

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2013

Council May Meet in Caucus Beginning at 6:45 p.m.

7:00 PM

City Hall

City Council

*Stephen A. Renner, President
Ryan P. Jolley, Vice President*

Beryl D. Anderson

Karen J. Angelou

Brian D. Larick

David L. Samuel

Brandon Wright

Isobel L. Sherwood, MMC, Clerk of Council

A. CALL TO ORDER - Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call:

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2013, at Gahanna City Hall, in Council Chambers, 200 South Hamilton Road. President of Council Stephen A. Renner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Invocation was given by Council Member Jolley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Samuel. Agenda for this meeting was published on March 1, 2013.

Members Present: Stephen A. Renner, Ryan P. Jolley, Brian D. Larick, Karen J. Angelou, David L. Samuel, Beryl D. Anderson and Brandon Wright

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.**C. HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Claire Yoder, Gahanna Jefferson Board of Education, stated Spring is on horizon for us; due to changes in State Teachers Retirement benefits, some folks are beginning to retire; people who have been with us for a long time; at last meeting had pleasure of receiving approximately \$51,000 in donations for variety of causes; one room schoolhouse was at the top; not sure of final figures on Celebration of Excellence but is in the neighborhood of \$84,000. Samuel stated he read in article today in Columbus Dispatch that there is a proposal by the Kasich administration to cut educational service centers funding by about 22%; will this affect Gahanna. Yoder stated some teachers are hired through them; could impact our budget as well; hopefully will be off-setting by a small increase in revenue and it will balance that out.

D. INTRODUCTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE:**Ordinances - To Be Introduced and Assigned to Committee:**

Ordinances introduced, by title, by

ORD-0047-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN A TRANSFER EXEMPT PERMIT APPLICATION TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR CHIPOTLE, 95 NORTH HAMILTON ROAD

Introduced

ORD-0048-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO AWARD AND THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH STILLION BROTHERS EXCAVATING, INC., FOR TIZ FIBER EXTENSION, PHASE II; IMPROVEMENT NO. ST 973.

Introduced

ORD-0049-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO AWARD AND THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH DIRT DAWG EXCAVATING FOR TRIANGLE EAST SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION, PHASE I; IMPROVEMENT NO. SA 871; TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$46,060; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Introduced

ORD-0050-2013

TO ACCEPT DEED OF EASEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 110 CLARK AVENUE FOR SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT FROM THOMAS A. AND MARGIE A. GYDE.

Introduced

ORD-0051-2013

TO ACCEPT DEED OF EASEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 116 CLARK AVENUE FOR SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT FROM JEFFERY AND TRACEY GIRARD.

Introduced

ORD-0052-2013

TO ACCEPT DEED OF EASEMENT FOR BUCKLES WATERLINE NEAR TECHCENTER DRIVE FROM ANDRE M. BUCKLES.

Introduced

ORD-0053-2013

TO AMEND CHAPTER 907, DRIVEWAYS AND CURB CUTS, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA.

Introduced

ORD-0054-2013

TO ALLOW THE SURFACE APPLICATION OF BRINE; FOR DUST CONTROL AT SUBURBAN STEEL SUPPLY.

Introduced

ORD-0055-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH UTILITY TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC., FOR PURCHASE OF AN AERIAL BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Introduced

ORD-0056-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH CENTURY EQUIPMENT FOR THE YEARLY MAINTENANCE OF GOLF CARTS UTILIZED BY THE GAHANNA MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE FOR 2013.

Introduced

ORD-0057-2013

TO ACCEPT FEES IN LIEU OF LAND DEDICATION FOR MEADOWBROOKE DEVELOPMENT; FROM BROOKWOOD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

Introduced

E. CONSENT AGENDA:**Minutes - To Approve:****2013-0007**

To Approve the Following Set of Minutes:

1) February 19, 2013

This Matter was Approved and Filed on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinances on Second Reading:**ORD-0044-2013**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR USE OF CITY PROPERTY AS POLLING LOCATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2013; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

This Matter was Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0045-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH MS CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR DESIGN MODIFICATIONS OF HAMILTON ROAD CENTRAL, IMP. NO. ST785; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

This Matter was Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0046-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ORCHARD, HILTZ & MCCLIMENT, INC., (OHM) FOR DETAILED DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORK FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROJECT, PHASE II, TO CONFORM TO THE FEDERAL FORMAT; IMPROVEMENT NO. ST 1002; TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFORE: AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

This Matter was Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Resolution:**MR-0010-2013**

Motion Resolution to authorize the Director of Public Service to go out for bids for the 2013 Street Program, ST1004.

This Matter was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

MR-0011-2013

Motion Resolution that Council hereby adopts the Department of Parks & Recreation Fee Policy dated January 9, 2013.

This Matter was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Passed The Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Samuel, seconded by Anderson, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou, Anderson and Wright

End of the Consent Agenda**F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

President read the rules that would govern both public hearings this evening.

2013-0008

To consider the use of brine solution for the purpose of dust control for property at 1900 Deffenbaugh Ct., by Suburban Steel, Jerry Henderson, applicant. (Advertised in Rocky Fork Enterprise on 2/21/2013).

President opened Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Jerry Henderson, Suburban Steel Supply Co., 1900 Deffenbaugh Ct., Gahanna, OH, stated he was present with a request to apply brine to our roadways to suppress the dust; also have to report to EPA; feel we are acting as a good steward of the land as we like to use brine water as opposed to sodium chloride or another chemical.

President asked for opponents. There were none. President closed Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Heard in Public Hearing**2013-0005**

To consider an amendment to Section 161.03, Imposition of Tax, and 161.18, Credit for Tax Paid to Another Municipality, of Chapter 161, Income Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Gahanna, related to increasing the City Income Tax Rate to the residents of the City of Gahanna.

President opened Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m. President asked for proponents. There were none. President asked for opponents.

Ryan Demro, 823 Vista Drive, stated he has 6 questions I would like to have answered; first is whether or not public hearings take place before the action; am only aware of the two that have taken place after; second is if the tax were to fail would you characterize the effect on core services as critical; third, if the tax fails has there been a priority of cuts established; fourth, what if any data driven programs, such as what might be now considered antiquated CityStat, have been implemented at City Hall; five, am interested in each person's individual position on the tax; it is one thing to vote to put it on the ballot; as a former City Council person not really interested in justification but if you personally would be voting for or against it; and six, do you think you can achieve tax parity for tax payers without increasing the rate or increasing the rate and achieving parity across the board.

Renner asked if he wished Council to respond now which would take part of his time. Demro replied that was his intent.

Stinchcomb stated it was a lot of information to ask for during a public meeting; not sure how to respond as I don't have information with me tonight; if we could contact you and talk at least from an administrative standpoint to follow up. Demro stated he was interested if Council had any personal knowledge of any cuts.

Samuel asked Demro if he had reviewed any of the documents on the website; had a report on streets maintenance at last committee meeting; sure our Service Director would be willing to share that with you; also in appropriations document had prioritized certain things in various departments; Braun can share with you; will show you some of the priorities and what wouldn't happen if it failed; available from administration; from my take on things in order to maintain what we have now with some of the losses in revenue like the cuts from the state like the estate tax and local government fund; also if HB5 passes, may be a relatively small effect but it could affect us; looking at all this and fact that our reserve monies are going to be gone in the next few years if we continue to take out of that, it is appropriate for me to vote yes for a tax increase; will talk to you after the meeting if you would like; a lot of other things I can direct you to; look at other cities on the Internet and see how they do their financing; we are very unique and very conservative; we are very transparent with our information; give you information line item by line item when other cities don't; some other cities may have low tax rates but in looking you will find that they raise money in other ways that we don't; may find that their tax base is different; for example Whitehall gets most of their money from the federal employees at DCSC; income tax rate is lower but more money is coming in. Angelou and Jolley stated that Whitehall is now 2-1/2%.

Renner stated time was up and asked if Demro needed more time. Demro stated he did not need more time but was interested in the answers. With no opposition by Council members, time was extended for this public hearing.

Larick stated he will do his best to answer questions; will be willing to speak afterwards also; missed your original comment; didn't hear that one; would I characterize as critical; yes I do; in 2012, working with the administration and Teal especially, spent a massive amount of time rebuilding how we view and look and publish our finances; through that review and the relatively short time for me on Council, would say that over the long term we have significant fiscal concerns on where we are and how to maintain core services in the community; along with features we would like as a suburban community; with regard to cuts I will leave to the administration; as to data driven programs, in 2012 worked with administration to begin participating in a national organization of municipalities to use standardized data to evaluate how we perform and how we perform against each other using an endless array of metrics; that is in early stages for us to

provide and to use that data but it is certainly the right step; my individual position, based on my short time here, yes believe it is a necessity for the city; last piece was you asked could parity be achieved without adjusting; would first note that parity would be a secondary objective; fundamentally the revenue needs of the city are beyond where we are now; can parity itself be achieved without adjusting the tax rate, don't know that it could be; not sure how that could be accomplished that I am aware of; what is in our control is the credit that is provided; by moving it upward or downward in a scale as an adjustment to parity other than putting a tax referendum out to the public.

Jolley stated that as a point of information on public hearing schedule in relation to the ballot initiative; did something unique with this public hearing as we did a public hearing on both the tax increase and tax credit; for the ballot initiative there is no requirement for a public hearing; given the time line and need to have our budget acted on; held off as late as we could to put that on ballot for May primary; not required to have public hearings for the tax increase; required to hold 3 public hearings related to the credit and that's the conversion from 83-1/3% to 100% credit; this is the third public hearing; can't vote on that for another 60 days; that ordinance has been postponed to May 6; that is part of our code section 161.18; agree with Larick on core services aspect; priority of cuts in event this does not pass is going to be a long painstaking collaboration between administration and council; personally can't advocate a schedule of cuts at this time; my individual position is that I agree this is a critical necessity in terms of basic needs such as road repaving; also any other enhancements we might like to see as a community to stay competitive in the region for jobs and residents and just for individual satisfaction for quality of life; lastly as far as tax parity, given the way that income taxes work in state of Ohio there really is no other way; is your question tax parity with other municipalities or tax parity within the city. Demro stated in the City. Jolley continued that in terms of the effective rate citizens pay because you pay based on where you work and where you live, the only way we can achieve a standard rate across the board is to raise our rate to the highest in the vicinity and give 100% credit; if we would leave the rate at 1-1/2% and give 100% credit, would still have folks if they work in a higher tax rate city, paying more than other folks who live and work in the city; no way you achieve that parity unless every other city were to do the same thing or some legislation going through the State House would pass.

Renner stated there was not much more to add; think information speaks for itself; lot of data out there and online; good work done by Larick last year with the administration; Jolley spoke well to the parity part of your question; where do I stand; agree this is desperately needed given the targets we are after for quality of life, etc.

President closed Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

Heard in Public Hearing

G. STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee of the Whole - Jolley: No Report.

Finance, Service & Safety - Larick: No Report.

Development & Parks - Wright: No Report.

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

Clerk: No Report.

Council: No Report.

I. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES: None.

J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES: None.

K. MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS:

MR-0012-2013

Motion Resolution to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$50,000 from Account No. 101.433.5476, Golf Course, Capital Maintenance, to Account No. 101.440.5596, Gahanna Swimming Pool, Capital Projects/Improvements; to replace MR-0009-2013 due to an incorrect account number.

A motion was made by Samuel, seconded by Anderson, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou, Anderson and Wright

L. REPRESENTATIVES:

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Larick/Renner:

Larick stated held regular meeting; annual report will be coming out in March; Executive Board of officers met; will filter down into committees to drive progress through this year; received from GahannaNet \$1,400 for some agreements for fiber network; next meeting is Tuesday, April 6.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - Angelou:

Angelou stated next meeting is on March 14. State of the Region is on April 25; if you wish to go let Clerk know so we can get a table if desired; will be an invitation-only coffee at 8:00 am Wednesday morning at Dr. Gee's residence to welcome William Murdock; will be an additional coffee held at MORPC on March 19.

Bd. of Education, Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools - Angelou:

Angelou stated she will attend the meeting on March 14.

Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Jolley

Jolley stated they have not met; next meeting should be soon.

Central Ohio Transit Authority - Samuel:

Samuel stated they met February 26; HB59 could affect COTA's finances; met 2/26; several HB59 could affect COTA's finances; proposal is to end current sales tax funding and change the rate to 3/10% in August of 2013 through 2016; would be a 40% decrease with no ability to raise the sales tax amount in the future; ripple effect of sequestration could result in lower ridership due to Federal employee cuts; took delivery of the first two of 30 CNG buses; will be integrated into the fleet's rotation once the necessary vehicle maintenance training and certifications are complete; January sales tax receipts were 4.4% over budget or 8% over 2012 reflecting continued growth in the Central Ohio economy.

M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

Mayor:

Stinchcomb stated she announced last week a series of "Coffee with the Mayor" which begin this week at Panera; will be about income tax increase and also to answer questions any resident has on any subject; promoting these dates in our e-newsletter; nice to have people come out; this week is 7:30 am; will be held at different times of the day to see if we get a better turnout; will continue in April based on our response; speaking to community groups, civic associations, churches, neighbors in living room, etc. about the income tax increase; if you are a member of a group and would like to have me or a member of the administration speak to you, call my office and we'll set something up; get around to as many community groups as I can.

City Attorney: No Report.**N. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Wright stated that an impressive accomplishment last week was the dedication of the Rosa Parks statue at the Capitol; big step forward in our history; am a big fan of Gahanna's Speech and Debate team as well as DECA; 2 articles in the paper and they are doing extremely well; very proud of them; both did very well again this year; in Ward 2 news, there was a Creekside mixer with business owners and residents; the new development company arranged that get together; wish I could have been there; good progress and glad that the developer is taking an interest and building a sense of community.

Anderson stated she is always honored and pleasantly delighted with the accomplishment and the talent that our students have; went to preliminary for the concert for the OEA competition which included boys, girls, and acappella choirs; great to see all the names on the program and to hear how well they did; ended to a standing ovation; will be going to competition in next couple of weeks; will also talk about Rosa Parks; used to work with her as part of her legacy team; this last Wednesday she was the first African American woman to be honored with a statue in the US Capitol; was not able to be there; will be there during spring break or over the summer; if you haven't seen the ceremony can get it on C-SPAN's archives; very inspiring day; always great to see people from both sides of the aisle coming together.

Samuel stated he was glad to see Demro here; have been encouraging people to come and get involved, encourage other people to do that; glad to see young folks in back; very important to consider your local politics; you hear about national and state but need to get involved with City.

Larick stated that last weekend he went by Niagara; construction is progressing although they seem a little behind; also looked at the water retention work at Gahanna Woods; great job there; also drove out to Blacklick Elementary to look at the solar panels; is an impressive build out; quite a few panels producing a fair amount of electricity; also went to Education Foundation gala; thank you to Demro for coming out this evening; one of the fundamental roles for me is to answer questions when asked; hope our answers were clear.

O. ADJOURNMENT: 7:40 p.m. - Motion by Larick.

Donna L. Jernigan, MMC
Senior Deputy Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of* *2013.*

Chair Signature