

FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 2, 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRESENT: Collette, Monday, Nichols, Schedel, J. Slough, M. Slough, Urbanski, VanDyne, Ward

ABSENT: none.

President Schuck moved to dispense with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

MINUTES: Mr. J Slough moved to accept the minutes, as circulated, of the January 19, 2010, Mr. Ward seconded the motion. Motion carried. Filed.

ADD-ONS: Mr. Ward moved to add the following items to the agenda. Mr. J Slough seconded the motion. Motion carried. Filed.

(place in REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS section after letter from Mayor Pete Sehnert – Insurance polices bid):

1. City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – January 2010.

(place after Item #1 above):

2. NEAT Departmental Activity Report – January 2010.

(place after Item #2 above):

3. Letter from Bruce Hardy – Federal Aviation Agency grant for replacement of the large front end loader at the airport.

(place after Item #3 above):

4. Letter from Bruce Hardy – Coca-Cola Enterprises for a beverage and scoreboard agreement.

(place after Item #4 above):

5. Letter from Bruce Hardy – contracted services for lawn maintenance for the cemetery.

REPLACEMENTS

none.

RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS

none.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

none.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Ginny Clymer, Findlay, Ohio – Regional Planning

Addressed City Council on her thoughts of what Regional Planning/Economic Development should be. She referenced when Mobile Oil came to Findlay to take over Marathon. She was given a check to start an Economic Development Department for the City of Findlay. John Kovac was hired and she felt he did a great job to which many large businesses began in Findlay (i.e. Tall Timbers). Citizens of Findlay took their shopping needs to Toledo. She also mentioned Doug Born did a wonderful job but was fired because he knew too much. Ms. Clymer referenced Wood County in that they are building and installing solar panels. Hardin County is building windmills as well as Wood County. Wyandot County is installing an entire field of solar panels. She questioned what Findlay is doing. Ms. Clymer mentioned how Main Street is becoming a skeleton. Ms. Clymer feels the City needs someone to stand up for Findlay and bring development. She mentioned the Chamber Board needs to stand up for the businesses they represent. She recommended they talk with the Mayor, County Commissioners and Trustees to keep Findlay going. Many solid businesses on downtown Main Street are now gone and she wonders who will be next and where will Findlay be in ten (10) years. She feels that if we do not keep Regional Planning, someone needs to be in charge to make sure Findlay is taken care of as other counties are. Findlay used to be the outstanding City in Hancock County, but now citizens are going elsewhere for what they want/need (i.e. shopping – we are limited on stores). Handicap accessibility to many local restaurants and stores are poor and that her husband is wheelchair bound and therefore they cannot get into many restaurants and businesses because there are no ramps or doors wide enough to take a wheelchair through. She questioned where the City Police are in patrolling our shopping mall. She has not seen any Officer at the mall parking lot checking handicap spots.

Discussion:

Mr. J Slough asked Ms. Clymer to clarify what she meant by taking care of us. Ms. Clymer responded that when Mr. Kovac was employed by the City, he was out every day doing something for economic development. She referenced how Regional Planning is handling grants and has for year in that they have helped citizens build houses, repair houses, Senior Center on Trenton Avenue, County Home, but we still need someone to assertive/proactive and not sit back. Ms. Clymer would like to see someone check into installing windmills. She mentioned Bowling Green has four (4) and they are going to install more. Ada is installing some. Wyandot County out of 199 is the industry there is installing solar panels that are being funded by a foreign country.

Mr. M Slough replied that he has been discussing windmills for the City for the last year or so and the City is leaning towards that to possibly help with the City's energy needs which include the City's Municipal Building. He emphasized that the City is not ignoring energy savings methods and he is trying to push the windmills, but with the City's financial situation, we are limited right now on what we can do. He agrees with what she is saying tonight and we are in competition with all eighty-eight (88) counties in Ohio and with all the Cities in the United States when it comes to economic development. Ms. Clymer replied that we need to take care of businesses that are already here (i.e. Cooper, Marathon, Whirlpool, Ball Metal, etc.) so they don't leave and what could happen within the next ten (10) years. We don't want to get to where we cannot survive.

Mr. Nichols thanked Ms. Clymer for coming and addressing Council.

PETITIONS:

none.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT:

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Bedrock Café Inc. to apply for a liquor permit. This requires a vote of Council. Mr. J Slough moved for a no rejections be filed. Seconded by Mr. Van Dyne. 7 Council members in favor, 2 opposed. Filed.

HRPC Director William Homka – Termination of HRPC Administration Agreement for Findlay Revolving Loan Fund; Downtown Façade Revolving Loan Fund

Administrator services for the Findlay Loan Fund; Downtown Façade Revolving Loan Fund will discontinue as of May 30, 2010. Services included applying for new Economic Development money from the Ohio Department of Economic Development, which provides capital for the RLF program. Filed.

HRPC Director William Homka – Termination of HRPC Administration Agreement for Hancock Revolving Loan Fund; County Office of Economic Development

Administrator services for the Hancock Revolving Loan Fund; County Office of Economic Development will discontinue as of May 30, 2010. Services included applying for new Economic Development money from the Ohio Department of Economic Development, which provides capital for the RLF program. Filed.

Service Director Bruce Hardy – Purchase of a polymer feeding unit

The Water Pollution Control Center would like to request a polymer feeding unit for their solids processing building for a cost of \$12,000. This is to replace the original equipment from the 1988 expansion.

FROM:	Sewer Fund – Restricted WPC	\$ 12,000.00	
TO:	WPCC – Other #25061000		\$ 12,000.00

Discussion:

Mr. Ward mentioned that since this from the restricted fund that funds have been taken out of, it will not need to be referred to the Appropriations Committee. Mr. Van Dyne seconded the motion. Referred to Law Director. Filed.

Traffic Commission minutes – January 19, 2010. Filed.

Mayor Pete Sehnert – Cooperative Fishing Agreement for Findlay Reservoir #1

The cooperative fishing agreement that the City of Findlay entered into with the State of Ohio, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife for the Findlay Reservoir #1 for the period of September 15, 1993 through September 15, 2008 has expired. A request for a renewal for a period of ten (10) years which would be effective from September 15, 2008 through September 15, 2018 Legislation is requested. Resolution 007-2010 was created. Filed.

City Auditor Robert Cole Sprague – HRPC Expenses/Staff Time for Revolving Loan Fund – November and December 2009
Legislation is requested to appropriate \$5,735.48 from the RLF Administration to General Expense #21010000-449400 to pay the November and December 2009 invoices. Referred to the Law Director.

FROM: City Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 5,735.48
TO: General Expense #21010000-449400	\$ 5,735.48

Ordinance 2010-011 was created. Filed.

Gregory R. Horne, Acting Chief of Police – Liquor Permit – Bedrock Café Incorporated, 2227 Tiffin Avenue, Findlay, Ohio 45840. A check of the records shows no criminal record for Michael Gotsis

This is in regards to a D5I liquor permit for the above establishment. Filed.

Director, Hancock County Office of Economic Development Aggie Dahar – CDBG Economic Development Program Application for Createc Corporation

The City of Findlay would like to apply to the State of Ohio's Department of Development for assistance through the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program which funds to Cities who in turn loan those monies out to companies who are in need of financial assistance. Monies are then paid back to the Revolving Loan Fund to be used for future projects. Monies are to assist Createc Corporation located in the Tall Timbers in Findlay Ohio to the necessary equipment to fulfill the obligations of recently received contracts. The City will be requesting a loan for an amount between \$160,000.00 and \$200,000.00 of which \$10,000.00 will be used for administrative purposes. The estimated total project cost is \$750,000.00 The funding of this project will be split between the SBA 504, State 166, private lending, and the City of Findlay RLF program. Resolution 009-2010 created. Filed.

Mayor Pete Sehnert – Insurance policies bid

The City's insurance policies will expire in July of this year. The City is desirous to re-bid these policies for the renewal period of July 2010-July 2013. Legislation to accept bids and sign the necessary contract(s) is requested. Ordinance 2010-012 was created. Filed.

City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – January 2010. Filed.

NEAT Departmental Activity Report – January 2010. Filed.

Service Director Bruce Hardy – Federal Aviation Agency grant

The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) has offered the City of Findlay the opportunity to apply for a grant to purchase a new 2010 front end loader for the Findlay Airport. The current large front end loader at the Airport is a 1978 model that is on its last legs. The proposed new front end loader is a new John Deere Model 624K with a list price of \$242,000. After this price is reduced by the FAA discount and the trade-in value of our existing loader, and the 95% FAA/5% City of Findlay split is applied, our actual price for this equipment will be \$6,993. We are requesting your approval to apply for this grant and sign the grant agreement. Referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Service Director Bruce Hardy – appropriation of funds from General fund to Capital Project

Last year, City Council passed Ordinance 2009-066 which authorized an amendment to the existing contract with Coca-Cola Enterprises for a beverage and scoreboard agreement that involves certain City facilities. This amendment was signed by both parties and went into effect August 4, 2009. Fulfilling part of the existing contract, Coca-Cola Enterprises did write a check to the City in the amount of \$15,000 for scoreboards. This money was put in the general fund. With all the baseball activity that will take place in Findlay during 2010, it is now time to appropriate that money out of the general fund into a capital project for scoreboards for baseball fields. Referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Service Director Bruce Hardy – contracted services for lawn maintenance for the cemetery.

Due to budget constraints, the City laid off most of its Cemetery Department employees. Therefore the City needs to contract out lawn maintenance for the cemetery. Request to advertise, bid, and enter into a contract for lawn maintenance services for the cemetery is requested.

Discussion:

Mr. Ward asked that if this goes out to bid, does it obligate the City to accept any of the bids if we do not like any of the bids we received. Mr. Hardy replied that we do not have to accept any of the bids, but it is the assumption that we most likely will. Mr. Ward then asked if anyone could provide a cost comparison of how much it has cost the City to call back our laid off employees vs. hiring contracted personnel so that we can compare the costs once the bids come in. Mr. Hardy replied that he does have the amounts and once the bids come in, he will compare the costs differences.

Referred to the Law Director. Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 to discuss purchasing additional ice area equipment (i.e. Zamboni, natural gas refueler for the Zamboni, glass boards) from the University of Findlay. 2009-2010 is the University's last ice season and they will be selling everything of value.

FROM:	CIT Capital Improvements	\$ 34,603.00	
TO:	CUBE – other #21036000		\$ 34,603.00

We recommend Council allocate and appropriate \$36,000 from Parks and Recreation CIT fund to line item 5513 of the CUBE appropriations for purchase of ice-related equipment from the University of Findlay upon a 3-year agreement with the University of Findlay. Mr. Ward moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Mr. J Slough.

Discussion:

Mr. M Slough asked if the University of Findlay accepted any of bids and if so, what did we purchase and for how much. Mr. Hardy replied that we got everything that we bid for. We purchased the boards for the skating rink, the Zamboni, the refueler for the Zamboni, approximately 155 pair of skates (135 were advertised, but another 20 pair were given to us for the same price). The University did receive higher bids for larger priced items, but did accept our bid. We did decline the ice chiller condenser unit and the scoreboard. Mr. Collette noted that we are grateful to the University for working with the City on the sale of the items we purchased. The items will be a benefit to The CUBE, not only for safety reasons.

Ordinance 2010-011 was created. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request for an alley vacation for the east-west alley south of Hobart Avenue running west from Chapel Drive to the dead end into Cascade Heights Subdivision.

We recommend the request for the alley vacation. Mr. J Slough moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Mr. Nichols. Ordinance 2010-010 was created. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request for an alley vacation for the north-south alley between McManness Avenue and Carnahan Avenue that is bordered on the north and south by Balsley Avenue and McConnell Street.

We recommend the denial of the alley vacation for the north-south alley between McManness Avenue and Carnahan Avenue. Mr. J Slough moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Mr. Nichols. Filed.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO TAKE BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AIRPORT LIABILITY, AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY, BOILER MACHINERY, CONTRACTOR'S EQUIPMENT, CRIME INSURANCE, POLICE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY, PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S ERRORS AND OMISSION LIABILITY, REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Collette moved to suspend the Statutory Rules and give the Ordinance the second and third reading. Mr. Urbanski seconded the motion. Ayes: M Slough, Urbanski, Van Dyne, Ward, Collette, Monday, Nichols, Schedel, J. Slough.

The Ordinance received the second and third reading. Mr. Collette moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. J Slough. Ayes: Ward, Collette, Monday, Schedel, Nichols, J. Sough, M. Slough, Urbanski, Van Dyne.

Discussion:

Mr. M Slough asked if there will be any changes in insurance costs. Mr. Hardy replied that costs did drop this year compared to last year. The reason for we want to bid this out is that there are a lot of local insurance agents wanting to bid on the City's insurance.

The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume TT, Page 2010-012, and is hereby made a part of the record.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Old Business

Mr. Schedel asked the Mayor to address how the City is going to take on economic development. Mayor Sehnert replied that in the three (3) years that he has been Mayor, he has heard a lot of talk and not too much action on the problems of having an Advisory Board and an Operating Board. The Health Board issues have been dealt with for the past two (2) years over the term "appoint" which is a roadblock in getting business done. While he understands individuals have different ideas on things, but this roadblock will end up stopping three (3) years of work just because of defining what appoint means to everyone. He is trying to get the entire City to agree on economic development, but doesn't know if it will ever happen. There are different factors not totaling working together, so he does not know how to solve the situation and get everyone to agree and work together. There have been meetings between both the Advisory Board and also the Operating Board where everything seems fine for awhile, and then they change. He is unsure if the character of the individuals on the Boards are the same as they were when the Boards worked together which is very discouraging. If we are not able to work together to get business done, we will end up in trouble because other communities are doing things to get things done. Hancock County is a great place that was able to pass three (3) tax levies during a recession because we care about our community. We need to get onboard to work together because he does not see it happening.

Mr. Van Dyne replied that when you have two (2) different departments (HRPC and GFI) working on economic development, it confuses your customer and clients – there is confusion on who or where they go for answers. By having GFI be the sole economic development department, the barrier of confusion is removed. The burden, activity, responsibility will be on GFI. He feels GFI needs to lead the economic development program. He is on the Economic Development Operating Board for GFI and knows there is a lot of work to do and a lot of cooperation that is necessary to accomplish results. Mr. Van Dyne agrees with the Mayor in that economic development is essential to the City's existence and that everyone needs to work together to accomplish growth in a short time. From the Revolving Loan Fund perspective where he is a representative on that Board, he feels Aggie Dahar has done an excellent job and he is afraid to lose her. She did an active job in marketing the Revolving Loan Fund which is what this is all about. Whomever is going to maintain the Revolving Loan Fun needs to be established so that it continues. It is the City's decision on who will head it.

Mr. Collette mentioned the Charter was continued past the election which he feels was a good move. In order to meet the 120 day requirement, it will need to be brought back as an Ordinance by first City Council meeting in July which would allow five (5) weeks to have petitions signed and put on the November 2, 2010 ballot as a special election. Because this is going on the ballot on an even year, there will be no additional costs to the City for the legal advertisement of the ballot. He will work with the Law Director this summer to bring the Ordinance before Council.

Mr. Barker mentioned that it was over a year ago since the radio project started. Many individuals were involved to try to secure \$1.5 million dollars for the project. The State of Ohio gave us some funds. He signed the last tentative agreement last week. The Police Dispatch Center has been updated and the Dispatchers have been receiving training on updated consoles and the radios are being programmed and were able to purchase additional radios for the Fire Department. The original cost for this project was \$1.4 million and now is only going to cost the City \$457,000 due to the hard work of everyone on the committee for this project. Sergeant Randy Digby was vital to the project. We were able to obtain over \$5000,000 in cash and product for giving them our old 800 megahertz frequencies to Sprint. They were replaced with a 700 megahertz frequency band. With the MARCS system, we were able to get the fees waived for five (5) years which equaled to \$300,000, and with grant funds from the State EMA, we were able to get this project accomplished. We should be able to start using the radios within the next thirty (30) days.

Mr. Sprague mentioned that the Auditor's Office has closed out their 2009 books and he wants to review the results of 2009 and where we stand for 2010 with the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Van Dyne asked if the Traffic Commission received the East Circle Drive parking lot issue. Mr. Barker replied that it should be addressed at the next Traffic Commission meeting.

Mr. Schedel thanked the Administration for their involvement in negotiating with the Ohio Department of Transportation on the intersection of Western Avenue and State Route 15. Many residents are not pleased with the direction it is going, but we were able to keep our safety forces access to get to the Springlake neighborhood. We also kept the opportunity for long-term changes to occur in that part of the community, and hopefully the end result will be similar to the set up of the intersection of State Route 37 and State Route 15.

New Business

Mr. Collette has had some citizen complaints on the left-hand turn signal when you are on Main Street headed north to turn left onto West Main Cross Street. That signal is not triggering many times to allow the left turn arrow. Mr. Barker replied that it will be looked at.

Mr. Ward: APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – 4:15 PM – FEBRUARY 9, 2010, THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

- Agenda: 1. FAA grant for Airport front end loader
2. Coca-Cola Enterprises agreement for beverages and scoreboard

Mr. J Slough: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – 5:00 PM – FEBRUARY 9, 2010 (immediately following the Appropriations Committee meeting), THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM. City Administration, Lu Draper, Russ Gardner, and Jim Rhodes are requested to attend.

- Agenda: 1. Swimming Pool with YMCA possibly operating it
2. Day Camp with YMCA possibly operating it

Mr. Barker mentioned that the Ohio Supreme Court is forcing security measures for the Municipal Court. Because it is difficult to secure the 2nd floor, we are looking at securing the entire Municipal Building. He will be working with the certified security analyst and some other individuals to see what can be done. They will be walking through building and gather ideas.

Mr. Barker mentioned that Fire Captain interviews were conducted today, and four (4) Captain promotions were obtained. It has been over a year that they've had vacancies go unfilled. Everyone interviewed well. There will be a promotion ceremony on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 8:30am in the Council Chambers for the four (4) individuals selected. A Town Hall meeting with Ohio State Senator Steve Buehrer will be immediately following the promotion ceremony on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 10am, also in the Council Chambers.

President Schuck adjourned Council at 8:16 PM.


CLERK OF COUNCIL


PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL