

MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 27, 2009

6:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Acting President, David Malone called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed a moment of silent prayer

Roll Call showed the following members to be present:

Mike Mearan	1 st Ward
David Malone	2 nd Ward
Bob Mollette	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward
John Haas	5 th Ward
Richard Noel	6 th Ward

Also present were Mayor James D. Kalb; City Solicitor, Michael L. Jones and City Auditor, M. Trent Williams.

Council dispensed with the reading of the Journal for the regular session of April 13, 2009, on a motion by Councilman Albrecht.

STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Teresa Mollette – 1705 Franklin Blvd. objected to ratification of the bargaining unit contract with AFSCME, which approves raises over the next three years. She also objected to the CIP as presented and reiterated previous remarks with regard to other cities having to cut back and her opinion that the City of Portsmouth should look at other options. She claimed the City to not have a “clear plan” on the budget.

Sharon Bender – 1666 Highland Avenue objected to budgeting for two \$25,000 vehicles – one for Community Development and one for Income Tax. She said she did not understand the need and called it, at that cost, an unnecessary expense. She felt sure the employees are reimbursed for using their own vehicles. Mrs. Bender further objected to the “very small” amount that was being allocated for street paving, saying there was never going to be any money if it was going to be spent on vehicles and raises.

Wayne Nichols – 2018-8th Street claimed there to be no mention in the budget has to how much the proposed new code enforcement officer was going to be paid. He agreed with Mrs. Bender’s remarks and suggested used highway patrol cars be purchased from the state to be used as City vehicles.

LEGISLATION

The Clerk gave a **second reading** to an ordinance authorizing the addition of a full time position, Code Enforcement Officer II, and a seasonal (6 month) position to aid in the success of the Land Reutilization Program as well as hold responsibilities in other areas.

Councilman Albrecht moved this constitute a second reading.

Councilman Mollette inquired as to whether or not this would have an effect on the current operating budget, to whom this person would report and under whose authority would this person work. The Mayor said he would be willing to agree, upon Council moving to delete “reporting directly to the Mayor” for the person to report to the Health Department. He said he has spoken with the members of the Health Department and he did not believe it would be a problem with regard to the end result of what the City is trying to accomplish. The Mayor said he could argue the fact with copies of sections of the charter and codified ordinances but did not feel that would be necessary. He said this position, being under either branch of the government, will allow the City to accomplish what it has set out to do. With regard to financing the positions, the Mayor pointed out the fact that for close to three months there has been a position in the Engineering Department, of code enforcement office, that was not filled for the past nine months but was funded for a year. He also noted there to be full-time enforcement officer, in the Police Department, that was funded for a full year but those