

Regular

April 3

2008

Ontario City Council met in regular session on April 3, 2008 in the City Offices, with Council President Dave Metzger presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 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 Joseph W. Cinadr; Mr. Metzger; Mayor Kenneth Bender; Law Director Rebecca Thomas; Service/Safety Director Charles 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 March 20, 2008 were presented for approval. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Cinadr seconded the motion. At roll call, six members voted Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Weidemyre, and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Calling twice and hearing no one who wished to speak, Mr. Metzger closed the Public Commentary portion of the meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Weidemyre scheduled a Streets Committee meeting on April 15, 2008, following the Safety Committee meeting, to discuss a procedure for claims submitted to the City resulting from pothole damage.

Mr. Lewis announced a Safety Committee meeting will be held on April 15, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Hellinger reported on the Parks Committee meeting that was held on March 24, 2008. Information was shared that Richland County would receive a total of \$52,070 in grant funding for 2008. A maximum of 75% funding can be awarded toward a project requiring the City to be responsible for paying the remaining balance which could be over \$12,000 to construct the skateboard park. Based on that information, the Committee instructed the Mayor to withdraw the application.

Mr. Cinadr informed Council members the Economic Development Committee met earlier this evening with members of the Ontario Growth Association. Both entities are hopeful in working together to project a positive image for the City of Ontario.

Mr. Zeiter, Mr. Blackwell, and Mr. Williams had no report this evening.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bender reported on several items.

- Ontario was awarded the distinction as a Tree City for the third consecutive year.
- Service Department employee Ron Eyerly, Captain with the Springfield Township Fire Department, was awarded Officer of the Year.
- The month of April recognizes Child Abuse Prevention, Earth Stewardship, and Public Health.

At this time Mayor Bender asked Donnie Mitchell, Director of the Mansfield/Richland County Fair Housing Commission to come forward to receive a Proclamation for Fair Housing Month.

Regular

April 3

2008

## Fair Housing Month

April 2008

Whereas, the Congress of the United States passed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, of which Title VIII declared that the law of the land would now guarantee the rights of equal housing opportunity; and

Whereas, April 2008 is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act; and

Whereas, the month of April has traditionally been designated as Fair Housing Month by the President of the United States and by the Governor of the State of Ohio, and

Whereas, the mission of fair housing in Ohio is to improve the quality of life for all residents and celebrate Ohio's fair housing law which is substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act; and

Whereas, this is a time to remember where we started, to celebrate 40 years of successes, and to march toward the future in ensuring justice and housing opportunities for all Americans.

Now, therefore, as Mayor of the City of Ontario, Ohio, on behalf of its citizens, wish to acknowledge the City's endorsement and commitment to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the policy of Fair Housing and Equal Access to Housing and do hereby proclaim the month of April as

“Fair Housing Month”

and encourage citizens to acquaint themselves with their rights that are protected under the law, and join in reaffirming a commitment to Fair Housing for all regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry or disability status.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set  
my hand and caused the seal of the  
City of Ontario to be affixed this third  
day of April, in the year of our Lord  
Two Thousand and Eight.

Kenneth A. Bender, Mayor

Mr. Weidemyre asked the Mayor if he has had an opportunity to contact ODOT regarding moving up the date for the paving on Park Avenue West. Mayor Bender responded that the indications are the date will be moved back to 2011 or 2012. Until that time, the City will maintain the street the best they can with patch work.

#### **SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Au began by stating the crime rate is dropping, Neighborhood Watch Programs were initiated, the school levy was passed, and unfit dwellings were torn down. All of this is in an attempt to prevent the community from the decaying process which is already taking place in some of the eastern states. The disagreement is over \$675,000 for the paving in Willowood. In the last twelve years the private enterprise has invested a quarter of a billion dollars into this City, therefore, there is an obligation to protect their interest, along with the voters and

Regular

April 3

2008

taxpayers to keep up the infrastructure within the City. The underpass will be taken care of the best they can until ODOT is able to rebuild it but nothing can be done until the street paving program is passed. Mr. Au requested passage of Resolution No. 08-05 tonight before it is too late to do the paving program this year.

Mr. Weidemyre commented there are many streets in the City that need paved, West 4<sup>th</sup> Street and streets that have potholes are worse than Willowood. He felt it would be irresponsible of Council to commit all of the funds into the Willowood area which has much less traffic than a main thoroughfare. The potholes at the underpass on Park Avenue are responsible for four vehicle damage claims that have been submitted to the City.

Mr. Au said he would like to patch W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street one more year then place it in the paving program. The drainage at the underpass was repaired last year and the speed limit was reduced this year in an attempt to prevent injuries.

Mr. Lewis commented they are not against the paving they are against spending all of the money in one place. He referenced a request was previously made for a listing of other streets that are in need of paving but he has not received anything. Mr. Au responded if they would appropriate \$400,000 of additional funding then W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street could also be paved.

Mr. Blackwell asked for clarification that the underpass can not be worked on unless the Resolution is passed. Mr. Au said that was correct; they could only do patching, they do not have the equipment to remove the surface, that work would have to be bid out.

## **LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Thomas had no report.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Stoodt presented an overview of the first quarter of 2008.

### Income Tax

- Income Tax is up \$4,006.77 with the bulk of the taxes due in the next few weeks.
- The City's largest employer has shown an income tax increase of \$25,000 for the first quarter.
- \$1,000 in postage was saved this year by mailing a reminder postcard to all residents in lieu of the income tax forms.
- A local restaurant was notified they are incorrectly paying Mansfield income taxes instead of Ontario. This correction generated an additional \$2,000 for the City. Letters have been sent out pertaining to the short tip sheets used by local restaurants questioning discrepancies in wages vs withholdings which resulted in \$400 paid to the City.

Expenses over revenue totals \$110,959 for the month of March; YTD expenses exceed revenue and the City is down \$114,456.

Local CD investments total \$3,840,358. Interest percentages are still low but a CD was recently reinvested at 3% for eleven months. Sweep accounts are down to 1.85% earning approximately \$15/day when they used to earn \$100/day. The total investment package is \$10,307,464.

Businesses are billed for false alarms which totaled \$420.

Interest for the first quarter is down \$8,290 compared to last year.

Council members were given copies of the first quarter overview that included information on the local CDs, where they are being held, interest rates and maturity dates as well as a breakdown of larger accounts, such as the Occupancy Tax which is up \$2,344.

Regular

April 3

2008

Mr. Weidemyre commended Mrs. Stoodt and Income Tax Administrator Sallie Neal for the good job they are doing in making sure everyone is paying their part.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Zeiter made a motion to table Resolution No. 08-05. Mr. Weidemyre seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, four members cast their votes Aye, three Nays by Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Cinadr, and the motion to table Resolution No. 08-05 passed.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 08-05**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE/SAFETY DIRECTOR TO BID  
AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE 2008 STREET IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECTS.**

At 7:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Zeiter and a second by Mr. Lewis. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to adjourn passed.

---

President of Council

---

Clerk of Council