

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF LOVELAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

Mayor Weisgerber called the meeting of the Loveland City Council to order at 8:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Vice Mayor Bednar, Mr. Daly, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Osborne, Mayor Weisgerber

Also Present: Mr. Carroll, City Manager; Mr. Wright, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Klaine, Solicitor; Mrs. Cox, Clerk of Council; Mr. Taphorn, Director of Finance; Deputy Chief Sabransky, Police Specialist Shockey

Vice Mayor Bednar moved to excuse Mr. Schickel; seconded by Mr. Daly. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Mayor Weisgerber recognized two former Council Members, Mr. David Bair and Mr. Larry Hawk, who were in the audience this evening.

The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the January 22, 2008 Council minutes; so moved by Vice Mayor Bednar and seconded by Mr. Osborne. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. Mr. Daly moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2008 Special Council meeting; seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

Mr. Gary Stouder stated that he and Mr. Dennis Heitman, President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Loveland (FOE), are here this evening to present checks to the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department and the Loveland Police Department. He estimated that over the last five or six years the Eagles have contributed about \$200,000 to the community and tonight they would like to support the City's Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Heitman, on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, presented Deputy Chief Sabransky a check in the amount of \$2,500 for their Department's 60th anniversary badge and a check for the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department. Deputy Chief Sabransky expressed appreciation for the check and the FOE's support and presented a picture of the Department badge prototype. Mr. Stouder explained the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department check, also in the amount of \$2,500, will be utilized for a literacy program the Fire Department is coordinating with local schools. Mayor Weisgerber thanked Mr. Stouder and Mr. Heitman for the Eagle's contribution and their community involvement.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

Memorandum No. 13 explains a resolution on tonight's agenda authorizes the City to apply for grants to preserve open space and protect the City's well fields.

A project tracking table attached to Memorandum No. 14 is a supplement to Council's 2008 goals from which staff will provide quarterly updates to Council on the listed projects and strategies. Mr. Fitzgerald complimented Mr. Carroll, Mr. Wright and those involved in working on the tax credit program that was instrumental in retaining 30 plus jobs and has an expectation of adding more jobs in the future. He stated this growth oriented type of business that took advantage of this program is certainly what Council wants and the City is positioning itself to be well suited to compete in this market. Mr. Carroll credited Mr. Wright for his efforts with the retention of this company and explained the City devotes considerable resources to job retention and recruitment, including much staff time, with a goal of expanding the tax base and preserving options for Council and the community while giving employment opportunities for residents and visitors.

Mayor Weisgerber announced that the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will again this year be at City Hall to provide free tax assistance to elderly, handicapped, and low income individuals. AARP focuses on basic returns only and priority is given to those 60 years of age and older. AARP representatives will be at Loveland City Hall on Mondays only on February 11 and 25 and March 10 and 24. An appointment is necessary and can be made by calling City Hall. Information is also on the City web site.

Memorandum No. 16 outlines the process for the formal creation of a tax increment financing district (TIF) to finance the 2007 purchase of the Christman property for a future municipal park. As recommended in the memorandum, Mr. Daly moved that Council set a public hearing on this TIF district on May 13 at 8:30 p.m.; seconded by Vice Mayor Bednar. ROLL CALL: Osborne, yes; Weisgerber, yes; Bednar, yes; Daly, yes; Elliott, yes; Fitzgerald, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Daly requested an oral update on the Downtown Job Creation and Revitalization Project (Memorandum No. 17). Mr. Carroll explained that the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) purchased the Rolke property on January 31 with the assistance of Mr. Wright and Mr. Klaine's office. Debt for the payment of this property was priced today for a one year note at a rate of 1.89%; therefore, cost for this acquisition will be reasonable for the next year. Staff met today with five development firm teams that are expected to submit their qualification statements by the end of next week; further information on the request for qualifications is on the City's web page. Staff recommendation for a preferred developer should be submitted to Council in March. They anticipate anywhere from three to five proposals will be submitted since interest seems to be strong and several local business people who have the means and ability are interested. The City has overcome some typical obstacles by assembling options for parcels of land, implementing a TIF for the Downtown, and having soils tested for environmental and structural conditions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that as Council's representative to the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), he attended his first P&Z meeting last month where a general consensus at that meeting is that the Commission spends a good deal of time on zoning. While the City has a fairly decent comprehensive plan, it is getting dated and he believes it may behoove Council to understand that P&Z is willing and able to embark upon this project. He also spoke to Mr. Carroll regarding this and his feeling is there may be an appetite on Administration's side to look into working with P&Z and see what may need to be done, whether it requires tweaking or overhauling. Mr. Fitzgerald believes this is an exciting opportunity to have a group that understands that planning does lead zoning and many times it becomes comfortable to fall into the regulatory processes. If Administration agrees and there's no objection from Council, he believes Council should encourage P&Z to follow up on this. Mayor Weisgerber agreed and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Fitzgerald bringing this to Council.

COUNCILMANIC WORKSHEET

There were no reports due this evening. Mr. Osborne suggested that possibly Council or Administration review the parking situation in the Downtown while it's still the winter season and the issue is not pressing. He suggested the review include repair, expansion and promotion of parking at other sites besides just at City Hall, including near the bike trail, the canoe livery, etc. The Mayor questioned if a Downtown map could be posted on the City web site that highlights public parking. Mr. Carroll stated that is not currently available, but it can be completed. He felt two areas that are available for public parking that are generally under utilized are the Brown Building parking lot and the area at Loveland Canoe and Kayak. He and Mr. Wright have held discussions with other property owners regarding increasing the intensity of land use in the Downtown; not only will some of the parking supply be reduced as certain parcels are developed, but demand for parking spaces will be increased. As part of the Downtown redevelopment, staff recognizes the need to not only increase the ability to find existing parking, but to expand the parking and increase the supply through the broader economic development and job creation project. It may eventually lead to getting into the parking management business, whether it's meters and elimination of all-day parking or a variety of similar ideas. There currently are directional signs that lead to public parking in the Downtown, though they somewhat blend into the landscape, but those can be accentuated.

Mayor Weisgerber requested that the Citizens' Tax Review Panel's recommendations be completed and implemented (item 1) before April 15. Mr. Carroll stated he's reviewed the draft rules and regulations and they are currently under review by the Solicitor's office, with a goal of having the review completed by the end of February and to present them to the Tax Board of Review in March to allow them time to review them. Under the City's Code, these regulations will be adopted by the Tax Board of Review, not by Council. While the Board will have to be brought up to speed on what has transpired, Mrs. Bingaman, who is an accountant and is in her busiest time of the year, served on the Citizens' Tax Review Panel and is currently on the Tax Board of Review.

OLD BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

Mr. Osborne introduced for second reading AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$250,000 OF RENEWAL BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES BY THE CITY OF LOVELAND, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES. In response to Mr. Elliott, the Mayor explained the memorandum from their last meeting explained this is for the rollover for the Christman Farm note for the property intended to be the City's first Warren County park. Mr. Carroll noted it will be 30 days before the City can price the interest rate on this note. ROLL CALL: Weisgerber, yes; Bednar, yes; Daly, yes; Elliott, no; Fitzgerald, yes; Osborne, yes. Ordinance was approved and assigned the number 2008-12.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Osborne introduced A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR THE CITY OF LOVELAND FOR THE YEAR 2008. Mr. Elliott felt it should be noted for the public that Council's goals for 2008 will not include a goal of having a swimming pool or a community recreation center, which was dropped from Council's 2007 goals. Mr. Fitzgerald suggested reading the goals may be useful. Mr. Osborne read Section 1 in its entirety. ROLL CALL: Bednar, yes; Daly, yes; Elliott, yes; Fitzgerald, yes; Osborne, yes; Weisgerber, yes. Resolution was approved and assigned the number 2008-13.

Mr. Osborne introduced A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LOVELAND TO APPLY FOR NATUREWORKS AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING OPEN SPACE AND PROTECTING THE CITY'S WELL FIELDS. ROLL CALL: Daly, yes; Elliott, yes; Fitzgerald, yes; Osborne, yes; Weisgerber, yes; Bednar, yes. Resolution was approved and assigned the number 2008-14.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Carroll explained for the benefit of Council and the public that the City's utility bills that will be due on February 15 were delivered late to the customer. Staff will be working on extending those deadlines and working with customers who want or need additional time for payment of their bills. While the responsibility lies with the City, they will figure out what needs to be done to make it right for the customer. Concerns should be directed to him or Mr. Wright. Mr. Carroll also explained that the question he needs to review with Mr. Klaine is whether Administration has the ability to unilaterally extend the deadline. He doesn't believe he does have that authority under the City's Code so he may be bringing legislation back to Council. Since bills were mailed ten days late, it is his intention to extend the deadline for the customer by ten days as well, or until February 25.

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Weisgerber entertained a motion to go into executive session under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)1, Personnel; so moved by Mr. Elliott and seconded by Vice Mayor Bednar. ROLL CALL: Elliott, yes; Fitzgerald, yes; Osborne, yes; Weisgerber, yes; Bednar, yes; Daly, yes. Motion was approved and Council went into executive session at 8:37 p.m.

The Mayor entertained a motion to reconvene the regular session; so moved by Vice Mayor Bednar and seconded by Mr. Osborne. The motion was approved by unanimous consent and the meeting reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

Mayor Weisgerber reminded Council they were sent a memorandum on the Rockwood and Business Enhancement awards and asked that they submit their recommendations. He then entertained a motion to adjourn; so moved by Mr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Mr. Elliott. The motion was approved by unanimous consent and the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem

Clerk of Council