

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 18, 2008

Council May Meet in Caucus Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

7:30 PM

City Hall

City Council

Nancy R. McGregor, President

Thomas C. Evers, Vice President

Beryl D. Anderson

Shane Ewald

Thomas R. Kneeland

John R. McAlister

David L. Samuel

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, August 18, 2008, in Council Chambers of City Hall, 200 South Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio. President of Council Nancy R. McGregor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Vice President Evers delivered the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Agenda for this meeting was published on August 15, 2008.

Members Present: Nancy R. McGregor, Thomas C. Evers, Thomas R. Kneeland, Shane W. Ewald, John McAlister, Beryl D. Anderson and David L. Samuel

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

MOTION by Evers, seconded by Kneeland, to move ORD-0160-2008 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda under Second Reading of Ordinances. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Evers, Kneeland, Ewald, McAlister, McGregor, Samuel, Anderson. Motion carried.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

Karen Eylon thanked Council for allowing a presentation this evening; turn it over to Laurie Jadwin as Festival Chair who will be presenting tonight.

Jadwin stated she is a Gahanna resident, member of the Board of Trustees of Gahanna Events, and chair of the Green Ribbon Committee which plans and programs the Blues & Jazz Festival; this year was 10th anniversary; what a weekend it was; filled streets for 3 days with people from the entire central Ohio area; would not be able to present such an event without your support; had 60 hours of world class entertainment; ran 3 stages simultaneously; incorporated our first annual jog for jazz and received positive feedback; Dale Foor helped coordinate the Young Rising Stars Music Contest for middle school and high school musicians; in looking at what draws people to Ohio, a special event is #1; need to continue to grow the events we offer; that's what will draw people from outside our area; next year's festival is June 19-21, 2009.

Kneeland stated he was the designated member from CIC to sit on the Board this year for Gahanna Events Inc; no one puts more energy into this than Mrs. Jadwin; lucky to have her as a committed person to this festival.

Stinchcomb added that this is a 12 month commitment for volunteers; already planning for next year; to Jadwin and so many others who volunteer, thank you for all you do.

McGregor noted there was no school board representative this evening.

Steve Guendert, 214 McKenna Creek Drive, stated there was an interesting article in today's Columbus Dispatch; reminds me of a story about a man named Antoin; emigrated from Syria in mid 1970's to go to college; earned bachelor's and master's degree in engineering; did not like his job and started his own company becoming a builder/developer; began with homes and then shifted to public/private partnerships; many projects had problems with delays, scope creep and cost overruns; questions were raised to government officials on where Antoin received his financing; government had not done due diligence and responded he was a private business man; news reporters investigated and found Antoin was donating large sums of money through campaign contributions to the same government officials; federal government did an investigation, handed down an indictment and secured a conviction of Antoin on 14 counts; found that financing came from organizations in the middle east that had ties to terrorist money

laundering; \$3.5 million came from former Saddam Hussein regime via laundered money; unfortunate, Patriot Act does not really apply to real estate; Antoin is better known as Tony Rezko; see a lot of similarities between Chicago and Gahanna; people ask for information on how Stonehenge obtained its financing and you tell us they are a private business; no due diligence was done; obtained campaign finance reports from Secretary of State's office; all data and numbers are available for download on my website over the last two elections, Kneeland received \$1,020 or 36% of his total campaign contributions from people associated with Creekside; Evers received \$1,750 or 44% of his total campaign contributions; for Ewald they're 63% or \$1,950 and for Mayor Stinchcomb in 2007 alone it was 40% or a haul of \$3,475; is it any wonder why these four people are so supportive of Creekside and Stonehenge; Evers in a July 9th e-mail to me stated he was offended by my suggestion that he or any other member of City Council would vote a particular way based upon someone's campaign contribution history as doing so is unethical and illegal; yes it is, and just like what happened in Chicago, and just like what happened in Cleveland last month for something similar, I have full confidence that the proper authorities, both state and federal, will thoroughly investigate; article from Cleveland Plain Dealer was reprinted in Dispatch about Cleveland City Council people doing the same thing; thank you.

Ewald stated he would like to ask a question of Guendert. Guendert stated his time was up. Ewald asked Guendert if he was prepared to answer questions on his statements. Guendert stated he was not required to do that. Ewald agreed he was not required; numbers provided this evening are false and fictitious; have my campaign finance report in my hand; what you didn't tell people is that 88% of my campaign finance from 2005 came from my pocket; didn't go to cracker jack university and get a doctorate degree but 88% and 63% are not the same; in 2007 I funded over 75% of my campaign finances; again 63% does not mix with 75%; if you intentionally excluded my contributions to my own campaign then I am offended you would come to this chamber and falsify information from public documents and make this account; do you want to answer that question - did you exclude my campaign contributions in order to make this look bad; was that intentional or just sloppy work; pretty heated and upset about this; all the time the people in this room - our wonderful staff - have to put up with you; don't come in and question my integrity, or these people's integrity, and use false numbers to prove your point; you have the right to come in and speak but you don't have a right to lie and mislead the public; what you are trying to do is discredit people who have done nothing wrong; we filed our campaign finance reports; you received support and campaign contributions from Mo Dioun in 2005 for school board; did you claim that on your finance; you didn't file one and you didn't have to disclose that; how do I know - I was there; were people in his office that were there and saw you get photo copies; next time you come into this chamber please bring with you more than lies and falsehoods; can't get to your website right now but can tell you it will say dirty Gahanna politicians; my campaign contributions are public record, yours are not; appreciate in the future that you wouldn't falsify information and bring it in here and try to discredit good people.

D. INTRODUCTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE:

Ordinances - To Be Introduced and Assigned to Committee:

Ordinances introduced, by title, by Evers.

ORD-0169-2008

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH CENTER CITY INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2009 7400 SFA 4 X 2 INTERNATIONAL CHASSIS EQUIPPED WITH GLEDHILL PLOW HITCH.

Introduced**ORD-0170-2008**

TO ACCEPT MONIES SEIZED AUGUST 9, 2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$995 AND AWARDED TO THE GAHANNA POLICE PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER; CASE #07CVH-11933; AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$340 TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND.

Introduced**ORD-0171-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE EASEMENT WITH AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER TO REPLACE ELECTRIC SERVICE UNDER OLDE RIDENOUR ROAD TO THE GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

Introduced**ORD-0172-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ADVANCED CIVIL DESIGN, INC., FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR LINCOLN CIRCLE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Introduced, to Finance Committee**ORD-0173-2008**

TO ALLOW ELIGIBLE CITY EMPLOYEES TO PURCHASE SERVICE CREDIT THROUGH OHIO POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUND ON A PRE-TAX BASIS, DEFERRING THE FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES ON THE PURCHASE AMOUNT.

Introduced**ORD-0174-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF GAHANNA TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SERVICE CREDIT TAX-DEFERRED BY PAYROLL DEDUCTION FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES IN THE OHIO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

Introduced**ORD-0176-2008**

TO AMEND CODE SECTION 135.02, SALE OF OBSOLETE ITEMS OF CHAPTER 135, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ENGINEERING, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA.

Introduced**ORD-0177-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ASSET AUCTIONS LLC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING OBSOLETE ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CODE SECTION 135.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA.

Introduced**ORD-0179-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH GOVDEALS, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING OBSOLETE ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CODE SECTION 135.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA.

Introduced**ORD-0180-2008**

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Recreation, Program Escrow

Introduced**ORD-0181-2008**

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Transfer to General Fund

Introduced, to Finance Committee

ORD-0182-2008

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SLAVIN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS FOR A SALARY ANALYSIS; TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$10,000; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Introduced, to Regular Agenda

ORD-0183-2008

TO AMEND CONTRACT WITH THE JEFFERSON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RECREATION COUNCIL; TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO SAID AMENDED CONTRACT; FOR PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE GAHANNA SWIM CLUB, 148 PARKLAND DRIVE, GAHANNA, OHIO 43230.

Introduced, to Finance Committee

ORD-0185-2008

TO ADOPT THE PORT COLUMBUS AREA GROWTH PARTNERSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Introduced

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

2008-0001

1) August 18, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

This Matter was Approved, on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinance: Introduce, Waive Second Reading, Adopt as Emergency:**ORD-0167-2008**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH W. E. STILSON CONSULTING GROUP FOR FINAL DESIGN ENGINEERING FOR THE WEST GAHANNA SEWER PHASE I; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

This Matter was Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0168-2008

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH W. E. STILSON CONSULTING GROUP FOR FINAL DESIGN ENGINEERING FOR THE WEST GAHANNA SEWER PHASE II; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

This Matter was Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0175-2008

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO TEST LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH ERGOMETRICS & APPLIED PERSONNEL RESEARCH, INC, FOR PURCHASE OF CIVIL SERVICE TESTING MATERIAL; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

This Matter was Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0178-2008

TO AMEND THE ADOPTED DEVELOPMENT FEE SCHEDULE AS REFERENCED IN CHAPTER 148, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; TO INCLUDE A NEW FEE ON THE ZONING FEE SCHEDULE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

This Matter was Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0184-2008

TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE OF OHIO; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

This Matter was Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinances on Second Reading:

ORD-0157-2008

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A STATEMENT INDICATING THE SERVICES THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, WILL PROVIDE TO THE 6.3+/- ACRE TERRITORY IN JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY, PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA UPON ANNEXATION; SAID PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3891 CLOTTS ROAD; REQUESTED BY BILLY G. AND VANIETA B. DECKER, OWNERS, BY THE CITY OF GAHANNA, AGENT; AND CITY BUFFER REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 709.023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORD-0159-2008

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Capacity Charges

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0161-2008

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH STATEWIDE EMERGENCY PRODUCTS FOR EQUIPPING AND UPFITTING THREE DODGE CHARGER POLICE VEHICLES; TO WAIVE THE BID PROCESS; AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$57,500.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0165-2008

TO EXTEND THE ONGOING ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES DIVISION, FOR THE GAAP CONVERSION; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORD-0166-2008

TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND TO PURSUE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION GRANT PROGRAM TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF COMBINED FLEET MAINTENANCE AND ASSET RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinance - To Amend by Substitution and Adopt as an Emergency:

ORD-0164-2008

TO ENACT CODE CHAPTER 1181, PERSONAL WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITIES, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

This Matter was Amended by Substitution, Adopted, As Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinance - To Amend by Substitution and Adopt:

ORD-0158-2008

TO ACCEPT THE ANNEXATION OF 10.3/- ACRES FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, LOCATED AT 6010 AND 6052 TAYLOR ROAD; REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF GAHANNA

This Matter was Amended by Substitution and Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Resolution:

MR-0042-2008

Motion Resolution to authorize the Director of Public Service to go out for bids for the upfitting of the new 2 1/2 ton dump truck.

This Matter was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Passed The Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Evers, 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 McGregor, Vice President of Council Evers, Kneeland, Ewald, Anderson, McAlister and Samuel

End of the Consent Agenda

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

G. STANDING COMMITTEES:

Development & Parks Committee - Ewald: No Report.

Public Service & Safety Committee - McAlister: No Report.

Committee of the Whole - Evers: No Report.

Finance - Kneeland: No Report.

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

Clerk - Legal:

Z-0012-2008

To consider a zoning application to rezone 10 acres located at 433, 451, 471, 499, 515, 525, 531 Hamilton Road; current zoning SF-2; requested zoning L-AR (Limited Overlay Multi-family); Stonehenge Land Company, by Terry Andrews, applicant.

Clerk noted this Public Hearing will be held September 15, 2008.

Scheduled for Public Hearing

2008-0045

Notice to Legislative Authority of a stock transfer of D5 and D6 liquor permits for Max & Ermas Restaurants, Inc., DBA Max & Ermas, 1317 N. Hamilton Road & Patio, Gahanna, OH 43230. Last day to file objections is September 12, 2008.

Received and Filed

Council:

Evers noted receipt of a document from PCIA on the wireless ordinance. Kneeland stated he had received a document from Chris Miller regarding a conversation he had with folks from PCIA today in reference to the fax we received; have copies for everyone.

I. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinances Reported Out of Committee:

ORD-0155-2008

TO ENACT CODE CHAPTER 1173, RESIDENTIAL PORTABLE TEMPORARY STORAGE UNITS AND CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECEPTACLES, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA

Evers stated this issue was discussed two weeks ago in public hearing and then again last week in committee; general will appears to be that this needs additional work; in order to keep the records clean need to vote this piece of legislation; if it fails will remand back to Planning Commission for further review.

Kneeland stated he does not feel it is the right purpose to add further burden to our residents who may be using these facilities to move within the city under normal moving circumstances.

Samuel stated he does not see this as a big issue at this moment; handle as complaints on a case by case basis rather than go with an ordinance at this time.

McGregor stated she agreed with Kneeland; am one of the people who had residents complain to them about these units being in residential area for many months; when it goes on for an extended time we get complaints; this legislation calls for a permit for every unit delivered and several of us didn't think that was appropriate; will need to figure out how to do without penalizing.

Anderson stated there was also a communication issue and how information would be disseminated and what options were available; other comments illustrate this is something we are not in agreement with; will be voting against.

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Evers, seconded by Kneeland, that this matter be Adopted. The motion failed by the following vote:

No **7** President of Council McGregor, Vice President of Council Evers, Kneeland, Ewald, Anderson, McAlister and Samuel

Yes **0**

ORD-0156-2008

TO AMEND THE ADOPTED DEVELOPMENT FEE SCHEDULE AS REFERENCED IN CHAPTER 148, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; TO INCLUDE A NEW FEE ON THE ZONING FEE SCHEDULE

Evers stated this is a companion ordinance for the one we just voted no on; this would create fees for the portable storage units; will be voting no.

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Evers, seconded by Kneeland, that this matter be Adopted. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes **0**

No **7** President of Council McGregor, Vice President of Council Evers, Kneeland, Ewald, Anderson, McAlister and Samuel

MR-0043-2008

Motion Resolution to remand to Planning Commission a request to further review and recommend to Council code to enact regulations for temporary storage units; originally recommended as Chapter 1173.

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Evers, seconded by Anderson, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes **7** President of Council McGregor, Vice President of Council Evers, Kneeland, Ewald, Anderson, McAlister and Samuel

ORD-0160-2008

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH GOLLINGS ARENA DODGE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE ADDITIONAL POLICE CRUISERS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFF THE STATE CONTRACT; AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$73,000.

McAlister stated he had asked this be put on regular agenda; virtually no difference in the principal behind this ordinance than the one we voted for \$37,500 for police equipment lie detectors, bullet proof vests and so on; will be voting no on this not because we don't need police equipment; but first of all extremely thankful that this police equipment, this money that was confiscated in a drug raid, not paying for these police cruisers with one of our officer's lives; is the pursuit of bounty that can be obtained through drug raids worth an officer's life just to buy some police cruisers; I think not; secondly is the bigger picture that this is all a part of and that is a complete and total failure of this country's drug policy; in March, 2001, the National Research Council which is part of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering; these are high powered study groups and advise the nation's ability to evaluate whether drug policies work and they found that after 20 years there is not enough reliable data to know if any program makes any difference or how drug markets operate nor how users begin to use drugs or how they decide to increase use nor what factors cause them to quit; the government hasn't the faintest idea whether incarceration acts as a deterrent or ignores the evidence that suggests some drug use is actually increased by imprisonment; this policy of taking money through drug raids; it is perfectly legal to do so and I'm not faulting the police in any way for doing their job; but it doesn't work; are we going to continually play along; how morally right is it for us to be taking money through drug raids to buy police cruisers when we as taxpayers are supposed to be paying for that type of thing; where did this money come from; what was the consequences of the people's lives who might have been destroyed through all of this activity; from a moral standpoint, from a policy questioning standpoint, I just don't think America should be doing this; it's going on all across the country; if possible, work some time in to one of our committees; is an organization out there called Law Enforcement Against Prohibition; these are former DEA agents, Chiefs of Police, former Border Patrol agents; people that have been on the very front line of the so called war on drugs which is really a war on our own citizens and they have decided that the word has to get out; there has to be more education about some of the facts that govern this insane drug war; voting no on this ordinance tonight simply because it is part of a total failed policy and I don't think it is something we should be embracing.

Evers stated he has discussed this with McAlister at length; we agree to disagree on this topic; personally can't support legalization of narcotics like heroin and cocaine; more importantly want to clarify that our police department doesn't go out seeking bounty by raiding drug houses or drug dealers; don't want that perception out there; our police department is protecting the citizens of this city; if there is a drug house or a drug dealer or any other individual breaking the law, they are fulfilling their duty and doing their job; we do an outstanding job of protecting our citizens; if there is a criminal element that is entering into our boundaries and violating the law, it is our police department's duty to respond; this happens to be the result of them doing their job not something they are seeking to capture; just wanted to clarify.

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Evers, seconded by Anderson, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes	6	President of Council McGregor, Vice President of Council Evers, Kneeland, Ewald, Anderson and Samuel
No	1	McAlister

J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES: None.

K. MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS: None.

L. REPRESENTATIVES:

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Ewald/Kneeland:

Next meeting is September 16.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - McGregor/Anderson:

Anderson stated there was no August meeting; next meeting is September 11 at 1:30 at Columbus Convention Center as part of the Summit on Sustainability sponsored by MORPC; encourage everyone to attend.

Bd./Ed., Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools - Anderson:

Anderson stated she attended the August meeting of Board of Education; very lengthy agenda; discussed the Safe Routes to Schools grant; shared with them the upcoming MORPC event and legislative update; school starts on 27th; Morris spoke about purchase of old Kroger site; being done as a public/private partnership; article in Dispatch today regarding that; update given on educational programs and services; human resources issues were also discussed; did go into executive session; Jeff Carson is leading up a committee on issues of sustainability on the public/private partnership on the old Kroger site; was Mark White's first meeting as Assistant Superintendent.

M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:**Mayor:**

Mayor stated she finds it disappointing that in a community like Gahanna where we value our diversity and it is one of the things we cherish in this community, wonder if the developer's name was Joe Smith if the comments would be the same; find it appalling that someone's ethnicity was brought in; questions on Creekside are fair game; questions on anything local government does is fair game; legitimate reasonable questions are always welcome; in an attempt to answer reasonable questions we will be holding a public meeting Tuesday, August 26th; will have developer here and all relative departments here; anyone who wants to ask questions is welcome to attend to get answers in a one-on-one type of open atmosphere.

City Attorney: Not present.

N. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Samuel stated he would like to congratulate the recipients of the Community Service Awards and to congratulate P&R as well on the Back to School activities.

Ewald also offered congratulations to Parks Department for their support of Creekside Festivals; Police, Fire and Service as well; probably said more than I should have earlier tonight; but if you have dealt with this issue for 3 years where you've continually been hounded by the same individual whether it's trying to file criminal charges against you and later recant by saying no I didn't think he really did that but it may have been political; other things have occurred; simply wanted to ask some questions but he refused to come up to the podium to answer them; could have simply stood there and answered some questions instead of coming in here with fictitious numbers and making statements that are totally inaccurate; have all filed campaign finance; filed them since 2003; they are public record and can't be changed; to misconstrue something on file in Franklin County is unfortunate; received an e-mail that a reasonable person could interpret that we should vet our vendors and contractors based on their contributions to political parties; first it is illegal and second it is wrong; you can't base city work on who somebody gives money to; have to look at what kind of job they can do for the city;

can't look at political affiliation; one of our Council members responded to that e-mail and that's how this whole firestorm got started; we asked people not to send political affiliated e-mail to our city address; we are a non-partisan city; asked people not to do that; to come in here and make a comparison to someone in another city that has nothing to do with Gahanna and the only common link is their heritage and to make inferences to that is wholly unfortunate; what kind of society do we live in if we look at someone's skin color, race or ethnicity whether or not we give them a contract; can't believe someone walked in the door and gave that comparison; am shocked; apologize for being passionate about this.

McAlister stated they had a wonderful trip on Blue Ridge Parkway a couple of weeks ago; was our 40th wedding anniversary; went from north to south; we rented a convertible; weather like this every single day; ended up in Gettysburg; never go when I'm not reminded of some real trying times our country went through; quite a place to visit; new visitors center; worth a day trip or two and see what they have done over there.

Anderson congratulated all those involved with Blues & Jazz Festival; attended 2 days; wonderful to see an opportunity where Gahanna has the drawing ability to draw from around the state; interested to know how many were from out of the Columbus area and out of Ohio; something that grows and continues to grow and has a wonderful response; on another note thank Service Department as many of my neighbors and ward constituents have mentioned how nice it is to have fire hydrants repainted; know they are appreciative.

Evers thanked Eylon and Jadwin for presenting on the Blues & Jazz Festival; offer my appreciation to you, the committee, Gahanna Events, all sponsors and volunteers who make that festival come off; hats off to you for an outstanding job; outdid yourself with ten; can't wait for 11; received overwhelming positive comments on it; want to acknowledge Parks & Recreation for their Service Awards last Friday; all of the outstanding achievements that parks staff and volunteers and everyone involved with that program; only other comment is we live in a society where we have freedoms and rights; don't have to like it but everyone is entitled to their free speech; just ask the residents of the former Soviet Republic of Georgia today what it feels like to not have those rights; what you witnessed tonight is democracy at its best or worst; it's your decision; all will say that if anyone is curious about the e-mail sent to me to which I responded back saying I was offended, I will read it to you: "My fellow Republicans: Some more information for you. Please look and see who donated \$10K to Governor Strickland in 2005 and 2006. (Clerk's Note: following links to websites provided) (<<http://www.ohiocitizen.org/moneypolitics/2006/preprimary.doc>> www.plunderbund.com/files/2005%20Campaign%20Finance.pdf <<http://www.plunderbund.com/files/2005%20Campaign%20Finance.pdf>> Now it appears that you're voting on providing city dollars to essentially subsidize a project, allowing the owner of the Stonehenge Company to make more profits, which he then turns into substantial major campaign contributions to help elect Dems to office. He's contributing lots of money to Governor Strickland, Ms. Kilroy's current campaign, and to the Ohio Democratic party. Stonehenge and Mr. Dioun is doing this same sort of public-private partnership deal throughout the Columbus suburbs: Gahanna, Dublin, Upper Arlington, Groveport, and at Northland." I stand by my reply; am offended by the mere suggestion that I or any of my peers up on this dais would vote based on campaign contributions; stand by my statement that not only is it unethical, it is illegal; I also have the right to free speech; with that thank you for sitting through this.

McGregor stated that Laurie Jadwin was a recipient of a Park Community Service Award for being a Friend to Recreation in the City of Gahanna; congratulations; great event and good to see so many people honored..

O. ADJOURNMENT: 8:27 p.m. - Motion by Kneeland.

Donna L. Jernigan, CMC
Senior Deputy Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2008.*

Nancy R. McGregor
President of Council