

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 26, 2001

8:15 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*

PENDING LEGISLATION:

Members Absent: L. Nicholas Hogan and Rebecca W. Stinchcomb

Members Present: Karen J. Angelou, Thomas R. Kneeland, Michael O'Brien, Donald R. Shepherd and Debra A. Payne

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Mayor McGregor, Jerry Isler, Raleigh Mitchell, Karl Wetherholt, Tom Weber; press.

ORD-0044-2001

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Council, Universal Network Access

Kneeland said Lee and Isler were supposed to get back to us about this; Isler had some problems with the use being in no way personal; would just be to provide better network access. Angelou said she also had a problem with the City spending the funds for the installation into her home. Committee agreed to postpone since Lee is ill tonight; postpone two weeks to April 9th Committee of the Whole; then act on it or postpone indefinitely.

Recommended for Postponement to a Date Certain

ISSUES:**Gahanna Dispute Resolution Center - Shane Riedel**

Riedel passed out the 2000 Annual report, organization Budget and Funding Proposal for 2001 and reviewed. (These are available in the office of the Clerk of Council for review.) He said the center is doing well; better than they anticipated for the first few months of operation; first had to train volunteers in mediation and problem solving; proud of what they accomplished; grass roots movement; center would not be where it is today without the support of the City. They have solved 27 cases for Gahanna residents; had one case where police had been dispatched 48 times to one residence; after working with the people, there has been no need for intervention by the police since; there has been only one case where an agreement was not sustained. They are looking at the areas of Mifflin Township, Clinton Township and Reynoldsburg to branch out; if this works, then would definitely ask these entities for funding support. He is asking for \$10,000 for 2001. The center has worked very closely with the Police Department; has been a good relationship; Police have also referred people to the center. Riedel said he has met with each principal at each Gahanna school, and with Guidance Counselors.

Riedel continued that the center was run on a completely volunteer basis in 2000; minimal salaries are in budget for 2001; still work mainly on a volunteer basis. It was agreed that Riedel should report back to Council so that funding, if necessary, could be put in the 2002 budget.

O'Brien said he feels we should support this; good bang for buck. Mayor questioned charging clients. Riedel said they will be charging on a sliding scale so that no one is turned away; still not see the center ever being able to fund itself completely.

Angelou polled Council members with everyone saying they would like to proceed with a supplemental appropriation to support for \$10,000.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; 2nd Reading, Consent; no need to come back to Committee.

Account No. 101.135.5415, Miscellaneous

A.S.S.E.T. Proposal - Sharon Raab

Angelou introduced Sharon Robb of ASSET, Advocacy for Special Students in Education Today. (Information available in the office of the Clerk of Council.) Robb is working to promote renovation of the playground at Highpoint Elementary to make it handicap accessible; all handicapped students in Gahanna are bussed to Highpoint. She also passed out information with Mission Statement and information on number of handicapped children and the categories of their disabilities. Robb said their major goal is to eliminate barriers and integrate handicap accessible sports and recreational activities into Gahanna. They are a non-profit organization to serve children that live in Gahanna, ages 3 thru 21; approximately 1,000 children in Gahanna. Social interaction is very hard for these young people, but so important, and sport and recreation are good ways to learn to better interact. She has approached the schools for a \$13,000 grant, and is also asking the City for \$13,000; she also spoke with Windy McKenna and Gregg Morris. Highpoint already has an asphalt paved walkway to the playground, and is paving a path around the perimeter of the property, which will be great. ASSET has raised funds of approximately \$13,000 for the project.

Angelou said that private funding from another source can be facilitated thru the City, for the City share; that should be taken care of. Weber asked if she had contacted The Gahanna Area Fund, of which he is on the Board; subsidiary of The Columbus Foundation; they are always looking for worthwhile projects to support.

Mitchell said when this goes in he will have volunteers from the Parks & Recreation staff there to help, and also to learn how to work with the rubberized surface to learn how to apply and then work to make the City facilities more accessible by renovating and not having to take out and completely replace; want to make all wheelchair accessible.

Angelou thanked Robb for coming and for the valuable information. Committee asked that she come back if she does not obtain the necessary funding from the sources addressed.

Right of Way Legislation, Update - Tracie Davies

Davies said there are a few changes; she is ready to move on this but waiting on utilities; would like to present to Council on April 9th; really important permits sitting on her desk. Committee said they wanted this completed by the middle of January; is time to move forward; Davies to give overview of legislation.

Committee asked that this item be put on the Committee of the Whole Agenda for April 9th; will make time for it.

Kneeland questioned A.E.P. exemption. Davies said that the deregulated arms will not be exempt, just the regulated entity; will still have construction fees to bill back, engineering fees and fees for her time, etc.

Franklin County EMA Payment - Gen. Williams

General Williams said that it was Council's wish to continue with the E.M.A.F.C. this year while he had time to work to see what was needed; access situation. Funding was appropriated, but is not enough; need an additional \$866; \$17,000 was appropriated. Committee said this seems high; General Williams said he agrees.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; 2nd Reading, Consent; no need to come back to Committee.

Rules of Procedure

President Stinchcomb requested this be postponed until next Finance Committee.

CREEKSIDE:

Mayor said the Development Team is currently reviewing R.F.Q.'s and will report back to Council.

DONNA JERNIGAN, CMC/AAE, Deputy Clerk of Council