

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Whiston called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM on May 21, 2007.

INVOCATION

Hart offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Whiston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following answered roll call; John Curtis, Steve Hart, Emily Shaffer, Brandon Strain, Keith Strait, and Betty Williams. The Clerk declared a quorum.

MINUTES

Shaffer moved and Williams seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strain yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Hart yes.

GUESTS

Guests included Don Staiger and Alex Vance from the Sentinel.

POLICE CHIEF-BRIAN ZERMAN

Chief Zerman was excused.

FIRE CHIEF-DON STAIGER

The Department has responded to 149 calls this year.

Chief Staiger reported that part time Firefighter, Phil Jackson has already obtained his Inspector Safety Certification. Council considered if the cost of the training could be reimbursed with training grant funds. Strait moved and Williams seconded to allow the reimbursement of \$370.00 from the State Fire Marshal training grant. Roll call; Strait yes, Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes.

COMMITTEES & RECOMMENDATIONS

STREETS-BRANDON STRAIN

The committee is scheduled to meet at 6:30 on 5/31/07.

FIRE & POLICE-KEITH STRAIT

No report.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL-STEVE HART

The committee met prior to Council and debated the following issues: (1) the cost of required physicals for Police & Firefighters. Charges have been drastically reduced in the past when the facility has agreed to accept the insurance contracted amount for the services. Mermann offered to contact United HealthCare for the contracted amount and Whiston offered to negotiate a recent invoice from Heart Specialists for a new police officers required physical; (2) Resolution 5-21-07, a resolution to oppose HB 154 abolishing Mayor's Courts within the state; (3) Rogers agreed to remind the Recreation Director and the Recreation Board to have purchases first approved by the Council; (4) the committee recommended the following summer schedule: Council would meet on 7/2/07 and 8/6/07 and on 9/4/07, and eliminate the meetings on 7/16/07 and 8/20/07. A brief discussion followed on the proposed schedule. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to approve the proposed summer schedule. Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Strain no, Strait yes. Curtis yes, Hart yes; (5) Curtis moved and Williams seconded to accept the quote of \$2,958.00 from Gates McDonald for the 2008 Group Rating Program. (6) The committee discussed the wage scales for the Council, Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer for the next 4-year terms. Hart explained that the salary ordinances must be presented at the first meeting in June to allow for 3 readings and for the ordinances to take effect before the filing date for elected officials. Varying opinions were voiced in the lengthy discussion on the recommended annual increases. The hours required for the positions, the experience and keeping in line with surrounding communities were all considered. Hart proposed a comprise

and moved that the salaries be set at \$300.00 a month for Council, \$10,000.00 annually for the Mayor and \$42,000.00 annually for the Clerk-Treasurer for the 4 year terms. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call; Hart yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Strain yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes.

UTILITIES-BETTY WILLIAMS

The committee will meet following Council on 6/18/07.

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT & ZONING-EMILY SHAFFER

The minutes for the 5/7/07 meeting were distributed. The committee will meet prior to Council on 6/4/07 and then will adjourn until 9/4/07.

CODES & REGULATIONS-JOHN CURTIS

Curtis reported that the Solicitor has been given copies of sample animal nuisance ordinances to review. Chief Staiger and Administrator Rogers will develop a new building permit.

ADMINISTRATOR-DAN ROGERS

Rogers reported on the progress at the Sanitary Sewer Plant construction site. The old system is completed halted and all the new systems have begun. The old pumps are turned off and the old digesters are empty. Phase II will include the Adm. Building, paving, fencing, and finishing work. Whiston stated that Senator George Voinovich has expressed an interest in attending the Plant's dedication.

Final paper work for the OEPA has been submitted for the new 8" water line on Loren Road.

The Utility Committee is reviewing the amount of painting to be done at the Water Plant.

Resident complaints are of high grass from abandoned houses or those being sold or real estates tied up in foreclosures. Letters are being sent to the owners.

Paving bids will be opened on 5/25/07.

Annexation papers for the Styer/Long property on E. Union St. have been filed with the Auditor, Recorder, Board of Elections and the Secretary of State.

Curbing on E. Marion St. have been completed. Residents expressed appreciation that minor flooding will be eliminated. Roger stated that while it may improve some issues, it cannot alleviate all the flooding caused by the occasional heavy downpours.

Levering Brothers have replaced the heat pump in the east end of the municipal building.

MAYOR- TOM WHISTON

The Mayor reported that House Bill 154 would adversely affect the Village and urged Council to adopt Resolution 5-21-07. The Mt. Gilead Mayor's Court has historically offered a professional and timely service that benefits the community.

SOLICITORS-GRIFFITH & BRININGER

Solicitor Griffith distributed the firm's April hours report.

CLERK-TREASURER-SUE MERMANN

Hart moved and Curtis seconded to approve the bills. Roll call; Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strait yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes, Williams yes.

Resolution 5-7-07B was presented for the 2nd reading. Shaffer moved and Williams seconded to pass the fire grant resolution to the 3rd and final reading. Roll call; Shaffer yes, Williams yes, Hart yes, Curtis yes, Strain yes, Strait yes.

Ordinance 1576 was presented for the 2nd reading. The parking ordinance was amended to allow parking on the west side of S. Cherry St. from W. Marion St. to South St. Discussion focused on the S. Cherry St. parking limitations. The ordinance originally eliminated parking on both sides of S. Cherry St. and was amended to restrict parking only on the east side and to allow parking on the west side. Council discussed extending the one way to include all of S. Cherry St. The Mayor stated that one-way streets often create more problems and that there is no basis for complete elimination of parking on both sides of the street. Rogers reported residents are causing damage to the curb and tree lawn areas by parking along the narrow street. Council expressed concern that the changes were the result of one resident who requested that parking be allowed on the west side. The street is a snow emergency street, which requires that all vehicles be removed following a snowfall. Hart moved and Williams seconded to pass Ordinance 1576 to the 3rd reading. Roll call; Hart yes, Williams yes, Curtis no, Strait yes, Strain yes, Shaffer yes.

Resolution 5/21/07 was presented. Williams moved and Shaffer seconded to suspend the rules.

Roll call; Williams yes, Shaffer yes, Strain yes, Strait yes, Curtis yes, Hart yes. Williams moved and Hart seconded to adopt the resolution opposing HB 154 that will eliminate Mayor's Court within the State of Ohio.

The Ohio Government Risk insurance asked that Council verify that to the best of their knowledge, no negligent act, error, omission, or breach of duty has occurred that may give rise to a claim for the 2007/2008 insurance. Council members agreed that to the best of their knowledge, no problem exists.

Curtis moved and Strait seconded to adjourn at 825pm.

Sue Mermann, Clerk-Treasurer

Thomas E. Whiston, Mayor

Dan Rogers, Administrator