

MINUTES STREATOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STREATOR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKSHOP) MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2011, HELD AT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jimmie D. Lansford presiding.

TIME: The Committee of the Whole (Workshop) began at 1:30 p.m.

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

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager, Paul C. Nicholson; City Engineer & Director of Community Development, Jeremy Palm; City Attorney, Stephen C. Myers; Deputy City Clerk, Linda Underwood, Tom Risley, Fire Chief, Jeff Anderson, Police Chief, and David Fussell, Director of Public Works.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1.) DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT – OWENS-ILLINOIS SPECIAL PERMIT (Parking)

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Paul C. Nicholson, City Manager, reported on the status of the item and turned the floor over to Jeremy Palm, City Engineer. Palm reported on the Plan Commission recommendations, reading and explaining the conditions that the Plan Commission had recommended. Palm stated that Owens had agreed to all the conditions and had completed several of them already. Mayor Lansford asked the City Attorney, Steve Myers, what was necessary for the City to be able to enforce the parking regulations on private property. Myers stated it would be necessary for the City and Owens to enter into an agreement. Councilman Hart questioned the Owens Illinois Glass representatives as to whether Owens would be paving the subject lots this year. They said they had received approval for the expense and it would be done this fall.

Attorney Myers explained the zoning amendment process and reported that the Plan Commission had done its due diligence, including an extra public hearing regarding this item. Myers also stated that it would be necessary for the Plan Commission to hear the issue again only if “new” information was provided that was different than what the Plan Commission had based its recommendation on, then it would need to be returned to the commission, if not then it was up to the Council for final decision.

Mayor Lansford stated that he would be allowing Gene Handzo, 1211 North Everett Street, and Owens Illinois Glass Company representative, Carolyn Hert to speak. Mr. Handzo stated his case against the amendment to the Special Permit, citing that he did not understand why Owens was not utilizing the west end of building for staging trucks and readdressed his previously voiced concerns. Carolyn Hert, Owens representative, addressed the Council and responded to Mr. Handzo’s questions and comments. Following their comments, Mayor Lansford stated that at this point their comments were a recap of prior information and questioned both parties as to whether they had any “new” information regarding this issue; to which both parties responded “No” to his question.

Mayor Lansford then stated that the item would be on the Council meeting agenda for the final decision of the Council.

2.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED FENCE RELOCATION – ANDERSON FIELD

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion. Nicholson reported on the item. The mayor questioned whether the fence is on City property. Palm stated that he could not find any surveys on the property and that a ballpark estimate to get one would be somewhere in the range of three to five thousand dollars. Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that with the City’s budgetary constraints, this issue was of minor importance and did not warrant further consideration.

3.) DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED EAST ENTRANCE REOPENING – MARILLA PARK

Mayor Lansford presented the item. Nicholson stated that Councilman Brozak had spoken to him with regard to fully opening the park. Nicholson questioned whether the rest of the Council wished to fully open the park by removing the barricade from the east entrance. Nicholson stated that a diagram was in their packets which outlined a few possible options that they might entertain if they chose to open the park from the east. Councilman Brozak stated he was in favor of opening the whole park.

Council questioned the status of the bridge. Palm explained that the entrance bridge to the park had a 5,000 pound weight limit imposed on it due to its condition and unless it was closed completely it would have to undergo inspections every six months at an approximate cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500 per inspection.

Council also discussed the proposed road which was shown on the diagram. Councilmen Benner and Williamson thought that the gravel road that was already there was sufficient to service the three homes that were at the top of the hill and did not wish to construct any roadways. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to place the item for action on the upcoming Council meeting.

SHORT SELECTED SUBJECTS:

a. Discussion Regarding Fire Department Vacancy

Nicholson reported that a firefighter had recently resigned his position at the department and that he recommended that due to budgetary issues the position should remain vacant. Nicholson also stated that there was a spreadsheet showing the numbers for each scenario which he and Councilman Williamson had put together. Councilman Williamson explained the spreadsheet provided. Councilman Williamson stated that if they hired a person to fill the vacancy, there was a very good possibility that with the budgetary constraints, next year they might possibly have to lay that person off and then the City would be paying unemployment compensation. When questioned, Fire Chief Risley stated that he could still man his department with a four man shift. Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council not to fill the vacancy at this time.

b. Discussion Regarding Parkway (Berm) Parking

Nicholson reported on the item. Council discussed this issue and it was the consensus that streets that curbs were installed in would not be allowed berm parking.

c. Discussion Regarding Camping on Public Property

Nicholson presented the item and turned the floor to Councilman Brozak who commented on the issue and stated that he would like to see an ordinance passed to prohibit any camping on City owned properties except when formally requested for special events.

d. Discussion Regarding Veolia WWTP Report

Nicholson reported that Veolia had filed their report regarding the odor issues at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and that they are reviewing alternative solutions.

e. Discussion Regarding Mediacom Docsis 3.0 Request

Nicholson reported that the City had been contacted by Mediacom stating that they were moving to an expanded fiber band speed for data and that it should be in place by January 1st. Mediacom also stated that there would be no loss of service but that two of the local channels would be repositioned and that anyone with an analog TV would have to contact

Mediacom to get a converter box. City Council indicated that City should agree to allow the proposed change by Mediacom to the franchise agreement.

Prior to adjournment, Councilman Hart questioned whether the section of sidewalk that was removed due to the sewer project was going to be replaced anytime soon and stated that it kids walking to high school are having to walk in the street. The City Engineer stated that the sidewalk was going to be poured this fall and would be in place before the snow flies.

Councilman Williamson questioned why the signs requested by Council for Northlawn School had not yet been installed. Williamson also questioned the no parking signs by the high school football field on Short Street had not been addressed yet. Nicholson stated that the ordinance for the no parking on Short Street would be on the next agenda for Council action.

Councilman Benner stated that if the committee of the whole meeting next month was on its normal day, he would not be available.

Mayor Lansford commented on the following items:

- That the Streater High School Football Mother's Club had contacted the City and requested permission to install bulldog pride signs on Morrell Street during the football season. Following Council discussion, it was the consensus of Council to grant permission.
- Requested Council to mark their calendars for the grand opening of the new Wal Mart Store at 7:30 a.m. with the doors being opened to the public at 8:00 a.m.
- Reported that Results Technologies, Westgate Plaza, recently had 30 new hires and 50 people in training at the present time

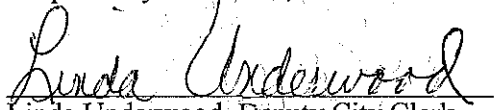
ADJOURNMENT: With no further items for discussion, Mayor Lansford called for a motion to adjourn.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Linda Underwood, Deputy City Clerk