

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on November 15, 2007. Mayor Robert J. Buckman, Jr. called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Buckman led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Rick Bryan, Mayor Robert Buckman, Councilman Lee Czerwonka, Councilman Henry Stacey, Councilwoman Stephanie Stoller, Councilman James Sumner, and Vice Mayor Mark Weber

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Waltz, Solicitor Mark Vander Laan, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Service Director Dennis Albrinck, Fire Chief Rick Brown, Police Captain James Schaffer, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, and interested citizens

Mayor Buckman appointed Service Director Denny Albrinck to read the legislation in its entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to accept the agenda. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

"1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. OPENING CEREMONIES

3. ROLL CALL - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert

4. APPOINTMENT OF PERSON(S) TO READ ORDINANCES IN FULL IN REAR OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS

5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting of October 25, 2007

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert

b. Reports From Outside Agencies

c. Mayor's Report – October 2007 – Honorable Robert J. Buckman, Jr.

d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for October 2007

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2007-56, transferring funds

2. Ordinance No. 2007-57, authorizing purchase of office equipment in 2007

3. Ordinance No. 2007-58, authorizing lease with Postal Service for station at Municipal & Safety Center

4. Resolution No. 2007-14, regarding appointment of a successor trustee for the ICMA-RC 457 deferred compensation plan

b. Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson

1. Resolution No. 2007-15, declaring intent regarding no-interest loan related to the Blue Ash/Hunt Roads road improvement project

c. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2007-60, adopting the Downtown Blue Ash Streetscape Master Plan (first reading)

- 2. Motion setting 7:00PM, Thursday, December 13, 2007 as public hearing regarding a special permit for a child daycare facility on Carver Road
- d. Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2007-59, authorizing acquisition of Police cruisers (for 2008)
 - 2. Ordinance No. 2007-61, amending Ordinance No. 2007-45 regarding the sale of a surplus Fire truck

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Property Acquisition & Personnel Matters

12. ADJOURNMENT”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2007. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Council

There were no communications read.

Reports From Outside Agencies

There were no representatives from outside agencies present at the meeting.

Mayor's Report – October 2007

RECEIPTS:

Fines.....	\$ 13,735.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over.....	\$ 500.00
Interest Earned.....	\$2.52
Bonds collected.....	\$0
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$14,237.52

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures).....	\$10,647.52
To the State of OH.....	\$3,090.00
Refund of Overpaid Fine.....	\$0.00
Bond Money applied.....	\$310.00
Bond Money returned.....	\$190.00
BMV.....	\$0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$14,237.52

BALANCE IN BONDS:.....\$0

Mayor's Court traffic citations.....124

Mayor's Court criminal citations.....13

Total Mayor's Court cases.....137

October revenue from Mayor's Ct. Cases:.....\$10,647.52

Financial Report – October 2007

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Financial Report for October 2007 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT - MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2007

MONTH TO DATE	2006	2007
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 10-1-07	\$12,571,295.70	\$26,565,683.17
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	2,489,345.51	2,859,722.22
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	1,663,776.04	2,867,300.11
= Total Monthly Receipts	4,153,121.55	5,757,022.33
Expenditures:		
Bond Retirement	2,830,100.00	2,830,000.00
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	2,361,382.48	3,236,876.34
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-5,191,382.48	-6,066,876.34
ENDING FUND BALANCE:10-31-07	11,533,034.77	26,225,829.16

YEAR TO DATE	2006	2007
START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	12,916,635.98	17,286,456.32
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	19,440,669.05	23,272,881.94
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	9,280,168.65	20,914,253.92
= Total Monthly Receipts	28,720,837.70	44,187,135.86
Expenditures:		
Bond Retirement	2,830,000.00	3,830,000.00
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	27,274,438.91	31,417,736.02
= Total YTD Expenditures:	-30,104,438.91	-35,247,763.02
YTD FUND BALANCE	11,533,034.77	26,225,829.16

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 10-31-07. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$739,749.40. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

**BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIVISION INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY
FOR MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2007**

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2006	2007
Business Net Profit	982,281.01	768,779.11
Resident Net Profit	97,524.17	123,172.51
Non-Resident Net Profit	33,323.72	35,327.46
Subcontractor Net Profit	1,029.33	1,801.43
Net Profit Total	1,114,158.23	929,080.51
Withholding	1,322,411.98	1,887,980.63
Subcontractor Withholding	52,775.30	56,661.08
Withholding Total	1,375,187.28	1,930,641.71
Monthly Collection Totals	2,489,345.51	2,859,722.22
YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS	2006	2007
Business Net Profit	4,398,582.65	3,415,900.97
Resident Net Profit	735,817.15	899,187.99
Non-Resident Net Profit	207,319.42	239,830.31
Subcontractor Net Profit	21,913.18	54,641.13
Net Profit Total	5,363,632.40	4,609,560.40
Withholding	13,791,387.77	18,231,119.47
Subcontractor Withholding	285,648.88	432,202.07
Withholding Total	14,077,036.65	18,663,321.54
YTD Collection Totals	19,440,669.05	23,272,881.94
YTD Refund Totals	755,461.18	1,336,414.39

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Ron Bernard, 4629 Hunt Road, expressed concern with the work planned in conjunction with the Blue Ash/Hunt Roads project. Though he does not have objection to the curbs and gutters planned for the project, he does have concerns with a proposed sidewalk, and has talked with the City several times regarding this concern. Mr. Bernard also commented, later in the meeting, that the sidewalk will prevent him from being able to park two vehicles in his driveway.

Amber Bernard-Baas, 4641 Hunt Road, also expressed concerns with the proposed improvements, including with the five-foot sidewalk as well as the proposed yard drains. She expressed no objection to the plans for curb and gutter. She explained that they experience no water problems in the front portion of the yard on this portion of Hunt Road; however, they do experience problems in the rear, which she believes originates from the nearby Car Star/collision business. She commented that it was explained to her that the desire is to regrade half of her front yard and to install a yard drain in the middle of her yard, which she believes should be closer to the street. She expressed concerns with having a "huge" yard drain in the middle of her yard, with water from other yards draining to it. If yard drains are planned, she suggested all properties have them. She also suggested the City talk more with affected citizens before the project begins.

In addressing a question from Mayor Buckman, Service Director Denny Albrinck commented that the sidewalks are planned not only to coincide with Council's overall "connectivity" goals in the community, but also to function as a means to keep water from flowing into front yards and down sloping driveways leading to garages. He explained that he has had several

conversations with both families, is in the process of negotiations for necessary easement, and will continue to talk with area residents regarding their concerns associated with this project.

Hearings from Citizens was declared closed at approximately 7:10PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to the Council meeting, Council members received the following report describing agenda items:

"The following offers a brief description of the topics included on the November 15th Council agenda:

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2007-56 - Transferring funds

One of the initial steps in preparing the 2008 Proposed Budget is to estimate the City's year-end General Fund balance. Determining the estimated year-end General Fund balance requires a line-by-line review of the current year's revenues and expenses, as well as a projection for the remainder of the year. That detailed review provides a side benefit of highlighting areas within the existing Budget that require supplementary funding or adjustment. Ordinance No. 2007-56 includes an attachment which details necessary adjustments to the current 2007 Budget.

Though the attachment involves two pages and seems complex, there are only a few issues that need to be explained. The most significant, involving a shift of funding of over \$200,000, involves the transfer of the remaining balance in the Duke "Landings" Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Construction Fund No. 444 to the related "TIF" Debt Retirement Fund No. 332. Fund 444 was created to pay the expenses of constructing the two public "Landings" parking garages, and the bond legislation requires that any unspent balance and interest earned on the funds be transferred to the TIF Debt Retirement Fund No. 332. All of the items with the prefix of "444" relate to this transfer of fund balance. It is important to note that these funds can only be utilized to pay the debt (principal & interest) on the Landings bonds or to provide funding to the Sycamore Community School District in accordance with our cooperative agreement.

A number of adjustments are requested within the Golf Course Fund No. 752. The first is a supplemental allocation of \$20,000 in the Golf Course Irrigation account related to the extremely dry summer, with \$5,000 being transferred from the capital equipment account for the Golf Course Maintenance area to irrigation, relating to repairs and replacement to one of the main irrigation pumps in the pumphouse on Carpenter's Run Drive.

Adjustments in the salaries accounts for 2007 are necessary in several areas, including Facilities Maintenance and the Street Construction Maintenance and Repair (SCMR) activity in the Service Department. A total of \$45,000 is being shifted from the available salaries surplus in the Public Service portion of the Service Department to the SCMR street account, as reflected on the attachment. Budgets are initially created with certain assignments of the Service Department staff, but the costs are actually charged based upon the work they perform and in what area. Essentially, the surplus in one area was utilized to pay the "short-fall" in another area of the Service Department.

An allocation of \$30,000 appears necessary within the Facilities Maintenance salaries account, due in part to retirement of a full-time staff member and increased part-time utilization relating to the activities during 2007. Finally, a \$10,000 allocation appears necessary in the Recreation Programming area, primarily related to the high-levels of activity (no rain closures of the pool during the past summer season).

Supplemental funding of \$42,000 was necessary in the General Government area relating to legal services provided through the Legislative account. A number of factors have contributed to a level of legal services in excess of our historical levels, requiring this adjustment.

The final item of significance involves a transfer of \$12,200 to the Technology capital area relating to the emergency replacement of a Fire Department copier/printer that had to be replaced during the third quarter (see also Ordinance No. 2007-57 for information regarding this item).

Please direct questions regarding this transfer to the Treasurer.

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2007-57 - Authorizing purchase of office equipment in 2007

Ordinance No. 2007-57 authorizes purchase of office equipment in 2007 from Donnellon McCarthy for an aggregate amount in 2007, affecting multiple City divisions and departments, of \$32,000. Though no single purchase from Donnellon McCarthy will exceed the ordinance threshold of \$25,000, since aggregate purchases through the year will, Council approval via ordinance would be appropriate and in line with audit guidelines. Note also that this amount includes emergency replacement of a worn out Fire Department copier/printer within recent weeks, with this purchase alone being approximately \$12,000.

The City continues to enjoy the benefits of working with a single vendor for similar equipment as it enables more efficient service contracts for all City machines affecting all departments and divisions, among other cost benefits. Donnellon continues to be responsive to the City's needs in not only its service capabilities, but with equipment as well.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Technology Officer at 745-6245 or to the Treasurer.

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2007-58 - Authorizing lease with Postal Service for station at Municipal & Safety Center

The Treasurer has been working with the real estate division of the United States Postal Service for the past several months to finalize a renewed lease agreement associated with the Post Office's location of a "detached PO Box unit" within the City's Municipal & Safety Center at 4343 Cooper Road. Though the final documents have not yet been received from the Post Office, the Administration is confident that a reasonable lease arrangement and agreement will be worked out in the near future.

The existing PO Box unit has been located within the Municipal & Safety Center since at least 1985, and the City has been receiving \$200 per month since that time. We anticipate the new lease, a multi-year agreement to coincide with Charter limitations, will result in a lease amount in the \$325-per-month range.

Ordinance No. 2007-58 authorizes the City Manager to execute the final documentation with the Post Office, with such documentation to be reviewed and "approved as to form" by the City Solicitor's Office.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.4. Resolution No. 2007-14 - Regarding appointment of a successor trustee for the ICMA-RC 457 deferred compensation plan

For many years, City employees have had the opportunity to participate in a deferred compensation plan sponsored through the ICMA-RC (a 457 plan). The City was recently notified that the service agreement between the current trustee (State Street Bank and Trust Company) and ICMA-RC will no longer be in effect after December 31st, and a new trustee will need to be appointed. The Treasurer is recommending, as is reflected in Resolution No. 2007-14, that VantageTrust Company, a member of the ICMA-RC "family" of companies, be appointed as the new trustee. It is anticipated that the change of trustees will be seamless, and will result in no fees to the City.

Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Treasurer.

9.b.1. Resolution No. 2007-15 - Declaring intent regarding no-interest loan related to the Blue Ash/Hunt Roads road improvement project

As Council is aware, a significant portion of the Blue Ash/Hunt Road improvement project will be funded via a no-interest loan. The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) has notified the City that due to tax regulations issued by the IRS, the Commission is required to follow guidelines related to the disbursement of funds to local governments receiving loans associated with construction related project costs. Since Blue Ash plans to bid and pay the contractors directly for the project, these regulations affect the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project.

Therefore, Resolution No. 2007-15 coincides with the OPWC's request for a "declaration of official intent." Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Treasurer or Service Director.

9.c.1. Ordinance No. 2007-60 - Adopting the Downtown Blue Ash Streetscape Master Plan

Throughout 2007, the Administration has been working with Kinzelman Kline Gossman (KKG) on the **Downtown Blue Ash Streetscape Master Plan**, representing the "next step" in the City's efforts to update its downtown planning efforts. City Council held a public work session in late January, and continued its discussion and review publicly at a May meeting. KKG and the administrative team have since been working to refine and finalize the proposed Plan, a draft of which was distributed to Council at the October 25th meeting.

Ordinance No. 2007-60 is being presented for its first reading at the November 15th meeting, with the planned second and final reading on December 13th. Planning Commission reviewed the plan at its November 1st meeting, and has unanimously recommended its approval.

Please direct questions regarding the Downtown Streetscape Plan to the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at 745-8528 or to the City Manager.

9.c.2. Motion setting 7:00PM, Thursday, December 13, 2007 as public hearing regarding a special permit for a child daycare facility on Carver Road

On October 11th, via passage of Ordinance No. 2007-49, Council approved the surrender of easement rights on a portion of Carver Road – rights which originated in the late 1960s/early 1970s as a part of the CIC Industrial Park. The City had acquired easement

rights over this area due to the potential extension of Carver Road southbound from the Carver/Malsbary intersection to Cooper Road. As was explained to Council in October, the City has never exercised that option and without question, the road cannot be extended to Cooper since both The Timbers residential development, and a cul-de-sac serving a number of office buildings and developments are now in place.

Previous to passage of the ordinance noted above, Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson had been working with a potential buyer for the business property at 9920 Carver Road. The potential purchaser wants to acquire the property, update and renovate the structure, and create an environment for a new daycare facility. The elimination of the City's easement for future right-of-way has been eliminated, and the property owner has been moving forward with next steps associated with this plan for location of a daycare facility. Planning Commission has reviewed the plan at its November meeting and has recommended its approval. The next step in the process involves the establishment of a public hearing before City Council, since this is a special use within the M-1 zone. This motion would appropriately set that hearing for 7PM, Thursday, December 13th.

More information will be provided to Council for that meeting and hearing. Please direct questions regarding this item to the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at 745-8528.

9.d.1. Ordinance No. 2007-59 - Authorizing acquisition of Police cruisers (for 2008)

Ordinance No. 2007-59 authorizes the purchase of five Police vehicles plus related accessories for use beginning in 2008. Three of the Police vehicles will be purchased through the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for an amount not to exceed \$64,500. Two of the Police vehicles will be purchased through the GSA Program administered by the Ohio Department of Public Safety for an amount not to exceed \$52,000.

In 2006, a change was made in the Police vehicle acquisition timetable to help eliminate lengthy delays that had been experienced from the date vehicles were ordered until vehicles were ready for Police use. The new vehicle acquisition timetable with orders placed in the last quarter of the year worked well and it is recommended that this timetable continue for future Police vehicle purchases.

Although there is no trade-in involved with these vendors, the Police Department plans to sell at auction five existing Department vehicles. Estimated revenues (in 2008) for these sales are expected to be in the \$24,000 range.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to Chief Wallace or Captain Schaffer.

9.d.2. Ordinance No. 2007-61 - Amending Ordinance No. 2007-45 regarding the sale of a surplus Fire truck

In September, Council passed Ordinance No. 2007-45 authorizing sale of a surplus Fire Department truck to the Greater Cincinnati Haz Mat Team for an estimated amount of \$55,000. Since that time, it appears the sale of the truck to this organization will not take place; however, another buyer has been found.

Ordinance No. 2007-61 authorizes the amendment of the prior ordinance to allow sale of this truck to Command Fire Apparatus for an amount of \$59,000.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Fire Chief."

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-56 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-56

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND
AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE NO. 2007-3 FOR THE YEAR 2007 (AS SHOWN
ON ATTACHMENT); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-56. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-56 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-57 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-57

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT IN
2007 FOR MULTIPLE CITY DEPARTMENTS AND
DIVISIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-57. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2007-57 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-58 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-58

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A
MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT AND EXECUTE NECESSARY
DOCUMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH A LEASE
AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE (USPS) FOR THE POST OFFICE BOX STATION
LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL & SAFETY CENTER AT
4343 COOPER ROAD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-58. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2007-58 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2007-14 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-14

APPOINTING VANTAGETRUST COMPANY AS
SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE FOR THE CITY'S ICMA-RC
457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2007-14. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Resolution No. 2007-14 passed.

Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson

Councilman Stacey asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2007-15 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-15

DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF BLUE ASH ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS FUND #441 – BLUE ASH/HUNT ROAD CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR THE BLUE ASH/HUNT ROADS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION PROJECT NUMBER CB13K) WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2007-15. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Resolution No. 2007-15 passed.

Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2007-60 in its entirety.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ IN ITS ENTIRETY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-60

ADOPTING THE **DOWNTOWN BLUE ASH STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN**

In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller, City Manager Waltz confirmed that the proposed plan is a conceptual plan as it helps to create a direction or vision associated with public streetscaping elements in downtown. Actual implementation of the plan will be accomplished through the zoning code as well as through specific efforts as approved annually by Council through the Budget process.

It was explained that tonight's presentation of this ordinance represents the first reading for adoption of this streetscape plan for Downtown Blue Ash. Council's second reading and consideration for formal vote will be scheduled at the next regular meeting on December 13th.

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to set 7:00PM, Thursday, December 13, 2007 as public hearing regarding a special permit for a child daycare facility on Carver Road. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-59 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-59

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF YEAR 2008 VEHICLES PLUS RELATED ACCESSORIES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO'S COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND FROM THE 1122 PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-59. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-59 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-61 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-61

AMENDING SECTION I OF ORDINANCE NO. 2007-45
REGARDING THE SALE OF A SURPLUS FIRE TRUCK; AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-61. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-61 passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk addressed Council regarding information included in their packets about a proposed special event on Towne Square on September 6, 2008. The proposed event, "A Concert to Remember," would be sponsored by a respected area non-profit organization – the Alois Alzheimer Foundation. He explained that the Administration is recommending approval of this event since it offers several advantages, including that it offers a musical genre, Jazz & Blues, that the City currently does not present at other events; that the date chosen does not conflict with any other events on Towne Square; and that it would create a positive relationship with a well-respected Cincinnati area organization, The Alois Alzheimer Foundation.

Councilman Sumner expressed support for the event. He commented that his brother is suffering from Alzheimer's, and is being cared for by the Alois Alzheimer center. He and his family are impressed with the organization. Councilmembers Stoller and Bryan agreed. There being no further discussion, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to authorize "A Concert to Remember" as a Blue Ash sponsored event to be held at the Blue Ash Towne Square, Saturday, September 6, 2008." A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Review of Capital Items Within 2008 Proposed Budget

City Manager David Waltz explained that Council should expect to receive the 2008 Proposed Budget before the Thanksgiving break. He summarized the major capital-related items to be included:

- Phase II efforts associated with the Recreation Center renovation project.
- Blue Ash/Hunt Road improvement project - \$3.1 million.
- Efforts related to sidewalk connectivity around Blue Ash, including a continuation of sidewalk on the south side of Creek Road between Reed Hartman and Kenwood Road, as well as potentially other areas - \$370,000.
- Downtown streetscaping and/or other downtown-related initiative(s) - \$950,000.
- Continuation of the economic development funding and the land bank (for potential future economic development opportunities) - \$300,000 and \$500,000 respectively.
- A new EMS Life Squad for the Fire Department - \$165,000.
- Payment to Cincinnati for the future airport park purchase - \$1 million.
- Storm sewer improvements (the largest being the Wynnecrest area) - \$133,000.
- Sports Center lighting replacements - \$150,000.
- Paving program - \$940,000 (including Reed Hartman between Malsbary and Peppermill, among other yet-to-be-determined areas).
- Debt retirement.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller regarding the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project, Mr. Waltz and Mr. Albrinck explained that the City has talked extensively with residents regarding the proposed improvements, including a detailed Open House opportunity, which the Bernards did attend. Staff and engineers also placed stakes on-site, outlining the location of proposed sidewalks and yard drains. Staff will continue to talk with the Bernards regarding their concerns.

Councilman Sumner asked about the notion of moving the fountain and Towne Square family sculpture from downtown to the Recreation Center – something he mentioned he first read about in Recreation Board minutes. After some discussion, Council confirmed that this concept had been discussed previously, perhaps at a meeting Councilman Sumner was not able to attend, as well as at Recreation Board meetings (which several Council members regularly attend). Councilman Bryan explained that the concept was to relocate the sculpture and/or a portion of the fountain to the Recreation Center entrance to free up space on Towne Square to allow more people on the Square to directly view the entertainment on the stage. The idea that more citizens would be able to enjoy the sculpture on a daily basis at the newly renovated Recreation Center was also considered in this concept.

Vice Mayor Weber thanked and complimented the Service Department for the expediency associated with the new sidewalk/path constructed on the south side of Hunt Road between Bluewing Terrace and the Kroger shopping area. Mr. Albrinck commented that they are also working with Duke Energy regarding the possibility of additional street lighting in the area.

Councilman Stacey complimented the City on the quality paving completed on Reed Hartman Highway. He suggested that staff look at the southeast corner of Plainfield/Hunt to assure that pedestrian pads have been properly placed at the crosswalks.

In addressing a comment from Councilwoman Stoller regarding pavement markings at the Kroger exit onto Hunt Road near McDonalds, staff commented that lane markings were recently added in that area within the past couple of days.

Mayor Buckman congratulated the City on a successful Veterans Day event this past weekend. Though he was unable to attend, he commented that Vice Mayor Weber handled his role extremely well, and thanked the Vice Mayor for his assistance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After all items on the agenda were acted upon, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to convene an Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to property acquisition and personnel matters. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried. Council and staff moved to the City Manager's Conference room for this evening's Executive Session.

After matters pertaining to property acquisition and personnel matters were discussed, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to convene to the regular meeting. A voice vote was taken. All Council members voted yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Weber moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:57 PM.

Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council