

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
MAY 14, 2007

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

Members of Council present: Doug Joseph, Mel Clemens, Antoinette Newman, Donna Shirey, Ron Stake, Brett Baxter. Councilman Stearns was absent.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Hills, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held April 23, 2007 were approved without objection.

The agenda was approved.

Community Comments and Requests- -Mr. Hills: This is the portion of the agenda where citizens can speak to Council on items that are not on tonight=s agenda. I do have a couple of speaker slips. One is titled topic, Five Seasons. One is titled topic, illegals. These items are not on the agenda for this evening. Therefore certainly, under our guidelines and rules, they=re entitled to speak to them. But as I look at these, I just want to remind all of our citizens, that there are some issues going on, and there=s some continuing backgrounds being checked into and things being done by our Administration and our City Attorney at the request of City Council. And I would just encourage everyone who comes here that you=re always going to have the right to speak, but be sure when you start your speaking, that we=re not just drawing attention to ourselves. Sometimes the press we get isn=t always the best press. And oftentimes it=s for good intentions that people come here and speak, but it gets twisted and turned a little bit to make it more readable. So I don=t ever like to say we=re not going to allow a speaker, and I haven=t done that. I have at times, and people have accused me of shutting a speaker off and asking them to sit back down, and I=ll continue to do that if it becomes disruptive or something that is not a benefit to Council. With that, I will recognize the speakers and we=ll see where we go. Shirley Archer is first and her topic is illegals. Shirley, if you=d like to come to the microphone either back there or up front and give us your name and address for the record.

Ms. Archer: Thank you. Shirley Archer, Reynoldsburg. It seems like the issue of illegals was brought up by Councilman Clemens and it seems like I=m glad that he did that. And my question right now is, our beautification and our flowers and everything, is that done by city workers here or is it contracted out? And my second part of that question, do you know if they are legal or illegals?

Mr. Hills: Mrs. Archer, I can, if you have a statement you want to make to Council, and I appreciate what you=re saying, have you talked to Administration?

Ms. Archer: No.

Mr. Hills: They're the ones that implement the contracts on a day-to-day basis and supervise the workers, whether they be contracted or hired by the city. And so, you're presenting up here to the Council, is it this way or that way, I don't know. This is your time to make your presentations. And I guess my response to that is, you ought to be talking to Administration, because I can't answer that.

Ms. Archer: Okay. So Administration here at this building?

Mr. Hills: Start with the Mayor. Start with Safety/Service Director. I mean, I don't know, whichever way it is, I'm not sure that it's one that we're going to debate. There's no pending legislation nor, I'm not sure there will be.

Ms. Archer: Okay. One thing was, you know, where do I go from here?

Mr. Hills: That's a good place to start. You can always, we always appreciate people coming to Council. If they are unable, and I hate to open this door, Mr. Baxter, but I think we historically have said, once we see that the Administration hasn't addressed or hasn't been aware of your situation, then certainly make us aware and we will assist you in getting some answers. But I would say that talking with the Administration is where you should go first.

Ms. Archer: Okay. Thank you. That's all I had.

Mr. Hills: Yes, Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I want to make it plain. I wasn't discussing illegal immigrants. It was the illegal housing of the immigrants. The immigrants that are working here are legal on a government program. It's the point I feel that they're living in their housing illegal according to our ordinances of what it is.

Mr. Hills: Thank you Mr. Clemens for the clarification. That's sort of what I was referring to where sometimes the subject matter gets twisted and turned and it doesn't read very well. Or it reads very well. Whichever one you would prefer to go.

Mr. Wright. Ken Wright. If you would go to the mike, give us your name and address for the record.

Mr. Wright: My name's Ken Wright and I live on Roselawn Avenue in Reynoldsburg. And I had some comments about the Five Seasons Company. And my comments don't reflect any organization, or any neighborhood group or anything. It's just my own opinion of the business at hand. An out of town company called Five Seasons Landscape, has purchased three single family homes in the Huber neighborhood where I live. They have all been turned into models, sorry, into motels for Mexican workers. Each motel contains eight Mexican men. Each man is charged 37 per week. Maid service is provided. As might be expected, this Five Seasons business model is being challenged by the adjacent homeowners. These homeowners were under the impression that they were living in an area zoned for single family homes. In fact, the area in question is zoned for single family homes. It's called an R-3 single family residence district. So

why are these Mexican motels being tolerated by the City of Reynoldsburg? It seems that the attorney for Five Seasons has alleged that all the men living in each house are related by blood, and therefore, constitute three families. This attorney, along with Five Seasons owner Bill Leidecker also claim that Five Seasons is located in Reynoldsburg. It is not. The same attorney in a letter to the city dated April 19, 2007, actually suggests that bigotry was the only basis for community opposition to the company=s plans. Once again, as in the case of Calvary International, we seem to have an attorney salivating at the very thought of milking that old cash cow known as the discrimination law suit. For some attorneys, the discrimination law suit is the gift that keeps on giving. Whatever anyone else thinks about this mess, it=s all okay with the, with Reynoldsburg City Administration. On page 5 of the May 14, 2007 Eastside Messenger, City Attorney Hood is quoted as follows, AWe are prepared to say there will be no further action on these violations.@ The City Attorney is also quoted as saying, AWe are not going to enforce any zoning violations.@ I=d like everyone to think about that statement. And I just have one last rhetorical question to ask. What should the citizens of a community do with a City Administration that flatly refuses to enforce the law? What do we do?

Mr. Hills: Questions for Mr. Wright? (No response). Mr. Wright I=ll again, I appreciate your synopsis of the minutes and the meetings that you were here and what was in the paper. Most of it I=m sure is accurate. What didn=t get stated was I think, the quotes were as good as the paper put them. I=m sure they probably reflect basically, what was in the minutes. But as I left the meeting, and I think as everyone else on Council, there was going to be some continuing investigation being done. And to the best of my knowledge, it=s still being done by the City Attorney and our Administration. So I don=t know the answer to your question other than we=re trying to get some better answers too. But again, it=s an issue. It is in the city. I think the Administration has said at the present time, they don=t feel that there is a violation that they can go forward on. But they are looking at further investigation. I=m not sure what else can be committed to you at this time. Anybody from Council have any other questions?

Mr. Wright: According to the statement though sir, it says, he said he would not act....

Mr. Hills: Mr. Wright, I will not start, it was your opportunity to address it. I=m just responding back to you. Please have a seat. Any other community comments? Those are the two speaker slips, but always feel free if somebody wants to address the mike, please give me your name and address and talk on an issue that is not on the agenda.

Communications- - Clerk read report from Clerk of Courts: total monies collected from courts held during April 2007, \$34,049. Monies also collected during that period pursuant to Ordinance Nos. 146-94 and 104-02- -\$2,050 for the Computerization Needs Fund and \$160 for the Enforcement and Education Fund.

Reports- -

Ms. Yorston: Thank you very much Council, for taking the time to listen to me tonight. As Mr. Hills said, my name is Ruth Yorston. I=m the Economic Development, it=s a long title, Economic Development and Work Force Representative for the Columbus Chamber. And I=m

here tonight to speak to you about some good news from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service which is located on the campus of DSCC in Whitehall. I want to start by just going back just a moment reminding you a little bit about the BREC Commission, Base Realignment Enclosure Commission, that made a decision in the terms of consolidation. What the BREC Commission is, is a nonpolitical commission that's put together by the government, by the Department of Defense, to take a look at military installations and make sure that our military and Department of Defense is as lean and as efficient as possible. And going into this particular BREC ground, was expected to be the largest change of any previous BREC ground. They were looking at closing or depleting as much as 25% of the land that was owned by the military. We actually did very well. We went into BREC knowing we had a possibility of losing 6,160 jobs in Central Ohio. That, at the time were the total jobs that we had at DSCC. We actually saved all of those and are looking at up to 1100 jobs gained. Currently, at the gaining location, there were just Defense Financing and Accounting Service, there are just over 200 residents of Reynoldsburg who work in that facility. What has happened here, is that going into BREC, there were at the time, 26 Defense Finance and Accounting Service locations across the country. And the BREC Commissions recommendation was to consolidate down to 5. And Columbus is one of those 5 gaining. So we're looking at a total of approximately 900 jobs coming into our area. Those jobs will come from both transferring employees, and employees that we will need to hire here from Central Ohio. What we've done going into this, is we had already developed some very strong relationships, both the federal level, the state level, and the local municipal level. The Columbus Chamber _____ effort to save those jobs. And we have developed some very strong relationships. We had members of the Senate and the House. Federally, we had the State of Ohio, Franklin County, the City of Columbus, the City of Whitehall, as well as a number of business partners, who came together for Team DSCC. What we did was, continuing those relationships that we had. And leverage the motion we already had going and move forward to help DSCC, or DFAS to recruit those jobs. Again, they came to the Chamber and asked us to lead that, which we were very glad to do, and we did several things.

One of the most important things I think we did, was to develop a system to help them recruit from outside of Central Ohio. We have some fantastic people in Central Ohio who can fill these jobs, but 900 jobs is a heck of a lot. And as any business owner, or business man can tell you, or business woman can tell you, the more employees that you can have to transfer when you're moving that kind of a business, or any kind of a business, the easier that transfer is going to be, the less difficult it's going to be for the company. And in this instance, the company's the Department of Defense. So the more of those employees that we can retain and encourage to move into our community, the better we would be. And we did a very good job of that. This process is going to continue over the next several years. But to date, we have, and these numbers are very rough because they're always rather fluid, but to date we've got about 150 employees who have transferred from closing bases. We have hired locally about 150 and there are somewhere between 125 and 175 I believe is the number, of folks who are in the pipeline. And we don't know if those are transfers or local hires, but we're well under way. We just have a ways to go on those 900 jobs. And what I want to do is give you a brief look at what's going on here. Where we are now, we knew there would come a point, early in this process, we had a very high transfer rate. But we knew that we would come to a point where the number of people who were transferring, would no longer need the number of jobs needed to be filled, and we have hit that point. This quarter, we're looking at seeing those numbers change. So our focus is

changing as well from trying to encourage, while we continue to do that, to encourage people to move from outside of our community, we really need to start beefing up the efforts to finding positions, and finding people in our local community who can fill those jobs. What that means for the citizens here in Reynoldsburg, is that we have some great job opportunities. I want to tell you a little bit about what the opportunity there is at DFAS and how you can communicate that to your residents.

DFAS is the world's largest finance and accounting service. Locally we have over 2,000 employees just here in Central Ohio. And that's only one of five locations. So it's a very large operation. And what they do is, they provide a very responsive, a very professional finance service to the men and women in uniform, to the entirety of the Department of Defense. They pay the vendors. They pay the salaries. They pay the bills to make sure that the suppliers are getting what they need to get and we don't run out of those supplies. So what they're doing is very, very important. And we believe that DFAS is an employer of choice. They're an employer of choice because of the work that they do. They are an employer of choice because of the very competitive pay rate that they have and because of the excellent federal benefits that employees receive there. Some of those benefits for those employees, include a professional work experience in the military installation. It's different being an accountant in the military installation than it is being an accountant in the private sector. The job is different. The time frame is different. For example, April was a very, very busy month for accountants working in the private sector. But working at DFAS, they don't have that fluctuation of work. It's very steady streams. So it's kind of a different life. A different type of a professional environment. And that's just one minor example of the differences. So of the benefits that they include, there are an on sight daycare, which is great for working families to know that your children are right there inside the fence with you. Also, they've got a 42,000 square foot fitness facility. Olympic size pool. A 9 hole golf course. That's not too bad. And they've got a lot of other amenities as well as benefits that are there that are available to employees of DFAS and anyone working at DSCC. They also have very modern offices. These particular offices completed in 1999 are the most modern of the DFAS offices. DFAS Columbus, and in fact, the entirety of DSCC, is an example that the military and the Department of Defense often will point to and say, if you want to know how to get it done, look at these folks. They're doing it well. They're getting the job done. They're going above and beyond. And they're beyond approach. So this is an excellent place to work. An excellent opportunity for your local residents. Specifically what we're doing is, we have taken the show on the road so to speak, to our local City Councils. And we are asking you to post this link on your city web site, www.dfascolumbusjobs.com. This web site is the key to learning about DFAS. For those who are outside of our community, they can learn about the community. But it also includes a very, very important link. Apply. So if anyone is looking for a job, they can click the link to apply now and it will take them right to the site that they need to. All government jobs, you have to apply through a site that's called, usajobs.com. And we link right into that. And even to make it more simple for people who are looking at jobs at DFAS Columbus, when you link through our site, it's going to run a quick search for you so that Columbus DFAS jobs are going to be the ones that come up first and save you a lot of searching time. So that is our request of you tonight. That you can actually consider adding dfascolumbusjobs.com to your web site if that would be something you would be willing to do for us. I have my business cards here and I can provide you with any information. For the Dublin City Council, I wrote out for them a nice little paragraph that they could put on their link.

I=d be glad to provide that for you as well. So that, in very short, is what we=re asking you to do. I=d be happy to take any questions now.

Mr. Hills: Questions from members of Council? Mr. Joseph.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you, President Hills. My question is, the 900 jobs that you=d talked about, would those employees be covered under the federal Hatch Act? As far as prohibitions on political activity?

Ms. Yorston: I would have to double check. I would think yes, but let me double check on that for you and get back with you. I=ll send you an e-mail this week on that.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Thank you very much.

Ms. Yorston: Any other questions?

Mr. Hills: Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Yes. I have just one question. And I think it=s a great idea to have the link to be able to have our citizens be able to find your site. But I think the other way around as well. There are people that you have moving into this community and be able to see what we have to offer. I think that would be a two-way link and would be great for those people that you are having transferred in, to see a wonderful city like Reynoldsburg and a place that they can move into. That=s a two-way street that we have that.

Ms. Yorston: We actually do have information on all of our local communities. We are, I=d like to clarify this. People know us as the Columbus Chamber. That=s how we=re branded. Our actual official legal name is The Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. We=re a regional Chamber. And we work with, not just Franklin County, but our six contiguous counties. We have relations with every municipality within that. On our web site, if anyone wanted to go to our web site, you could find very easily, information about your community as well as other. Now we are very, very pleased to share that information with people looking at Columbus.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you so much. We appreciate that.

Mr. Hills: Other questions? (No response). If you could provide one of those narrative paragraphs which is sort of a lead into your web site, if you could get that to Mrs. Frazier. And Mayor, would you, any comments as far as the web site?

Mayor McPherson: We=d be more than happy to put it on there.

Ms. Yorston: Great Mayor. Thank you very much. I really appreciate that.

Mr. Hills: The lead in would help identify what it is. Okay. Thank you very much for your report.

Mr. DeBolt, Safety/Service Director, gave a report on Community Cleanup. He stated that the City of Reynoldsburg was awarded the Emerald Award from SWACO for the 2006 Litter Prevention and Cleanup Program. Mr. DeBolt thanked the many volunteers that participated.

Clerk read motion: That Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton, Inc. be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare specifications and advertise for bids for the cleaning, televising, and root cutting of up to 18,000 lineal feet of sanitary sewer.- -Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Joseph seconded. All voted AYe@. Motion passed.

Clerk read motion: That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized and directed to apply for financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission for the project known as ARosehill Road Reconstruction Project - from East Livingston Avenue to just south of Rosedale Avenue@.- -Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mrs. Newman seconded. All voted AYe@. Motion passed.

Clerk read motion: That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized and directed to apply for financial assistance from the Community Development Block Grant Program for the project known as ARosehill Road Reconstruction Project - from East Livingston Avenue to just south of Rosedale Avenue@.- -Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Clemens seconded. All voted AYe@. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR MAIN STREET CURB RAMPS PROJECT (Ordinance No. 2-07, Passed January 16, 2007); REFERENCING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - - Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mrs. Newman seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 29-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR GRAHAM ROAD IMPROVEMENTS; APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Baxter seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 30-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE 2007 STREET PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mrs. Newman seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 31-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ORDINANCE NO. 23-07 PASSED APRIL 23, 2007 REGARDING CHAPTER 1335 AFLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION@ AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading.

Mr. Clemens said the City Engineer had checked, and the information he had provided concerning the Fairfield County map was correct. Mr. Clemens moved adoption; Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 32-07 adopted.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$800,000, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF IMPROVING THE MUNICIPAL SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM BY INSTALLING A SANITARY SEWER LINE AND ANY NECESSARY MANHOLES ALONG TAYLOR ROAD, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION OF ANY INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY NECESSARY THEREFOR, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- -Clerk read Fiscal Officer=s Certificate. Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Clemens seconded. Mrs. Shirey said she supported the ordinance, but because of her position with Key Bank, and to avoid conflict of interest, her vote would be to abstain. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AAbstain@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 33-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR TAYLOR ROAD 18" SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Stake seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 34-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE MAKING TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Transfer of Police Van)- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mrs. Shirey seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 35-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 741 SOLICITORS- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item referred to Safety Committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING E.M.H.&T. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO THE BARTLETT COURT STORM SEWER OUTLET PROJECT; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 36-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO PAY FINAL INVOICES REGARDING (1) Widening and Resurfacing S.R. 256 between the Marcus Theater entrance in the south, to a point north of Farmsbury Drive in the north; and (2) Livingston Avenue Bikepath that connects Huber Park to Blacklick Woods- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mrs. Shirey seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 37-07 adopted.

Mr. Hills said there was a request from the Mayor for an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining strategy. Mr. Hills said those attending would be elected officials, Clerk of Council, Safety/Service Director, Marc Fishel. Mr. Stake moved to recess for Executive Session. Mrs. Shirey seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Baxter AYea@. Motion passed. Mr. Hills said following the Executive Session, Council would reconvene only to call the roll and adjourn. Council recessed at 8:11 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:27 p.m. With the roll called, members responding were: Mr. Joseph APresent@; Mr. Clemens APresent@; Mrs. Newman APresent@; Mrs. Shirey APresent@; Mr. Stake APresent@; Mr. Baxter APresent@.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

William L. Hills, President of Council

Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council