

# CITY OF CANAL FULTON

June 21, 2005

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor John Grogan called the June 21, 2005 City Council meeting to order at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## CALLING OF THE ROLL

**Present:** Mayor Grogan, Mike Mouse, Diane Downing, Victor Colaianni, Nellie Cihon, and Bob Szanto **Absent:** Linda Zahirsky - Mr. Szanto made a motion to excuse Mrs. Zahirsky as she is out of town on business; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **Discussion:** Mrs. Zahirsky will return this week, leaving again July 4-29; back fulltime then if things go as planned. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

## OTHERS PRESENT

Marge Loretto, City Manager; Dale Kincaid, Law Director; Patti Troccoli, Clerk of Council; Scott Svab, Interim Finance Director/Community Service Coordinator; Interim Police Chief Chuck Kassinger; Fred Fleming, Parks & Recreation Board; Chief Ray Green, Assistant Chief Mark Stewart, John Gross, David Pratt, Joe Parsons, Sarah Scott, Mike Crable, Cletus Heck, James Coughlin, David Kolega, Erin Cappo, Jon Zalewski, Dave Ferree, Matt Weiland, Fire Department; Karen Hiltbrand, Income Tax Department; Chris Pugh, Independent; Joan Porter, Repository; Rod Coyle, Republic Waste, Dan Houser, American Traditions Basket Company; James Deans, T.A.P. Committee; Bob Hill, Bret Stephan, John Hatfield, Residents

## CORRECTING & ADOPTING THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Mrs. Cihon made a motion to approve the June 7, 2005 Council meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **Correction:** Under Citizen's Comments, Line 1, remove "(Rumble Property)" **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

## CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA MATTERS - None

## REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Senior Citizens – No Report

### Community Service Coordinator

Mr. Svab said planters were completed and the entrance landscaped for the Dog Park Grand Opening. They assisted the Senior Center's Swiss Steak Dinner and mowed the museum area.

### Fire Chief

Chief Green reported the new grass fire truck arrived. The pump was returned for a credit, which will be used to buy truck equipment (they can use the old pump).

FEMA recommended all elected officials take an IS700 class (Incident Management Training); Street, Utilities, and Police Depts. will receive this training also. Mr. Szanto made a motion to change the beginning time of the August 2, 2005 Council meeting to 6:00 PM to accommodate the IS700 training by Chief Green; seconded by Mrs. Cihon. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

Mayor Grogan met with New Franklin's Mayor Bollas who spoke highly of Canal Fulton Fire Dept.'s responses, mutual training, etc., extending a "Thank You" to Chief Green and the Fire Dept.

### Police Chief

Interim Police Chief Kassinger said the new car arrived, but it's so small it won't accommodate a video system installation. Some of the officers finished training for the new software. They will update their information into the software, train the remaining officers then go on-line with it.

Engineer – No Report

### Finance Director

Interim Finance Director Scott Svab requested Council's review of the FY06 Budget to be submitted to the County that has to be approved under suspension at the July 5 meeting. He also spoke about the 1-mil Continuous Levy for both Police and Fire Funds that was last renewed in 1999. Mr. Svab stated the 1-mil levy generates funds based on 1999 real estate appraisal values. If renewed, the levy would produce funds at the current appraised value and, if updated at the current price, could feasibly be put on November's ballot, significantly increasing both Police and Fire Funds yearly. If defeated, it reverts to the original year. Mayor Grogan thanked Mr. Svab all of his hard work.

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## Mayor

Mayor Grogan stated it's down to three applicants for the Chief of Police position. There were 32 applications for Finance Director received (application deadline over); there is currently 15 applications for the position of City Manager (application deadline June 30).

Mayor Grogan said during the HPC meeting, green space fees were an issue because they have not been assessed in the past 29 years, except once in 2003. He said everyone is aware we have limited growth potential and limited ability to make up those 29 years, with many people utilizing our park system. There was a lengthy discussion as to the amount the fees should be realistically raised. Mr. Colaianni added he read the Park Board's May 12 minutes, and it troubled him that Discovery Park is not done yet because of grants not being awarded; he requested Mr. Fleming to review green space fees yearly. Mr. Szanto suggested the fee ordinance have a First Reading tonight, amending it later. Mr. Kincaid said because it is in the Planning/Zoning Code, to amend it in any substantial way, Council would have to recommit it to Planning. Once passed, Council can revisit the ordinance in a year. Because it's in the Planning/Zoning Code, a Public Hearing on the ordinance amending green space fees is required, which will be scheduled for August 2, 2005.

## City Manager

**Engineer's River Rd. Culvert Repair Estimate of \$95,000:** The work is going out for bids. City Manager will ask authority to enter into a contract and issue a purchase order.

**Cherry St. Railroad Crossing Repair:** Received notice from the PUCO authorizing RJ Corman Railroad Co. to construct an active grade crossing warning device and improve the crossing; construction starts August or September. They will request a four-day closing of SR 93 in advance of the start date.

**American Traditions Basket Co. Calculation of Estimated Tax Abatement-6/24/05:** Mrs. Loretto attached this information to Council's packets for review.

**Used Bricks:** Phil Downey would like to buy 40 bricks located at the Street Dept.'s building.

**Rod Coyle, Countywide Recycling Landfill (Republic Waste) Re: Council's letter against out-of-state waste coming into Stark County/Ohio:** They don't and never will take it. He asked Council, "Not to group us with those that do because we're anti out-of-state waste also."

## Parks

**Canal Fulton Dog Park Grand Opening:** Mr. Fleming thanked Mayor Grogan and Mr. Mouse for their attendance. He added Scott Svab did a great job fixing up the park.

**Discovery Park:** No decisions have been made in Columbus regarding the grant as of this date.

**Visitors Center:** The Park Board met with Stark Parks and the Heritage Society. A Partnership Agreement is being developed; Mr. Mouse requested a copy.

## Law Director

### FIRST READINGS

**Ordinance 17-05:** An Ordinance Accepting the Annexation of the Rumble Property. (Requested by City Manager)

**Ordinance 18-05:** An Ordinance Accepting Streets and Public Utilities in Beverly Hills Phase No. 3. (Requested by City Engineer) Mr. Kincaid stated a letter indicates the two-year maintenance period has passed satisfactorily.

**Ordinance 19-05:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1114 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the City of Canal Fulton by Increasing the Open Space Fee from \$200.00 per Dwelling Unit to \$400.00 per Dwelling Unit. (Requested by Planning Commission)

**SECOND READINGS** - None

### THIRD READINGS

**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. Mr. Szanto made a motion to pass Ordinance 14-05; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **Discussion:** It was recommended that American Traditions resubmit the abatement request, reducing it from 75% to 50% and expedite its return to Council. **ROLL CALL: Yes – 2 (Mrs. Cihon, Mr. Szanto) No – 3 (Mr. Colaianni, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Mouse)**

**ORDINANCE 14-05 FAILS**

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**Ordinance 15-05:** An Ordinance Increasing the Tax Credit for Income Earned in Another Municipality or Joint Economic Development District from 50% to 75%. Mr. Mouse made a motion to table Ordinance 15-05; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **Discussion:** The Mayor thanked Mrs. Hiltbrand for her hard work and requested she email her findings/projected impact to him. Mr. Colaianni asked the Law Director if changing the tax credit would affect any JED agreements. Mr. Kincaid answered, "Yes," and then referenced tabling ordinances saying, "If you don't say that you table to a definite time, it's tabled indefinitely." **ROLL CALL: Yes – 3 (Mr. Colaianni, Mrs. Downing, Mr. Mouse) No – 2 (Mrs. Cihon, Mr. Szanto)**

## **PURCHASE ORDERS & BILLS** (No Purchase Orders)

**BILLS: \$175,201.16** Mrs. Cihon made a motion that Council has accepted the bills in the amount of \$175,201.16; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes - ALL**

## **NEW BUSINESS / OLD BUSINESS** - None

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Colaianni distributed a memo about the June 13 meeting with Lawrence Township regarding a CEDA for the area on Warwick; there were five items agreed upon that should jointly be considered in the CEDA. The Township's Attorney Krash would like to speak with Mr. Kincaid about starting on a draft, but Mr. Kincaid requested the city engage Attorney Roy Batista to negotiate and handle the matter. Mr. Mouse requested Attorney Batista's rate, and Mayor Grogan asked he also address the green space fee issue that has to do with the CEDA.

Firefighters and EMS personnel addressed Fire Station, outdated equipment and driveway repair issues. Representing all, Firefighter John Gross said they feel like they have been sidestepped 10 to 20 years, albeit their great pride servicing the community. They feel they should have the latest, most innovated equipment and training available with a Fire Station to accommodate same. He said that the city is continually annexing newer, larger properties, but the Fire Dept. hasn't been allowed to advance with the growth. Last month, they hosted the Stark County Firefighters Association meeting and had to set up chairs in the bays and improvise a projector setup for their presentation; showing their operations were based out of trailer was embarrassing to them and the city. Firefighter Gross stated the Mayor and Council previously told them the trailer was "a temporary fix, but they are still there years later." He said Fire personnel work 12-hour shifts out of the trailer and paid \$100 per day but have no cooking or cleanup facilities, which forces them to eat out, resulting in costing them both breakfast and lunch and reducing their actual income to \$80 for a 12-hour work day. He went on saying the work can be brutal, as they often run seven to eight calls and are gone the entire day. East Canton, Minerva, Greentown, etc. run about one-half to one-third of the Canal Fulton Fire Dept.'s call volume, yet their governments and communities have provided them with new fire stations to call home. A kitchen sink, a place to train and decent bathrooms "would be nice," as many of their calls require them to clean up (whether chemical or biological) in their own homes. Firefighter Gross added, "I personally would like to keep this as far from my wife and kids as possible." Another example was in May, Canal Fulton's crews responded to a call at a home where the conditions were sickening, and they had to clean off the lingering stench of the infested home in a tiny bathroom sink.

Firefighter Gross requested the Safety Committee and Council consider a new facility to "take care of the ones that protect this community." Chief Green said \$3,500 has been spent on architectural plans; the architect said the cost of the project would be \$1.5 million, which includes the cost of a new Fire Station, cement sidewalks and upgrading equipment, and a 28-year bond issue for \$1.5 million would only cost the average homeowner \$31-\$32 per year. Mr. Szanto suggested they meet first with the Mayor and City Manager to brief them then with Council to expedite the matter.

The Mayor asked about the driveway paving; Mrs. Loretto will ask the Street Dept. to prioritize it. Assistant Chief Mark Stewart said prior to digging up the driveway, there are drainage issues involving the driveway that, if fixed, could alleviate part of the problem. Firefighter Gross will meet with Dennis Mayberry between Noon and 3:00 PM tomorrow to show him what needs done. Mrs. Loretto said the Street Dept. can fix the drainage. Mayor Grogan expressed concern about delaying emergency equipment that "certainly appears to be a priority." Mr. Mouse made a motion that Council as a whole meet with Chief Green on July 12, 2005 at 6:30 PM; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL** Mr. Szanto asked if this was a Council work session or a Special Council meeting; he amended the motion to include "and any other business Council wishes to discuss," then he asked if Council would rescind their motion and second and was told, "Yes." Mr. Szanto then made a motion Council meet July 12, 2005 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers for a Special Council Meeting to have an open discussion with the Fire Department regarding their needs for expansion, needs for funding, and any other matters Council chooses to discuss that evening; seconded by Mr. Colaianni. **Discussion:** Chief Green asked if the city decides to go with the bond issue, how much time do they have to get it on the ballot. Mr. Kincaid said he thought it was late to get it on November's ballot because they would have to get the resolution into the county; which tells you the amount of revenues a specific amount of millage would generate, and they'd have to get the ballot to the county 75 days before the election. The plans would also have to include how the money's going to be spent. The Mayor encouraged

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going for November. Firefighter Gross said they've had their figures for months and can get same to the city for November. Chief Green said the architect cautioned them to move fast because construction costs always increase. **ROLL CALL: Yes – ALL**

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS (Open Discussion, Five-Minute Rule)**

**James Deans, 426 Heritage, Canal Fulton, OH:** Stated the Lawrence Township Open House was not attended by Council members or a city representative. He was told Council members toured it June 13, the Open House was on Father's Day, and some members had previous plans.

**Bob Hill, 12060 Millrace, Canal Fulton, OH:** Spoke about his pride and concern for the firefighters and EMTs. He said there was a traffic accident at Lock 4 Saturday night he went checked on, where he saw the city's Zoning Inspector Johnson Belford. They watched as Jeff and Dave cut a woman out of a car. He saw Mr. Belford days afterward who told him, "That's one Hell of fine job your people did out there Saturday night." He said there are no superstars, from the Chief on down, in the Fire Department; they're all team players and everybody knows their role. He commented on the importance to give them what they need to work effectively. He added, "There's things going on all over the city that are somebody else's priority, and it appears to me that if we don't want to lose what we got, and we ain't going to get any better, unless we have to go fulltime and then we're not going to be able to afford all that." He continued, "It ain't all about the money to run this town and take care of business for you, and we don't want to turn our backs on them. It's time we need to take care of them." Mayor Grogan said it couldn't be stated better than that, and "I can only hope that Council takes the comments presented to them and presents something back to this community reflective of their efforts and dedication. We certainly owe them that at least."

**REPORT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT** – No Report

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES** – No Report

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Cihon made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Grogan adjourned the June 21, 2005 City Council meeting.

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Patricia A. Troccoli, Clerk of Council

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Mayor John Grogan