

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 14, 2005

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

Members of Council present: Brett Baxter, Eric Gilbert, Antoinette Newman, Lane J. Beougher, Ron Stake, Preston Stearns. Councilman Mel Clemens was absent.

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

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 24, 2005 were approved without objection.

The agenda was approved.

Community Comments and Requests- -Mr. Gary Knapp, 1741 Graham Rd., Reynoldsburg, was present and said he was concerned about the fire house that the Truro Twp. Fire Department was building. He said he had been in the fire service for 31 years; that Truro Twp. was going to build a fire house on Merchants Drive where they bought the property. He said he had always looked out for people and he felt Council's responsibility was to look out for people also. He said the location of that fire house was not in the best interest of the City of Reynoldsburg. He said he was not present to talk about conforming boundaries or what other departments were doing, but that he was talking about Truro Twp., Franklin County, and City of Reynoldsburg. He said that was the least populated area in the City of Reynoldsburg; that if they were going to build a fire house, they needed to build it north and east. He said he understood that they don't want to do that because then it would play into the city's hands and they would never do the conforming boundaries. He said there were a lot of people in the community that were on a fixed income. He said they were going to spend 3 million dollars on a fire house. He said the main concern was that he would like to see Council try to do something to get the fire house where it's going to serve the maximum amount of residents of the City of Reynoldsburg. He said he knows it is not Reynoldsburg's responsibility. He said he would think the township and city would want to work together. He said that is not what is happening with this fire house. He said if Council lets this get built, the City of Reynoldsburg is going to create their own fire department, or we're going to have conforming boundaries. He said that station will mostly service the City of Columbus. He said he is begging Council to put some pressure on the township. He said they did no study. He said the only reason that fire house is going down there, and he said it is a direct quote from one of the trustees is, that's the only place they could buy the land. He said if that's the reason to build a 3 million dollar fire house in a location that doesn't serve the majority of the residents paying for it, he just doesn't understand it. He said he is begging Council to try and do something about it before it's too late.

Mrs. Newman said that she was not as well-informed about fire service requirements as Mr. Knapp was, but it did occur to her that it is not that far from the existing fire house. Mr. Knapp said they are on automatic response with Columbus. He said even if they build that fire house there, there are still two other fire houses closer to the residents of Qualstan than that building is going to be. He said it makes no sense.

Mr. Stake said that he appreciates Mr. Knapp providing Council with this information.

He asked Mr. Knapp what he would like Council to do? He said we are not as well-versed on this situation. Mr. Knapp said to get it off of the fast track. He said if they paid some professional engineer to come in, that's a different issue. He said they didn't do that. He said they originally told him they did no study. He said when he went to the trustees' meeting, they said they did their own study. He asked who did the study and they said they relied on the professionals from the fire department. He asked who was qualified in the fire department to conduct the study. He said their Chief said he wanted a fire house on the other side of the creek in case they ever have any problems with Blacklick Creek. He said Council represents the citizens of Reynoldsburg. Mr. Stake said there are a lot of citizens of Reynoldsburg that are served by the Truro Township Fire Department. He said other than individually making a stand or saying how they feel about this, he doesn't know as a body or a city, what they could do about it. Mr. Knapp said he doesn't know either, other than to go meet with them. He said maybe to put pressure on them and make sure it's the right place. He said what frustrated him about it was there was a comment that they are building it there to try to force Reynoldsburg into conforming boundaries. He said that is not a reason to build a fire house. He said it needs to be northeast. Mr. Stake said that doesn't get his vote for conforming boundaries if that's the tactics they would like to use. Mr. Knapp said that was said from guys in the fire house and he did not hear that directly from the trustees. He said if you put a fire house there, and if you live in West Licking, that makes the response time for West Licking a long time for people in Licking County. He said if they would happen to close this fire house, which has also been a part of the discussion, then you have a fire house sitting down there. He said there is just no long range common sense plan. He said political pressure is great. He said to build a fire house based on that is the only place they could get land, is the wrong reason.

Mr. Hills thanked Mr. Knapp for coming forward. He said he is sure Mr. Underwood and the Mayor will take a look at this and give some input. He asked Mr. Knapp if at any of their township meetings, did they discuss this openly prior to when they contracted on their land? He asked if they went to the County Association to borrow money on a grant or something? Mr. Knapp said he never knew anything about it until he read it in the paper. He said the majority of the fire fighters and some of the officers didn't even know about it until it came out in the paper. Mr. Hills said they are all taxpayers. Mr. Knapp said one of the ploys that they tried to pull on him was, that most of their runs are in that area. Mrs. Newman said she really hated to hear they might close the current fire house on Main Street; Mr. Knapp said that building is not a good fire house. He said they have put so much money into that building. He said they have redone the heating, the roof, etc. He said if they are going to build another one, it needs to be east.

Mr. Robert Kelley, 1782 Lucks Rd., Reynoldsburg, was present. He brought a trash bag full of litter that he picked up on his lawn since the first of December. He said he read in the Reynoldsburg News that the city has a plan in place for correcting the litter problem. He said in the paper, it appears that there are barrels at the bus stops. He said we need to consider the residents. He said most of the litter comes from his own neighbors. He said they are not properly putting their garbage out. He said one day, a school boy threw a can on his lawn right in his presence. He said he asked him to pick it up, and he picked it up and threw it on the neighbor's lawn. Mr. Hills said there is going to be a presentation tonight on an overall plan on attempting to control some litter within the city.

Communications- -Assistant Clerk read report from Clerk of Courts: total monies collected from courts held during January 2005, \$25,783. Monies also collected during that period pursuant to Ordinance No. 146-94 and 104-02- -\$1,351 for the Computerization Needs Fund and \$295 for the

Enforcement and Education Fund.

Reports- -Mayor McPherson reported on the February 10, 2005 snow event.

Mayor McPherson: We had a little bit of snow on February 10. There's been a lot said about the snow on 2-10. There's been obviously, communications between several people and several issues have been brought up that are internal in nature. So let me just start out by saying to the residents of Reynoldsburg, I do apologize for our crews not being out earlier than they were. And I can assure you that all of the communication problems have been resolved. Now let me just go a step further than that. Had there not been communication problems, at 4:08 in the morning, the Dispatcher did in fact request from the patrol units to tell us, do we need to get the crews out? Is it okay? They were advised that all of the roads were okay. Now that was at 4:00 in the morning. 4:45, patrol units were advised that Main Street was covered with snow and slush, but there was still, they were still passable and there wasn't any need to call out any of the Street Department personnel. At 5:56, which round it, 6:00, our Chief did call the com center. She was getting ready to leave. She advised that the roads were icy and that the Street Department should be called. Okay. 6:00 in the morning. Between there, some other people called. School bus garage called. We had a couple of other officers call in that interim. At 6:58, 58 minutes later, our Street Department was out and they were salting the streets. So you know, could we have gotten out sooner? I don't know. You know, we got out within an hour, less than an hour of when we were notified that the streets were slippery and were icy and that we should be out. By the time you make all your phone calls and get everybody in, I don't know how you can do it much less than an hour. But I can assure you that we will try to overcome that and perhaps even get people out even earlier. But again, I apologize to the people of the City of Reynoldsburg. In my 18 years plus of being here, I don't think we have ever had people calling our office like this to tell us about icy roads. And I don't ever want it to happen again if I'm here another 18 years. So we have resolved any of the internal issues and I can assure you that we will be out. And the people will be calling us, complementing us on our roads again, not complaining about them being icy.

Mr. Hills: Any comments, questions? Yes, sir.

Mr. Baxter: Yes. Thank you, President Hills. Mayor, first off I just want to make sure that our Street Department knows that I have a lot of pride in our city and in the work that they do. One of the things that's real nice to come into our city after, no matter what direction I come, is to see our streets look the way they do. We've had some major events in the last couple of months here and I just wanted to say, if there's only been one 'oops' in this case, then so be that. But I think they're doing a great job and I just wanted them to know that's how I feel about them.

Mayor McPherson: Thank you. We'll pass that along.

Mr. Hills: Mr. Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you, President Hills. Mayor, you say the police patrolmen are the ones that gives the contact to the Street Department to get the trucks out?

Mayor McPherson: They notify the Dispatchers as to when they feel that we should be calling our street crews out. Because they're out 24/7.

Mr. Stearns: So they're the sole indicators of whether we need to have a salt truck out?

Mayor McPherson: They're the first indicator. And then the street crews themselves when they come in, then they make a determination number one, whether it should be salt, whether it should be plow. Then they determine what avenue they need to be taking to resolve whatever the issue is.

Mr. Stearns: So if it's needed at 2:00 in the morning, they will start approximately before the early morning traffic starts? Is that when they get out?

Mayor McPherson: It just depends. It depends on the event, Mr. Stearns. I couldn't tell you for sure. When they get notified, the crews immediately come in, the trucks are already loaded and ready to go, they've got the salt on them. And they do, whether it be salting or whether they have to push snow, they're ready. The trucks are ready to roll when they hit the door.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you.

Mr. Hills: Any other questions? (No response). If not, Mayor thank you very much.

Presentation - SWACO - anti-litter campaign.

Mrs. Reichard said this is a city wide anti-litter campaign that they have been working on for the last several months. She said they have the cooperation of the Chamber, other businesses, the Board of Education, city workers, etc. to see that this job gets done. She said Larry Spencer, who is the manager of Smart Communities for SWACO has been instrumental and really helping them put a plan together. She said it covers everywhere in the community. She said they are starting with anti-litter and moving into an expanded recycling program for our community.

Mr. Larry Spencer with SWACO gave a presentation. He said that their mission is to provide a comprehensive environmentally sound, cost effective and technically reliable solid waste management program for all people living and working within the jurisdiction of SWACO, and reduce reliance on landfills. He said their goals are to enhance the community's recycling and litter prevention efforts, boost communication capabilities, foster community partnerships between businesses, schools and other civic organizations. He said it also provides and identifies resources to get the job done, and builds pride and awareness within the community. He said the reason why SWACO helps communities is to reduce reliance on landfill, conserve land and other natural resources, keep taxes down, and keep the environment clean.

Mrs. Newman asked if they have any plans to start a recycling program in apartment communities. Mr. Spencer said that is something they can look at.

Mr. Baxter said over 3 years, do we know what the cost is and the savings to the city? Mr. Spencer said from SWACO's prospective, they consider it a worthwhile investment. He said they are designated to improve the environment. He said recycling is where you get into a cost savings.

Mrs. Reichard said one of the reasons this got jump started is because of the concern for litter in Streetscape. She said they are adopting streets with civic organizations, individuals, etc. She said she sees a cost savings by not having to hire someone to do it or use labor from our

services. Mr. Baxter asked if we are looking at bringing litter prevention into the schools? Mrs. Reichard said yes. Mr. John Remy stated that they do have bumper stickers with the phone number on it.

Mrs. Reichard said the Solid Waste Plan update needs approved every 5 years. She said our city has received this. She said she will get a two page summary for Council to look at. She said they are asking for City Council to approve this plan by the end of March. She said it has to be approved by Council because if you don't vote on it, it's a no vote. She said they are asking to pass and support this.

Consent Agenda Item(s):

Assistant Clerk read the following item by title. Disposition result listed at end of title.

for first reading: ORDINANCE ACCEPTING TEN RECORDED DEEDS OF EASEMENT (storm sewer, water main, and sanitary sewer easements) (NOCA, Ltd.) (Taylor Square Development)- -item referred to Service Committee.

Mr. Stake moved approval of item on the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Newman seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea"; Mr. Stearns "Yea". Motion passed; disposition listed above.

Regular Agenda Items

Motion(s)

Assistant Clerk read motion: That the Council of the City of Reynoldsburg does hereby adopt the Resolution in Recognition of Adam Ritter as referred to in the resolution signed and dated February 14, 2005. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mrs. Newman seconded. All voted "Aye". Motion passed. Mrs. Newman made a presentation of the Resolution to Mr. and Mrs. Ritter.

ORDINANCE MAKING TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY - (LifePak CR Plus Defibrillator and accompanying items)- -Assistant Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Beougher moved adoption. Mr. Stake seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea"; Mr. Stearns "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 7-05 adopted.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 339 COMMERCIAL AND HEAVY VEHICLES BY ADDING SECTION 339.15 "ENGINE AND EXHAUST BRAKES" WHICH WILL PROHIBIT THE USE OF ENGINE OR EXHAUST BRAKES WITHIN THE REYNOLDSBURG CITY LIMITS; MAKING REFERENCE TO THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE SECTION; AND AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF THE ORDINANCE AT EACH ROADWAY ENTRANCE INTO THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG- -Assistant Clerk read ordinance by title for the first reading. Item referred to Safety Committee.

ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN APPLICATION FOR ANNEXATION OF .475+/- ACRES IN

TRURO TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, STATE OF OHIO, TO THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO (Jerry L. and Norma J. Stevenson, applicants)- -Assistant Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item referred to Service Committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INCOME TAX SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.62, 5709.82, and 5709.83- -Assistant Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Beougher seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea"; Mr. Stearns "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 8-05 adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

William L. Hills, President of Council

Susie Smith, Assistant Clerk of Council