

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 8, 2008**

**7:20 PM**

**Council Committee Rooms**

## **Committee of the Whole**

*Thomas C. Evers, Chair  
Beryl D. Anderson  
Shane Ewald  
Thomas R. Kneeland  
John McAlister  
Nancy R. McGregor  
David L. Samuel*

**Members Absent:** David L. Samuel

**Members Present:** Thomas C. Evers, Shane W. Ewald, Thomas R. Kneeland, John McAlister, Nancy R. McGregor and Beryl D. Anderson

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### **Additional Attendees:**

*Jerry Isler, Isobel Sherwood, Tom Weber, Brandi Braun, Mayor Stinchcomb, Sadicka White, Anthony Jones, Angel Mumma, Kristen Treadway, General Williams, Chief Murphy, Dottie Franey, Terry Emery, Karl Wetherholt, Tony Collins, Kevin Marchese, Press*

### **Email Outage**

*Evers called the meeting to order; the first item is an addition to the agenda due to the email outage over the weekend. Marchese said there have been several outages within the last couple of weeks; although they both involved email, they have unrelated causes; 2 weeks ago the problem was the fat pipe, which is the location of our T1 lines; the pipe went down and the flash drives did not work; Dell repair took it out of the equation; ran service straight out of the firewall; to do this they had to make configuration changes; so that was the first issue from a couple of weeks ago; the current problem was caused by the hard disk array going out of synch on our RAID-5 drive on the back end email server; Dell technical had to work to provide disc space and had to rebuild the information stripe across the drive; once rebuilt, we have been fine since then; seems like problems come in waves; I pulled our help desk reports from the last 5 years and we have 99.67 % up time; that is a good stat; to protect our email service, we are putting together the figures to build in redundancy; we would get it on both boxes and get failover; we will get the figures and see if we want to go that route. Ewald said so the support is there for getting this resolved. Marchese said it is there, but after 5 years, our equipment is out of date and the support is not free; we pay a hefty sum for support; I see it as we only have 3 months left in this year and we have new servers in the 2009 budget. Ewald said so what happens if goes out right now. Marchese said we call Dell and they fix it. Kneeland said he has a question on notification; this went down on Friday or Saturday morning and it didn't come back up until Sunday. Marchese said we have 2 types of notification; NAGIOS for ping backs; and a new one for hardware called Dell IT Assistant; really the issue was the timing was bad; we were rebuilding the box because of virus scan so we had no alert on the RAID-5; both systems send text messages. Ewald said I am not concerned about the outgoing email; but I am about incoming. Marchese said we have a retry for 2 or 3 days, then a kill would be sent; I believe we are getting them filtered through. Ewald said can we get an email sent to explain that to all users. Marchese said he would send that out.*

### **PENDING LEGISLATION**

#### **ORD-0172-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ADVANCED CIVIL DESIGN, INC., FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR LINCOLN CIRCLE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

*Evers asked McGregor if she had opening comments. McAlister said McGregor's issues gave me pause; in committee it made sense; the traffic moving all one direction as opposed to people having to stop for one narrow drive with parking on the side of the street; in committee 2 weeks ago, it sounded like a good idea to make traffic flow better;*

*no congestion at the driveway.*

*Ewald said he wanted to ask Wetherholt a question; southwest of the primary building at Strawberry Plaza; how do you prevent traffic problems around Rees Flowers since there is a turn around. Wetherholt said at the western leg of the cul de sac, it is low speed traffic so you are not going to see injury accidents; maybe a fender bender. Ewald said I guess we would like reassurance that we are not making it worse. Wetherholt said we are not making it worse. Ewald asked if we are just moving the problem in front of Rees. Wetherholt said this area has had a bad configuration from the beginning; not going to be totally redone now. Ewald said moving the parking off the street will make it easier to maneuver. Wetherholt said to leave the parking on the street with this configuration makes it too close to the creek.*

*Anderson said since the last meeting I did some polling of folks; they asked for the drop boxes to be back further south, closer to Rees. Wetherholt said our consultant worked with the PO (Post Office) to come up with that location and I am not sure of the criteria involved; we would have to get them back together again to modify that location. Anderson said they asked if that would cause additional congestion; some thought that this was putting on a band aid and may not be the best financial option considering the other needs of the City; most ask if there is any way to just move the PO. Wetherholt said I have no answer on that; we all know people are unhappy with this location.*

*Kneeland said our public meeting about Creekside was a large issue that went over well; could we have another public meeting to get comments on this and ask people if they will be happy if we do this. Mayor said we would all like to see a new PO but in all the meetings I have attended, including with the current Postmistress, the current thinking is we are not going to have brick and mortar POs for much longer; people will be using more machines and other retail facilities; we just had a letter to the editor about the City financing a new PO location which would cost millions of dollars; that is a lot of money given the City's finances; it is nothing we should be underwriting. Weber said there are also damages to the leaseholder that would be no easy fix.*

*Mayor continued saying we continue to talk to the PO about the end of the lease in 8 years and what they will do then; we could do the public meeting; when we have those we usually have a strawman plan; we could use the current design and ask if they have any ideas on how to fix it. Kneeland said the strawman would be the current plan; this would show that the City has done its due diligence and provide a way for us to get feedback. Weber said I can see us being overwhelmed with people; they will come to talk about moving the PO. Kneeland said we will have to set the stage and be very clear that this is not a "Move the PO" meeting; it is my suggestion and I believe it is worth exploring. Ewald said he appreciated the Mayor's comments and also supports Kneeland's idea that we have a meeting for input; but I agree the choice to move it is not on the table and that has to be made clear; we have meeting on the 18th with the PO; the public meeting could be after that; the Postmistress may want to have her staff here explain their point of view.*

*Mayor said they will come but most likely their focus will be on customer service at the current location; also in thinking about another one of McGregor's comments, if we deal with the drop boxes, we will not have so many people going in and out; folks who ship online still have to drop off the parcel. Ewald said the Creekside meeting was a success; if we set the tables up and have the public fill out what they go there for we may get structured feedback. Mayor said we can't leave it wide open.*

*McAlister asked if the traffic is all one way in the parking lot. Wetherholt said it has*

only one way in but people can turn around and go out; they can only turn out one way as well. McAlister said that defeats the whole purpose. Wetherholt said remember part of the plan is the escape route of the 2nd right out so you can get back out on Granville Street; for the public meeting, I would like to get our design consultants to prepare stuff in advance; we want to have them involved so I would have them give us a proposal; they have been working for free; I can't see them continuing and doing a bunch of meetings for free. Ewald said if that happens, can we see the prepared plans ahead of the meeting. Wetherholt said yes.

McGregor asked if both lanes go into the cul de sac. Wetherholt said yes both lanes go into the cul de sac; one is the drop box lane only so it would be metered coming in. McGregor said I have also talked to folks and the one thing they would like to keep is the street parking; some have big vehicles; if we have a public meeting we need to have an option that says we don't do anything; no changes. Evers said we could ask the PO what survey data they have; we also have to face the fact some people will be unhappy; this design is bad for any business not just the PO. McGregor said but most businesses don't have as much traffic as a PO. Evers said the dry cleaner is busy. McGregor said I agree it is a bad design but what we do may be worse. Evers said we allowed it to be designed this way. Mayor said if we do the PO meeting first, then we could do the public meeting in early October and have the consultants here. Wetherholt said we have been working on this for 1 1/2 years; we should do it right as we are not in that big of a hurry.

Sherwood said so it is postponed until October 20. Kneeland said we could wait until November. Sherwood said we can schedule it for committee on the 13. Evers said we could do the first meeting in November. Ewald said if the correct plan emerges can we start construction for winter. Wetherholt said there is a zero chance of getting it done this winter. Kneeland said so we will still feel the pain as folks mail Christmas cards. Anderson said we should look at stats on how much traffic goes around here; people told me they avoid that place and go to POs elsewhere. Evers said and remember the PO is expanding their New Albany location.

*Recommendation: Consent Agenda for November 3.*

**Recommended for Postponement to a Date Certain**

**ORD-0185-2008**

TO ADOPT THE PORT COLUMBUS AREA GROWTH PARTNERSHIP  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

*White said she has a presentation of substance for the Port Columbus Area Growth Partnership Economic Development Strategy; the communities of Columbus, Whitehall, and the Airport Authority, along with Gahanna, have been working on this for 2 years. White said it is important to note that Columbus adopted this 4 months ago; Whitehall adopted this in June; it began as the Columbus Mayor's initiative because of direct job losses to Columbus; the idea would be to propose joint efforts like revenue sharing when they move between communities to benefit all of the participating communities; we lost Alliance Data and we lost EMH&T for example. White provided a power point presentation; a copy is available in the Council Office.*

*Committee of the Whole recessed to executive session at 8:00 P.M.*

*Committee of the Whole meeting resumed at 8:39 P.M.*

*Evers asked for any questions. Kneeland said he would summarize what the plan is doing; it has an initial goal to create development clusters and a revenue sharing environment. Mayor said the revenue sharing is not on the table at this time. Kneeland said so my original question is what are our goals; if there is a cost commitment, what kind of guarantee do we have that everyone will play nice; if there is no revenue*

sharing what is the value. White said the initial plan for design is to resolve issues and have it not be a burden on one community; the greater gain will be a joint marketing effort attracting jobs; we will get employees living in Gahanna; we do receive a direct benefit of economic development of the airport; we have applied for grant monies and may have a nominal amount to spend out of the Development budget; this plan will go in steps; majority of the land is in Columbus and it is their initiative; this initial plan allows us to get to other steps.

Anderson asked if responsibility is apportioned according to the size of the city. White said it is apportioned by land size as the basis. Anderson said so to Kneeland's questions, Columbus will bear more cost. Mayor said that is not in writing yet. Anderson said it has been discussed just not in the agreement. White said that would be in subsequent agreements; for example when they plan the redevelopment of Fifth Avenue, we would have input into that infrastructure; we need to be involved because of the impact to Hamilton Road; Morse Road is a good example; how Gahanna manages development there and how it is done North of Morse Road is very different; the second entrance to the airport off Hamilton Road at Sawyer Road was fixed up because we brought it to their attention; now it looks a lot better.

Mayor said I like what Evers said; this gets us a seat at the table; it is not a financial agreement. McGregor said what is in it for Columbus. White said Mayor Coleman sat down with us face to face; he wants to determine the impact of issues as they come up to the airport and the surrounding area; we have other accords so we start at that level and progress to economic ideas; we have applied for a collaborative grant; eventually how we will progress will be mutually determined by the members. Weber said this is a discussion of strategies; airports are losing flights and their revenues are declining. White said our airport is not in decline; we may have a lost a few flights but not at the same rate as other communities; we also have recovery opportunities; not all businesses are air related and we will look at those as well; we will discuss how those can be supported and encouraged to grow. Anderson said so a seat at the table would give us equal voting. Mayor said we don't know. Anderson said I wonder if Columbus has more say. Mayor said we don't want a third of the expense; I would hope that it would be proportionate; we are the only community who has not passed it. Kneeland said I asked for more detail which may have caused some delay.

McGregor asked if Mifflin Township is included; why are they not in our talks when we look at the agreement. White said Mifflin Township, Jefferson Township, and Franklin County are included; because the plan is land based they have an interest off Johnstown Road and there may be major improvements there; we can help them understand the implications.

Mayor said we have seen the benefit of better communications; a seat at the table is good idea; where it goes from there is up to us. Weber said it has to contain more substance; it is very abstract. Mayor said we are not ready yet for the revenue sharing. Evers said ever since he has been on Council, we have been seeking better regional cooperation; I believe that government entities need to look at collaborative efforts like revenue sharing of a major employer. Weber said we need to stop job poaching where they are out for short term gain; helps to look at it in a cooperative light.

Kneeland said I agree what you say has value; I still see a disproportional amount of participation; what is our exit strategy if Council is approving this. Mayor said Council could just take action to withdraw or choose not to fund which will effectively kill any action. Kneeland said when attorneys draw up agreements they insure a way out. Weber said there should be an exit strategy; this is a series of advisory agreements, not

*mandates; it is not one big document; a number of agreements will spin off; what happens to each is the will of Council. Kneeland said I still need to study the issue some more; I would like this postponed for another 2 weeks so it would come back October 6. Anderson agreed with that and said it would give Samuel a chance to examine the issue. White reviewed the power point map showing the area of Gahanna involved.*

*Recommendation: Postponed until October 6; return to Committee.*

**Recommended for Postponement to a Date Certain**

**ISSUES - From Director of Finance:**

**Budget Commission Resolution**

*Isler said the Budget Commission Resolution is a standard item; to explain to new Council members, the amount of our tax is not subject to change; it is 2.4 mills; the county ascertains the current real estate values and that determines what we will bring in; this was adopted by Council and I use it to determine the amount of tax to collect; currently we have many folks that are challenging current home values; the county is using a rolling rate of delinquency; this year we did not collect as much and it will be getting worse.*

*Recommendation: Resolution on Consent Agenda*

**ISSUES - From Last Committee Night:**

**Healthy Families Act**

*Sherwood said this item is off the ballot so it should be deleted; additionally I will be on vacation Sept. 18 through Oct. 6.*

*Meeting adjourned.*

**Della Brandenberger, Reporting**