

Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole of Stow City Council Meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 7:05 p.m.

Council Members Present: Razor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska, D'Antonio & Pribonic

Council Members Absent: Lowdermilk

City Officials Present: Mayor Kline, Finance Director Baranek, Service Director Wren, Director of Budget & Management Earle, Director of Planning & Development Kurtz, Police Chief Film, Fire Chief Stone, City Engineer McCleary, Manager of Information Systems Germano & Clerk of Council Emahiser

Call to Order

Mr. Razor called the meeting to order.

Cub Scout Troop 3177 led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION:

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to approve the Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of November 17, 2016 as circulated.

Yes Votes: Razor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
 D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Business Items

Regional Dispatch Services

Mr. Razor stated he had kept this item on the agenda for updates.

Mayor Kline stated as Council had gleaned from the meeting that was held here on November 22nd, Summit County is formally participating in discussions to be a partner of the COG with the City of Stow, the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the other entities.

She had learned late yesterday that Hudson has decided that they are not going to participate in the COG at this time. They may enter into discussions with us at a later date, but upon further reflection, their Council decided that they did not want to take any action at this time.

Those were the two updates that they had. The Law Directors were diligently continuing to work on the legislation and COG bylaws. The Finance Directors of the respective entities continue to work on putting together a firm budget that they could present to the legislative bodies.

They anticipated having more conversations after the New Year, but those were the updates as they stood today.

Mr. Razor stated they would readdress that topic in the coming weeks and months.

City Council's Revised Meeting Calendar

Mr. Razor stated as he had mentioned a few weeks ago, he had kind of tweaked the calendar to remove some meetings. For every even numbered month, they would only have the first meeting, which was on the second Thursday of the month. Then, they would at least tentatively dispose of the second meeting.

The purpose of that was to make it easier on everyone's schedules, i.e., the department heads and the City employees. It turns out that we have a lot of meetings where we are here for maybe twenty minutes, do a couple of routine things and leave.

This would be with the understanding, however, that if there is anything that needs a reading or anything that needs to be passed in a timely manner, he would definitely call a meeting himself, but certainly the Council rules provide that a majority of Council Members could call a meeting, and there is a remotely relevant reason for it, they could do it. The idea was if there was no reason to meet, then he didn't think they should meet. He asked for Council's input.

Mr. Adaska stated this not only affected Council and the administrative people that worked with them, but it also affected the public. This was their opportunity to address Council. All be it, it was only for three minutes for each person. However, it still gives them an avenue where they can approach Council, get questions answered and get things done.

By eliminating essentially twelve meetings...Mr. Razor stated six meetings tentatively. Mr. Adaska stated to him that was bothersome. He, personally, didn't have a problem meeting. He also had stated that he didn't have a problem with meeting on Monday evenings either so they could try to get more going thru committees. Stacking everything up on Thursday nights sometimes makes it difficult.

That was his stand on it. He didn't think meeting two times a month was ordinarily out-of-sight for any of them.

Mr. Razor stated the calendar has to be passed by Committee and Council. He had a proposed calendar that tentatively omits those six meetings. He would hold a vote on that to get it out of Committee. If it didn't have the Committee votes to get out, they would go back to the original calendar. Mr. Adaska thought that was fair enough.

MOTION:

Mr. Razor moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to recommend to Council that they adopt his version of the calendar.

Yes Votes: Razor, Costello & D'Antonio

No Votes: Adaska, Pribonic & Riehl.
The motion failed.

MOTION:

Mr. Razor moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to recommend to Council that they adopt the original version of the calendar.

Yes Votes: Razor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Razor stated he would make that motion at tonight's Council Meeting. It looked like Council would be meeting twice a month except for August, November and December.

Authorize Non-Bid Contract – Ohio Edison Company – Electric Service for 2017

Mr. Wren requested authorization to expend an amount not to exceed \$650,000 with the Ohio Edison Company for electric service for all city-owned facilities for the calendar year 2017.

MOTION:

Mr. Costello moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to assign a number to the sample legislation and send it on to Council.

Yes Votes: Rasor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Rasor stated this item would appear on tonight's Legislative Agenda.

Proposed Charter Amendment – Section 16.02 – Nominations

Mr. Rasor stated this was also a proposal that he was bringing to the table. He had worked with the Mayor on this to some extent. The idea was to move Stow's primary elections from September at one point or another to the month of May.

There were a few different reasons for this. One was that a September election does not provide the Board of Elections with enough time to get out a ballot to overseas voters.

What the Board of Elections does is it sends out two ballots. It sends out a ballot on the statutory required day that does not include any of the Stow issues that are subject to the September ballot. Once the September issues that were on their ballot were finalized and confirmed, the Board will send out a second ballot that includes everything – Stow issues from the September ballot and everything else.

What the Board often finds is that military voters and other people who are overseas have the time to submit their first ballot, but they do not end up sending a second ballot. So the primary reason for him at least is to give as much ballot access as they could to the people who serve them overseas.

Secondly, it turns out that if we move our election to May instead of September, we save a substantial amount of money every year. How the payments work is that every community that has an election on a given day shares the cost collectively for that election. They compensate the Board of Elections for that. So naturally if you have your primary election on a day when not many other communities also have that primary election, you have to pay a larger share of the costs associated with that election.

May has more participants than September. It was his understanding that if they vacate September, there may be another very large city in our county that may also be vacating September, which means if they stayed in September, their costs would not stay the same, in fact they would go up and that community would likely be going to May as well.

As it stands, if we would have had a May 2015 election instead of a September 2015 election, it would have cost about \$15,000 less. Now they were looking forward to 2019. Those savings would be at least \$15,000 and they could be maybe even double that. So the second aspect of the proposal is to save costs. It is more efficient.

The feedback he had gotten from the community is that it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to have three elections within six months that our community is paying for.

The upshot of all this is if they decide this is the right thing for our community to do, it has to go before the voters, because we have to change our charter. He had asked Mrs. Zibritosky whether she thought they could change this charter provision administratively as it being unconstitutional and conflicting with state and federal law? She determined that it does not rise to the level of unconstitutionality, so they would have to go to the voters.

He had found in the past that when they have to go to the voters, whether it was for charter review or anything else, it kind of gets put off to the last minute and they have to scramble to get it to the Board. That was why he was bringing it up now, even though it wouldn't go on the ballot until November of 2017.

He fully intended to have as much public comment on this as possible. He felt a full three readings is appropriate. The purpose tonight is just to introduce it. If everyone feels comfortable, they could move it onto the Legislative Agenda. If people wanted to keep it in Committee-of-the-Whole, that wouldn't hurt his feelings either.

Mr. Pribonic thought this was an excellent idea. He thought it had been long forthcoming. He appreciated Mr. Rasor's efforts. Mr. Rasor stated the Mayor also assisted in this. Mr. Pribonic stated that he appreciated her efforts also.

Mayor Kline stated that the City Administration fully supports this plan.

MOTION:

Mr. Costello moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to assign a number to the sample legislation and send it on to Council.

Yes Votes: Rasor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Rasor stated this item would appear on tonight's Legislative Agenda for a first reading.

Authorize Promotion – Fire Lieutenant

Fire Chief Stone stated with the retirement of Lieutenant Brahler on August 1st, 2016, they would like to replace that position. He left them at a time when they were in the midst of preparing to perform a civil service exam for that rank. So they had had a little delay getting all of their ducks-in-a-row.

The position has been left vacant since that time. They had had a little bit of overtime incurred because of that. They felt keeping that position alive would allow them to maintain their officer staffing. The Lieutenant rank is the rank that is covering for the Captains when they are off. Since they were reducing their Captain ranks thru attrition, they were an essential part of the Acting Officer position.

He was available to answer questions.

MOTION:

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Costello seconded to recommend to Council the promotion of one person to the Fire Lieutenant position.

Yes Votes: Rasor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Rasor stated he would make that motion at the tonight's Council Meeting.

MOTION:

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded to recess into Executive Session to discussion the compensation of a public employee.

Yes Votes: Rasor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

The meeting recessed into Executive Session at 7:18 p.m.

A general discussion was had concerning the compensation of a public employee.

The meeting reconvened into Open Session at 7:22 p.m.

Reallocation of Sick Leave Benefits – Mark Hodson

MOTION:

Mr. Costello moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded to assign a number to the sample legislation and send it on to Council.

Yes Votes: Rasor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION:

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to adjourn.

Yes Votes: Rasor, Riehl, Costello, Adaska,
D'Antonio & Pribonic

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Bonnie J. Emahiser
Clerk of Council

Mike Rasor
President of Council