

Regular/Public

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Council President Baker called the regular meeting to order.

Deacon Gary DeHart of First Baptist Church offered the prayer. The Pledge was recited by all.

Roll call: Shupp, Wilson, Vance, Hamsher, Aspiras, Corfman and Lorson were present.

Hamsher moved that the minutes of the February 2, 2015, regular meeting be accepted and Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; Vance abstained; all others, yeas; motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports: None

Special Committee Reports: None

Administrative Reports:

Mayor Handwerk: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I would like to thank Mr. DeHart for giving prayer tonight; one of our former Red Rider quarterbacks and a 4x4 Relay team members from a couple years ago. I have just one thing tonight and that would be our employee of the month and that is Mr. Mike Besancon. Mike is a Buyer for the Utility Purchasing Department. Mike has been with the City of Orrville for 12 yrs. He is a very reliable and conscientious Buyer. Mike looks for the best pricing, always going to 2-3 vendors for bids and expedites his orders when the due dates are missed. Mike especially goes out of his way to get the product here when there are emergency shipments needed during the Power Plant outages and all other Municipal projects. He helps all individuals where he can and his professionalism and knowledge for buying exceeds all expectations. Mike is an asset to the City of Orrville Utilities and would be hard to replace. Congratulations to Mike on a job well done. And I think he's a guy that you want to take Christmas shopping with you, I think, to get the best deals everywhere. I'm going to have to talk to him about that! We'll be eating lunch tomorrow actually at Jerry's. And then that's all I have.

Safety Service Director Wheeler: Thank you, Mr. President. Salting and plowing is my report for tonight. That seems to be all we've been doing lately. And I really don't have anything else tonight.

Utility Director Brediger: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a handful of updates since I haven't here for a couple meetings: In the Electric Department the cold weather so far hasn't been giving us too many problems. We had probably our most difficult time Monday and that really had a lot to do with our coal handling system. It actually got cool in the plant and that doesn't happen very often. Friday is going to be another cold period for us. We haven't set any peaks yet but it's possible we could encroach on that especially if the temperatures get down to that -15, -20 below like have been forecast so far. Global warming is taking a skip on us this month. A couple weeks ago the EPA finalized what they call their Coal Combustion Waste rule. This mainly deals with the ash components after we burn coal, how it gets disposed of, things along that line. This rule, when it does become effective, will have some impact on not only our facility but our Prairie State project and every other power plant that burns coal. So EPA continues its relentless effort on the coal industry. We have begun work on the feasibility study for the second interconnection transmission line. That work will take about 3 months to complete. It's been quiet so far in the Water Department mainly due to water leaks compared to a lot of other cities that you see on the headline news, but we've so far been pretty fortunate in that area. In the Wastewater Department earlier last month, we did award a contract to Bogner Construction in Wooster for the \$1.4 million of upgrades going on at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. That work will be completed the early part of this fall. The plant also received its EPA NPDES permit. That's basically its operating permit. It was renewed for another 5 years. Just had some minor modifications that were added to the permit

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this year compared to other years. Mr. Auten was able to get some testing eliminated which will save us a little bit of work and some money. In the other department, some information coming from our association down in Columbus, AMP, we have two new members that have joined. We have a member from Cannelton, IN, and Berlin, MD. These are the first new members from both of those states and now our associations in nine states and we have 131 members. That comes in handy especially when we have to deal with Federal issues we can reach out to more legislators on Capitol Hill when we encounter some issues that have some common interest to us. A few updates on our hydro projects: Willow Island, this is the last hydro project that was started, that project is now what we deem as water tight. It's not completed yet but what that allows us to do is to start putting in the very expensive generating equipment, the balance of plant equipment inside the power plant without any concern of river flooding. That's a big milestone for that plant. We're expecting that plant to come on board the 3rd quarter of 2015. The Cannelton & Meldahl hydro projects are expected to come on line later on this spring. Those projects are coming along pretty well. You will have more information on these projects when we give the Utilities Annual Report later on next month. We will also be looking at an opportunity to be part of a new solar and wind generation projects that AMP will be proposing to the membership. We should be getting more information on that next month for evaluation to see whether or not there are any fits in our needs from a long-term basis. I did pass out our Economic Development offices annual report. As you go through that if you see anything on there that you'd like to have some questions on let myself or Mike Hedberg know. As you can see in the report when you have time to look at it, there was quite a bit of activity in the commercial and the industrial areas. One of the brighter efforts that I will point out is the takeover of the Bloomin' Orrville project. That was headed up by Mike and Director Strimlan and you'll soon be receiving some information on that program coming up here pretty soon but I do want to thank everybody who participated in that project last year. On January 26th, I'm bouncing back to our last hydro project, AMP and CJ Mahan, that's the Smithland hydro power house contractor mutually agreed to terminate that contract. If you were down in that area of Northern Kentucky, that made some news there. We have hired Bernard Construction [corrected from Morsey Construction that was stated] to complete the work on that project and that plant has been one of our more complex plants since it's been under construction and it is expected to be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2016. And again we will have a little bit more information on that. So in case there were some questions on that, or if you have any questions on that project also, let me know. And other than that, that's all I have this evening, sir.

Finance Director Strimlan: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to give Council advance notice that at the next meeting I will be bringing note ordinance legislation to you that will be on the agenda. This is the note that was originally issued in 2008, if you recall, to finance the water utility projects. We do roll the note over each year paying down a portion of that debt. Last year we issued for \$1.1 million. This year we're going to issue for \$800,000 so we are going to pay down \$300,000 of that to try to retire that debt. As you recall in the few years past we have issued the note to the county. They are interested in the note again with a similar rate to the one that was negotiated last year. It's a win/win for both of us when we can do that, saves in several areas. So we will be pursuing that option again once Council passes the legislation. Other than that, the administration and staff have been busy working on final appropriations. The books will be delivered to you on February 27th. That should give you some time to review those prior to our workshop on the 12th of March. There are a few changes from the 2015 budget. For the Utilities the primary area of the changes are the working capital transfers and some slight changes in capital expenditures. On the tax supported side we'll have some changes in grants, capital and some line item modifications to adjust to historical spending. And that's all I have this evening.

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Law Director Kirkbride: Thank you, President. I have no report this evening.

Council President Baker: I have more comments than I do reports this evening. The first one is I think we should be thankful as a community that we have a utility department like what we do have. There are places around the country where you get bad weather like this and their not really certain their electricity's going to be on that day, the next day or the following week. We're very fortunate to have the utility and the utility workers that we have. Our Safety Service Department, we're also fortunate, if you saw the news, there were towns right here in northern Ohio that took a long time to get their streets cleaned. Ours may not have been cleaned as fast as what some people would like them. They'd like them the very minute the snow starts to fall but I think our Service Department did a great job keeping the streets cleaned and salted. The last thing is many people don't realize that Orrville has a skating pond. That's something that if you like to ice skate, keep it in mind. It's a fun activity. My ankles won't handle it anymore but I'm sure some of the younger people in town would have a good time going to our skating pond. That's all I have for this evening.

Old Business: None

New Business: None.

Safety Service Director Steve Wheeler presented his annual report. (Copy on file). I'd be glad to answer any questions.

Aspiras: Thank you, Mr. Wheeler. You mention that with the recycling program we set a record last year and was like almost a million pounds which is encouraging. My question is I know we participate in the Joint Solid Waste District and there are other communities that also participate in that so my question would be I know we get a newsletter I think once a year and we're in there with other communities. Where do we stand with other communities whether it's the Joint Solid Waste District or it's the entire state in percent recycling? I think we're at 14-15%.

Wheeler: 15% Correct.

Aspiras: I mean it's encouraging we set a record. Is that average? Is that below average? Is it above?

Wheeler: I don't know for sure. I don't want to speculate on whether or not that is average. I believe that is, as we did some research in the past that is about average of where some others are. Some are lower, some are higher. Obviously it depends on the community. I'm hopeful that will continue to grow that as with these recycling carts which encourage more recycling. So it will be interesting to see where we're at next year at this time. But in the meantime I will take a look at that and get back with you at the next meeting in regards to where we stand.

Mayor: I'm going to add to that that just from one standpoint Orrville has been curbside recycling for 20 years or more which is something that I think a lot of communities cannot say. Especially when you see in the paper every once in a while or hear on the news that such and such community just started curbside recycling. And I know whether its Kimble which is our contractor now, or the one we had before, both of them have said several times that really Orrville was kind of a beacon for recycling. Now saying that, then you still talk about 15% and you think wow, we could do a lot better. But I think we are compared to other communities, probably on the plus side.

Wheeler: Any other questions? Thank you.

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Baker: Mr. Wheeler, thank you for that report. This evening does anyone have anything for the Good of the Order?

Corfman moved to adjourn the council meeting and Hamsher seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Council was adjourned 8:03PM.

Jeanne Feudo, Clerk of Council

Date

Lyle Baker, President of Council