

City council Meeting May 11, 2009

Caroline Eckel, Council Chairperson for the Public Works Committee reported that there has been discussion of replacing curbs & overlay of asphalt on several streets including a \$450,000 project to repair Hillview and Hillside Avenues. She said that Colony Court is also in bad shape.

The Downtown lighting project is being reviewed as part of the revitalization project. It has not been changed since 1989.

She also said that the committee has been considered extending the project to the old 7-11 store.

Mrs. Eckel also reported that water has been leaking through the roof of the police department onto light fixtures.

Councilman Jim Richards stated, "I have a problem absorbing the information. Can we have a print-out?"

Councilman Leonard Michaels said that the lighting and streetscape study is to be explored further.

Mayor Verbosky reported that he was thankful to the voters for passing 3 of the 4 levies on the May ballot. He said that the Public Safety Committee is to meet to look for what we'll do in the fall. "It was nice that we had 3 out of 4 [of the levies]. We have to concentrate on only one levy [for the fall election]," he said. He also put out a general reminder to the citizens to be aware not to put their garbage out early. "Wednesday is the day for garbage & grass pick-up," he told the media.

Mayor Verbosky also said that the Planning Commission meeting will be 7pm Wednesday and that he learned from the TMACOG meeting (TARTA) that they were potentially going to a sales tax, from a property tax. "Perrysburg is taking the lead in this TARTA thing. We're the only two Wood County communities. It's in our interest," he said of joining forces with the City of Perrysburg to revamp the ongoing taxes to fund TARTA.

The Mayor said that city council members got a memo regarding boats & cars in front yards. He stated he has been getting complaints more & more. Mayor Verbosky recommended that council's Judiciary committee follow-up on an update to the zoning ordinance.

Mayor Verbosky also said that he and John Rust, local businessman, met with Herman-Kittle, contractors, in Indiana at the location of 3 projects. He said that they were in Indianapolis at a market-rate apartments and a senior center. Also they inspected a subsidized Bloomington apartment complex for subsidized income. "This visit gave us an idea of what they are doing. Mr. Ciecka took a number of pictures of the sites we visited." Councilman Richards suggested the pictures be posted on the City's website for residents to review. Herman-Kittle is the developer wanting to build apartment and elderly housing units behind the Home Depot store at the end of South Compass Drive.

Mayor Verbosky said that the Rossford Business Association (RBA) is in the process of developing a revolving non-interest loan fund that will help local business owners with outside painting, windows, etc... "We want to allow the business owners to spruce up their places without \$200 - \$300 in document

fees and interest,” he said. He also reported that the RBA put about \$2,000 in scholarships this year. The RBA will act as a conduit to any Visitors & Convention Bureau that is created in the Wood County area he said.

The City Administrator, Ed Ciecka, reported that the downtown lighting plan will be supervised by ODOT. The marina has been opened since April 15th he said. “125 of 230 [dock] spaces are rented,” The Rossford Transportation Improvement District (RTID) met and discussed an extension of S. Compass Drive to Lime City Road, Mr. Ciecka reported. “A block grant regarding storm sewers is being worked on this week,” was also in his report to council. Jim Richards suggested that an upcoming committee of the whole meeting with Jim Gee of TARTA not be part of a regular council meeting due to the lengthy discussions that may take place. Leonard Michaels suggested a Committee of the Whole meeting with TARTA. He said, “I would like to invite the Committee on Aging to be present because they provide additional services for our citizens.” Larry Oberdorf, President of Council, said, “Various groups representing aged & disabled are active participants at these [TMACOG/TARTA] meetings. The Mayor announced at the end of the discussion that, “No more than 3 members will attend the meeting, [including Ed Ciecka].”

Clerk of Council, Bob Watrol, read an invitation from the Wood County humane Society welcoming residents to attend an upcoming Wine & Cheese party to be held Friday May 29th.

Mayor Verbosky asked if there would be a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss downtown lighting soon. Mr. Michaels asked if Mr. Ciecka got a quote for the rest of the work [on lighting from the boulevard to the old 7-11 store]. Mr. Ciecka said the cost to Mannick & Smith would be \$10,000 [in addition to the \$25,000 fee being paid for supervising the current project from the LOF RR tracks to the end of the boulevard]. Ordinance 2009-18 was passed unanimously by council authorizing the payment to Minnick & Smith.

A resolution (2009-12) was also passed unanimously, with the exception of Ken Hermes abstaining due to his employment with Pilkington. The resolution involves Rossford in all matters relating to riverfront changes along the Maumee and an EPA investigation of the property between I-75 and Rossford City Limits along Miami Street where a proposed casino would be.

In Council Remarks: Jim Richards asked if it would be convenient to meet regarding various issues related to the fire levy [in November]. He said that a Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for 6pm on June 22nd. Larry Oberdorf said that he was collecting donations for the Race/Walk for the Cure [of cancer]. He thanked Dr. Zouhary for having a prayer breakfast in which hermes, Ciecka, Richards & Michaels also attended along with Oberdorf. Lastly, he reported that TMACOG announced the annual Bike Week and that Friday is “Bike to Work Day.” Mayor Verbosky asked the Council President if the next council meeting should be changed from Monday to Tuesday due to the Memorial Day holiday. The meeting was changed to Tuesday. Caroline Eckel thanked Marty Linthicum, a local Boy Scout, who was instrumental in assuring that name plaques were updated with a list of Rossford’s Fallen Heroes in war. Marty presented the City with two plaques listing the names on brass. Mayor Verbosky accepted the work and will assure that the Department of Public Works mounts them at the Veteran’s Memorial Park

entrance prior to Memorial Day. Greg Marquette asked if the Gradall Corporation accepted the marina payment for dredging and he was told that they did and the situation is closed. Chuck Duricek thanked council for their support on the resolution regarding Toledo's casino property on Miami Street. Leonard Michaels requested from Ed Ciecka a list of all money spent on dredging of the marina and upgrades to present at an upcoming Marina Committee meeting. "We need to notify the voters of the status of the marina funds," he said. Ken Hermes initiated a discussion between council members and the City Law Director, Kevin Heban, regarding lawn and grass length and inquired about zoning enforcement. Mr. Heban explained the process and said that a last resort is criminal charges being filed on land owners. Hermes also voiced concern about people mowing grass into the streets, especially union halls along Lime City Road.

During Audience Remarks: Jeff Appelhans asked the exact length of grass listed by ordinance. Kevin Heban said 6 inches is the maximum. Joe Nitrate of Birch Street asked about parking a boat in his driveway that does not have a 'set-back' line as listed in the ordinance. [According to law, a boat can be parked only if it is behind the front line of a home. Mr. Nitrate said some properties do not allow for this]. He also asked if the City could contact whoever dug up property along the 500 block of Lime City Road. The Mayor instructed the City Administrator to contact Dave Jones, Superintendent of the DPW. Ron Schultz complained about the Ed Ford Memorial decaying and that the Glass City Marathon again spray painting the roadway after being assured they would use 'spray chalk' this year. "It's graffiti. If children did it they'd be in trouble," he said. Mr. Schultz also presented a flyer that he found at the Toledo Express Airport. He said it portrays Rossford as a factory and filters the [muddy] Maumee River into a blue colored water. Lastly, Mr. Schultz asked about the water issue [with rate increases to Toledo]. Mayor Verbosky said, "We are at a standstill with that [water rate issue with the City of Toledo]." "I don't believe we're going to have any progress on that in the near future," he said. The Mayor said, "For us to cave in to an additional 12% to Toledo from the Crossroads is not supported. Our citizens in the short term will have to incur increases. In the short run we will have to face some higher water issues." William Verbosky also reported that the City has been working with agencies with the Visitors and Convention Bureau and the RBA on branding issues, pamphlets showing Rossford's new & old sections. "Mr. Goss has been working on that." Gerry Stazak said that he had done some research regarding the [BLUE BAG SYNDROME]. He said that he looked into the Green River Ordinance and thought that there were many options for the city to prevent news companies from allowing sales fliers from being thrown throughout neighborhoods. The information was forwarded to Mr. Heban for review. Mr. Richards said that the two main culprits in throwing the print in yards and streets are The Blade and The Free Press.

The meeting was adjourned.