

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on August 9, 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, Deputy Solicitor Bryan Pacheco, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Service Director Dennis Albrinck, Technology Officer Dan Klapp, Human Resources Officer Margaret Main, Recreation/Sports Superintendent Kathy Swensen, Special Events Coordinator Barb Griffin, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, and interested citizens

**PRESENTATION BY WAL-MART OF SPONSORSHIP CHECK FOR THE 2007 TASTE OF BLUE ASH**

Mayor Buckman recognized Parks & Recreation Department employee Barb Griffin who introduced Mr. Ron Mosby of the Wal-Mart Corporation. Ms. Griffin explained that this is the first year Wal-Mart has been involved as a major sponsor of a special event, and she thanked Mr. Mosby and Wal-Mart for being a part of this year's Taste of Blue Ash as the Main Stage sponsor. Mr. Mosby presented a \$10,000 check to Mayor Buckman, City Manager David Waltz, and Ms. Griffin and commented that he and Wal-Mart are pleased to be a sponsor for the event and involved within the Blue Ash community. (Earlier this year, Wal-Mart opened a supercenter in Blue Ash's neighboring community, the Village of Evendale.)

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the revised 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. PRESENTATION BY WAL-MART OF SPONSORSHIP CHECK FOR THE 2007 TASTE OF BLUE ASH
5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - a. Regular Meeting of July 12, 2007
7. COMMUNICATIONS
  - a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
  - b. Reports From Outside Agencies
  - c. Mayor's Report – July 2007 – Honorable Robert J. Buckman, Jr.
  - d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for July 2007
8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS
9. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Property Acquisition & Personnel Matter
11. ADJOURNMENT”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2007. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Communications to Council**

The following liquor permit request was received – a new type to an existing permit. The Blue Ash Police have reviewed the request and have expressed no objection:

Permit Number: 2712183; Permit Type: STCK

TO: Fiesta Vrava Inc. (the El Pueblo restaurant), 4270 Hunt Road, Blue Ash, 45236

Council expressed no objection to the permit.

**Reports From Outside Agencies**

There were no outside agencies present at the meeting.

**Mayor's Report – July 2007**

RECEIPTS:

Fines .....	\$ 14,485.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over .....	\$ 0.00
Interest Earned.....	\$6.61
Bonds collected.....	\$500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS: .....	\$14,991.61

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures) .....	\$10,677.61
To the State of OH .....	\$3,788.00
Refund of Overpaid Fine.....	\$26.00
Bond Money applied .....	\$150.00
Bond Money returned .....	\$250.00
BMV .....	\$0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....	\$14,891.61

BALANCE IN BONDS:.....

Mayor's Court traffic citations.....	213
Mayor's Court criminal citations.....	18
Total Mayor's Court cases .....	231
July rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases:	\$10,677.61

**Financial Report – July 2007**

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

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

MONTH TO DATE	2006	2007
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 7-1-07	\$12,896,869.91	\$16,577,759.04
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	\$2,516,192.48	2,667,558.90
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	810,527.12	851,603.05
= Total Monthly Receipts	3,326,719.60	3,519,161.95
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	2,550,759.59	2,702,017.94
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-2,550,759.59	-2,702,017.94
ENDING FUND BALANCE: 7-31-07	13,672,829.92	17,394,903.05
YEAR TO DATE	2006	2007
START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	12,916,635.98	17,286,456.32
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	14,023,946.80	16,356,842.48
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	6,088,121.32	6,586,063.39
= Total Monthly Receipts	20,112,068.12	22,942,905.87
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	19,355,874.18	22,834,459.14
= Total YTD Expenditures:	-19,355,874.18	-22,834,459.14
YTD FUND BALANCE	13,672,829.92	17,394,903.05

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 7-31-07. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$462,261.35. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

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

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2006	2007
Business Net Profit	841,631.35	\$557,650.97
Resident Net Profit	72,562.37	109,225.59
Non-Resident Net Profit	17,153.06	30,377.50
Subcontractor Net Profit	627.99	2,061.50
Net Profit Total	931,974.77	699,315.56
Withholding	1,538,589.92	1,914,145.11
Subcontractor Withholding	45,627.79	54,098.43
Withholding Total	1,584,217.71	1,968,243.54
Monthly Collection Totals	2,516,192.48	2,667,559.10
YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS	2006	2007
Business Net Profit	3,166,742.23	2,272,527.30
Resident Net Profit	566,292.71	686,782.65
Non-Resident Net Profit	156,566.15	184,875.55
Subcontractor Net Profit	18,323.75	46,683.79
Net Profit Total	3,907,924.84	3,190,869.29
Withholding	9,923,354.90	12,861,271.50
Subcontractor Withholding	192,667.06	304,701.89
Withholding Total	10,116,021.96	13,165,973.39
YTD Collection Totals	14,023,946.80	16,356,842.68
YTD Refund Totals	497,879.95	1,210,094.04

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

No citizens wished to address Council.

**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 August 9th Council Agenda:

**Item 4. Presentation by Wal-Mart of sponsorship check for the 2007 Taste of Blue Ash**

Mr. Ron Mosby representing the Wal-Mart Corporation is expected to attend Thursday’s meeting to formally present their sponsorship check for the 2007 Taste of Blue Ash. This represents Wal-Mart’s first year being involved with Blue Ash sponsorship activity, as they are the main stage sponsor. It is expected that a check for \$10,000 will be presented at the meeting.

**Item 9.a.1. Motion setting 7:00PM, Tuesday, September 11, 2007 as public hearing regarding an appeal of a decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals relating to a request to reduce a setback for a single family residence at 5723 Cook Avenue**

A request to appeal a decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals has been made related to a setback decision for a new single family residence at 5723 Cook Avenue. This motion would formally set a hearing for the next Council meeting, Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that meeting, Council will be provided with more details related to this request.

Please direct questions relating this hearing to Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at 745-8528 or E-mail Dan at djohnson@blueash.com.”

*Administrative Note: the item described as 9.a.1.above was later pulled from the agenda since the request for an appeal was withdrawn. SKB*

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

City Manager David Waltz commented that construction on Phase I of the Recreation Center project (addition of the new gym) began in August. Mr. Waltz commented that at the September 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, he plans to have the Architect for the project present final plans and renderings for Phase II of the project before that portion is put out for public bid. In discussing future meetings, Mr. Waltz explained that it is likely an October or November work session will be suggested to discuss results of the recent Municipal & Safety Center facility study.

Public Information Officer Sue Bennett and Technology Officer Dan Klapp gave Council a preview of the newly redesigned BlueAsh.Com website, which is scheduled to be launched by the end of the month. Ms. Bennett explained that the new site will incorporate the City’s branding colors, logos, and slogans; will be greatly enhanced in terms of overall information, photos, and graphics; and will offer advanced interactive features for citizens, such as an

eventual customer service opportunity where citizens can submit service requests online, more interactive maps, and the ability to register for classes at the Recreation Center. It was explained that the latter items would not be included in the initial launch; however, the goal is to have such features operational by year-end.

In addressing a question from Councilman Stacey, Ms. Bennett explained that the new content management system offers a greatly improved tool which will allow more efficient updating of the site. Various departments have also taken part in this redesign process and will “take ownership” of their portions of the site, such as the Recreation Center staff, Service Department, Fire, and Police. The web update team has been very pleased with the new vendor and its content management system product, and looks forward to the upcoming launch. Ms. Bennett commented that she would inform Council when that planned launch will take place.

Treasurer Jim Pfeffer commented that the City closed on the \$9.75 million bond issuance this week. However, he also sadly reported that the City’s long-time bond counsel, Fred Kiel, passed away over the past weekend. He has worked with the City for over 25 years on bond issuances, and he will be greatly missed.

Councilwoman Stoller asked fellow Council members to consider ways that the City can, in the future, improve its traffic control systems throughout Blue Ash to make them more efficient for Blue Ash residents – not just the business community.

**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. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

After matters pertaining to property acquisition and personnel were discussed, Councilman Weber moved, Councilman Sumner 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 Sumner moved, Councilman Weber seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM.

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Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

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Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

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Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council