



# City of Gahanna

## Meeting Minutes

### Public Service & Safety

Office of the Clerk of Council  
200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

*Karen J. Angelou, Chair, Thomas R. Kneeland, Jamie Leeseberg*

*Kimberly McWilliams, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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Monday, October 27, 2014

Council Committee Rooms

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#### Immediately Following Finance

**CALL TO ORDER: Public service and Safety called to order by Angelou at 8:13 p.m.**

**Present** 3 - Karen J. Angelou, Jamie Leeseberg, and Thomas R. Kneeland

[2014-0161](#) Service & Engineering Supporting Docs

#### ITEMS - From the City Engineer

##### 1. US-62 Resurfacing and Signal Improvements - ODOT Agreement

Priestas started with the US 62 improvements; project would pave five miles of road into our community; net result is 20% cost of construction for the City, estimated cost in the \$300,000 range. Project is scheduled to sell next November; funds wouldn't be due till August 2015; Leeseberg inquired if it's just a resurfacing; Priestas confirmed; Leeseberg noted other low spots requiring improvements, specifically with draining on Mill St; Angelou inquired if the "pork chop" crosswalk will be complete before the paving; Priestas stated yes; Angelou recommended consent agenda; no opposition.

##### 2. Woods at Spring Ridge ST947 & SA941 - Accept Easements & Infrastructure

Woods at Spring Ridge brought forward; infrastructure for the development has been completed as well as easements; requesting ordinance to accept easements and infrastructure for the project; Kneeland inquired what the "punch-list" was like; Priestas replied a few minor water line issues that have been addressed; Angelou recommended consent agenda; no opposition.

#### ITEMS - From the Director of Public Service

##### 1. Code Revisions - Chapter 919 WATER AND SEWER INTERNAL REVIEW BOARD

Franey brought forth code revisions; looking at chapter 919 Water and Sewer Internal Review Board; would like to change the code stating "the board would act on appeals within a thirty day window"; unrealistic time frame as the Board meets when needed; would be rewritten to "addressed at next board meeting"; code states "penalty could only be waived for each account number" and since account number stays with property, would like to change wording from "account" to "owner or tenant"; Leeseberg inquired for multiple property owners; Stinchcomb clarified one per owner; Franey also wished to add verbiage to clarify "a twelve month look back limit" on appeals; Angelou inquired if Ewald had looked at the changes; Ewald replied yes; Angelou inquired if there was a required public hearing; Ewald replied no; Angelou recommended consent agenda.

## **2. Code Revisions - Chapters 921 SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS AND RENTAL RATES and 929 WATER CONNECTIONS AND RATES**

Franey brought forth chapter 921; noted grammatical changes to all; Sanitary Sewer and Water changes; no rate changes to water; in sanitary, asking to increase rate from \$5.38 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.92 per 1,000; would also like to change to Columbus consent order from \$7.62 per ERU per quarter to \$7.80 per ERU per quarter; Kneeland inquired if the sanitary upticks are being faced by other communities from the City of Columbus; Franey replied, all communities are facing the increases from Columbus; Gahanna has been buying down sanitary rate because we could and there was no need to charge customers more than necessary; now have to increase because we have spent down the balance; Franey confirmed adjusting sanitary; Kneeland inquired if they are related to improvements; Franey noted change is specifically related to one increase, and it is based on projects required by the City of Columbus; Angelou clarified rates are going up for all municipalities; Franey confirmed; Leeseberg inquired on 921.03(d) "funds received shall be..." part of tax suit detailed earmarking money for specific uses, wanted to ensure we are spending the money appropriately; cannot use to build anything new until we've solidified all the debt; Franey recommended Ewald give expertise and clarified that any debt incurred through sanitary would be dealt with through the Capital Improvement Sanitary Fund; Leeseberg additionally stated the tying to the specified fund; Ewald clarified it is deposition into the fund to meet the requirements and will be earmarked for that purpose, debt service paid from account, but not prior to projects being completed; Leeseberg clarified the same issue may take place with the water code wording; Leeseberg clarified that chapter 921 will be the one being tweaked; will be put up for first reading consent agenda and then back to committee.

## **3. Code Revisions - Chapter 941 GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION**

Franey brought forth changes to chapter 941 garbage and rubbish collection; to change rates for curb side pickup down from \$17.39 per month to \$16.73 per month; Leeseberg inquired if all customers will participate in the rubbish program, do we require all customers to participate in the yard waste collection? rubbish

included grass clipping, trimming from small shrubs, etc. 941.01(b), should we break into yard waste and promote customers to use both; should make the change while we are fixing verbiage; Franey confirmed those changes will be made; Kneeland noted in relation to the current code section, since Columbus is talking about a plastic bag ban; has there been a discussion about them at our level? Franey replied no, but if we decided to do something it would be addressed in this section; Angelou recommended first reading consent agenda and then back to committee.

#### **4. Code Revisions - Chapter 927 STORM SEWERS**

Last item brought forth, Storm Sewers; no major changes; just grammar; Leeseberg inquired if the storm fees are subject to credit; how do we get credit for storm; Franey replied mostly for commercial, if they oversize their retention, they can retain some of their costs; Angelou recommended first reading consent agenda and then back to committee.

#### **UPDATE - From Chief of Police**

Chief Murphy here to give an update on substance abuse; introduced Folder, Head of Narcotics Investigations; Folder noted common terms for heroin; heroin is an epidemic across the country; stems from oxycodone use; highly addictive drug as the body will require it after use; standard prices for oxycodone are high, which is why oxycodone users transition to the cheaper heroin; also because users experience withdrawal symptoms; users will do anything to avoid sickness and crimes are often spurred on by the need to get the drug, thus an increase in theft with users; our police are targeting the street and midlevel dealings of the drug; Folder suggested customers will go to dealer; mid to high level dealers will force the users to the outskirts of Columbus; young adults are going to dealers and bringing drugs back to the community; our Police cannot target the high level dealers, but can take on the midlevel and street dealers; Angelou thanked officers for coming; noted this affects many members of the community; Leeseberg noted an accessory issue; he was involved in public hearing for another city; didn't want new development because it could attract drug users; it impacts community and commercial decisions; prevented what could be a profitable project, as heroin fears are influencing the public willingness to build a truck stop; Folder noted the drug is blind to age, gender, race, and educational background; Stinchcomb inquired how prevalent is the drug in our schools; Folder replied the last arrest was in December 2013 and since then heroin has not popped up in the school; Angelou inquired about the activity in isolated areas around Columbus; Folder stated cited certain areas of high activity; in twelve hours had ceased \$100,000 of illegal materials; hotspots are motels; thankfully Gahanna doesn't have that issue; Angelou thanked police again, it is good to know we have a handle on the situation in our city; Chief stated if there are additional questions, please call him and he will get in touch with the appropriate parties; Angelou inquired if there are any tips to watch for signs of heroin users; Folder replied pupils will shrink to a pinpoint; users will be nodding

off, with shakes, sweat, in possession of a spoon with black burns on the bottom,  
and sometimes needles.

**1. Substance Abuse**

**ADJOURN - Meeting was adjourned by Angelou at 8:50 p.m.**