

MINUTES STREATOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STREATOR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKSHOP) MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2011, HELD AT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1:36 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jimmie D. Lansford presiding.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Benner, Brozak, Hart, Williamson and Mayor Lansford

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager, Paul C. Nicholson; City Attorney, Regina Reynolds, City Attorney, City Clerk, Pamela K. Leonard, Jeremy Palm, City Engineer, David Fussell, Director of Public Works.

Prior to the start of discussion, Mayor Lansford reviewed with the audience the procedures for Committee of the Whole meetings.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1.) DISCUSSION REGARDING RAFFLES.

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion.

Paul C. Nicholson, City Manager, reported on this item and summarized the previously discussed and requested changes; i.e. (1) dollar amount of threshold for regulation, (2) length of time from 180 days to 1 year. Nicholson stated that Steve Myers, City Attorney, outlined his position regarding the requested changes in an e-mail to Nicholson dated January 13, 2011. Nicholson stated that Myers reported that for any raffle to be legal the City Council must adopt an ordinance regulating raffles. Councilman Brozak questioned if the \$500 limit was a state regulation. Councilman Benner suggested a \$10,000.00 threshold. Nicholson stated he will communicate these issues to Myers for his review. Nicholson stated that the ordinance in place at this time has a \$25.00 fee.

2.) DISCUSSION REGARDING SNOW REMOVAL

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion.

Nicholson stated that since the Council had last addressed and discussed this issue, the City had dealt with a snowstorm of historic proportion. Nicholson requested that Public Works Director, David Fussell report to Council regarding this snow event. Fussell stated that the Public Works Department was looking for an ordinance to ban parking when there is a snowfall in excess of 4" or more. Fussell went on to say that vehicle parking in certain areas does not allow for curb to curb snow removal and he would like to have a window of time following a snow fall of 4 inches or more for plowing and complained that citizens and private contractors pushing snow into right-of-ways already cleaned by the City. Councilman Hart suggested that in the fall, prior to next year's winter, a meeting be arranged with private contractors to go over the dos and don'ts of snow removal.

Mayor Lansford requested that Nicholson and Fussell give their recommendations for a snow removal plan so that Council may review, discuss and take action on to initiate a plan of action from this point on. The Mayor also requested that Council get any concerns or issues they had to Nicholson & Fussell in one week. Nicholson stated that the plan would be ready for Council discussion at the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

Williamson expressed concern regarding the availability of citizens being able to move all vehicles from roads.

Jim Pellino, Downtown Business Association, stated he had been requested by the City Manager to gather ideas regarding snow removal from the downtown business owners.

3.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PERMIT FEES POLICY – NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Nicholson reported that the current policy is that all organizations pay permit fees. Councilman Brozak stated that he thought that some organizations should not have to pay fees; as many organizations are all volunteers. Williamson stated he didn't object to waiving fees. Nicholson stated that administrative staff should get data to council before Council makes a decision regarding this item and suggested Council consider budgetary issues when making their decision. City Attorney, Regina Reynolds, suggested that whatever Council decided they should make it across the board and not on a case by case basis.

4.) DISCUSSION REGARDING SIGNAGE (Generally)

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Councilman Brozak stated that many signs in town are faded, in a state of disrepair, and some need to be removed and replaced with new ones. He provided a list he had compiled for Council's review.

5.) DISCUSSION REGARDING 2011 MFT STREET PROGRAM

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Jeremy Palm, City Engineer, reviewed with Council the Summer 2011 MFT Program which proposes repair to West Morrell from the football field to Route 23.

6.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PARK & BLOOMINGTON RESURFACING

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Palm reported that the State was going to have two more lettings; one in April and one in June and that the issue is tied up with the capital bill problems.

7.) MUNICIPAL POOL DISPOSITION-AUCTION V. MLS LISTING

Nicholson updated Council on this issue. Nicholson question Council as to whether the City should attempt to list the property with a real estate broker prior to going to auction? Nicholson stated that he had met with one broker already, but needs Council's direction regarding this issue. Brozak suggested listing the property, Hart stated he would like to see it go to auction first and if it does not sell then to list it with an agency. Nicholson suggested placing this item on the February Council meeting for Council action.

SHORT SELECTED SUBJECTS

A.) BILLBOARD LEASE AGREEMENT – JAMES STREET REC.

Palm reviewed this issue with Council. Palm stated that the owners of the billboard would like to reconstruct the billboard, but a formal lease agreement would have to be drawn up as the City is the owner of the property. Palm questioned Council as to whether they want to allow the reconstruction of the billboard. Brozak stated he would prefer not having the billboard replaced, Benner said he didn't have any issues with the billboard. Mayor Lansford suggested that Council review and see what is being offered to the City.

B.) RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – VILLAGE OF DE PUE

Nicholson reviewed this request with Council and stated that it would appear on the upcoming Council agenda.

C.) 2010 TAX LEVY

Nicholson commented that the City would not be reducing the tax levy at this time.

D.) CITY WEBSITE IMPLEMENTATION

Nicholson reported that the City's new website is now online and live as of February 8, 2011.

E.) WIND ENERGY RECOMMENDATION

Palm updated Council on the Plan Commission's approved recommendation of a tower height of 125' and 1 ½ times of the tower height as a setback and stated that the recommendation will be presented at the next February 16th Council meeting.

F.) STREET LIGHT REPAIR STATUS

Nicholson stated that the City had submitted a list of street light outages to Com Ed and that he would have more information available for discussion at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further items for discussion, Mayor Lansford called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Hart moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting, seconded by Benner.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Benner, Brozak, Hart, Williamson, and Mayor Lansford.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Pamela K. Leonard, City Clerk