

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY September 23, 2013

President of Council Doug Joseph called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members of Council present: Chris Long, Monica DeBrock, Scott A. Barrett, Leslie Kelly, Cornelius McGrady, III., Mel Clemens, Barth R. Cotner.

The Invocation was given by Councilman Long. Mr. Joseph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held Aug. 22, Sept. 3 and Sept. 9, 2013. Minutes held.

Approval of agenda

Community Comments and Requests:

Libby Wallace, 344 Pathfinder Drive, Reynoldsburg stated that she was shocked, disgusted, offended and embarrassed over some of the members of Council. She feels that there are other ways to get a point across other than yelling. She feels that she is poorly represented and that she is embarrassed that this behavior was on full display in front of OSU Students. She said that the City's motto is that of Respect and that was not on display.

Kim Christos spoke about Breed Specific Legislation and that she had dogs all of her life and that the problem is with people and not dogs. She said dogs are going to respond with how they're treated.

Donita Campbell, 6558 San Miguel, Reynoldsburg stated that she has a good dog and had she known these dogs were not allowed in the City she wouldn't have moved here. She doesn't think the breed specific legislation is right and she would like the Council to give her dog a chance.

Brad Hauser, 6897 Roundelay Road, North, Reynoldsburg, asked that Councilman Barrett and McGrady consult the minutes from the last Council meeting and that he will email the content of that speech so that they have the information. He asked again that the Council look into changing Chapter 505. He went on to speak of letters given to him by other residents.

** Anonymous speaker called out point of order, that according to Robert's Rules of Order, didn't think the speaker should be allowed to read statements from other people that can't be validated because the people are not present.

Mr. Hauser went on reading the statements from Teresa Smith, 1205 Crestview Street, Ashley Ross, also of 1205 Crestview Street, Randy Jones of 34 Broadwyn Dr, Reynoldsburg and and Rita Jones of 34 Broadwyn Drive all feel that the City of Reynoldsburg should revise the City Code Section 505 to mirror that of State Code.

Sue Kohler, 6623 Glacier Ave, States that she and her family should revise Chapter 505 to fall in line with State law. She had an American Staffordshire Terrier but he recently passed away. Her children want to get another but now they realize they are banned. She said her children don't understand why they can't have a dog.

Mark Dunagan, 141 Rockwell Road, Columbus, also came to speak about repealing the Breed Specific language in Chapter 505. He said he works with the Franklin County Dog Shelter. He said that many of the dogs euthanized at the Dog Shelter are pit bulls, many of them are dogs that have passed the temperament tests. He said it is heart breaking that there are good dogs being euthanized just because of their breed.

Communications

No Communications

Reports

No Reports

LEGISLATION REQUIRING ONE READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT TO FUND 2013 TAX LEVY REQUEST APPROPRIATING 17,000 FROM GENERAL FUND TO ACCOUNT NO. 110.552.5339 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.- -Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: This item comes from Finance Committee with recommendation for adoption as an emergency, I so move.

Mr. Joseph: Councilman Cotner moves adoption as an emergency, Second by Councilwoman Kelly.

Mr. McGrady: Mr. Harris, would you qualify the funding mechanism for this here? I had some questions today by our constituents on it and I think it's apparent that it be absolved.

Mr. Harris: Well it was erroneously reported in the paper that the amount \$17,000 was going to go to Mr. Woodruff to run this campaign, but the information that Council got very specifically says that of that \$17,000, \$5,500 is going to Mr. Woodruff, the remaining of that money is going to pay for things like website development, printing and postage for direct mail pieces, water bill stuffers and other miscellaneous things, so it should be, I would like to clarify for the record, that it is not going to Mr. Woodruff, this is the entire cost of the information campaign that the city will be running in order to get information to people about how this particular thing could and would affect them.

Mr. McGrady: So it's a fact based PR.

Mr. Harris: Absolutely, its and informational only, fact only, the City Attorney has to look over everything that they do to make sure that it is fairly presented and that it is not a piece that is asking anybody to vote for, support or anything other than just look at the facts related to the city's current financial situation.

Mr. McGrady: My final question, is this coming out of the Mayor's operating fund or..

Mr. Harris: The money will be appropriated from the unappropriated General Fund to an account in the Mayor's office and that way it's 2 different people have to look at this to make sure it's correct prior to its getting paid.

Mrs. DeBrock: I'd just like to state that there are conversations, we have a tight budget, why are we spending this kind of money just to get information out, I think that it is critical that we move forward with this informational piece and that we do spend the money so that we can get the health of the city back on track and I wish we didn't have to, but today, I believe it's our only answer so.. I know there has been discussion of why we're spending that on tough budget but I think that it is needed. Thank you.

The City Attorney called the roll: Mr. Long "Aye", Mrs. DeBrock "Aye", Mr. Barrett "Aye", Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye".

7 affirmative votes, no negative votes, Ordinance 66-13.

ORDINANCE ALLOWING CITY COUNCIL TO EMPLOY ONE FULL-TIME ASSISTANT CLERK OF COUNCIL. CURRENTLY, CITY COUNCIL IS AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY TWO PART-TIME ASSISTANTS. THIS CHANGE WOULD CONSOLIDATE THE TWO PART-TIME POSITIONS GRADE 5 TO ONE FULL-TIME POSITION GRADE 7 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.- -Cotner. Finance.

Mr. Cotner: This also comes from Finance Committee with a recommendation for adoption as an emergency.

Mr. Joseph: Councilman Cotner moves adoption as an emergency, Second by Councilman Long.

Mr. McGrady: My question on this is, you made representation that it's from 2 down to 1. My question is, we've operated for the last 22-24 months with 1 full time and 1 assistant and why the need for 2 full time. Without a need assessment of the job responsibilities. Having said that we've operated with 1 full time and 1 part time for the last 22-24 months, that leaves me to believe that there was just enough work for the 1 full time and the 1 part time. My summation would be that if work was at that level, then we have full time, if this was to pass, with not enough work for 2 full time clerks. And Second, I think we're putting the cart before the horse, I haven't seen anything to change the language in 160 because the language says 2 part times. So if this was to move forward, wouldn't we have to change the language on 160 first before we come back and request legislation for the full time person.

Mr. Clemens: The reason we're doing it is because I don't think Mr. Hood can be our clerk very much longer and I think it just shows the situation we've been in if we would have had an assistant, which you said we had which I haven't seen and if we had a full time assistant that could have moved up, we wouldn't be in this situation. We've had nothing these last few months. I think the reason the assistant was moved to a full time was to learn the job and take over when we're in situations like we are now. This could happen again within a month, 2 months, a year and we'd be in the same situation. So if you're not spending any more money that you did before, I don't even know why there's a question to it. But that was why it was brought forward.

Mr. Long: Mr. McGrady, actually the legislation sitting here does amend the 160, that's what we're discussing and voting on, just amending the 160 removing the 2 part time and inserting 1 full time pay grade 7 assistant clerk.

Mr. McGrady: I just don't see the need.

Mr. Barrett: That position hasn't been really reviewed for quite sometime or frankly modernized and it's just been like a lot of things in this city, passed right along. I would have to challenge if it's even a full time position any more. We're not using technology to our advantage, I've expressed a number of different ways, how we communicate, and how we're communicated with is extremely antiquated. I won't support this, just for the fact that I think we need to focus with first things first. We need to get someone in here and give them training. Look at the position really is.

Mrs. DeBrock: I'm torn. I think the reason we're in the position we're in today is because we didn't have 2 full time people and I understand we're behind on technology, but technology isn't going to reach out and connect with the citizens of Reynoldsburg. The Clerk and the Assistant Clerk still have to have the hands on, be available on the phone. I'm shocked that Nancy didn't have vacations and she wasn't sick, she was amazing, but that is, I don't think that's expected. Most people need to take a vacation, they need to take a sick day and we didn't have the back up. Technology, we're the only community and suburb in Columbus that do not have a code of ordinance, electronic, online, up to date where our citizens, if they want to check out a code, they can check it out in the middle of the night. That's going to take time and we couldn't do it on one and a half employees in this department, it will take money. Technology and money to get this department where citizens can use it, they can find the knowledge, I think is critical and I do think that the department needs to be evaluated, look at what worked, what didn't work. But I think it's going to take 2 people in that department for it to be better for our community for our citizens for our Council.

Mr. Barrett: Just to clarify, Monica, I agree with you on that point where we are where we are because of that second position. But the level of technology we're operating with right now, requires that second position. Once we get someone in and we get them, get things modernized, because we're extremely outdated now. Scott Teeters is working on a proposal to get us caught up. I just think our money could be spent otherwise.

Mr. Long: Mr. Hood, first of all we're in a position we're in a position to have to fill a full time position. There is a motion and a second on the floor, can we hold it on this point?

Mr. Hood: No, I don't think so, you have to take a vote.

Mr. Long: Once again, this is only to change it from part time to 1 full time. It's not expending the money to fill that position immediately.

Mr. Hood: The current strength is for one full time, 2 part time people, so 3. That's what you're authorized this very moment. What this ordinance attempts to do is take both of those part time people and consolidate that into one full time position.

Mr. Long: In other we can do what we want with what's currently moved and seconded now. If we then decide no, we don't need that full time position we can turn around and reverse it.

Mr. Barrett: I would just rather not dedicate the money until..

Mr. Long: There will be no money dedicated for it. That's a separate motion.

Mrs. DeBrock: Can we modify that motion to..

Mr. Joseph: Not at this point. That would have had to been done before it was seconded.

Mr. Cotner: It seems like there's a lot of concern right now. We're at this point, we could easily vote this down, bring it back to committee as soon as next week to start the discussion on it very easily and I guess that's, from the concern that everyone has we can just plan to put it in to finance next week and get after it to make sure we're making the right choice.

The City Attorney called the roll: Mr. Long "Nay", Mrs. DeBrock "Nay", Mr. Barrett "Nay", Mrs. Kelly "Nay", Mr. McGrady "Nay", Mr. Clemens "Abstain", Mr. Cotner "Nay".

0 affirmative votes, 6 negative votes, One Abstention, this ordinance fails.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE APPROVING SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE PERMIT - (6748 E. Main Street; proposed use - child care); applicant, Red Consulting (Kim Mikanik)- -added to 7-8-2013 regular Council agenda and read for first reading.- -Clemens. Service.

Mr. Clemens: I would like this to stand as its second reading and return to the Service Committee.

Todd Dillon, 6475 E. Main Street Suite 186, Reynoldsburg, I'm the owners representative. I just need clarification, my understanding is that this is the third reading, we were originally on July 8, I was here 2 weeks ago and this would be the third reading?

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Clemens, I don't remember you sending this up to Council three times, I believe it was held once, this is the second reading.

Mr. Dillon: it was held? This is the 4th time it's been on the agenda.

Mr. Joseph: Holding legislation doesn't mean it's been heard by committee.

Mrs. Kelly: So if it's held it would go back, it's like that time never existed.

Mr. Dillon: Ok

Mr. Joseph: It had multiple committee hearings but it did not come to the full council for a reading each time, so this stands as second.

Executive Session requested by the City Attorney to discuss pending litigation and by the President of Council to discuss the appointment of a public employee.

Motion by Mr. Long, Second by Mr. Barrett to enter executive session.

The City Attorney called the roll: Mr. Long "Aye", Mrs. DeBrock "Aye", Mr. Barrett "Aye", Mrs. Kelly "Aye", Mr. McGrady "Aye", Mr. Clemens "Aye", Mr. Cotner "Aye".

ADJOURNMENT 8:16 p.m.