

CITY OF CANAL FULTON

May 17, 2005

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor John Grogan called the May 17, 2005 City Council meeting to order at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALLING OF THE ROLL

Present: Mike Mouse, Diane Downing, Victor Colaianni, Nellie Cihon, and Bob Szanto

Mr. Szanto made a motion to excuse Mrs. Zahirsky as she is out of town on business; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

OTHERS PRESENT

Patti Troccoli, Clerk of Council; Marge Loretto, City Manager; Mike Rodino, Finance Director; Interim Chief Charles Kassinger, Police Department; Scot Svab, Community Service Coordinator; Ken Roberts, Warehouse on the Canal; Kenneth Burger, Wayne Manufacturing Co., L.C.; Sandra Burke, Rick Meadows, Nancy Shuter, and Chell Rossi, Residents

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – KENNETH BURGER

Mr. Burger (Wayne Manufacturing Co., L.C.) did a presentation on downtown Christmas decorations/prices with a question/answer session following. He offered a 30% discount if ordered by June's end; this issue was referred to HPC.

CORRECTING & ADOPTING THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Mrs. Cihon made a motion to approve the May 4, 2005 City Council meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA MATTERS – None

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Senior Citizens – No Report

Fire Chief – No Report

Police Chief – No Report

Engineer - – No Report

Finance Director

Mr. Rodino stated he was resigning his position effective May 27, 2005.

Mr. Rodino made a recommendation that Council appoints Scot Svab as the Interim Finance Director. Mr. Rodino said Mr. Svab can continue with the currently set up investments and/or go with Star Ohio or a CD. He said if Mr. Svab were to stay, he would have to attend six hours of continuing education to continue investing for the city.

Community Service Coordinator

Mr. Svab distributed and reviewed the Community Service Report.

Mayor

Mayor Grogan advised the list for the Chief of Police position has been narrowed down to 10.

City Manager

American Traditions has a first reading tonight to consider tax abatement.

The Visitor's Center is on time with construction.

The city had repairs being made to the old fire station, due to a large leak between the tap-in and the building. The Utility Department fixed same.

Dennis Lambes from Northwest Local Schools requested the city waive the tap-in fees due to the unusual situation of them paying for the line. Mr. Szanto made a motion that Council waives the tap-in fees for the Northwest Local Schools on the waterline; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

The City received from Dr. Cox (Akron U.) the first questionnaires for auditing the exempt

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positions. The questionnaires are to be completed by June 1, 2005.

Mrs. Loretto said she felt there should be consideration for a Charter amendment to not require the clerical people to be in Civil Service due to the exorbitant cost.

Parks – No Report

Law Director

Mr. Kincaid said he could not attend the seminar on Public Records and Open Meetings in Ohio June 7, but Sue Mayberry will. It was suggested Clerk of Council attend same due to the fact she constantly works with public records/open meetings.

FIRST READINGS

Resolution 09-05: A Resolution Supporting the Requested Street Name Change to Honor Sergeant Michael Christopher Barkey, and Declaring an Emergency. (Requested by Mr. Szanto) Mr. Szanto made a motion to suspend the rules on Resolution 09-05; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL** Mr. Szanto made a motion to pass Resolution 09-05 under suspension; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

Ordinance 14-05: An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement with American Traditions Basket Company for the Purpose of Tax Abatement in the Enterprise Zone, and Declaring an Emergency. (Requested by the City Manager) **Discussion:** Mr. Szanto asked Mr. Rodino how much tax the city is giving away/what the city expects to get back in return. Mr. Colaianni asked if they would be open to less than 75%, as not only schools but libraries, mental health organizations, parks, etc., suffers due to tax abatements also.

Ordinance 15-05: An Ordinance Increasing the Tax Credit for Income Earned in Another Municipality or Joint Economic Development District from 50% to 75% (Requested by Council President Mike Mouse). Mr. Mouse made a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance 15-05; seconded by Mrs. Downing. **ROLL CALL: Yes - 3 No – 2 (MOTION FAILS)** Mr. Mouse made a motion to amend Ordinance 15-05 to make it retroactive to January 1, 2005; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **Discussion:** Karen Hiltbrand will attend the next Council meeting to review the impact of this issue on city services, providing figures on same. Mayor Grogan asked that she would forward the information to Council ahead of the meeting. Mr. Szanto said he would not vote for this as the budget for the year has already been appropriated, and he can't support a move in this direction until he sees the numbers, not knowing what it will do to the community. Mr. Mouse stated, "There is not enough government entities that are looking for ways to keep the tax burden off their citizens as much as possible. The economy's changed; I think it's incumbent upon us as elected officials to act in as fiscally prudent manner as possible." **ROLL CALL: Yes – 3 No – 2 (MOTION FAILS)**

SECOND READINGS

Ordinance 13-05: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1175 Relating to Signs in the Historic District. **Discussion:** Mr. Kincaid asked Ms. Troccoli about having the public hearing at 8:00 PM on June 7; she said it was scheduled and an ad for same was put in the paper. Mr. Szanto suggested tabling this ordinance, as he doesn't agree with the language and thinks it needs to go back to Planning, and the city should come up with something that will better suit the businesses downtown. Mr. Szanto made a motion that Council tables Ordinance 13-05 until such time as Council members has an opportunity to work with the Planning Commission to see if there is something better; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **Discussion:** Mr. Colaianni apologized about his previous comments about this ordinance, commenting on having the entire Zoning Code being rewritten, costs/possible grants being attained for same. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

Mr. Kincaid said because of the ad in the paper, some people still might show up for the meeting and the Mayor, as a courtesy, should probably hear them.

THIRD READINGS - None

PURCHASE ORDERS & BILLS

No Purchase Orders

BILLS: \$146,922.58 Mrs. Cihon made a motion that Council receives the bills in the amount of \$146,922.58; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

NEW BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

There was a lengthy discussion about the procedure involving non-sewered, outside water

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meters being in active status from June 1 to October 1. Mr. Kincaid stated that Public Utility Policy does not have to come in ordinance form; the City Manager can issue regulations, but Council can override those regulations by ordinance.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

CITIZENS COMMENTS (Open Discussion, Five-Minute Rule)

Sandra Burke, 13755 Warwick Dr., Canal Fulton, wanted to know if Council had voted on annexing her property into the city, so she can get city water (part of her lot is in the City/part is in the Township). Ms. Burke was told she had to get a survey which will cost \$1,400 to \$1,500. Mrs. Loretto asked Fred Etheridge to research same, and Mr. Szanto will call the County Commissioners about the issue.

Rick Meadows/Nancy Shuter, 255 High St., NE, Canal Fulton invited everyone to their open house/house warming at the Old Salem Reform Church on May 22, 2005 from Noon to 6 PM.

REPORT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT – No Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES – No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Mayor requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Chief of Police hiring process. Mr. Szanto made a motion to adjourn the regular portion of the meeting temporarily to convene in Executive Session. Purpose of the Executive Session will be to discuss matters of personnel hiring and compensation, and legislative action may be taken as a result of that Executive Session; at the Executive Session, it is requested that Council members, the Mayor, City Manager, Finance Director, and Law Director be present (Mr. Svab was requested to remain in the building during this time.); seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Szanto made a motion that Council reconvenes the regular portion of the meeting. In Executive Session, Council discussed matters of Personnel hiring and compensation; action will be taken as a result of the discussions in Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

The Mayor stated Mr. Rodino made a recommendation that Scot Svab be placed as Acting Finance Director, which was accepted; his rate of pay will be \$15 per hour (which will be passed by ordinance at the next Council meeting).

Mayor Grogan said the names of the Police Chief applicants were read to Council and interview dates have been set up. The top 10 Police Chief applicants are: Scott Bauschka, Chuck Kassinger, James Anderson, Kevin Roher, Larry Limbert, David Willoughby, Paul Bianchi, David Frisone, Chris Selzer, and George Reuscher. Mr. Szanto made a motion that Council hold a special meeting May 24, 2005 at 5:00 PM, and the meeting will a regular Council meeting and they will adjourn into Executive Session to interview candidates for the Police Chief and any other business that Council necessary; Mr. Szanto amended his motion and moved to have meetings May 24, May 26 and May 31, 2005; the May 24 and 26 will be at 5:00 PM; the meeting on May 31 will be a 6:00 PM; these will be regular Council meetings; Council will adjourn into Executive Session to do interviews for the Police Chief position and Council will conduct any other business Council sees fit to be conducted at those meetings; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

Referencing Civil Service Testing: Mr. Kincaid said our Charter says, "All appointments and promotions of municipal employees shall be made according to merit and fitness demonstrated through a competitive selection process to the extent practicable, except as otherwise provided by ordinance or resolution." So, Council can change the current testing processes; he will read further about the issue and talk to Council about it, but there is no need to amend the Charter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Cihon made a motion to adjourn. Mayor adjourned the May 17, 2005 City Council meeting.

Patricia A. Troccoli, Clerk of Council

Mayor John Grogan