

MINUTES STREATOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STREATOR CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKSHOP) MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, 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: Councilman Brozak, Councilman Hart, Councilman Williamson and Mayor Lansford.

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

CONSIDERATIONS:

1.) DISCUSSION REGARDING –Ordinance Removing Stop Signs N & S Bound on Sherman Street at Water Street.

Mayor Lansford reported on the item and stated that a mailing was sent out requesting feedback from area residents regarding the stop signs and of the citizens who responded it was an overwhelming majority that wished to have the stop signs remain for safety purposes. Mayor Lansford stated that a majority stated they would like more enforcement of the stop signs. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to leave the stop signs in place. Mayor Lansford stated that action would be taken at the February 15th meeting.

2.) DISCUSSION REGARDING – Holy Trinity Church Request for Stop Sign at E. Bridge & Trinity Drive.

Mayor Lansford presented the item to Council. Paul C. Nicholson, City Manager, reported on the item. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have staff send a mailing canvassing the neighbors to get their input, after which, Council would revisit the request.

3) DISCUSSION REGARDING – Petition Requesting CBD Parking Regulations

Mayor Lansford presented the item. Nicholson reported on the issue stating that there are no ordinances to back up some of the existing 'customer parking only' signs in the downtown area which renders them unenforceable. Nicholson questioned whether Council wished to have staff review the parking issues and present a comprehensive parking plan for the CBD and side streets. Councilman Williamson stated that the issues with the CBD parking; i.e. downtown employees parking in front of businesses, has been an issue for as long as he could remember and did not know how it would ever be resolved. Mayor Lansford stated he would like to have staff present a proposal for the parking in the CBD for the Council to review at a future COW meeting. Mayor Lansford also reported that there was no urgency regarding the proposal.

4.) DISCUSSION REGARDING – Draft Financial Funds Policy

Mayor Lansford presented the item for discussion and stated he would like to implement formal policies for dealing with the bond ratings and future finances of the City. The Mayor stated that there was no urgency, but they need to be in place in the near future. Nicholson prioritized the necessity for the policy and stated that he would like to start with the "reserve policy". Nicholson stated that it was the recommendation of bond counsel for the City to set goals and targets in an effort to raise the City's bond rating and that they recommended 25% in an effort to reestablish a two million dollar reserve. Mayor Lansford stated that he thinks the key is fiscal responsibility and the establishment of policies. Councilman Williamson expressed concerns with the proposed 25% general fund reserve goal. He suggested that the goal may be to aggressive and that in order to achieve it, that would mean the possible loss of employees and services to the City. Mayor Lansford stated that the Council could adjust that goal to whatever the Council thought would be achievable. It was agreed that the reserve policy be

placed on the agenda for action at the meeting on the 15th in order to start working toward a complete financial funds policy.

5.) DISCUSSION REGARDING – Residential Occupancies - CBD Zoning District

Nicholson reported on issues with regard to residential occupancies within the CBD zoning district, stating that by the new zoning ordinance, passed in October 20, 2004. The new ordinance requires all residential uses in the CBD zoning district to have a “special use” permit issued by the City in order to have residential occupancy. To date there have only been two such petitions and permits issued so the residential dwellings that have occurred since 2004 are in violation of the zoning code. Nicholson stated that the strategic plan does speak to residential occupancies on the upper floors, but recently there have been problems involving the creation of first floor residential occupancies without obtaining the required special use permit.. Nicholson questioned the Council as to what direction they wished to go with this issue. It was the consensus of the Council to enforce the zoning code and require the owners/occupants to go through the “special use” permitting process.

6.) DISCUSSION REGARDING – Draft Final Site Plan – City Park Band Shell

Nicholson reported on the project and stated that Jeremy Palm, City Engineer, had designed a new parking area on Hickory Street in connection with this project. Palm reviewed with Council the parking lot design and stated that it would be constructed from TIF dollars.

SHORT SELECTED SUBJECTS:

a. Snow Route Ordinance.

Updated Council regarding the item and stated staff was still being working on it.

b. Formal Adoption – City Strategic Plan

Nicholson reported that formal acceptance of the strategic plan would appear on the February 15th Council packet.

c. Vacant Building Status

Nicholson and David Fussell, Director of Public Works, reported to Council regarding the status of the vacant building, stating that all the tract searches had been done. Following discussion, the Council wished to proceed with the fast track process.

Prior to adjourning Councilman Williamson questioned how use of the new radar trailer was going. Police Chief, Jeff Anderson, reported on its use.

Councilman Hart questioned if there has been an increase in reimbursements in connection with the Reading Sewer project. Palm said yes there had been an increase; the City was receiving between twelve and fifteen thousand dollars per month.

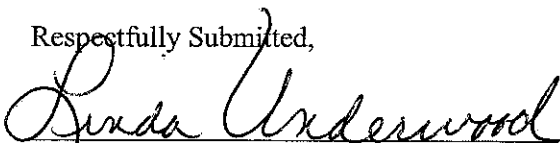
ADJOURNMENT: With no further items for discussion, Mayor Lansford called for a motion to adjourn.

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

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

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Linda Underwood, Deputy City Clerk