

# Council Meeting April 27 Painting the Town Pink

Unofficial Meeting Minutes

After the meeting was brought to order by Mayor Verbosky, Larry Oberdorf gave the Recreation Committee Report. He said that there was discussion of a fence with a lock to keep vandals out of the dugouts at Beech Street park. Ed Ciecka, City Administrator, reports that he is getting specifications for the roof on the Recreation Center. He added that the bid on the Rec Center would also include the roof on the police department. "It will be one big package as a single project."

Jim Richards asked if the Meijer celebration, to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Park this summer, would require a liquor permit "or will it be a dry event?," he asked. Council President Larry Oberdorf said, "I think it's a dry event."

Mayor William Verbosky, Jr. reported that Mr. Timiak passed away and that a BCA is looking for a replacement member. He also said that the Arbor Day celebration included the planting of a tree in front of the recreation center in honor and memory of former Councilman Richard Kovach. Mr. Kovach passed away recently from an apparent heart attack at the age of 52. He was replaced on council by Chuck Duricek, who was appointed at the last council meeting by council and sworn into office by Mayor Verbosky. Mr. Verbosky said that the celebration was bitter-sweet as the family of Mr. Kovach also attended the event which included a stone with Richard Kovach's name engraved upon it.

He also reported that Channel 13 at noon this past Sunday held a 'round-table' interview that included Mr. Moline from Toledo, Mr. Haddad from Sylvania, Mr. Rutherford from Perrysburg City Council, Marge Brown - the Mayor of Oregon, and Mayor Verbosky of Rossford. The program showcased the issue of cooperation regarding water service and rates between the City of Toledo and surrounding communities. Mr. Ciecka told the audience that the program can be accessed online at the Channel 13. "Click on the Jeff Smith icon to see the round-table video."

The Mayor reported that the current site for a casino to be built outside of the city, I-75 at Miami Street, has brought concerns from citizens and members of the Methodist church. He said that there is also an issue regarding the EPA's approval for building types that can be constructed on the property. Councilman Chuck Duricek said that back in the 1990's Rossford gave support to Toledo for the land in question but it was for a bike trail and to open up the river from the Pilkington building to Toledo. He said that the property originally was to be residential and partial commercial. Jim Richards suggested proposing a resolution to deny Toledo a casino at that site but Mayor Verbosky was quick to state, "We've had political, major concerns. We don't want to get into a major war again [with Toledo]."

City Administrator, Ed Ciecka, announced that the City has been awarded from federal stimulus monies through a TMACOG grant. This is just one of many grants applied for

by Rossford. One grant application includes funding for resurfacing SR 65. The matching funds are \$262,000 for street lighting and the project must be completed by February 2010. Mr. Ciecka said that engineering costs are not covered by the stimulus funds. "We will bring the downtown committee of citizens, to involve the downtown community. I would like to have this done by Thanksgiving," he said. Councilman Greg Marquette asked what the matching funds were and Mr. Ciecka said, "Up to \$263,000.00." Marquette wondered if "we have anything budgeted for this?" Ciecka said, "We have some capital improvement funds. Will we start at the [railroad] tracks?", Marquette asked. Mr. Ciecka said, "Yes. To the boulevard's end. That's what the grant was for.

Leonard Michaels said, "We need quality lighting, more than quantity." Council President Larry Oberdorf stated that other cities have a master plan and "like Mr. Michaels said, 'Do it in small portions.'" Mayor Verbosky said, "We have a severe grade from one side [of the road] to the other. I congratulate Mr. Ciecka in his due diligence in getting the grant." Caroline Eckel asked if the funds were for lighting only. Mr. Ciecka said, "Yes."

Richards said that he was on one of the committees that covered the original downtown improvement plan. "It covered Superior Street, not Dixie Highway. Public response was negative so it just laid there." Greg Marquette said Maumee is using newer poles for traffic lights, not just overhead street lights. Ciecka told him that one intersection of traffic control lights would be the equivalent to the total cost of the street lights. Mr. Oberdorf suggesting getting people from other communities "that have done this to get their input."



Council Clerk Bob Watrol read a letter from the Northwood VFW Post who were requesting the use of Veteran's Memorial Park for an upcoming softball tournament to take place on August 21-23. They said they would apply and pay for the proper beer permits and concessions. Oberdorf suggested checking with the last communities that held the tournament. Richards said, "Our

facilities are well known and well maintained. Are these events profitable?" Caroline Eckel said that because these are veterans the Recreation Committee decided not to profit from them. Marquette agreed that we shouldn't think to charge veterans groups. The Mayor said that Meijer is a great corporate neighbor and that's why the City is not charging them for their use of the park either. Chuck Duricek suggested checking with other fields being used in the area to see what they're doing.

Ordinance 2009-15: \$5,000 to Gradell Corp. for welding pilings deeper than expected at the Marina (in addition to extra costs for dredging).

Ordinance 2009-16: Geo. Gradell Corp. costs for extra dredging at the Marina.

Mr. Ciecka said, "...this basically puts in ordinance form what you've already approved." Ciecka also said that there is a letter from Gradell appealing the amount of money offered to them by council for over-dredging.

Law Director Kevin Heban said, "I think the discussions were at where Gradell would meet in the middle of the overage." He was referring to a total of \$17,000 the City has been asked to pay over the original bid from the company. Duricek said, "This is our final offer. 103 years in business, you should know better. Come on. This is ridiculous. This should be our final offer."

#### COUNCIL REMARKS:

Eckel thanked the Tree Commission. Oberdorf asked if there should be an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting, but it was cancelled due to the upcoming Memorial Day holiday. He also congratulated RHS Drama Director Julie Zatko for the recent successful play *Once Upon A Mattress*. Mayor Verbosky asked Larry Oberdorf, "How did you do [play] scripts when you were in high school?" Ciecka responded jokingly for him, "With a chisel."

Richards requested an updated list of road upgrades for the next council meeting. Duricek complained that newspaper companies are throwing advertisements in plastic bags on sidewalks and along the streets.



Michaels voiced concerns that Columbia

Gas is digging holes and not repairing them in a timely manner. "We should come up with a permit program. We would know when they're done and check on their repairs." The Mayor said Zoning Inspector Rick Drouard has been on Columbia Gas about this. "I've received calls from citizens regarding Eagle Point Road and Cherry Street about barrels blowing into holes."

Michaels also complained about Toledo Edison saying, "We have lighting assessments. half of the poles look like they're drunk. We should look into escrow for payment until repairs are made." Mayor Verbosky said, "It's lingering on. It's unacceptable."

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Goehke of Harbor Point commended the Mayor and Administrator for their stance on the water issue with Toledo. He said his two sons visited from out of town recently and complained about the condition of Rossford's roads. Goehke said, "It's like the good lady uptown said, You walk by it everyday, you don't notice it."



Jerry Stazek voiced concerns about graffiti and said, "We should have an ordinance that prevents graffiti and hot pink." He was referring to the Kongo Tanning Salon's pink outer wall located on Superior Street. Mayor Verbosky said, "We are looking at design reviews. Mr. Michaels is helping to move that along so we don't have anymore pink walls in the future."

Marquette asked if we could fill in the Eagle Point Road hole. Mr. Ciecka admitted that the hole was dug by Rossford Department of Public Works employees saying, "I think we're the ones who excavated it."

Jeff Applehans asked why they aren't using the large steel plates to cover the hole in the road. Mr. Ciecka responded, "We don't have them." Mayor Verbosky suggested, "Maybe we can put up our own barricades?" Mr. Ciecka answered, "Those are our barricades."

The meeting was adjourned.