

City of Deer Park
City Council Committee Meeting
Municipal Building
October 6, 2014

President Comer opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Linda Fitzgerald, LSR Consultants

Tim Casto, Kleingers & Associates

Spence Faxon, Bill Graffe & Mark Bishop, Energy Alliances

Legislative and Finance Committee

Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Berens announced that we are in the process of preparing an application for the next round of CDBG funding. There have been two public hearings scheduled. The first meeting took place before this evening's committee meeting where Ms. Linda Fitzgerald, our economic development consultant, explained the grant application process and discussed the types of projects that are eligible for consideration. The second meeting will be held on October 13 at 6:30 p.m. prior to the City Council meeting. Citizens are invited to provide written and oral comments and ask questions regarding the housing and community development needs of the city. Legislation authorizing the CDBG Application will be considered at the October 13 City Council meeting.

Blue Ash Road Streetscape Project Update and Ord. # 2014-18 Authorizing Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) for Blue Ash Rd. TID Project

Mr. Tim Casto, our city engineer, has been working with the city on the Blue Ash Road Streetscape Project. Mr. Casto announced that last Wednesday he and the project team walked the project to survey the area for the project. In the next few days the exhibit regarding the Inter-governmental Agreement/\$250,000 grant for the TID Project will go to Mr. Helmes.

Walkable Deer Park Sidewalk Grant – Consultant Proposal

Mr. Tassell spoke about a project he is working on along Blue Ash Road that could potentially transform its business district by providing greater access via car but also providing the very important connection to the business district for pedestrian traffic. This school district is a walking district. This plan would improve the way students walk to school and would increase safety as well as help improve our roads years down the road. First we will identify by working with Kleingers and Public Policy Initiatives to lay out a plan, secondly we will look at a plan to seek the appropriate funding to make the recommendations a reality by writing applications for grants, communicating with others inside the local government as needed; obtaining City Council's support, assisting with the funding as the initial investment could be \$14,000 – \$16,000. We will know if this is viable in 4 – 6 months.

Mary Ellen Deters - 4350 Glenway Avenue

Mrs. Deters expressed concern that as a homeowner she thought she was responsible for the upkeep of the sidewalk and wondered if she would receive money towards the repair of the sidewalk. President Comer advised that this program does still exist. Mrs. Deters also asked if there is anything in the works to require residents to repair if their sidewalk is deteriorating badly. Mr. Tassell stated that we made a decision not to push people to repair due to these economic times and are instead looking at projects with possible grants to help get those sidewalks repaired.

Integritys Energy Electric Aggregation

Mr. Berens introduced Spence Faxon, Mark Bishop and Bill Graffe from Energy Alliances. Mr. Tassell met with them last Friday, October 3. Mr. Faxon, Mr. Bishop and Mr. Graffe provided an update: Rates are not as good right now given that our community is smaller and has a low profile. The rate is close to the price to compare. Duke Energy's rates are due to go up in March and we don't know how bad the winter is going to be. There had never been cold that affected the electric rates like it did last winter. Rates can be good for a time (6 months – 1 year for example) and then not be good for awhile. Locking in a rate should be done by the end of October. Mr. Berens mentioned that this will go to Mr. Helmes for legislation and will be on the agenda for the October 13 City Council meeting.

Deer Park Veterans Memorial Commission

Mr. Tassell stated that we are looking at asking a group of veterans to take care of the memorial by creating an organization to update and upkeep it going forward. President Comer suggested we address this need with the VFW. Mr. Berens then also stated that a tree branch fell on the memorial during a recent storm and will cost \$3200.00 to fix as removal of the tree is necessary.

September 2014 Income Tax Report

Mr. Berens stated the September 2014 Income Tax Report is in the mailboxes and will be discussed at October 13 City Council meeting.

September NW JEDZ Report

Mr. Berens stated we have a breakdown of the September JEDZ Report. Mr. Applegate stated that we are monitoring this and did mention that the 2% collection fee is what Sycamore Township is paying us to collect it. Mr. Berens did remind all that most of the JEDZ work is done by Brenda as our part time tax clerk is there to help with other tax needs. This will be on the agenda at the October 13 City Council meeting.

Re-Appropriation Ordinance # 2014-19

Mr. Applegate reminded all that we used to pay PERS quarterly and now we pay monthly. We pass this ordinance every year. We will have this ordinance at the City Council meeting on October 13.

Resolution # 2014-20 Accepting the Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission

We will have this resolution at the City Council meeting on October 13.

Safety Committee

September 2014 Fire District Monthly Report

Mr. Berens stated that the fire district monthly report is in the mailboxes and the report will be given at next week's City Council meeting on October 13.

September 2014 Police Department Monthly Report

Mr. Berens stated that the police department monthly report is in the mailboxes and the report will be given at next week's City Council meeting on October 13.

Police Officer Selection Update

Mr. Berens announced that interviews are taking place in the Police Department. We hope to hire by November and have the new officer sworn in at a City Council Meeting in November.

FOP Labor Negotiations

Mr. Berens reported that we received the notes to negotiate from the FOP and as directed by council Mr. Berens contacted attorneys Frost Brown Todd who did the last several negotiations with Police Officers, Service Department and staff. We meet with them in the next several weeks to get this set up and going.

Public Works Committee

Redmont Avenue Improvement Project

Mr. Casto gave an update on the Redmont Avenue Improvement Project. The project is 50% complete. There is a projected completion date of November 26. Mr. Lehane asked Mr. Casto if they could move their equipment to one side of the street as it is currently blocking the whole lane.

Plainfield Rd. Joint Project, DRPK, HAMCO, SYCM

Mr. Tim Casto updated all on the Plainfield Rd. Joint Project. Deer Park Schools have been contacted by Mr. Berens and received this news very positively. Pedestrians are currently confused with current set up and the roundabout will improve pedestrian safety. Recently a Jr. High student was hit by a car on Plainfield near Linden. The schools will address the current issue with students and parents as we look forward to the new project which will clean up lane assignments and eliminate confusion.

Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Program

Mr. Berens reported that Ms. Newsom is working on and looking into a lot of cities around us (such as Loveland and Elmwood Place). Some people are not using it or don't know it's there. Fairfield has a part time employee to work on getting notifications to residents whose sidewalks are in need of repair. Mr. Casto did also note that when streets are fixed there is money to fix the worst sidewalks on that street.

Mary Ellen Deters - 4350 Glenway Avenue

Mrs. Deters asked if she is liable if someone falls on the sidewalk in front of her home and also inquired on who is responsible for snow removal from the sidewalks. Mr. Helmes and President Comer advised that the homeowner is responsible to repair the sidewalks that are deteriorated however for winter weather Mr. Hall advised to check with Mr. Helmes however mentioned that the last he heard was that it is seen as an Act of God therefore it is not necessary to remove ice or snow.

Mr. Ron Tolliver- 4221 Matson Avenue

Mr. Tolliver asked if homeowners allowed to repair their own sidewalks. President Comer and Mr. Berens advised that one must be bonded to complete the work.

Galbraith Rd. Curb Repair In-House Project

Mr. Berens stated that the Service Department is working on repairing some of the crumbling curbs on Galbraith Road and near Amity School. We are saving money by doing the work ourselves. They have had to cut out the bad sections and fix. This eliminates the trip hazard for the school children getting out of cars in front of Amity.

Deer Park Chosen to Receive the Most Improved Community Recycling Program Award by the Ham Co. Recycling and Solid Waste District

Mr. Berens announced that Deer Park has been selected to receive the Most Improved Community Recycling Program Award! The 10th annual ceremony with breakfast is Thursday 11/13/14 at Winton Woods from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Other Boards or Committees with a Report

Hermann Tegenkamp Service Award Program

Hermann's grandson Keith Chacoff started this service award program as an Eagle Scout. There are applications on our website as well as here in the city building if you would like to nominate someone.

Park Board – Pumpkin Fest

Mr. Berens mentioned that the Pumpkin Fest was held October 4. A full report will be made at the October 13 City Council meeting.

Community Improvement Corporation - Comprehensive Plan Update – Open House

Mr. Berens announced that the open house for the CIC Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for October 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

Mr. Berens stated that two cases are coming up for the Planning Commission; one for a fence variance and one for a sign variance. One person on the committee has resigned and we will need a replacement. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Berens announced that the Board has recently approved a deck variance on Quartermaine.

Schedule

CIC Open House - Comprehensive Plan Update, Monday, October 13 at 6:00pm

Public Hearing – CDBG, Monday, October 13 at 6:30pm

City Council Meeting, Monday, October 13, 2014 at 7:00pm

DRPK-SLVT JFD Meeting, Tuesday, October 14 at 4:30 at Station 89

CIC Meeting, Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 5:30pm

Park Board Meeting, Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:00pm

City Council Meeting, Monday, October 27, 2014 at 7:00pm

Announcements

History in your own Backyard Presentation –Mr. Berns stated that a presentation about this organization, which creates history videos, will be made at the October 27 City Council Meeting.

Homecoming Parade – President Comer mentioned that not enough volunteers have signed up to walk in the Homecoming Parade however if enough Council members want to get together and participate they should be at St. John's by 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Berens announced that Annie Wilkerson, Field Rep for Congressman Weinstrep, is scheduled to be at the October 27 Council Meeting.

Mr. Berens noted that the Hamilton County Municipal League State Legislation is holding a joint meeting with Warren County on Saturday October 11, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Sharonville Convention Center where breakfast will be provided.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Joseph W. Comer
President of Council

Joanie Perin-Seitz
Clerk of Council