

## Regular/Public

March 16, 2015

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, Vance, Hamsher, Aspiras, Corfman and Lorson were present. Excused: Wilson

Vance moved that the minutes of the March 2, 2015, regular meeting be adopted and Hamsher seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Lori Reinbolt, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce speaking on the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner meeting of the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, March 24. The theme for this year's dinner is Opening Doors Since 1915. Paying tribute to four of the original founders of the Chamber who have had 100 year in membership. The family of H. D. Auble, the family of C. S. Snyder, First National Bank and the Will-Burt Company. She then presented the 2014 Paul L. Powell Citizen of the Year award to Mayor David Handwerk.

Mayor: Thank you all.

Baker: Now that we've had our public comment, Congratulations, Mayor. You don't know how hard it is to keep a secret.

Mayor: I can imagine.

Baker: We will move to our standing committee reports. Finance, Mr. Aspiras.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Finance, Aspiras: Thank you, Mr. President. City Council did meet with the directors last Thursday evening to review the 2015 Final Appropriations. So I think all had a good chance to rub shoulders with the directors and fully understanding what the final appropriations would fall at. In my opinion it's a good appropriation for 2015. I will just make one comment that if you look at 2014 and our capital projects, we were very, very aggressive on street and road work. This year we will be short on the OPWC grant. I think this is one of the first years that we have not received that in several years. So we will be missing that, I believe it was roughly averaged around \$400,000 per year. So we will not see that, but I think council, we all agree that we'll keep a close eye on it and if there's any funds that we may be able to re-allocate or free up, we still have some time to do that. I know Mr. Wheeler's all excited for any extra money that we send his way to get more streets taken care of. Other than that, I think council has everything they need. Resolution 6-15 is what we're talking about for 2015 final appropriations and that is up for final reading tonight. And that's all I have.

Baker: Thank you, Mr. Aspiras. Utilities, Mr. Corfman.

Utilities, Corfman: Thank you, Mr. President. Last week's Utility Board meeting they did approve a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). The bad news it is going up. The good news is it's very small. If I have my numbers right it's 15¢ to the average homeowner, average homeowner bill. Any more detail on that, I'm sure Mr. Brediger can give to us. And with that, that's all I have tonight.

Baker: Thank you. Health and Safety, Mr. Vance.

Health and Safety, Vance: Thank you, Mr. President. Health and Safety Committee has no report.

Baker: Thank you. Parks and Recreation, Mr. Wilson is excused this evening. Transportation, Mr. Shupp.

Transportation, Shupp: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no report but I would also like to mention the public should know that we'll work with all the funds we can on the street repairs and squeeze every dollar out that we can find out there. I believe we did, what 42 streets in the last five years?

Wheeler: Yes, sir.

Shupp: So we're going to try to keep that average going if that's possible. Thank you.

Baker: Thank you. Planning. Mr. Hamsher.

Planning, Hamsher: Thank you, Mr. President. Nothing here, sir.

Baker: Thank you. Ordinance and Personnel.

Ordinance and Personnel, Lorson: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no report tonight.

Baker: Thank you. We have no special committee reports this evening. We'll move to our Administrative Reports, Mayor Handwerk.

### **Administrative Reports:**

Mayor Handwerk: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. I have a couple items tonight. One is some of you may have seen this little flier around town if you haven't seen it yet, maybe you will. It's actually in conjunction with the American Heart Association but April 1<sup>st</sup> is "National Walking Day". And to help celebrate that, that's a Wednesday by the way, Heartland Point is asking people to join them down there. And they're also working with the Growing Healthy Habits committee in Orrville and Aultman Orrville Hospital. They're going to have a walking time from Heartland Point from 5-7 on that day, April 1<sup>st</sup>. And they're also kind of using that day as a preliminary or warm up for their summer program that they're going to bring back again. We had that a few years ago where we had walking on, I think before it was on Thursdays, and I think it is going to be on Thursdays again this year. Yes, it is, walking Thursdays. And they are going to do that a little differently than they did before. They used to do that from 5-7 as they are doing for this National Walking Day. But they're actually going to have the walking day starting May 7<sup>th</sup> all the way, every Thursday through September 24<sup>th</sup>. And those will be all during the day. So if you're somebody who,

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for example, would like to be involved in this program and go down and check in at Heartland Point, you can do that at 10 o'clock in the morning or at 2 in the afternoon. It does not have to be at 5 o'clock at night like it was before. And each time you do that you can sign up, put your name in a hat for a raffle prize that's given by different businesses throughout the town. So, that will start on May 7<sup>th</sup>. So I just wanted to bring everyone's attention to that and the first one being on April 1<sup>st</sup> which is not very far away. Second thing is just to mention that the March for Meals which is a program by the Meals on Wheels group from Stark and Wayne Counties, they'll also be doing that again this week and I'll be helping as I have done the last few years on one of those days, on this Wednesday. Basically what I do is go around with one of the drivers and we have about 25 seniors in the Orrville area that Meals on Wheels serves. And I can tell you that from going with those drivers each year that it's a very worthy program. And I know one thing for sure they are always looking for volunteers. It's a perfect job for retirees who really would like to do something one or two days a week or whatever schedule you are able to make for that. But they would be willing to work with you on that, I am sure. So if anyone would be interested in that, keep that in mind, the Meals on Wheels program. And then lastly I have our employee of the month for March and that is Dan Berkwitt from our Water Department. Dan is a Water Plant Operator and has worked for the Utilities for over 13 years. His job is to operate the plant and analyze water samples in the laboratory to make sure the City of Orrville has a good supply of safe, high-quality water. Dan lives in Wooster along with his wife Ce'Cia and son Kyle. Kyle went to Triway and Dan wears a lot of purple and white around sometimes so we'll have to excuse him for that. But he likes those Triway Titans. That's okay. In his spare time, Dan enjoys hunting, fishing and working on home improvements. We had lunch last Friday at Señor Panchos. And that is all I have. Thank you.

Baker: Thank you, Mayor. We'll move to our Safety Service Director Mr. Wheeler.

Safety Service Director Wheeler: Thank you, Mr. President. The Service Department is busy with pot-hole repairs and also are starting to get the ball fields ready, so it's that time of the year. Also I will be bringing legislation to you at the next board meeting to go out for bids on a concrete street project. I want to get a good jump on it this year and try to get as much done as we can. And also if we do happen to find money we have a little extra time to squeeze some extra repairs in there as well. And that's my report for tonight.

Utility Director Brediger: Thank you, Mr. President. To continue on with some of Mr. Corfman's comments, we also, at the board meeting last week, advised the board that we submitted some comments to the EPA concerning a recent rule that has been enacted; it's the Boiler MACT Rule, we've been involved in that rule making for a number of years. We've talked about that over the past couple of years. There are still some challenges that are being made on the rule and some of our comments go to support some of those challenges, a goal that we can make a few more of those rules a little bit more tolerable to us. We are working with another group called the Council of Industrial Boiler Owners. This is a group that represents the industrial and the manufacturing community. They have similar types of units to ours so that we have a lot of common ground in that. So we are utilizing some joint legal counsel and putting those comments together. We'll see what the outcomes of those are over the next couple months. And I also wanted to advise council that at the next Utility Board meeting we will be having an update on the status of the EPA negotiations during that meeting. And that's on next Monday night, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30. In the Wastewater Department the melting snow and rain has resulted in several calls about basement flooding. I think these volumes are taxing on some of the older lines coming from the home that feed into our main lines. This is generally caused by settling over the years, some of the extreme temperature we've been experiencing, vegetation, root damage and sometimes just improper connections. And it's just a reminder to our customers that the line from your home until it connects to our main sewer line is the property owner's responsibility. If you have any problems with that due to flooding, homeowners need to contact their insurance carrier. So far we have not experienced any sewer main line issues that could result or have resulted in any known sewer backup problems. The rain that we've had, the warm weather, and some serious snowfall we've seen several calls there so just wanted to make our customers aware of that. Last week the Mayor and I attended American Public Powers legislative rally in Washington DC. We were among roughly 40 other Ohio members that attended that conference along with probably 1600-1800 other members throughout the United States. The association passed six resolutions; four of those support some of our long-term issues dealing with cyber security, coal combustion residuals, protection from transmission costs and solar power deployment. We also had the opportunity to meet with Senators Brown and Portman. The House was not in session so we did only meet with Congressman Renacci's staff. He does have a new aid covering some legislative environmental issues and we'll be doing some education along with the legislative group to get his staff member a little bit more up to speed. We were focusing on about three messages that we wanted to send our elected officials. One of those deals with tax exempt financing and the preservation of that. We're trying to keep any eroding or any discussions at the Federal level when it comes time for budgets or a way to find some easy money to stay away from these tax-exempt bonds. As this body is aware, these are the primary funding sources for not only electric related projects but most projects that cities do like streets, buildings, water/waste water infrastructure. So we're very sensitive to those and trying to preserve those, that tax status of those bonds. We also discussed resolving some issue on the Build America Bonds and the Clean Renewable Energy bonds. We talked about these in the past. These were special bonds that were offered by the Federal government at a discounted interest rate to promote capital spending and creation during the recession period. During the congressional sequestration last year they took back some of those discounts and I think we've talked about those in the past. Those will cost our participants in our Prairie

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State and our hydro projects roughly \$65 million over the term of that sequestration. And to bring that a little bit closer to home, that is going to cost us an extra quarter million dollars a year in bond interest payments that we didn't have prior to the sequestration. So our message to them was to one restore those discounts that were taken away and don't go back and try to grab anymore because there is a provision in that sequestration that allows congress to go back and grab back even more of those discounts if they need to come up with some more cash. The last item we talked about was some dysfunctions that we're having in the transmission market. PJM is our regional system operator and they've created several of these markets. Most of us are familiar with how markets work. They're a free system. People come in and go out. These markets however are mandatory. They end up costing us millions of dollars each year and we receive very little benefit from those. So we pushed back to our elected officials to hold the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission a little bit more accountable. This is the group that oversees these independent transmission system operators out there and try to get a handle on these so they're not cost that are coming back to all our customers with little benefit at the end of the year. And the last item we talked to them a little bit about were some of the broader impacts of the two proposed EPA regulations concerning the greenhouse gas rule and some ozone rule issues. And with that, that is all I have tonight to report, sir.

Corfman: In our recent emails, Mr. Brediger shared with us a couple of photographs. And about a year and a half ago I had the privilege to go to Prairie State and several of our water renewable sources down on the river and the spring flooding and everything it shows how these things are built. They are massive when you're there. They are concrete. And two of them have what they were jokingly calling down there "submarine mode". They are under water. Those things actually operate, or can operate, neither one's operating right now, but do operate under water. Just it's what we've invested in. Anyone get a chance to take a look at those pictures. It's a lot of concrete and it's quite, very expensive items. They are that well-built, water tight and it's something else to see. So I encourage you to take a look at those.

Finance Director Strimlan: Thank you, Mr. President. As Mr. Aspiras mentioned, we did have our workshop last Thursday to review with Council the final appropriations in detail. I have answered several questions since that time so I think that any outstanding concerns have been resolved. Total appropriations for 2015 are \$67 million. \$50 million is allocated for the utilities and \$17 million for the tax supported side. The legislation is on final reading tonight so that it can be forwarded to the county in the appropriate time frame. The only other item I have this evening is the Fund Balance Report for the period ending February of 2015 and I'd just ask for a motion to approve that report subject to audit.

Hamsher motioned; seconded by Aspiras; roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

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

Council President Baker: For my report this evening, spring is coming. Today I noticed the temperature was about 65° on my way home from work. Feels really great if you think back just a few weeks ago we thought spring was not going to come. There were people out walking today. People on bicycles today. Now the one thing I may want to warn you about, Mr. Wheeler, the parks, are they soggy.

Wheeler: Just a bit.

Baker: Just a bit. Okay. So you may want to avoid certain parts of the City parks but walking, biking, get out and enjoy the warm weather while you can. It's going to get cold a couple more times but spring is definitely on its way. We'll now move to Old Business. Mr. Lorson.

### **Old Business:**

Lorson moved that Resolution 6-15 be place on third reading. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **RESOLUTION 6-15**, A resolution to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Orrville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, and declaring an emergency.

Baker: Thank you. This is our third reading. We had a workshop last Thursday. Does anyone have any further questions for Ms. Strimlan?

Vance: I just want to add a few comments. We have talked a lot about street repairs and some funding that's not available but I just wanted to kind of highlight what we are spending on streets this year. As we mentioned earlier, 43 streets have been repaved since 2008 at a cost of nearly \$10 million. A little over \$4 million of that was grant funding. This year we are appropriating \$600,000 for concrete street repairs. We are appropriating a half million dollars for the engineering and resurfacing of Back Massillon Road. \$2.7 million is being appropriated for the truck route, the High Street extension portion. Jefferson Avenue will be resurfaced and then over half million for the Heartland Trail which is really funds that have been acquired through other sources but pass through the City. I know at our Finance Committee meeting I mentioned our General Fund balance, unencumbered at the end of 2014 was about \$3.7 million and our budget tonight projects a \$1.7 million balance which is quite a decline and I asked our Finance Director about that. And really it's just a quite conservative number. In order for that to happen there would have to be a significant shock to our local economy to get down to \$1.7 million, some kind of massive job layoffs or some kind of a significant event to affect profitability of our local businesses. And our Office of Industrial Development has regular meeting with our local business leaders and nothing has been reported to indicate that those kinds of conditions might exist. So we don't anticipate that but we're planning for it

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nonetheless. And as the year progresses we hope to be able to free up money responsibly to appropriate more toward street repairs especially for the concrete streets, I think. So I just wanted to highlight some of the appropriations we do have for the street projects this year. Thank you.

Lorson moved that Resolution 6-15 be adopted as read. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Baker: Thank you. That completes our Old Business. We have no new business scheduled for this evening but we do have Chief Bob Ballentine from the Orrville Fire Department here this evening with his annual report.

Fire Department Chief Bob Ballentine presented his annual report. (Copy on file).

Ballentine: I am open to questions. None? Thank you.

Baker: Thank you, Chief Ballentine. That concludes our business for the evening. Does anyone have anything for the Good of the Order? Mr. Corfman.

Corfman: Thank you Mr. President. As several of us, yourself, the Mayor and I at least, attended the Boys and Girls Club auction Saturday night. The generosity of this community, they set another record, and a rather high one this time, so I don't know, it may not be beaten for a while, just an outstanding display of how this community cares for the children, the kids in this community.

Baker: It will be a tough one to beat. But eventually it will get beat, would be nice to do it next year. We'll see.

Lorson: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to actually add on a little bit to something that you mentioned.

The weather is nice and people are out on bicycles, on motorcycles and runners crossing the street and whatnot, it's a good time to remind drivers to look, look, and look. Make sure that it's clear before you pull out.

Baker: Thank you. Anyone else?

Corfman moved to adjourn the council meeting and Hamsher seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Council was adjourned 8:17PM.

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Jeanne Feudo, Clerk of Council

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Date

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Lyle Baker, President of Council