

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
February 10, 2014

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

Members of Council present: Cornelius McGrady, III., Mel Clemens, Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long, Daniel J. Skinner, Esq., Scott A. Barrett, Leslie Kelly.

Approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held January 27, 2014 and Special Council Meeting held February 3, 2014.

Approval of Agenda

Community Comments and Requests:

Monica DeBrock: 7400 Bryden Road. Topic tonight is sidewalks. I just want to make sure that the topic is discussed. Typically, in central Ohio we don't have winters like we do, but we do have them, it's not anything unusual and I want to applaud the city for plowing the streets, I think the City has done an excellent job and also this year, I am very pleased to see the City sidewalks are being plowed. Even though our property maintenance for Reynoldsburg states the property owner is responsible for maintaining their sidewalk including shoveling, in the past, the City had not always done their sidewalks. So, it's kind of hard to make residents do their sidewalk if the City's not doing theirs. So I'm really pleased that the City is taking care of their sidewalks. According to City codes, our sidewalks are to be shoveled and it's the owner's responsibility and it's for the safety of the residents, the business and the visitors. I think it's a very important issue. This week, I've seen numerous students and residents walking on Main Street and Livingston in the curb because the piles are so high just getting to the sidewalk is difficult and that just puts, it's dangerous for the walkers, it's dangerous for the drivers, we need to make sure that our residents are safe and keeping them safe is making sure our sidewalks are shoveled. I understand in the past, we've had years where we get a snow, 2 days later all the snow is melted. You don't send out a code officer someone that doesn't shovel when we have weather that is the yo yo weather, but this year we've had continuous snow, we've had the cold, it's not melting, it is not, it's not acceptable to have students in our City walking. We have people that do not drive, they rely on the sidewalks, they rely on walking to the grocery store, we need to make sure we maintain those. My question is, if we have code officers working 12 months out of the year, when we have weather like this, is it reasonable to think that I know we can't get a code officer out to every residential area, but can we focus on the main streets, the main streets where we have 5 lanes of traffic and we should not be having residents walking in the street. So that's my question. Can we, as a city, move forward and be a great city, we need to make sure our city is walkable every season of the year. So I would like to think that somehow we can enforce the sidewalk shoveling at least on the main streets. Thank you. Any questions?

Mr. Joseph: Any questions?

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Burd, can you fill in some blanks here? Cause...

Mr. Burd: Yeah, sure. Last Thursday, we put together a new notice about sidewalks specifically that our two officers have been distributing and they were asked to focus on neighborhoods around schools and also in main business thoroughfares. So we are posting notices. Now we do only have 2 officers. They split the city in half and do what they can. Getting compliance is difficult. I saw a man on Lancaster the other day attempting to shovel his sidewalks and I stopped and talked to him and he couldn't get through a lot of it because it is a frozen block and so we're doing the best we can to educate people that this is in the property maintenance code. It doesn't reference snow specifically but it says sidewalks are to be kept from hazardous conditions and obviously a foot of snow and ice is a hazardous condition. So the notice that we're posting and I'll make sure you get a copy of that so you can see what residents are receiving, does reference that directly and we're trying to educate folks about the problems that that brings up.

Mrs. DeBrock: Is that also going out on Main Street and Livingston to the business owners?

Mr. Burd: I don't know exactly where all they've been yet, but Main specifically was discussed in our staff meeting as well as neighborhoods around schools. I'll check on Livingston but they are to be putting them out as much as they can in their limited time.

Mrs. DeBrock: Because I do see a lot of high schoolers walking and they're walking in the street. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: next is Norm Brusk.

Mr. Brusk: Norm Brusk 1861 Crosswood Court. Usually I get up here and I'm being my curmudgedly self, and complaining, but this time I just want to give kudos to the street crew for getting the streets cleaned up as fast and as well as they've done. I had the opportunity to drive down Livingston right after the storm and once I passed half way to McNaughten it turned into a sheet of ice and it was pretty well undrivable there and down McNaughten both of which are in the City of Columbus, not in the City of Reynoldsburg. So it's a huge difference and I really appreciate it.

Mr. Joseph: Any comments? Thank you. Next up is Brett Luzader.

Mr. Luzader: Brett Luzader 1116 Gibson Road. I would just like to make a suggestion that Council take a serious look at possibly putting a road levy on the ballot for the voters to maybe decide on. They've tried an income tax at least 4 times now and the voters have said resoundingly no, we're not going to pass it. A road levy will do 2 things, it will let the public know specifically what the money is going for, which has been questioned a number of different times if we pass an income tax, what are you going to spend the money on. The second thing is, Mr. Burd said last week that we did a million dollar road project last year. Now I know all of that money doesn't come out of the general fund, but I know a portion of it should. That would

also free up that money to use in the general fund balance for different things. So that's just a suggestion I'd like to see taken seriously.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you, any questions or comments? Next is Lori Schwartzkopf.

Ms. Schwartzkopf: Good evening members of Council, Mayor McCloud. Lori Schwartzkopf, 6450 Red Coach Lane which is actually Columbus and my roads are crap but I can have the dog I want there so, good with the bad. I just wanted to update you a little bit today on the breed specific legislation by City. The last time I spoke with you, Pickerington had just gone breed neutral and that was sometime in August. I wanted to let you know that as of today, Powell has also gone breed neutral. So of the 20 cities listed (hand out) surrounding Columbus, we have 13 now that are breed neutral, 5 have restrictions, you can have pit bulls in those cities but you have restrictions on those and then of course we have 2 cities that have bans, you are one of those cities in case you weren't aware and then Bexley. Both of those cities are being petitioned by citizens to go breed neutral. I think I mentioned before that Bexley also has some citizens there that are looking, working with their City Council to go breed neutral there so I just wanted to update you on that. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Ok, any questions?

Mr. McGrady: That document, would you provide.. Oh you already have it.

Ms. Schwartzkopf: Yeah, I know the drill.

Mr. McGrady: Sing along.. thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Other questions, comments? Thank you. And our last slip is Ryan Poe.

Mr. Poe: Ryan Poe, 1012 Boyne Court. My name is Ryan Poe. I recently moved here a couple of years ago with my wife without knowing that there was a ban on pit bull type dogs in here, If we had known, we would not have moved here as we wanted to adopt one as a companion for our Boxer. I'm here to request that the Ad Hoc Committee, the membership of which was approved by Council on November 11th and which was subsequently dissolved on November 25th be resurrected per your admission of its necessity. Per the minutes of November 25th, you stated the following to President Joseph: Mr. Long: I just want to reiterate that an ad hoc committee is needed. I understand the work that you did and I'm willing to go ahead and work with you in order to come up with what I believe should be a balanced committee. Whether it's expanding the total number in order to accompany the total number that you currently have, but I do believe we need the ad hoc committee. So I'm urging you to please move forward with this committee. Ample time has passed for consideration of additional members. We understand that the city's budget is important and is consuming a great deal of Council's time. However we believe that the Ad Hoc Committee will take a couple of weeks to schedule and require an additional 6-8 weeks to complete evaluation of this legislation by which time the budget should be in hand. Reynoldsburg citizens who want to see breed neutral legislation enacted have been patient and respectful of your time. We deserve the same courtesy.

Mr. Joseph: Yeah 2 weeks from tonight there will be a new list submitted to Council for their consideration.

Mr. Poe: Ok. Wonderful

Mr. Joseph: Any questions? Ok Thank you very much.

Communications:

Mr. McGrady: As a result of the Resolution of Teen Safe Dating that we passed here a few months back, we have our first graduating class as the Bell Academy tomorrow at 10:15. Current guest to participate is Attorney General DeWine. We have two sessions, first at 10:15 then at 11:00 so everyone is invited, just wanted to pass that on.

Mr. Joseph: Questions on that? Thank you.

Reports:

Mr. Joseph: I have two reports, the first is by Auditor Harris.

Mr. Harris: Thank President Joseph, members of Council. Over the last couple of years since the banking problems came around in 08, the Federal Reserve has looked at a lot of things with banks in order to try to prevent something like that happening again. One of the things they do is change the liquidity rate of banks. Banks need to keep a certain percent of their deposits liquid in case someone wants to come in and make withdrawals, that they can do it. Recently regulators have asked the Federal Reserve to exclude municipal securities as high quality liquid assets. This would exclude municipal bonds from the definition of high quality liquid assets making them less attractive for banks to use. Over the last 8 years, when we have issued debts, we have not gone to the market, we have done everything through banks. If the pass this as proposed, it would probably make the cost of our borrowing money from banks go up significantly. I'll keep you obviously informed as this goes forward. Part of the reason for this was the Bankruptcy of the City of Detroit. Detroit bond holders, even though as their City Council does the same thing you do when we issue debt, you pledge the full faith and credit of the City of Reynoldsburg to pay the debt. Well Detroit did too and now a federal judge is going to make that part of the bankruptcy. I'll keep you informed as this.. right now, there are about 3.69 trillion dollars of municipal securities. Of that 404 billion of that is held by depository banks. So it's a material amount of money and we would not like to see this pass because of the fact that it will raise the borrowing cost of municipal bond lenders. If there are any questions I'll take those and if not, I'll sit down.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions for the Auditor?

Mr. Long: I've got one. Dick is the Muni League out against this?

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Long: Ok, Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Our second report is by Service Director Burd.

Mr. Burd: Thank you President Joseph. President Joseph asked about where we were at with our salt supply given the winter and we thought it would be a good idea to give a quick update. About 3 weeks ago or so 10tv came out and did a story about salt supply and when they got to our barn, they were just mesmerized by how much salt we had on hand because they've been to city after city where they were either empty or almost empty. Unfortunately, we've had 19 inches of snow since then, so we're uh, our supplies are starting to dwindle as well. But we are not by any stretch of the imagination in an emergency situation. We have approximately 4 or 5 hundred tons left in our barn right now which will get us through another massive event, maybe a little bit more than that. We also have 500 more tons that have been ordered. It's arriving bit by bit and the demand for salt has been higher than it's been in decades there telling us and so when we order 800 tons we usually don't get it all at once, it usually comes in truckload by truckload. So we're doing ok. If it gets to where the snow just does not stop and it keeps coming down week after week, we will be in a situation where we may have to conserve a little bit, but I think that given that it's February 10th, what we have on hand also considering what's still coming, I think we're going to be alright. The contract that you all approved allowed us to purchase at a very inexpensive rate, just fair warning, that's going to go up next year because of the winter we're having this year. We're trying to buy as much as we can at \$48.00 a ton before it goes up and appreciate residents' patience as we deal with these very very large storms. I heard on the new yesterday that this is the second time in 105 years that we've had a foot of snow each month Dec, Jan and Feb and so it is a bit of an abnormal winter for us but we're doing the best we can and I'll certainly take any questions you have.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions?

Mr. McGrady: You made reference to the projected rise in cost. Do you have any idea when that may take place?

Mr. Burd: Well, we'll come back probably sometime this summer, our current contract will get us through the first half of the year so we'll buy as much as we can at that lower rate. Our next contract, which this year we did in September, we're going to try to get that done in July if we can, would be at whatever the rate is. Just historically whenever you have years like this, the next year's salt goes up. So we're expecting for it to go up but hopefully not as much as it has in the past.

Mr. McGrady: You touched on in the direction I was going whereas this summer, can we make the purchase to fill our barn as opposed to waiting until the fall at the lower rate.

Mr. Burd: Yeah the contract that you approved allowed us to buy 3000 tons and we've bought I want to say 2000. So we can buy another 1000 at least, maybe more, I'd have to go back and

check, but we're going to buy as much as we can to be as fully as we can heading into next winter at that cheaper rate and then only buy what we need to at a higher rate.

Mr. Jospheh: What's the maximum amount we can hold in all of our...

Mr. Burd: it's close to 3000 tons. We have 3 barns total and if they were all completely maxed out we can get 3000. We also have some outdoor space we can cover by tarps if necessary.

Mr. Joseph: I had thought we'd done that once or twice before. Any other questions? Thank you.

Motion (s)

10a. Council appointment of Pat Zollers to the Design Review Board for a three year term beginning February 3, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.

Motion for appointment by Mr. Cotner. Second by Mr. Barrett

Clerk called the roll, votes as follows: Cornelius McGrady, III. "Aye", and Mel Clemens "Aye", Barth R. Cotner "Aye", Chris Long "Aye" Dan Skinner "Aye", Scott Barrett "Aye", Leslie Kelly "Aye". Motion carries.

10b. Council appointment of Richard Donovan to the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals for a three year term beginning February 3, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016.

Motion for appointment by Mr. Cotner. Second by Mrs. Kelly.

Clerk called the roll, votes as follows: Cornelius McGrady, III. "Aye", and Mel Clemens "Aye", Barth R. Cotner "Aye", Chris Long "Aye" Dan Skinner "Aye", Scott Barrett "Aye", Leslie Kelly "Aye". Motion carries.

LEGISLATION REQUIRING ONE READING

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF COLUMBUS AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.--- Cotner. Finance.

Motion to recommend for adoption as an emergency by Mr. Cotner. Second by Mr. Clemens.

Clerk called the roll, votes as follows: Cornelius McGrady, III. "Aye", and Mel Clemens "Aye", Barth R. Cotner "Aye", Chris Long "Aye" Dan Skinner "Aye", Scott Barrett "Aye", Leslie Kelly "Aye". Motion carries.

Mr. Joseph: 7 affirmative votes, 0 negative voted, Ordinance 06-14.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Doug Joseph, President of Council

April L. Beggerow, Clerk of Council