

Regular

February 21

2008

Ontario City Council met in regular session on February 21, 2008 in the City Offices, with Council President Dave Metzger presiding. The meeting opened at 7:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following persons were in attendance when roll was called: Council members Dan Zeiter, Mark Weidemyre, Leon Blackwell, Barry Lewis, Paul Williams, Charlotte Hellinger and Joe Cinadr; Mr. Metzger; Mayor Kenneth Bender; Law Director Rebecca Thomas; Service/Safety Director Chuck Au; and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker. A number of interested citizens were present in the audience.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 7, 2008 were presented for approval. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes and Mrs. Hellinger seconded the motion. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Zeiter, and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Dayspring representative Kathy Haubiel, 2035 Charles Road, came before Council to explain the .4 mil five year renewal levy that will be on the ballot on March 4, 2008. Dayspring is an assisted living facility for Richland County residents as well as the only VA approved group home in Richland County with twelve veterans currently in residence. Dayspring also provides adult daycare and respite services.

In response to Mr. Williams' question as to what services are provided for the veterans, Mrs. Haubiel explained the amenities include assisted living for individuals requiring medical and physical needs when they are not capable of living independently, activities, transportation to appointments and nurse aide assistance. The fees are \$1,500/month if they have resources available, otherwise, fees are based on income; the Veteran's Administration does not provide compensation.

Mr. Weidemyre made a motion to support the levy for Dayspring. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to support Dayspring passed.

Next to come forward was Ontario Branch Library Manager Ruth Wolfe, 149 W. Main Street, Lexington, reminding Council members that five years ago funds were frozen for the Library and cuts were made to the hours, staff, and materials. Fortunately, a 2 mil levy was passed permitting them to retire an existing 1 mil levy and, because of lucrative investing, stop collecting two years early on the existing bonds that helped build the new Ontario Library, saving the tax payers money. This also resulted in increasing the hours of operation as well as increasing materials and requested services. The renewal that will be on the upcoming ballot represents 43% of the operating budget. Without the passage of the renewal levy services, staff and materials would need to be cut. The levy represents 15¢ a day for the average home owner. The levy money, along with other revenue, enables them to educate and provide entertainment to the residents of Richland County.

Mrs. Hellinger commented that people should take advantage of what the Library provides.

Mr. Blackwell made a motion to support the Library levy. Mr. Weidemyre seconded the motion. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to support the Library passed.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Zeiter scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for February 28, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Blackwell commented on the Personnel Committee meeting that was held February 12th. Several items were discussed and some will appear on this evening's legislation. One item was to correlate the wages for the temporary employees with the employees covered under the Working Ordinance. Discussion was not resolved regarding the Service/Safety Director's wages. The next Personnel meeting was scheduled for February 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Cinadr congratulated Mr. Weidemyre on his recent award from the Ontario Growth Association.

Mr. Weidemyre, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Williams, and Mrs. Hellinger had no report this evening.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bender shared information from the Ohio Department of Public Safety's monthly publication, Hot Sheet News, which reports on Ohio habitual OVI offenders. This list included individuals picked-up with three or more offenses. Ontario Police Department's Patrolman Tony Grimwood arrested Christopher Fox for his seventh OVI offense when he was stopped for a marked lane violation. Mayor Bender expressed appreciation to the Police Department.

Mayor Bender also thanked all of the Service Department's employees for their conscientious work on snow removal, putting cold patch into the chuck holes that resulted from plowing and the timeliness in taking care of the water line breaks.

SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Au reported that service crews were out all night when the power went down and traffic lights were not operating properly. He expressed his gratitude for the work they have done this winter.

The Ohio Citizen's Action Group from Columbus informed him they would be in the area before May 2nd collecting contributions. This organization will tell residents they are approved by the City or the Police Department but they are not. Nothing can be done to prevent them from canvassing the neighborhoods but residents are encouraged to call the Police Department if they feel intimidated or pressured by this group. Mrs. Thomas said, based on the past laws they can't stop them from coming in. Mr. Weidemyre asked Mrs. Thomas to research the possibility of requiring a solicitor's permit so background checks can be done.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Thomas had no report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Mr. Metzger presented a TREX liquor permit transfer request from the 856 Park Avenue Pizza Hut to their new location at 365 N. Lexington Springmill Road. Council members did not request a hearing regarding the permit which will be approved and returned to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

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CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 08-09

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE THREE (3) 2008 CHEVY IMPALAS FOR THE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROCEDURE.

Mr. Williams made a motion to suspend the rules requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 08-09 on three separate days. Mr. Cinadr seconded the motion. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to suspend the rules passed. Mrs. Hellinger read Ordinance No. 08-09 for the first time, by title only.

Mrs. Hellinger made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 08-09. Mr. Weidemyre seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 08-09 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 08-07.

Mr. Blackwell made a motion to suspend the rules requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 08-10 on three separate days. Mr. Weidemyre seconded the motion. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to suspend the rules passed. Mr. Blackwell read Ordinance No. 08-10 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Blackwell made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 08-10. Mr. Cinadr seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 08-10 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-11

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2008.

Mr. Williams made a motion to suspend the rules requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 08-11 on three separate days. Mr. Cinadr seconded the motion. Three members cast their votes Aye, four Nays by Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Weidemyre, Mr. Lewis, and Mrs. Hellinger, and the motion to suspend the rules failed. Mr. Cinadr read Ordinance No. 08-11 for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-12

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PAY SCALE FOR THE PART TIME CEMETERY SUPERVISOR AND SUMMER HELP.

Mr. Blackwell made a motion to suspend the rules requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 08-12 on three separate days. Mrs. Hellinger seconded the motion. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to suspend the rules passed. Mr. Zeiter read Ordinance No. 08-12 for the first time, by title only.

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Mr. Zeiter made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 08-12. Mrs. Hellinger seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, six members cast their votes Aye, one Nay by Mr. Weidemyre, and Ordinance No. 08-12 was adopted.

At 7:28 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Cinadr and a second by Mr. Blackwell. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to adjourn passed.

President of Council

Clerk of Council