

CITY OF CANAL FULTON

December 4, 2004

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Linda Zahirsky called the December 4, 2004 Special City Council meeting to order at 8:00 AM in Council Chambers at City Hall.

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Present: Victor Colaianni, Nellie Cihon, Diane Downing, Linda Zahirsky, Bob Szanto

Absent: Mike Mouse

Mr. Colaianni made a motion to excuse Councilman Mike Mouse due to illness; seconded by Mrs. Zahirsky. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

OTHERS PRESENT

Marge Loretto, City Manager; Mike Rodino, Finance Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA MATTERS – None

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Maca Mold and Machine Company's came in requesting a tax abatement. This was submitted by Paul Addressi, who Linda Zahirsky and Mrs. Loretto met with a few weeks ago, as the Mayor had "a conflict of time." They sent the required notification to the Northwest School Board of Education. Mrs. Loretto requested Council to review same; she assumes they will go ahead with legislation; she wanted to know if Council wanted to proceed. The business will be on Elm Ridge.

Mrs. Loretto prepared a report called Estimated Revenue vs. Appropriations to ensure the 2005 appropriations do not exceed estimated revenue and the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan, which has the corrections that Council indicated they wanted, along with the account number showing where funding for each purchase or project is located.

FIRST READINGS

Resolution 21-04: A Resolution Adopting the City of Canal Fulton Natural Gas Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance Pursuant to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, and Declaring an Emergency.

Resolution 22-04: A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Apply Through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, for a Grant to Develop Discovery Park And Declaring An Emergency.

Mr. Colaianni made a motion to suspend the rules on Resolution 22-04; seconded by Mrs. Downing. **ROLL CALL: Yes**

Mrs. Cihon made a motion to pass Resolution 22-04 under suspension; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes**

Ordinance 32-04: An Ordinance Amending the Codified Ordinances of the Zoning Code of the City of Canal Fulton to Add Chapter 1150, Regarding Certificate of Occupancy, Declaring that a Certificate of Occupancy Shall be Required to be Obtained from the Office of the Zoning Inspector of the City of Canal Fulton Before Occupancy of Any Permitted or Conditionally Permitted Use in All Business and Industrial Districts Within the City.

Mr. Szanto made a motion to amend Ordinance 32-04 to include the emergency clause; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes**

Mrs. Downing made a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance 32-04; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **ROLL CALL: Yes**

Mr. Colaianni made a motion to pass Resolution 32-04 under suspension as amended; seconded by Mrs. Downing. **ROLL CALL: Yes**

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rodino made a comparison with various cities' water rates - converting all into gallons. Massillon and Green are paying \$5.59; Canal Fulton is paying \$2 (just water rates only). Mr. Szanto stated, "That's incredible." Mr. Rodino was asked to place his findings in Mr. Mouse's Council box. Canal Fulton's proposed increase is 20%, which equates to \$0.40 per thousand gallons. Mr. Szanto stated, "It's difficult for people to comprehend that we're not talking about the 20% of the \$40, or \$50, or \$60, or \$70 bill that they get a month; that's the hard part that they don't

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understand.” It was stated that the City doesn’t get flack with sewer because it goes up so incrementally small that they can absorb it more easily. Mrs. Zahirsky said it was years since the City has had a water rate increase. Mr. Colaianni said that when and if this happens to make sure Mr. Rodino keeps the comparison chart to give to the media.

Budget Discussions – Fiscal Year 2005

Mrs. Loretto brought up Estimated Carry-over to show Council that everything would be in balance, as it pertains to what Mr. Rodino presented. She stated the Police Chief was not happy about losing their van, and he wanted to know if Council would reconsider and allow him to buy a new vehicle (van or car). There was a discussion about pros and cons about buying a new vehicle. Mr. Szanto stated the people of this community voted to spend an additional \$100,000 - \$110,000 on the Police Department, and “I think we had better show an increase in their budget of about \$50,000.” Mr. Colaianni said the way the campaign literature read was for part-time officers and managing criminal investigations. He went onto to note that Council should “note on here what’s coming from these levies.” Secondly, Mrs. Loretto had Mr. Rodino bump up 391 General Capital Projects because at this point in time, the City will have \$300,000 for land acquisition and she wanted Mr. Rodino to do a blanket purchase order for \$300,000 with no name on it, so the funds cannot be spent in any other way. For example, if January 30, 2005 the City would want to buy something for \$100,000. Mr. Rodino would just adjust the purchase order down to \$200,000 and the City could go ahead with the purchase.

Mrs. Zahirsky asked if the City didn’t also set up funds for fire equipment, setting aside money for each year in a “special reserve” fund. Mrs. Loretto said Pat Pentello may “in her mind have known that that’s what that balance was for, but because it wasn’t designated (and the last two Finance Directors would not have known), the City probably spent that money elsewhere. That’s exactly why Mrs. Loretto would want it encumbered. Mr. Szanto said that when the City went from a half percent to three-quarter percent on the income tax rate, the City used a portion of the additional quarter percent, and Ms. Pentello basically kept a ledger saying, “Ok, the half percent and the quarter percent were delineated and the quarter percent was to be used as Capital Expenditures.” But, when the 100% tax credit came through for that year and then the income tax rate increased and then the City lowered the tax credit, all of that “went out the window,” Bob Szanto stated. That was a “special reserve fund.” Mrs. Loretto said the City can set aside the \$25,000 requested by Council this year (for things like fire trucks, etc.), and she was asked to do so - defining it as Capital Improvements or Vehicles with no specific vendor. Mr. Colaianni said that if a grant is applied for same, that would probably give the City a better chance of getting a grant.

There continued to be a lengthy discussion about the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2005. The ordinance will be given to Council for approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

CITIZENS COMMENTS (Open Discussion, Five-Minute Rule)

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Zahirsky adjourned the December 4, 2004 Special City Council meeting.

Patricia A. Schauwecker, Clerk of Council

Linda Zahirsky, Council President