

CITY OF CANAL FULTON

February 20, 2007

COUNCIL MEETING

Linda Zahirsky, President Pro Tempore called the February 20, 2007 City Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Diane Downing, James Deans, Victor Colaianni and Linda Zahirsky. Tony Crookston arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Absent: John Grogan and Nellie Cihon.

Others Present: Dale Kincaid, Law Director; Mark Cozy, City Manager; Daniel Mayberry, Service Director; Tammy Marthey, Clerk of Council; Scott Svab, Finance Director; Ed Harbaugh, Police Officer; Ray Green, Fire Chief; Amy Knapp, Independent; Joan Porter, Repository; Laura Jean Meade, The Canal Fulton Signal; Chell Rossi, Paul Bagocius and Mike Mouse, Residents.

CORRECTING/ADOPTING THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Colaianni moved to approve the February 5, 2007 City Council meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Deans. ROLL: Yes, ALL.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. Colaianni reported that the Finance Committee had a work session on February 17, 2007 to discuss the 2007 budget. Recommendations were made with regards to what action they can or should take. They have legislation for tonight's meeting for a ballot initiative in May for an increase to the income tax. Mr. Colaianni stated there was discussion on economic things that need to taken care of in house. Mr. Colaianni stated there would be more discussion on some of these things when Mr. Cozy gives his report. He is aware that it is a hot button issue regarding the consideration of a ballot initiative for an income tax; specifically when there are two school levies. However, he feels a majority of this council is of the opinion that if they wait on school levies to pass they would probably be a while and they have a responsibility to the citizens, to the safety and to the economic viability of the community to do what they can to take care of the revenue issue that they are currently undertaking.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS – AGENDA MATTERS - None

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

SENIOR CITIZENS (Nellie Cihon) – Not Present

COMMUNITY SERVICE (Phil Kaster) – No Report Submitted

FIRE CHIEF (Chief Ray Green) Chief Green reported that there was a meeting last Tuesday with the architect firm for the new fire station. He reported that twenty contractors have picked up specification books.

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Chief Green reported that during the two days of heavy snowfall, the fire department had additional staffing to cut down on travel time to the station if a call came in. He reported there were only two incidents.

POLICE CHIEF: The Police Chief was on vacation. Officer Harbaugh distributed the monthly report.

ENGINEER (Bill Dorman) Mr. Dorman was not present. Mr. Daniel Mayberry reported that the Utilities Department has been working on development of an Ohio EPA groundwater strategy. It is currently in draft form.

FINANCE DIRECTOR (Scott Svab) Mr. Svab stated there would be an ordinance tonight for the final appropriations for 2007. He would like to have this passed tonight. He stated the total on the last page is \$7,501,000 which would project a \$100,000 carryover.

Mr. Svab stated he has been in discussion with Mr. Cozy regarding passage of a resolution for the income tax. There were different scenarios looked at as far as rolling back the fire, police or both levies. Mr. Colaianni asked if Mr. Svab was able to meet with the department heads regarding the revisions on the budget? Mr. Svab stated yes and there were no issues that Council needed to be aware of.

CITY MANAGER (Mark Cozy) Mr. Cozy stated the Canal Fulton Canalway Center has received an honorable mention from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Annual Awards of Excellence, (Category 4-Park Area Development Award on buildings \$5,000,001 and higher) for the November 1, 2006-October 31, 2006 period.

Mr. Cozy stated the Heritage Society operates the canal boat and the city is going to begin programming the canal boat out of the Canalway Center. The Heritage Society will continue to do the operations, staffing and manning of the boat and the Canalway Center will do the scheduling and lining up programs for the boat. The Canalway Center Director has been working closely with the schools and establishing a curriculum along with the canal boat tours and they are going to earn an accreditation through Stark County Schools. Students will be able to earn credit.

Mr. Cozy stated he met with representatives from Lawrence Township and discussed the health and wellness center. They also met with representatives from Mercy Medical Center. The conversations were positive. They will be meeting again with officials from the Y. There is talk of a first responder medical facility along Rt. 21. Mercy is interested in a collaboration with the YMCA to possibly bring an outdoor water park to our community.

Mr. Cozy reminded all of the work session for Wednesday with the trustees regarding a joint economic development district.

Mr. Cozy stated he has a spreadsheet which was distributed to the finance committee. He laid out the Fire, EMS, Police and Street budget needs and what the current operation needs are. He gave an overview of the funds needed to sustain current fire staffing and what would be needed to provide 24 hours service. Mr. Cozy stated the Police Department needs an additional fulltime and two part-time officers. He stated the Street Department has not replaced the superintendent yet and feels it needs done as quickly as possible. He stated as the operating budget stands now, they can replace this position. They also need

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to put money aside to replace trucks and for a paving program. He is estimating \$210,000 per year for a paving program. He stated Locust Street and Canal Street are going to need done quickly.

Mr. Cozy stated the total of the current budget along with the needs is \$535,000. This is more than the proposed levy issue. They are trying to get a handle on the revenue issue. The number they have been working with is \$120,000 per tenth of a percent. If they go 4 tenth of a percent, that would generate \$480,000. He intends to make up the difference through economic development through job creation. He stated the City should step up to the plate and do things to make up the difference. He stated they are also looking to take off 1 mill property tax fire levy. He feels they should consider taking off both property tax issues. He stated they need to step up to the plate and swing the bat and take both the 1 mill levies off and then go for the .4 and do their job and make things happen in the city.

Mrs. Zahirsky stated if they are unable to pass a levy and they have to cut the fire department back to the 12-hour day, it is going to impact the homeowners insurance because they are rated at a level 6. They all got a break when they went they went from a level 7 to a level 6 because of coverage. Mrs. Zahirsky stated she felt they should take one levy at a time because you can always do one at a later time. She stated she would hate to encumber a future council with such uncertainty at this point and time especially since they still have Puffenberger property on their credit cards. They have not paid any toward the principal and they have been equating that toward charging on a credit card and only paying the interest on it and never paying the principal on it. She said so every time someone asks Mr. Svab how they are going for something, she feels they should be drawing out our credit card and saying can we afford to keep Puffenberger on our credit cards. She feels they need to look at paying that debt off.

Mr. Cozy stated a strong recommendation would be if this issue doesn't pass, they need to revamp the entire budget and make a payment on that and make some serious cuts.

Mrs. Zahirsky stated to let the record reflect that Mr. Crookston arrived at the meeting at 7:15 PM.

MAYOR (John Grogan) – Not Present

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD (Fred Fleming) – Not Present

LAW DIRECTOR (Dale Kincaid) Mr. Kincaid stated after the second reading of Resolution 06-07, there is a second reading scheduled for Resolution 05-07. He stated it is consensus that Resolution 05-07 will not be passed. He stated this would need to get to the Board of Elections by Thursday, February 22, 2007.

THIRD READINGS - None

SECOND READINGS

Ordinance 01-07: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 143.01(C), The Codified Ordinances, Entitled "FEES".

Stands as Second Reading

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Resolution 05-07: A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of the City of Canal Fulton to Amend City Code Section 181.03 by Amending Sub-Section (j) Levying a Surcharge of Four-Tenths of One Percent (0.4%) on Taxable Income as Defined in that Section for the Purpose of Providing Funds for Fire & Rescue Operations; Instructing the Stark County Board of Elections to Conduct an Election on Said Proposal on May 8, 2007; and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. Crookston moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Deans. **ROLL: Mrs. Downing, Mr. Deans, Mrs. Zahirsky and Mr. Crookston, YES. Mr. Colaianni.** Mr. Crookston moved for passage under suspension, seconded by Mr. Deans. **ROLL: Mr. Dean, YES. Mrs. Downing, Mr. Colaianni, Mrs. Zahirsky and Mr. Crookston, NO.**

FIRST READINGS

Resolution 06-07: A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of the City of Canal Fulton to Amend City Code Section 181.03 by Amending Subsection (j) Levying a Surcharge of Four-Tenths of One Percent (0.4%) on Taxable Income as Defined in that Section for Deposit to the General Fund for 24-Hour Fire & EMS Staffing; One Additional and Two Part-Time Police Officers; the Asphalt Paving Program for City Streets; the Establishment of a Replacement Schedule for Fire & EMS Trucks, Police Cruisers, and Snow Plow & Road Maintenance Trucks; Establish a Managed Reserve Fund; Elimination of the 1 Mill Property Levy for Fire and EMS; and Other Purposes to Be Effective January 1, 2008; and Instructing the Stark County Board of Elections to Conduct an Election on Said Proposal on May 8, 2007; and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. Crookston moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.** Mr. Colaianni moved for passage under suspension, seconded by Mr. Crookston. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

PURCHASE ORDERS & BILLS

P.O. 4794 to Ohio Municipal Joint Self Insurance in the amount of \$51,956.00 for liability insurance. Mr. Crookston moved to approve P.O. 4794 in the amount of \$51,956.00, seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

P.O. 4795 to Cargill Deicing Technology in the amount of \$5,164.50 for road sale for ice and snow removal. Mr. Colaianni moved to approve P.O. 4795 in the amount of \$5,164.50, seconded by Mr. Deans. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

P.O. 4799 to Dollar Leasing in the amount of \$13,398.00 for fire squad payment. Mr. Crookston moved to approve P.O. 4799 in the amount of \$13,398.00, seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

P.O. 4800 to Hysong Paving in the amount of \$69,589.72 for Discovery Park, Pay Application #1. Mr. Colaianni moved to approve P.O. 4800 in the amount of \$69,589.72, seconded by Mr. Crookston. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

BILLS: \$143,227.92 Mr. Crookston made a motion of receipt of the bills in the amount of \$143,227.92, seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL: Yes, ALL.**

OLD/NEW/OTHER BUSINESS – None

REPORT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE (Linda Zahirsky) - None

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REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS-Open Discussion (Five-Minute Rule)

Chell Rossi, 415 High Street: Ms. Rossi complimented the Street Department on the fantastic job they did during the bad weather.

Michael Mouse, 406 Riverview Street: Mr. Mouse stated the price for the salt has decreased. He asked to have included in the last minutes to include that council didn't respond to his question.

Mr. Mouse stated he read in the paper that the campaign season has started early this year. He stated Mr. Colaianni stood up at the school board meeting and told him that he was going to introduce a resolution offering to cut the School's rates. He felt it would be a hard sell in respect that the city water rates would increase. He would appreciate if he would talk with his council colleagues before he steps out. Mr. Colaianni asked who told him he was running. Mr. Mouse stated it was his take on it. Mr. Colaianni told Mr. Mouse it was his opinion and he was entitled to it but he has not committed to that and nor should he assume that he did. Mr. Colaianni stated the key word was "introduce legislation" which they didn't print in the paper and all six would have an opportunity to vote on it and to make sure that he is correct in his wording.

Mr. Mouse thanked Mr. Cozy for his comments on the budget. He stated the school is in a hard place right now and if there is an income tax levy out there people are going to have to make a decision on which they are going to support.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Zahirsky adjourned the February 20, 2007 City Council meeting. The next regular scheduled meeting is March 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Tammy Marthey, Clerk of Council

Linda Zahirsky, President Pro Tempore