Guisinger families who were victims on the fire last month in Mill Valley. The event will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the Catholic Community Center. Tickets are currently being sold for \$10.00 and will be sold for \$15.00 at the door. All the proceeds will go to the family. She noted there will be an auction at this benefit.

Mrs. Richardson told everyone to have a safe Spring Break.

Mr. Taylor said, “We’ve had two public meetings involving the consideration of credit for commuters. The decision has not been reached. I would strongly encourage anyone who has feelings either way, you have until Tuesday, 12:00 noon, the 30<sup>th</sup>, to get those in electronically to the Mayor or myself. Mr. Gore is out of town. We are still evaluating all the information. No decision has been reached. There’s been several considerations. Mrs. Richardson has an excellent proposal in mind as far as maybe to send it directly to the voters and let them decide. So, we’re still looking at options. We will make some kind of final decision as we promised prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, which is what we said we would do back when the committee was involved and the announcement will come from the Mayor’s office in coordination. All Councilmen need to be aware, we’ll get in touch with you before anything is done, so please, if you have input, get it to one of those three entities. It will eventually make it to all of us, if it comes to any one of the three.”

Mr. Taylor said as you see Spring begin, watch the kids.

Mr. Taylor welcomed newly appointed individuals.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.