

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 24, 2005

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

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

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

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 10, 2005 were approved without objection.

Mr. Stearns moved to amend the agenda by adding a Motion for a Resolution of Support. Mr. Baxter seconded. The amended agenda was approved with all voting "Aye". Mr. Hills noted that the Motion would become Item 10b.

Community Comments and Requests- -
Mary E. Shea addressed Council:

Ms. Shea: I'm probably bringing here, as much stuff as you guys get every week. Right? But I'm not going to use all of that. First of all, I'm Mary Shea. Okay? I live in Briarcliff. I've worked on several committees and I'm here to discuss some of those this evening. I hate that this is, you ignore one part of the audience for the other but, we'll try to do both. When I come to these things I always pray to God, get me through it. You know, don't let me have any senior moments and don't let the battery go dead during the time. So bear with me. As I start here this evening, first of all, I called Bob on Friday. He wasn't there. I left a message with Sharon and then as normal I will say, okay equal opportunity. Then I call over to Sharon Reichard's office. Well she wasn't there either. So I get to talk to Mary. And we'll get back to that later. But this time of the year we always call the city and we ask that they come to the Briarcliff meeting so we can get caught up on codes. Okay? We started doing this probably about 5 years ago. And when I say codes, I mean the code for the City of Reynoldsburg that pertains to homeowners, whatever owners here in Reynoldsburg. And one of the reasons we started doing this is because all of us received deed restrictions when we purchased our house. Especially if it was new. Okay. And you relied on those deed restrictions. Okay. This is in a deed restriction, you can't put a tower in the neighborhood and they can't build an out building, and they can't do, in certain places you can't put fences up and they have to be such and such. And you rely, okay I have this deed restriction here. So I'm good to go. I like this neighborhood. And then something happens. Okay you go to the deed restriction. Well they're not supposed to do this. Well if you haven't done anything as a community for 20 years, those deed restrictions go by the way. Okay. So this is where people in Briarcliff, they'll come first to the association and ask us, this is happening in our neighborhood. What can we do about this? Well, your deed restrictions, if it's over 20 years, it's no longer for the whole community. And when you do have deed restrictions, even then, if you have a problem, it's up to you to hire an attorney and go out and take care of this

whatever your problem is. Unless you live, one of our closest communities is Walnut Hills. And there you are notified when you move in, you pay \$50. Here's the deed restrictions in this area and they monitor it. Up in Muirfield, you can't put a sign in their yard unless it's brown and white, period. It doesn't matter what company you're with. Okay? So getting back to deed restrictions and what we can do as a community. So as the older communities get to this point, we look at Huber here, east, west, north, and south. And they're saying, well where do we go? Who can we rely on for these things? Well see, we have updates from the city each year. We'll say, why can't we do this? Well it's not in code or you can't enforce this because this or that. Okay? So we have gone through a period up to 5 years with this. And we will continue going on until this is accomplished. But now, Bob has come to our meetings several times. I think this goes back to a time, even Mel Clemens came. George Mussi was the city Service Director. And Stephen Moore. Bruce Sowell came to one of our meetings. And with the combined help from all of those people, it was Bob's suggestion, and it was Sharon Reichard. Okay. This is what we're going to do. Because we keep bugging them. Right? So he said, 'hey you know, we have complaints coming in all over the city'. And they're saying the same thing. They said, I promise we are going to get this done. I believed him. I mean, when Bob says, he's bigger than me to begin with, and he says I'm going to get this done, I believe him. Sharon is just as strong about the whole thing. So he helped form a Neighbor Task Force here in Reynoldsburg. A Neighbor Task Force, we're representatives coming in from each nook and cranny of Reynoldsburg. It wasn't just Briarcliff. Huber. Every community was represented at this task force. So now we're coming in the task force. This is really interesting because you're getting a group together here. I know the night that we had meet the candidate night and we had 40 questions on sidewalks, okay well, we had all the same people at this too. So we went through that. Questions have to come out of people. They have to get it out of their gut. Okay, what can we do? And they all come to the same conclusions. Okay originally when we had George, it was quite an education for us. Because we had the judge, and we had Bill Underwood, and we had people like over in Hilliard, the Health Department. So it was all educational but it wasn't getting our problems solved. So they asked me to come in, and then we went back to basics when you're doing this type of thing. Earlier, we had identified the 5 top most complaints here in Reynoldsburg that come in every year. And so now Mary for instance, she would go out, or Barb I'm saying, Barb goes out and in the spring time it starts. But the grass mowing, this type of thing. This is a full time job for her even working part time. Okay? So she goes out and does this. This is all she has to do. And the poor girl, she goes out and she hands out all these notices to everybody, and very kind, but she doesn't have anything to carry along with her. A big stick. So as we got into more detail on this and broke it down, each community is having the same problem. We want to come to the city. We want the codes and things updated here in Reynoldsburg. The group that we had were wonderful. Some of them are here this evening. I think a couple at least in the back. But after we started in on our own on this, and what we were working towards getting is the International Maintenance Code. Okay? Now that was delayed because the wrong one was sent. Great. That's a meeting, and this started, well it's been over a year ago. It was a year in November so it's been ongoing and we finished up. Now I noticed and heard along the way, the codes were going to be on here tonight. So what I am saying then is, with this committee, you're Reynoldsburg. We're not in a wagon train going west and we have to re-invent everything. What we did, we went out and studied the municipalities around us to see what they have compared to what we have. Okay? And let me tell you, we are sorely lacking here. With the amount of things that we have to be done here, we do not have the manpower. _____

at a population here, number one recommend _____ that you have two full time code officer's here in Reynoldsburg. Okay? In order to get this done, we need to save our community. You are historians here if you get this done during your term. Reynoldsburg will be thankful to you for the rest of their lives and I'll tell you why. We have a beautiful street coming in here. Main Street. And that says 'Welcome to Reynoldsburg'. I think that's great. But at this point in time, don't drive down the streets. The first one Ada, drive down and the first house on your right is empty. Okay now Barb is a part time person. She can't do all this stuff. What you're going to have here is similar to what Whitehall's now trying to clean up. When you're in the business I am, there's certain areas you don't go into unless, okay that was their home town. We have a reputation here. Reynoldsburg is saying to me, well Mary, why have my values gone down? You know, Gahanna's _____, Westerville, Worthington. Our values are going down with what we're putting into this city. And the code is the main thing. We have to make this a first priority to get them updated. Okay? As we went into this then, and all along here, now Bob has been backing this forever. He took a little vacation for the hospital. But Sharon was there behind us to back us up. So as we came to a conclusion, we had a top 5 things that we want to get accomplished here for Reynoldsburg. And those being, first of all, when I talked to Mussi when he was still in, I went even down to his office and I asked, and Mel will know that too, to see the codes. Well there's this big book back in the corner. And they have not been updated for 10, 11, I don't know how many years. Everything. So this was wonderful as I learned this from Stephen and Bruce about the International Property Maintenance Code. Every city around here has it. Okay? I personally talked to the managers of each city. Bexley was so elated they have something in here to cover swimming pools. I'm thinking that's the least of our worries here. And I have some examples. Your top priority, your maintenance, was the high grass and the weeds. Okay. That takes 300 tickets to go out and notify these people. Prohibited signs, prohibited parking, trash and junk, trees, sidewalks and this type of thing. The Neighbor Task Force, and this was an excellent, excellent group. It was like attending the first PTA meeting you ever went to as your child is going into first grade or kindergarten and you get all these mothers in there so enthused and whoopie and all new ideas, and they went out and gathered this stuff. And we came to conclusions here. Okay? Recommended that we adopt, and this was unanimously, the International Code. There are things in here that just made me happy. Okay? And one of them being, 'Vacant Structures and Land. All vacant structures and premises therefore vacant land, shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure, and sanitary condition as provided herein, so as not to cause a blighting problem, adversely effect the public health and safety.' And on and on it goes. It covers weeds. It covers everything. I mean, this was the answers to our prayers. Because this was an overwhelming thing for lay people to walk in and change codes. So this is the answer to our prayers. And then we get into much more detail. You know, about advertising to Reynoldsburg. Yes, we do have codes. But we're going to have to be able to back that up and we need to get code enforcement officers. And I know with the, just reading through these and I can go on and tell you the rest of them but it's not going to do any good to do that unless we have money to do it. Now, when we get to this point, Bob is going to introduce the rest of these items to you. And we as a community, because we represent the whole community from the Nabor Task Force, are behind it. I see properties running down. This is only going to get worse. Jeanne got her 3 police cars. I'm glad for her. If we don't do something about this, we're going to need more police cars. As your property values come down, who do you think is going to be coming in? Do I want to get more policemen or do I want to hire people in here that take care of what we have already. Okay? So I cannot express to you enough

how much this means to this community. And when I come back in here to the, you know I would say to you, to make history here in Reynoldsburg to protect the future, leave legacy. Get these codes updated. I almost, I know Bill Underwood had asked about 69,000 for an attorney coming in and possibly taking his place. I don't know what his plans are for it. I know they start out down in the city 30, 35. I'm sure he has good intentions. But I want to ask him to stay on long enough because he and Stephen Moore are working on this so Bob can present it. Stay here long enough to get this job accomplished. And Bill, I'll arm wrestle you for that money so I can get some code officers up here. I've known Bill a long time. We went back to the discover with me and he wrote the, when I was in the government and asking to have this made into a, to have a permanent thing on it. I can't think. My battery went dead. So I won't prolong this. But with the citizens, along with the citizens of Reynoldsburg, please help us. Please make sure before you leave. They may not remember you for many other things but they will remember you if and when we get these codes done and we get the support and the officers in here to do it. If we have to beg, borrow, or whatever to get the money to get the code officers in here to get Reynoldsburg back up here, please do it. Thank you very much.

Bruce Sowell addressed Council:

Mr. Sowell: Thank you very much. My mission today is to come in to, like an invite to you members of Council, Mayor, and any of the public out in the City of Reynoldsburg to help continue the tradition of a tradition that was started last year with the first annual MLK event. Due to the weather and some other unforeseen things, it didn't go off on the 17th as I expected it to. But we now have the date which will be February 5 at the Reynoldsburg Auditorium. It'll be starting at 7:30. I've asked a number of the clergy in town to participate. I'm co-sponsoring it with Pastor Reynolds of the One Touch _____ Ministries. There are several members of clergy in town that have confirmed that they will be here. There are a lot of them that live out here. I didn't know that many until I was on the police department for a while. As you know, February is black history month out here all across the United States. It's celebrated all month long. And I thought that since it didn't make it on the 17th, that this will be included as a celebration that deals with the kickoff of black history month entirely. So what this program I'm working into right now, it's just about set and we got everything rolling. I felt that I would come out and invite you all. I will save a spot for you. And I would like if you'd participate by being a part of that in coming out to support it. That is what I have to say today. Thank you.

Reports- -Mayor McPherson said: Part of the code that Mary was talking about, Mr. Beougher and Stephen Moore have been working on diligently for the past several months and is on the agenda tonight. The code that she's talking about, the housing code, is something I believe Lane may have already started the conversations with Stephen. And of course, Stephen is leaving so those will be continued with Chet. And those are on our radar screen. We're trying to get those all worked out and move them forward. So it just takes time as Mary indicated before. It's very involved. Very painstakingly, it's just time consuming. And I really appreciate all that Lane's done to help Stephen on the previous one. I'm sure that in the future he'll be a significant part of the one that's coming up.

Mr. Clemens: I would suggest that Chet contact me since it's going to come through the Safety Committee. I'd like to work with him on it.

Mayor McPherson: Okay. Fine.

Mr. Hills: I wasn't aware that anything had been going on. I'm glad Mr. Beougher had some involvement in it. I guess he is either the Council contact?

Mayor McPherson: Well, he had started working on an issue back some time ago and just kind of helped Stephen out along the way.

Mr. Hills: I appreciate Lane letting us know what the administration is doing. And I'm glad Mrs. Shea came in and told us what administration is going to be asking or recommending.

Mayor McPherson: One of these day.

Mr. Hills: One of these days. Yeah.

Mayor McPherson: It's been going on for over a year you know, trying to sort things out. But all good things take time.

Mr. Hills: That's true. And some times they have to be refined well.

Mayor McPherson: Right.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you, President Hills. I'd like to say that we need to recognize the committee that worked with the administration in getting this accomplished. And I think that now would be a good time to give some recognition for the time that they spent in working on this and their involvement in it. I think now would be an outstanding time to mention it.

Mayor McPherson: I think there's two or three of the neighbor force here. I can't recall. If you were on the neighbor committee, just stand up and let people see who we are here tonight. So there's two. I think the committee Mary, wasn't it almost 30 people?

Mrs. Shea: Yes.

Mayor McPherson: So it was a very large committee and we had a very significant amount of input and for the committee to come down to really 5 major recommendations, I thought it was quite an accomplishment. And those recommendations are starting to come forward now.

Mr. Gilbert: Mayor, the Housing Maintenance Code is one of the 5 recommendations?

Mayor McPherson: Yes.

Mr. Gilbert: And there's 4 others?

Mayor McPherson: Well the one was to hire 2 full time inspectors. One was to update the housing code. One was to update our general code. And then there was two others and they slipped my mind tonight.

Mr. Gilbert: Those are the others that are coming forward?

Mayor McPherson: Yeah. As we complete the process, they'll be coming forward.

Motions:

Clerk read motion: That the Safety/Service Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare specifications and advertise for bids for the 2005 Fourth of July fireworks display; bids not to exceed \$25,000 including delivery costs, exhibition and insurance. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Stake seconded. All voted "Aye". Motion passed.

Clerk read motion: That the Council of the City of Reynoldsburg does hereby adopt the Resolution of Support for the combined celebration of the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and National Black History month as referred to in the resolution signed and dated January 24, 2005.

Mr. Stearns moved to waive the mandatory committee referral rule. Mrs. Newman seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Stearns "Yea"; Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea". Motion passed.

Mr. Stearns moved adoption. Mr. Stake seconded. All voted "Aye". Motion passed.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO PURCHASE THREE VEHICLES (2005 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruisers) FOR REYNOLDSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Beougher seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Stearns "Yea"; Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 2-05 adopted.

ORDINANCE MAKING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND TO DUI EDUCATION/ENFORCEMENT FUND and LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND TO GENERAL FUND 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. Stearns "Yea"; Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 3-05 adopted.

ORDINANCE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF SERVICES PERFORMED PRIOR TO THE AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (Phone Service - Service Department)- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Stearns seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Stearns "Yea"; Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea";

Mrs. Newman “Yea”; Mr. Beougher “Yea”; Mr. Stake “Yea”. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 4-05 adopted.

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)- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the first 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- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item referred to Finance Committee.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: SECTIONS 1339.01; 1339.04 Subsections (a) and (c) of CHAPTER 1339 OHIO BUILDING CODE- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Clemens moved to amend the ordinance as redrafted 1-20-05. Mr. Stake seconded. All voted “Aye”. Motion passed; ordinance amended.

Mr. Clemens moved adoption. Mr. Beougher seconded.

Mr. Beougher stated that he did help Stephen with drafting this ordinance which replaces our Commercial Building Code. He said he has been working with Stephen and Chet on the Residential Code but he has not talked to them about the Property Maintenance Code. He said in adopting this and the Residential Code that they are working on, it will align with the 2003 Property Maintenance Code and will make it easier to adopt that with these codes in place.

With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Stearns “Yea”; Mr. Baxter “Yea”; Mr. Gilbert “Yea”; Mr. Clemens “Yea”; Mrs. Newman “Yea”; Mr. Beougher “Yea”; Mr. Stake “Yea”. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 5-05 adopted.

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 (a) “ADMINISTRATIVE”, TO ADD THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY AND ELIMINATE TWO PART TIME LEGAL INTERN POSITIONS, **AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR THE POSITION**- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Stake moved adoption. Mr. Gilbert seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Stearns “Nay”; Mr. Baxter “Yea”; Mr. Gilbert “Yea”; Mr. Clemens “Yea”; Mrs. Newman “Yea”; Mr. Beougher “Yea”; Mr. Stake “Yea”. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 6-05 adopted.

Mr. Underwood thanked City Council and introduced Amy Kulka who will be appointed as the Assistant City Attorney.

Request for Executive Session by City Attorney to discuss pending litigation; and by the Mayor to consider the employment of a public employee.- -Mr. Stake moved to recess for Executive Session. Mr. Beougher seconded. Mr. Hills said those attending the first session would be

elected officials, the Clerk, the City Attorney, Tom Young, and the second session would also include the Mayor's secretary, and Scott Warrick. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Stearns "Yea"; Mr. Baxter "Yea"; Mr. Gilbert "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mrs. Newman "Yea"; Mr. Beougher "Yea"; Mr. Stake "Yea". Motion passed. Mr. Hills said following the Executive Session, Council would reconvene only to call the roll and adjourn. Council recessed at 8:06 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:58 p.m. With the roll called, members responding were: Mr. Stearns "Present"; Mr. Baxter "Present"; Mr. Gilbert "Present"; Mr. Clemens "Present"; Mrs. Newman "Present"; Mr. Beougher "Present"; Mr. Stake "Present".

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

William L. Hills, President of Council

Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

(Minutes compiled: Susie Smith, Ass't. Clerk of Council)