

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of the Silverton City Council Workshop
Held Thursday, April 5, 2007

The Council of the City of Silverton met for a workshop in Council Chambers at 6860 Plainfield Road at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 5, 2007. Mayor John Smith called the meeting to order.

OPENING REMARKS:

Mr. Sylvester led in prayer, and Mayor Smith let the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

ALSO PRESENT:

John Smith	Mayor	Present	Mark Wendling	City Manager
Joyce Glover	Council	Present	Meredith George	Clerk of Council
Shirley Hackett	Council	Present	Dave Emerick	City Engineer
Mike Morthorst	Council	Present	Tom Peterson	Finance Director
Mark Quarry	Council	Present		
Frank Sylvester	Council	Present		
Idella Thompson	Council	Present		

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marian Bernstein – 4229 Sibley Avenue

Ms. Bernstein addressed Council regarding the municipal statute prohibiting dogs in city parks. Ms. Bernstein is a dog owner who would like to see dogs allowed in the park, especially since the city recently passed “pooper scooper” ordinance. A discussion followed and Council was in agreement to further explore the issue. Mr. Wendling stated he would also do a survey through the Center for Local Government to see what the regulations are that other cities have in place, such as leash requirements and excrement removal. The topic will put on the agenda to be discussed at a future workshop.

Robert Harris – 6628 Stoll Lane

Mr. Harris addressed Council regarding the lack of a sidewalk on Oak Street between Stoll Lane and Elwynne Drive. He asked why the existing extruded asphalt curb that serves to provide a walking space between the roadway and the curb was left in place when the street received an asphalt overlay? He also asked why a sidewalk was not installed when sidewalks were installed along Oak Street between Plainfield and Elwynne. Mr. Harris feels the situation is unsafe and the job was left incomplete. Mr. Wendling explained that the Oak Avenue overlay between Stoll and Elwynne was a contractor mistake. The contractor accidentally dumped asphalt on Oak during the Stoll Lane project three years ago. Since the asphalt was in place the contractor had no choice but to roll it. The City, in essence, received a complimentary overlay. The Sidewalk recently installed on Oak between Plainfield and Elwynne were part of the Sampson Lane project. The sidewalk was not extended a to Stoll due to the lack of curbs on that block. City Engineer Mr. Emerick suggested that the City might be able to install a sidewalk with an extruded curb, but it would be susceptible to damage from large

vehicles and snow plows. Mr. Harris stated he was willing to help (financially) solve the problem but wants to see it fixed because it is dangerous.

Glenn Ramsey – Corner of Oak and Stoll

Mr. Ramsey echoed Mr. Harris' concerns and went on to say he has witnessed children fall. Mr. Ramsey also feels the situation is unsafe and is willing to help (financially) resolve the issue.

CITY MANAGER'S WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Stewart Road Drainage Issue
Mr. Wendling stated that City, County and State Officials have recently discussed the drainage issues on Stewart Road at the City's corporate line. The problem is located at Performance Tool and a portion of the land is eroding. Mr. Wendling added that the new State administration is more receptive to fixing the problem, but Silverton and the County will need to help financially support the project. Mr. Wendling added that the City might need to request a deferment of its anticipated State Capital Improvement Program funding for the Plainfield/Montgomery Intersection Project and redirection of Municipal Road Aid to this project. Mr. Emerick was present and added that the drainage situation is unsafe and needs to be fixed. Mr. Wendling stated the Plainfield/Montgomery realignment project would have to be put on hold in order to pursue the Stewart Road drainage project, but he feels because of the potentially dangerous nature of the problem on Stewart Road it needs to be addressed first. A discussion followed and Council was in agreement to further explore the Stewart Road project.
2. Update of 5-Year Capital Plan
Mr. Wendling turned the meeting over to Dave Emerick who explained the updated 5-year capital plan. Mr. Emerick stated that the plan is updated every fall and many factors are considered in determining how projects are placed into the plan. Mr. Emerick stated that Hampton and Aldon have been moved up on the list because the roads are failing. Mr. Emerick also added that Belkenton is in need of repair, along with Grace Avenue. Mr. Wendling added that funding for the small residential streets is harder to obtain because they do not serve as many people as the larger roads such as Plainfield. Mr. Quarry noted the poor condition of East and the surrounding streets, such as South, North and Sibley. Mr. Sylvester asked about the sunken portions of Montgomery Road. Mr. Emerick added that Montgomery Road is a state route and receives some state funding for repairs. The presentation of the plan was followed by a question and answer session.
3. Extension of Rumpke Project
Mr. Peterson reported that the Rumpke contract is expiring. The contract can be extended for another year with a 3.4% increase, which Mr. Wendling and Mr. Peterson are recommending. If the service were put out to bid fuel costs alone would likely generate a higher increase than 3.4%. Legislation will be presented to Council at the April 14th Business Meeting. Additionally, Council needs to look at the brush collection fee, as the fee was initially set in 2001. Mr. Wendling is also looking at the pros and cons of mandatory recycling.
4. Discussion regarding the Regional Income Tax Authority of Ohio

Mr. Wendling informed Council that he has been researching the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA). RITA is organized under the Ohio Revised Code as a regional council of governments for the purpose of collecting income taxes on behalf of Ohio municipalities. Mr. Wendling stated that there is potential that the agency can collect taxes for the City in a more efficient and effective manner, thus enhancing revenues. Mr. Wendling added he would like to invite a RITA representative to a workshop so that Council may discuss the idea further. The cost of the service is based on a formula combining total collections and total accounts.

5. Discussion regarding Building Inspection Services

Mr. Wendling stated that as Council is aware we have had problems with our building inspection services for a while. Mr. Wendling has been talking with Mike Spry, who is interested in providing all our services for a “blended” rate. The rate would vary, depending on the type of service being provided. Other options include using Hamilton County for our permits, but it is difficult to find someone to provide zoning plan review and property inspection services. Mr. Sylvester asked if we could have our own inspector. Mr. Wendling explained the position only requires about 20 hours or less per week and it is hard to find a qualified person to work so few hours.

6. Arbor Day Observance

Mr. Wendling deferred to Mrs. Hackett, who stated that the Urban Forestry Board is working on the program for the City’s inaugural Arbor Day Observance. The Mariemont Garden Center plans to donate a kousa dogwood tree to the City to be planted in the train station park. The celebration will be held on April 27, 2007 in conjunction with Silverton Paideia School.

7. Quality of Life Team Training – Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Mr. Wendling reported that Mrs. Hackett and Mrs. Thompson had recently attended a program that was sponsored by the City of Cincinnati. The program focused on the College Hill neighborhood, but there were ideas that could be implemented in Silverton. Mrs. Hackett and Mrs. Thompson agreed that the meeting was very informative and worthwhile. Mrs. Glover added that she believes welcoming new residents to Silverton would have a huge impact on our residents.

8. Leadership Cincinnati Nomination

Mr. Wendling informed Council that he has been nominated to participate in the Leadership Cincinnati Academy. The academy would be a great opportunity to enhance leadership skills and understand all aspects of leadership. The academy will also put Mr. Wendling in contact with various leaders in Cincinnati and will be good exposure for Silverton. Council gave Mr. Wendling the approval to proceed with the application.

9. Real Estate Investment Association Proposal (REIA)

Mr. Wendling stated he had attempted to find more information on REIA regarding the City’s endorsement of buying and renovating homes in Silverton. Mr. Wendling was unable to find much information and did not see the need or value in pursuing the proposal any further. Council was in agreement. Additionally,

Mrs. Glover noted the organization never provided Council with the information they requested on more than one occasion.

10. Additional Items

- a. Mr. Morthorst proposed naming the park at the train station for Carl Lindner in recognition of his generosity to Silverton. Mr. Morthorst suggested having a dedication ceremony with Mr. Lindner present. Mr. Wendling stated he would add the discussion to the agenda for the next workshop.
- b. Mr. Sylvester stated he has been receiving calls from residents due to cars parking on both sides of Stoll Lane. Mr. Wendling stated he did not think it was a violation, but he would look into it.
- c. Mr. Wendling noted he would be out of town from 4/6/07 to 4/12/07 and Bryan Pacheco was designated Acting City Manager. Mr. Wendling would be available via cell in case of an emergency.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Thompson made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Mrs. Hackett. All voted aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Smith
Mayor

Mark T. Wendling
City Manager

Meredith L. George
Clerk of Council