

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on December 13, 2007. Mayor Robert J. Buckman, Jr. called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Buckman led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Rick Bryan, Mayor Robert Buckman, Councilman Lee Czerwonka, Councilman Henry Stacey, Councilwoman Stephanie Stoller, Councilman James Sumner, and Vice Mayor Mark Weber

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Waltz, Solicitor Mark Vander Laan, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Service Director Dennis Albrinck, Fire Chief Rick Brown, Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, and interested citizens

PUBLIC HEARING – 7:00PM – Ordinance No. 2007-62 – approving a children’s day care center as a special permit use at 9920 Carver Road

The Clerk of Council was asked to read Ordinance No. 2007-62 in its entirety.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ IN ITS ENTIRETY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-62

APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW REDEVELOPMENT OF AN EXISTING SINGLE-STORY OFFICE BUILDING INTO A CHILD DAYCARE FACILITY UNDER CHAPTERS 1161 AND 1183 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUE ASH IN THE M-1 OFFICE-INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTH END OF CARVER ROAD IN THE SYCAMORE OFFICE PARK (HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR’S BOOK 612, PAGE 120, PARCEL 0129)

Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson commented that since the public hearing held before Planning Commission earlier this year, he has received no comments from the public regarding this proposed special use request.

Ron Roberts of Roberts Engineering explained that the project is a reuse of an existing building in the office park. There will be few noticeable changes to the building itself on the outside, and the building already has sufficient on-site parking. The existing dumpster will be enclosed, and some of the landscaping to the rear of the building will be replaced with a play area. Drawings were shown of the proposed façade. This daycare, Gardner School, will be the first in the Cincinnati area, with two or three more planned. The owner would like to start construction very soon. In response to a question from Councilwoman Stoller, Mr. Roberts explained that the building proposed is the now vacant first building on the right coming off the cul-de-sac, and that it was formerly occupied by RDI Marketing.

There being no further questions from Council or the public, the hearing was declared closed at 7:09PM.

Mayor Buckman appointed Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk and Service Director Denny Albrinck to read the legislation in its entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to accept the agenda. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

“1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. OPENING CEREMONIES

3. ROLL CALL - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert

4. PUBLIC HEARING – 7:00PM – Ordinance No. 2007-62 – approving a children’s day care center as a special use at 9920 Carver Road

5. APPOINTMENT OF PERSON(S) TO READ ORDINANCES IN FULL IN REAR OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of November 15, 2007
- b. Budget Study Session of November 29, 2007
- c. Council Swearing-In Ceremonies of December 3, 2007

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
- b. Reports From Outside Agencies
- c. Mayor’s Report – November 2007 – Honorable Robert J. Buckman, Jr.
- d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for November 2007

9. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2007-62, approving a children’s day care center as a special use at 9920 Carver Road
 - 2. Ordinance No. 2007-60, adopting the **Downtown Streetscape Master Plan** (second reading)
 - 3. Ordinance No. 2007-65, authorizing contract for professional electrical inspection services for 2008
- b. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2007-66, adopting the year 2008 Proposed Budget
 - 2. Ordinance No. 2007-67, transferring funds
 - 3. Ordinance No. 2007-64, adopting the Year 2008 pay plan and related amendments
 - 4. Ordinance No. 2007-68, authorizing a multi-year contract for professional engineering services
 - 5. Ordinance No. 2007-69, authorizing a multi-year agreement with Fifth Third Bank regarding the purchasing card system
 - 6. Ordinance No. 2007-70, authorizing a new special revenue fund relating to police training
- c. Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2007-71, authorizing a framework for the administration of recreational events in 2008
- d. Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2007-72, authorizing bid award for replacement of the roof membrane at 6131 Interstate Circle (Service Department Center facility)
 - 2. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for sidewalk construction; curb, gutter, and concrete construction; storm sewer upgrades; traffic control systems and equipment; 2008 paving program and other road improvement projects; downtown streetscaping; Service Department vehicles and equipment; bulk rock salt; and sale/disposal of excess property and equipment
- e. Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson
 - 1. Resolution No. 2007-19, electing members to the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board
 - 2. Ordinance No. 2007-73, authorizing contract with Youth Services for 2008

- 3. Ordinance No. 2007-74, amending Ordinance No. 2007-45 regarding purchase of a pickup truck chassis and cab for use by the Fire Department
- 4. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for public safety vehicles; communications and paging equipment; rescue tools and related equipment; surveillance, investigative, and general police equipment; fire and EMS emergency equipment and apparatus; and sale/disposal of surplus property, equipment, and vehicles

11. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

12. ADJOURNMENT"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to approve the minutes of the meetings of November 15, November 29, and December 3, 2007. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Council

There were no communications presented to Council.

Reports From Outside Agencies

There were no representatives from outside agencies present at the meeting.

Mayor's Report – November 2007

RECEIPTS:

Fines	\$ 18,050.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over	\$ 0
Interest Earned	\$2.01
Bonds collected	\$295.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$18,347.01

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures)	\$13,333.01
To the State of OH	\$4,764.00
Refund of Overpaid Fine.....	\$0.00
Bond Money applied	\$210.00
Bond Money returned	\$ 40.00
BMV	\$0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$18,347.01

BALANCE IN BONDS:	\$0
Mayor's Court traffic citations	168
Mayor's Court criminal citations	15
Total Mayor's Court cases	183
November rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases:.....	\$13,333.01

Financial Report – November 2007

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to accept the Financial Report for November 2007 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT - MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2007

MONTH TO DATE	2006	2007
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 11-1-07	\$11,533,034.77	\$26,225,829.16
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	1,688,573.30	2,019,448.50
Debt Financing (long term)	9,712,274.45	0
Debt Financing (short term)	1,000,000.00	0
Other Revenue Received:	638,605.56	876,815.34
= Total Monthly Receipts	13,039,453.31	2,896,263.84
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	1,500,000.00	1,000,000.00
Other Expenditures:	2,215,382.14	3,207,089.23
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-3,715,382.14	-4,207,089.23
ENDING FUND BALANCE:11-30-07	20,857,105.94	24,915,003.77
YEAR TO DATE	2006	2007
START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	12,916,635.98	17,286,456.32
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	21,129,242.35	25,292,330.44
Debt Financing (long term)	9,712,274.45	0
Debt Financing (short term)	1,000,000.00	0
Other Revenue Received:	9,918,774.21	21,791,069.26
= Total Monthly Receipts	41,760,291.01	47,083,399.70
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Bond Retirement	2,830,000.00	3,830,000.00
Short term debt refinancing	1,500,000.00	1,000,000.00
Other Expenditures:	29,489,821.05	34,624,852.25
= Total YTD Expenditures:	-33,819,821.05	-39,454,852.25
YTD FUND BALANCE	20,857,105.94	24,915,003.77

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 11-30-07. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$860,671.90. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

**BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIVISION INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY
FOR MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2007**

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2006	2007
Business Net Profit	61,381.95	51,339.60
Resident Net Profit	24,310.87	35,433.57
Non-Resident Net Profit	13,181.42	9,980.31
Subcontractor Net Profit	309.00	19.00
Net Profit Total	99,183.24	96,772.48
Withholding	1,562,815.08	1,888,602.76
Subcontractor Withholding	26,574.98	34,073.26
Withholding Total	1,589,390.06	1,922,676.02
Monthly Collection Totals	1,688,573.30	2,019,448.50
YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS	2006	2007
Business Net Profit	4,459,964.60	3,467,240.57
Resident Net Profit	760,128.02	934,621.56
Non-Resident Net Profit	220,500.84	249,810.62
Subcontractor Net Profit	22,222.18	54,660.13
Net Profit Total	5,363,632.40	4,706,332.88
Withholding	13,791,387.77	20,119,722.23
Subcontractor Withholding	285,648.88	466,275.33
Withholding Total	15,666,426.71	20,585,997.56
YTD Collection Totals	21,129,242.35	25,292,330.44
YTD Refund Totals	778,347.35	1,468,942.44

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

No citizens wished to be heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to the Council meeting, Council members received the following report describing agenda items:

“The following offers a brief description of the topics included on the December 13th Council agenda:

4. and 10.a.1. Ordinance No. 2007-62 - Approving a children’s day care center as a special use

at 9920 Carver Road

On October 11th, via passage of Ordinance No. 2007-49, Council approved the surrender of easement rights on a portion of the Carver Road extension – rights which originated in the late 1960s/early 1970s as a part of the layout of the CIC Industrial Park. The City had acquired easement rights over this area due to the potential extension of Carver Road southbound from the Carver/Malsbary intersection to Cooper Road. As was explained to Council in October, the City has never exercised that option and without question, the road cannot be extended to Cooper since both The Timbers residential development, and a cul-de-sac serving a number of office buildings and developments are now in place.

Previous to passage of the ordinance in October noted above, Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson had been working with a potential buyer for the business property at 9920 Carver Road. The potential purchaser wants to acquire the property, and a parcel adjacent to it on the west, update and renovate the structure, and create an environment for a new daycare facility. The elimination of the City's easement for future right-of-way has been approved, and the property owner has been moving forward with the next steps associated with this plan for location of a daycare facility. Planning Commission reviewed the plan at its November meeting and has recommended its approval. The next step in the process involved the establishment of a public hearing before City Council, since this is a special use within the M-1 zone, and that hearing was appropriately made via motion at the November 15th meeting.

Plans for the project will be posted at the meeting, and it is expected that applicant representative(s) will be present at the meeting should the public or Council have questions regarding this proposed project.

Please direct questions regarding this item to the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at 745-8528.

10.a.2. Ordinance No. 2007-60 - Adopting the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan (second reading)

Throughout 2007, the Administration has been working with Kinzelman Kline Gossman (KKG) on the **Downtown Blue Ash Streetscape Master Plan**, representing the "next step" in the City's efforts to update its downtown planning efforts. City Council held a public work session in late January, and continued its discussion and review publicly at a May meeting. KKG and the administrative team have since been working to refine and finalize the proposed Plan, a draft of which was distributed to Council at the October 25th meeting.

The December 13th Council meeting represents the second reading of the ordinance that would formally adopt the **Downtown Streetscape Master Plan**. The first reading of this ordinance was presented on November 15th. Planning Commission reviewed the plan at its November 1st meeting, and has unanimously recommended its approval.

The Plan has been posted to the City's website in its entirety since October as well as highlighted in the past two community newsletters. Please direct questions regarding the Downtown Streetscape Plan to the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at 745-8528 or to the City Manager.

10.a.3. Ordinance No. 2007-65 - Authorizing contract for professional electrical inspection services for 2008

Ordinance No. 2007-65 authorizes a one-year contract with Inspection Bureau, Inc. (IBI) for professional electrical inspections, including plan reviews, for 2008. The rates for 2008 would be based upon IBI's standard governmental schedule.

While we have been considering contracting with NIC as an alternate provider for these services, and Council has been receiving letters related to this, we were not in a position at this time to recommend such a change. However, the City's options will continue to be evaluated and consideration of a change may be presented to Council in the future.

Please address questions regarding this ordinance to the Assistant Community Development Director or the City Manager.

10.b.1. Ordinance No. 2007-66 - Adopting the year 2008 Proposed Budget

At the November 29th Council Budget Study Session, Council reviewed the 2008 Proposed Budget as presented by the City Manager. This document, which reflects total available revenues of \$62,910,005 (including estimated beginning fund balances) and expenditures of \$51,342,678 (both figures being net of transfers and advances), forms the basis for Ordinance No. 2007-66 and its attachments.

Favorable consideration of Ordinance No. 2007-66 will permit the City to operate on an interim appropriations ordinance basis until the Final Budget is prepared for submission at the first meeting in January. The Proposed Budget's revenues and expenditures will be adjusted for actual year-end fund balances and encumbrances, and for any other modifications that become necessary as a result of

activity, or Council recommendations, since the Proposed Budget was prepared.

As the Final Budget comes together, City Council will be updated as to recommended adjustments to the Proposed Budget.

Please address questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager or Treasurer.

10.b.2. Ordinance No. 2007-67 - Transferring funds

The final transfer ordinance presented for 2007 is a very simple one. The only item involves a transfer request from the Fire Department to move \$5,000 from the maintenance of fire equipment account to their operating and supplies account. The funding is required because the Fire Department has been purchasing more parts and materials to have vehicle maintenance work done in-house during 2007.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

10.b.3. Ordinance No. 2007-64 - Adopting the Year 2008 pay plan and related amendments

Ordinance No. 2007-64 addresses the annual cost of living adjustment for the pay plan, as well as related issues affecting Chapters 131, 133, and 135 of the Code. The recommended changes include a shift in grade for the Fire Chief's position, amending the number of Account Clerks, an expansion in pay range for the part-time position of Account Clerk I, and some updates to the code.

At their meeting on December 3, 2007 the Civil Service Commission reviewed the proposed amendment to the pay plan regarding a cost of living adjustment of 3%. Upon careful assessment and evaluation of the proposed increase, the Commission has recommended the proposed increase for adoption by City Council.

- The first recommendation affecting Section 131.07-1 provides for annual changes to the City's pay plan and related code sections. The annual cost of living adjustment as proposed by the Administration is 3% for full-time and part-time non-bargaining unit employees. This is in keeping with internal, as well as external, comparables. Five of the City's six bargaining units – Dispatchers, Firefighters, Fire Lieutenants, Service Workers and Police Sergeants – have a negotiated increase of 3% for 2008. Externally, a recent survey done by our insurance pool shows municipal employees in the area receiving an average proposed increase for 2008 of 3.04 %.
- The second recommendation amends the top pay grade for Fire Chief from 30 to 31. That brings the Fire Chief's salary up the same range as other Executive Management staff members. This change would eliminate the Fire Chief's previous annual stipend of \$3,000 related to call-out pay.
- The third recommendation is to amend the pay plan to allow for the combined number of Account Clerk I and Account Clerk II positions to increase from the present number of 6 to 7. Currently there are several employees eligible for retirement in these classifications in the Tax Office, with one expected retirement at the end of December, 2007. The addition of a position will allow for a timely transfer of skills and knowledge from present employees prior to their retirement without unduly disrupting the level of service provided by the Finance and Tax Divisions.
- The fourth recommendation is to expand the range of pay for the position of part-time Account Clerk I allowing the City to offer the position to candidates with a wider range of skill levels than presently outlined by the Pay Plan. The current range is 18, the proposed range is 15 – 18 which would allow a lower starting rate of pay and permit the City to consider a broader range of skill levels for the position.
- The fifth recommendation is to incorporate the new Federal minimum wage. The only pay schedule that incorporates minimum wage is the part-time wage schedule and it has been modified to include a step for the new minimum wage rate of \$5.85.
- Finally there are a few recommendations relating to changes in code language.
 - Changing "days" to hours in the section of code that deals with vacation accrual. This change clarifies the amount of vacation leave allowable alleviating any confusion for employees who may have non eight-hour day schedules, but are still working 2,080 hours a year.
 - Adding a line to the allowances section of the code regarding per diem making it clear that in those instances where meals are provided, the City will not be reimbursing the attendee for meals.
 - Deleting a section of the code relating to the re-hire of retired employees that is outdated and therefore no longer a valid method in which to contribute to an employee's retirement account.

Please direct any questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

10.b.4. Ordinance No. 2007-68 - Authorizing a multi-year contract for professional engineering services

In late 2002, Council approved a five-year contract with the City's long-standing engineering firm, Blue Ash based CDS Associates, for general engineering services. Given the Charter's five-year limitation on such contracts, the time has come, beginning with 2008 services, for reconsideration and renewal of this professional services agreement.

The Service Director and Treasurer have been working with representatives from CDS, as well as the City Solicitor's office, towards the development of a new multi-year contract for professional engineering services. The City has a long-standing relationship with Blue Ash based CDS, which the Administration recommends be continued.

The contract will require annual review and approval by City Council of the updated hourly rates for each year, and attached to Ordinance No. 2007-68 are the proposed rates for 2008 from CDS.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

10.b.5. Ordinance No. 2007-69 - Authorizing a multi-year agreement with Fifth Third Bank regarding the purchasing card system

City Council's passage of Ordinance No. 2006-39 in May 2006 authorized the City Manager to enter into a multi-year depository agreement with Fifth Third Bank related to our banking relationship and the deposit/investment of active and interim funds. The City subsequently entered into an agreement with Fifth Third Bank beginning June 1, 2006, and terminating on May 31, 2011.

Since that agreement was entered into, the Deputy Treasurer/Tax Commissioner has been actively working with Fifth Third Bank providing multi-division and departmental usage of the Fifth Third Bank purchasing card system, and that program has now been in place for a number of months. The Treasurer's Office is pleased to report that this shift in purchasing capability has proved very beneficial, has simplified operations, and has provided efficiency and accountability. In addition, the City receives a "rebate" from Fifth Third Bank based upon the aggregate sum of purchases made on the cards throughout the contract.

Since this component of our banking relationship was not addressed in Ordinance No. 2006-39, the need exists to secure Council's authorization to utilize the purchasing card system provided by Fifth Third Bank, to pay any costs associated with its implementation and ongoing usage, and for authority to make the payments to Fifth Third Bank on a monthly basis consistent with the City's Charter and with the rules of the State of Ohio Auditor's Office. Ordinance No. 2007-69 seeks those authorizations from City Council, providing the Finance Office the legal authority to make payments to Fifth Third, to pay any costs associated with the program, and also to recognize/deposit the revenue from the rebate that is received on an annual basis.

This ordinance is also being presented to address any issues that might rise with the 2007 audit to be provided by the State of Ohio. Beginning last year, a change was implemented by the Auditor of State's office which provided for even minor issues to be reflected in the audit report as "material" for "significant" control issues related to any City's management of its funds or assets. Minor issues that would in the past have merely been listed in a managerial report to the Administration will now be disclosed and reported in a manner that would easily misstate the financial condition of an entity or City. The Treasurer is recommending that City Council specifically authorize the Fifth Third Bank purchasing card arrangement and to authorize payments associated therewith to avoid any potential complications with the audit. It is worth noting that the City of Blue Ash is the first local entity to fully embrace a purchasing card system, and the Audit team has never had the opportunity to evaluate a City under that framework.

Please direct questions related to this ordinance to the Treasurer.

10.b.6. Ordinance No. 2007-70 - Authorizing a new special revenue fund relating to police training

Recent State of Ohio law, related to passage of Senate Bill 281, requires that the City be subject to State mandated police officer annual training. Certain provisions of the law require separate accounting for the City's related training costs and the potential for the State's partial reimbursement to the City for that cost. To accommodate this requirement, Ordinance No. 2007-70 creates a new accounting fund entitled "Law Enforcement Assistance Fund" (Fund #280), which will record the revenues and expenses associated with this new law.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

10.c.1. Ordinance No. 2007-71 - Authorizing a framework for the administration of recreational events in 2008

At a late 2003 Council meeting, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk presented to Council a proposed change in the way the City and the Parks & Recreation Department plans, organizes, and financially administers the City's major special events. He recommended that all such events be

organized and administered through the City of Blue Ash, including the utilization of the City's Finance Division for all receipting of revenues, for the tracking of contracts, and for recording expenditures for each event.

This new framework was utilized beginning with the 2004 through 2007 seasons with significant success, and the City Manager, Parks & Recreation Director, and Treasurer are recommending this practice be continued in 2008. Ordinance No. 2007-71 acknowledges and confirms that the City's major special events, including SummerBration, the Fourth of July (Red, White & Blue Ash), Taste of Blue Ash, and Heritage Day, are City events, and thus should be fully planned, organized, and administered by the City Manager through the Parks & Recreation Department.

Beginning in the 2004 event season, no sponsors or other groups or agencies were utilized for contractual, financial, operational, or decision making purposes. All event revenues, irrespective of source, were and will be deposited within an event-specific revenue account established within the City's accounting structure. All expenditures relating to each event will continue to be made through the City's Finance Division, and will be tracked utilizing an event-specific expenditure account as well. It is clear that the utilization of the City's financial and accounting systems, as well as the related annual review by the State Auditor's office, has improved accountability and reportability regarding these events.

As these efforts centralize event responsibility within the City Administration, the ordinance seeks Council's authorization for the Administration to execute and administer contracts of all types and amounts affecting these events. It is recommended that all contracts in excess of \$10,000 be signed by both the Parks & Recreation Director and the City Manager, while contracts of a lesser amount may be signed by the Parks & Recreation Director under a written designation of authority from the City Manager.

There are many types of services or contracts that are necessary for the successful presentation of these larger events. Examples would include professional sound, back-line, and lighting services; promotional services; event power services; pyrotechnical (fireworks) displays; entertainment coordination services; audio-visual services; multi-media services; equipment rental and concession/beverage arrangements; and site security. Others would include restaurant participation, event performer agreements, agent contracts, staging services, housing and transportation arrangements, printing, and others. The ordinance seeks authorization for the City Manager and a specified designee to be able to enter into these contracts, and for the City to move forward with the managerial and financial administration of those contracts utilizing the City's staff and financial reporting capabilities.

Where appropriate, informal quotations will be requested from providers to secure the best price, terms, and service for the event and for the City. An example of this process was the solicitation of proposals for a two-year agreement for concessionaire services for the three major special events. This concessionaire's bid began with 2007 services, and the City intends to utilize the successful, and only, bidder, Cincinnati Concessions, again in 2008 since event organizers were very satisfied with their services. No contractual categories are expected to be formally bid for these special events. It is expected that the Parks & Recreation Department will continue to rely upon, and involve, citizen input groups and support, such as the Special Events Committee and Recreation Board, in the administration of these events. The Parks & Recreation Director for the larger activities may appoint steering committees or subcommittees as well.

The City Manager and the Parks & Recreation Director anticipate that a report on the City's 2007 events will be included in the City Manager's 2007 annual report to Council early in the year. The Administration was pleased with this framework throughout the past four years as it offered greater coordination, better controls, more accurate financial reporting, and greater awareness than in past years, especially for the Taste of Blue Ash formerly overseen via alternative arrangements.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Parks & Recreation Director.

10.d.1. Ordinance No. 2007-72 - Authorizing bid award for replacement of the roof membrane at 6131 Interstate Circle (Service Department Center facility)

Bids were recently solicited for replacement of the roof membrane and insulation of the Service Department Center building at 6131 Interstate Circle. Bids were advertised in the **Northeast Suburban Life** on November 28th, and the City received six bids, which were opened on Monday, December 10th.

The recommended bid award is to the low bidder, C.A. Eckstein, Inc., of Cincinnati for a base amount of \$134,948, plus costs related to the unit prices as outlined on the bid summary as well as within the ordinance. The recommended method of roof replacement is the mechanically-adhered membrane style (reflecting the base bid price), and the unit prices reflect additional work that must be done for the project; however, exact measurements cannot be calculated until the existing roof membrane has been removed. Eckstein is the same vendor who replaced the roof on the adjacent 6171 Interstate

Circle facility approximately two years ago, and the City was very pleased with their work.

Please direct questions regarding this project or ordinance to the Project Coordinator at 745-8664 or Facilities Maintenance Supervisor at 678-3347.

10.d.2. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for sidewalk construction; curb, gutter, and concrete construction; storm sewer upgrades; traffic control systems and equipment; 2008 paving program and other road improvement projects; downtown streetscaping; Service Department vehicles and equipment; bulk rock salt; and sale/disposal of excess property and equipment

As is traditional at this Council meeting, this motion would authorize the potential formal bidding activity for Year 2007 within the public works activities of the City.

10.e.1. Resolution No. 2007-19 - Electing members to the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board

This resolution is presented each year to City Council for approving the continuation of a State-required Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board. The resolution selects the Councilperson designated as the chairperson of the Public Safety Committee and the City Manager to serve on this Board, as well as two other members nominated by the Fire Department. Resolution No. 2007-19 provides appointees to the Board for calendar year 2008. This fund, administered through the State of Ohio, provides the surviving spouse or dependents of a firefighter killed while discharging the duties of a firefighter, or who dies from exposure or injury received in the discharge of duty, monetary benefits which are in addition to other coverages provided by the City and the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Therefore, in order to comply with State regulations, approval of this resolution is recommended.

Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Fire Chief or Treasurer.

10.e.2. Ordinance No. 2007-73 - Authorizing contract with Youth Services for 2008

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to enter into a renewal contract with Youth Services of Reading, Ohio, to provide for the availability of youth and family counseling services. Youth Services has been very active in the City of Blue Ash and Sycamore Community School District in providing educational, advocacy, referral, counseling, and crisis intervention services for youth and families. Youth Services also works with the City in operating the Juvenile Diversion program. The City has enjoyed an excellent relationship with Youth Services and believes it is the most cost effective means for providing these types of professional services. The proposed allocation for 2007 includes an optional add-on for additional programming, making a not-to-exceed total of \$39,000 – representing a \$1,000 increase from the 2007 authorized level.

A memo has been included in Council's packets summarizing the services provided to Blue Ash in 2007. Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Police Chief.

10.e.3. Ordinance No. 2007-74 - Amending Ordinance No. 2007-45 regarding purchase of a pickup truck chassis and cab for use by the Fire Department

In September 2007, Council approved Ordinance No. 2007-45. Section II of that ordinance authorized the purchase of a pickup truck to be used by the Fire Department through the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program from 32 Ford Mercury, for an amount not to exceed \$31,000.

This purchase of new equipment was a component of a plan to sell the Fire Department's underutilized 1987 Mack fire truck, and apply the proceeds to acquire the equipment covered by Ordinance No. 2007-45. While the sale of the older truck has been finalized (proceeds were \$59,000), a problem arose in ordering the new pickup under the State's Cooperative Purchasing program. The local vendor, 32 Ford Mercury, recently advised the Fire Department that the "contract" or listing for this vehicle expired, and they were awaiting the new contract or award for 2008. It seems the 2008 Cooperative Purchasing Program price is higher, thus the ordinance threshold needs to be increased.

Ordinance No. 2007-74 amends the previous ordinance to allow a total of \$34,000. Necessary funding already exists in the Fire Department capital account.

10.e.4. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for public safety vehicles; communications and paging equipment; rescue tools and related equipment; surveillance, investigative, and general police equipment; fire and EMS emergency equipment and apparatus; and sale/disposal of surplus property, equipment, and vehicles

Similar to Item 11.d.2 above, it has been traditional to include this motion, authorizing any expected or potential bid activity in 2008."

Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

With Ordinance No. 2007-62 already having been read in full during the public hearing,

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Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-62. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-62 passed.

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2007-60 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-60

**ADOPTING THE DOWNTOWN BLUE ASH STREETSCAPE
MASTER PLAN**

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-60. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-60 passed.

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2007-65 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-65

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW AND
ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL
ELECTRICAL INSPECTION SERVICES IN 2008 WITH
INSPECTION BUREAU, INC.; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY**

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-65. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-65 passed.

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-66 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-66

**AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE
EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF BLUE ASH, OHIO, FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR OF 2008; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-66. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-66 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-67 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-67

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2007-3 FOR THE YEAR 2007 (AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-67. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-67 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-64 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-64

AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTERS 131, 133, AND 135 OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF ORDINANCES, INCLUDING SECTIONS 131.07-1 AND 131.07-2(a) OF CHAPTER 131; SECTIONS 133.18-1, 133.18-2(a), 133.10, AND 133.11 OF CHAPTER 133; AND SECTION 135.03 OF CHAPTER 135; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-64. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-64 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-68 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-68

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-YEAR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BLUE ASH BASED CDS ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-68. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-68 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-69 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-69

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH FIFTH THIRD BANK RELATED TO THE CITY'S PURCHASING CARD SYSTEM, AUTHORIZING RELATED PAYMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-69. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-69 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-70 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-70

ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND NUMBER 280 ASSOCIATED WITH STATE MANDATED POLICE OFFICER ANNUAL TRAINING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-70. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-70 passed.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-71 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-71

ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRODUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF MAJOR SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATED BY THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, AND A SPECIFIC DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A RANGE OF CONTRACTS ENABLING THE PRESENTATION OF MAJOR SPECIAL EVENTS WITHIN BLUE ASH FOR 2008; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-71. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Councilman Sumner voted no. Six yeases. One no. Ordinance No. 2007-71 passed.

Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson

Councilman Stacey asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-72 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-72

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE ROOF MEMBRANE AT THE CITY-OWNED 6131 INTERSTATE CIRCLE FACILITY (SERVICE DEPARTMENT CENTER); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-72. In response to a question from Councilman Sumner, Service Director Denny Albrinck explained that the vendor proposed, Eckstein, is the same vendor who replaced the roof on 6171 Interstate Circle within the past few years, and the City was satisfied with its work. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-72 passed.

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to authorize the solicitation of bids for sidewalk construction; curb, gutter, and concrete construction; storm sewer upgrades; traffic control systems and equipment; 2008 paving program and other road improvement projects; downtown streetscaping; Service Department vehicles and equipment; bulk rock salt; and sale/disposal of excess property and equipment. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2007-19 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-19

ELECTING STEPHANIE STOLLER AND DAVID M. WALTZ TO THE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS' DEPENDENTS FUND BOARD AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE ELECTION OF RICK BROWN AND EDWARD HAMILTON TO THE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS' DEPENDENTS FUND BOARD FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2009

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2007-19. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Resolution No. 2007-19 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-73 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-73

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A 2008 CONTRACT WITH YOUTH SERVICES OF READING, OHIO, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000 (INCLUDES BASE CONTRACT WITH OPTIONAL ADD-ON SERVICE); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-73. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2007-73 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-74 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-74

AMENDING SECTION II OF ORDINANCE NO. 2007-45
REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A PICKUP TRUCK (CAB
AND CHASSIS) FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO'S COOPERATIVE
PURCHASING PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-74. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2007-74 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to authorize the solicitation of bids for public safety vehicles; communications and paging equipment; rescue tools and related equipment; surveillance, investigative, and general police equipment; fire and EMS emergency equipment and apparatus; and sale/disposal of surplus property, equipment, and vehicles. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Service Director Denny Albrinck commented that the Service Department crews have ended daily curbside brush pickup as of the end of November. Citizens who have such pickup may call the Department for such service during the months of December through February. Daily routes will begin again in March. Mr. Albrinck also announced that curbside leaf pickup, which is normally offered to residents through mid December, will be extended one more week (through December 21st) to allow citizens to rake late-falling leaves to the curb.

Mr. Albrinck has discussed with the City Engineers prior Council conversation regarding traffic signal behavior at certain intersections (including Reed Hartman/Cornell and Reed Hartman/Glendale-Milford). Potential solutions have been suggested, such as the installation of video detection at Reed Hartman Highway and Glendale-Milford as currently exists at Cornell. He will be talking further with the engineers and the City Manager about the potential implementation of these recommendations.

City Manager Waltz commented that representatives from Michael Schuster Associates and Schumacher Dugan are present to give a brief presentation regarding final recommendations associated with the Recreation Center renovation project. Highlights of the presentation by Mr. Schuster include:

- Mr. Schuster displayed architect's renderings as well as the 3D model of the proposed renovations, and summarized the renovations currently underway in Phase I, consisting of the addition of the new gym to the rear.

- Mr. Schuster reviewed the plans proposed with the Phase II improvements, including the demolition of a large portion of the building along Cooper Road, and construction of a new two-story fitness area, new locker room areas, and new centralized/open space. He also displayed floor plans of the proposed lower level, main floor, and second level, which have not changed much from previous presentations to Council. The plans for the lower level include providing space and future build-out for future improvements in the future. A second main entrance is also shown along Cooper Road.
- Mr. Schuster explained that estimated costs for the project have changed. The original construction budget as previously presented to Council was \$10.2 million (both Phase I and II). The total anticipated project costs now for both phases are \$12.5 million.
- He explained that the reasons for this overall project cost increase can be combined into three areas: project changes due to technical refinements, project changes due to code issues, and project changes due to exterior enhancements.
 - The estimated project cost increase due to **technical refinements** is estimated at \$1,350,000. Project factors included within this category include added building/renovation space, renovation of portions of the existing basement area, new structure and renovation required for the existing fitness and concession areas, and the addition of an emergency generator to the Phase I area, and a temporary power connection (to facilitate the hook-up of a large portable generator in the event Blue Ash requires the entire facility to be powered in an emergency). Mr. Schuster explained that since the original design, a modest amount of area was added to facilitate the new locker room/locker requirements, as well as Code requirements (plumbing). These needs and structural issues made it necessary for the elevated running track to be slightly larger (10 laps per mile on the inner lane). The roof structure over the existing fitness area and concession area has to be removed and rebuilt in a different configuration to facilitate the new construction. The existing primary meeting area in the basement and the basement lobby have to be modified for structural and functional reasons. A small, 100 square foot, area has been added to the basement mechanical room to enable the reuse of the existing air handler and its ductwork distribution system.
 - The estimated increase due to **code issues** is estimated at \$600,000. Project factors included within this category include additional firewall needed, fireproofing of existing areas, demo/renovation after fireproofing of the admin area, fire protection/rating at the existing locker room areas, new fire alarm system, and replacement of fire sprinkler heads. Mr. Schuster explained that compliance had to be solved by separating the project into two separate buildings (for Code purposes), both being under the maximum allowable area. Regarding fireproofing, since the facility is considered within the Code's "assembly use" category, it falls into some of the most restrictive aspects of the Ohio Building Code. Existing areas that require additional fireproofing include the administrative area, the portion of the remaining existing fitness center (future game room), the existing corridors, and the areas inclusive of existing locker rooms and concessions.
 - The estimate increase due to **exterior and design enhancements** is estimated at \$350,000. Project factors included within this category include enhanced entry elements, the addition of roof and glass at the stair towers, canopy areas to the north and west, trellis areas to the north and towards the pool, and added glazing throughout.

Mr. Schuster stressed that the building being proposed would not be considered overly grandiose; however, the building is built for the long term, with maintenance issues being kept in mind.

City Manager Waltz commented that a recent informal survey of similar projects being undertaken by other communities was completed, inquiring as to cost-per-square-foot for

similar projects. Anderson's recent community center improvements (a \$13 million, 54,000 square foot facility) and Fairfield's recent \$10 million, 42,000 square foot facility both resulted in an approximate \$240 per square foot cost. Mason's community center project, completed five years ago, cost approximately \$180 per square foot. Blue Ash is proposing 75,000 square feet of new or significantly renovated space, with the \$12.5 million cost averaging to \$167 per square foot. The cost for Blue Ash's north fire station completed about four years ago was \$213 per square foot. Overall, the Administration believes the project and cost changes are in line with industry standards.

In addressing a question from Councilman Czerwonka, Mr. Schuster explained that the mechanical systems for the new part of the building are all new. They plan to reuse only limited existing mechanical systems. He summarized that for the most part, the "mechanicals" associated with the project should last many years – probably 30 or so.

In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Treasurer Jim Pfeffer commented that the increased cost for this project may delay future capital projects, such as the Golf Clubhouse (he estimated six months). He noted that 15-year bonds were issued last year for a total of \$10 million to finance the Recreation Center project. Mr. Waltz summarized that the increased costs being discussed this evening will require an estimated additional \$1.5 to \$1.7 million supplemental funds over what was previously budgeted in 2007 and 2008. He stressed that this project is clearly for the benefit of the community and will be used for the next 30 years. He commented that the Golf Course project will not be pursued until this project is done, or nearly completed, and the increased costs associated with the Recreation Center will likely push back the Golf Course improvements perhaps six months to a year, depending on construction timing.

There being no further questions from Council, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to authorize the Administration and project team to release to bid the documents associated with Phase II of the Recreation Center improvements, including the construction and project factors presented at this meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Councilmen Stacey and Czerwonka wished fellow Council and members of the Administration happy holidays and a safe new year.

Councilman Bryan complimented the Public Information Officer on the 2008 Community Calendar and commented that he believes this calendar to be the best ever.

Mayor Buckman, on behalf of he and his wife, Carol, wished everyone a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:59 PM.

Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council