

CITY OF HARRISON

COUNCIL MINUTES

2 FEBRUARY 2016

Prior to the meeting, Dr. John Hembree of the Harrison Avenue Assembly of God delivered the invocation.

Council met in regular session with Mayor William Neyer presiding. Members present included: Mrs. Cindy Abrams, Mr. Ray Acra, Mr. Ethan Dole, Mr. Ryan Grubbs, Mr. Mark Louis, Mr. Hank Menninger, and Mr. Randy Shank. Mr. William Deters, the Law Director was also in attendance.

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Shank made a motion, seconded by Mr. Menninger to approve the Council meeting minutes for January 19, 2016. **Roll Call: All – yea.**

Mr. Louis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grubbs to approve the purchase orders report. **Roll Call: All – yea.**

Mr. Grubbs made a motion, seconded by Mr. Louis to approve a resolution authorizing an agreement to the Agreement for Engineering Services with ARCADIS U.S., Inc. **Roll Call: All – yea. (Resolution # 4 – 2016).**

Mr. Grubbs made a motion, seconded by Mr. Louis to approve a resolution authorizing an Agreement for Engineering Services with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. **Roll Call: All – yea. (Resolution #5 – 2016).**

Mrs. Abrams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Acra to table the approval of a resolution to approve a CRA for Precision Fabricators Inc. **Roll Call: All – yea.**

Visitors

Mr. Judy Kercheval addressed Council with concerns regarding RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency). Mrs. Kercheval explained the problems she and others have had with long waits on the phone with RITA representatives and difficulties in completing RITA forms as well as inaccuracies in the billing. Mr. Menninger added that he has personally had difficulties with the forms. He asked if the city's Finance Director could perform a cost analysis on using RITA versus an in-house tax department. He also asked if Mrs. Burton could address the problems with the tax forms. Mr. Shank explained that the city of Harrison switched to RITA as a cost saving means and the first year with RITA the city saved \$85,000.

CITY OF HARRISON
COUNCIL MINUTES
2 FEBRUARY 2016
PAGE 2

Mayor Report

Mayor Neyer reported that beginning February 8, all city employees will begin wearing the new city photo ID cards. The ID card contains phone numbers on the back that residents can call to validate the employees position. The resident can also use information from the card to offer compliments or complaints on specific employees.

Law Director Report

Mr. Deters had no report.

Council – Committee Reports

Mrs. Abrams:

Civil Defense/ Safety Committee: No report.

Economic Development Committee:

Mrs. Abrams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shank to add an item to the agenda regarding the scheduling of a public hearing for two projects in the JEDD. **Roll Call: All – yea.**

Mrs. Abrams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shank to set a public hearing to consider an amendment for two projects to the Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) agreement. Said hearing will be held on February 16, 2016 at 7:15 pm. **Roll Call: All – yea.**

Mrs. Abrams reported the committee is continuing work on the Master Plan. She also gave a brief re-cap of the 2015 projects from the Economic Development Committee: New branding identification for the downtown businesses now known as The District; The Greater Harrison Rotary Club; the purchase of 25 acres by Duke Energy in the Harrison Commerce Center for a new facility offering 100 new jobs ; new Goodwill store and Velvet Smoke restaurant; 15,000 square foot addition to the Roses and Rempke building for use as a multi tenant space.

Mrs. Abrams thanked Jennifer Ekey her hard work and dedication while serving as the Harrison Economic Development Director.

The Greater Harrison Chamber of Commerce will hold their Annual Breakfast on February 11 at 7:30 am at the VFW Hall.

Mr. Menninger:

Law Committee: The Law Committee met on February 2 and discussed several minor pieces

CITY OF HARRISON
COUNCIL MINUTES
2 FEBRUARY 2016

PAGE 3

of legislation in the Ohio House. Rep. Burk and Yoko are setting up information hearings about medical marijuana throughout the state. One such hearing will be held at Kreske Auditorium at the UC Medical School on February 4 at 11:00 am. House Bill #407 was introduced to require law enforcement agencies that use body cameras to adopt written policies for operation of the cameras and to have those policies available to the public. House Bill #409 would exempt property from taxation on a retail store that is operated by a non-profit that sells donated items.

Mr. Menninger briefly discussed the Northern Supply Access Project to be located across from Short Road on the west side of Dry Fork creek. Dan Brooks submitted the city's concerns.

The committee now has 11 commitments to serve on the Master Plan. He thanked Jennifer Ekey for being a key person in putting this all together. The next meeting of the Law Committee will be held on March 3 at 6:00 pm.

Fire and Emergency Medical Committee: No report.

TIRC: No report.

Mr. Grubbs:

Utilities Committee: The committee met on February 2, but no specific information to report.

Recreation Commission: The commission has posted their 2016 activities calendar posted on Facebook and Twitter. The next meeting will be held on February 10 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Louis:

Police Committee:

Mr. Louis offered his condolences to the family and friends of former Harrison Police Officer Carl Butler. Officer Butler started his law enforcement career with the Harrison Police Department in 1982. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1987 and implemented a strict DUI program as well as creating the Explorers Program. He retired in 1993.

The next meeting of the Police Committee is scheduled for February 16 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Louis extended his congratulations to Jennifer Ekey on her new position with the city of Middletown.

Mr. Louis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Acra to enter into an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. **Roll Call: All – yea.**

CITY OF HARRISON
COUNCIL MINUTES
2 FEBRUARY 2016
PAGE 4

Mr. Dole:

Information Technology Committee: The committee met on February 2 with Jennifer Ekey on current system upgrades.

Personnel Committee: The next meeting of the Personnel Committee will be held on March 1 at 5:30 pm.

Solid Waste & Environmental: The committee will meet in unison with the Streets and Utilities Committees. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 1 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Acra:

Storm Water Committee: The Whitewater Watershed will be around the city marking storm drains.

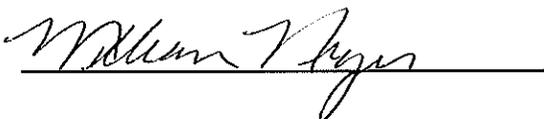
Mr. Shank:

Streets Committee: The Streets Committee met on February 2 with no specific information to report.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will meet on February 16 at 5:15 pm. The Ohio Senate is considering offering the Sales Tax Holiday again this year in August for back to school clothing and supplies on items costing up to \$75.00.

Mayor Neyer announced the meeting with downtown business owners with regards to parking originally scheduled for February 13 has been canceled and will be re-scheduled at a later time.

There being no further business, Council entered into executive session.



William Neyer, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carol Wiwi, Clerk