

In attendance were President Richard Donley, Mayor Richard Zink, Safety-Service Director Ralph Holt, Auditor Gary Lewis, Law Director, Fred Beery and Clerk Beverly Brown.

President Donley open the meeting at 7:00 p.m. .

ROLL CALL: Mr. Kevin Chambers, Mr. John Levo, Mrs. Bonnie Parr, Mr. David Shoemaker, Mr. Charles Walker and Mr. Tim Young

ABSENT: Mr. Lee Koogler

President Donley said that Mr. Koogler had called him explaining that he was ill. Mr. Levo made a motion to excuse Mr. Koogler and Mrs. Parr seconded the motion with all members voting yea.

Mr. Kevin Chambers led the assembly in prayer. Mr. Walker asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Ron Hennison, Sr. President Donley said that they had lost a very instrumental gentleman over the weekend; a person who had been involved in the city for many years. He said their condolences went out to the family and friends and everyone had lost a very dear friend. He said that anyone who knew Ronnie knew that he didn't have a bad word about anybody and would bend over backwards to help anybody he could. He was very involved in the community and his church, a loving father and family person.

Following the moment of silence; Mayor Zink led everyone in the "Pledge of Allegiance".

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH:

Mr. Levo presented the award to Judy and Leon Lindley for their work with the Highland County District Library. Judy had helped establish libraries in Lynchburg, Leesburg and Greenfield. Leon was the handyman doing anything that needed to be done to save money on repairmen.

Minutes of the February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 2, 2006 meetings were approved as presented.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Reports had been received from Water Meter Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Hillsboro Public Utilities, Income Tax Bureau, Water Treatment Plant, Water/Sewer Maintenance Department, Police Department, Street Department, Auditor's Office, Fire Department and Life Squad.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was read from Time Warner Cable announcing a location change for their office.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Boy Scout Troop 226 was present working on their Citizenship in the Community badges.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Meetings attended in February:

February 3 - Records Commission

February 6 - Team Columbus regarding bicycle event in June  
Street and Safety meeting  
Finance Committee meeting

February 9 - Bicentennial Committee meeting

February 13 - CIC meeting

Council meeting

February 14 - Four weddings

February 15 - Stakeholder's meeting

February 17 - Southwest Rural Economic Development Coalition meeting

February 20 – Zoning and Annexation Committee

February 21 – Planning Commission

February 27 – Finance, Street and Safety and Civil Service Employee Relations

February 28 – Revolving Loan Committee

The first thing I would like to do is compliment city council for all of the hard work pertaining to the Police and Fire Department building problems. I believe the sincerity which you have displayed in working to find the proper solutions to the building problems will be noted for many years to come. The recognition and the urgency in investigating the several possibilities available as well as weighing the needs of the future certainly lead to the proper decision pertaining to this very important issue.

Also, I would like to ask council's approval to the appointment of David Lowell to the Planning Commission. You all know David; he retired from the Fire Department last summer and he's accepted a position on the Planning Commission.

One other thing I would like bring up at this time. And the question has been coming up grant money to fund Police and Fire Rescue building. The answer to this; before we can apply for any grant monies, we have to have a building site and State approved plans before we can make the application. That's another reason for the sense of urgency coming up on site or sites. Getting the plans drawn up and approved by the State will allow the city to apply for grant money depending on availability.

We also had a hole come in the bottom of the water tower on Tower Drive. I think you all know about that and that has been repaired. Now we're waiting on the painters to come in and paint and inspect the inside of the tank while it's drained. With that, I'll entertain any questions anybody might have.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve David Lowell's appointment to the Planning Commission and Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion. All members present voted yea.

#### SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sunesis Construction Company has completed the force main portion of the South Lift Project. They will still need to move the existing pumps to the new deep-wells that were built to that existing project. Preload Construction Company is now here to do the finish work to the 650,000 gallon holding tank at the South Lift Station. This project should be completed in May or early June.

Nick Thompson sent me a letter advising me that the two individuals that he contacted about monitoring the parking uptown have both declined the position. At this time he would like to have permission to hire a fulltime patrol officer. Of course, that's up to Council to decide. I talked with Gary this week and it would cost probably around \$50,000 a year with salary and benefits. That ends my report.

President Donley put the hiring of a parking meter officer in the Civil Service and Employee Relations Committee in coordination with the Finance Committee.

#### AUDITOR'S REPORT:

I think each member has the reports in their packets this evening. If you have any questions on the fund accounts balance, please see me afterwards. I'll be happy to answer any questions; if I can't answer the questions, I do know where the answers might lie.

The only other thing that I have is a piece of legislation; the resolution to increase appropriations on a couple of funds. Just when I think I'm getting comfortable enough to think I know a little bit about what I'm doing in the office a little bit, something like this kind of comes up and reminds me that I still have a lot to learn. In each case in the Wastewater/Sewer Improvement Fund, I'm asking for an increase in appropriations. We have money coming in the form of grants for the South Lift Station. The only problem with that, when I originally appropriated I didn't appropriate enough. So we're having more money come in and so in order to keep things correct I have to increase those appropriations on that.

Then on the Sewer Replacement Fund I actually have.....the money was in there in the General Fund unexpended and unappropriated. Right now in hindsight it's kind of comical. Last Friday I was bringing up red flags and everything and talking to Ralph and saying, "We don't have money to pay for this" for what we wanted to do with this and everything. But after I started looking into things, I realized that in the permanent appropriations I had put a big fat zero on that particular fund and that was just not going to work. The money was there, it just had not been appropriated. Basically just two things there that were an error on my part that we need to correct. Probably one other as we get more grant money coming in. I'll probably be coming to you later on in the year to increase that Wastewater/Sewer Improvement Fund a little bit more. That's all I have.

#### **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

##### **FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Koogler, Chairman**

In the absence of Mr. Koogler, Mr. Levo reported that they had had two meetings in the last month; the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. They were joint meetings with other committees. The issues of insurance for non-union employees, the two extra personal days had been moved from the Finance Committee to the Civil Service and Employee Relations Committee.

##### **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & RESTORATION- Mr. Chambers, Chairman**

Property Maintenance & Restoration Committee met March 7, 2006 at the Community Cable Access Building at 5:00 p.m. Committee members Dave Shoemaker, Bonnie Parr and Kevin Chambers were present. Also in attendance were council member Tim Young, Safety-Service Director Ralph Holt, Mayor Dick Zink, Chief of Police Nick Thompson and several local citizens.

A reminder was given that our purpose with this committee was to work toward a recommendation of a building or buildings to be built for Police and Fire/EMS use with the location or locations to be considered by the Council as a whole and not to focus on finances of such an undertaking as that will be left to the Finance Committee at a later date.

A potential list of locations was viewed first with the following properties considered:

1. 4 ½ blocks on North West Street across from the former Suiter Sales owned by David Douglas
2. Property on North East Street owned by Ford Excavating
3. Property on South Elm Street formerly used by HeadStart
4. Fourteen acres on Homestead Avenue owned by the city
5. Property on West Main Street formerly Charlie Davis Auto Sales lot
6. 1019 West Main Street across from the Dairy Queen
7. East Main Elementary at the fork of 124 and 50 East
8. The former city building
9. 1.5 acres on South High Street owned by John Holt across from Ponderosa Steak House
10. A lot on the corner of West Beech and North High Street, the Gambel lot
11. The former Suiter Sales lot on North West Street
12. The current location of the Union Stock Yards and lots behind such on West Main Street
13. Property owned by Ron Swonger adjacent to the City Parking lot at West Walnut and South West Street
14. Property at intersection of Harry Sauner and 73 north across from Lowe's
15. The bus garage lot
16. The lot due south of Boone Realty on South High Street

David Douglas, John and Andrea Holt and Rusty Fite of Chambers Realty were present to answer questions about some of these lots. Next Mr. Richard Tripp of MSA Architects of Cincinnati, gave a presentation of ideas and suggestions as to what this committee needs to do from this point forward. It was suggested that the committee continue to seek information and needs to consider a "space-needs" analysis survey to analyze our current fire and police needs as well as the needs of the city for the next twenty to forty years including state and federal guidelines.

Mr. Tripp estimated the cost of such a survey to be \$20,000 to \$30,000. Advertising for architect's qualifications and the cost of such a survey seems to be the next step. After conferring with Auditor Gary Lewis to see if this money is available; another meeting will be scheduled. Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Parr, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker; meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

A motion to accept the Property and Restoration Committee was Made by Mr. Levo and seconded by Mr. Walker. All members present voted yea.

CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS- Mr. Levo, Chairman  
The Civil Service and Employee Relations Committee met on February 23 with all committee members present. The matter of insurance for non-union employees was discussed. Following discussion it was decided to recommend each non-union employee who does not participate in the city insurance program will be reimbursed up to \$95 per month for their nonparticipation.

It was stated that non-union employees were requesting two personal days per year. Mr. Levo stated he needed to gather more information regarding the reason for the request. Earlier in the evening salary matters concerning non-union employees were redirected from the Finance Committee to the Civil Service and Employee Relations Committee. He stated that he would attempt to have another committee meeting prior to the next Council meeting.

A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mrs. Parr. All members present voted yea.

STREET & SAFETY COMMITTEE- Mr. Walker, Chairman  
Mr. Walker asked Mr. Levo to give the report since Mr. Walker had not been present at the meeting.

Mr. Levo reported: The reports are rather lengthy so I'll just kind of consolidate the two meetings that were on February 20<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The primary things that we looked at were looking at the skate park liability and checking on the property lines there. That's been tabled until the church gets back to us with their plans for the fence around that particular park and then on the access of it from the city parking lot or the parking lot for the city park down by the city barn.

We also discussed the traffic problems at Pea Ridge and at the High School. We're looking at the cost involved with moving the caution lights, the warning lights at 73 going into the stop light at Fenner Road. Additionally Mr. Donley has been working with the folks at Webster School to try to put some solutions to the problems with traffic during the after school hours.

We're still working on working with the parking situation uptown. The information which Chief Thompson had provided us that the two individuals who had been approached about the parking enforcement office position had turned it down and the request for an additional officer to be brought on so that that can proceed.

Also we had addressed the issue with the forthcoming Festival of the Bells request to make changes to the stage locations and at the present time Mr. Donley is going to be working with the FOB Committee to work a mutual agreeable situation so that they can move their stage, but yet will not inconvenience the Fire Department to a great extent.

Bicycle races for mid-June when GOBA comes to town; we do know that the GOBA people have selected a course but I do not believe that they have made a formal request to the City for the use of that course. So that's one of the issues out there still hanging.

That's basically the issues that have been addressed by the Street and Safety Committee. Mr. Walker said that he did have a map at the house on Chariss Avenue. He said that he would bring it up at the next committee meeting. Mr. Young made a motion to approve the report and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion with all members present voting yea.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE- Mr. Shoemaker, Chairman

While I did not have a committee meeting; we are going to do some things here. I have started to make copies for each one of my committee members to look over the people wanting to adjust the water and sewer rates so they can each individually look at them. We will be holding a meeting every night before the Council meeting at 6:30 and do a little cleanup here so we can sit down and talk about each and every one of them and look at them on a personal basis. That will be 6:30 the night of the Council meeting here. That way we can bring it all together and have a closure to each one of them quickly.

A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mrs. Parr. All members present voted yea.

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE- Mr. Young, Chairman

February 20<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting. Those present were Bonnie Parr and myself. Mark Leatherwood, president of LW & Associates Inc. addressed this committee asking for legislation of support for a proposed senior housing development. LW Associates will partner with the non-profit group Frontier Community Services based out of Chillicothe. They will be competing for tax credits from the state. The project would be located on State Route 73 near Pea Ridge. There would be 42 two-bedroom apartments. Each unit would have an attached garage. The units are for those 55 years of age and older. Mr. Leatherwood was asked why they chose a non-profit that was not local and he responded that the state considered Frontier local since they did do business in the Hillsboro area. He stated that they had worked with Frontier on the Old Pants Factory project and that had gone well. Mr. Leatherwood was asked about the safety of the location and he indicated that they would do whatever it took including adding a possible turn lane.

The meeting was adjourned. No vote was taken on the issue at that time. March 3<sup>rd</sup> we had another meeting with Bonnie Parr and myself. The meeting was called briefly to discuss this committee's support for LW Associates Community Housing Development.

Mr. Rod Siddons from Frontier Community Services addressed the committee and stated that the Highland County Senior Citizens would partner with Frontier as the non-profit group for the project. Mr. Siddons was asked if his group was awarded the tax credits from the state; if they could be used for the locations on the application. He stated they could only be used at that location.

At that time a vote was taken with Mrs. Parr and myself, Tim Young; both voting to present legislation to the full council with the initial support of this committee. I also had a letter from Suzanne Hopkins, Executive Director of the Highland County Senior Citizens, confirming their desire to partner on the project and it's addressed to Rodney Siddons.

Dear Rod- This letter is to confirm the support of the Highland County Senior Center in partnering with Frontier Community Service to provide affordable housing for older adult. On February 27, 2006 our Board of Trustees voted to approve our participation in the project, and we are very excited about the opportunity to have input in the design of the community building and assist with the development of recreational activities for the resident. We look forward to working with Frontier Community Services to make this project a reality. Sincerely, Suzanne Hopkins

Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the submitted report and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. All members present voted yea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

**PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS- None**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS-**

RES. 06-8 – A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTION AS A PUBLIC DEPOSITORY- The clerk read this resolution by title only for a second reading.

## **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS-**

ORD. 2006-5 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF FIRE INVESTIGATOR WITHIN THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 737.27, AND SETTING FORTH POWERS AND DUTIES RELATED TO THE TITLE OF FIRE INVESTIGATOR- The clerk read this ordinance in full for a first reading. President Donley placed this in the Street & Safety Committee. Mr. Walker asked Mr. Beery about the liability of carrying firearms.

Mr. Ed Puckett stood up and said that he could address it if they wanted him to address it. President Donley said that they would put it in committee. Mr. Puckett said, “We can’t put it in committee so I’ll address that, too; why we need this pushed through. I’ll answer any questions. Under Ohio Revised Code we are required to do all the duties that is in this ordinance. As far as my \_\_\_?\_\_\_ will clearly state, we do not have an ordinance that states these duties for us to do the investigations which we already do.

Far as the firearms thing, that’s just a couple people’s big panic thing. The chief will tell you, State Fire Marshals; the guy was down today and talked to him. The class that we want to take, the State Fire Marshals have developed a class for fire investigators as myself, it is a law enforcement class that goes in to the investigator’s training. You are trained in “search and seizure”, “Miranda’s”, “testimony”, everything it requires to do an investigation, evidence collecting; all the actual things that we need trained to be able to do to actually pursue arson investigation.

They have encompassed a week of the firearms training in this course because Fire Marshals when they do an investigation or even us; sometimes we’re in hostile situations. Even with law enforcement, Nick will tell you; if we go to serve a warrant, whatever; they recommend that you are armed. Okay. However, the firearms carrying is all controlled and done by SOD’s or SOP’s through your department by your Fire Chief. That doesn’t mean that you carry a gun all the time while you’re investigating fires or on your trucks or on the squad. What that means; you only can carry the gun when you’re actively doing an arson investigation that’s approved by the Chief if you’re serving a warrant or any of those perspectives. That is what this is for.

There is a class....we’ve been trying to get in this class for three years. The class starts; it is a week....it’s four weeks long. It has a week in each month, April, May, June and July. If we do not have an ordinance in the city we cannot take this class. So we are operating right now on fire investigations, without an ordinance that we are required really to have under ORC. That is what this ordinance is about. This ordinance come from the State Fire Marshal’s office; has been edited for the city through the State Fire Marshal’s office and this is what all your other cities are doing as far as your investigation in your fires.

There’s not a big worry about fire arms being carried around with squads and engines and that kind of stuff. In order for us to take this class we have to have this ordinance done by April or we can’t take the class.”

Mr. Walker asked if there was continuous training on the firearms after they take it. Mr. Puckett responded that they would have to qualify each year with the Police Department or the Sheriff’s Department just like an actual officer. He said that the only thing that do not have in this training is “domestic stuff” that the police officers take as part of their training.

President Donley said that he was still going to put it in the Street & Safety Committee and if necessary they would have a special meeting. Mr. Holt asked for the class date and Mr. Puckett replied that he thought it was the 21<sup>st</sup> of April or the third week. Mr. Holt then asked, “So if it went to committee and came back to Council in April and it went though in April, it would still have time for you to have that for a class. Right?” Mr. Puckett responded in the affirmative, as long as they have time if it does pass, they can notify the academy because if they don’t notify them; they get charged for the class whether they go or not. Mayor Zink asked how long they had before the class when they could still get a refund and Mr. Puckett said he wasn’t sure.

RES. 06-13 – A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS TO CERTAIN FUNDS- The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Levo and seconded by Mr. Walker. All members present voted yea. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mrs. Parr with all members present voting yea. Resolution adopted.

RES. 06-14 – A RESOLUTION EXTENDING SUPPORT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, OHIO TO A DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED BY FRONTIER COMMUNITY SERVICES, HIGHLAND COUNTY SENIOR CENTER, INC., LW ASSOCIATES AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORP- The clerk read the resolution in full for a first reading. Mr. Chambers made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Young seconded the motion. All members present voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS: None

With no further business to come before the Council; a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker. Meeting adjourned.

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Richard Donley, Council President

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Beverly Brown, Clerk of Council