

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
DECEMBER 14, 2015

Call to Order

Mayor Steve Miller called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 PM at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Jones led in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Clerk Wilson called the roll of Council. Present members were Councilmember Adam Jones, Councilmember Marty Judd, Councilmember Debbie Pennington, Councilmember Terry Senger, Councilmember Chad Oberson, Councilmember Mike Snyder, and Councilmember Bill Woeste.

Agenda Modifications

No agenda modifications.

Executive Session Requests

No executive session requests.

Special Presentations and Citizen Comments

Oath of Office – Bryan Carnes and Reed Collier, Fairfield Police Department

Councilmember Jones administered the Oath of Office to Police Officers Bryan Carnes and Reed Collier and welcomed them to the city. Chief Dickey welcomed them to the department and indicated the importance of police officers taking the oath of office publicly in front of the community they will serve. PO Carnes and Collier each thanked their families for their support and the city for the opportunity to serve.

Chamber of Commerce Update

Kert Radel, President of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, announced that The Bird Shop is celebrating 12 years of business in the city and Jeff Pohlman Tire and Auto Service are celebrating 25 years of business as a company, with locations in the city and surrounding communities. He also thanked Councilmembers Judd and Senger for their great relationship and support of the Chamber and the city's businesses.

Mayor Miller presented Councilmembers Judd and Senger each with a plaque and a Key to the City in recognition of their years of service on council. He thanked them for their contributions to the city and for all of the hard work they put in over the many years they have served. Councilmembers Judd and Senger each thanked their families for their support and the city for allowing them the opportunity to serve on council. They each stated that they have enjoyed getting to know the employees and learning about how the city runs while representing the residents of their wards.

Public Hearing(s)

2016 Budget Hearing

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing at 7:20 PM. Clerk Wilson read the public hearing notice. Finance Director Mary Hopton provided a brief overview of the proposed 2016 budget, which was reviewed in detail during the Council-Manager Briefings on November 23 and December 7. The balanced budget contains revenues of approximately \$73.8 million and expenditures of approximately \$72.6 million. She stated that 65% of revenues come from two main sources, Income Tax of 1.5%, which is estimated to bring in \$26.5 million, and charges for services (water, sewer, solid waste, etc.), which will account for approximately \$19.2 million. She stated that 47% of expenditures are accounted for in two main categories, public safety (police and fire) at \$17.9 million and public utilities at \$16 million. The outstanding level of debt is low-moderate at \$21 million, with \$6 million retiring in the next 5 years and the remaining \$15 million retiring within 15 years. Of the \$21 million, \$10 million is buildings and general improvements, \$8 million for road improvements, \$2.5 million for sewer improvements and the remaining \$0.5 million for water and special assessments. The reserve threshold is 25% of the general fund, which equates to approximately \$7 million. Mayor Miller closed the public hearing at 7:25 PM.

Mayor/Council Reports

Councilmember Woeste thanked Development Services Director Bachman and his staff, as well as Chamber President Radel and his staff, for a great year in the business community of Fairfield.

Councilmember Snyder announced the fundraiser for Kyler Bradley that will be held at Skate America on Tuesday, December 15. The \$5 admission cost will be donated to the Bradley family. He also announced the One Way Farm fundraiser for gift cards, food, clothing and gas for transportation.

Councilmember Oberson thanked Councilmembers Judd and Senger for teaching him what he needs to know to be a good councilmember.

Councilmember Senger thanked his wife, Bambi, for her support of his service as Councilmember. He commended the Finance Department for their great work in maintaining the city finances through all of the difficult times.

Councilmember Pennington announced a holiday movie marathon at Lane Library on December 23 from 1-7 PM. She also thanked Councilmembers Judd and Senger for their dedication and service.

Councilmember Judd announced that the new water line on Pleasant Avenue is progressing on time and on budget.

Councilmember Jones announced that our police department has been on the forefront of the more stringent hiring practices proposed by the Ohio Attorney General's office. He also announced that Fire Lt Susanek and Taulbee have been accepted into a leadership program. The Fire department is also accepting donations for Toys for Tots at headquarters. He thanked Councilmembers Judd and Senger for their service.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2015

- The Regular Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2015 were approved as written

OLD BUSINESS

PARKS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Debbie Pennington, Chairman; Terry Senger, Vice Chairman, Marty Judd, Member

Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with The Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields, Inc. for the operation of the Field of Dreams recreation complex on Groh Lane and a related easement modification agreement with A. Peter Groh and declaring an emergency.

Legislative Action: The third reading of this ordinance was held for further review and information.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Terry Senger, Chairman; Debbie Pennington, Vice Chairman, Chad Oberson, Member

Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Mike Snyder moved to read the following four (4) ordinances by title only. Motion Carried 7-0.

An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2016, and ending December 31, 2016.

Background: City Manager Wendling recommended an ordinance to make estimated appropriations for 2016. This is the annual budget ordinance and was reviewed in Council-Manager Briefings on November 23 and December 7. Legislative Action: Councilmember Senger presented the first reading of this ordinance.

Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Debbie Pennington moved to suspend the rules requiring three (3) readings of this ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Marty Judd moved to adopt . Motion Carried 7-0.

Councilmember Jones commented that he does not support the use of city funds as grants for non-profit organizations. He stated that he has been trying for several years to put a stop to this practice, and yet it continues. He said that the services offered are not used by all residents, and yet all residents are paying for them by issuing city-funded grants. He also stated that while he does not agree with the grants, he will not vote no and hold up the city's work.

Councilmember Oberson agreed with Councilmember Jones' statements.

Councilmember Judd stated that he doesn't understand why city-funded grants are such an issue when he was the only dissenting vote for another bronze sculpture outside of the Community Arts Center. He said that not funding the grants sends the message that if you have the money to go see a show, we have a nice sculpture to look at on your way in, but if you are sitting at home hungry, we don't care to help provide meals on wheels.

Councilmember Senger stated that the budget is very large and is balanced, and those grants provide some extra services that add to the quality of how well the city is run.

Councilmember Snyder stated that the grants allow the city to offer more services that add to the quality of life, rather than just the normal functioning of the city, and that by issuing grants, the city receives these services at a much lower rate than if the city provided the services directly.

ORDINANCE NO. 107-15. APPROVED 7-0.

Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 108-15 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2016, and ending December 31, 2016."

Councilmember Woeste recused himself from the vote on this ordinance, because he is a board member of the Fairfield Food Pantry.

Background: City Manager Wendling recommended an additional grant of \$5,000 for the Fairfield Food Pantry. This appropriation was separated from the original budget so that Councilmember Woeste could recuse himself to avoid any possible conflict of interest. Legislative Action: Councilmember Senger presented the first reading of this ordinance.

Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Debbie Pennington moved to suspend the rules requiring three (3) readings of this ordinance. Motion Carried 6-0. Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Mike Snyder moved to adopt . Motion Carried 4-2. ORDINANCE NO. 108-15. APPROVED 4-2, Councilmembers Jones and Oberson dissenting. Councilmember Woeste recused.

Ordinance providing for the issuance of \$63,680 of bonds by the City of Fairfield, Ohio to pay part of the cost of sidewalk repair in the city and declaring an emergency.

Background: City Manager Wendling recommended an ordinance to provide for the issuance of sidewalk bonds. This is an annual procedure that is part of the sidewalk repair program. Legislative Action: Councilmember Senger presented the first reading of this ordinance.

Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Mike Snyder moved to suspend the rules requiring three (3) readings of this ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Debbie Pennington moved to adopt . Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 109-15. APPROVED 7-0.

Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 109-14 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2015, and ending December 31, 2015."

Background: City Manager Wendling recommended an ordinance to reconcile accounts. This will be the final reconciliation required to balance to year-end finances for the city. Legislative Action: Councilmember Senger presented the first reading of this ordinance.

Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Chad Oberson moved to suspend the rules requiring three (3) readings of this ordinance. Motion Carried 7-0. Councilmember Terry Senger, seconded by Councilmember Chad Oberson moved to adopt . Motion Carried 7-0. ORDINANCE NO. 110-15. APPROVED 7-0.

Meeting Schedule

Clerk Wilson read the following meeting schedule:

- Monday, December 28 Oath of Office Ceremony, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 11 Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 25 Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 p.m.; Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session of Council (if needed)

No executive session.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Mayor's Approval

Date Approved: _____