

Thursday, April 21, 2016

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Flaute called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL: Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Curp, present; Mr. Denning, present; Mr. Fullenkamp, present; Mrs. Lommatzsch, present; Mrs. Reynolds, present; Deputy Mayor Smith, present; and Mayor Flaute, present.

Staff present was as follows: Emily Christian; Assistant City Manager; Tom Garrett, Finance Department; Bob Murray, Economic Development; Brock Taylor, Planning and Project Management; Mitch Miller, Service Department; Frank Robinson, Police Department; and Mark Carpenter, Fire Department.

ITEM 3: EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: There were no absent members.

ITEM 4: ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: Mayor Flaute: There is a person in the audience that has asked to talk about item 6B, the meeting minutes. When we get to that item, is that something council would approve of? Council agreed that was okay.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to approve the agenda as revised. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

ITEM 6: WORK SESSION ITEMS:

A. Discussion: Clerk of Council selection process

Mayor Flaute: I was one of the people that wanted this on the agenda. I asked the manager to put together some questions and a rating system for our interviews so you should have those at your desks. If you want to add or subtract from the questions please speak to the manager. I also sent out an email asking council to have their top people that they want to interview. Any other discussion we need to have about the process can be done; who would like to start.

Mrs. Reynolds: Looking over the resumes we received, there were very few that indicated their typing skills or any transcribing abilities. I was thinking about a process we might use and I'm assuming it would be at council's direction. Once we've gone through the interviews and we've selected someone, would it be possible to have those first interviewees to come in and take minutes and transcribe them to see how they do. I know Emily had indicated there is a testing process but I don't think it is anything like real life and the situations that might unfold at a council meeting. I think we would offer a stipend to those people for taking their time to do that and I would like to ask, if we consider this, that our clerk oversee this. She takes the minutes and then we can judge the minutes taken by those interviewees against our normal process. It would give us an idea and it would give them an idea; this may be something a lot of people are not familiar with the process. I was thinking that may be something we could utilize. It would give us an idea, them an idea, the basic time it took them to do the minutes, number of errors or non-errors or whatever; I think that would give us an idea of something.

Mr. Curp: I'm glad Mrs. Reynolds brought that up because I got one of those unsolicited emails you get every once and a while and it was a person offering to do transcription services. I thought here's an alternative approach we can consider; this person was offering to do it at \$.60 per recorded minute but the email address was some place in India. I did a search and there are a lot of transcription service operations that will do transcriptions for \$1.00 per recorded minute. When you think about it, our meetings are roughly 3 hours and we do 2 a month; when you multiply all that out it comes out to \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year. I wasn't here during the evening when the discussion took place about whether to continue the clerk's position as a part-time or full-time position. I know council was told there were probably plenty of other things a clerk could do administratively in here but when you take a look at a transcription service that might be available for \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year and you can

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focus on some of the other key functions that have to get done, it might be something we can consider as we are looking at selecting someone to fill the clerk's role.

Mayor Flaute: I think that's a good idea except now we have advertised it as full-time. We would have to re-advertise because now that person won't be doing the minutes anymore. Mrs. Lommatzsch: I think the scope of the job could be discussed with the candidate. Mayor Flaute: Right now, everyone thinks it's a full-time job because that's how we advertised it.

Mr. Denning: From what I saw, there were a lot of folks that were going to change from their existing full-time job; whereas, if it wasn't a full-time job, they may not be willing to make that change. Mayor Flaute: It's not a bad idea but I agree we are a little late. Mr. Denning: I think there is some sort of a timeline but I think the answer is we want to get this right. We record every meeting we have so there's a possibility that we give 3 or 4 people the exact same recording and we send it to the transcription place as a test; a 2 hour meeting could cost us \$120. Mayor Flaute: We normally have a 4 hour meeting. Mr. Denning: Whatever we send them but that way we get information back and we can make a decision with more information available to us as to whether or not they are capable of doing the job. If the transcription thing works, then we get information on whether or not we want to go back to it possibly being part-time with even fewer hours than it was. Then we are up front with everybody that this is what we are doing.

Mr. Fullenkamp: What is the quality of the recording; I've heard we've got problems. Mrs. Brane: The microphones cut in and out; I think it could be directly related to if you are talking into it. If somebody starts a conversation before somebody else is done, the microphone doesn't really know what to pick up. A lot of times you have just blank stuff, so the quality is poor. Maybe 10% to 20% I have trouble hearing sometimes. Mr. Fullenkamp: Does the context of being here help you know what was said. Mrs. Brane: A lot of times, yes. Mr. Fullenkamp: Was it tougher for you to do minutes not being here at the special meeting than it is for a general meeting? Mrs. Brane: It wasn't for me; I know you're voices. I think it would be difficult for someone coming in to know who was saying what.

Mayor Flaute: The next discussion we are going to have is do we want to still have full-time minutes like that. If we did do a transcriber and they miss 20% of the meeting is that going to be a big deal? Mr. Denning: That doesn't make it the final answer; that just takes a load off of the clerk. The clerk gets the transcription back and goes through it to make sure it is correct and if there are any pieces missing it's the clerk responsibility to make sure it gets in there. All we are trying to do is lessen the load a little bit, not completely say someone else is going to do that. To me that is not the true answer; the answer is the clerk is still responsible for the minutes and we are just trying to give them another tool. From what we've been told, that is a large portion of the clerk's time and if we can take some of that load off, especially with the fact that we want the minutes as detailed as they are, maybe we need to adjust with that. The answer is, whatever they hand us, it's the clerk's responsibility to make sure it's all there and it's council's responsibility to read it and make sure it's all there.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Have you spoken to staff about the problem with the microphones? Mr. Brane: I mentioned it to Emily and I saw somebody from CDO going up in the elevator and I said something to him. Mr. Fullenkamp: Emily, are you actively looking into this? Ms. Christian: Brock is. Mr. Fullenkamp: That's a critical part of doing minutes is having a good audio available unless we get a court recorder in here.

Mayor Flaute: It's my understanding that it takes about 4 hours to do 1 hour of meeting; is that about right? Mrs. Brane: Yes, sometimes 5 hours; sometimes you have to take half a sentence and then another thought and another thought and organize that to read well. I'm hoping that I'm doing that but sometimes a thought changes in the middle of a sentence or something like that and you just have to weed that out. Then there's the missing audio sometimes. Once you do that, then you have to go back and proof read it; it's kind of like being in the meeting 3 times. Mayor Flaute: So if we have a transcriber do it then you would only have to go through it once to proof read.

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Deputy Mayor Smith: What percentage of your time is spent doing minutes? Mrs. Brane: About 75%; Lynn thought it was more like 80% to 85%. I never really timed it. Mrs. Reynolds asked me how long it took to do the first meeting when I came back; I think it was a 3 ½ hour meeting and from the time I set up my template, got through it, and proof read it – it took me 19 hours to do a 3 ½ hour meeting, so a dollar per recorded minute sounds like a pretty good deal.

Mrs. Reynolds: We need to look at, if we are going to continue down the path of a full-time clerk, their abilities and skills in transcribing; working from that aspect. We can look at going out as Mr. Curp said but working from a tape will always be difficult because we cannot rely on our audio system always and no matter where we go we are going to have that and probably some blank spaces. Someone just working from a tape, I don't know how we would recapture those things. That was my idea of having someone here that has the skill to capture everything and I think that's what's important in looking at our hiring process. Mr. Curp, did they say what the turnaround time was? Mr. Curp: They advertised only a couple days but it would depend on where we fall in their priorities. Mrs. Reynolds: Is there anything we can do with this set up? Is it the microphones? Mr. Fullenkamp: We don't know. Mr. Denning: If it's the microphones, we can get new microphones; there may be some sort of software reading of when it's getting a signal and that may have some sort of adjustment. Mr. Fullenkamp: Mary Ann, send me a copy of this meeting and maybe I can get my head around what's going on. I don't know exactly what the problem is; it could be anything.

Mrs. Reynolds: Emily, can you talk with CDO to see if they might know. Ms. Christian: We have been talking and I think like Mr. Denning said maybe it is an adjustment thing. Perhaps, maybe we do need new microphones but I hope not. Mr. Fullenkamp: I doubt if it's the microphone.

Mayor Flaute: I have a question, what does a paralegal do; do they transcribe? We have 3 of them applying. Mrs. Lommatzsch: They type it as you say it. Deputy Mayor Smith: That's a stenographer. Mayor Flaute: That's not a paralegal? Mr. Fullenkamp: No. Mrs. Reynolds: They do the legwork. Mayor Flaute: So they don't do the typing. I wasn't sure if a paralegal did what a stenographer does also. Mr. Denning: They are an assistant to the lawyer. Mayor Flaute: 3 paralegals have applied for the job. Mr. Fullenkamp: I looked specifically for transcription skills and there were a couple.

Mrs. Reynolds: Where are we at here? Mayor Flaute: If we interview, I think we are almost forced to say it's going to be a full-time job; if we sit back and wait that's going to delay the process and we may have to go out and get more resumes. I'm thinking we should maybe wait and in the meantime we will have a transcriber maybe come and talk to us or take one of our tapes to transcribe to see how good they are. Deputy Mayor Smith: I think we need to talk to them and see what they actually do, what the turnaround time is and where they are located; do some research and get some information on them before we make a decision. Another thing we need to think about is if we want to continue to have our minutes in the long form. Mayor Flaute: That's the next thing we need to deal with. If we get a transcriber to do a dollar a minute and we cut it down to a summary of the minutes, then that would still make it a part-time job. That would change the job description.

Mr. Denning: You are talking about 2 different things. If you are talking about transcribing, they are transcribing completely. They are not going to give you pared down minutes. That's what the clerk would do. A transcribing company would give you everything that's on the recording.

Mayor Flaute: Let's move into that portion of the meeting to see what council wants to do with that.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: I thought we would start getting a tally of the candidates. Mayor Flaute: That's what we are going to do but right now we're saying we don't know whether it's going to be full-time or if we are going to have a transcriber or if we are going to do a summary of minutes instead of verbatim. I guess I should have flip-flopped the discussions but the next discussion is if we are going to do the minutes

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verbatim or not. That may be a 5 minute conversation; I'm not sure how many people have changed their mind from 6 years ago when we had the same discussion.

B. Discussion: Meeting Minutes

Mayor Flaute: If it's okay, we will listen to what Ms. Jan Pitzer has to say, talk about whether or not we want to have minutes verbatim, and then we can continue the other conversation.

Ms. Pitzer, a resident of Wake Forest Rd.: This is regarding changing the minutes and going from verbatim to a summary; the summary concept rather than what we have now is going to be a great disservice to all our residents. I think you would all be surprised at how many people on the website read the minutes and keep abreast of what's going on in this city. You talk about getting residents more involved and more transparency and by changing it to only what the basic synopsis was is not what we want to hear. We want to hear the interaction between council members; who asked the pertinent important questions, who comes up with the answers, who truly cares about this city and the residents and their wellbeing, who will go the extra mile for us as far as council, or who sits there and says nothing. If you are embarrassed about what is said in the minutes because we do them verbatim, maybe people should stop and think before they speak. Myself, being involved with the Lily Creek Project and the closing of Hank's Hideout, it was very important for me to be able to do a word search in order to get to a particular topic within a council meeting without having to listen on a CD to the entire council meeting or if it was on video, to watch a whole video. I was able to go directly to the topic I was looking at. I just feel like we've done it this way, I realize it is work for the clerk; however that is how the clerk has been and it should be continued. You've made it into a full-time position, kind of debatable now after hearing this, and the transcription skills of this new person, whether it be a tape recording or a written transcription is so important. I just feel like we are going backward instead of forward if you change and go to an abbreviated version. I want transparency and I want to hear what the interaction is. I don't want what the final outcome is; I want to know how each council member voted and what the discussion was.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I have an email to read from a resident, Max Beecraft that lives on Huberville shared this with me and asked me to share it with you. It reads as follows: 'Changing the presentation of the minutes of council meetings to an abbreviated format is not acceptable. Video of the meeting should not replace the current method of presenting minutes to the meetings. Transparency and communication is very important, both will be negatively affected by limiting the means by which the public can stay informed. Do you expect people to watch hours of video to stay informed? That's an unrealistic expectation. With the full minutes available to read online, people can easily scan through and skip over text if they choose to do with ease. You can copy and paste to easily share minutes by email and social media, they can create electronic files to save all or portions of the meeting minutes, they can read meeting minutes with ease and videos would be intrusive and improper. Then there is the cost factor for the residents. Many people use electronic devices, like smart phones or tablets for their daily usage and there are daily usage costs associated with these devices. Video uses much more data than reading a document, saving a video on a device takes more space than a downloaded document or a screen shot. Those are a few thoughts on the matter.'

Mayor Flaute: Do you agree with that. Mr. Fullenkamp: Yes. Mayor Flaute: Anything you want to add? Mr. Fullenkamp: Let's hear from the rest of council.

Mrs. Reynolds: I also had some emails and I had some conversations because I thought it was important to talk to people and ask them what they thought. I thank Ms. Pitzer for bringing forth those points because that's some of the points I heard in the community. They read the minutes, they are faithful about reading the minutes, and I don't think it is something we should take away from them. I know it's a cost factor and I know it's hard on whoever transcribes those but I think that's where we come into play here; we make it as easy as possible for those to be done. I agree with the residents I've talked to, Mayor, we should keep the minutes as they are.

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Mr. Curp: I agree with having the verbatim minutes. I just think they are beneficial for letting people see what transpires at the meetings and it gets them involved.

Mayor Flaute: But we will have the recording out on the website. I'm hearing it's a chore to watch the whole meeting. Mrs. Reynolds: It's costly too if you are using an electronic device. Mayor Flaute: The video is one of the reasons this had to be revisited.

Deputy Mayor Smith: I too agree that writing out the minutes verbatim is better for the community and it's better for us to go back and research. I was looking at the abbreviated style to alleviate some of the workload on the clerk but I agree the verbatim minutes are the better way to go.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: I agree with what Jan and everyone else at the dais has said. Personally, I had to miss a meeting in March and I learned a whole lot by reading the minutes verbatim. Sometimes it gets hard to read and sometimes it will put you to sleep but if there is something of real importance being discussed and you personally have to miss a meeting, I think it is very helpful to have the reported conversations.

Mr. Denning: I think you got your decision. Mr. Fullenkamp: Transparency is critical.

Mayor Flaute: It was one of the primary reasons the last clerk left and no other city does it or very few cities do it the way we do. Mrs. Lommatzsch: Isn't that typical of Riverside? Mr. Denning: We do it right. Mrs. Lommatzsch: That's right.

Mayor Flaute: That ends that discussion and we have our decision. Now we want to go back to should we investigate looking into a transcriber? Mr. Denning: I guess that depends on who we hire and whether they think it's important or not. Mayor Flaute: We would have to get some people in here to talk to us from some of the companies that do that kind of work. Mr. Denning: My point is it depends on the person that we hire. If they are comfortable doing the minutes and it's not that big of deal, it makes it a full time job, they move forward with it and they do a great job, then we don't necessarily need the transcriber. But if they think it would free up some of their time because they need to do other things, then they need to bring that to us. Let them do the research and see if it's worthwhile. I don't think we need to bring transcribing companies into our meeting. When we do the interviews we can give them that as an option if it gets to be overwhelming; they could find a transcribing company that would do the job. I think we need to move forward with hiring a person, then make the decision about transcribing. If we get somebody really good they may say I don't want to read somebody else's stuff, I want to type it myself. Why should we force that if they aren't comfortable? Deputy Mayor Smith: I would like to get information on it.

Mr. Fullenkamp: If we are going to hire we have to put a step in there where we evaluate their transcription skills as Mrs. Reynolds talked about. I think that is critical.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Once we narrow it down after first interviews, then we give them a tape and have them do the transcription. Mr. Fullenkamp: I don't know if we will know how much time it took them to do it and how efficient they are, doing that approach. I think having an evaluation from an independent perspective is probably a better way to do it; we then know how long it took them to do it. I think we need to be looking at these resumes with an eye on transcription skills. Mrs. Lommatzsch: I think we all have that in mind when we read through them; I had the same thoughts. Mr. Fullenkamp: I think we have to emphasize something about transcription skills, since that was such a problem with the last clerk.

Mayor Flaute: The only time it became such a problem was when she got very, very ill and she was behind about 6 meetings. There was Planning Commission and BZA and special meetings and it worried her so badly. Mr. Fullenkamp: She should have come and talked to us. Mr. Denning: Then we could have gotten a transcription company, especially for what I consider the extra meetings the BZA, Planning Commission, and stuff like that. It may be that's the way we adjust it.

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Deputy Mayor Smith: The only downfall I see in hiring it out is it would probably be a different person each meeting transcribing our minutes. Mayor Flaute: That's true but our clerk would only have to proofread.

Mayor Flaute: So I believe the consensus is to move forward with the interviews. Are we going to interview 3 people? Mrs. Lommatzsch: We don't know how many we are going to interview until we sort out the list. Mayor Flaute: Everyone write down your top 6. Mrs. Lommatzsch: We need to get a formalized list and see who rises to the top; if any 3 or 5 rise to the top on everybody's list then we interview those. I don't want to go away from here tonight not knowing. Mayor Flaute: I don't want that either. Mr. Denning: If everyone has their list I think it will take Emily a whole 5 minutes to get us an answer; then we can talk about it again tonight.

Mr. Fullenkamp: We are a month and a half behind on posting the minutes online.

Council wrote down their top picks to turn into Emily for consolidating and determining who would be interviewed.

ITEM 7: RECESS: The Council took a recess at 6:45 p.m.

ITEM 8: RECONVENE: The meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM 9: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mason Blount a Boy Scout from Troop # 162 led all those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM 10: MINUTES: Consider approval of the minutes of the April 7, 2016 regular council meeting and the April 13, 2016 special council meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Denning to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Lommatzsch seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

ITEM 11: PRESENTATIONS:

A. Recognition of Chuck's Body Shop and Sandy's Towing for donations to the Police Department

Sgt. Close asked Doug from Sandy's Towing and Chuck from Chuck's Body Shop to come forward.

Sgt. Close: Riverside Police Department and as a city we rely on a lot of vendors to support our daily functions; we couldn't operate without those vendors like Sandy's Towing and Chuck's Body Shop. In honor of and to recognize these two businesses we have a small ceremony for them this evening in order to express our gratitude for that.

Sgt. Close: Sandy's has been the towing for the city and for the police department for a little over 5 years now, maybe longer. We contract them to conduct all our towing operations within the city. They've made an ongoing effort to provide the best service possible for the Riverside Police Department. Some of their contributions include support at St. Helen's festival, they have tremendously assisted us in being able to reduce some of the crime there by providing light towers, a command center, and a variety of other service we did not have prior. This makes it safer for the community and a safer event. They provide a lot of manpower and a lot of equipment without any additional cost and for that we thank you. More recently, they donated a vehicle to the City of Riverside Detective Section that was very much needed. We thank you for everything you do at Sandy's to assist us.

Sgt. Close: Chuck from Chuck's Body Shop has been involved with the City and Mad River Township for 30 plus years in the form of automotive and auto body repairs. You've made countless contributions to the Police Department, a list much too long to read tonight but we appreciate everything you have done. Most significantly and more recently, as well, in conjunction with Sandy's and the donated vehicle, Chuck's Body Shop contributed over 700 hours to fixing the vehicle at no cost to us and basically provide a brand new vehicle to the police department.

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Sgt. Close: Sandy's and Chuck's never want thanks but I think it is time we do recognize them and I appreciate everyone being here. As a little recognition, we had these plaques made for you.

Doug from Sandy's: We just appreciate everything and we like to give back to the communities we work for. Riverside has been an outstanding group to help and support and hopefully we have an ongoing relationship to continue.

Chuck from Chuck's Body Shop: I don't have much to say but I enjoy helping you and in the future, if I can continue, I'd be glad to.

B. Retirement of K-9 Athos

Sgt. Close: At this time we have the announcement of retirement for K-9 Athos and recognition for his 8 years of service as a K-9. We are also recognizing Officer Schmidt for 12 years of service to the City of Riverside as a K-9 handler. Since 2005, Officer Schmidt has been the K-9 handler for both K-9 Fado and K-9 Athos. K-9 Fado served with Officer Schmidt from 2005 until 2008 and together they were responsible for 686 arrests, 250 pounds of narcotics, and over \$300,000 in currency seized. K-9 Athos served with Officer Schmidt from 2008 until 2016 and together they were responsible for 312 arrests, 100 pounds of narcotics, and over \$100,000 in currency seized. Additionally, Officer Schmidt played a vital role in the Greater Miami Valley by responding to requests for assistance by multiple jurisdictions within the area. His reputation and work ethic as a K-9 Officer further solidified the close working relationship with the Riverside Police Department as with our neighboring agencies. In addition to multiple arrests, tracks, and seizures, Officer Schmidt was an active participant in community organizations and education. Officer Schmidt participated in educational programs with the Riverside Jaycees, Mad River School District, and various other community organizations. K-9 Fado and K-9 Athos played an integral role in connecting the community and the Police Department. K-9 Athos will officially retire on May 1, 2016 and we wish him a healthy and much deserved retirement. On behalf of the City of Riverside and the Riverside Police Department we are grateful Officer Schmidt for over a decade of service. Your commitment to the citizens of Riverside represents a continuation of the exemplary history of K-9 handlers that have served the Riverside Police Department. Thank You.

Mayor Flaute: If anyone wants their picture taken with Athos you can do that in the lobby.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Thank you for all you've done over the years; you've done our community proud.

C. Retirement of Police Sergeant Jeff Trego

Mayor Flaute: Congratulations Sergeant Trego and thank you for all the work you have done for us. We have a proclamation that recognizes you for your 30 plus years of dedication. Mayor Flaute read as follows:

Proclamation

Recognizing

Detective Sergeant Jeff Trego

for over thirty years of dedication to the citizens of Riverside and the officers of the Riverside Police Department.

Whereas, Detective Sergeant Jeff Trego will be retiring from the Riverside Police Department effective April 30th, 2016; and

Whereas, Detective Sergeant Trego has held the titles of patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective, detective sergeant, lieutenant, acting deputy chief and acting chief; and

Whereas, Detective Sergeant Trego began his career in October, 1984 as a patrol officer for Mad River Township. In 1987 Detective Sergeant Trego began a long career in the detective section and was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 1994; and

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Whereas, Detective Sergeant Trego served on the Mad River Township Tactical Services Unit, acted as a Field Training Officer, Evidence Technician and lead firearms instructor; and

Whereas, During his 33 year career with Mad River Township and the City of Riverside, Detective Sergeant Trego has investigated over 5,000 cases during his career and has made the City of Riverside a significantly safer community to live in through his efforts.

Now, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed by I, Mayor Bill Flaute, and on behalf of the Riverside City Council, the Riverside Police Department and the citizens of Riverside, wish Sergeant Jeff Trego good health and happiness as he enters into retirement. I do hereby honor and commend Sergeant Jeff Trego for his many years of outstanding service to the City of Riverside.

Sgt. Trego: Thank you. I owe a lot of people a lot of money for showing up here tonight. I'd like to thank the former Chiefs who are here and Danny Brodnick and Harold Jones.

D. Police Sergeant Promotion

Sgt. Close: This is the promotion of Officer Angela Jackson to Control Sergeant. Officer Jackson began her career with the Riverside Police Department on November 4, 2001. Officer Jackson has served as Road Patrol Officer, Detective, Field Training Officer, Officer in Charge, and Acting Sergeant during her career. Officer Jackson has been the recipient of multiple awards for her valor and commitment to bettering the quality of life to the citizens of the community. Officer Jackson has trained over half of the Officers currently employed in the Riverside Police Department. It is with great honor that effective April 21, 2016 that Frank Robinson, Chief of Police, promote Officer Angela Jackson to the rank of Sergeant.

Sergeant Jackson: It was a long haul for me here; I worked hard and I appreciate the understanding from my family while I studied. Thank you.

Mayor Flaute: I just want to say before we all sit down that I don't think in the 20 plus years I've been on council and mayor that we've ever had this many of our Police, Service, and Firefighters in one room. So on behalf of council to all of you who work so hard in our city, we sincerely thank you for all your diligence and all your work. Please stay safe out there.

ITEM 12: ACCEPTANCE OR PRIOR MONTH'S CITY FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mayor Flaute asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the report. Mrs. Reynolds: How are we doing on the close out of everything and are we up-to-date on closing out the first quarter's purchase orders. Mr. Garrett: As I explained before, we do a lot of things with blanket purchase orders, so those are still open and we've added funds to them now that we are into the second quarter. We have cleaned up most of the outstanding from the prior year. Mrs. Reynolds: Okay. Ms. Christian, when will we be looking at where we are budget-wise? I know we've been closing out a lot of things and I'd like to see a report as soon as possible of where we are actually standing with our financials.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to accept the March finance report. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

ITEM 13: ACCEPTANCE OF WRITTEN CITIZENS PETITIONS:

Mayor Flaute advised citizens to fill out a form if they wished to speak about agenda or non-agenda items.

ITEM 14: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- (1) FYI Items
 - a. Council Request Sheets.
 - b. Council Agenda Calendar.
 - c. City Manager's Project and Activities Report.

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(2) 2015 Annual Report

a. Presentation by Emily Christian, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Christian: The City Manager's Report is in the packet and if anyone has any questions I would be happy to entertain them.

Mayor Flaute: I want to say the Manager had a funeral to attend tonight which is why he is not here for us. We appreciate Ms. Christian stepping in and taking his place. Any questions on the Manager's Report?

Mrs. Reynolds: At the last meeting I read a letter from a neighborhood resident regarding some concerns. I thought a lot about that letter since our last meeting and I'm wondering; some of the things mentioned in that letter involved possibly some counties agencies that we might want to arrange a meeting with to discuss some of those things. I hope that council will support that because we just need to do everything we can to be proactive in the concerns that were brought forward to us. Deputy Mayor Smith: I haven't seen that; was it an email or a letter. Mrs. Reynolds: It was a letter and I just think there are a lot of agencies we might be working with to try to get some answers to some of these questions. I don't mean forming task forces but if that's what it takes, that's what we need to do. I would appreciate if we could get together soon or if you could come up with some ideas. Mrs. Lommatzsch was shaking her head and I think we could probably come up with some people to meet with to sit down and start talking.

Mayor Flaute: I just have one comment; for the International Restaurant Association, Mr. Murray said we would be updated on that. Any news? Mr. Murray: Not yet. Mayor Flaute: Have you checked on the old Smoking Aces? Mr. Murray: They have called a couple times and still haven't done anything. Mayor Flaute: They had a sign up and took it down so I'm a little concerned.

Mr. Fullenkamp: On the Bond Anticipation Note Renewal and the possibility of getting a bond rating; what does that process look like? I'm assuming the bond rating will allow us to get lower interest rates if we have a high rating. Is this information from the people who sold the bonds for us; what do you guys think you will do moving forward regarding bond rating for next year or for any projects we are involved in that might demand we use a bond? Mr. Garrett: As far as I know the city has never actually had a bond rating; we just never applied for one in the history of the city. I am not all that familiar with the process but I would imagine it is submit all our financial reports to various agencies. Mr. Fullenkamp: This showed up in this packet for a reason and I'm just curious why this showed up now. It's in the City Manager Report so maybe it is something he put in; thank you.

Mayor Flaute: We'll move on to the 2015 Annual Report.

Ms. Christian: We've taken a little different approach to our annual reporting; rather than have 7 different departments reporting and 7 different reports, we tried to unify it. We have some copies of the report on the back counter and we are going to put it on the website tomorrow. I hope everyone takes a few minutes to read it; it is not that long and there are graphics. This will be a short overview but if you want the whole picture, you're going to have to read report.

Ms. Christian: In Administration we worked on several projects last year. Some of the major ones were: The Community Development Block Grant – some engineering for some sidewalks on Valley; Safe Route to School Phase I construction has begun this year so there was paperwork and that sort of stuff we took care of last year; We created the new general district for street lighting and the property assessment that goes with that district; and the waste collection contract expired at the end of last year so we bid that and have a new contract with Republic.

Ms. Christian: In the realm of Human Resources, we did create the Planning and Program Management Department; we split off the Economic Development functions

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as you remember. We continue working on receiving rebates from Workers Compensation and last year we were fortunate enough to receive \$25,000 worth of rebates. The contract for full-time Firefighters did expire in June of last year which we renegotiated and we have a new 3 year contract that is in effect right now. Our new full-time hires are pictured and they are: Brock Taylor, Director of Planning and Program Management; Chris Lohr, Zoning Administrator; Scott Hughes, now former Major; Jeremy Leist, Code Enforcement Officer; and Elayna Artman, one of our Administrative Assistants. In addition to that, Jim Reardon was promoted to Equipment Operator from Maintenance Worker in the Service Department. We also hired numerous part-time and volunteer firefighters.

Ms. Christian: There are a lot of charts in the Finance and Income Tax portion of the annual report but I just wanted to review with you the revenue and expenses in this presentation. We have a lot of sources for revenue but the largest portion of our revenues for last year, at 34%, was from bonds and notes; next was income tax at 26%; and the remaining sources including real estate taxes, assessments, EMS billings, etc. were at 40%. In terms of expenses which is typical for most cities, personnel did make up the largest percentage of the budget at 36%; operating at 28%, debt at 26%, and 10% for capital.

Ms. Christian: As you know, Economic Development is responsible for the Wright Point Buildings, so this is a review of some of the tenants' activity in 2015: Eccrine and Tenet 3 were new leases; we retained General Dynamics IT; SP Global signed a letter of intent; and Battelle, Treble One, and Simply Management actually expanded. In 2015, the two buildings were at 68% occupancy. Other projects Economic Development worked on included the Source Water Protection Program; working with the NDC on the Center of Flight and the New Market Tax Credit project; and working with DMAP for that regional grant of \$100,000.

Ms. Christian: For our Planning and Program Management Department; that department was fully staffed starting in July. Violations were up a little bit from 2014, nothing that significant but I'm sure Mr. Leist would disagree with us. I had the zoning permits that were issued from 2010 to 2015; it looks like permits are going down, however, Mr. Taylor has looked at the first couple months of 2016 and we've actually seen an uptick in zoning permits; so it sounds like maybe we've rebounded from a little bit worse of a year in 2015.

Ms. Christian: 2015 did see an increase in calls for service for the Police Department; about 2,000 but you can see from this 3 year chart, those numbers do fluctuate depending on the needs of the community. There are several more charts and graphics in the annual report for the police department and some more interesting statistics, as well as photos highlighting some of the community activities that our Officers participate in.

Ms. Christian: For the Fire Department, the total runs were pretty similar to last year; EMS responses make up the vast majority of the responses. Chief Carpenter did his benchmarking that he's been doing for a few years now; he looked at some of the surrounding communities and Riverside is highlighted for the cost per capita and cost for response. As you can see, we are the most affordable for those measurements.

Ms. Christian: For the Public Service Department, we always do look at maintenance costs and in 2015, the traffic signal maintenance was a little higher than normal but not too terribly high. We can also see that as we acquire the new vehicles and equipment the maintenance costs are stabilizing. There are always going to be maintenance costs but hopefully not like 2013. In 2015, The Public Service Department did take the opportunity to work on some operational improvements; they have a standard operating procedure for any task that they do and they train on those procedures very frequently. In addition, they have been taking some of the knowledge and skill from some of the more seasoned employees in the department and doing some cross-training in that respect. Also, those who go to outside training bring that training back and train their co-workers.

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Ms. Christian: We can't talk about 2015 without talking about the new administrative offices: 10,000 square feet; 12 offices; 10 workstations; the council chambers we are all enjoying right now; and of course the construction was funded by the Wright Point tenant rent. The full report is available here and it will be on the website.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I'm seeing a big spike for our mutual aid services for the City of Beavercreek, or at least Greene County. Is there any reason why? Chief Carpenter: Beavercreek went to an all full-time staff, eliminating a lot of their part-timers; so they have less equipment staffed which increases the number of mutual aid calls. Mr. Fullenkamp: What is the cost of being a mutual aid provider to Greene County? Chief Carpenter: It is primarily EMS and we do EMS billing. With the collections, it does offset our costs but as far as time, we go if we are in service. With all mutual aid, we ensure that we keep at least one medic in the community; we provide 2 of our front line medics for mutual aid, but the third medic that's staffed stays in the City of Riverside. Mr. Fullenkamp: Is this Beavercreek or the Township? Chief Carpenter: Beavercreek Township Fire Department covers Beavercreek and the Township. Mr. Fullenkamp: Do we think this is a permanent situation? Chief Carpenter: I can't speak to if it will be permanent but I wouldn't expect it to change much next year; I haven't heard anything that would lead me to believe it would change. Mr. Fullenkamp: Is this a positive for our community? Chief Carpenter: I think it is just neutral at this point; I don't see that it's a negative impact yet. Mr. Fullenkamp: Will you let us know if it becomes on? Chief Carpenter: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Smith: In reference to the mutual aid to Beavercreek, you might want to look at it as pay back. During our early years as a city and getting our fire department up to staff, Beavercreek came in often to make the medic runs and the fire runs as well. It's a little pay back. Mr. Fullenkamp: I don't believe in pay back of government services.

Mrs. Reynolds: Ms. Christian, you were talking in the annual report about the standard operating procedures and training we are having. Several years back we had many discussions on an emergency procedures manual; is that being updated regularly and whose task is that? Ms. Christian: The fire department has typically updated it but I'm not sure what schedule that is on. Chief Carpenter: Battalion Chief Turner, I believe during his tenure as Interim Fire Chief, was tasked with putting that together. We've had discussions about it and it does need to be updated. It is on our schedule to do but we have not updated it to date.

Mr. Fullenkamp: A follow up on procedures; do all our departments have written standard operating procedures? Ms. Christian: Not all of them call it standard operating procedures, but yes, we do have procedures.

Mrs. Reynolds: How are those changed; what is the process you all go through. Ms. Christian: We look at them more than annually. Mayor Flaute: We being the City Manager? Ms. Christian: No, I mean literally everyone on staff. If it's an area they take care of, we encourage them to document what they do. That's a pretty regular thing and I would say more than annually. Mrs. Reynolds: In an emergency situation, we have a chain of contact command? Ms. Christian: Yes. Mrs. Reynolds: Can you share that with us at some point so we know. I've been reading a lot on emergency procedures and I know we had talked about it several times but it had not been completed. Chief Carpenter: The plan is complete; it's just the updates. I think the last update we had was working with Mr. Garrett on the backup files for the financial records. We did that last year. It needs a thorough going through but we do address matters as they pop up currently. Mrs. Reynolds: And you make a very good point because no one would think what an emergency procedure manual would include; the whole city is affected by whatever happens, so just making sure. I look at the information that you have, the information that Mr. Garrett has; the information that Mr. Taylor and Mr. Murray have; and trying to think of that all being pulled together in a serious situation is daunting. I know you and the Chief of Police are probably working very close on this, as well as Mr. Miller, because it has to be coordinated. I just want us to be ready.

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Deputy Mayor Smith: If I could add to that, all of our emergency calls are emergencies but I think what Mrs. Reynolds is talking about is a catastrophe such as a tornado that takes out a neighborhood or city hall or a gas explosion; something of big magnitude is what you are looking at. Correct? Mrs. Reynolds: Yes. Deputy Mayor Smith: I remember that book being put together by Battalion Chief Turner a number of years ago; it was possibly done when Chief Alig was on board with us. I know we have one but like you say, it probably needs to be updated periodically; contact people change and so forth.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Just as important as having the manual, is having the training so that personnel know what the procedures are. I'm kind of curious if those procedures for all departments are available to council. Mayor Flaute: I'm sure they can be. Chief Carpenter: If you are referencing the emergency operations and all the SOPs; we have those electronically. Mr. Fullenkamp: Is the Police Department all electronic? Chief Robinson: Yes. Mr. Fullenkamp: I'm assuming all departments are training their people.

Chief Robinson: We, Fire and Police, work together on different things like the active shooter training; we work hand in hand on that. Everything we do emergency operation-wise we are going to be in connection with each other. Mr. Fullenkamp: I'm not necessarily asking about emergency operating but everyday operating like patrolling, etc. Chief Robinson: Do we have a procedure book; is that what you are asking me? Mr. Fullenkamp: Yes. Chief Robinson: How things are updated, some of ours are dictated by case law, what the common practice is in the State of Ohio, and those kinds of things will actually change how we do a procedure. Mr. Fullenkamp: I guess the real question I have is do we actively train people on the policy manuals. Chief Robinson: Yes; in my case we have the Sergeants do roll call training on policy and procedure. Mr. Fullenkamp: What are our standards; I know there is something called CALEA. What Standards are we applying to the Riverside Police Department? Chief Robinson: It's pretty much based on CALEA but more based on LEXIPOL; they are kind of intertwined. LEXIPOL was set up by multiple attorneys in Columbus. They got together and did what were Federal and State laws, then you go by what common practice is, and then what is best practice for your department. You can change those as to how you would do it; not every department is the same because we don't have lieutenants and captains. You can just take all those things out. There is a lot of CALEA involved and this year the State has put out a collaborative effort for everyone to come under something real close to CALEA and right now we are in the process of gathering information as to how we do our policies/procedures and how we do stuff on police pursuits, use of force, and all that. We have to compile the information and how we are training our people, then send that to the State. There's not a penalty for it but they will shame you for not doing that. We are actually right on the mark with a lot of the stuff we are already doing; I can't say that for other departments but from what I've read, we are pretty much meeting the standards they are asking us to do. If we are not, obviously we are going to make that change. Mr. Fullenkamp: Is there an evaluation team that comes around and looks at departments, because that's one of the things CALEA does – come in and assess. Chief Robinson: This is real similar to CALEA but it's not as strenuous; I'll be honest, we could not stay in that building if we wanted to go with CALEA. They would laugh at us for the building we are in. The building is very functional but CALEA standards are very, very high and we would not be able to pass that. They would not put up with how close our interview rooms are to the exit doors; we would have to change everything. But we are trying to be as close to CALEA as possible, I promise you, with what we are using now.

Mayor Flaute: I hear about a lot of training with the Fire and Police Departments; Mr. Miller, could you give me an indication of training in the Service Department and is it documented? Mr. Miller: Yes. We have weekly briefings and if we get new pieces of equipment, the first thing we do is take the operations manuals and set up a standard operating procedure for that before we allow operators to operate the equipment. We, in detail, go over all the different parts of what the equipment is, how it is best used, and what the safety issues are – with the fundamental emphasis on safety. We just got 2 new pieces of equipment and I would like for council to see what you guys bought; a very impressive slope mower and then we have a 4 ton heated hotbox that has an infrared heater that drops down on the area you are going to patch. It basically

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looks like a nice square patch and not something you just threw down and rolled out. Two impressive pieces of equipment we are training on; there are other communities in the area that have these and we're going to be doing some operational work with them to see how they use it and what some of the best practices are so we don't do something that is counterproductive and wasteful of our resources. It's critically important and if we have somebody that's new, we actually go out and do some practical exercises with them to make sure they understand the implications of what they are doing so they don't do something unsafe and create issues for themselves or their co-workers.

Mr. Denning: Does the manufacturer having training? Mr. Miller: We have gone to the manufacturer and we also have a couple communities in the area. The manufacturer is going to come to the site and train us. The company that we bought it from is not real familiar with the product. Mr. Denning: That's fine; we know you need to get the best price and the person who built it isn't necessarily the person you buy it from. Mr. Miller: The distributor said this is pretty new and they're not really sure, so we called the manufacturer. Other communities have the same equipment so we'll send the guys out there to make sure we make the best use of the equipment. Mr. Denning: Excellent; my point was if the manufacturer has a class or we have to pay a little extra to bring them in to train us properly, I would much rather do that than learn as you go. Mr. Miller: Most the time if it's a more expensive piece of equipment the manufacturer will have a rep come out. They also provide training discs, operational and maintenance discs, and written manuals. We load those on the hard drive so we have a reference whenever we have a question.

ITEM 15: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: There were no public comments on agenda items.

ITEM 16: NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

I) Ordinance No. 16-O-598 to make supplemental appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Riverside, State of Ohio, for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. (First and second readings and consideration of adoption)

Ms. Christian introduced Ordinance No. 16-O-598 to make supplemental appropriations to the 2016 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Denning to read Ordinance No. 16-O-598 for the first time in its entirety and approve its first reading. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion.

The clerk read Ordinance No. 16-O-598 for the first time in its entirety and Mayor Flaute asked if there were any questions or discussion from members of council.

Mrs. Reynolds: I think I understand the TIF situation; what was our \$10,000 expectation based on. Mr. Garrett: Last summer we discovered that the TIF had never been formally authorized by the State, so there was lots of flurrying around with paperwork. When we put together the budget, we reviewed the property values of the parcels contained within the Brantwood TIF and just looking at the property values on the Montgomery County website by the County Auditor, we did the calculation and came out with the number. There were only 6 parcels that showed any value but apparently the county had gone ahead and got more stuff loaded very late in the year after the budget was put together. We received \$35,000 of TIF money when we thought it would be closer to \$10,000. That was the main difference in the estimate.

With no further discussion; all were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

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A motion was made by Mr. Denning to suspend the rule that dictates the number of days between consecutive readings of ordinances. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Denning to read Ordinance No. 16-O-598 for the second time by title only and approve its final adoption. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion.

The clerk read Ordinance No. 16-O-598 for the second time by title only and Mayor Flaute asked if there were any questions or comments.

Being none; all were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

II) Ordinance No. 16-O-599 enacting a new Chapter 903, Revocable Right-of-Way Privileges, Sections 903.01 through 903.99, of the Streets, Utilities, and Public Services Code of the City of Riverside, Ohio. (First reading)

Ms. Christian introduced Ordinance No. 16-O-599 enacting a new Chapter 903 of the Street, Utilities, and Public Services Code.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to read Ordinance No. 16-O-599 for the first time in its entirety and approve its first reading. Mr. Denning seconded the motion.

The clerk read Ordinance No. 16-O-599 for the first time in its entirety and Mayor Flaute asked if there were any questions or discussion from members of council.

Mayor Flaute: I realize this causes some big changes in what we had prior to this. Ms. Christian: These are new sections. Mayor Flaute: So we are now allowing people to put things in the right of way, that's what this legislation does. Correct? Ms. Christian: Within the limits of what is written in the chapter. You couldn't put a giant concrete statue in the right-of-way. Mayor Flaute: When we do that, these folks have to sign this license agreement that they aren't going to hold us responsible; is that pretty much what this says? Ms. Christian: They also have to have some insurance and a bond as well. Mr. Taylor: It allows for the city manager to require that; it doesn't specifically mandate that but it's an option. It's an application process, so if you apply to put something in, it will be reviewed. The way it talks about the process is it will be reviewed by multiple staff – police, fire, and service to ensure it's not going to get in the way of a fire truck, service department operations, or create a hazard. The city manager would probably assess that and say what you are putting in is a big enough liability that it requires a bond or some sort of special insurance. That's pretty standard; Centerville, Oakwood, Xenia, and a few other cities do this. Typically what's put in the right-of-way is a utility box or a non-structural fence with landscaping, that's what these other communities have seen and this mirrors the legislation that they have. It is allowing through an application process for people to put things in the right-of-way. Mayor Flaute: My Dad got tired of people knocking down his mailbox so he put in a concrete piece and a steel post with a mailbox on top of it. I always thought if anybody ever hits that, they are going to sue the heck out of him. How far can you go in the City of Riverside? Mr. Taylor: This is set up to be reviewed by the Service Director, the two Chiefs, and the Zoning Administrator to make sure somebody is not using this to get around one of our other ordinances, like a giant sign or something that says Eat at Joe's or something like that. Police and Fire will make sure it's safe and there are some guidelines for what can and what can't be done. Each project will be looked at on an individual basis; are we talking about a mailbox on like a Schwinn Drive where you come down a hill and speeds are higher or are you talking about a metal post on a mailbox in a neighborhood such as Avondale where the speeds are much slower. The risks for each project are going to be different and each project is going to be looked at on an individual basis.

With no further discussion; all were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion carried.**

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ITEM 18: PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Mr. John McManus of St. Clair, Dayton, Ohio: Thank you so much for having me here. I was recently elected to a seat on the Board of Education of the Dayton City School District and I wanted to come by and introduce myself since I haven't met some of you. I have the distinct honor of representing some of your residents. The Dayton City School District has 3 precincts within Riverside, about 1,300 registered voters and I wanted to tell you what an honor it is to represent your residents. I know it is a very big school district; it incorporates 5 different municipalities and I would imagine some people, if they weren't residents of Dayton, might feel like they are lost in the shuffle and that's unfortunate. I knocked on about 5,000 doors last year running for office and I made a distinct effort to knock in municipalities outside the Dayton city limits so everybody would feel included. Your citizens were very good to me in November; I did a precinct by precinct analysis and I thank them tremendously. It is my honor to represent them.

Mr. McManus: I am going on a district-wide tour to all municipalities, speaking to their governing bodies and saying the same things. As you know, we all see in the newspapers the Dayton City School District right now is facing a number of challenges; it hasn't been easy, I can assure you. The thing of greatest concern on a regional basis is a situation that both we and the Trotwood-Madison School District are facing, that being the possibility of a State takeover in several years. We are fighting that tremendously; we have a very good plan we are following through with fidelity and tackling this at a very strategic level. As you know the legislation is very new and Youngstown City Schools are going through this right now and as you could imagine, it could be bad for business at the regional level. I think it would really hinder economic development at a certain point. The sole area of focus for me I feel is fighting this take over process.

Mr. McManus: So again, it is my honor to represent your citizens and I'll stick around; I'm actually really enjoying this. I'll stick around and pass out my card because I want each of you to feel free to let me know if any of your citizens in those precincts need something. Constituent service is one of my favorite parts of the job. I thank you all for the honor of addressing you.

Mayor Flaute: As you know Eastmont is physically in our city so we are very pleased about that. Mr. McManus: Yes, thank you. Mayor Flaute: We appreciate the income tax that it generates. Mr. McManus: Yes, I have no doubt. Mayor Flaute: We were so pleased to see Stivers becoming a big deal in your school district; just get all the rest of the schools in your district to do what Stivers did and you guys will have a great system. Mr. McManus: Thank you for saying that Mayor, I learned of that news today. It is phenomenal news and we actually have 14 of our preschool programs in our district just received 5-star awards which is very difficult; a very big risk program. A lot of neighboring districts have maybe 1 or 2; we have 14. One thing I'm trying to do from a PR perspective at Dayton City Schools is pushing out the good, showing everybody there is good and there is more to the story. It's a daunting task I assure you; nobody told me government and politics would be this time consuming but it is an honor – the highest honor of my life.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: I have a Granddaughter who is taking advantage of a program at Horace Mann, so as a consumer, I have to say thank you. They are doing a great job. Mr. McManus: That is a great school; a lot of talented people over there. Thank you.

Mrs. Reynolds: Mr. McManus, I spent 30 years at Dayton Public Schools and I enjoyed every day that I was there. You all will do all right; they will pull together when necessary, they have done it in the past, and they will do it again. It is going to be an exciting time for you because rebuilding is always an exciting time. You have an opportunity to do some things and there are good people on staff in all of those buildings – Stivers, Horace Mann – I go back to the Jane Adams days, the McKinley days, I was there. I saw a lot of superintendents come and go, some needed to go. Mr. McManus: Thank you for your service to the district. And thank you all, it's been an honor.

Mr. Rick Noerr of Prince Albert: I've lived all my life on Prince Albert, my birth certificate reads the address, so I'm not going anywhere, anytime soon. I've heard

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something about discontinuing the minutes and I think we need those minutes because the fact is if we don't have a history on a stock and we're buying it, we might be buying a pig in a poke. We need to keep the minutes, okay?

Mr. Noerr: EPA is a problem; they don't leave any phone number on the window and I've been over there 3 times because my house is due to be retested. They say it should be tested annually and I want that to be done. If it's free to me I want it done. That's all I ask. If I had a phone number on the window, it might help me out but if somebody even worked in the office over there, that would be another thing that would help out too.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I can get you a phone number; it's not the EPA. You aren't dealing with the EPA any longer, it's the contractor that Mullins hired. I don't have the number with me but I can give you my phone number.

Mayor Flaute: As far as the minutes go, I guess you weren't here earlier but the council overwhelming said we will keep them verbatim.

Ms. Jan Pitzer of Wake Forest: My first comment is we've had 6 city managers in the City of Riverside and many of you were involved in the selection of all of those. I would like to think that some of you would admit that you do not have the expertise to that capacity and probably some of you think you really do. We keep repeating the same thing and getting the same results. I, as well as many other citizens and residents are extremely disappointed that you voted down the hiring of an outside consulting firm to give a better approach to the selection. After all you make the final decision but to have that outside source compile a great list of potential candidates is wrong, I think, that we didn't go that route.

Ms. Pitzer: The second thing I want to talk about is the solicitation; I'm still having a problem. I think we need to go to the root of the problem. I have a no solicitation sign on my door as well as my mother's house and we are still getting knocks from Time-Warner, AT&T, Craftsman Home Improvement, and Erie Construction. When I place the phone call to non-emergency, I don't think our Huber dispatch takes this seriously. I don't have a lot of faith and I don't have a lot of trust that it is even being relayed to our police department. I think our city needs to contact the actual company and not the people walking door to door. These people are contracted out probably at minimum wage and if our Police Department does respond to them, they don't do anything, they tell them you've got to get a permit and they continue on. The city needs to go to the actual company, send a letter with a warning that this is going on. The people walking the streets don't care. I don't have a lot of trust in the dispatch center to be honest with you.

Ms. Pitzer: My last comment is regarding bicycles; we have an ordinance that says anyone under the age of 15 is required to wear a helmet. Who enforces that? I live on a slight incline and yesterday evening we had 4 boys between the ages of maybe 9 to 12 and a little girl who was probably 6; they ride from the intersection of Duquesne down Wake Forest from that slight incline and they are riding backwards. They are causing cars to swerve and slam on their brakes. My neighbors went out and said hey, you can't do this; they crashed and nobody got hurt seriously but if we have an ordinance that says you have to wear a helmet, who do we call? These kids are riding backwards on their bicycles not even looking where they are going and there's going to be a tragic accident. If I call Huber dispatch, are they going to take it seriously? Chief Robinson: Call dispatch and tell them kids are riding in the street and causing vehicles to swerve; if they don't respond, please call me.

Mayor Flaute: So see the Chief after the meeting and get the number to call. Ms. Pitzer: We are really concerned, me and my neighbors; the neighborhood is inundated with kids and the little girl couldn't even reach the pedals so she had to stand and was wiggling. Even though our street turns into a dead end it is heavily traveled and Duquesne is heavily traveled.

ITEM 19: COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS: Mrs. Lommatzsch: I was delighted that yesterday I and the Secretary of the Chamber visited 15 businesses in Riverside.

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We called on them and delivered the new brochure. The Secretary of the Chamber made sure they knew that I was there and I had my cards; she said to them “if you have any complaints, this is who you need to talk to”. In those 15 visits, except we couldn’t find anyone at Protobox, we talked to the owners and I received no complaints and 3 compliments credited to our economic development team. We still have others to visit and we plan to spend a day next week doing the same thing. It was very, very nice and we basically did the north side of town. We did make some other contacts to remind people they need to get their memberships paid. It was very positive, I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I look forward to doing it again. I would encourage any of you to stop in and speak to the owners.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: The Chamber voted today to donate \$2,000 to the K-9 replacement and I understand Carroll High School is going to donate \$1,000. That’s a good start, we can put it out on the website and email for the Chamber members. We can encourage individuals too; if someone cares enough, they can donate \$25. The suggestion was made that the Chamber might do a PayPal thing where maybe our residents can go online and donate to the K-9. There may be people that are willing to donate to a specific effort. Mr. Fullenkamp: The key is getting the word out; you can put up a Fund Me site. Mrs. Lommatzsch: Immediately when we talked to Sergeant Close, we got ahold of Dayton Daily News and the next day the article was in about the K-9 retirement. Since the Police Department can’t actually do it, we approached the Chamber and we are going to talk about setting up some kind of account. Mayor Flaute: Thank you for doing that.

Mrs. Reynolds: Ms. Christian, going along with Ms. Pitzer’s concerns with the helmets and the children in the street, when is our next newsletter going out? Ms. Christian: I think it is June. Mrs. Reynolds: It might be good if we can get a copy of the helmet law and encourage our parents to comply. Something about the dog too.

Deputy Mayor Smith: Last week we attended the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Annual Spring Dinner – a very good dinner. At our table were several of us here, 2 county commissioners, and 2 engineers from Lockwood, Jones, and Beal. It was a very good night; I really enjoyed the time and it was good networking.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I want to go back to our last meeting and some comments Mrs. Reynolds made tonight about the letter that she read to council last week regarding some concerns in the neighborhood. We’ve heard these rumblings for years and these aren’t just anonymous letters; we’ve had people come to council and talk to us about the treatment from staff and other problems in that neighborhood. I sense that council in general has turned away from this and has really not provided any leadership going forward as to how we resolve some of these problems. The people in that neighborhood are suffering in many respects and now they are being crippled by their home values due to pollution flowing underneath them. They are trapped in these neighborhoods and there’s no place for them to go; they can’t sell their homes. This takes a real comprehensive plan. You can’t talk about task forces, you have to look at all the problems underlying this issue. This has been going on for decades and there’s nothing progressive about what we have done as a community resolving some of the issues in that neighborhood, in fact we have been somewhat decisive in some cases where we want to refer to them as the Avondale Community rather than partners in the City of Riverside. While I’m sure some of them appreciate their identity, I think the letter writer was right in that there is no city called Avondale, in Montgomery County at least. I think we really got to put our thinking hats on and provide some action because the longer we sit around it is the exact opposite of being proactive. At this point we have to react to what is happening in that neighborhood. I think it is critical if we want to provide some relief; actually resolve and begin to deal with this problem and to make some progress in that community. I remember not too many years ago we were talking about storm water and the concept that all the problems are in the south side of town; why would somebody on the north side of town care about it. I sense that same sort of attitude – it’s not in my neighborhood. We really do need to take this seriously and do something to move this forward. I welcome ideas from everybody and I welcome ideas from county agencies; I think that is a good place to start but I think we have to have a comprehensive plan on how we address some of these issues. Thank you.

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Mayor Flaute: First we have 4 people that came to the top that applied for the clerk position: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. McKinley, Ms. Arnold, and Ms. Ahrens. Those are the ones we will be interviewing; do we want to set up a night to do that? Would everyone be available next Thursday night, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. Will you contact them Emily and set them up for about 45 minutes each?

Mayor Flaute: I have artwork I'd like to pass around. This is artwork from third graders from the Mad River School District that maybe we can display in the lobby to honor these students. They worked pretty hard on this. We also had high school and middle school students do artwork for us; we judged which ones were the best and you will be hearing more about that in the near future. There is an article in the Wright State Alumni Magazine about all the mayors that graduated from Wright State University and I'm proud to say I am one of the mayors. I am honored to be a Wright State Grad. The Riverside Community Prayer Breakfast was Saturday; it was very good and I thank everyone who supported that. I went to a celebration of Wilber Wright's 169th Birthday; first time I went to a birthday party where the recipient wasn't there but it was a nice celebration.

Mayor Flaute: I was requested to be the host for the Great Debate, so I am now on the team for the Great Debate and you are going to be hearing me talk about the debate from here until September 26th. This can be really good for our city; they had to prove they could have 3,000 hotel rooms available within an 80 mile radius of Fairborn. There will be a lot of people here; a lot of people going to our restaurants which is why I asked about our International Restaurants. We are going to have people here from all around the world and they are going to be interested in eating in some of these restaurants. It's very important we take advantage of this time; the whole week before, there are going to be newscasters and politicians. For those who don't know what I'm talking about on September 26th, the first Presidential Debate between the two candidates that won at their conventions will be doing a debate at Wright State University. The world will be watching us and be watching Dayton. It's a big deal for Dayton and if any of you have a room you want to rent out, there is an app you can sign up for so people can stay at your house while they are here. You can make some money on that. So you will hear a lot more from me on the Great Debate and it will be a good time.

Mayor Flaute: I did 4 weddings in the last 2 weeks.

Mrs. Reynolds: For those of you that may not know, the Bob Evans Restaurant on Harshman is closing and Saturday will be its last day in operation. I personally just want to thank that restaurant for providing service to this community for such a long time. I wish it wasn't closing but it is. It's sad for the north end of town which will no longer have a sit down restaurant. Mayor Flaute: There's Debbie's. Mrs. Reynolds: She is very limited in her seating but she does well for the seating capacity she has and we appreciate that. So we are going to have to get out and drum up some restaurants for the north end of Riverside.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: The IN Crowd on Monday night is at Debbie's and we already have 40 reservations. Mayor Flaute: Get your reservation in because I don't think she can accept too many more. If you haven't been to an IN Crowd, so many people and businesses from Riverside get together once a month and eat at different restaurants. It's a good time to meet with residents and businesses.

ITEM 20: ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Denning to adjourn. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

William R. Flaute, Mayor

Clerk of Council