

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 9, 2009**

**Immediately Following Previous Committees or**

**7:30 PM**

**Council Committee Rooms**

## **Committee of the Whole**

*Thomas R. Kneeland, Chair*

*Beryl D. Anderson*

*Thomas C. Evers*

*Shane Ewald*

*John R. McAlister*

*Nancy R. McGregor*

*David L. Samuel*

**Members Absent:** Shane W. Ewald and David L. Samuel

**Members Present:** Thomas R. Kneeland, John McAlister, Thomas C. Evers, Nancy R. McGregor and Beryl D. Anderson

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**Additional Attendees:**

Dottie Franey, Karl Wetherholt, Mike Andrako, General Jim Williams, Dep. Chief Bell, Jerry Isler, Angel Mumma, Isobel Sherwood, Tony Collins, Tom Weber, Mayor Stinchcomb, Brandi Braun, Anthony Jones, Sadicka White, Grant Reveal, Trevor Wolfe, Karen Woodward, Stephen Renner, Press.

**PENDING LEGISLATION:**

**ORD-0055-2009**

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH FAHLGREN MORTINE FOR THE PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY OF DOWNTOWN GAHANNA

Kneeland called the meeting to order; our first item is to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Fahlgren Mortine; Samuel sent an email requesting this item come back to committee; it had first reading and next week would be the second reading; it is open for discussion. Braun said she had sent out the items requested and has a sample plan available; it is too big to send but she will provide it to anyone who wants it. McAlister said he had questions previously as to why we needed to do this; then the Mayor explained that we really have no choice in how this money is used; it has to be spent on travel and tourism; so since that is the case, I now have no problem with the contract. Evers said since we don't know the details of Samuel's request, we will put it on the regular agenda; then we see what his concern is and if he needs something added we can postpone the ordinance if needed.

**Recommended for Adoption**

**ISSUES - From Director of Finance:**

**Acceptance & Supp. App./FEMA Funds**

Isler said we have received FEMA funds and now have to appropriate them and distribute them to where they go; it was shown in the outline that they wind up in the Streets Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, and the General Fund but it has to go into the FEMA Fund first, then be distributed; it supplements the money that is there and helps to reimburse expenses they have had. McAlister said he would like this to go on regular agenda.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, no need to come back; 2nd Reading, Regular Agenda.

**Bond Fund Reallocation**

Isler said this is the ordinance to amend the bond ordinance; you may remember how we could not use bond money for the Wi Fi as it was not considered a true Capital item; but the money could be used for Parks; part of the original ordinance money was spent for land last year and now we are reimbursing ourselves for that; all \$586,000 is for Park's Capital items; this is a distinction we have to make as all types of bonds are tracked closely and this ordinance makes our corrections.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back; 2nd Reading, Consent.

## **ISSUES - From Director of Technology:**

### **Contract - Aerial Data for GIS**

Reveal said Woolpert brought to the attention of Trevor Wolfe, who manages our GIS, that they are doing a fly-over for aerial mapping for the City of Columbus and could give us the opportunity to extend the air time and get our topographic information provided at a reduced rate; it basically gives us 4 features; normally we get our information from Franklin County and it is not as detailed or as advanced as needed nowadays; this process allows us to select the level of detail; the last time this was done was in 2004 and 2007 so we are a couple of years behind the curve; we contacted the Auditor's Office and they have no plans for Franklin County to make this information available to us and it wouldn't be good data anyway for GIS; this offer would cost us \$33,000; on our own it is \$55,000; we detailed a few items from the city departments who use it; Engineering said they plan to use this instead of survey crews in certain instances which would be a huge cost savings and time saver to them; we are asking for the supplemental with a waiver of second reading and emergency language because the flight is in 2 weeks. Kneeland said this would be from the General Fund. McAlister asked the difference between this fly-over and Google. Wolfe said Google gets its information from the County; Franklin County information is from about 2004; so this would be newer information. Anderson asked if the price is set. Reveal said it is a set price; other suburbs that have signed on are Dublin, Westerville, and Grove City. Weber asked if this is a contract. Reveal said yes it is. Kneeland clarified that the resolution will be much greater. Wolfe said yes; the data from Franklin County is compressed so this will be 20% better.

Recommendation: 1st reading with waiver of 2nd reading and emergency language; Consent agenda.

### **Presentation - Broadband 101**

Reveal said that he has noticed some confusion on the terms and concepts for Broadband, Wi Fi, and fiber; thought it would be beneficial to go over these so city employees will be able to properly explain projects and know the right language; he then provided a Power Point presentation; a copy of this is available in the Council Office. Anderson asked if the map pictured was Franklin County. Reveal said it is just our corner of the County and it shows we are ahead of the curve and trying to get to number one. McGregor asked if she could use this network instead of her WOW Cable currently in use. Reveal said yes; it will be rolled out in about 2 weeks. Mayor said she wanted to highlight the fact the City is not offering internet service, a private business is. Kneeland said the business running it is DHB; they won the contract and they will provide services using these facilities. Anderson asked where on Hamilton Road this is being completed. Wetherholt said it is from Carpenter Road to Johnstown Road.

## **ISSUES - From Director of Public Service:**

### **Presentation - Creekside Quarterly Revenue Update**

Franey said she was filling in for Emery who was ill; the Public Service Department has agreed to provide an update on the Creekside Parking Garage once a quarter; the Finance Department does the revenues and we do the garage; the Finance Department is working with Franklin County for final information and will do their presentation at a later date; we decided to proceed with the information on the garage; a Power Point presentation was done; a copy of this presentation is available in the Council Office.

McAlister asked if we pay property tax even if this is city-owned. Isler said yes we do since this is a money maker; but we do not pay it on the golf course since park and leisure activities are exempt; these codes are complex. McGregor asked if lowering the maximum charge will allow employees to park there more frequently. Franey said it is possible to make changes like that and see where it goes; Eckl Parking is managing the parking here and they are open to working with us to make changes; right now we have no problem with space, but we would like to see the day we are managing to keep them out. McGregor asked if Franey would email her a copy of the presentation; Franey agreed.

## **Agenda Additions:**

### **Resolution to Honor Camille Mancuso**

McAlister said he had gotten an email request to do a Resolution of Commendation for Camille Mancuso; said I forwarded this to Council; I understand from this gentleman that his daughter is a Broadway star in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; she has performed in New York and the traveling company; she is in town with family and they would like to know if the City would recognize her accomplishment with a Resolution; I know it is a little unusual for this type of thing, but I said I would see if Council will do it. Sherwood clarified she is in the 4th grade at Blacklick Elementary School. Weber said she is a Pinnell Dancer. Sherwood said she would check with her family to determine if she will be in town March 16 and able to come over to accept this; the request is for the March 23 meeting but that night is for committee; we could go into chambers just for this; we can put it on the agenda for March 16 and pass it then .

Recommendation: Resolution honoring acting accomplishment of Camille Mancuso, Consent agenda.

### **Development Department-Industrial Site Improvement Fund Application**

Kneeland said we are bringing an issue forward from the Development and Parks Committee meeting. Jones said we would like to apply for an ISIF (Industrial Site Improvement Fund) Grant; the city Department of Development would like to apply for this grant from the ODOD (Ohio Department of Development); it is available to 7 economically disadvantaged counties and Franklin County is one of them that is eligible; the application came out 2 weeks ago and it is due this Wednesday; it is very similar to the Job Ready Sites Grant that we previously applied for; the goals are to help the community grow by leveraging development, foster economic growth, and insure sustainable development; the maximum grant is \$750,000 and it does require a 25% match; this request is just the authorization to apply; our plan is to acquire property in the Central Park area; I have talked to the State and County and our application will be competitive as we were a standout for the Job Ready Grant and that does allow us to accommodate a quick turn around; any questions?

Kneeland said we can't vote on this tonight; informally we can say we are interested or not; open it up for comments. McAlister asked why we are buying land. Jones said it is in the interest of the City to have a valuable piece of land to accommodate job growth opportunities with proven incentives. McAlister said that purchase should be by a private owner; we, the City, would then be in the real estate business driving up costs; those funds come from the taxes people have to pay; you are using a methodology to involve taxpayers in buying real estate; I don't think the City should apply for the grant or buy property; what if we ask our taxpayers if they were willing to purchase the property for the asking price; would they agree to do that. White said in the future this property may be worth more; we buy land all the time for parks, rights of way, and we

buy a lot of land for development like that from the TIZ; Donato's and others are coming off tax dollars after 30 year leases and they are staying because Gahanna made it possible; our residential community cannot support this City without commercial development; we raise \$13 million in revenues and it comes from commercially developed land in Gahanna; we don't want to buy all the land; we just need to take advantage of the opportunity and then let private real estate developers do what they will do; our request is a small percentage, 7 acres; we have 350 acres left; we believe this is getting maximum benefit for tax dollars; these dollars have already gone into the pot from the State; we would be getting this back and providing maximum long term use of the land.

Anderson asked why we are considered economically disadvantaged to be eligible for the grant. Jones said it is because of loss of employees; Franklin County is now distressed by count. Anderson asked how often this is determined. Jones said annually. Kneeland said we can't take any formal action; the discussion was if Council will provide input on pursuing the grant and how to proceed. Evers said it would have to go to Council's regular agenda. Weber said the grant information has to go in early on Wednesday; then it can come back to Council; Franklin County has to decide if they approve Gahanna's application, then a more formal process can take place. McAlister said we have spent 3.5 million dollars in the original Industrial Zone; it has been touted for 7 years as a great deal by supporters; but we have no idea what development would have happened without government interference; I see this using TIZ money so the City can control private property; the land is only worth what the open market will pay for it; I am not in support of this.

Recommendation: None given.

### **Issues from Council President Evers**

Evers said he had 2 items; first the CVBB (Convention and Visitors Bureau Board) is reorganizing; they have asked Council if they can have a member on their board. Anderson asked what the requirements are. Evers said they meet monthly for about 90 minutes; they hope soon to have it to every other month; if anyone is interested let me know; for the second issue, would like to address the administration as a whole; we are getting more and more items brought up with a short lead time; approximately half the items tonight were requested with emergency and waiver; we need for you to bring items forward in a timely manner; 50% is not appropriate; please strive to do better. McGregor said last year it was about 40% for the whole year. Evers said we would ask for everyone's cooperation with this.

Meeting adjourned.

### **Della Brandenberger, Reporting**