

**LOVELAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 11, 2009**

**Call to Order &
Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Weisgerber called the meeting of the Loveland City Council to order at 8:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Vice Mayor David Bednar, Paul Elliott, Joseph Schickel, Mark Fitzgerald, Todd Osborne, Mayor Robert Weisgerber, and Brenton Zuch.

**Recognition of Audience
Members**

Also Present: City Manager Thomas Carroll, Assistant City Manager Jeffrey Wright, Solicitor Frank A. Klaine, Clerk of Council Misty Cheshire; Assistant to the City Manager Amanda Stephany; Finance Director Bill Taphorn, Assistant Finance Director Harry Steger, Captain Huge Bomske, Craig Hurwitz with Portus Advisors, Inc., Police Specialist Ray Shockey, and former Clerk of Council Linda Cox.

**Persons Appearing
Before Council
Open Forum**

No one was scheduled to appear before Council.

No one signed up to speak during the open forum.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Zuch pointed out the following correction to the July 28th minutes: page 7, paragraph 6, the second sentence, should read "Mr. Zuch stated that a brother and sister from Indiana and a man in Butler County recently died from the swine flu."

Vice Mayor Bednar moved to approve the amended minutes of the July 28, 2009 City Council Meeting, seconded by Mr. Schickel. Roll Call: Elliott, Yes; Fitzgerald, Yes; Osborne, Yes; Schickel, Yes; Weisgerber, Yes; Zuch, Yes; Bednar, Yes. The motion unanimously carried.

**City Manager's Reports
& Memorandums
Memorandum 70
Utility Billing Process
Changes**

This memorandum described changes to the process the City follows for utility billing. The reasons behind this change are: the City has to comply with Red Flag rules, better utilization staff resources, improved cash flow, and enhancement of customer service to our residents.

Vice Mayor Bednar noted that the new billing format would allow the City to utilize the reverse side of the bill for City communications, eliminating the quarterly newsletter. He was concerned that residents would not get as much information as they do from the quarterly newsletter. He stated that he would prefer to see the quarterly newsletter remain intact even if it's downsized. Mr. Carroll stated that he shared the same concerns but the new format would reduce the City's expenditures and would allow information to be disbursed in a timelier fashion.

Mayor Weisgerber added that the new format would enable the City to target information to specific areas, i.e. by street or neighborhoods.

Vice Mayor Bednar asked the City Manager to explain the new shut-off procedures. Mr. Carroll stated that beginning in September the City will no longer send postcard bills, complying with the Red Flag Rules. For the remainder of 2009, residents will be billed bi-monthly. In January 2010, the City will begin a monthly billing cycle. Meters will still be read every other month. The first month would bill approximately ½ of the typical bill and the balance of the actual reading would be charged the second month. This billing process will allow the City to manage delinquent accounts in a timely and more efficient manner.

Memorandum 71
Lever Park Project
Schedule

This memorandum provided notification of the temporary closure of Lever Park between September 21st and November 30th for park construction.

Mr. Osborne recommended that signage be posted to inform the public of the park closure.

Discussion ensued about retaining or eliminating the fence separating Lever Park from Loveland Avenue. Mr. Carroll stated that it was the City's intent to keep the chain link fence and the pedestrian access in place. Mr. Osborne asked if short stakes with a cable running through it would be an acceptable solution. Mr. Carroll stated that the fence reduces the chance of balls, Frisbees, or children from straying into the roadway, making the chain link fencing a safer option. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that if the City decided to keep the fence, no more money be put into it, he suggested eliminating the coating on the chain link to reduce costs.

Memorandum 72
Pheasant Hills
Neighborhood Report

This report detailed follow-up items from the City's meeting with the Pheasant Hills Neighborhood on July 23rd. Staff is in the process of following up on these items. The next neighborhood meeting is set for August 20th at the Navaho Tot Lot in the Loveland Heights neighborhood.

Mr. Zuch stated that one suggestion he heard was switching to recycling containers on wheels. This would encourage recycling and would help the City reach the 20% mark to be eligible for grant funds that can be used to offset the cost of refuse rates. He suggested this be added to the follow-up list and included in the next bid for services.

Mr. Zuch asked staff to clarify the how long a contractor's sign can be displayed on a property. Mr. Wright noted that contractor signs must be removed upon the completion of work.

Mr. Osborne said there was discussion at several neighborhood meetings about open space that has been deeded to the City. He suggested the City consider ways to designate and make the public aware of these open spaces. Mr. Zuch stated this would be a great project for an Eagle Scout and encouraged scouts to contact the Tree and Environment Committee.

Mr. Carroll noted that Wil Fisher, Loveland High School's Chapter President of the National Honor Society, was interested in public service opportunities as well.

Memorandum 73
Councilmanic Worksheet
Updates

This report provided Council with an update on three issues on the Councilmanic Worksheet, including information on the Cincinnati Flower Show held in the unincorporated portion of Hamilton County, the disposition of City-Owned Property, and the feasibility of ICRC televising Loveland City School Board meetings.

Vice Mayor Bednar asked if the City had received information about the Flower Show's plans to ease the parking burden for Loveland residents next year. Mr. Carroll stated that he had not had the opportunity to communicate with Mr. Beckman and requested this item be continued on the Councilmanic Worksheet.

Mr. Zuch discussed the possibility of free busing and parking at Shoppers Haven or at one of the Schools for the 2010 Flower Show. The buses could bring patrons into Old Loveland. Mr. Osborne thought it was a great idea.

Memorandum 74
Wall Street Curb
Replacement

Mr. Osborne asked if the City had received a reaction from the Schools regarding the televising of board meetings. Mr. Carroll stated that he had not heard from the school and expected that Dr. Boys would be very busy getting ready for the new school year. He anticipated that he would hear from the School Board within the next few weeks.

This memorandum provided City Council resident feedback regarding Wall Street curb designs, additional stakeholder feedback, engineering estimates, and an approach on how to proceed with this project.

Mr. Osborne wanted to know if the City considered eliminating parking. Mr. Carroll noted that Option 2 would widen the street to the maximum width and eliminate parking.

Mr. Zuch commended staff for going the extra mile to engage Wall Street residents in this project, although there was no consensus. By leaving the street as-is with some improvements, he hoped that Council wasn't compromising convenience for safety.

Vice Mayor Bednar discussed the possibility of making Wall Street a one-way street. Mr. Carroll stated that a one-way street would not be a good solution for this roadway and would be an inconvenience to the residents.

Memorandum 75
Water Debt Reissuance
and Other Possible Debt
Issues

This memorandum provided City Council with information about the feasibility of refinancing existing water debt to save on interest costs, as well as possible additional debt needs the City might have that could be issued at the same time to achieve additional economy.

Mr. Osborne recommended that Nisbet Park improvements be separated from the general park improvements. Nisbet Park has 10 – 12 trees that are dead, which need to be removed and replaced; the electric system needs to be upgraded, the amphitheater needs to be renovated. He suggested this project be bid and bonded this year to have Nisbet Park ready for 2010.

Mr. Elliott asked if the Recreation Commission provided Council with a "wish list" and cost estimates. Mayor Weisgerber stated that the Recreation Master Plan was provided to Council approximately three years ago. Mr. Elliott asked for a fresh copy of the plan and associated costs. In preparation for the CIP meeting, Mayor Weisgerber suggested the Recreation Board provide a list of their needs and wants noting that everything can't happen at once.

Vice Mayor Bednar stated that the Recreation Board has a list of projects for the parks but at the same time the City didn't have the funds to address all the needed park improvements. He noted that the Recreation Board will meet prior to the next Council meeting and could create a wish list for Nisbet Park.

Mr. Carroll noted that the 2006 Parks Master Plan identified about \$1.4 million of park needs. Mrs. Klopfenstein is currently revising and updating the list which is now in the \$870,000 range. The new list will be presented to the Recreation Board in August. New items have been added such as parking lot maintenance.

Vice Mayor Bednar asked if the City could fund the parking lot maintenance with road rehab funds, providing more money for park improvements. Mr. Carroll replied that revenue for both programs come from income tax dollars. Therefore, it didn't matter if the parking lot maintenance was completed within the park improvement or road rehab fund and there was only a finite amount of dollars available.

Mr. Zuch stated that the City has \$1.4 million dollars of water debt in a favorable rate environment but the break is \$2 million, which is when it becomes favorable to put out bonds. The City could actually save money if it issues more than \$1.4 million. Council is trying to determine what other items can be refinanced or define other priorities the City has. Mr. Zuch stated that interest rates are likely to increase as the economy begins to bounce back. Mr. Zuch agreed that improvements were needed at Nisbet Park. He also thought the Loveland Madeira Streetscape Master Plan also needed to be reviewed.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the volunteers serving on the Recreation Board were doing a great job. He said there was more than a maintenance or capital issue before Council. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that throughout Council conversations staff members such as the City Engineer, Public Works Director, and the Administrative Assistant to the City Manager have all been mentioned; all of whom do a nice job and contribute toward the improvements and maintenance of the parks. He stated there was not one individual or department that "owns" park, facilities, and grounds. He thought this Council, or the next Council seated, needed to take a look at working with the City administration to determine if enough staff resources are being directed to parks and recreation to make sure the City is maximizing this asset.

Committee Reports

There were no comments on the committee reports submitted to Council.

Communications

Vice Mayor Bednar referenced the Mayors Court receipts for July which appeared to be down in comparison to the month of June. Mr. Carroll stated that Captain Bomske was working on a report for Council regarding this topic which would be presented in the near term.

Mr. Zuch expressed his condolences to Bobbie Books' family. He stated that Mrs. Books was a great person, librarian, and one of the most wonderful ladies he had ever met. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. She taught him the Dewey Decimal system and always supported the community.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted that Council received minutes from the Warren County Municipal League's meeting in their packets. He pointed out that at the Warren County League meeting in October two new flags will be unveiled at the County Administration Building on Justice Drive in Lebanon; one for the City of Monroe and one for the City of Loveland. He asked Council to pencil this date in on their calendars and encouraged them to attend.

Review of Councilmanic Worksheet

The next update on the Flower Show Summit will be on November 10, 2009.

The next report on the redevelopment/disposition of City owned property will be on October 13, 2009.

A report on televising School Board meetings will be provided at the September 8, 2009 Council meeting.

Old Business

Resolution 2009-53
Investment Advisory
Services

Mr. Fitzgerald moved to remove the resolution for investment advisory services from the table, seconded by Mr. Zuch. Roll Call: Fitzgerald, Yes; Osborne, Yes; Schickel, Yes; Weisgerber, Yes; Zuch, Yes; Bednar, Yes; Elliott, Yes. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Osborne introduced a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc. for investment advisor and treasury management services.

Mayor Weisgerber noted that a lengthy discussion on this topic occurred at the Finance Committee Meeting. Vice Mayor Bednar reported that the Finance Committee gave their blessing to pursue this method of investing. He noted that benchmarks were put in place by the Committee.

There being no further discussion a roll call vote was taken. Roll Call: Osborne, Yes; Schickel, Yes; Weisgerber, Yes; Zuch, Yes; Bednar, Yes; Elliott, Yes; Fitzgerald, Yes. Resolution 2009-53 was adopted by a vote of 7-0.

New Business
Executive Session

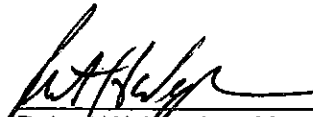
Mr. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn to Executive Session under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) and (G)(3) to discuss personnel and pending or imminent litigation, seconded by Mr. Osborne. Roll Call: Schickel, Yes; Weisgerber, Yes; Zuch, Yes; Bednar, Yes; Elliott, Yes; Fitzgerald, Yes; Osborne, Yes. The motion unanimously carried, Council adjourned to Executive Session at 9:06 p.m.

Reconvene

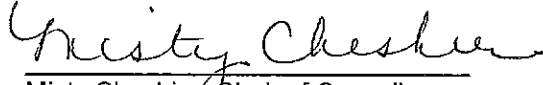
At 10:13 p.m., Mr. Osborne moved to reconvene in regular session, seconded by Mr. Elliott. Roll Call: Weisgerber, Yes; Zuch, Yes; Bednar, Yes; Elliott, Yes; Fitzgerald, Yes; Osborne, Yes; Schickel, Yes. The motion unanimously carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business. Mr. Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Roll Call: Zuch, Yes; Bednar, Yes; Elliott, Yes; Fitzgerald, Yes; Osborne, Yes; Schickel, Yes; Weisgerber, Yes. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0. Mayor Weisgerber declared the meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.



Robert Weisgerber, Mayor



Misty Cheshire, Clerk of Council

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