

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, July 23, 2001**

**Immediately Following Previous Committees or**

**8:30 PM**

**City Hall**

## **Finance Committee**

*Karen J. Angelou, Chairman  
L. Nicholas Hogan  
Thomas R. Kneeland  
Michael O'Brien  
Debra A. Payne  
Donald R. Shepherd  
Rebecca W. Stinchcomb, ex officio  
W. Jerome Isler, ex officio*

**Members Absent:** Michael O'Brien

**Members Present:** Karen J. Angelou, L. Nicholas Hogan, Thomas R. Kneeland, Rebecca W. Stinchcomb, Donald R. Shepherd and Debra A. Payne

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**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

McGregor, Isler, Williams, Mazeau, Davies, White, John Dobbie.

**PENDING LEGISLATION:**

**ORD-0139-2001**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE ROBERT WEILER COMPANY REALTORS TO SELL OR LEASE THE PROPERTY AT 133 MILL STREET KNOWN AS THE FORMER MIFFLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION

White stated that a letter from Mifflin Township Trustees had been sent; spoke to Spanovich this week and they have no problem; stated we will work out an agreement; at this time it is fluid; we are not sure what lies ahead; don't know what persons or businesses will locate here; what we are asking for with this contract is for Weiler to bring tenants that would be a suitable opportunity possibly related to fire station; have that option to bring a tenant; reimburse the standard fee; Mayor and Shepherd felt this was a standard fee and agreement.

**Recommended for Adoption, Consent**

**ISSUES:**

**Director of Finance Report:**

Isler stated he needs a Motion Resolution to authorize two purchase orders because they are over \$1,000 each; purchase orders were not pulled timely so need Council authorization.

RECOMMENDATION: Motion Resolution, consent agenda.

Isler stated he will be finishing up the June financials shortly; don't have our audit back yet; should be coming shortly; is available for anyone who wants to review.

**Ward Redistricting:**

Angelou stated the committee had attempted to get some balance between the wards; our goals were to balance the number of registered votes in each ward; keep those elected officials serving in the wards they are representing; and to keep those elected officials for the parties in the ward which they represent; it was not an easy task but we were able to accomplish that; we were at the point we were going to put it forward to the balance of Council. Weber wanted to take it to the Board of Elections to see if they had some suggestions; was there for quite some time; we do have time requirements that we need to fulfill and we thought they were later than they were; however, we still had the opportunity to meet the time frame; was Board of Elections that held us up; felt there were certain things they wanted to review; they wanted no air lines but clear boundaries; we were using property lines in some areas; did not think it was best to use clear boundaries in some areas due to our goals and criteria set; a lot of time and effort and thought went into this; wanted to meet our three criteria if possible.

The proposed maps were spread out and Angelou noted that Ward 4 was very large and Ward 2 was the smallest; Wards 1 and 3 were more balanced but still needed tweaking; now the wards are about 200 apart with between 5,800 and 6,000 in each ward.

Ward 1: Changes include the area of Sandra Court; some of those homes moved to Ward 1 and took boundary along Johnstown Road and up Olde Ridenour to the northern edge of the cemetery; followed that and west and came back out to Stygler; also included Sherwood Meadows in Ward 1 as it balanced out the numbers; looks oddly shaped as we needed to protect sitting committeemen; boundary goes up Stygler Road crosses the creek and runs along Academy Park; gave part of the area around Ashburnham and Highmeadow to Ward 1; final number is around 5,800.

Ward 2: This was the smallest ward and the hardest to balance; most of the triangle area moves from Ward 4 to Ward 2; also includes some of Trapp, Commission and Eastchester; again looking at sitting committeemen; also moves Gahanna Heights area to 2; does have contiguous borders.

Ward 4: This is still rather huge in area; is considerably cut down because the triangle was taken out as well as Gahanna Heights now being in 2; now down to a comparable amount; there is still a whole lot of room for expansion; will get bigger again.

Ward 3: Is basically the same; added area of Theori and Uxbridge to Ward 3; little bit of room here for some amount of expansion and felt it worked out.

Angelou continued that she thinks this accomplishes what we hoped; have a year or so to do this; 3 goals we had worked for; O'Brien, Payne, Weber and myself were on the committee. Weber noted the Board of Elections has preferences but they will accept what we do. Stinchcomb noted that one goal she mentioned to committee was to keep neighborhoods together; this seems to accomplish that; reunited Foxboro which was split; to a great extent kept grass roots together; think that is important to Gahanna's structure. McGregor noted that our individual wards are economically very diverse; various variety of housing in every ward; that has happened in the last decade.

In response to question, Sherwood stated the legal descriptions for the boundaries as set forth will be ready in a couple of weeks; if changes are made can have minor changes made when ready to move forward. Discussion held on when to move forward with these changes; move forward now, after election or wait until next year; was noted that all the work is basically done. Angelou noted she felt we could do this now without confusing people but probably more reasonable to wait until after the election; at least wait until after the filing deadline to ascertain that no candidate is affected; this plan is the basis for the legals being prepared.

RECOMMENDATION: Carry as a monitor item. Bring back to committee for legislation after November elections.

### **ESECC Update - Gen. Williams & Dave Mazeau**

Dave Mazeau stated that General Williams gave a little background on the discussion at budget meetings; had some problem areas with the establishment under the Elert study paid for in 1996 and 1998 time frame; also want to update on where Reynoldsburg is right now as a partner; agreement was that the dispatching center would be put into the new Reynoldsburg Police Department building scheduled for opening in November; this process took some time and began prior to ESECC; Reynoldsburg was faced with going forward and not knowing if ESECC was going to become a reality; they were faced with

the necessity to have continuous dispatch for their Police Department; they chose to transfer the existing 2 person dispatching operation to the new building which leaves no room for the ESECC; in this process we have talked with Reynoldsburg and we have been in the business of building partnerships; Elert study that was completed showed the costs and possibilities of setting up the center which will be referred to in presentation; where we are going with new technology, we realize a cost savings over Elert study; where we establish a new center in a new location is an issue before us; Reynoldsburg is committed; meeting with Mayor McPherson tomorrow to get his final commitments where they want to go beyond their current police dispatching; have planned for the alternatives; currently have very realizable partners in Mifflin Township and Police Department; bottom line is there will be joint emergency dispatching using these for sure players; have that as a basis on which to build; their new center will provide back up for them and possibly for ESECC; feel it was great thinking on their part; starting tomorrow we will try to decide what each town has; what type of area we are looking for; hopefully we can renovate and save more time and more money; meet with Truro Township on August 2 for the first time; think we need that meeting for interaction; facts and figures in this presentation are based on 4 entities initially; others are requesting information; looking at us as a model; some have signed contracts for another year or two; they want to look at us; won't commit now; don't want their agencies named because of political issues; could be up to 9 in the near future.

Mazeau continued that we used year 2000 call volumes for these 4 agencies; need 6 positions which are 2 police dispatch, 2 fire and 2 EMS; all would be intertrained; building projections include a dedicated break room; director's office, secretary's office, restrooms, and equipment room; estimate \$1.2 million building new; with construction undecided feel roll over date is February 1, 2003.

In response to question from Hogan, Mazeau stated the total is about 3,100 sf; is about 52 sf per console; have 6 of them; need a training area; also have a dedicated break room, equipment room, their restroom; dispatch area itself is about 1700 sf; configurations can change but won't decrease space. Angelou asked if more agencies became involved would we need space and more dispatchers. Mazeau stated 2 positions could be added to give a total of 8; don't have a realistic place right now; if we knew we had a place we could look at a time frame of 16 months but looking at 18 months minimum.

In response to question from Stinchcomb, Mazeau stated many issues need to be taken into consideration in looking at space to lease; could have major renovation costs; this is a unique work environment dedicated to this kind of industry; need rifle and handgun resistance; can't have any common construction.

Mazeau stated we would be looking at 26 dispatchers - 3 shifts working 24 hours, 7 days a week; salary and benefits would be an increase over 1999 figures; not because they didn't figure correctly but they did not count on us doing EMS; this takes specific training and is now done at county level; would also like to see taking over wireless calls from county so that we would handle all local calls; if people are on our roadways, we need to get those calls; they do not go to any local agency at this time; they go to county and Columbus; could mean cost recovery in the future also; the Elert study also wiped the table clean; were not going to use any existing equipment; found technology for \$75,000 that will allow us all to keep same radios and still talk among all the groups; can call for sand to dump on a spill; fire can talk to police for traffic control, etc; have that technology now and can tap into that; feel it will generate a savings of about \$116,000; this is an immediate benefit; Reynoldsburg has a similar count of car radios so we just saved them the same amount.

Mazeau continued that we are using all the local databases and general from 911 xy coordinates; using modern new technology; as opposed to \$989,000 quoted in Elert, we could save approximately \$250,000 by using an Application Service Provider; is well worked out in the business field; may not want to hire technical people so they use an ASP and have service contracts; is being initiated in the next 12 months in the 911 industry; was at a 911 National Conference recently; is a possibility of our new dispatch agency going on line to be a beta site for them; we'd like to look at that; to do our interface with them; saves some of the space we would need; also be able to get some of the hands on equipment at a reduced rate because this company wants a beta site; we'll be a model watched by the industry; shows how it will work remotely; records management would also be remote; my dispatchers won't know any different; does provide better tracking.

In response to question from Kneeland, Mazeau stated he was working on plans in case of a failure for some local emergency takeover; had a phone conference with a 911 vendor. Stinchcomb asked if there were any security issues in using a third party. Mazeau stated that industry facts and figures have all been resolved; redundancy is built in; will have the back up; this is the technology you asked about in the selection process. Mazeau stated he is looking at grants; we are still in the window for 2002 opportunities; will be looking at this further.

Williams stated that was one of the things that project this time frame out; we lost 5 months earlier this year; have an extremely heavy work load for the next 6 months; great potential; rather not build if we can find an existing building; are talking with Mifflin and Reynoldsburg; need to fund Gahanna portion for the year 2002.

Angelou stated this has been very insightful; appreciate all the work both of you have done. Payne asked that they work with the Development Department in their site selection process. In response to question from Angelou, Mazeau stated if we build we are looking at a two year time frame; need to look at the 100 year flood plain, survivability through a tornado, redundancy in everything that is done; look at thickness of walls, raised floors, etc.; might make it hard to lease a building. In response to question from Weber, Mazeau stated he was not aware of any center in the country that leases; will look at existing buildings; usually anything over 12 years old a renovation would not be cost effective.

McGregor stated that the initial investors in the ESECC should have the decision making power; if you keep your money in a bank you can't be on the; membership in a decision making club; that is a several hundred thousand dollar investment; can come on as a customer after the fact; if somebody wants to have a decision and be on the Board they need to come on early. Angelou stated that Gahanna and Mifflin are committee little disappointed that Reynoldsburg is not. Mazeau stated that as of this Friday they are; will nail down in meeting with McPherson. Williams stated we have three and also hope to have Truro. Weber noted we have to pull the documents together and get them signed. Mazeau stated we are the model for the nation if we go this route. Angelou stated she is always amazed at how talented our city people are; has been exhibited this evening; kind of energy you are putting forward in getting others to step up to the plate; was not going to be an easy decision; people of Gahanna want to be in the cutting edge.

Mazeau stated that dispatchers don't have respect the same as EMS, police, and fire; see it in a different way; some times it's the technology; if you paid out a lawsuit for not having EMS dispatch, you would settle for a lot more than an increase in salary.

### **Mural at Creekside - Mayor McGregor**

McGregor stated that several things have come together and now bring this forward for your consideration; first of all, new laws come into play on water quality that require us to do education in terms of storm water; new EPA regulations are coming up also; have always taken our education seriously; we have had an education account for several years now; we have a big storm sewer outfall right by Summerfields; this kind of educational mural will help people understand; most people think that storm water goes to Jackson Pike; it doesn't; those storm sewers are direct shots to the creeks ; think this mural is something that will fit together well; think it would take 4 or 5 Saturdays to do; there is a fund. In response to question, McGregor stated as you come down the stairs by Summerfield's there is a curved bridge abutment; will be segmented like the proposal you have; will be right on that footpath just before you get to bridge. Hogan asked about the possibility of graffiti and destruction since this is a painting; is there any way to seal with something clear. McGregor stated there is a clear graffiti defeater you would spray right over this; a special solvent will then take off any graffiti; we do not want this to be defaced.

RECOMMENDATION: 1st reading, no need to come back to committee, 2nd reading, consent agenda.

### **Cable Advisory Board:**

Davies stated the Cable Advisory Board was established several years ago; City has been fortunate to have a knowledgeable group; at that time, the City didn't have time to address the issues that were before them; in looking at the duties, currently a lot of them fall under my job description; am recommending that duties be revised in order to meet on as needed basis and also alter the duties to meet the current industry; met with John Dobbie several weeks ago and he agrees duties need revised; issues like a review of the cable franchise payment is done by Finance and doesn't need to go the Cable Advisory Board; will come back to committee with a revised code section.

Dobbie stated the industry has changed and we should be looking to change the Board duties to some degree; thinks it can still be a valuable tool. Payne stated a member of her Church is on Cable Advisory Board in Columbus; he thinks they are beneficial but could be used better; he had some ideas and thoughts; was talking to him and getting ideas as to what they should be doing; he feels Columbus is not doing it properly; not looking at the issues that need to be addressed; will get his name and number to Davies; agree that something has to be done to reconstitute and alter schedules and functions; no one is serving on that Board now; is a perfect opportunity to restructure.

Angelou asked Davies to return with what she feels should be in code; possibly advertise for new members; also see if people who last served are still interested in serving; return to next Finance Committee.

### **WideOpenWest:**

Davies stated that Greg Dunn will be looking at the WideOpenWest takeover for us; Americast and WideOpenWest have agreed to pay legal fees; he will be doing it for 5 or 6 local municipalities; will be looking at all together in one sense, but will be meeting separately with them. Kneeland noted that as those meetings progress, things that were not included in franchise agreement because they said they would not market or sell, need to be reviewed; if there is a franchise modification we need to do that; especially need to look at high speed Internet. Davies stated we can't change the franchise agreement with a transfer. Kneeland stated we then need to make sure we follow the franchise; are grounds for reopening. Davies stated that once transferred the opportunity is there every 3 years to reopen the franchise. Angelou stated the importance here is that

Ameritech was never going to enter high speed internet; they were going to use telephone lines; with this new company will be pulling away from telephone lines; need to review the agreements.

Angelou also noted that WideOpenWest has sent out notification to subscribers; states we won't notice any difference; do have a slightly jaded view. Davies stated she will keep Council advised on the status of this issue.

**ISOBEL L. SHERWOOD, CMC/AAE, Clerk of Council, reporting**