



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
 Minutes of the Silverton City Council Workshop  
 Held Thursday, April 3, 2008

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 3, 2008. Mayor Smith called the meeting to order.

**OPENING REMARKS:**

Mayor Smith led a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

ALSO PRESENT:

John Smith	Mayor	Present	Mark Wendling	City Manager
Willa Garner	Council	Present	Meredith George	Clerk of Council
Joyce Glover	Council	Present		
Shirley Hackett	Council	Present		
Mark Quarry	Council	Present		
Frank Sylvester	Council	Present		
Dottie Williams	Council	Present		

Mayor Smith noted that the City of Silverton lost one of its leading residents yesterday. Dottie Schwartz passed away on Wednesday at the age of 83. Mrs. Schwartz will truly be missed. Funeral arrangements are forthcoming and will be conveyed to Council once they have been announced.

**CITY MANAGER’S WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Service Department Step Increases

Mr. Wendling reported that he would like Council to consider amending the step increases for the service department employees. Currently, the steps are at 2, 4 and 6 years. Mr. Wendling would like to see the steps amended to 1, 2 and 3 years. This will not change the wage rates, but will allow our employees to move up the pay scale faster. Our current crew is fully trained and does an excellent job and the pay scale modification would help retain these employees. Mr. Sylvester asked if the hourly rate included benefits. Mr. Wendling explained that all full time employees are provided medical, dental, and life insurance effective the first day of the

month after their hire and these are in addition to their hourly rate. Mr. Quarry asked about the impact on the current budget. Mr. Wendling stated he would run the numbers and report back to Council. Mrs. Glover asked what was needed from Council to make the necessary changes to the wage scale. Mr. Wendling stated he would need to be given clearance to modify the wage scale. The requested financial information will be provided to Council and the increases will be revisited soon.

2. Planning Partnership Membership

Mr. Wendling informed Council that for years Silverton has been a member of the Planning Partnership. Our membership fee is approximately \$1200 per year. Mr. Wendling feels we have received few if any tangible benefits from the membership in the five years he has been with the City. Mr. Wendling is recommending that we do not renew our membership at this time. In fact, we received our invoice in January and to date no one from regional planning has followed up to ask why we have not renewed yet. Mr. Wendling anticipates personnel changes are forthcoming and he hopes this will bring a new perspective to the partnership. Mrs. Garner asked if there was anything we needed from the partnership before we end our membership. Mr. Wendling stated there was not. Mrs. Glover asked if there was anything in our 2008 goals that we would need the membership for. Mr. Wendling stated anything we might need from the partnership in 2008 can be accessed without a membership. Mrs. Glover made a motion that Silverton not renew its membership with the Planning Partnership. Mrs. Garner seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

3. Gateway Signage

Mr. Wendling updated Council on the gateway signs. The City has received a wide range of quotes from \$100 per sign to \$2000 per sign. After receiving the quotes, it was decided that we need to be more specific with what type of signs we want and need. Mr. Wendling reported that we are looking at a formed foam sign that looks like wood, but is more durable and less expensive. He is confident that the signs will be up early summer.

On a side note, Mrs. Hackett asked how many "Tree City USA" signs we will get. Mr. Wendling reported that he thinks we will get 1 or 2 signs and a flag. Extra signs can be ordered for a nominal fee. Mr. Wendling added that anyone who would like to go to the Tree City USA award ceremony on April 24 should let him know ASAP so he may make the reservation.

Additionally, Mrs. Garner requested that all committee meeting dates be added to the calendar of events that Mr. Wendling provides to Council with his report.

4. East Gatewood Storm Sewer Collapse

Mr. Wendling stated that a company has been hired to repair the collapsed storm sewer; however there have been problems with property owners granting the right of entry needed to get the project started. CDS is working on it and Mr. Wendling is confident that we will get what the rights of entry.

5. Plainfield-Montgomery Road Intersection Project

Mr. Wendling stated the utility work is progressing but it will take longer than anticipated. The delays in the project are primarily weather related. Some affected businesses are upset by the inconvenience, but the end product will be well worth it. Mr. Wendling is working with the business owners to help them through the inconvenience. Mr. Quarry asked about the Lighthouse demolition. Mr. Wendling reported that the environmental survey is underway and once completed the agreement with the Carter Family will be finalized.

Mr. Wendling added that Daniel Kees, a Silverton Avenue resident, is interested in buying and rehabbing the house located at 6949 Silverton Avenue. Mr. Wendling will be providing Mr. Kees access to the house tomorrow so that he may walk through it with his building contractor.

6. Miscellaneous

Mr. Quarry asked if the final comp plan meeting has been scheduled. Mr. Wendling stated it has, but he would need to double check the date and inform Council.

Mr. Quarry reported that his street is in horrible condition and would like Council to consider repairing it ahead of schedule. Mr. Wendling stated that he did not believe that East Avenue would be grant eligible because it is a less traveled side street. Mr. Wendling agreed that East Avenue has deteriorated at a fast rate. Mr. Wendling reported that he evaluates the streets in Silverton, along with Rick Lehmkuhl and a representative from CDS. Once the streets are evaluated they establish a repair schedule and currently other streets rank ahead of East Avenue on the repair schedule. However, Mr. Wendling reported that the schedule is updated annually. Mr. Quarry stated he would continue to be an advocate for the accelerated repair of East Avenue.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

1. Public comments

*Mary Wright – 6700 Stoll Lane*

Mrs. Wright asked what has been happening in the vacant house on Stoll Lane just south of the intersection of Stoll and Oak. Mrs. Wright reported seeing the police there recently and was wondering what the problem

was. Mr. Wendling stated he would need to check with Chief Daudistel, as he does not routinely insert himself into criminal investigations.

Mrs. Wright asked about the census challenge outcome. Mr. Wendling reported we won the census challenge and Silverton grew by two residents.

Mrs. Wright asked why Silverton is often referred to Cincinnati by the US Postal Service. Mr. Wendling explained that because the Taft Branch is a division of the Main Post Office on Dalton Street most cities in Hamilton County are referred to as Cincinnati as far as mail is concerned. Mr. Wendling stated the only city he knew of that was unaffected is Harrison, because they are home to a main post office.

**READING OF PENDING LEGISLATION:**

None.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Meredith L. George  
Clerk of Council

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John A. Smith  
Mayor

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Mark T. Wendling  
City Manager