

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 25, 2000**

**8:15 PM**

**Council Committee Rooms**

## **Committee of the Whole**

*Rebecca W. Stinchcomb, Chairman*

*Karen J. Angelou*

*L. Nicholas Hogan*

*Thomas R. Kneeland*

*Michael O'Brien*

*Donald R. Shepherd*

*Debra A. Payne, ex officio*

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

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### **Additional Attendees**

White, Davies, Weber, Wetherholt, McGregor, Isler, Hall. From Library: Studebaker, Vracka, Harvey.

### **PENDING LEGISLATION:**

#### **ORD-0224-2000**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH AMPO, INC., FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN THE CITY GAHANNA; TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$7,500; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Davies thanked Council for holding off passage of this legislation; would like to work with Upper Arlington to form an aggregation pool; needed to check with AMPO to make sure it wouldn't change the agreement in any way; was assured by Kevin Maynard that it will cost no more.

In response to question from O'Brien, Davies stated this contract is to be our consultant; will put together an RCA for aggregator; this contract is not for that; will do public relations along with Ohio Consumers Council.

**Recommended for Adoption, Consent**

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

#### **Library Levy - Marilyn Vracka, Manager, Gahanna Branch**

Ken Harvey, stated he was Gahanna Coordinator of the Citizens to Renew the Levy Committee; appreciate opportunity to be here; ask for your support of levy; is Issue 60 on the ballot and is a renewal of an existing levy; is not an increase and in my mind that is important to the community; Library itself is extremely important in terms of education as well as a resource; is good for citizenry in general; are always looking for a good bargain as consumers; our library system is one of the best we have; in 1986 the current levy was approved and since then management has taken is from mediocre to #1 in US; need to keep that system going; asking for your support in endorsing this issue for passage; is not an increase but a renewal; this is a Franklin County issue not just Gahanna.

Marilyn Vracka, stated she was Branch Manager here; has worked at the Gahanna branch for 31 years; started as a modular building in 1969 on Hamilton Road; in 1971 went to a permanent building on Rocky Fork that is now the Senior Center; moved to current address of 310 Granville Street in 1991 where we were quickly out of space; Board changed their beliefs and goals and decided they could add another regional library to the east side; the addition for the regional building was built in 1998 when we added 24,000 s.f. and as a result we are open more hours and provide more services; know you are familiar with library services; our catalog allows access to all 21 locations as well as the Grove City, Worthington and Franklin University libraries; computers have links to web sites; can also dial in from home on some of it; believe that the library is the cornerstone of a community along with schools, churches and city buildings; am

always happy to go to a Chamber office or realtor and see they show the library on their community map; that is a community I would like to live or work in; need your help and support for keeping a great library great; is a renewal for 10 years; feeling was that 15 years is a long time to be out of the public eye for a levy; felt we needed to come back a little more frequently.

Susan Studebaker, Director of Extension Services, stated she and Vracka have over 50 years of experience working with this library system; card catalogs were our only access when we started; information age was in its prenatal stage at that time; today we are in forefront of information age; last September library was designated as the best public library serving a population of 500,000 or more; that is based on 15 different library service areas; confirms what our customers already know; when that 15 year levy was approved, we committed to an aggressive capital campaign; built new branches; others were expanded and renovated; instituted longer hours including Sundays; collections were enhanced; fulfilled all our promises and more; passage means we will keep our buildings modernized for new technologies and will continue to build on an excellent foundation; need to adapt to the changes including shifts in population; as we move forward flexibility must be in forefront; never would have dreamed today's library would be what it is today; personally feel the legacy will be in several areas; books have been and will be important; focus will be on accurate and timely information and exceptional customer service; attended the downtown Rotary Club where Larry Black was speaker; one of the first statements made was praise of the Gahanna branch; how cheerful everyone was and that they always do a great job.

Isler asked if the renewal is collecting at the same rate as it does today. Studebaker stated it is a 2.2 renewal but is at today's effective rate.

RECOMMENDATION: Resolution of support, Consent Agenda.

### **Morse Road Right of Way (from Service Committee 9/11/00)**

Wetherholt stated this had been addressed in Service Committee; felt we needed input on this major issue from all of Council; with widening of Morse Road a jurisdictional situation that is already bad is going to get worse; Franklin County wants to clean it up; has always been 3 jurisdictions - Columbus, County and Gahanna; need feedback on several proposals; we care the most on where we go on this issue; we can be the driving force.

Wetherholt continued that first suggestion was to move corporate boundary line to southern right of way of Morse Road from our westerly point through the Hamilton Road intersection; would then go to north side of Morse Road and go along the north right of way line out to easterly limits of the City which would be in the area of the Greens at Clarenton; would eliminate the half and half situation we currently have; with widening that "half" ends up in the middle of a lane with Columbus having part of the roadway, Gahanna having a portion, and in some cases it is still in the County; need to get this cleaned up.

Angelou questioned what kind of responsibility there is in giving up the improved portion of a road we have paid to widen in order to take on a portion of a road that will need improvement. Wetherholt agreed that would be a drawback but could get commitments from Columbus on securing grants etc.

Stinchcomb also questioned why we would give up the part we have improved; keep new section and give them the other.

Wetherholt stated there is not much development anticipated on our side or in the

westerly portion; another thing to consider is the plowing of a 5 lane Morse Road; would be a considerable burden for this Street Department; need multiple trucks at one time to gang plow; could work out something with County or more than likely Columbus who has giant plows made for clearing off 4 lane sections of road; could contract with Columbus to do plowing. Angelou noted Columbus plows do not have protection on bottom of blades to help save roads and they end up digging up road. Stinchcomb questioned where we would be on a priority list with Columbus; don't feel we would be high.

Weber noted there is some confusion now; will be worse with widening; jurisdictional issues will be bad. Kneeland stated that when we were annexing property we were trying to keep corridor open for us to move to the east. Wetherholt stated that never made sense. Angelou noted that Columbus has a corridor on the north side of the right of way line.

White stated that from a development standpoint it seems like a maintenance issue could probably be worked out, would seem that we would want to get that part of the road from Cherry Bottom and that whole area going east to StoneRidge; is so much more visible; the other side they already dictate where intersections will be; they will have to make improvements; we told Triangle they would have to participate in a road improvement. Wetherholt stated that Columbus' agreement with developers is not totally set; developers will pay enough money to take it to three lane portion; is an interim basis; in next 15 years will have to be widened to a 5 lane roadway; we are only speculating from Rt. 62 to east of that; Planning Commission has asked us to look at less dense development for the portion of the triangle left; is probably not a commercial corridor; more residential if anything. Angelou agreed that it is probably low end residential or office use.

Stinchcomb stated she would like to know the downside of keeping all of it; other than maintenance; what if we had control of entire road. Wetherholt stated that was a possibility; may be more expensive. McGregor noted that maintenance would be an issue; also need to look to Police and they would have to report on all accidents. Angelou noted we probably do a good part of that already.

McGregor stated that a big advantage is in the fact that our Planning Commission is infinitely better than Columbus in controlling curb cuts and intersection improvements.

Stinchcomb reiterated she would like to know the downsides except maintenance. Payne noted we probably need to look at larger plows anyway with number of 5 lane roads we now have; have forked over a considerable amount of money to get as much as we have so far in terms of improvements. Wetherholt agreed that Gahanna has taken the lead on all projects in our territory in order to get them off a waiting list.

In response to question from Angelou, Isler stated the road is an asset; don't know how to write it off if we give it up. Angelou questioned if we took it to the north side would we then have to pay for right of way. Wetherholt stated he though Columbus would like to get out of it; we need to get it resolved; County made the first proposal in order to get discussions moving; was not a firm offer; no reason other than a beginning point of discussion.

Shepherd stated we don't know what maintenance costs over next 20 years will be; is having the control that important. Angelou questioned how Columbus will maintain; what level will they commit to.

Stinchcomb requested report from Police Department on how much manpower they expend on Morse Road; how many more hours they anticipate would be needed; also a report on maintenance costs.

O'Brien stated that residents using that area would want Gahanna services; they will not want to wait for Columbus cruiser or street crew or whatever; need to look at service to our citizens; costs stagger my mind; could anticipate 4 police officers and another cruiser just for patrolling Morse Road. Stinchcomb reiterated she wants to know what we are doing already; do we get revenue if we catch speeders on that road; do we cite them for our part of the road; is probably minimal; also have issue of weights and trucks; is a brand new road; that would be a plus in looking at maintenance costs.

Wetherholt stated the County wants to get it resolved; do benefits outweigh expense; can get a pros and cons report to Council. Angelou stated it should also address staffing; don't think it will take more police; think we are doing a lot already; need to take control and do it right.

Stinchcomb stated we need more information; will discuss again in two weeks; is a large expense; need to look at issues of good planning if we give it up; limiting curb cuts, etc; would Columbus decide to let them do more than we would; need more information; this is a big commitment.

White questioned why Columbus wouldn't be a part of the maintenance. Wetherholt stated that from last discussion Columbus had plows that would take care of 5 lane roadway; we might be able to trade off; we do parts of Columbus as it is; this could be a tradeoff. White noted she would share the Development Plan for 20 year build out in Columbus.

### **National League of Cities**

Stinchcomb stated she was attempted to get her reservation reinstated. In response to question from Angelou, Mayor and White stated their reservations were in the process. White stated the Westin Copley Place is sold out; because we are in the Showcase am attempting to get us in the same hotel; am working on the reservations.

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