

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2012

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

7:00 PM

City Hall

City Council

Brian D. Larick, President

Stephen A. Renner, Vice President

Beryl D. Anderson

Karen J. Angelou

Ryan P. Jolley

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 Session on Monday, February 6, 2012, at Gahanna City Hall, in Council Chambers, 200 South Hamilton Road. President of Council Brian D. Larick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Invocation was given by Vice President of Council Renner followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Anderson. Agenda for this meeting was published on February 2, 2012.

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

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

Daniel Slyby, 3670 Olde Ridenour Road, stated he has lived there since 2004; want to bring forward an issue after speaking with my neighbors; there is an ongoing issue that has gotten worse lately and that is excessive speeding; I am close to the road; speed limit is 15 mph in my area; since road was widened a little bit it has gotten a lot worse; have talked to police many times; they all have been very professional; my belief is that they can't be everywhere to correct a situation; asked Mr. Wright to come out and experience what we have experienced and get a feel for that; think there could be a new solution that might be more unique; think the road is a gem; so beautiful; people bike and jog down the road; but people are not being respectful of others; they are not paying attention; recognize it is hard to do 15 mph; is the same people; mentioned that to police and know they have talked to some of them; since then have experienced name calling and people being disrespectful to me; they know I have been complaining; looking for some other solution that might be helpful; hoping there can be discussion and look at some improvement; read the vision and mission statement; people have had to jump out of the way for cars; track team is out there; are some that don't pay as close attention as others; problem is especially bad early in the morning and lunch time and then at 3:00 when school gets out and then again after work; hoping by bringing this up we can work towards a solution; people constantly run and jog and some don't want to use it as a bicycle path because of safety reasons; if something happens it could be devastating; that's my issue and my point.

Angelou asked if they have used the speed monitor. Slyby said the speed monitor has been out there; mentality you see is that as soon as that sign is gone it's right back to the speeding; doesn't have a lasting effect; they can't be there all the time; need a more permanent solution of some kind.

Samuel asked if the 15 mph speed limit was unusual; is it anywhere else in Ohio. Deputy Chief Bell stated it is rare; we get a lot of complaints; we write a lot of tickets; as soon as we leave, speeding is back up.

Wright stated when he met with Slyby on Saturday, was amazed that his property sits so close to sidewalk; those people driving down the road are gunning it not just soccer moms going up the hill; feel it is an area that we need to put on notice and make people more aware of speed limit; almost looks like a one way; only one car can get by at a time; something we need to examine; target area.

Larick asked if this was the property that looks over the ravine with a fence there. Slyby replied that it was; noted that 2 cars can fit through if they are doing the speed limit; folks jump to get out of the way of a car; if going slow enough they could get around

each other; is a unique area; people use it as a cut through; that's what Stygler is for; you can go faster; won't save time by using Olde Ridenour; need to change the attitude; can promote this as a tourist thing; create on website; something everyone can enjoy.

Jolley asked if neighbors on the street would be willing to close the street to through traffic; would be an inconvenience in no longer being able to get to your home versus the safety impact. Slyby stated he would be for that; think it would be fine with some neighbors as well; some people won't care. Jolley stated he grew up on that side of town; enjoy what is there; was mentioned to me as a possibility while campaigning to use that development area down to Stygler; property joined up between the two roads for traffic; would then allow safer walking and jogging.

Renner thanked Slyby for coming; share my concerns as well; speaks to our larger picture of safe neighborhoods; cars are cutting through neighborhoods; Woodmark Run is another cut through; there is a beer truck that comes through in the morning; this has to stop; think about some kind of program or initiative to reach out to community as a whole; talking about safety and speed for children walking which is what we need to focus on.

Wright asked how many tickets we have issued in that area; am interested; need to put people on notice; it is a dangerous street; school busses go down there as well.

Angelou asked if it was designated a scenic byway. Wetherholt stated it goes back 20 years to when it was designated a scenic byway; was done by previous administration with no Council action. Angelou asked if it was because of the drop off and curves. Wetherholt stated he was not sure if it qualified under the manual for making it 15 mph.

Larick stated he would assign this issue to Parks, Safety & Service Committee for next week.

D. INTRODUCTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE:

Ordinances - To Be Introduced and Assigned to Committee

Ordinances introduced, by title, by Renner.

ORD-0022-2012

TO WAIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF TACTICAL ARMOR; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Introduced

ORD-0023-2012

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEMBER CITIES FOR SHARED FLEET MAINTENANCE SERVICES.

Introduced

ORD-0024-2012

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Early Retirement Incentive

Introduced, to Committee of the Whole

ORD-0025-2012

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE GAHANNA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FOR THE 2012 CALENDAR YEAR FOR THE PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Introduced

ORD-0026-2012

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH RAYMOND J. MULARSKI FOR PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN CASES RESULTING FROM GAHANNA MAYOR'S COURT AND MAYOR'S DOWNTOWN CASES; TO REPEAL ORD-0204-2011; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Introduced

ORD-0027-2012

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 2012.

Introduced

E. CONSENT AGENDA:**Minutes - To Approve:****2012-0004**

To approve the following set of minutes:

- 1) January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes.

This Matter was Approved and Filed on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinances on Second Reading:**ORD-0013-2012**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO MASTER CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH ASSURITY RIVER GROUP, INC., FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GAHANNA; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORD-0014-2012

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC., (ESRI) FOR SMALL MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY ENTERPRISE LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR GIS SOFTWARE FOR THE YEARS 2012-2014.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0015-2012

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO SPECTRUM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SENSUS USA INC./SENSUS SPECTRUM, LLC, FOR ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND LICENSES.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0016-2012

TO ACCEPT THE ANNEXATION OF 3.4+/- ACRES FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, LOCATED AT 5061 SHAGBARK AND 1150 N. HAMILTON ROAD; REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF GAHANNA.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Resolutions to Adopt on First Reading:**RES-0003-2012**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Passed The Consent Agenda

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

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

End of the Consent Agenda

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

G. STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee of the Whole - Renner: No Report.

Finance & Development - Samuel No Report.

Parks, Service & Safety - Anderson No Report.

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

Clerk:

2012-0003

Notice to Legislative Authority of a transfer of D1, D2, D3 and D3A liquor permits from Sellers Services LLC, DBA Granville St. Tavern & Patio, 258 Granville St., Gahanna, OH 43230 to Paymax258 Inc., DBA Granville St. Tavern & Patio, 258 Granville St., Gahanna, OH 43230. Last day to file objections is February 23, 2012.

Received and Filed

Council: No Report.

I. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinances Reported Out of Committee:

ORD-0017-2012

TO AMEND ORD-0002-2012, WHICH PROVIDES RATES OF PAY AND BENEFITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012

Angelou stated as was going through this ordinance noted an interesting fact; draw attention to the fact that in the exempt positions there is not one position that is at market point; there are those still on probation and are below but every other one is above; if market point is where we decided as a policy we wanted to be, think it is quite interesting; on all these salary ordinances it is important to note that when they pass this evening the \$105,000 will be going on ad infinitum; hope this isn't going to be criteria for the future and saying there is a need for a tax increase; that amount of money we have in the general fund needs to be going towards the various projects that we have not done for 3 years; those are of the utmost importance; that money will go very quickly if we have to do 3 years of catchup on capital projects.

Samuel stated he will be voting yes on all these ordinances; my belief is that our employees are engaged; they provide sustained discretionary effort and consistently go above and beyond what is expected in their jobs; the trend for the last few years has been declining revenue, more constraints in the budget, and a dramatic increase in demands for services across all departments; our employees have met the challenges by

taking on increased job responsibilities by not back filling vacant positions and performing more previously contracted services in house; over the past 3 years they have saved us millions of dollars by finding creative ways to finance services, streamline work through the use of latest technology and tap into staff members' fields of expertise; have page after page of data giving examples of this; am willing to share this with everyone; this kind of dedication and sacrifice is rare; we need to hold onto these people; other communities want these folks and will take them; the proposed raise is minuscule compared to the monies saved and the revenue that has been generated; thanks to our employees for their hard work.

Anderson stated she would be supporting; in addition thank the employees who have taken on the challenge and have been creative and collaborative yet haven't had a raise in 2 or 3 years; we need to honor our employees and think about the others that have gone on to other opportunities; our employees are dedicated and committed; in our struggle with competitiveness with other cities, this is one way to stay competitive; one way to reward the long hours; thank each of you; you are always available; believe the raises are much needed at this time

Wright stated that from the beginning he asked if health insurance was going up and was told yes; the pay was not; this is more common sense than anything else; these employees haven't had a raise in 3 years; if they were in private sector most people would be looking for a new job; I know hands down I will be voting yes; another point; we are all concerned with infrad are the same people that haven't had raises for 3 years; need to keep that in perspective too; definitely will be supporting.

Renner stated we had a fair amount of discussion in Committee of the Whole; there were many good arguments on both sides; as an elected leader I am looking at this as a matter of fairness; 3 years of no raises for unclassified staff but in that same amount of time bargaining units got their raises; need to reward those who have put forth the effort; when you are looking at this, 2 questions you must ask as a manager; first is do they deserve it; we have a process in place; heard administration and human resources talk about the process in place for performance evaluations; sacrifices are being made; staff is always available hours beyond 8:00 to 5:00; second question is can we afford it; this one is a little tricky; believe the risk here is low; in one of the presentations it was emphasized that our percent of salaries and benefits is about 46% of our general fund compared to comparable cities in size and functions who are much higher; in 60% and higher area; to us this pay increase is about 0.4% of the general fund budget; in my opinion it is a low risk; good to look back; good to reward; but I do want to throw an arrow out there; looking forward don't come looking for more; we have interesting struggles and challenges before us; must reward our employees for the jobs they do; but we must also buckle down and look forward at the challenges before us.

Jolley stated he received an email from a citizen which raised some thought provoking questions; in thinking about those one of the questions was what about the budget deficit; budget projections are just that; city consistently brings in more revenue than expected; we have approximately \$15 million sitting in the bank right now; question was also asked why don't we hire back some employees who were let go; the answer is that this increase would only pay the loaded cost of 1 or 1-1/2 employees; can't hire 10 or 12 people with that; percentage of our general fund is 0.46%; for these raises less than 1/2 of 1%; is a marginal increase; it is not something that will break the bank; very small portion of our expenditures for this year; Gahanna has half the number of employees as some comparable cities yet we still provide comparable, if not better, services than they do; sat on another body where percentage was closer to 80% that went to salaries; we get a great bang for our buck with our employees; state unemployment is down; city income

tax is up; bed tax is up; we have talented professionals who can manage and we need to retain those individuals; turnover does have a huge cost; do appreciate the work done by our employees; will be voting yes.

Larick stated it is clear that the challenges may not be over; indicators are positive but there is not clear sailing; our leadership has sacrificed and done so willingly to a certain extent; a reasonable adjustment is warranted and in my mind this is reasonable and feel it is warranted; feel it is a prudent time to take this step; economy could take another turn and it may not happen next year; need to recognize our staff and move forward.

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

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

ORD-0018-2012

TO AMEND ORD-0003-2012, WHICH PROVIDES RATES OF PAY AND BENEFITS FOR COMMAND STAFF PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

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

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

ORD-0019-2012

TO AMEND ORD-0004-2012, WHICH PROVIDES RATES OF PAY AND BENEFITS FOR SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

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

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

ORD-0020-2012

TO AMEND ORD-0005-2012, WHICH PROVIDES RATES OF PAY AND BENEFITS FOR PART TIME PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2012, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

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

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

ORD-0021-2012

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Salary Adjustments

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

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

J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES: None.

K. MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS: None.

L. REPRESENTATIVES:

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Larick/Renner

Renner stated next meeting is February .28.

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

Angelou stated there has not been a meeting since last report.

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

Anderson noted the meeting is this Thursday.

Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Jolley

Jolley stated there has been no meeting; remember the event this Friday at 8:00 am at the Conference Center.

Central Ohio Transit Authority - Samuel:

Samuel stated that the Hollywood Casino will open in 2012; COTA is working on various service enhancements for that area; also there is a new 31 day pass in use; can purchase on board the bus and it is activated for 31 days of consecutive use; believe it is \$75.

M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

Mayor:

Stinchcomb thanked Council for supporting the salary ordinances; look at it as 1% per year for the leadership of this City; didn't even ask because they knew it wasn't possible; as we stabilize did want to bring forward; appreciate your support.

Angelou stated she had looked through both the Slavin studies from 2005 and 2008; should have been looked at in 2011; was there some reason that was not brought up; was part of my angst about these ordinances; now it's 2012; hope we will be moving forward to do that; there was a policy signed on 6/1/2005 on performance based raises; now this year it was a straight 3% instead of following the policy; why was it not done in 2011. Stinchcomb stated we were in an unusual economy; the cost of the study is about \$25,000 and with no pay raises being given it made no sense to spend that on a study for 2011 as raises were frozen; did not put it forward; was my choice not to do and supported in that by Finance and Human Resource Directors at that time; explained in previous meetings that we did make a decision to veer from the performance appraisals; this is a time of catch up; have done the evaluations for our staff every year; that process has not varied; when you do the appraisal process some get 0% and some may get 5% depending on parameters set up by Council; yes we did 2005 and 2008 studies but it has been very different from 2008 to 2012; will discuss with Council whether we want to spend that kind of money to update the study; we did not move the markets themselves; the ranges did not move; happy to discuss as we go forward. Angelou stated that when looking to do a study need to think closer to home; have these signs that say think globally, buy locally; somehow going to Atlanta doesn't fit with that; can't believe there is not the same quality of people in our area to do the study. Stinchcomb stated we do most of our business locally; great deal of debate at that time when we were looking for a company; performance management for local government back then was not done; not as many firms as there may be today; will be putting out there for discussion a benefit and cost savings for some continuity; see if some firms are available locally now.

City Attorney: No Report.

N. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Wright thanked staff for all they do; know a lot is asked of you; thank you very much; last Tuesday had an excellent opportunity to go to Columbus Academy to hear Dr. Samuel Betances speak on diversity; if you get a chance next year it would be well worth it to go; very good on what they do at Academy and amount of diversity with student population is truly amazing; thank citizen of ward 2 for pointing things out to me there, issue with speeding; thought it was valuable that somebody reached out; hopefully we can help the situation; on a personal note have a neighbor that is fighting cancer; want to stress it is important if you do have health insurance to get your checkups; early detection is best; also offer congratulations to Development Department for a great Groundhog Day breakfast.

Samuel stated he forgot to mention in his COTA report that this past January they approved raises up to 5% for their non union employees.

Anderson stated it was a very impactful presentation by Dr. Samuel Betances at Columbus Academy; diversity impacts everyone; we are a global community; over 130 countries are represented in Franklin County; in Gahanna it impacts our work force and our general demographics; Dr. Betances is part Hispanic and he mentioned that from the 2010 census the Hispanic population has grown significantly; important to look at how the Hispanic community affects us; look at the diverse contributions that diversity brings to a community; congratulations to Development Department and Jones as Director for the Groundhog Day event; understand it was a record turnout; lastly remind everybody of the schools' red carpet fundraiser at end of February; way to support our schools; can find great deals at the auction; chance to come together as a greater community; is at 6:00 p.m. on the 24th.

Renner thanked Development Department and Jones for the 15th Annual Groundhog Day event; was my first time to get to one; good indicators for the future; these are things near and dear to my heart; like to watch federal labor statistics; also enjoyed hearing Pastor Kai Nilson; was very good; speeding in neighborhoods has been a long standing issue; can we put sensors in trees so we can watch; must create something as a kind of deterrent; we can all name streets like Lincolnshire, Lindenhaven, Caroway that have speeding issues and can be dangerous; has to be something we can do.

Larick stated that the Groundhog Day event was an exceptional program; generally outlook was positive; clearly there is a risk of inflation; at the same time one singular area of economy that doesn't look to change is housing and all of the underlying industries that support it; get through this recovery; lot of inventory and a lot of homes out there; at the end of the day the thing that needs to happen is for that industry to recover and become another driver to an improving economy; majority of our debates occur in committee; welcome everyone to attend.

O. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Angelou, seconded by Anderson, to go into Executive Session under authority of Section 5.40(a) of the Council Rules of Procedure to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual unless such public employee, official, licensee or regulated individual requests a public hearing and to go into Executive Session to confer with the City Attorney concerning disputes involving the City, and/or appointed or elected officials or employees, which are subject to pending or imminent court action.. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Council rose to Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. with President of Council requesting the attendance of Mayor Stinchcomb, City Attorney Ewald, Brandi Braun and Sue Wadley. Council rose from Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. with all members of Council returning to the dais.

P. ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 p.m. - Motion by Samuel.

Clerk's Signature

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2012.*

Chair Signature