

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2010

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Administration Froment, Finance Director Chavarria, Law Director Aslaner, Clerk Patterson

REPORTERS PRESENT: Ryan Horns – Journal Tribune

CITIZENS PRESENT: Bill Kelley, Jason Stanford

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on March 11, 2010 were approved as written.

An amendment was proposed to the minutes for the meeting on March 25, 2010. The minutes stated that the minutes for the March 11th meeting were approved. That statement was incorrect. The minutes should be amended to remove that statement. Mr. Berbee moved to approve the minutes as amended; affirmative voice vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: On behalf of the Mayor, Ms. Froment read a Proclamation proclaiming April 2010 as Fair Housing Month. Proclamation read as follows:

P R O C L A M A T I O N -

Whereas, it is one of the responsibilities and pleasures of the Mayor of the City of Marysville, Ohio to recognize occasions of outstanding significance to our community, and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, that declared the law of the land would now guarantee the rights of equal housing opportunity; and

Whereas, April 2010 is the 42nd Anniversary of the Passage of the federal Fair Housing Act; and

Whereas, this is an opportunity to celebrate 42 years of achievements in Fair Housing and to march toward the future in ensuring justice and housing opportunities for all Americans,

Now, Therefore, I, Christiane Schmenk, Mayor of the City of Marysville, Ohio, wish to acknowledge the City's endorsement and commitment to Fair Housing in Marysville and to proclaim the month of April 2010 as

“Fair Housing Month”

and encourage everyone to understand their rights protected under the law, and join in reaffirming our commitment to Fair Housing for all regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, familial or disability status.

In Witness Thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Marysville, Ohio to be hereto affixed this 8th day of April, 2010.

Mr. Henk Berbee mentioned that a new Assistant Law Director was approved at the last meeting. He quoted some figures that were given at that time. The Law Director and Assistant are subsidized by the County, and they provide \$42,000/\$43,000 of the salary. He noted on Page 30 of the 2010 Budget, it states \$35,000 from the County. Mr. Aslaner said they have been under contract with the County since 2001/2002. It was originally a \$35,000 stipend to cover salary, and then an additional \$10,000 for office support. He was uncertain of the exact number, but believes it's now in the \$41,000-\$43,000 range. Office support contribution is \$11,000.

Mr. Berbee said there are two assistants that split one salary. He asked if they were considered permanent part-time employees or part-time employees. He said permanent part-time employees get some benefits. He asked what benefits are offered to these two assistant law directors.

Mr. Gore said that Finance Committee had discussed this issue about eight months ago. It was determined that there were some benefits that went along with this position, and there's been a question whether that should be. Human Resources Department was pursuing this issue, but it's uncertain if that issue has been

resolved. It was initially one full-time position, and Mr. Aslaner came to Council asking to be able to split that in half. By splitting that in half, they were determined to be permanent part-time.

Ms. Froment will get with Human Resources for an update.

Mr. Taylor suggested that issue be put on the Finance Committee agenda for their April 15th meeting.

Mr. Aslaner confirmed that when City employees get a 3% salary increase, that position gets a 3% increase, which is equally divided between the two assistants. They have no health insurance benefits.

Mr. Berbee requested figures for the time spent on case load, traffic and criminal. Mr. Aslaner will provide that information.

Mr. Berbee said with wages going up and case load increasing, he questioned whether the City can afford to provide this service to the County, or should we go back to the County and make a case for increased volume and wages, etc.

Ms. Froment said it's a little more complicated than that because not only are there statutes involved, but the City also receives the benefits of their County Prosecutor, David Phillips.

There are arrangements where we reimburse each other, including Law Library expenses, etc. It's a very mutually beneficial agreement. Ms. Froment will provide more details at the Finance Committee meeting.

REPORT OF CLERK OF COUNCIL: No report.

REPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: Mr. Jason Stanford reported on behalf of Eric Phillips. He updated Council on a couple of initiatives the Chamber currently has going.

Small Business Workshop Series - This is a year-long, once-a-month program. The next event is April 21st, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Chamber. Will be going over small business development, as far as planning, financial documents, etc. It is free and open to the public.

Another workforce initiative the Chamber is working on is Work Places of Today and Tomorrow. This is a week-long program in June, which involves educators and social service representatives coming in to area companies, meeting with company representatives and then taking that information back to their schools, to hopefully encourage children to begin looking at employment on a local level.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: Mr. Bill Kelley of Dayton, Power & Light addressed Council about an Economic Development Incentive Program by DP&L. This Program has just recently been introduced and is meant to help attract business to the communities served by DP&L and to encourage existing businesses to expand. The crux of the program is that when a new business comes to the area, if they commit to creating 25 new jobs over 36 months, they will receive a 10% discount on their total electric bill for that 36-month period. For an existing business that's expanding, same criteria, 25 jobs created over 36 months, they would receive a 20% discount on the incremental electric volume that would be used for whatever that expansion is. There are also some programs for businesses that are related to renewable energy for solar panels, wind turbines, etc. This program was created in conjunction with the PUCO. It is now in place. There are some stipulations and requirements, but it's a fairly simple program. The business would be required to report once a year to the PUCO about the number of jobs that have been created. There is an application process that is two pages long with some back-up material that the business needs to fill out. They would fill out the application; get it to DP&L. DP&L will fill out their part and give it to the PUCO. Once approved by the PUCO, the 36 months would start. He met with Mr. Phillips of the Chamber to make him aware of the program. Information has been sent to Ms. Froment. Mr. Kelley is on the Economic Development Action Plan Committee in Union County and presented the program to them last night.

RESOLUTIONS

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 second reading, public hearing. Mrs. Groat moved to waive the reading in full; affirmative voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Gore said he had received a couple of phone calls this week relating to the City's sign ordinance. The ordinance basically states that we prefer that you not display political signs prior to 18 days of the election. The reason why the 18 days is in the ordinance is because we didn't want to clutter up the city, even though Council knew that it wasn't enforceable because of an issue that had taken place in another community. In light of all the changes and the fact that there is early voting now, Mr. Gore sees no reason why people can't go ahead and put out their signs. That legislation needs to be referred back to committee, take a look at it and see if we want to keep it on the books and/or rewrite it. Mr. Aslaner agreed that it would be okay to post signs earlier than the 18 days.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PERSONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Parks & Recreation Representative. Mrs. Richardson said the next meeting of Parks and Recreation Commission is Tuesday, April 20th.

Mr. Taylor announced that Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, April 15th at 2:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Kelley "for bringing a little bright light to Marysville as far as some employment opportunities."

Mrs. Richardson announced that on Saturday, April 24th, there will be a benefit for the Mill Valley residents who lost their homes to a fire on February 3, 2010. Pre-sale tickets are \$10.00 or \$15.00 at the door. There will be entertainment, a live auction and food. The event is from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. Mrs. Richardson said, "She is very, very proud of the folks who have come together to make this event happen."

Mr. Fogt said he hoped citizens come to tour the building. Ms. Froment commented that about 6-10 people are attending the tours at one time. She encouraged more to take the tour. Mr. Fogt said it's important for the citizens to tour the facilities.

Mr. Berbee welcomed Ms. Chavarria to her first City Council meeting.

Mr. Reams announced that the Public Service Committee will meet on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Groat announced that the Public Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, April 12th at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Topics of discussion will be Exterior Property Maintenance Commission and a recognition program for people who either improve their property or beautify it. She encouraged community input. She hopes to have the Commission members appointed at the next meeting.

Mr. Gore said that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. There are pinwheels on the Courthouse lawn. Each pinwheel represents a child abuse case that was investigated in 2009 in Union County. There are 530 pinwheels. That is an eye-opening number, that, in fact, in this county that we think is safe and a great place, “which it is,” there were 530 child abuse cases that were investigated by either the Sheriff’s Department or the Marysville Police Department. He asked Ryan Horns of the Journal Tribune to please acknowledge that. “It takes a community, it really does, and there are things that we, as Council, have a responsibility to make sure that our community is safe for our children and for the families that live here. That is another reason why it’s very important that we deal with this tax levy issue. It’s just a small piece of it, but that’s another important part.”

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.