

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2011

Page 1

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on September 22, 2011. Mayor Mark F. Weber called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:30 PM.

2. OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Weber led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilman Tom Adamec,
Councilman Rick Bryan,
Councilman Robert Buckman,
Vice Mayor Lee Czerwonka,
Councilwoman Stephanie Stoller,
Councilman James Sumner,
and Mayor Mark Weber

ALSO PRESENT:

City Manager David Waltz, Solicitor Mark Vander Laan, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Public Works Director Gordon Perry, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, Deputy Treasurer/Tax Commissioner Sherry Poppe, Karla Plank, Administrative Assistant, and interested citizens.

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

Mayor Weber appointed Jim Pfeffer to read the legislation (ordinances) in their entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Buckman 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. Regular Meeting of September 8, 2011

7. COMMUNICATIONS

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

b. Reports From Outside Agencies

c. Mayor's Report – August 2011 – Honorable Mark F. Weber

d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for August 2011

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2011-59, transferring funds

2. Ordinance No. 2011-60, levying special assessments on real property related to property maintenance issues pursuant to Chapter 911 of the BA Code

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2011

Page 2

3. Ordinance No. 2011-61, amending Ordinance No. 2011-58 to establish two funds for the ODPS/OCJS Law Enforcement Liaison Grant

b. Public Works Committee, Thomas C. Adamec, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2011-62, authorizing the CM to enter into contracts for utilities/ communication facilities for Legacy Pointe Project

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matter (to consider compensation of a public employee)

12. ADJOURNMENT”

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2011. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS**

a. **Communications to Council**

There were no communications presented to Council.

b. **Reports From Outside Agencies**

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

c. **Mayor's Report – August 2011**

RECEIPTS:

Fines	\$ 15,385.00
Vendors/Solicitor's Permits	\$0
Bonds carried over	\$0
Bonds collected	\$0
Bonds applied	\$0
Restitution Payment collected	\$0
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$15,385.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/expungements/forfeitures/ NSF check charges, vendor permits)	\$ 9,356.00
To the State of OH:	
Victims of Crime	\$1,094.00
General Rev Fund	now included in 2b on SC form
Expungements	\$60.00
Indigent Defense Support fund	\$3,125.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$434.00
Justice Program Service Fund	
Indigent Driver's Alcohol Trtm't Fund	\$186.00
Seat Belts	\$1,080.00
Refund of overpaid fines	\$0
Bond Money applied	\$0
Bond Money returned	\$0
Restitution payment	\$50.000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$15,385.00
BALANCE IN BONDS:	\$250.00
Mayor's Court traffic citations	140
Mayor's Court criminal citations	27
Total Mayor's Court cases	167
May rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases:	\$9,356.00

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2011

Page 3

d. Financial Report – August 2011

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Financial Report for August 2011 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT- MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 2011

MONTH TO DATE	2010	2011
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 7-1-11	\$ 22,540,548.65	\$ 35,459,018.08
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	\$ 2,226,115.83	\$ 2,406,113.63
Debt Financing (long term)		
Debt Financing (short term)		
Other Revenue Received:	641,026.68	2,149,982.52
= Total Monthly Receipts	\$ 2,867,142.51	\$ 4,556,096.15
Expenditures:		
Long Term debt retirement		
Short term debt refinancing		
Other Expenditures:	2,125,639.17	3,049,502.55
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	<u>- 2,125,639.17</u>	<u>- 3,049,502.55</u>
END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 7-31-11	<u>\$ 23,282,051.99</u>	<u>\$ 36,965,611.68</u>

YEAR TO DATE	2010	2011
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 7-1-11	\$ 19,339,082.19	\$ 33,676,246.12
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	\$ 19,635,227.41	\$ 21,166,204.90
Debt Financing (long term)		
Debt Financing (short term)		
Other Revenue Received:	6,624,601.22	8,329,467.93
= Total YTD Receipts	26,259,828.63	29,495,672.83
Expenditures:		
Long term debt retirement	\$ 1,198,570.48	\$ 1,252,640.96
Short term debt refinancing		
Other Expenditures:	21,118,288.35	24,953,666.31
= Total YTD Expenditures:	<u>- 22,316,858.83</u>	<u>- 26,206,307.27</u>
YEAR-TO-DATE FUND BALANCE:	<u>\$ 23,282,051.99</u>	<u>\$ 36,965,611.68</u>

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 8/31/11. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$17,078.51. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIV. INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY - MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 2011

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2010	2011
Business Net Profit	\$ 147,416.72	\$ 211,834.03
Resident Net Profit	46,472.37	44,787.37
Non-Resident Net Profit	10,118.21	8,579.52
Subcontractor Net Profit	84.00	812.00
Net Profit Total	\$ 204,091.30	\$ 266,012.92
Withholding	\$ 1,979,352.22	\$ 2,093,011.21
Subcontractor Withholding	42,672.31	47,089.50
Withholding Total	\$ 2,022,024.53	\$ 2,140,100.71
Monthly Collection Totals	\$ 2,226,115.83	\$ 2,406,113.63

YEAR TO DATE STATUS	2010	2011
Business Net Profit	\$ 3,192,558.52	\$ 3,781,760.30
Resident Net Profit	725,031.50	769,525.21
Non-Resident Net Profit	140,738.90	176,635.05
Subcontractor Net Profit	19,682.93	24,267.58
Net Profit Total	\$ 4,078,011.85	\$ 4,752,188.14
Withholding	\$15,230,035.44	\$16,036,867.99
Subcontractor Withholding	327,180.12	377,148.77
Withholding Total	\$ 15,557,215.56	\$ 16,414,016.76
YTD Collection Totals	<u>\$ 19,635,227.41</u>	<u>\$ 21,166,204.90</u>
YTD Refund Totals	<u>\$ 890,780.33</u>	<u>\$ 733,453.67</u>

September 22, 2011

Page 4

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Dick Huskey, 5061 Myerdale Drive, addressed his concerns in opposition to the new School District Office building being built next to the Mapledale Elementary School. He feels that the District Office is in a residential zone and does not fall within the definition of the R-1 residential district.

Hearings from Citizens was declared closed at 7:35 PM.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

“This memo offers a brief description of the topics included on the September 22 Council agenda.

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2011-59 - Transferring funds

A transfer ordinance is necessary to address several law enforcement grant matters, and to set up the revenue and expenditure appropriations for the Legacy Pointe/Intelligence access road and other public improvements that are to be financed through the funds available from recent closing on the TIF bonds.

As discussed later in this memo, under a recent ordinance the City's Police Department was authorized to become the administering agency for a law enforcement liaison grant under Fund No. 293. This new activity, for which the accounting funds are required, possesses the opportunity for earning revenue for a very minimal investment in terms of “hosting” the contractual payee under the program. The attachment reflects a number of listings for Fund No. 293 for both the revenue and expenditure appropriation areas. These entries merely set up the expected “first year” revenues and expenditures relating to this new grant.

The second law enforcement grant item involves Fund No. 282 which is the OVI (Operating a Vehicle while Impaired) Grant for 2012. These federal/state grants often have a grant year that differs from our accounting year (usually starting or ending in October), and it is necessary to set things up at this time for Fund No. 282 for the upcoming year. Therefore, any items reflecting the prefix # 282 relate to this issue.

Although there are a few minor shifts within existing expenditures at the bottom of the attachment page, the remaining listings, which contain some substantial amounts, pertain entirely to the Intelligence/Legacy Pointe project.

Utilizing Fifth Third Securities, Inc. as the underwriter, the City of Blue Ash issued a total of \$3,125,000 in limited tax general obligation bonds (TIF bonds) on September 1, 2011, at a net interest cost of 3.41%. That interest percentage represents a weighted average of the bonds which mature over the next 20 years. Upon closing of the bonds, the City received proceeds of \$3,141,950.40 which included a small premium on the issue. The components to be funded out of those proceeds include the “reservation” of the premium, capitalized interest, and the cost of issuance to the Bond Retirement Fund No. 331, and the deposit of the remaining proceeds of \$2,875,000 into the Ilmenau Way connector road project Fund No. 448.

Essentially, these items on the transfer place the proceeds of the bonds in the appropriate funds and accounts, provide for the expected construction funding of the non-grant financed portion of the public improvements, and provide for the payment of the cost of issuance related to the bonds.

City Council may recall that the budget was established (and special “reimbursement” legislation was passed) to provide for an “advance” into this fund as engineering and certain legal costs had to be expended before funds were available from the bonds. This transfer “recaptures” one-half or \$250,000 of those advanced funds of \$500,000. At this time, since the actual costs related to the public improvements, the sidewalks, utility relocations, etc., are not truly known, it is recommended that the remaining funding be left in place until things firm up on the cost side.

September 22, 2011

Page 5

This “advance” will also be a great benefit as the road/utility construction work begins later this fall and into early next year, given the reimbursement nature of the \$250,000 grant authorized by the State on this project. Because of the nature of that grant, it is important to have a certain amount of “working capital” as funds have to be expended before reimbursements are received at a later date.

Please direct questions regarding this transfer to the Treasurer.

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2011-60 - Levying special assessments on real property related to property maintenance issues pursuant to Chapter 911 of the BA Code

As Council is aware, the City’s property maintenance provisions defined in Chapter 911 allow for the City to “step in” and take care of the mowing of tall grass and weeds if the property owner, after an extended period of time and with notice, has not taken care of the problem. The City then bills the landowner for the cost of that maintenance. If the invoiced cost of the maintenance has not been paid by the landowner to the City after a defined period, the City can then “certify it to the County Auditor to be placed upon the tax duplicate and collected and paid back to the City.”

In the past several months, the City has taken care of maintenance issues multiple times on several Blue Ash properties. Ordinance No. 2011-60 represents the notification to the County Auditor of such payments directing the specified amounts to be levied and assessed on the properties as noted within the ordinance.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Solicitor.

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2011-61 – amending Ordinance No. 2011-58 to establish two revenue accounts for the ODPS/OCJS Law Enforcement Liaison Grant

At the last meeting, Council passed Ordinance No. 2011-58 which authorized the City’s participation in a new law enforcement grant, and also permitted the creation of a new fund to track the revenues and expenses of that effort. Unfortunately, it was not recognized at the time that the related grant year overlaps our accounting year and thus now requires an amendment to that Ordinance so that two funds, instead of one, will be created for this grant process. The finance office will alternate between these two funds to keep the grant years separate from one another as required under our agreement. This Ordinance is amended only to provide that second fund so that each year may be handled separately and the two funds can be rotated as new grants are awarded and the other grants are closed out.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2011-62 – authorizing the City Manager to enter into contracts for utility and communication facilities for Legacy Pointe

The City Administration has been working very closely with Duke Realty Limited Partnership, LLC, the owner of the 29-acre parcel now designated as the Legacy Pointe Subdivision, itelligence, the administration and the Board of the Sycamore Community School District and with various engineers and attorneys on the itelligence project currently underway along Reed Hartman Highway at Osbourne Boulevard. Much has been accomplished on this project already, including finalization of the tax incentive financing arrangement with all parties, the actual issuance of the bonds that will be utilized to pay for the public improvements, the purchase of an 8-acre component of the Duke Realty property by itelligence, and the execution of the development/construction agreement by itelligence with Duke’s construction division. The City’s Public Works Director has been working very closely with the roadway engineer on the final design for the access roadway (Ilmenau Way) and for the relatively complex requirement for new utility and telecommunication installations and the relocation of overhead lines underground to accommodate our agreement with itelligence and Duke Realty Limited Partnership, LLC.

Council may recall that the public improvements, the cost of which is to be paid by the proceeds of the bond issue (addressed earlier in this memo related to the transfer ordinance), include the full design and construction of the new access road (which will be public dedicated right-of-way), the installation of curbs, gutters, storm drainage systems, sidewalks, pavement, and rather complex utility accommodations. The utility component of

September 22, 2011

Page 6

this project has two distinct categories. The first involves the agreements to include within the public improvements the relocation underground of existing overhead utilities along Reed Hartman Highway adjacent to the Duke/Intelligence property all the way to the Wendy's property on the west side of Reed Hartman Highway. That involves not only the physical construction of the underground conduits required to accommodate this commitment, but also the cost associated with having the various conductors and wires or cable, and equipment installed by those providing telecommunication, fiber, or electric power and services.

The second major component involves providing underground conduit installations along both sides of Ilmenau Way and along the south side of Osborne Boulevard. This Ordinance is needed so that contracts can be entered into for the installation of the necessary "utility" or "telecommunication" capacities to serve intelligence and those developments will likely occur on remaining undeveloped lots in Legacy Pointe.

The Public Works Director has been working not only on the design, but on the contractual arrangements that are necessary for each of the providers of these services, including Time Warner and their affiliates, Cincinnati Bell, KDL/Windstream, and Duke Energy. In order to avoid delays due to the delivery of necessary materials, the Public Works Director has indicated the need to secure authorization from City Council for contracts with these various entities to live up to the obligations the City has as to the public improvements.

Although we have estimates at this time as to the costs associated with each component, the cost to the project for each of these installations will begin as estimates and will be finalized once the actual costs are known. Therefore, it is impossible to provide a specific threshold or dollar amount for each of these contracts. However, collectively, they are not expected to exceed the budgeted total of \$847,000 that was included in the bond proceeds for this portion of the work.

Specifically, the ordinance seeks City Council's authority for the City Manager to enter into agreements with Time Warner and affiliates, Cincinnati Bell, Duke Energy, and KDL/Windstream, relating to their component of the public improvements. None of these efforts can be bid, as all of them involve proprietary and/or specific installations relating to either public utility or telecommunication service as a customer provided to business and residents.

Should there be any questions relating to this Ordinance, they can be directed to the Public Works Director or the Treasurer."

a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-59 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-59

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2011-3 FOR THE YEAR 2011 (AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT); 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...

Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2011

Page 7

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-59.

There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons...

Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-59 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-60 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-60

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ON
REAL PROPERTY FOR THE TOTAL COST OF MITIGATING
NOXIOUS WEEDS AND HIGH GRASS PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 911 OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF
ORDINANACES AND R.C. 715.261; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons...

Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-60.

Discussion:

Mayor Weber inquired to what period of time this Ordinance was covered.

Deputy Treasurer Sherry Poppe responded that the last special assessment Ordinance was passed in February 2011.

Treasurer Jim Pfeffer indicated that Ms. Poppe works in conjunction with Community Development Program Administrator Rich Dole in ensuring property owners comply with Chapter 911 of the Blue Ash Code.

There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons...

Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-60 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-61 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

September 22, 2011

Page 8

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-61

AMENDING SECTION II OF ORDINANCE 2011-58 TO ESTABLISH TWO SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS NUMBER 293 AND 294 ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF A REGIONAL OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (ODPS)/OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (OCJS) LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON GRANT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons...

Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Vice Mayor Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-61.

There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons...

Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-61 passed.

b. Public Works Committee, Thomas C. Adamec, Chairperson

Councilman Adamec asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-62 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-62

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR UTILITY AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES FOR LEGACY POINTE PROJECT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Adamec moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons ...

Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2011

Page 9

Councilman Adamec moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-62.

Public Works Director Gordon Perry explained that as part of the Legacy Pointe project, the Reed Hartman overhead power lines and other various utilities adjacent to the property will be placed in underground conduits. These various service agreements are needed to relocate the utilities to underground systems as part of the construction of intelligence and Ilmenau Way.

There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons...

Councilman Bryan,
Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-62 passed.

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler reported that the City of Blue Ash will be hosting, in conjunction with the City of Montgomery and Sycamore Community School District, a new resident welcome event. The City of Montgomery is hosting a Harvest Moon Festival and the City has partnered with them for our new residents on Saturday, October 1st from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Swaim Park Lodge.

Public Works Director Gordon Perry reported that this year's paving project is nearly complete with the exception of Mohler Road wherein there were delays due to the water main. Paving on Mohler Road will begin in a few weeks where they will begin to mill off the old pavement, complete asphalt repairs, and then resurface the area from Mohler west and Aston Place. Final portions of Hunt Road is currently being milled and repaved.

Mr. Perry reported that the City received a check in the amount of \$26,213.99 from the Hamilton County Solid Waste District for recycling efforts in the City of Blue Ash. The City of Blue Ash has recycled 802 tons of materials which is just over 27% of our waste. It was a great effort by the community for its recycling efforts.

Mr. Perry further reported that the Hamilton County Storm Water District created a grant program to provide storm water project funding from assessments paid by property owners in the County. The City of Blue Ash has submitted ten projects for funding from this source.

Currently, the City is on the list to receive potentially \$120,000 towards the repair of the storm water sewer on Glendale-Milford Road and Reed Hartman Highway. Based on the committee's approval of the recommendations, it could be the largest awarded amount.

Vice Mayor Czerwonka congratulated Mr. Perry on his appointment to the Storm Water Management Board.

Councilman Bryan questioned what the recycling rebate check was predicated on.

Mr. Perry informed him that it was based on a recycling rate from each community – the more that is recycled the more dollars received. The City received the maximum amount possible based on tonnage.

Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Funk noted that Ann Wilson, who works with staff on the Cooper Creek Event Center, reported that 12 weddings have been booked to-date for the 2012 season and 4 - 5 more weddings are pending. There are 35 business and corporate events booked for 2012. A hard hat tour of the Center was given to approximately 35 people which resulted in more rentals. In the future, staff will be conducting a hard hat tour with Councilmembers.

Mayor Weber questioned whether the rates for the Cooper Creek Event Center are published anywhere?

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 22, 2011

Page 10

Mr. Funk noted that the rates are not published but based on Resolution 2010-13, it states that the rates would be based on market rates for comparable facilities in the Cincinnati area. Rates are currently negotiable depending on the day of the week and the time of the year.

Mayor Weber questioned if charity golf events are being sought.

Mr. Funk responded that there have been five new golf outings scheduled next year, and new events have been scheduled for this fall. Currently, most marketing is being done by word of mouth due to the facility not being finalized but feels it has been an aggressive method.

City Manager David Waltz reported that he just arrived to the Council meeting from Denver, Colorado wherein he participated in the Chamber of Commerce exploration trip held every year to review other peer cities throughout the country. A consistent message in Denver was the light rail – the same issue for the City a number of years ago. They are finding now that people are embracing the idea of a broad area light rail system. Secondly, Denver is doing something similar to what is being done in Cincinnati which is leveraging its scientific and research community at UC and Children's Hospital and trying to export some of that into business ventures.

Councilman Sumner questioned what costs were talked about for the light rail and what was their funding mechanism.

City Manager Waltz indicated that the cost was in the billions of dollars. The funding mechanism was approximately 1% in sales tax to fund it.

Mayor Weber recapped the Hike for Hospice fundraising event on October 15th.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

After all items on the agenda were acted upon, Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to convene an Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel matters. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons ...

Councilwoman Stoller,
Councilman Sumner,
Councilman Buckman,
Vice Mayor Czerwonka,
Councilman Adamec,
Councilman Bryan,
and Mayor Weber

voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

After matters pertaining to personnel matters were discussed, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to convene to the regular meeting. A voice vote was taken. All Council members voted yes. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:22 PM.

Mark F. Weber, Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES RECORDED AND WRITTEN BY:

Karla Plank, Administrative Assistant