

Shaker Heights City Council

Jan. 28, 2008

Present: Mayor Earl Leiken; Council members James Brady, Al Foster, Brian Gleisser, Nancy Moore, Lynn Ruffner, Earl Williams, Rob Zimmerman; Jeri Chaikin, CAO; Margaret Cannon, law director

Also present: D. Scott Lee, interim Chief of Police; Bill Boag, director of Public Works; John Lehman, director of Finance

The meeting was scheduled to start at 8 p.m., immediately following the city's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. The MLK event ran late, however, so the meeting wasn't called to order until 8:36 p.m. The minutes of the Dec. 17, 2007, meeting were approved with one correction.

Several appointments to city bodies were made or confirmed by Council:

- Board of Appeals: John Fahsbender (reappointment) and Gerald Jackson
- Fair Housing Review Board: Lynn Ruffner and Reggie Williams
- Human Relations Commission: Lynn Ruffner and Al Foster
- Fund for the Future: James Brady

A Council appointment to the Shaker Wellness Council was held until next month's meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

1. Council unanimously approved, on emergency, the application for and, if granted, the acceptance of a \$7,500 grant from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources for construction of a new two-sided Horseshoe Lake Park identification sign. The existing one-sided sign will be relocated to the driveway entrance to the park.

The next two items were grant applications for the same project. The city expects that only one will be funded, but applications will be made for both:

2. Council unanimously approved, on emergency, the application for and, if granted, the acceptance of a \$61,200 Recreational Trails Program grant from the ODNR for the construction of a recreational trail along South Park Boulevard from Horseshoe Lake Park to Lee Road. (This grant requires a 20% city match.)
3. Council unanimously approved, on emergency, the application for and, if granted, the acceptance of a \$57,300 NatureWorks Program grant from the ODNR for the construction of a recreational trail along South Park Boulevard from Horseshoe Lake Park to Lee Road. (This grant requires a 25% city match.)

Citywide Services (Safety & Core Services):

1. Council unanimously approved, on emergency, amending the 2008 General Capital Fund appropriation for the Police Dept. to reduce sedan replacement from six to five and to use the money saved to upgrade its information technology support. Mr. Foster asked if the IT upgrade would allow police officers to run license plates without calling the police station. Interim Chief Lee said yes.
2. Council unanimously approved, on emergency, the application for and, if granted, the acceptance of a \$3,500 Community Recycling Awareness grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District for the period April 1, 2008, through Nov. 28, 2008. (This grant requires no city match.) Since 2005 the city has increased the percentage of

residential waste that's recycled from 21% to 40%, including brush and leaves. This grant would continue to raise residents' awareness and participation in recycling.

3. Council unanimously approved, on emergency, a \$31,750 contract with Nerone & Sons as the lowest and best proposal, without competitive bidding, due to the need for an emergency repair of a section of the Belvoir Boulevard sanitary sewer. The problem was discovered when the basement of a South Woodland residence backed up with sewer debris. Public Works traced the backup and found concrete grout in the nearby Belvoir Boulevard sanitary sewer line that could not be removed with city equipment. Mr. Boag said the department hoped eventually to discover how the concrete grout got there.

Administrative Support (Asset Management)

Council unanimously approved, on emergency, amending the annual appropriation ordinance for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2007, to make corrections and adjustments in order to close the fiscal year 2007.

Public Comment:

One Lattimore Road resident complained that while he welcomes city inspections of his home, other residences on the street that have been cited are falling into disrepair. He also complained about crime and the city's occupancy tax. Mr. Leiken referred the resident to Ms. Chaikin for answers to his questions about inspections and occupancy tax rules. Another resident of the same road said that the "neighborhood is changing," that litter is "everywhere" and that young people need to learn community values in schools. Ms. Moore suggested that both residents get involved in the newly revived Lomond Community Association.

A Shaker Boulevard resident complained that police had mistreated her 11-year-old son when he was waiting for a friend. Mr. Leiken said that he and Interim Chief Lee would look into the incident.

A Southington Road resident asked that the city flood an outdoor rink every winter. He said this had been done in the past.

Two other residents asked why year-end bonuses were given to city department heads when the city is running a deficit. Mr. Leiken explained that the bonuses, while performance and merit based, are "part of compensation packages." If they were not given, he said, the employees would consider it a pay cut. One of the residents then said that the year-end compensation should not be called a "bonus."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Marcia Goldberg, 321-1840