

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
September 12, 2011

President of Council William L. Hills called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members of Council present: Nathan Burd, Fred Deskins, Jr., Leslie Kelly, Doug Joseph, Mel Clemens, Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Cotner. Mr. Hills led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held July 25, 2011 were approved without objection.

The agenda was approved.

Community Comments and Requests:

a. Tricia Moore - - Alexander W. Livingston Wetland and Riparian Corridor Restoration, funded by the EPA Section 319 Grant to the City of Reynoldsburg

Ms. Moore: Good Evening, President Hills, and members of Council. I'm Tricia Moore. I work across the parking lot at the Reynoldsburg City School District; and I brought with me tonight, Mark Dilley. He is the owner of MAD Scientist and Associates, LLC. They have been working with us on the wetland project that was funded by the EPA Grant, which was actually awarded to the city. Remember, about a year ago, this Council approved the application for the grant, and we were awarded \$137,000 to build a wetland, which is part of the larger eco-learning outdoor learning lab for students out at the Summit campus that the school district has just completed this Fall. It's not just for students there, but for students throughout our district, and we imagine before long, students from other school districts for the community as well.

We wanted to just give you a brief update tonight about how progress on the project is going. We're not quite complete, but we've hit some major milestones and wanted to keep you up to date. So far, when we were awarded the grant in the late Fall of last year and we began immediately with the design work, and that's where Mark Dilley and his crew were very heavily involved. They also helped us oversee the construction. We had to move some dirt in order to make the right elevations to gather water and make the right conditions for a wetland to mature and just this July, we had a large community event to plant the wetland. We had 9,000 plugs to put in the ground, which took an awful lot of effort, from an awful lot of volunteers in this community. We had students, parents and community members. Some of our own local experts came out and spent an awful lot of time helping us get that accomplished. It was July and it was extraordinarily hot that week. In fact, we had some volunteers from Mt. Carmel, and also the West Licking Fire Department provided a medic on site, just to make sure that people stayed hydrated, cool, and were available in case there were any little scrapes or bruises, which we were lucky, we didn't really, I think I was the only one that needed a band-aid, \_\_\_\_\_ for some blisters on my feet, so I think we did pretty well; and it was exciting. We had almost 200 folks come out and participate in that

event. So I'd like Mark to share a little bit about the technical aspects of what we did, and what the next steps are, and how long it will take before we see a mature site there.

Mr. Dilley: I would like to thank City Council and the Administration of Reynoldsburg City Schools for their support of this project. It's been a very important project to my company. I'm a professional wetland scientist and environmental consultant and this is the kind of work that I do, and love to do, and really appreciate the opportunity to get in here and work with the team. The construction schedule was not at all what we had hoped for. Rain delays kind of pushed us far into the summer time frame, which is much later than we wanted to plant. It made for some very hot conditions for our volunteers, as well as for the plants that we were putting in, but we managed to make it work; and I wanted to commend the school district for taking the initiative to get a temporary irrigation system set up so that we could make sure that these plants that were a pretty significant part of the investment in the site, were properly cared for so that they would establish a site and I'm happy to report that everything has come together quite nicely and you wouldn't recognize the site now. It's just covered in green and the wildlife is starting to establish. We've got multiple species of dragonflies that are buzzing around the site keeping our mosquito populations in check. We've seen several species of Ohio native frogs that are already reproducing in the pools. These things have moved in handily from adjacent areas. So the kids are really going to have a very unique learning environment to really hit home some of the STEM learning opportunities within the school district. So it's going to be a really fun project to observe as it comes together, as the site matures, and these plants that we've put in the ground get established, and I wanted to mention that we do have another wave of planting activity coming up probably in late October, or early November, that we'll be looking for additional volunteers for. Tree planting is a big no-no in the middle of summer, so we've got trees coming in for a portion of the site that will be planted in the Fall when those trees are dormant. It's a little less stressful for the trees. So we've got a little more work to do, but it's coming together very well and we appreciate the opportunity to be involved with the project. It's been a lot of fun and I think the district's going to get a lot out of it, as well as the students. Thank you.

Mr. Hills: Any questions or comments? Yes, Councilperson Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: I remember when we went out there for the first time before we ever broke ground and walking out there and it looked just like a jungle of a mess, to coming back and dreaming the dream and what we wanted it to look like and how we wanted it to be a great learning space for kids. When I first saw it, which was, I think, a week ago, I was floored, absolutely floored by what an impressive site it is - not just the wetlands, but the \_\_\_\_\_ and the whole, the whole component. It's such a tremendous learning space for kids, and for community, and what a great asset. So kudos to you guys and everything you have done, because I will tell you, it's easy to dream the dream; it's hard to make that dream come to fruition; and you guys have truly, truly done that. So congratulations!

Mr. Dilley: It's been a pleasure.

Mr. Hills: Any other comments?

Mr. Cotner: If you don't mind, just one more. I just want to thank you also. I know that it's

been a lot of hard work and I appreciate the effort and the vision and the possibilities now for our students in this community are great, and I'm very thankful for all you've done; and I know why you got blisters on your feet. I think you were there probably every single day and planted half of those 9,000. So I thank you for all your work and all the efforts the district did. It's a great opportunity for our kids. Thank you.

Mr. Dilley: And the hearty volunteers that turned out in that heat were a, definitely deserve a special commendation.

Ms. Moore: Mr. Cotner and his family were among them.

Mr. Dilley: Yes. That was a rough, rough time, but we got it done. Thank you.

Mr. Hills: Any other comments? Well, I do thank you all very much and I would note that the papers are here tonight, so there will be a need of further volunteers in late October, early November, and it's not going to be 90 or 95 degrees on those days.

Mr. Dilley: More comfortable conditions.

Ms. Moore: Thanks for the opportunity.

Mr. Hills: Thank you.

Mr. Dilley: Thank you.

Clerk read report from Clerk of Court- -total monies collected from courts held during July 2011 - \$42,665.50. Total monies also collected during that same period pursuant to Ordinance Numbers 146-94 and 104-02- - \$3,160 for the Computerization Needs Fund; and \$95 for the Enforcement and Education Fund.

Clerk read Motion: That the Council of the City of Reynoldsburg does hereby appoint Bruce Sowell to serve the remainder of a three year term (term ending March 22, 2013) on the Reynoldsburg Housing Council for Community Reinvestment Areas.- -Mr. Joseph moved adoption; Mr. Clemens seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea". Motion passed.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING SECTION 513.01 "Definitions"; and SECTION 513.03 "Drug Abuse; Controlled Substance Possession or Use" OF CHAPTER 513 DRUG ABUSE CONTROL; and AMENDING SECTION 545.05 "Petty Theft" OF CHAPTER 545 THEFT AND FRAUD- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the first reading. Item referred to Safety Committee.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: CHAPTER 160 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION, SECTION 160.02 "AUTHORIZED POSITIONS, PERSONNEL, CLASSIFICATION AND PAY GRADE" SUBSECTION (g) "SERVICE DEPARTMENT" (1) Service Department TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF RECEPTIONIST- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Joseph moved adoption; Mr. Clemens seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 36-11 adopted.

Request for Executive Session to discuss imminent court action; and to consider the dismissal of a public employee- -Mr. Cotner moved to recess for Executive Session; Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea". Motion passed. Mr. Hills said those attending would be Clerk of Council and all elected officials. Council recessed for Executive Session at 7:42 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:23 p.m. With the roll called, members responding were: Mr. Burd "Present"; Mr. Deskins "Present"; Mrs. Kelly "Present"; Mr. Joseph "Present"; Mr. Clemens "Present"; Mr. Cotner "Present"; Mr. Long "Present".

Mr. Hills: We are reconvened, and I would ask, is there a motion to add an item to the agenda?

Mr. Joseph moved to add an item to the agenda; Mr. Clemens seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea". Motion passed; item added to agenda. Mr. Hills asked the clerk to read the item by title. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RELEASE AGREEMENT AND MAKING TRANSFER OF FUNDS (Police Department) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- -Mr. Joseph moved to waive the mandatory committee referral rule; Mr. Long seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea". Motion passed; mandatory committee referral rule waived.

Mr. Joseph moved adoption; Mr. Burd seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 37-11 adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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William L. Hills, President of Council

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Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council