

CITY OF CANAL FULTON

January 20, 2004

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

Mayor John Grogan called the January 20, 2004 Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CALLING OF THE ROLL: Present: Victor Colaianni, Nellie Cihon, Linda Zahirsky, Mike Mouse, Robert Szanto, Diane Downing, and Mayor John Grogan.

OTHERS PRESENT: Marge Loretto, City Manager; Dale Kincaid, Law Director; Chief Mike McNeely, Police Department; Chief Bob Hill, Fire Department; Michael Rodino, Finance Director; Director; Joan Porter, The Repository; Julie Schaeffer, The Independent; Donna Lemmon, Canal Fulton Chamber of Commerce; Rebecca Shimer, Canal Fulton Main Street; Garnet Thomas, Rochelle Rossi, Ken Roberts, Tom Messenger, Kathy Gill, Fred Etheridge, William Deans, Janet Deans, Bret Stephan, all residents.

PRESENTATION BY LAW DIRECTOR DALE KINCAID.

Mr. Kincaid did a thirty-minutes review of the Canal Fulton City Charter.

ADOPTING OF MINUTES.

Mr. Szanto made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2004. Mrs. Zahirsky seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Colaianni pointed out that the minutes state that he was nominated for Council President. This was an error and was duly noted and corrected. Roll: Yes – ALL.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA MATTERS.

No comments.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS.

Rebecca Shimer, President of Canal Fulton Main Street, presented the City with a plaque from Downtown Ohio, Inc. certifying that the City of Canal Fulton is an official "Aspiring Ohio Main Street Community". She said the Main Street Program is based upon four concepts of economic restructuring, design, organization, and promotion.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.

Senior Citizens. Mrs. Cihon said the Northwest Senior Center will be having a Swiss Steak dinner Saturday, January 24th, from 4:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. She said there is a casino trip going February 19, 2004 to Wheeling. She said it is \$27.00. She said in May there will be a three-day trip to Mackinac Island.

Community Service Coordinator. Mrs. Loretto passed out the Community Service Report.

Mr. Mouse asked Mrs. Loretto what kind of work these community service workers did. Mrs. Loretto said they were preparing mail outs and doing various filing.

Fire Chief.

Chief Hill said he has received a new administrative Code Book from Workman's Compensation. He said there are many changes. He said there were several things he wanted to read to council tonight so they would be informed. He discussed several changes.

Mr. Mouse asked if the Chief felt this information was important for Council. The Mayor said he felt it was important considering the fact that one of the things they are looking at are the Fire Department and the fire safety forces. Mr. Mouse said all he was suggesting is that Council should get a copy of this new Code Book.

The chief also said they took in about \$56, or \$57,000.00 in collections for EMS runs. He said it was going well. He said when old #8 needs to be replaced the money will be sitting there to replace it.

Mayor Grogan asked if the continuing education for the firefighters is budgeted for his department. The Chief said much of the continuing education is done in house.

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The Mayor asked how much it costs to get an EMT certified as a Paramedic. The Chief said it is about \$650.00 to send someone to EMT school and it costs \$3,000.00 for Paramedic training. Mrs. Zahirsky also pointed out that they receive mileage reimbursement, which brings the cost to closer to \$4,000.00. Mr. Szanto said the City requires the EMT candidates, upon their graduation, to stay with the City for two years.

Police Chief.

Chief McNeely said he met with the Stark County Sheriff this past Thursday and received an update on the radio communication system in the County. He said Congressman Regula was instrumental in obtaining the funding for this project.

He then passed out the Annual Report for the Police Department. He said there were no homicides or rapes in 2003, two robberies, eighteen assaults, and sixteen burglaries. He said there had been an increase in thefts from one hundred twenty-two from ninety-nine. He said arrests were up from 2002. He said there were three hundred six arrests. He said traffic accidents have been on the increase since 2001.

Engineer.

No Report.

Finance Director Report.

Mr. Rodino passed out the December 2003 month end reports. Mrs. Zahirsky made a motion acknowledging receipt of the financial reports for the month of December 2003. Mrs. Cihon seconded the motion.

Mr. Mouse said since this was not in the Council packets he said he would prefer to vote at the next meeting after he has had a chance to review it.

The Mayor said there is a motion on the floor and a second.

Roll: Yes – ALL.

Mr. Rodino then said that sometime in the near future he will be in contact with the State Auditor who will be doing the City's GAP conversion for 2003 and the auditors will start on that soon. The Mayor asked what a GAP conversion was. Mr. Rodino explained that they take the City's financial records, which are cash basis, and incorporate accruals, assets and liabilities.

Report of the Mayor.

The Mayor read his State of the City address.

"As we enter this new year of 2004 we do so under the change that the residents of this City issued on November 4, 2003. A change in personalities, a change in vision, a change in the method by which we, as servants of the people, will approach the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us through the electoral process. We are a city whose roots stretch back to a small village in 1814 and before. We are a city whose appeal to families and strong moral value have swelled our numbers to well over 5,000 residents, turning our long standing status of a village into that of a city. With this change, we as servants of the people, must be prepared to accept the challenges that lay ahead and begin to build the foundations that will make our journey into the future a place where our children will call home.

We were fortunate THAT THE prior administration HAD the foresight to begin this process. We must continue to add upon the hard work and dedication as they gave this young city its first steps. From the formation of a city charter to the Charter Commission members who worked so diligently to give us our new form of government. They established job descriptions and responsibilities for every city employee so that they have a better understanding of the duties that they hold. Lines of communications were opened to the residents so that they may be properly informed of the work that is being done on their behalf and so much more.

But the work has only begun. We must work harder to keep the community abreast of matters that concern them and invite them to participate in an open form of discussion and a free exchange of ideas. We have many projects being worked on that are in the progression stage, such as finding a method to secure our water treatment compound so that we can feel assured that the water we consume has not been tampered with. In addition, the installation of exterior water meters to maintain a better recording system of water being consumed so that residents and businesses can feel confident that they are receiving an accurate accounting of their use. Not to mention the sidewalks on Locust and Cherry Streets, so that the children will have a safe

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place to ride their bikes, parents can walk their dogs, and our citizens with disabilities can travel without difficulties. These, and many other projects were the issues and hard work of the last administration and I can assure you that we intend to see them through.

But as I stated before there are so many more ideas that need to be addressed and areas of concern that need focused on. For instance, we possess a great need for a fire-medical force that can handle the growing needs of this city. A force made up of full time paramedics that can respond within minutes to any life threatening condition. A force that is centrally located to accommodate the entire city and not just a portion. This is not a costly endeavor, but a life saving one. We can look to our neighbors in Lawrence Township to begin a dialogue with them that will start the process of mapping out a joint safety force and eventually that could establish a northwest safety system. By combining our police and fire with our neighbors we now save our two communities a considerable amount. In addition, we will be able to draw upon more resources than ever before and almost twice the manpower. This is not only a great way to increase services to the citizens of this area, but most importantly, it will lower response times.

In an emergency every second is precious and the safety of our community should be our first priority. We also need to work with our neighbors once again regarding the water that we are providing to the kids at the Northwest Local Schools. We need to sit with the trustees in a spirit of cooperation to review what is best for the children and the staff who work in the school system. I understand that this is a hot button issue. I am aware that any talks entered into must not slow down the construction process or the time frame for having the water connected to the schools. But the way current agreement stands, the schools are forced to spend almost a million dollars for this project. This money that will be spent was earmarked for new school books, better technology and other learning tools for our kids. Can we sincerely say that our kids are not worth the effort to try to work with our township neighbors once again. Are we so eager to send them into the world without the proper tools. To take the tools of knowledge from our children is akin to starving them from future advancement, personal growth and wealth.

Lastly, we have begun to formulate a strategic plan to use as a tool for a long range future of our city. A plan that addresses the issues of economic development, preservation of open spaces and natural resources, to include transportation and utility infrastructure. We cannot sit back and allow this beautiful city grow unattended. We have to have a plan in place, not just numbers on a sheet. We need a comprehensive way to achieve the above mentioned goals. This plan must identify future areas for residential, commercial and industrial expansion so that we can coordinate with other governmental bodies the need for roads, sewers, and other expansion concerns. Creating a vision of the future is a tool that many cities employ so that they have a blueprint that guides them. In order to begin the process of developing a strategic plan we must first establish a committee of dedicated citizens who are willing to meet once a month, or as needed, and talk about our potential. That is the T.A.P. Committee.

I propose the T.A.P. Committee will be made up of a cross section of people from this area, beginning with seniors, business owners, young families, and government officials from both Lawrence Township and Canal Fulton. This Committee will be charged with the responsibility of mapping out the first leg in our journey to creating a plan for our City's growth and character. I am pleased to state that we as a city have a great many things to be proud of and a lot of challenging work still ahead. We are blessed with people at this table that are willing to enter into the future and take on the arduous tasks that lay ahead with an open mind and a dedication to perfection.

The future of our City looks bright."

City Manager's Report.

Mrs. Loretto stated that the Certified Local Government grant that Sherry Reiter and Jeff Winstel pursued for \$4,000.00 did get awarded. She said the grant will be used for the creation of the Heritage Tourism Brochure.

She said according to the Ordinance she attached with this report, Council will need to discuss tap fees for the Northwest School water line. She said they are requesting 3 inch taps and 8 inch taps. She said normally the 8 inch taps are used for fire suppression. Normally there is no charge for fire suppression lines. She said they intend to take the 3 inch taps to be used for potable water. She said the Ordinance says fees for any tap above 2 inches must be decided on by Council. She then passed out reports showing how the figures were arrived at. She said she also got tap in fee rates from the City of North Canton.

Mr. Szanto said that some cities do charge for fire suppression because it has to be calculated into the overall capacity of the water distribution system.

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Mr. Mouse asked what the source was for this data. Mrs. Loretto said one is from North Canton. Mr. Mouse asked if North Canton was the only one Mrs. Loretto looked at. Mrs. Zahirsky said that was all she asked for.

Mr. Mouse asked if she could get more data. He said he would look at Green, Doylestown, Massillon.

Mrs. Zahirsky suggested that this issue be turned over to the Public Service Committee and have them come up with a recommendation.

Mrs. Loretto said the Nimisila feeder meeting did not take place as scheduled because of the flooding and will be rescheduled.

She announced that the City did receive money from FEMA in the amount of \$33,142.00. She said \$31,000.00 of that is to move the tennis courts.

She said she passed out applications to attend the seminar for newly elected officials through the Ohio Municipal League.

Parks. No Report.

Law Director.

Mr. Szanto asked Mr. Kincaid if he could give them a brief rundown of electronic communications as far as records retention is concerned. Mrs. Loretto said they are amending the manual for records retention and they are inserting Emails and tapes. Mr. Kincaid said city business in any form is public record.

Mr. Mouse said that they have been mandated to change voting machines. He said the Federal government granted Ohio \$3.5 million to update the voting machines. He said it appears that Stark County is going to select Diebold for the electronic voting machines. He asked Mr. Kincaid if Council can specify that they want a paper trail with the votes that are cast.

Mr. Kincaid said the Ohio Constitution sets forth that the Elections Commission and the Secretary of State make that decision. This city cannot depart from that because it is part of the Constitution.

Mr. Kincaid said there is nothing wrong with the City petitioning the State government by resolution asking for a paper trail if Council wants to vote to do that.

Mr. Mouse asked Council if they would entertain a motion to do that.

The Mayor told Mr. Mouse that this is Mr. Kincaid's time to speak.

THIRD READINGS:

No Third Readings.

SECOND READINGS:

No Second Readings.

FIRST READINGS:

Ordinance 01-04: an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 40-03 Relating to the Distribution of Water Revenues and Declaring an Emergency.

Mrs. Zahirsky made a motion to suspend the rules on Ordinance 01-04. Mr. Colaianni seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Mouse said he objected to Councilwoman Zahirsky voting on water issues because she does not pay water bills to the City.

The Mayor told Mr. Mouse that he does not want to get into the personal dealings of whether or not someone pays a water meter or someone's financial matters. He said he allowed that to happen the last time and he will not allow it to go this time. The Mayor said if Mr. Mouse is going to get personal the Mayor would not let it be.

Roll: Yes – 5. Mr. Mouse voted No.

Mrs. Zahirsky then made a motion to pass Ordinance 01-04 under suspension. Mrs. Cihon seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – 5. Mr. Mouse voted No.

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Ordinance 02-04: An Ordinance Amending Ordinances 7-02, 14-02, 14-03, and 28-03 Establishing Rates of Pay for Various Part Time Positions within the City of Canal Fulton and Declaring an Emergency.

Ordinance 03-04: An Ordinance Establishing New Rates of Pay and Salaries for Employees of Canal Fulton, effective January 1, 2004, Repealing any Ordinances in Conflict there with and Declaring an Emergency.

Resolution 01-04: A Resolution Establishing a FEMA Fund (Fund 290) within the City of Canal Fulton and Declaring an Emergency.

Mrs. Zahirsky made a motion to suspend the rules on Resolution 01-04. Mrs. Cihon seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Mrs. Zahirsky then made a motion to pass Resolution 01-04 under suspension. Mrs. Cihon seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Resolution 02-4: A Resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Stark County Park District for Police Protection.

Purchase Orders and Bills.

P.O. # 3648 to W.G. Lockhart Construction in the amount of \$4,900.00 for installation of manhole on James St. sanitary sewer.

Mr. Colaianni made a motion to accept P.O. #3648 to W.G. Lockhart in the amount of \$4,900.00 for installation of manhole on James St. Mrs. Cihon seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

P.O. #3646 to Cargill, Inc. in the amount of \$13,500.00 for 400 tons of rock salt.

Mrs. Cihon made a motion to accept P.O. #3646 to Cargill, Inc. in the amount of \$13,500.00 for 400 tons of rock salt. Mr. Mouse seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Mouse said he would like to propose that the Law Director draw up a resolution that no council person be allowed to vote on ordinances whereby they are not effected by that ordinance. Mr. Kincaid said that would be in violation of the Charter. Mr. Mouse asked how. Mr. Kincaid said that Charter states that the City has six council people who vote on all ordinances or resolutions.

Mr. Mouse asked Mr. Kincaid to cite it for him and put it in writing.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Etheridge said he felt if the Northwest water lines are strictly for fire suppression he doesn't know why the City would want to meter it. He said they require compound meters, which are very expensive and the unlikely event of fire, the amount of water used can be easily calculated by the duration that the line is on.

Mr. Messenger asked that the City update their web page. He said he went on the other day and it still had the old Council. The Clerk of Council said it is now updated. She stated the website is updated off site of City Hall. It is done at the website provider's offices.

REPORT OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Zahirsky said her report is on the Committee on Committees and said that everyone should have a copy of the new list of committee members. She said she would like to see the Finance Committee meet fairly quickly to look at the issue of taxing lottery winnings. She said she would also like the Finance Committee to look at changing the limit of purchase orders.

She said she would also like the Public Service Committee to meet soon. She said she would like that Committee to look into the tap in fees for the schools.

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Mrs. Downing asked if the Finance Committee meet Tuesday, January 27, at 6:00 P.M.

Everyone agreed.

Mrs. Zahirsky said she felt they could hold off on the Personnel Committee until late February

Mrs. Cihon suggested the Public Service Committee meet on February 10, at 7:00 P.M.

Everyone agreed.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

No Report.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sharon Reiter, Clerk of Council

John Grogan, Mayor