

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Taylor at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rausch, Mr. Fogt, Mrs. Richardson, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Groat, Mr. Reams, and Mr. Berbee.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor John Gore, Director of Administration Terry Emery, Finance Director Jenny Chavarria, Police Chief Floyd Golden, Fire Chief Jay Riley, Public Service Director Mike Andrako, City Engineer Jeremy Hoyt, Assistant Law Director John Eufinger, Zoning Administrator Derek Hutchinson, Project Manager Marc Dilsaver, and Clerk Kristina Jones

REPORTERS PRESENT: Taylor Evans-Journal Tribune, Sean Lehoist- Thisweek

CITIZENS PRESENT: Donald Boerger, Derek Vickers, Janell Alexander

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on March 26, 2015 were approved as written.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Mayor Gore reported the following:

Finance Department

Income Tax Assistance: Finance staff are available to provide City income tax assistance Monday through Friday, 8:00 am- 5:00 pm. Special after-hours/dates will be available on:

- Saturday, April 11, 2015 (9:00 am -12:00 pm)
- Tuesday, April 14, 2015 (5:00 pm-7:00 pm)
- Wednesday, April 15, 2015 (5:00 pm-7:00 pm)

The City will provide assistance at the Customer Service Counter located in City Hall, 209 South Main Street. For further Income Tax information or assistance, please call the Income Tax Division at (937) 645-7350 or visit our office.

City of Marysville Utility Bills are now available to customers electronically. Customers can enroll on the City's website, www.marysvilleohio.org. Post cards were sent to all accounts last week explaining the step-by-by process of enrolling in this new program.

Division of Police

The Marysville Division of Police parking lot located at 1250 W. 5th Street will now serve as a “safe zone” for in-person transactions of items advertised online. The public parking area is well lit and monitored by video surveillance twenty-four hours a day providing buyers and sellers a safe place to conduct transactions.

There is no requirement to notify the police division of a transaction. Police officers will not be involved in exchanges; however, they frequently drive through the parking area. Preferred hours for transactions are between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily.

We have received numerous positive comments on the City’s Facebook page, including 146 “shares” of the information that was posted.

Steve Levine, ABC 6 News Reporter, interviewed Chief Golden about the safe zone yesterday afternoon at the Police & Municipal Court facility. Steve followed up with an email saying they have gotten a lot of feedback already on Facebook and while he was at Columbus Police HQ today on another story, a detective commented they should be doing something like this and glad to see Marysville in the forefront on this.

Maintenance & Operations

Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) Crosswalk signage for the pedestrian crosswalk from City Hall to Partners Park will be installed next week, weather permitting.

Construction on the Partners Park Arch entryway and the Scott’s Community Commons monument sign will begin next week, weather permitting.

A local Cub Scout pack will be volunteering in McCarthy Park the week of April 20th and planting tree seedlings along the bank of the park where the railroad tie stairs have been removed.

The City is working to repair the approx. \$9,000 in damages to City Ball Fields A & B at Mill Creek Park caused by vandals last weekend. ORW is assisting City staff with the efforts.

City Streets crews are working to fill potholes now that the snow and ice has melted. To report potholes email publicservice@marysvilleohio.org or call (937)645-7350 option #5.

Pool passes are now on sale. The City is offering a 15% discount on passes purchased before April 15, 2015.

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Residents who may have a tree in the right of way that is in poor or failing health can email publicservice@marysvilleohio.org or call (937)645-7350 option #5 and request the tree to be assessed. The City will identify the tree and, if determined to be in poor or failing health, will remove it and grind the stump at no cost to the resident. The City is asking that all requests for tree assessments be made prior to April 15 to allow City crews to perform the work before other seasonal activities begin to take place.

Green & Clean Week: Green and Clean Week is April 19-26. The week includes an opportunity to Adopt-a-Park, litter collection efforts and a stream cleanup along Mill Creek near Swartzkopf Park. The stream cleanup is Thursday, April 23, at 3:30 pm. Those interested in participating in the stream cleanup efforts can contact City Engineer Jeremy Hoyt, 645-7358 or at jhoyt@marysvilleohio.org.

As part of Green & Clean Week, the City will hold a Shredding & E-Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, April 25 from 9 am-1 pm at Marysville Police & Court facility, 1250 W. 5th Street. This is for document shredding and electronics (no televisions).

Engineering

Bids were opened for the Fourth and Fifth Street Waterline Replacement project. The lowest and best contractor was Elite Excavating (out of Mansfield) with a base bid amount of \$2,830,465. Once we added a few necessary alternates, the total authorized cost by the Board of Control is \$3,000,390. The preconstruction meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015 where the contractor will provide a schedule for the proposed work.

Administration

Police Chief Floyd Golden and Deputy Chief Bo Spain will be on WQTT 1270 AM radio station tomorrow morning from 9:00-9:30 am for "Marysville Matters." Topics of discussion will be Pedestrian Safety, Uptown Parking and the new Safe Zone.

Mr. Taylor asked where the Farmer's Market was going to be. Mayor Gore said they will be located under the pavilion.

Mr. Reams asked if we could get a schedule for the Route 4 project from ODOT. Mr. Hoyt said he could get this information for him.

Mr. Reams said with regards to the safe zone that there are groups that sell things online and are planning to use this as their meeting place now, it was mentioned that this was a no smoking area. Are there signs up stating this? Mayor Gore said yes, there are signs and we will make sure that it is enforced.

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Mr. Berbee asked if we had a lightning strike at the corner of Court and Fourth Street? Mayor Gore said he was not sure but Chief Riley did have a person struck by lightning that he had to care for. Mr. Andrako said yes, we did, the signal was effected, he said we were able to cycle the power and get the signal back up and running.

Chief Riley said they had lightning hit the Presbyterian church and they had some damage to the side of the building and the slate shingles came off and there were people in the building including Councilwoman Groat. He said there were no injuries as a result of this. Chief Riley said they did have a person struck by lightning. He said it is real important to note for safety that you should not sit outside and watch the lightening.

Mrs. Richardson asked Chief Riley if he had any advice on how to protect your home from lightning. She asked if there are lightning rods that you can purchase to put on your home, because we had a house hit in Mill Valley. Chief Riley said we have had several houses hit in Mill Valley. Chief Riley said the biggest thing is to stay indoors with the windows and doors closed. He said as long as you do that you should be fine.

Mrs. Groat asked about the Dog Park, and a date for the opening. Mr. Andrako said he cannot wait until it opens. He said the only thing that is holding it up is the grass being established. He said we are not putting any fertilizer down because it is close to the well heads. He said the rain is helping.

Mrs. Groat asked when we will be coming out with a list of our summer programs, she said she knows our first Friday Night Uptown is May 29th. She asked what other dates can she give her friends that have been set. Mayor Gore asked dates for what programs? Mrs. Groat said uptown Friday nights. Mayor Gore said those dates are already set and they should have been advertised already. She asked if they were on the website. Mr. Andrako said they will. He said our activity guide is normally how we get those dates out. Since we are using a different designer for that this year, we had to overhaul a lot of it. He said we are trying to get that out in the next couple weeks and it will have all the information in it.

REPORT OF CLERK OF COUNCIL: No report.

REPORT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Phillips shared with Council the uptown Marysville brochure. He said it outlines demographics, as well as information where the shops are located in uptown Marysville. He also provided information about the job fair that is going to be held on May 20th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. It is in partnership with Job and Family Services and Director Gore. Mayor Gore added to please encourage people to dress accordingly for an interview.

Mr. Reams asked if we could re-promote all the programs that are offered to uptown businesses. Mr. Phillips said we promote these in the Uptown Marysville meetings and we have even gone door to door to promote these programs. Mr. Reams said we just need to keep promoting this, even though uptown businesses may know about the programs, people who are considering putting a business uptown may not. Mr. Phillips said we could do a press release.

Mrs. Richardson asked Mr. Phillips if he had a list of the businesses that will be at the job fair. Mr. Phillips said he does but not with him. Mrs. Richardson said she thinks if we give that information and how many positions are available that might persuade more people to come. Mr. Phillips said there will be more information coming out before the job fair that lists that information.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

A resolution “AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH UNION COUNTY TO ACT AS THE OFFICIAL GRANTEE FOR THE PY 2015 COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY” was presented for second reading, public hearing.

Citizen Comments: None.

Mr. Taylor asked the Council to consider waiving third reading as this is a timely issue we need to have it passed or failed tonight.

Council comments: None.

Mrs. Groat moved to waive third reading and the question put, stood:

Mrs. Groat YES; Mr. Reams YES; Mr. Berbee YES; Mr. Rausch YES;
Mr. Fogt YES; Mrs. Richardson YES; Mr. Taylor YES

Mr. Berbee moved to pass the legislation and the question put, stood:

Mr. Reams YES; Mr. Berbee YES; Mr. Rausch YES; Mr. Fogt YES;
Mrs. Richardson YES; Mr. Taylor YES; Mrs. Groat YES

ORDINANCES:

An ordinance “TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATION OF THE SCOTT FARMS, SECTION 4, PHASE 3 SITE DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS” was presented for third reading, title only.

Mrs. Richardson moved to pass the legislation and the question put, stood:

Mr. Berbee YES; Mr. Rausch YES; Mr. Fogt YES;
Mrs. Richardson YES; Mr. Taylor YES; Mrs. Groat YES;
Mr. Reams YES

An ordinance “SETTING COMPENSATION FOR CITY COUNCIL” was presented for second reading, public hearing.

Citizen Comments: None.

Council Comments: None.

This item will be back for third reading, title only on April 23, 2015.

An ordinance “ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR COUNCIL-ELECTED MAYOR” was presented for first reading, title only.

Administration Comments: Mayor Gore said this is a very difficult matter to discuss because it is unknown. He has chosen to do more than other Mayors because that was his choice. He said you replace my face with Mr. Emery’s face in the new form of government. Mayor Gore suggested that they set the compensation at half and review it after the end of the calendar year.

Council Comments: Mr. Taylor said he has had two different recommendations in private from Council members. One recommendation was that we amend it to a zero compensation, and another Council members said maybe we should table this issue for a year to see what the Mayor’s position requires.

Mrs. Groat said after speaking with Mr. Aslaner and Mr. Eufinger, she said we have to have some suggested compensation according to our Charter.

Mr. Taylor asked Mrs. Groat to hold her amendment suggestion until the next reading to give everyone a chance to consider it.

Mr. Rausch said he would be of the opinion that our president currently should have been getting compensated. He said there is a lot of communities that do compensate a president even under a Mayor-Council form of government. He said they have discussing whether they should funnel a lot of the communication through the presidency to the City Manager or should all seven of us be managing the City Manager. He said we came to the decision that it really should be funneled through the President. He said so there is going to be some additional time, effort, and communications. He agrees with Mayor Gore whether it is the \$1,500 or we go down to \$800. He does feel that this position should have some additional compensation. Mayor Gore said Mr. Rausch is right, after serving 8 years as President of Council, he said there is a lot of time you spend in the evenings representing the City.

Mr. Taylor asked Council to think about this and come back at second reading and they will make a decision on how to proceed. He said based on a conversation that he and Mr. Rausch had about who could run for president/mayor. He said he has looked and there is no place in our Charter that states we cannot leave it as is, for all seven to be eligible to run for Mayor.

This item will be back for second reading, public hearing on April 23, 2015.

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT: Mr. Rausch said we had tour of the parks on April 4, 2015 and they are making great progress. He said that really is a great time for the Parks & Rec committee to talk at each park and come up with ideas. He said we did come up with ideas for a few of the different parks. Mr. Rausch said hats off to Mr. Andrako and Mr. Rockenbaugh. Mr. Rausch said Mr. Rockenbaugh is not a new employee anymore but he is great, he has a lot of energy. Mr. Rausch said Mayor Gore brought up the destruction of the ball fields. Mr. Rausch said that Mr. Rockenbaugh spent his whole Sunday prior to the tour fixing the ball parks, so when we took our tour it looked great.

Mr. Rausch said the pool is going to be opening up soon, so make sure to get your passes ahead of time.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PERSONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mayor Gore said a couple of weeks ago Mr. Emery, Ms. Chavarria and I had lunch with Congressman Jordan and we were talking about our community. We asked him how our community compares in his district. Congressman Jordan said we have it going on, we are the gold coast. He said the vandalism upsets him, he said when Chief Golden catches them we will prosecute them.

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Mrs. Groat said there will be no April 27th Public Affairs meeting, this date will be changed. Watch the monitors at City Hall for the new date.

Mrs. Richardson asked Mr. Rausch if we are still on project for the new playground equipment for Mill Valley South. Mr. Rausch said yes, that will be this year.

Mrs. Richardson spoke about teenage drinking. She said April is alcohol awareness month and May and June are the graduation party months. She shared some information from the Drug Free Coalition. She said that you may be surprised that teens reported using alcohol more than any other substances in Union County. She said what might be startling is the rapid increase between middle school and high school. She said in Union County 5.8% of students in the seventh grade report drinking in the last month. She said that is compared to 20% in the 9th grade and 24.8% in 11th grade. She said they do not survey 12th graders, she would be surprised to see what the numbers are for them. She said underage drinking happens more frequently on weekends. She said teens think it is easy to get alcohol in this community; some take it from home, or an older teen or adult boys buy it for them. Teens are drinking in private homes, sometimes with parental consent. She said most students report drinking beer and hard liquor. She said 31% of teens with driver's license reported drinking and driving in the past 30 days. She said that seems like a large number to her. Help our teens be safe and drug free, please talk to them about not using alcohol. She also mentioned the drug take back day, April 25th from 10am to 2pm with locations at the Union County Sheriff's Office, Pleasant Valley Fire Department in Plain City, and the Richwood Police Department.

Mrs. Richardson said on April 20th there will be a free concert given by the MHS show choir. She said everyone is invited and it will be at 7:00pm at the Marysville High School auditorium. She said our local show choir is going to the final National Competition in Chicago, IL.

Mr. Fogt said he talked to Chief Golden about a couple things. He said he received a phone call from the IRS stating that they are going to be taking us to court. It was fraud. Chief Golden said they took an incident report from a gentleman who received one of those phone calls and he sent them \$1,000.00 before he found out that it was a scam. Chief Golden said he was glad Mr. Fogt brought this up. Mr. Fogt said he had a person come to the door and wanted to check his basement for leaks. He asked to see the guys permit. He said just be careful because it might be a scam.

He reported that the Public Safety meeting is going to be April 14, 2015 at 5:00pm.

Mr. Fogt said there is a big support for legalizing marijuana. He said he is against that because if we want a good workforce we need to not legalize marijuana.

Mr. Rausch said regarding the Route 270/33 interchange, there is a website that shows the ramp closures. It will take a couple years but when it is done it will be good.

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Mr. Rausch said that the Public Affairs meeting is going to move from April 27th, that is because the Ad Hoc Transition Committee is going to Gahanna to see a work session that night. Any Council members that would want to go, he thinks it would be a good idea for as many of us as possible to go to see what occurs in a work session and also how they structure it. It begins at 6:30pm.

Mr. Berbee said last Wednesday we had a wonderful evening over at the high school with the Japanese exchange. He said it was a wonderful 3-4 hours of being educated on their traditions. He said hopefully they will do it again next year. Mr. Berbee said the Finance Committee will meet April 15, 2015 at 5:00pm.

Mr. Taylor said kudos to the tax department. He said a guy stopped him in the parking lot and said he had a great experience getting his taxes done.

Mr. Taylor said there was a person who normally fixes the waterlines directing traffic. He did a great job of providing public service.

Finally, he said someone asked him if we were going to recognize the two wrestlers. Mr. Taylor said he told them that it was on the agenda for the second meeting in April.

Mayor Gore congratulated Mrs. Richardson for her son becoming one of the valedictorians of Marysville High School of this graduating class. This makes two valedictorians for Mrs. Richardson.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.