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# Ashland City Council

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## MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL Tuesday, April 6, 2010 7:00 p.m.

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Council President Stephen Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Ward 4:	Sandra Tunnell	Present
At-large:	President Stephen Stuart	Present
Ward 1:	Robert L. Valentine	Arrived after approval of minutes.
Ward 2:	Robert M. Valentine	Present
Ward 3:	Ruth Detrow	Present

Note: Throughout the minutes, Robert L. Valentine and Robert M. Valentine are designated as to their ward representation, W1 and W2.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

(a) Regular Session: 3/16/10

(b) Work Session 3/30/10 (potential combined dispatch)

No Corrections.

*Motion to accept the Minutes from Regular Session 3/16/10 by Stephen Stuart, moved by Ruth Detrow, seconded by Sandra Tunnell.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow (Councilman Valentine W1 arrived after approval of minutes)*

*Abstain: Stephen Stuart*

*Motion to accept the Minutes from Work Session 3/30/10 by Stephen Stuart, moved by Sandra Tunnell, seconded by Robert M. Valentine W2.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Ruth Detrow (Councilman Valentine W1 arrived after approval of minutes)*

*Abstain: Robert M. Valentine W2*

### [PRESENTATION: by Cheryl Staron, Fair Housing, 7:01 p.m.](#)

**Cheryl Staron:** Council members, guests. If I may, I would just like to briefly update you on the Fair Housing. As you may be aware April is Fair Housing month as declared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and by the State of Ohio. This year we are celebrating 42 years of Fair Housing legislation. A brief reminder, Fair Housing gives everyone the right who falls into one of the seven protective classes, protected federally, to live wherever it is they choose and can afford to live. As a reminder, those seven federally protected classes are: race, religion, color, national origin, sex, familial status and disability. It is illegal for someone to treat someone differently or deny them the opportunity for housing just because they happen to be a member of one of those seven federally protected groups. In March of 2008, the State of Ohio added an eighth group to the protected classes and that is the protected class of military

status. So in the State of Ohio, if you have someone who is on active military duty or someone who is a member of the guards or the reserves, they are afforded the same protections under the Fair Housing laws as the other seven federally protected classes. Our office is available for people who feel that they may have been treated differently with regard to housing and because we are acting as the city of Ashland's Fair Housing representative. We make information available to anyone who inquires and we also help them through the process should they decide to file a complaint of Fair Housing discrimination. Another area that our office receives calls on quite frequently are tenant/landlord issues. Now I am not an attorney so I am not able to dispense legal advice to any of the callers, however I do help them find the information that they may need in order to help them come to a determination of what their situation is and what could help them rectify it. I thought it might be interesting for you to hear that since September of 2009 when this current fiscal year began, I have received four calls from the city of Ashland with regard to Fair Housing issues. Two of those calls were from tenants who were complaining because their landlord was not making repairs and they wanted to know what the process would be in order to have the landlord make repairs or put their rent in an escrow account. That information was made available to those two callers. Another one of the callers called because the landlord had changed the locks. The rent had been paid and the tenant was still living in the unit but happened to be away on an extended trip, which took her away from her unit for three weeks. The landlord felt that the tenant had abandoned the unit and changed the locks. That call was referred to a legal services provider. The fourth call that I received came from a tenant who found that the landlord refused to rent to his family because his children were biracial. The landlord had made an appointment to show this particular prospective tenant the property over the telephone but when they arrived at the property, the landlord saw the family and noting that there were biracial children in the family then told the prospective tenant that unfortunately I rented it this afternoon and I couldn't get a hold of you. Those people were referred to the Ohio Civil Rights commission because that is a Fair Housing complaint and they were given the number and the forms to fill out and the name of someone to call in order to find additional information and then determine if they were going to follow through with the complaint process. That is kind of a thumbnail of what our office does. We provide information, we provide educational materials and we distribute materials on an average basis. I have a very general Fair Housing brochure here and this is a brochure that has been approved by the State. One of the things that we are required to include is a local contact number. If you call this number you are going to get Shane Kremser's office in Engineering. If Shane's office can't answer the question then they will refer your question to our office, which would be the 800 number on the brochure. Mr. Mayor, I would like to leave these with Council if I could.

**Mayor Stewart:** Please do.

**Cheryl Staron:** Are there any questions that I might answer with regard to Fair Housing or what it is our office provides for the City of Ashland? If not I thank you very much for your attention. Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening.

## LEGISLATION

### Ordinances:

#### **Ord. No. 14-10**

Item (a) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE, TO ENTER INTO A MODIFICATION OF THE WTP DISINFECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – ARCADIS CONTRACT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE NOS. 19-09 AND 63-09; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

*Moved for non-reading in full by Robert M. Valentine W2, seconded by Robert I. Valentine W1 to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

**Michael Hunter:** You have a copy of it on the second page. If I could direct your attention to the first item. The chlorine residual analyzer that we are requesting is not required. I want to make that very clear. It is not required by what is known as the Pin State Standards. However as a Director, I felt it was necessary to have this device given the fact that we have currently 12 different wells and the water quality varies greatly between those wells which means that the demand for chlorine itself is going to vary slightly and I thought it was important that we have an analyzer in place so we can determine any changes that might require an increase in chlorination or actually a decrease in chlorination. Previously we were collecting our samples at the end of treatment and we had no early warning system but because we are going to a different form of chlorine which is in a liquid and not the gas, I thought it was necessary to have an analyzer in place so I requested that and that is what you are seeing there as part of the \$8,664.00. On item number two, we are asking for additional bidding in construction services to be offered by Arcadis given the fact that we are dealing with a very complicated system even though the project itself is somewhat small. What we are trying to do is to take our existing facility and convert it for use for the liquid chlorine. As simple as that may sound, it is very complicated. We want the expertise of Arcadis to put the bid and specifications together to be the one who makes determinations on or equal type items and what is being presented through the bidding process. Any questions?

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** This is a safety factor, isn't it?

**Michael Hunter:** Yes, absolutely. Right now we are using one-ton cylinders of chlorine gas. We keep about six one ton cylinders of chlorine gas on site. Yes it is a safety issue. Chlorine Gas will kill you in a heartbeat and there are other alternatives and that is why we are going to use liquid chlorine. It is simply strong bleach and it is hazardous and it has some handling requirements as far as rubber gloves and aprons but you can inhale it and it is not going to kill you. It is disinfection and is just as effective.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** But compared to what we have?

**Michael Hunter:** Compared to what we have, it is one-ton cylinders under gas and under pressure.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Otherwise something like this would leak?

**Michael Hunter:** Yes sir, we wouldn't even want to consider that. That would be a very dangerous situation.

**Stephen Stuart:** I am not questioning a need for the chlorine analyzer. My question is, why wasn't the need for that considered in the original bidding process?

**Michael Hunter:** I think sir because of the fact that initially this whole thing was morphing if you will. We were not sure we were going to receive the plumbing for it even though we were approved, it was at the very end and the money wasn't released. We didn't know what dollar amount, what type of money we were looking for that this project was going to consume in the first place and we didn't know if it was going to become available. When the money was released and we began to move forward into this project a little bit deeper, we were basically backing off and holding off until we knew money was going to be available. We began to look at these things a little more closely. It was determined at that time upon further observation and reviewing plans and specifications that came to my people because my people were involved and in reviewing plans that came from Arcadis and began to look at these things and we thought this was necessary. But originally it wasn't considered up front because again, this project was evolving somewhat slowly because the funding was evolving somewhat slowly.

**Stephen Stuart:** The second part of the change order is a little unusual too isn't it? I mean would you be into a project this long and then ask for bidding and construction and engineering services?

**Michael Hunter:** Again, back to the problems concerning the funding aspect, this is being funded over actually a two-budget year. It is funding that we identified in 2009 that obviously went away because we did

not have the funding from the State until the very latter part of that year and so we put in the 2010 budget and then when we put it in the 2010 budget again not knowing what the funding was going to be we were holding everything down as closely as we could but now the funding has been released, money has been identified in our budget, we thought it was necessary to expand this aspect of it.

**Stephen Stuart;** Thank you Mike.

Questions or comments?

*Moved by Robert L. Valentine W1, seconded by Robert M. Valentine W2 to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

*Move to suspend the rules, 3 separate meetings, 3 separate nights, by Stephen Stuart, seconded by Ruth Detrow*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

*Move the Ordinance be passed by Ruth Detrow, seconded by Robert L. Valentine W1.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

#### [PUBLIC HEARING #1: 7:15 p.m.](#) – Fiscal Year 2010 CDBG program.

**Shane Kremser:** The purpose of the Public Hearing is to provide citizens pertinent information about the yearly Community Development Block Grant Program including a general explanation of activities and program requirements. Also to provide public input on Economic Community development needs and the needs of the city's low and moderate income population. The definition of LMI is it stands for low to moderate income for the purposes of the CDBG program. A low-income household is one in which the total household income does not exceed 50% of immediate income for the area as adjusted for household size by HUD. A moderate-income household is one in which the total household income does not exceed 80% of the needed income for the area as adjusted for household size. Our LMI statistics are obtained by using the most recent US census data. It could also be determined by performing a special survey of any of the LMI areas of the city of Ashland. It may change once the 2010 US census report has been completed and published. If anyone is interested, I do have some maps here that identify areas where projects would qualify under our CDBG program. The objective of the CDBG program is to use the money for low and moderate-income residents and they stipulate that in order to qualify that target area, it has to have 51% of the population fall in the low to moderate income. Those are the areas they want to target. This year we are anticipating, based on what we received last year, approximately \$84,000.00 dollars to utilize for acceptable projects. Generally the projects meet a specific activity measurement as outlined by the Ohio Department of Development. We must meet one of these three national objectives. 1) They must benefit low to moderate-income people. 2) Must prevent or eliminate slums and blight. 3) It must be an urgent need project. Certain activities are further regulated as to amount of funding that may be applied to set activities. For instance the public service activity may not exceed 15% of the total grant money. I also have a list here if anyone is interested a complete list of all activities. It pretty much tells you what you can do, the outcome measurements should be. Typical activities that have been done in the past are: Street improvements, utility infrastructure improvements, construction of a senior center, services for the homeless, acquisition and clearance of blighted properties. Examples of previous projects that were done here in the city of Ashland were: Traffic signal replacements; water treatment plant valve replacement project. That is an example where it served an LMI area, Buckeye/Marlo Sanitary Sewer replacement project, Ashland County Oral Health Services a landscaping project, Ashland Council on Aging lighting replacing project, Associated Charities of Ashland building renovations an security camera. The project for this year that we applied for last year was Ray /Marlowe Avenue storm sewer replacement project. For anyone that is interested, you could submit a letter to the City Engineering Division to apply for consideration for the program. The letter

should include both project in detail and estimated cost. The deadline for project consideration is April 20, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. The list of proposed projects will be presented to City Council on which they will choose the projects. City Council can choose one to three projects to be awarded. Once the projects have been determined, there will be another Public Hearing held on May 4, 2010 to announce the selected projects and dollar amounts associated with this.

Questions or comments?

## **PUBLIC HEARING ENDED AT 7:10 p.m.**

### **Legislation (cont'd)**

#### **Ord. No. 15-10**

Item (b) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (NSP PROJECT #2 Cleveland Ave. 301,305,309 parcels).

*Moved for non-reading in full by Ruth Detrow, seconded by Robert I. Valentine W1 to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

**Larry Paxton:** This is another process in our Federal Stimulus funding (NSP) Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This Ordinance allows the Mayor to enter into an agreement to purchase real property located on Cleveland Avenue. The property goes from Cleveland Avenue to Main Street and the three parcels will be connected to each other and allows us to develop a purchase agreement for the properties and there are some other issues that they are dealing with. There is some asbestos clean up and other testing that we have to go through with this program. If at that time it is determined that the clean up of the properties is more than the grant will pay, there is also an opt out clause in the agreement to where if we run into a lot of money cleaning up these sites, the city will not proceed with the purchase of the property. The NSP program initially, the city applied for \$180,000.00 dollars. \$90,000.00 of it was applied to first time homebuyers. We assisted in the purchase of two homes in the target area. In doing that, we assisted in the purchase and rehab of homes. Another \$90,000.00 dollars was dedicated towards the demolition of blighted houses in our community of which we had a house on Cottage Street, Walnut Street and Ashland Avenue that were all demolished under this program. If I go back just a minute, this grant is that the City of Ashland joined with Holmes County and Coshocton County and the City of Coshocton. They are the actual applicants for the grant. The money flows through the City of Coshocton. There is about \$1,200,000.00 dollars of which we were allocated \$180,000.00 dollars initially. Ashland County also received some funding under this program of which they were not able to use. With that, we now have the allocation of about \$233,000.00 dollars the city of Ashland can now utilize for this program. In doing that we are asking for your authorization to enter into this agreement. The testing is ongoing and we do not have all of the results for a short period of time. In order to stay in compliance with the grant and keep the project moving, we had to pass this legislation this evening.

Questions or comments?

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** What is that going to run roughly to take those three down?

**Larry Paxton:** We took three houses down before this and it was about \$18,000.00 dollars. Prices were exceptionally good. Our Engineers estimate was \$43,000.00 dollars and it cost us \$18,000.00 under this program.

**Robert M. Valentine W2:** This property on Cleveland Avenue, what are you going to do with it?

**Larry Paxton:** Unfortunately these properties are set in a flood plane so they cannot be used. It is not like they can sell the property and build a new one. So in doing this it will help the city in our mitigation plan and create a green space. By tearing the houses down and creating the green space in that area, it will help us as well in that program. Two of the three homes have not been lived in for several years and are missing windows and are a little insecure at this point. The front porches could collapse.

**Stephen L. Stuart:** The total price for all three is \$43,000.00?

**Larry Paxton:** \$43,000.00 is what the original price was. Part of the agreement is that the property owner has to make the city whole on utilities. He owes us about \$3,000.00 dollars in utility back payments, so the \$43,000.00 will buy the three properties as well as pay off all of the utilities. This is all federal money. It is not money that the city is putting up. It is federal stimulus money in an effort to clean up our neighborhoods.

**Sandra Tunnell:** Is there anyway to reclaim anything in the houses for architectural. I know some have been uninhabitable for a while.

**Larry Paxton:** It is possible but I really believe that since they are insecure and not knowing whether they can stand up or fall down, I would be a little leery of having anyone come in there and remove like a fire-place mantle or something like that without getting into some more issues. It is a good thought.

**Mayor Stewart:** There is a huge plus from my viewpoint. These properties face two city streets. They run from East Main to Cleveland Avenue. They are immediately adjacent to the Dairy Queen. They are pretty bad. Section 3 of this Ordinance, the money is to be paid by funds that came through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. We don't expect to put any city money in the actual purchase of this property.

**Ruth Detrow:** Larry, I need some clarification. You said something about we now have \$233,000.00 dollars?

**Larry Paxton:** There was roughly about \$50,000.00 dollars that Ashland County could not utilize under this program so we were able to take advantage of that.

**Ruth Detrow:** Part of that \$233,000.00 has already been spent on those first three houses?

**Larry Paxton:** About \$90,000.00 on the two houses that were purchased and then another \$18,000.00 for the demo of the first three homes.

**Ruth Detrow:** I guess what I am really asking is, is doing those houses that are on this map, is that going to wipe out the money? It doesn't seem as though it should.

**Larry Paxton:** It kind of all depends on what the bids are for the demolition of property and the clean up of the site. There is a good chance that there might be some money left over. We have other houses that we have talked to the property owners about. Not only in case we have some surplus left over but just to have those sites identified. Please keep in mind that we still have to come back to you for the authorization to demo any of the other properties that were not on the original Ordinance.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Larry, is there any time line on this grant?

**Larry Paxton:** We have until 2013. I checked this afternoon with Coshocton and January 2013 is when this program is supposed to be completed.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Is the county included in with the city on this?

**Larry Paxton:** Ashland County and the City of Ashland, Coshocton, Coshocton County, and Holmes County are a part of that as well. Was Wayne County as well?

**Ellie Grubb:** Tuscarawas.

**Larry Paxton:** Tuscarawas, yes.

**Shane Kremser:** Coshocton they have allocated a lot of money. I think the only different scenario, they have property maintenance laws. They do not need to haggle or try to purchase property or get the homeowner to agree. They just go and tear it down. It is deemed uninhabitable. They have done around 80.

**Larry Paxton:** They are the grant recipients.

**Sandra Tunnell:** It is our property, so we are responsible for maintaining it?

**Larry Paxton:** If we complete this purchase, it will be in the city's name and we will be responsible for maintaining it.

**Mayor Stewart:** It cannot be built on. It has to remain the current zoning. Because it is in a flood plane, it will not be able to be built on.

**Ellie Grubb:** Just so we understand, we can't just randomly pick a house because it has to be in a target area that was already approved in January. Right now we are waiting on approval because these three houses were not originally approved by Council.

**Shane Kremser:** Ellie, we can target, we just cannot purchase property. So we have gone ahead and requested the amendment on these three properties.

**Shane Kremser:** Right. for the purchasing. We can target when they tear down homes anywhere in our census tracker, is that right? We just can't purchase property.

**Ruth Detrow:** It is in the target area, is that what you are saying?

**Shane Kremser:** There is a target area and Ellie probably knows more. Was that just for purchasing new homes and purchasing property?

**Ellie Grubb:** Right. For individuals, now we are talking about the two homes for rehab, it had to be in a specific area.

**Ruth Detrow:** But these houses were not in that area?

**Ellie Grubb:** Correct.

**Ruth Detrow:** So that is what this is doing? Council is changing that area?

**Ellie Grubb:** No it is just giving us permission to pursue the purchasing of it.

**Shane Kremser:** Right. We are trying to amend our target area. We are going through ODOD, ODRC is Coshocton and we already submitted an application to amend our target areas. You can use funds to purchase and that is what required the amendments. We were going to purchase the property. If we weren't going to purchase them, we wouldn't have to amend the target area because we are in an approved census track. You really could look around the city and see a blighted property. We could target that. There is other criteria.

**Sandra Tunnell:** Is the Federal Grant that Coshocton gets to be in charge of?

**Larry Paxton:** Yes.

**Ellie Grubb:** We voted for them to be in charge. They have 10 years of paperwork that they have to follow up on.

**Sandra Tunnell:** If we approve this, then the next step is taking care of all of the impediments?

**Mayor Stewart:** The target area has to be approved. The amendment request has to be approved before we can use their funding to buy these properties. That goes in the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. It is the deadline for submitting them and then we have done our part. The letter went out today. We are making our approach. They have three other items that they are amending, ours will be the fourth. The Coshocton people will submit it to the State for approval of the target area amendment. If they approve it then we can use these dollars to buy the property.

**Richard P. Wolfe II:** Council might well find this to be a suitable project just for the sole benefit of removing some blighted structures but I think it is a significant added benefit that it relates to the flood plane area and the primary water course going through the city and that it is beneficial to the integrity of that water course. We have some dealings with the EPA where they like to see that kind of thing and don't like structures that are right at the edge of a natural water course that are in jeopardy of compromising the water course and flood plane. So I think that is an unexpected benefit that makes it an even better idea.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** When you think of stimulus, you think of jobs. I am sure there was more to this stimulus package than that.

**Richard P. Wolfe II:** This grant is specifically for this particular area of activity.

*Moved by Sandra Tunnell, seconded by Robert L. Valentine W1 to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

*Move to suspend the rules, 3 separate meetings, 3 separate nights, by Ruth Detrow, seconded by Sandra Tunnell.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

*Move the Ordinance be passed by Stephen Stuart, seconded by Robert L. Valentine W1.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

### Resolutions:

#### **Res. No. # 3-10**

Item (a) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THAT THE CITY OF ASHLAND SEEKS TO BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND IMPROVE SERVICE IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY DISPATCH COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITS CITIZENS THEREFORE, THE CITY OF ASHLAND JOINS THE CITY OF WOOSTER AND WAYNE COUNTY IN DEVELOPING AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO CREATE A REGIONALIZED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Moved for non-reading in full by Robert M. Valentine W2, seconded by Sandra Tunnell to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Resolution has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

**Mayor Stewart:** We have been working for some number of months with the City of Wooster, the County of Wayne County and others and looking at the pluses and the minuses of having a combined dispatch. Ashland County Sheriff, Risner has been involved in some of our discussion and at this point this is a Resolution that will signify the support of City Council to go forward with an implementation plan. It is called an implementation plan because we are going for a grant to fund this plan. It won't be funded if it is not an implementation plan. If it is a feasibility study, it will not be funded. We think there is a chance we can be funded through the Egov process. The process we went through a year ago and submitted a similar request. We were not funded. It is by vote. It is a popular vote, however the rules have been changed this year that one of the four projects that will be awarded will go to a small to medium size city and does take away the total Metropolitan vote that beats a small group of us like our city and Wooster, out. So we are hoping to get it and we are looking for about \$42,000.00 to fund that, is that right Rick?

**Rick Anderson, Fire:** The grant is for \$45,000.00 dollars and there is a 20% match between the three entities where we have the city of Ashland consisting of Fire Division and Police Division; City of Wooster consisting of their Police Division, Fire Division and then Wayne County Sheriff Department. 20% of that is under \$9,000.00. Divide that by the three entities, \$3,000.00 dollars a piece.

**Mayor Stewart:** There is an absolute goal to reduce the overall cost to each entity involved but there is another goal what would have to provide at least equal or better service than we are today. We can't live with a diminishment of a service because it costs less. These are emergency dispatch calls and they have to be handled as such. We are not the first ones in the State of Ohio. There are several different assortments of how regional dispatch systems are set up. Some are strictly fire. There are a few that are police and fire. There are a few that cross county lines. We are not re-inventing the wheel but we have to make the wheel work for the entities involved.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Where do the cell phones come into the picture here?

**Mayor Stewart:** Cell phones come into the picture how, Rick can you explain it?

**Rick Anderson, Fire:** The cell portion of it is more the next generation 911, which entails the ability for someone to text a message to dispatch to send down real time. If you were like in a hostage situation, bank robbery, Columbine comes to mind where there were students in the school; they couldn't physically make a phone call but they did text to someone. They found that that was a need that dispatch needed to be able to receive those types of calls, whether it would be texting or some sort of short video message or footage to identify a problem. That is something that individually would be a burden for each individual dispatch to purchase or implement whereas with the regionalization approach, you would be buying basically some hardware and software because quite frankly with technology 95% of the dispatching is all software driven, it is all computer driven. There are not the big consoles with the mega radios like there were. It is all touch screen with one or two screens. That would make it more feasible for those types of purchases in the future.

**Stephen Stuart:** For the benefit of the members in the audience, this was the exclusive topic of our Work Session on March 30, 2010 and we thank Mark and David and Rick for the very extensive presentation you made then.

**Ruth Detrow:** I think that it is important for us to realize that the software for enhanced cell phone use is something we don't have now. It is something that is way out there in dreamland and if we were to say to our Sheriff, "We want this, we need this"! But it is something that is a great, great benefit and it is much better to have it for a larger area because it won't be used terribly often but when it is used, it will be critical.

**Rick Anderson:** The regionalization approach gives us the ability to purchase or have that equipment sooner, quicker, the bigger, better equipment than it would trying to afford it on a one to one approach.

**Mayor Stewart:** The way technology is moving today, it is way, way out there, maybe three months. It is coming like a rocket. I just have to add one more thing; any of you that use your cell phone with your kids or your grandkids, you text message today. They don't answer the telephone and that is how they are going to communicate, that is how they are growing up, that is what is happening to us and we need to be expiratory.

Questions or comments?

*Moved by Robert L. Valentine W1, seconded by Sandra Tunnell to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of this Resolution has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

*Move to suspend the rules, 3 separate meetings, 3 separate days, by Ruth Detrow, seconded by Sandra Tunnell.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

*Move the Resolution be passed by Sandra Tunnell, seconded by Robert L. Valentine W1.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

## WARD REPORTS

Ward 4: Sandra Tunnell

(a) I had two complaints of garbage and the Law Director's office helped me out with that, thank you very much.

Ward 2: Robert M. Valentine

No report

Ward 1: Robert L. Valentine

(a) We put the waterline in Eastbrook a year or so ago. Have we had any calls about problems with settling or anything?

**Jerry Mack:** Not on Eastbrook, Shane have you?

**Shane Kremser, Director of Engineering:** No I haven't.

(a, cont'd) The reason I am asking that is, I got a call and I went down and I couldn't see it either.

**Shane Kremser:** What was the complaint?

(Robert L. Valentine W1 cont'd) It was settling and we have a responsibility. Thank you.

Ward 3 Ruth Detrow

(a) I have two things. First of all, I had a request for permission to hang a banner across the street to advertise a community project and I checked to be absolutely sure with a couple of people and we do not do that anymore. However it was suggested that the Kiosk at the corner of Center and Main Streets is something that it is possible to advertise on and so I not only had a no you can't do that, but I had a suggestion of something that would work and would be helpful, so I appreciate that.

(b) Also, today my neighbor put out yard waste bags, which of course it is not time to do yet and I said something about "Oh what are you doing?" and she said she had called and was told that the city, if you call, the city will pick up yard waste on Tuesday. Sure enough later in the day I

saw Jerry out there picking it up. So would you explain exactly what your rules are on that right now?

**Jerry Mack:** Sure. On our yard waste program, it is actually year round. I am not sure we are going to be doing yard waste in the middle of winter when the snow is flying but it is really year round. May 18<sup>th</sup> we start our normal routes. Right now, well I shouldn't say right now because we probably should have started it, with the weather breaking, we have an enormous amount of yard waste, but it is just kind of a waste to send a truck out with a man to drive around half of the city and not find a lot. So up till May 18<sup>th</sup> and after leaf season starts, if the community just calls us and gives us an address and tells us they have yard waste, we go address to address and pick it up. It just makes it a lot easier than looking for it. Last week I took in 8 ton. This week, I am not too sure it isn't more! It is a year around program and we will be glad to pick it up if you just give us a call and an address. Brown bags with stickers and pick up is on Tuesday.

**Ruth Detrow:** Yes, I forgot my stickers until my neighbor reminded me.

At Large/President: Stephen Stuart  
No report

Old Business: None.

New Business:

(a) PROCLAMATION: Public Health Week, April 5-11, 2010 (Read in full by Mayor Stewart).  
These are two of the gentleman and the whole teamwork very diligently for the health of our community as a whole. (\*See copy of proclamation in Minutes Book)

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. spends more on health care than any other country;

**WHEREAS**, many of the illnesses that are caused by tobacco use, poor diet, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption are potentially preventable;

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that over 10 million infectious disease cases and 33,000 deaths can be prevented in the U.S. each year by using the standard childhood immunization series;

**WHEREAS**, despite challenges, public health professionals and lawmakers are working on health-care reform that puts an emphasis on prevention and supports a strong public health infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, by making necessary changes, the health of the people in the U.S. and more specifically the City of Ashland Ohio improves; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Ashland recognizes the efforts of the Ashland County-City Health Department and Medical Reserve Corps Unit #1 1181 in helping to improve the health of this City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Glen Stewart, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Ohio, do hereby designate the Week of April 5-11, 2010 as Public Health Week with the theme being "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time: and urge our citizens to take recognition of this event and to participate in activities of this observance.

Hereunto, I have set my hand and caused  
The seal of the City of Ashland to be affixed.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Glen P. Stewart\_\_\_\_\_  
Glen P. Stewart, Mayor

**AL Sanders:** While I have a second here, I just want to give each Council a copy of this year's 2009 annual report which is real good picture for how we are organized, how we are financed to what we do in each of the divisions. If you all when you get a chance to take time to read that in your leisure and if there are any questions about anything the Health Department does or any area in the city that we need to address, you can either contact myself or you can work through the City Board of Health members that are listed there or the Mayor himself sits on the City Board of Health. At this time I will let Ray give you a small glimpse as to what we are planning to do and what we have already done this week during Public Health Week.

**Ray Herbst:** So this Thursday, we have a special event that we are holding at the county service center which all of you are invited. The subject is basically weight management. We are doing something unique this year. In the past what we have had is a breakfast and we have invited a lot of you folks to come to the breakfast but this year we are trying to do something that where we have the citizens involved in an activity. We have a unique opportunity that we have seized upon and it is the showing of special movie and this is done in conjunction with the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and so we will have an opportunity to ask questions of a couple of the experts there from the School of Public Health who helped to put together this movie before the movie is shown and then after the movie is shown as well. So we will be joined live with the audience there at the School of Public Health in Minnesota at the same time. Again this will be held at the County Service Center in the large meeting area and all of you are invited. The movie deals with a lot of different struggles many persons have had in weight management. The ads that we are bombarded with, the economic situation we are dealing with, the ways we relieve stress, our genetic background, how our society views weight and how we motivate ourselves. So I invite all of you to come on out and to see the movie this Thursday at 6:15 p.m.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Are the schools changing? The Physical Education programs that we have in the schools, I think have a great effect on this too. Exercise and everything else and I know over a period of years what has happened is the responsibility as far as classes are concerned, how many credits they have to have are less and less. Do you know if anything like that is happening?

**AI Sanders:** From what I have observed and heard specifically to just our city, I think there are less in Phys Ed. But at the same time there are other ways of doing that. We have a great park system, we are getting more and more parks with paths and trails, and people are out walking all the time.

(b) Sidewalk Waiver Request Form: Calvin Keefer, 200' of Belle Avenue.

**Stephen Stuart:** I don't think Mr. Keefer is here right now, is he? How should we proceed with this?

**Robert M. Valentine W2:** What does our Engineer say?

**Shane Kremser, City Engineer:** There is no sidewalk on the north side. I know sidewalks need to be addressed in the city, but based on precedence, typically if there weren't adjacent sidewalks we seem to grant waivers, so that is why I recommend it based on past precedence.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Is this governed by Ordinances we have? That sidewalks have to be put in?

**Shane Kremser:** No, when we say you are allowed to request a waiver if there are no adjacent sidewalks and it was platted before 1988.

**Mayor Stewart:** I don't have a problem specifically with a waiver but I do not and I suggest that we don't offer a perpetual waiver. I don't want someone to bring a waiver back in if we decide on some other vein to start sidewalks and somebody waves a piece a paper, while I have a waiver, I don't have to. So my recommendation is that it have some wording in it that allows this to be obsolete in the event other sidewalks are put in when other things come about or put a length of time on it where there would have to reapply.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** If you look throughout the city, especially the street I live at, you go up about four houses down to Southwood, you have sidewalk and about three houses from where I live we do, then they don't want you out in the street to walk, but the people walk all the time, which I do too. We just have that all over the city. I don't know how you are ever going to solve it. Certainly, stopping this isn't going to solve it, but somewhere along the line, we have to, and I think you mentioned the point, and I like the idea Mayor that you don't have something which is perpetual.

**Stephen Stuart:** Is a five-year period a reasonable period?

**Shane Kremser:** Maybe something to consider too, with Cal, I believe, maybe we should consider and Cal should consider before you grant additional waivers, some of these past waivers have expired. The waivers that he had applied for before expired.

**Robert M. Valentine W2:** Maybe the ones that are expired need letters. I do not know any other way to do it.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** What is the procedure?

**Richard P. Wolfe II:** Well, I think you need to decide this one based on its own facts and merits whether it should be or shouldn't be.

**Robert M. Valentine W2:** I don't have a problem with this one.

**Sandra Tunnell:** My concern is, I actually walked this exact street two weeks ago and there are sidewalks, not adjacent, but it starts and it stops, Belle has sidewalks and there are a lot of people who walk there because either they are walking down Orange from the park back there. I understand that he would be the only one who would have it there but then somebody next to him could move up from there. We were walking and then we had to cross the street to walk on the other side and the sidewalk stopped and had to cross the street to walk on the other side, and then walk on a berm that wasn't very wide. It is not the safest place to walk in, in the middle of the street.

**Robert M. Valentine W2:** There are sidewalks out there that are not safe to walk on.

**Sandra Tunnell:** At least you are not walking next to a Semi Truck going by you.

**Mayor Stewart:** This Council including myself spent two years on sidewalks, three or four years ago.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** Then we established a special committee for a year or two and made recommendations to try to continue on.

**Richard P. Wolfe II:** It was also an issue of economics and we didn't have the resources to put in the sidewalks ourselves and then assess them and where they weren't being put in. So it is a question of priorities.

**Robert L. Valentine W1:** That was part of the problem; another part of the problem was that we weren't following the ordinances that we had in the past.

**Robert M. Valentine W2:** We wanted to fix the ones that were bad, was the main thing. We are on a 10-year schedule and I think we are backed up two years.

*Move to grant the Sidewalk Waiver Request for Calvin Keefer, 200' north of Belle Avenue, for a period of five years by Stephen Stuart, seconded by Robert M. Valentine W2*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow.*

(c) PRESENTATION: Tom Seddon, Countywide Strategic Planning

**Stephen Stuart:** We are privileged to have Tom Seddon here this evening. Tom headed the countywide strategic planning effort, what seven years ago?

**Tom Seddon:** 15 years ago.

**Stephen Stuart:** As a result of that, a number of the things that were identified as priorities really came to fruition and we are all grateful that Tom and others are engaged in the strategic planning update and looking at all of Ashland County currently as they develop the strategic plan. Thanks for being here this evening Tom.

**Tom Seddon, Countywide Strategic Planning:** Thank you for the opportunity to discuss where we are in our strategic planning for the county. We have a brief power point then we will give you a handout. This process has been going on for close to two years. A number of you have been involved in the process. The theme of where we are going is Ashland County moving forward and let me take you briefly through what has transpired. We just talked a moment ago; actually it was during 1993 through 1995 when we had our original strategic planning. It was done for the city of Ashland and the surrounding area. Back at that time we had 33 people involved in that process and more than 300 on the task force that actually had helped to come up with the 10 five year objectives that you see here including our school system strategic plan, downtown corridor revitalization, city University planning, 10% growth and job net, countywide access to health and mental health services, all families have affordable housing, establish the community children foundation, solve Stormwater problem, do not allow the crime rate to increase over 1993 and establish Community Arts opportunities. Many of these were completed or partially done. Some have been done and haven't stopped. Probably the biggest one is the Community Foundation, which continues under Lucille Ford's leadership. The planning process continues for all of us. These countywide plans from 2000 were used for strategic planning at the university while the other entities across the community are planning either short term or long term. Countywide we looked at there was a need for unified vision for long term growth to develop the county, allow for the diverse interests of the county and opportunity to work more closely together. Hopefully in lining our efforts up and matching resources in providing a platform for dialogue. We felt the stage is set over the last few years with the county government, Samaritan Regional Health System providing health across the county. The Community Foundation which serves the whole county. The Economic Development, which serves the county. The now combination of United Way with the Mohican Area Community Fund and the Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau working together across Ashland County. The Ashland County Partnership of which the city has been a part of along with the county and the entities listed there has worked closely together for close to six years now. Initially in our first attempt to get involved with Economic Development, we participated with the fund for economic future in a 16 county area of northeast Ohio. We have committed dollars during the first two phases of this program and then decided that the planning group to take what was left in the program and move it to community strategic planning so the \$50,000.00 dollars you see there is monies that were available from the partners to take us to the planning process that we are in now. We are good consultants and actually hired the same consultants that worked with us 15 years ago. Bill Schroer from Battle Creek has had 20 years experience in this process and for those that were involved then and involved now, we really believe that he is definitely honed his expertise in this area and has kept us on track through the process. We had 44 volunteers come together starting in December. We thought we were going to do this in a day and a half; it resulted in four months worth of meetings. When you put 44 A-type personalities into a room and tell them to agree, it doesn't always happen so it was a very interesting process. We spent a lot of time looking at primary and secondary resources that were available. The consulting firm actually did a telephone survey of 440 residents in the county and focused on a number of questions about economic development and naturally jobs are a primary issue, which is the issue across the country. We also had lengthy discussions on SWOT analysis for the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, admission of the county, the core values and long-range objectives to move forward with in the process. This has happened with the group that was involved in that planning process and then the second half of the group that was involved in the process. We had great attendance throughout this series of meetings and out of

the confusion and out of the disagreement came cooperation and we think a pretty good plan. SWOT analysis, these were the top six in each area. The strengths we feel in Ashland County are number one, nice people, positive work ethic, safe community, community government, business cooperation, moral values, recreation and tourism. Those are the top six. The top six weaknesses: the downtown look, not just Ashland, but Loudonville. County values in education, Internet connectivity, lack of job opportunities, lack of youth entertainment, average is an okay attitude. Opportunities of natural beauty of location, interests in small town living, Internet connectivity again. File Agri- Business in Interstate 71 and 250 and Route 30. IF you think about it, there is only one exit into Ashland County and that is regular 250 off of I 71. Threats, external threats, electric rates are high. Wooster Ohio's competitive advantage. Population decline, reduced tax revenue, tax evaluation for school funding, potential loss of a major employer. After lengthy discussion, the mission that was decided on was Ashland County where community spurred brings caring families together in natural beauty. The Core Values- Community spirit and service. Community spirit is reward, encouraged and recognized an integral part of the culture. A good example would be our success of the United Way over the last number of years. There were only five United Way's in the State of Ohio that actually reached their goals this past year, and Ashland County was one of them. Family, the family is central to the success and vitality of the community and more than 80% of our residents are involved in some type of a family unit. Focus on each citizen, celebrate the positive work ethic and educational opportunities for our citizens and finally the beauty of the county and celebrate and protect the beauty of the county in all decision making that includes agriculture, includes our parks and it includes the beauty of the community throughout. Then we had a series of long-range objective which we now can identify the top six. These top six you will see two names associated with the. The two names are the facilitators for these areas. A task force is being formed of 10-20 people to actually look at measurable goals for each one of these to put dollar numbers next to those goals and whom they feel should be responsible for completing those tasks and that will all be done over the next couple of months. Much of this deals with education but also some of the areas that we feel are important are: 1)build and renovate educational facilities county-wide to be state of the art. There is a very short window for state funds, matching dollars to make this happen. Loudonville is moving forward now; Ashland is talking about it, but very important to upgrade our educational facilities across the county. 2)SPARK is an organization that started 1-2 years ago primarily from the three county foundations. Ashland County Foundation, Richland County's and Crawford, and actually was initiative to improve the outcomes in education pre-school through college. We felt that rather than re-invent the wheel that we should support what SPARK was doing and so one of the goals is to achieve the objectives and outcomes that they have identified by 2018 and they are actually measuring a variety of areas at various stages of each students education and hopefully that will allow for improved processes when we move forward. Again Jim Hess and Rob Ward are chairing the task force in the facilities area. Neil Gupta and Lucille Ford are chairing the task force for SPARK. Next is to complete countywide access to high speed Internet. I know they connect Ohio program but also to have Internet access throughout the county and Jeff Beebe and Rob Walsh is chairing that task force. 4)Eliminate duplication of nonprofit and public sector services across the county. This should have discussions as we move forward and our Mayor and Commissioner Barb Queer agreed to facilitate that discussion. 5)Achieve active downtown throughout the county and Scott Young and Julie Reineke are chairing that. Looking at how we can create more investment within our downtown areas and make it more livable for residents to live not just Ashland but again Loudonville and our other crossroads throughout the county. 6)Achieve beautification of every corridor throughout the county. One of the main objectives would be what we originally talked about at 250 and I 71, again that is our only gateway off of 71. A thousand people go under that bridge every day. We would do a better job of promoting Ashland and we believe Ashland University at that location. Matt Miller and Evan Scurti are facilitating that task force. The process now is for the task force they are being formed. They have started their meetings and they are going through a five meeting format. At the end of that time, they will have measurable goals, dollars involved and responsibilities involved. We will then meet as a task force to review all of that and come back again with an update presentation. We have established a marketing committee chaired by Ev Devaul and they are working through plans to communicate this plan across the county so all of our residents are aware of what we are trying to accomplish. Again we will be meeting to prioritize those goals. We need your volunteer's involvement, we need your influence and as we talk to the business community we need financial commitment. We raised about \$56,000.00 for this process. We have already spent about \$52,000.00 dollars so we are talking to the private sector to

help us so that we can do the marketing program we hope to do and also to complete the process and that is occurring as we speak.

Questions or comments?

I do have for you a copy of a letter that includes all of the participants and the mission core values, SWOT analysis and the objectives that we have outlined.

**Mayor Stewart:** I would like to know how many volunteers are out here in the audience that we would like to sign up for one of those six. I will be more than happy to convey your name or you can join my committee. If there is a big rush for this I will give you a number so we don't crowd in front of you.

**Keith Boales:** I would like to echo the Mayor's sentiments there, Mayor Stewart has been very heavily involved in this entire process. President Stuart has also been to several of our Planning Meetings. Now we are in the stage of getting the word out there and I would encourage each and every one of you to consider one of those six areas. We need volunteers now and people who can step up as was mentioned, your expertise, your knowledge in the different areas. We would love to have more volunteers in those areas and while we move forward with that there are still openings as Mayor Stewart has said. Please consider to become involved.

- (c) Advertising on Private Property Permit Application: Papa John's Pizza, 1430 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805 – approx 250/233k April-August; varying areas, Contract person Sonja Crooks.

Questions or comments?

**Mayor Stewart:** One of the complaints that we will get is if ad is not properly affixed to a doorknob and your name or your company's name is on it so that we know who to talk to. Whomever is designated as the deliverers of this, please emphasize the need to make sure it is affixed. We appreciate that a lot.

*Move to approve the advertising permit by Robert M. Valentine W2, seconded by Sandra Tunnell.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow*

- (d) Advertising on Private Property Permit Application: Trugreen, 110 Industrial Drive, Lexington, Ohio, 44904, Vincent Kcajki

Questions or comments?

**Ruth Detrow:** I noticed on Papa John's one there is a place marked for it to be hooked over the doorknob and I thought for a minute that you didn't have that, but you do don't you?

*Move to approve the advertising permit by Ruth Detrow, seconded by Sandra Tunnell.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow.*

Finance Director's comments:

- (a) At this time, we are still working with the auditors on the 2009 audit conversing with them on that information. We will be back at the end of April to do that. April 15<sup>th</sup> is quickly approaching us and I would encourage all of our residents that if they haven't filed their income tax with the city of Ashland, if you are a resident of the city of Ashland, you are required to file with us that is mandatory. If you have questions on your income tax return, please contact our Income Tax Department. They would be more than happy to assist our residents in completing their tax returns.

Questions or comments?

Mayors Comments:

**Mayor Stewart:** I want to remind those that are on the audit committee, the 19<sup>th</sup> of April at 10:00 am in Larry's office will be a meeting. I don't have anything else.

Questions or comments?

Comments of questions from the Audience: Items that are not included on the Agenda.

None

*Motion to move to adjournment by Robert M. Valentine W2, moved by Robert L. Valentine W1, seconded by Robert L. Valentine W1.*

*Ayes: Sandra Tunnell, Stephen Stuart, Robert L. Valentine W1, Robert M. Valentine W2, Ruth Detrow.*

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:25 P.M.

Submitted by  
Valarie Bishoff  
Clerk of Council