

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 23, 2007

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

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

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

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held April 9, 2007 were approved without objection.

The agenda was approved.

Reports: Mr. Clemens: What I'd like to bring up, and I think each of you received a packet in your, received this in your packet, and it has to do with a company by the name of Five Seasons. And what this involves, and it's strictly a legal operation that Mr. Leidecker has his company into, it's called the H2B Program. It's a Federal Government program where you bring immigrants in on work visas. You have to give them a place to live. You have to give them transportation. They live here for 9 months, then they go back to their own country. He's applied for 40 of them. And like I said, it's his business and he has a right to do this. The problem is on this situation, Mr. Leidecker, he owns about three homes in Reynoldsburg, which he has a right to do that also, and rent them to whoever he wishes. This is a free country. And this has nothing to do with nationalities. And I want to make that plain because I don't really care what nationality you are, or American citizen, or whatever you are. This problem is, he's moving these workers into the homes that he's purchased. He already has on Retton Court. He's moved 8 immigrants in, that works for his business. He picks them up very early in the morning and brings them back very late in the evening. And they work for him in the day time. Now, he also plans on doing this on the home he bought on Rider Drive, and the home he bought on Malone. Like I said, this is a legal program. It's a Federal Government program. I mean, I don't agree with their programs but they are law so you have to agree with them.

Where the problem's brought up is, he had sent the neighbors a letter on March 26, 2007 informing them on what he was going to do; that he was moving in the immigrants that he has brought over, and they were Mexicans, which makes no, that's no problem. Because like I said, anybody can live there. You know, we have the right to live in any house in Reynoldsburg and Reynoldsburg is a very diverse city. The problem is, we have a Zoning Code. And these people contacted me and I also contacted Mr. Haire of our Zoning Department. Under our code, the ordinance 1131.02, it has to do with single family homes. All of Reynoldsburg, R-1, R-2 and R-3 are single family homes. And that's what it states. Single family homes. It states who can live there, how many can live there. It can't be a motel, hotel, boarding house. This is a boarding house and you can call it whatever you want. That's what it is. For transient workers. Certainly the people are upset about it. They've lived there for 30 years in this court; they grew up in Reynoldsburg; graduated from school here. It's a deterrent as far as their property is concerned to have a boarding house or whatever you want to call it in the neighborhood. Mr.

Haire sent Mr. Leidecker a letter explaining the code and so forth, and the violation, and what the code pertained to. After that, we received a letter back from his attorney just this last week, and a response. In the letter, the attorney states basically the same thing that he received on what our zoning code was and so forth, and what a single family was and so forth. And he made the statement that all of these workers, all these immigrants are blood related. And you know, he gave no proof. Which we expect. There should be proof. And I=ve talked to Mr. Hood. We=ve handled it very well. That they have to come up with some type of proof that they are related. They are over here on a visa, working visas as an immigrant. Somebody knows who they are and what their background is. So I expect him, and I expect the attorney to come up with proof that they are related. I mean, it=s easy to do. I mean, it=s just like me. If I went before the judge and said that Bob McPherson and I are brothers, the first thing the judge would say, who=s your daddy? You know, and that=s all I=m asking is who and how are these people related? Because having 7 and 8 living in these homes is against our code. And like I said, Mr. Hood is handling this and he=s waiting on a reply. He=s tried to get hold of the attorney since he received the letter. The letter was fine until it got to the last paragraph. And as always, you know, you deal with these type of attorneys and they always have to throw something in there. This last paragraph states that these neighbors are bigots. Now, we=ve went through this before. I don=t appreciate anybody calling anybody in my neighborhood bigots. This guy probably doesn=t even know where in the hell Reynoldsburg=s at to start with. The attorney. So I do resent that. And I=m sure he did that, as Jed said, just to pull my string and everybody else=s. These type of attorneys have, you know, seem to do this to make it a little bit easier they feel, on what they=re trying to get across.

Any how, this is something that I=m going to watch closely. And I think it=s something Council should look at closely as far as our code=s concerned. Because let me tell you, if it happens on these three streets, it can happen anywhere in the City of Reynoldsburg. And that=s what we have to watch. Because these are all single family homes. And like I said, a boarding house is not the thing to have, and it=s not legal unless they can prove that they=re all related. That=s what we=ll have to see. I would like this put on the Service Committee=s agenda for next time, and we=ll kind of keep it there and kind of follow on what=s transpiring as far as this is concerned. I think it=s a very important situation and I want everybody to understand, it=s not a situation on what nationality you are or Caucasian or anything like that. Because you have the right to live there. It=s the point of it=s a single family home and what you=re using it for. If it meets the code, I have no problem at all with it. If it doesn=t meet the code then I expect something to be done about it. Thank you, Bill.

Mr. Hills: Thank you, Mr. Clemens.

Mrs. Newman: Could I make a comment, please?

Mr. Hills: Mrs. Newman.

Mrs. Newman: On this U S Department of Labor form here, they=ve got, you know, the form is filled out, the first item, name of alien. Forty unnamed. Two, present address of alien. Unknown. And then the only special requirement, must be able to pass drug test. That seems pretty loose to me. How can they get approval for this with this submitted in such a fashion?

Mr. Clemens: That=s, you know, I think that=s something that Mr. Hood=s looking into, and Mr. Haire. And I think they=re handling it well. And like I said, I think they=re waiting on responses also. But it=s something we do intend to track down.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: REPLACEMENT OF CHAPTER 1335 AFLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION@ AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Clemens moved to amend the ordinance as redrafted 4-13-07. Mr. Joseph seconded. All voted AYea@. Motion passed; ordinance amended. Mr. Clemens said he received a call from Chief Building Inspector Hopper earlier in the day, and that changes would be discussed at the next committee meeting concerning Council being the appellate body rather than the BZBA. Mr. Clemens moved adoption of the legislation; Mr. Stake seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 23-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL 1% MERIT INCREASE FOR THE YEAR 2007, FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES COVERED BY CHAPTER 160, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Clemens seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 24-07 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 first reading. Item referred to Safety Committee.

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 second reading. Item referred to Finance 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 second reading. Item referred to Service Committee.

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING UNRECORDED GENERAL WARRANTY DEED FROM THE KROGER CO., an Ohio corporation (0.180 ac., N.W. Corner of Taylor Rd. & E. Main St.)- - - Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 25-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING E.M.H.&T. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO THE FRENCH RUN FOOTBRIDGE EROSION PROTECTION PROJECT; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mrs. Shirey seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 26-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING E.M.H.&T. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO THE WIND RIVER DRIVE EROSION PROTECTION AT DYSAR DITCH; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Stearns seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 27-07 adopted.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING E.M.H.&T. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO THE GLENCREST STORM SEWER OUTLET AND DAWN DRIVE STORM SEWER PROJECT; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Baxter seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 28-07 adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

William L. Hills, President of Council

Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council