

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
 Minutes of the Silverton City Council Meeting
 Held Thursday, September 18, 2008

The Council of the City of Silverton met for a business meeting in Council Chambers at 6860 Plainfield Road at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 18, 2008. Mayor John Smith called the meeting to order.

OPENING REMARKS:

Mayor Smith led a moment of silent prayer. Mayor Smith invited SCPA student Chris Miller to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Elected Officials:

- John Smith, Mayor Present
- Willa Garner, Council Present
- Joyce Glover, Council Absent
- Shirley Hackett, Council Present
- Mark Quarry, Council Present
- Frank Sylvester, Council Present
- Dottie Williams, Council Present

Mrs. Hackett motioned to excuse Mrs. Glover who is recovering from surgery. Mrs. Garner seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Also present:

- Mark Wendling, City Manager
- Bryan Pacheco, City Solicitor
- Meredith George, Clerk of Council

REVIEW MEETING AGENDA:

No changes needed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

Mayor Smith presented minutes from the following meetings for approval: the August 7, 2008 Workshop, the August 21, 2008 Business Meeting and the September 4, 2008 Workshop. Mrs. Hackett motioned for approval of the minutes with any necessary corrections and was seconded by Mr. Quarry. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND GUESTS:

1. Mayor Smith introduced William Christopher Miller, a Silverton resident and SCPA student, who recently completed a summer internship at ICRC. Mayor Smith congratulated Mr. Miller for his excellence in the program and thanked him for his dedication and willingness to learn.
2. Mayor Smith noted the Council winter dress code will take effect in October.
3. Mayor Smith reminded everyone that the Block Watch Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Municipal Building

parking lot. Mayor Smith also thanked all the Block Watch members who met at the park on Tuesday to help clean up the storm damage. They did a fantastic job!

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brandon Vatter – 6405 Elwynne Drive

Mr. Vatter addressed Council to voice his concerns over the “No Parking Signs” that have recently been placed on Elwynne Drive near his home. Mr. Vatter reported that because of the signs his neighbors are now parking in front of his home. Mr. Vatter is asking that the signs be removed to alleviate the parking situation. Mr. Wendling reported that before any signs were placed on Elwynne, parking issues were initially raised by residents in the neighborhood. Mr. Wendling held public meetings for the residents to discuss the problems. There was no clear cut solution, as everyone was making different suggestions on how to handle the parking. As a result, Mr. Wendling asked the City Engineer to do a study on the area and make a recommendation. The engineer’s recommendation was that there should be no parking on either side of Elywnne, because the cars on the street cause a line of sight problem and impede the safe passage of emergency vehicles. Mrs. Hackett added that in a situation such as this, you cannot please everyone. Mr. Vatter stated he was a Civil Engineer and would like to discuss the issue with the City’s engineer. Mr. Wendling agreed. Mr. Vatter stated he would like to see if a compromise can be reached. Mr. Sylvester stated that one of the signs was moved back last week and no there is no room to park. Mr. Sylvester feels the sign needs to be put back into its original location.

Marvin Peaks – 6323 Elwynne Drive

Mr. Peaks reported he is also affected by the parking situation on Elwynne. Mr. Peaks stated the cause of the problem is the group home on Elwynne because of the number of employee cars that are there at any given time. Mr. Peaks stated he was aware that there were public meetings held through conversations with his neighbors and requested to see a copy of the engineering study. Mr. Peaks stated initially people were complaining about his truck and now the issue continues to grow. Mr. Peaks lives in a two family and needs to park on the street. Mrs. Hackett asked how many employees the group home had. Mr. Peaks stated that there are approximately 10 cars in and out of the group home, plus a large gray van. Mr. Quarry stated Council will review the issue and try to resolve it in a timely fashion. Mr. Wendling stated he will make the engineering study available to Mr. Peaks.

Kenny Jones – 6326 Elwynne Drive

Mr. Jones piggybacked on Mr. Vatter’s and Mr. Peaks’ comments stating he still can’t get into his driveway and now signs have been added, not removed, as he has requested at previous meetings. Mr. Wendling stated that there is no good solution, other than going back to the way it was before the signs were installed. Mr. Quarry stated that Council will take all viewpoints into consideration and try to resolve this issue. Mr. Jones stated he will bring pictures of the problems to the next meeting.

Mary Wright – 6700 Stoll Lane

Mrs. Wright addressed Council to thank all the City Departments for their hard work during the recent windstorm. Mrs. Wright especially wished to thank the Service Department for moving the tree on Stoll Lane near her home. Mrs. Wright said that the Service Department has always done a great job, but they just keep getting better and better all the time. Mrs. Hackett commended Mrs. Wright for all she does for the City, stating we need more residents like Mrs. Wright.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION BY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mr. Wendling reported he invited Fire Chief Don Newman to the meeting to update everyone on the storm damage and the recovery efforts. Chief Newman reported that the calls began coming in on Sunday, September 14 at around 2:00 p.m. By 10:00 p.m. the Fire District had been on 70 details, and has basically been going non-stop ever since. Chief Newman stated that the district is fortunate to have their own radio frequency, so all non-emergency calls were routed to and dispatched from the fire station. There were no injuries to any employees or residents throughout the storm. Chief Newman stated that the Police, Fire and Service Departments all worked very well together during the emergency. There are still a few areas without power and Chief Newman believes that Duke Energy is somewhat overwhelmed. Chief Newman stated that once things are back to normal, the recovery efforts will be analyzed for ways to improve in the event of another emergency such as this. Chief Newman stated he will suggest to Duke Energy to cut and clear downed wires immediately so that other crews can begin tree removal. Mr. Peaks stated he removed wires from a tree on Elwynne because they were arcing. Mr. Peaks question why the Fire Department didn't handle the situation. Chief Newman stated if there are wires down and no one is in immediate danger he will not jeopardize the safety of his employees. The Fire Department simply does not deal with power lines unless it is a rescue situation. Mr. Wendling added that Duke Energy instructed everyone not to work around downed wires. Crews were directed not to do anything until the wires are cleared. Mr. Quarry thanked Chief Newman for attending the meeting and for all the hard work from the Fire District.

Mr. Wendling stated that Duke Energy is now working on downed wires and the smaller pockets to restore power to everyone. The goal is 100% restoration by Sunday, September 21. Mr. Wendling stated he reported the smaller pockets in Silverton that still do not have power to Duke Energy. Mr. Sylvester asked if a downed transformer on Stoll and Elwynne is responsible for the power outage that continues on lower Elwynne. Mr. Wendling stated he cannot say that for sure, but believes it is a large part of the problem. Mr. Wendling added that the weather guard and meter box at the residence must be operational for power to be restored. The integrity of the weather guard and meter box is the homeowner's responsibility. Mrs. Williams voiced concerns about the cost of the repairs to the homeowner. Mr. Wendling stated it is a company policy that Duke Energy does not do such repairs. Mrs. Williams suggested that Duke do the repairs and then bill the homeowner. Mr. Wendling said that is something that can be discussed for future events, but is not available at this time.

OLD BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Wendling reported that Prus is mobilized and the Plainfield/Montgomery Intersection project is underway. At some point there may need to be detours, but the businesses will be informed ahead of time and every effort will be made to maintain access to the affected businesses. The project is expected to be complete by the end of November and will be a true gem for the City, as well as drastically improve traffic flow.

Mr. Wendling reported that the Belkenton/Grace project has been pushed back one week, until September 29th, due to the storm damage. The deadline may have to be extended by a week or two. Thankfully the project is a straightforward one and should run smoothly once underway.

NEW BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Clerk of Court Report
Mrs. George gave the August 2008 Clerk of Court Report. Mr. Sylvester motioned for approval and was seconded by Mr. Quarry. All voted aye. Motion carried.
2. Budget Report
Mr. Peterson is out of town at a conference. The August 2008 budget report will be given in October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Councilman Sylvester
The Technical Review Committee met on September 10. The zoning re-draft process continues to move forward with a great deal of momentum.
2. Councilwoman Williams
Fire District Board – No report.
3. Councilwoman Garner
Mrs. Garner reported on the success of the summer intern program at ICRC. Mrs. Garner stated Silverton resident William Christopher Miller was informed about the program after his grandmother heard Mrs. Garner mention it at a previous Council meeting. Mr. Miller was eager to participate in the enrichment program, as he is majoring in Technical Theater at SCPA. Mr. Miller did an excellent job and stated he “always wanted to be the man behind the camera.” Presently Mr. Miller is working on the CATS production at the Aronoff Center. Mrs. Garner honored Mr. Miller for his dedication to education and learning.
4. Councilwoman Hackett
The Urban Forestry Board met this afternoon in the conference room. Mrs. Hackett was unable to attend because she was at a workshop in Indianapolis. However, Mrs. Hackett did get an update from the Board. The Board will begin working on a history of the recent windstorm and is asking for before and after pictures from anyone suffering tree damage. Digital pictures can be emailed to mgeorge@cityofsilverton.com. The next meeting is October 16, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Everyone is welcome to attend.
5. Councilman Quarry
OKI – No report.

HCSWD – No report.

Park Board - Mr. Quarry reported that “46 Long” performed on Friday, August 29, as the final concert of this year’s series. The performance was preceded by a major downpour, and was not well attended. “46 Long” put on a great show in spite of the circumstances.

OPEN DISCUSSION BY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mrs. Williams asked if the streets will be swept as part of the storm clean up. Mr. Wendling reported that the street cleaning is likely cost prohibitive, but he will look into it. Mr. Wendling reported that the Service Department regularly cleans out the sewers and will be picking up brush most likely until leaf season begins, which is mid-October.

READING OF LEGISLATION:

Mrs. George gave the reading of Ordinance 08-3272 An Ordinance to Levy Special Assessments on Property of the Total Cost of Mitigating Noxious Weeds and High Grass Pursuant to Sections 91.70-.73 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances and R.C. 715.261 and Declaring an Emergency. Mrs. Garner motioned for adoption and was seconded by Mr. Quarry. A roll call vote was taken. All members present voted aye. Mrs. Quarry motioned to suspend the rules and was seconded by Mrs. Hackett. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION:

Mrs. George gave the first reading of 08-3273 An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 08-3263 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into An Agreement with the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Cincinnati.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mr. Quarry. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith L. George
Clerk of Council

John A. Smith
Mayor

Mark T. Wendling
City Manager