

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

Council President Baker called the regular meeting to order.

Pastor John Malpus of Orrville Christian Church offered the prayer. The Pledge was recited by all.

Roll call: Shupp, Miller, Hamsher, Aspiras, Corfman, and Leathers were present.

Excused: Vance

Aspiras moved and Hamsher seconded that the minutes of the September 17, 2012, regular meeting be adopted as posted. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Standing Committee Reports:

A. Finance – Mr. Miller: No report.

B. Utilities – Mr. Vance: Excused.

C. Health & Safety – Mr. Corfman: Health and Safety had a meeting tonight to address communication concerns with the police and directors. And we also have a meeting scheduled for November 12 at 7:00 after the Utility Board meeting which we will discuss the State's dog ordinance. That's it.

D. Parks and Recreation – Mr. Aspiras: No report.

E. Transportation – Mr. Shupp: No report.

F. Planning – Mr. Hamsher: No report.

G. Ordinance & Personnel – Ms. Leathers: No report.

Special Committee Reports: None.

Administrative Reports:

A. Mayor Handwerk read a proclamation in honor of Public Power Week which is coming up next week. (Proclamation on file in the Mayor's office.) And that's all I have.

Baker: Safety Service Director Mr. Wheeler:

B. Safety Service Director Wheeler: Thank you, Mr. President. The Johnson Hardware parking lot has been resurfaced. It is complete and they did finish the striping today as well so it's now open and back to normal use. The gas company Dominion, their line work construction has been completed. The sidewalk and reseeding are still underway and they are currently working on Bell and High Streets. The resurfacing project on Cloveridge, Brookwood and Viking continues. The rain last week did push the schedule back a few days. The contractor is scheduled to complete milling and crack sealing this week and resurfacing is scheduled for next week. Work on Mineral Springs also continues. The under drains are scheduled to be put in this week on the north side of Mineral Springs from Ella to Main Street and the contractor hopes to be able to pour the concrete next week on that same side. And a reminder that

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

the Police and Fire Departments will be having an open house this Sunday, October 7, from 1pm to 4pm as a kick off to Fire Prevention Week and light refreshments will be provided. And that's my comments for this evening.

Shupp: Mr. Wheeler do you have any idea when Mineral Springs will be completed with the last concrete pour?

Wheeler: If they are able to get it poured next week that typically takes another week to pour so we are looking at the second and third week of October at potentially being done assuming the weather continues to cooperate.

Shupp: They've been making good progress I see though.

Wheeler: They've done a good job so far.

Shupp: Thank you.

Baker: Welcome. Now we'll move to our Utility Director Mr. Brediger.

C. Utilities Director Brediger: Thank you, Mr. President. I just have a couple of informational items. This week Ms. Strimlan, Mr. Kallenborn and I will be visiting our generation projects at the Prairie State Coal Plant and our three hydro projects under development. The next Utility Board meeting scheduled for October 8 will be held at the City Utility Waste Water Treatment Plant. Following that board meeting Mr. Auten will be giving a tour of the Waste Water Treatment facility. So if you haven't been out there to see that facility and have an understanding on how that works, I'd encourage you to attend that. We do have some information concerning the natural gas aggregation program. There will be some information coming out in a bill stuffer, an article in OrrViews but basically the City of Orrville is once again providing to its residents the opportunity to participate in the natural gas aggregation program. This will be the seventh year that we've offered this. Under this program the City acts on behalf of our consumers or our customers in the committee to make this project available. The time period will be from November of this year through October of 2013. If you are currently enrolled in the program you don't have to do anything and you'll be automatically renewed. The price for this year has dropped close to 19%. The natural gas rate on an MCF basis is \$4.53 this year. That's compared to \$5.59 this year. Now on top of that you'll still have taxes and service fees and Dominion's transportation cost but that's the rate that you compare when you go to the Public Utility's website and do their apples-to-apples comparison. And right now that rate is about \$1.50 an MCF lower than every site on that offering right now with the exception of one and there is one there that's like \$4.40. Not too sure what the story is behind that. Most of the other players on there are in the \$6 MCF range. Under this program everything remains the same. Dominion still owns the lines, still collected under your current bill. So nothing will change from our customers from that perspective and again there will be more details that show up in the bill stuffer and in OrrViews. And if anybody has any questions, contact Mike Hedberg or give our office a call. But that is a great deal going into next year and again that's a one year fixed period. On that website there are other plans available. You can go to variable monthly rate, or there are offerings on a quarterly rate and those are a little bit cheaper but there's some risk involved in that. This aggregation program that we've been involved with that we've been sponsoring that AMP manages for us has been a one year fixed term. So with that I'll take any questions otherwise that concludes my report.

Aspiras: As far as the site you are talking about is that www.puc.org?

Brediger: That is www.puc.ohio.gov if you Google in Ohio Public Utilities Commission it will take you to their webpage there.

Aspiras: And that has the apples-to-apples comparison?

Brediger: Right. Right. There will be down on the left, there will be a menu of offerings and you will pick Apples-to-Apples and there will be an option for either electric aggregation or natural gas aggregation.

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

And then you will pick the service territory that you're in and we're under Dominion, there are 4 or 5 other natural gas providers in the State of Ohio. And then from there it will bring up a listing of probably about 18 suppliers that offer one year or more fixed term and then there is a host of variable rate plans available for consumers. If you are currently in the program and you want to take advantage of those other programs you just have to call the number that's on there and take yourself off the program. In other words you'll opt out of that. Most people that are enrolled in this program they don't have to do anything it will just show up on their bill like it always has. You can still do the budget plan that's managed through Dominion East Ohio Gas. All that remains the same other than we're paying about \$1.50 an MCF lower than what we did last year. That's close to 20% savings and that's one of the better things that's happening in the energy markets this year going into next year.

Aspiras: I appreciate your work on that. I know I participate in it and I looked at the apples-to-apples last year and it looks like you guys are doing a good job.

Brediger: It's a good deal it's just another one of those buying in volume and AMP aggregates these programs for dozens of communities in Ohio. It's just buying power.

Aspiras: Thanks.

Brediger: You're welcome.

Baker: Any other questions? Our Finance Director Ms. Strimlan.

D. Finance Director Strimlan: Thank you Mr. President. Prior to tonight's meeting I distributed the quarterly investment report. At your leisure I'd ask you to review this. If you have any questions about our investments please feel free to give me a call. This doesn't require any action by Council but I do need the minutes to reflect that it was distributed to each of you. Also prior to tonight's meeting I distributed the Fund Balance Report for the period ending August 31st and I would just ask for a motion to approve that report subject to audit. Miller motioned and Aspiras seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Strimlan: That's all I have this evening.

E. Law Director Kirkbride: No report.

F. Council President Baker: For my report I have a question rather than a report. Mr. Wheeler I've had some people that were concerned about Halloween and the day that was selected since it's in the middle of the week on a school night. Could you give us some insight on that?

Wheeler: Well the last few years we've had it on Sunday nights which is also a school night. So we are trying to make it a little more standardized so that everyone didn't have to call every year and say well what day is it? I know the churches like to work around it as well. So the idea was to try to get it to where whatever day October 31st actually falls on we would be able to hold it at that time. So that was sort of the thought process behind it.

Baker: Okay. Thank you.

Wheeler: If there is overwhelming concern we can definitely look at revising that date.

Baker: Okay.

Aspiras: I have one question for Steve. Did you mention the City wide yard sale?

Wheeler: I did not.

Aspiras: That's coming up right? Is it this weekend?

Handwerk: This weekend.

Aspiras: Okay.

Wheeler: And a reminder that permits are free during that, no need for permits.

Aspiras: What's the time that that runs?

Handwerk: All day Saturday.

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

Wheeler: Yes, it is all day Saturday. Sorry, the Chamber runs that. I don't.

Hamsher: Usually I think it's 9 to 5-ish, although there are many people who are out earlier than that.

Handwerk: Yes, it's not supposed to start before 9 I'm pretty sure of that.

Aspiras: Thanks.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Leathers moved that Resolution 31-12 be place on first reading. Hamsher seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 31-12, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE ORRVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOW ON FILE WITH THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR.

Baker: Okay this evening we have with us Christy DeMuth and she's going to make a presentation concerning this resolution for us. And if we have any questions, she will be happy to answer those.

DeMuth: Good evening, I wanted to distribute, thank you Mike. I've prepared an executive summary. It was part of our scope of work for the Comprehensive Plan. It's basically a brief snapshot of the plan to give residents and other business owners of the community an idea of what's in the plan. As you can see the plan itself is quite large and most people aren't going to sit and read through this so our goal was to make an executive summary that would be a little more user friendly. So as I'm going through this if you have any questions please feel free to let me know. We already reviewed this with our steering committee and Planning Commission a few weeks ago. So this is pretty much the final draft and any comments that anybody has we'll be more than willing to make them in the final copy. The first page of the Executive Summary is just a brief overview of the project kind of giving a brief snapshot of Orrville for those reading this that might not be familiar about the City of Orrville. And then also why it is important to do a comprehensive plan. And then on the left side you'll see Community Development Objectives. Those were developed during our planning process with our steering committee and there are six community development objectives and those are really the focus of the plan. Through our public participation outreach we heard that these are some of the main issues in the City. We had two public meetings one in December and one in July where a lot of people came out and told us about their concerns and issues as well as the steering committee. The steering committee was vital in helping us develop the plan. Then on the bottom we have a Vision Statement which is actually the City of Orrville already had a vision statement so we incorporated that in the plan as well. So moving on to page two the first objective was allowing for growth and expansion while preserving natural and historic features. One of the things when we started doing the process we always do when we start a comprehensive plan is look at the existing ordinances in place. And currently the City does have a zoning ordinance in a subdivision and land development ordinance and we did a review of those two ordinances and looked at it and decided that some of the regulations are a bit outdated. There are 11 different zoning districts in the City that are extremely similar in nature and that could be condensed. It could be kind of cumbersome for developers and land owners. And you can see on the next page Map 4.1 Future Land Use Map. That kind of gives you an idea of what the recommendation is in condensing the 11 zoning districts. Another land use issue that is important, it is becoming important in Ohio is the Marcellus and Utica Shale drilling. It's something that's already occurring in Pennsylvania and is moving over West into the border. And we talked about this in our steering committee and a lot of people were concerned about the potential impacts. Maybe the City won't see drilling in the limits but you could see impacts in terms of housing and economic development. So it's a recommendation that the City should review their ordinances to make sure that everything is up to date also registering with Ohio Department of Natural Resources to be notified of any permit. And this would be involved, getting the City involved in

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

pre-site review meetings. And it's important to note as we go through these objectives that these are just the high priority recommendations. There's many other recommendations in the plan but they were medium or low. And we actually prioritized these with our steering committee and the public. So like I said these are the high priority ones the ones the City should focus on first. Moving on to Objective 2, expanding revitalization efforts to address vacant and underutilized sites within the business district and commercial corridors. During our background studies we know that Orrville has seen an increased industrial growth but now there's a need to capitalize on more commercial and retail development. The first issue is the vacancies in the downtown. We heard a lot from the public they're concerned about the lack of businesses in downtown. The City completed in 2005 a downtown plan which was a great plan and a lot of the recommendations have been completed. However there are some that still have not been implemented so our recommendation is simply to revisit that plan and we pulled out a few recommendations that we thought were important that should be revisited. They are listed there. It's more marketing and attracting of course to the area. During the public planning process residents also voiced their concern about the lack of stores and restaurants downtown so there's recommendations more geared to Main Street Orrville to get how they could get maybe some more businesses in the downtown district. There's also recommendations for updating the brochures just so more people are aware of what the different organizations are in the City. And that's something else too, it's just not the City that's in charge of implementation of some of these recommendations there's various other organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Main Street Orrville group, so it's just not the City that would help be implementing the plan. One of the last issues that was a high priority was the City would like to see additional commercial development along North Main however the current zoning is in conflict with that as it only allows industrial uses. So its recommendation that a flex district that would be rezoned to allow for both light industrial and commercial uses. And then also South Main Street should be considered for rezoning as there have been issues with residential properties wishing to develop but they are only zoned as residential. Moving on to Objective 3 Creating Vibrant Neighborhoods. You know throughout the planning process we have heard what a great close-knit family-oriented community Orrville is. Many residents have lived here for generations and are raising their families because you have the great school system and the parks, walk ability and you are close to major cities. However we heard through many people that it's just been difficult to attract new residents because of the housing stock that you have in the City and also the rental market seems to be a concern of the public. So one of the recommendations to address this and also property maintenance seemed to be one of the biggest housing issues specifically in the south end neighborhoods. We actually had a youth focus group at the high school students, juniors and seniors, and that was one of their biggest concerns was housing maintenance in the south end neighborhoods. So one of the recommendations is to address using the Moving Ohio Forward grant to demolish vacant, abandoned and blighted homes and I know the City is working on this already so this is just a reinforcement of that recommendation. It's also recommended to promote the success of the City schools. You know, young families, when they're moving into a new community, that's the first thing they look at is the school district, and you guys have a great resource here. So just promoting that, you've recently been ranked excellent by the Ohio Department of Education publicizing the success the school district. Objective 4 is offering community amenities that meet the expectations of current and future residents. As I mentioned earlier you have excellent community facilities. You have a well-staffed and very active City administration and had a really proactive approach to managing growth and development in the City. And one of the major community amenities that the City, that we heard from many people throughout the planning process, is the park system. However there seems to be a need to determine the highest and best uses of your current recreation facilities. We did an analysis and you're currently meeting your recreation needs. The national parks and recreation association gives population numbers and they tell you what you should

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

have, you know baseball fields, basketball, and such and Orrville is already meeting that however there just needs to improve what you already have. So Beaver Street Park is a concern because of access issues, the lack of sewage, security concerns, and also the demographics of that neighborhood has changed, that park might not be needed now because that neighborhood is getting older. Lenore Street Park is also an issue as it is closed due to petroleum contamination and so that park needs to be re-evaluated as well because neighborhood demographics are changing there as well. Orr Park has a few maintenance issues that needs to be looked at so the recommendation is that a comprehensive parks and recreation plan be completed. The comprehensive plan, we just briefly look at these issues and see if there are major concerns but a park and recreation plan really goes down into the details and will tell you exactly what needs to be done at your park facilities and identify methods to meet those needs. Another issue seems to be the lack of a park in the northern end of the City where new development has occurred. Therefore it is recommended that the City adopt a mandatory dedication/fee-in-lieu of ordinance which would basically require subdivisions to provide property in their housing plans to meet the needs or provide fees so that way the City of Orrville is not paying for recreation for new residents. Objective 5 is improving mobility by enhancing vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation and connections. We looked at the 2001 Comprehensive Plan and one of the major issues that came out of that Comprehensive Plan was the truck traffic. But that has been since addressed with the truck route project so the focus this time in the updates of the comprehensive plan was more of the sidewalk network and bicycling and parking. One of the first things I noticed when I came out here to Orrville is the great sidewalk network that you have. We don't see that in Pennsylvania, you guys should be really congratulated on your sidewalk network it is really impressive. All the residents talked about that in the survey how great it is to be able to walk to places. And then you also have the potential hiking/biking trail coming in as well so that will connect different communities throughout this area. However, some people felt that the transportation networking is lacking for bicyclists. There is no bicycle parking in the downtown therefore it is recommended to install bicycle racks and working with local businesses to help install those racks. Also the potential hiking/bike trail that will be important to have bike parking for those people as well as they come into your city because they might be traveling from other areas. Also continuing to partner with the Rails to Trails of Wayne County to ensure that trailhead for the bike trail is somewhere in your downtown as that can be a huge economic boost to the revitalization efforts already ongoing. Parking was something else that was discussed by many people. Some residents feel there is not enough parking, some residents feel there's just enough and people just don't want to walk. A parking study was completed in 2009 when we looked at the results from that study and it did show that there is enough parking is just seems to be the location of the spots, people just don't want to walk from the parking lots to the main street. And also it might be an issue of lack of knowledge of where the parking lots are if people are from out of town. So as you get more businesses in the downtown and the lack of knowledge that could create a problem in the future so it's a recommendation that the City and Main Street Orrville work together to create a Smartphone application that details the locations of lots, garages and on-street parking or something simple as an online map that could be on your website or posted somewhere in the downtown. And the last objective was continue to promote Orrville's unique character and its vibrant community pride. Orrville is home to many community organizations, the City, Chamber, Main Street Orrville, and Economic Development Department are just a few and they're all working together to help the City grow and reach their vision for the future. So it's just a recommendation that they actively, these organizations that actively work as a team to market the City and also to see if there's other organizations that would like to get involved as well. And also marketing those efforts to the local media so that residents are aware that the organizations are working together. It's also recommended that the citywide marketing plan be developed to help get more people into the downtown and I list several different recommendations such as tourist packages, discounts to

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

employees of industries in Orrville and students at Wayne College. And lastly, there seemed to be an issue of maybe a lack of events in the downtown to get people in the downtown and you have the 4th of July celebration, and the Rib and Music Festival and the Farmer's Market and those are all great, great events and bring a lot of people into the city but there is a need for more regular events to attract as many visitors as possible. This is one of the recommendations is to form a special events committee that would meet monthly to discuss more events that could be held in the downtown and also publicizing those events once again when we met with the youth they really weren't aware of all the different events that are held in the downtown and one of their recommendations was is to have those events publicized on their announcements they have every Friday morning at the school so that they would be aware of the different events. So that's basically a brief snapshot, some of the main high priority recommendations of the plan, like I said the whole plan details all the recommendations and the City has a copy of the plan available if you would like to go through it. If you feel that maybe a recommendation that was not priority and maybe should be a higher priority please let us know. We'll be more than willing to make any changes. So I guess at this point if anybody has any questions or comments or concerns?

Baker: I don't see any. Oh, wait, Mr. Hamsher.

Hamsher: I just want to, Mackin out of Pennsylvania, has done a tremendous job steering and guiding us through this process. We were 20-25 citizens that got together and worked on this and input from hundreds of others, youth to whatever age you want to pick, and it's been a great experience working with Mackin and with EC&G (E.G.&G.) to create a document that we can follow as we plan where Orrville going. So a "Thank You" to pass on to the rest of the crew. You've been a great time.

DeMuth: Thank you

Baker: Anyone else have any comments? Thank you, Christy.

Wheeler: I just want to note that the next meeting will be a Public Hearing on the document which is part of the process and then second reading will also be on that agenda.

Leathers: That concludes tonight's new business, sir.

Good of the Order:

Baker: Thank you; have any comments for the Good of the Order this evening?

Mayor: I have one.

Baker: Yes, sir.

Mayor: I just like to mention, I forgot during my report, our hanging basket program actually came to an end today. Buchwalter's took the flowers down. There were still a few decent looking ones but most of them were starting to look pretty rough around the edges. So once again, for all those people that donate during the year we certainly appreciate what you do and just a reminder that you can have deductions put on your utility bill to help pay for those. We would like to try to extend the flowers all the way down on Main Street to Hostetler Road next year. There is certainly a desire to do that but we have to have the funding to be able to do that. So again we appreciate everyone that helped with that. And that's all.

Baker: Okay, thank you. Anyone else? I do have a couple.....Yes?

Leathers: I was just going to move to adjourn. You go right ahead.

Baker: I have two things before we adjourn. Coming up on October 13, Main Street Orrville is again sponsoring Dining with the Stars. If you've not attended in the past, this would be something that can be fun for you. If you don't have tickets, they are available and Mr. Corfman would be glad to sell any this evening to you or you can contact him and buy a lot more later. One last thing when Christy was speaking she talked about our sidewalk network and one thing that I would like to see happen is for everyone to use those sidewalks because it seems frequently I'll be driving down the street and there'll

Regular/Public

October 1, 2012

be somebody running in the road or walking whichever it happens to be and right beside them there's a sidewalk and when you're in those twilight hours whether it be in the morning or in the evening, a lot of those people don't bother to wear something shiny or visible. So if you do happen to be one of those people, use those sidewalks that we have. They were built for a reason. That's all I have for this evening.

Leathers: I move we adjourn sir.

Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote. Ayes all. Motion carried. Council was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

Date

Lyle Baker, President of Council