

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on December 14, 2006. 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, Police Captain Jim Schaffer, Technology Officer Dan Klapp, Economic Development Director Judy Clark, Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson, member of the press, and interested citizens

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

City Manager David Waltz asked for verbal approval of an amended agenda to include an Executive Session (topic: potential litigation). Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the amended 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. APPOINTMENT OF PERSON(S) TO READ ORDINANCES IN FULL IN REAR OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS

5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of November 9, 2006
- b. Budget Study Work Session of November 30, 2006

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
- b. Reports From Outside Agencies
- c. Mayor’s Report – November 2006 – Honorable Robert J. Buckman, Jr.
- d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for November 2006

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

- 1. Ordinance No. 2006-70, amending in its entirety and re-enacting Chapter 171 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Income Tax (second and final reading)
- 2. Ordinance No. 2006-71, adopting the year 2007 Proposed Budget
- 3. Ordinance No. 2006-73, adopting the year 2007 pay plan and related amendments
- 4. Ordinance No. 2006-74, authorizing the formation of a tax incentive review council per ORC 5709.85
- 5. Ordinance No. 2006-75, establishing new accounting funds relating to the passage of Issue 15 associated with the airport park/relocation, Recreation Center expansion project, and Golf Course improvements
- 6. Ordinance No. 2006-76, authorizing a multi-year contract for recreational and support services for LifeSphere/Sycamore Senior Center

7. Ordinance No. 2006-77, authorizing contract for professional technology services and software in 2006 and 2007
 8. Ordinance No. 2006-78, authorizing 2007 rates for professional engineering services with CDS Associates
 9. Ordinance No. 2006-83, authorizing contract for professional governmental relations consulting services associated with the airport park project
- b. Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson
1. Ordinance No. 2006-79, authorizing a framework for the administration of recreational events in 2007
 2. Resolution No. 2006-15, updating parks and recreation fees in 2007
 3. Ordinance No. 2006-82, amending Ordinance No. 2006-4 regarding the Blue Ash Symphony Orchestra
- c. Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson
1. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for sidewalk construction; curb, gutter, and concrete construction; storm sewer upgrades; traffic control systems and equipment; 2007 paving program and other road improvement projects, including the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project; Service Department vehicles and equipment; bulk rock salt; and sale/disposal of excess property and equipment
- d. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson
1. Ordinance No. 2006-60, amending portions of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances including the entirety of Chapter 1159 and portions of Chapters 1131 and 1183 relating to downtown Blue Ash (second and final reading)
 2. Ordinance No. 2006-84, authorizing contract for professional electrical inspection services for 2007
- e. Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson
1. Ordinance No. 2006-80, amending in its entirety Chapter 309 of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances regarding parades and assemblages
 2. Ordinance No. 2006-81, authorizing a 2007 contract with Youth Services
 3. Resolution No. 2006-16, electing members to the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund Board
 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

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 9, 2006 and the Budget Study Work Session of November 30, 2006. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Council

The City received a request for a liquor license transfer relating to the Blue Bell Tavern.

From: John Knuckles Est., Colleen B. Laux Admx., DBA Blue Bell Tavern, 9012 Blue Ash Road 1st Fl. Only, Blue Ash, Ohio 45242

To: John Michael Knuckles, DBA Blue Bell Tavern, 9012 Blue Ash Road 1st Fl. Only, Blue Ash, Ohio 45242

Permit #: 4740731

The Police had no objection to this transfer request. Council expressed no objections.

Reports From Outside Agencies

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

Mayor's Report – November 2006

RECEIPTS:

Fines	\$11,241.17
Bonds & BMV fees carried over	\$ 0.00
Interest Earned	\$6.56
Bonds collected	\$ 75.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$11,322.73

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures)	\$ 7,802.56
To the State of OH	\$3,124.00
Refund of Overpaid Fine	\$321.17
Bond Money applied.....	\$75.00
Bond Money returned	\$ 0.00
BMV	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$11,322.73

BALANCE IN BONDS:..... \$0.00

Mayor's Court traffic citations	102
Mayor's Court criminal citations	12
TOTAL.....	114

Nov. rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases: \$7,802.56

Financial Report – November 2006

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Financial Report for November 2006 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, 2006

MONTH TO DATE	2005	2006
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 11-1-06	\$10,406,188.87	\$11,533,034.77
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	1,337,406.14	1,688,573.30
Debt Financing (long term)	3,700,000.00	9,712,274.45
Debt Financing (short term)	1,500,000.00	1,000,000.00
Other Revenue Received:	872,435.07	638,605.56
= Total Monthly Receipts	7,409,841.21	13,039,453.31
Expenditures:		
Bond Retirement	-	-
Short term debt refinancing	6,100,000.00	1,500,000.00
Other Expenditures:	1,932,719.36	2,215,382.14
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-8,032,719.36	-3,715,382.14
ENDING FUND BALANCE: 11-30-06	9,783,310.72	20,857,105.94
YEAR TO DATE	2005	2006
START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	14,622,289.87	12,916,635.98
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	21,018,043.29	21,129,242.35
Debt Financing (long term)	3,700,000.00	9,712,274.45
Debt Financing (short term)	1,500,000.00	1,000,000.00
Other Revenue Received:	9,594,561.17	9,918,774.21
= Total Monthly Receipts	35,812,604.46	41,760,291.01
Expenditures:		
Bond Retirement	2,460,000.00	2,830,000.00
Short term debt refinancing	11,200,000.00	1,500,000.00
Other Expenditures:	26,991,583.61	29,489,821.05
= Total YTD Expenditures:	-40,651,583.61	-33,819,821.05
YTD FUND BALANCE	9,783,310.72	20,857,105.94

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 11-30-06. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$548,010.06. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

**BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIVISION INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY
FOR MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2006**

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2005	2006
Business Net Profit	52,865.77	61,381.95
Resident Net Profit	30,147.93	24,310.87
Non-Resident Net Profit	5,137.01	13,181.42
Subcontractor Net Profit	<u>1,604.60</u>	<u>309.00</u>
Net Profit Total	89,755.31	99,183.24
Withholding	1,226,578.30	1,562,815.08
Subcontractor Withholding	<u>21,072.53</u>	<u>26,574.98</u>
Withholding Total	<u>1,247,650.83</u>	<u>1,589,390.06</u>
Monthly Collection Totals	1,337,406.14	1,688,573.30
YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS	2005	2006
Business Net Profit	4,821,117.38	4,459,964.60
Resident Net Profit	758,562.18	760,128.02
Non-Resident Net Profit	233,685.81	220,500.84
Subcontractor Net Profit	<u>16,757.58</u>	<u>22,222.18</u>
Net Profit Total	5,830,122.95	5,462,815.64
Withholding	14,939,033.79	15,354,202.85
Subcontractor Withholding	<u>248,886.55</u>	<u>312,223.86</u>
Withholding Total	<u>15,187,920.34</u>	<u>15,666,426.71</u>
YTD Collection Totals	21,018,043.29	21,129,242.35
YTD Refund Totals	<u>620,782.01</u>	<u>778,347.35</u>

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 items included on the December 14th Council Agenda:

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2006-70 - Amending in its entirety and re-enacting Chapter 171 of the Code of Ordinances regarding Income Tax (second and final reading)

Given the passage of Issue 15, Ordinance No. 2006-70 represents the next step in the change of the earnings tax rate from its current level of 1.0% to 1.25%, with that change to be effective January 1, 2007. Thursday’s presentation represents this ordinance’s second reading and formal vote, as this ordinance was first read on November 9th.

Included in Council’s packet is a marked up copy of the current Chapter 171 of the Code, clearly showing the proposed changes. They represent the 1% to 1.25% change in all areas, clarification as to the effective date for net profit accounts, and a few “housekeeping” corrections. The members of the Board of Tax Review are aware of the proposed changes and have expressed no problems with these changes.

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

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2006-71 - Adopting the year 2007 Proposed Budget

At the November 30th Council Budget Study Session, Council reviewed the 2007 Proposed Budget as presented by the City Manager. This document, which reflects total available revenues of \$46,306,853 (including estimated beginning fund balances) and expenditures of \$37,965,889 (both figures being net of transfers and advances), forms the basis for Ordinance No. 2006-71 and its attachments.

Favorable consideration of Ordinance No. 2006-71 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 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.

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2006-73 - Adopting the year 2007 pay plan and related amendments

Ordinance No. 2006-73 addresses the annual cost of living increase for the pay plan, as well as related issues affecting Chapters 131 and 133 of the Code. The recommended changes include the addition of a second Captain position in the Fire Department, the creation of an Assistant to the City Manager position, and the

creation of an Information Technology Technician position.

At their annual meeting on December 7, 2006, the Civil Service Commission reviewed the proposed amendment to the pay plan regarding increases, as well as the proposal to create a second position in the rank of Captain in the Fire Department. Upon careful assessment and evaluation of these proposed changes, the Commission has recommended the changes 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 Administration is a 3% increase for full-time and part-time non-bargaining unit employees. This is in keeping with internal comparables, as well as external comparables. All three contracts that were ratified in 2006 – Dispatchers, Firefighters and Fire Lieutenants – have a negotiated increase of 3% for 2007. Externally, a survey done by a member of our risk sharing pool (MVRMA) shows for municipal employees in the area, an average proposed increase for 2007 of 3.2%.
- The second recommendation involves the addition of a second Captain's position in the Fire Department. This is a Civil Service position within the City. This position would lead to a substantial savings in overtime, as this Captain's position would allow the Department to cover many of the leaves taken by Fire Lieutenants, without the use of overtime.

This is a supervisory position that would be specifically responsible for departmental training – allowing the Department to maintain consistent training standards across the different shifts. In addition to being responsible for training, this position would be responsible for responding on fire runs throughout the day (during peak hours), thereby freeing up Fire Inspectors to complete fire inspections for the commercial population. This position is in keeping with the present internal structure of the Fire Department, and is consistent with the long-term vision of the Fire Department. The expected savings in overtime will help finance this position.

- The third recommendation is for the creation of an Assistant to the City Manager position. This position would be responsible for assisting the City Manager with a variety of assignments including community relations, citizen outreach, and project research. Additional duties will include serving as a liaison interdepartmentally and overseeing organizational review and process improvements. The existing Management Analyst position is being eliminated, and the previous Assistant City Manager's position is being replaced by the Assistant to the City Manager position.
- The fourth recommendation is for the creation of a position titled Information Technology (IT) Technician. This position will report to the Technology Officer and will serve as the primary contact for the helpdesk. This position will be responsible for handling trouble tickets, troubleshooting problems with office software and hardware, and otherwise assisting the Technology Officer with the maintenance and upkeep of the City's network.
- The final recommendation is to incorporate the new minimum wage as dictated by State law. 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 \$6.85. The Federal minimum wage rate (\$ 5.15) still applies to employees under the age of 16, therefore the City maintained the federal minimum wage as step 1A to account for any employees who may be hired to work in the Recreation Department during the summer.

Also included for your reference is a revised organizational chart reflecting the current configuration. Please direct any questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.a.4. Ordinance No. 2006-74 - Authorizing the formation of a tax incentive review council per ORC 5709.85

Given the City's first utilization of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) economic development tool for benefit of Duke Realty's "The Landings" project on Carver Road, the need exists to comply with a further requirement of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) – the formation of a Blue Ash Tax Incentive Review Council. ORC 5709.85 requires any municipal corporation utilizing the TIF statutes to create this review board to oversee certain aspects of the implementation of the TIF statutes.

ORC requires that this review board be comprised of certain delegates, and as is outlined within Section II of the ordinance, the Incentive Council will consist of:

- The City Manager or his designee
- One member of Council (represented by or as appointed by the Mayor)
- The Hamilton County Auditor or his designee
- The Blue Ash Treasurer or his designee

- One individual appointed by the Sycamore School Board
- One individual appointed by the Trustees of the Great Oaks Joint Vocational School District
- Two Blue Ash citizens appointed by the City Manager and approved by Council (one to be a minority)

The statute also stipulates that at least four of the members be residents of Blue Ash.

The Administration will keep Council apprised as the formation of this Incentive Council moves forward. It is the intent to have this Council in place no later than the end of the first quarter of 2007.

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

9.a.5. Ordinance No. 2006-75 - Establishing new accounting funds relating to the passage of Issue 15 associated with the airport park/relocation, Recreation Center expansion project, and Golf Course improvements

The next accounting step required as a result of Issue 15 would be the creation of the three funds which will be used to track the revenues and expenditures associated with the projects. A summary of the funds created includes:

- Fund #445: Airport Fund – will track revenues and expenditures related to the purchase of land, efforts related to assisting Cincinnati with the relocation of the airport facilities, and eventual design and construction of the park.
- Fund #446: Recreation Center Construction Fund – will track revenues and expenditures associated with all phases, including design and construction, of the Recreation Center expansion project.
- Fund #447: Golf Course Construction Fund – will track revenues and expenditures associated with the design and construction of the new clubhouse, relocation of two golf course holes, design and construction of a driving range, and cart path and irrigation improvements throughout the course.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.6. Ordinance No. 2006-76 - Authorizing a multi-year contract for recreational and support services for LifeSphere/Sycamore Senior Center

Ordinance No. 2006-76 authorizes continuing support levels for the Sycamore Senior Center for Years 2007 through 2009. The level of support authorized for 2007 is \$6,835 per month, or \$82,020 annually; for 2008, \$6,975 per month, or \$83,700 annually; 2009, \$7,125 per month, or \$85,500 annually. These amounts represent reasonable increases over past year's contributions to the Center.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.7. Ordinance No. 2006-77 - Authorizing contract for professional technology services and software in 2006 and 2007

Ordinance No. 2006-77 authorizes various computer related services for 2006 and 2007 with Sanderson CMI (formerly known as Creative Microsystems). The City has enjoyed a long and satisfying relationship with this vendor since 1981. The ordinance authorizes an amount in 2006 not to exceed \$68,000 for necessary software updates and related installation and implementation services for most of the City's PICK-based applications. Examples of these functions include the City's budgetary/financial programs, payroll, and payment/receipt processing. The ordinance also authorizes an amount not to exceed \$26,000 (aggregate for 2006 and 2007) for maintenance and repair of this vendor's software applications and licensing, dedicated server, and equipment.

As is mentioned above, the City has been working with this vendor since 1981. It should be noted that the Treasurer and Technology Officer have examined alternatives to these upgrades to the existing applications, and have determined that such a conversion would be prohibitively expensive and would not provide significant operational benefits over the existing capabilities.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.8. Ordinance No. 2006-78 - Authorizing 2007 rates for professional engineering services with CDS Associates

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. The contract associated with that approval requires annual review and approval by the City of the updated hourly rates for that year. The Administration has reviewed the proposed rates for 2007 from CDS, and recommends approval via passage of Ordinance No. 2006-78 (rates as attached to that ordinance).

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.a.9. Ordinance No. 2006-83 - Authorizing contract for professional governmental relations consulting services associated with the airport park project

As has been discussed with Council, Ordinance No. 2006-83 represents the Administration's recommended next step to do what is necessary in order to follow through with promises made to voters as a result of the passage of Issue 15. The City Manager talked with and researched several potential consultants and is recommending a contract be authorized with The Colwell Group, LLC, based in Washington D.C. It should be noted that this consultant was also highly recommended by several area legislators.

Ordinance No. 2006-83 authorizes a contract for an amount not to exceed \$3,500 per month in 2007 and 2008. The most immediate need for such services would be efforts to assist in securing state and federal funds for relocation of the airport facilities and the PACC.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2006-79 - Authorizing a framework for the administration of recreational events in 2007

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 throughout 2004, 2005, and 2006 with significant success, and the City Manager, Parks & Recreation Director, and Treasurer are recommending this practice be continued in 2007. Ordinance No. 2006-79 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 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. (A recent example of this activity was the solicitation of proposals for concessionaire services for the three major special events, of which Cincinnati Concessions submitted the only proposal). 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, 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 2006 events will be included in the City Manager's 2006 annual report to Council early in the year. The Administration was pleased with this framework throughout the past three 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.

9.b.2. Resolution No. 2006-15 - Updating parks and recreation fees in 2007

Several revisions to the Recreation fees resolution are recommended. It should be noted that most of the changes proposed represent matters of clarification or “housekeeping,” and do not represent significant changes to fees themselves. A summary of the proposed changes is presented below:

- Minor revisions to the ages defined for purposes of establishing the daily guest fee are proposed. The “adult” fee of \$5 is now applicable to those 16 and older (previously it was 13 and older); the \$3 fee for those younger would be applicable to those 3 through 15 years of age (previously it was 1 through 12); and the “no charge” category is changed to newborn through 2 years (previously it was children under 1 year old).
- The daily guest fee for senior and disabled citizens is reduced from \$2.50 to \$2.
- The availability of a one-day pool pass is being offered for groups renting the Nature Park shelters for \$3 per guest, if paid before the rental date.
- A lunchtime basketball pass program is being added, allowing the purchase for \$125 of a pass that will be valid for a year, weekdays between 11AM and 2PM for gymnasium and locker room privileges. The Center experiences many individuals, especially those who work in the area, interested in utilizing their lunchtime to play basketball.
- A Tot Room punch card opportunity is being offered for a cost of \$30. This card, valid for one year, allows 20 one-hour visits per child.
- The birthday party package is being eliminated.
- Clarification of the fees and policies associated with rental of the large/main pool, the children’s pool, Towne Square, and The Amphitheatre are included.
- The ability for basketball teams to rent the gymnasiums for practice is being established during limited times and months -- December through February only, Saturdays between 2PM and 6PM for the new gym, and Sundays between Noon and 2PM for the original gym.
- Establishment of the policies and fees associated with proposed 5K/10K runs and or walks within the City are being proposed. Over the past couple years, the Department has experienced an increase in these types of requests.
- No changes to golf or cart fees are proposed.

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

9.b.3. Ordinance No. 2006-82 - Amending Ordinance No. 2006-4 regarding the Blue Ash Symphony Orchestra

The Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (BAMSO) has asked that the City consider an increase in its contribution to the organization in future years due to increased cost associated with musicians, soloists, conductor, and other personnel, which they report comprise 75% of the concert costs. Representatives from the Board also explained that a new musicians’ union contract, beyond the control of the BAMSO, dictated a wage increase, thereby adversely affecting the cost of each performance.

Blue Ash’s contribution to the Symphony has remained constant since its beginning (not to exceed \$20,000 annually), and a request to increase the City’s contribution does not seem unreasonable. The Administration is recommending, as explained in the ordinance, that the Symphony’s contributions for years 2007 through 2010 be amended to be as follows: \$21,000 in 2007; \$22,000 in 2008; \$23,000 in 2009; and \$24,000 in 2010. The previous amount for each year, as represented in Ordinance No. 2006-4 passed in January, was \$20,000 annually.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.c.1. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for sidewalk construction; curb, gutter, and concrete construction; storm sewer upgrades; traffic control systems and equipment; 2007 paving program and other road improvement projects, including the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project; 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 2006 within the public works activities of the City.

9.d.1. Ordinance No. 2006-60 - Amending portions of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances including the entirety of Chapter 1159 and portions of Chapters 1131 and 1183 relating to downtown Blue Ash (second and final reading)

This item represents the second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2006-60 representing the next phase to the City's goal for downtown redevelopment: changes to the Code of Ordinances relating to the Downtown design standards. The ordinance would amend in its entirety Chapter 1159 (D-1 Downtown Commercial District) and portions of Chapters 1131 and 1183 of the Code.

To provide additional background, after Council adopted the downtown redevelopment plan in May 2006, the City staff worked with McBride Dale Clarion, a planning and zoning consultant, to develop recommendations for changes to the D-1 District that would support the newly updated Master Plan. The first set of proposed amendments was presented to Planning Commission in June. A public hearing was held in July, and the item was tabled to allow more opportunity for public input. The item was discussed again in August, and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

The redevelopment plan calls for a downtown environment that is generally more dense, is more pedestrian friendly, and which has a combination of commercial and residential land uses that result in a more active life-on-the-street. New buildings should be larger and closer to the street, with parking to the rear and design elements that compliment the district and not just the site on which they are located.

A summary of the most notable of the proposed amendments to the D-1 district regulations is summarized below (in no particular order):

- A minimum gross floor area of 20,000 square feet in any new construction. The plan generally calls for larger buildings with mixed-uses.
- A minimum of two-stories above ground for all new construction.
- No setback along major streets and no more than 15 feet elsewhere.
- Allowing additions without meeting all of the requirements in the new district.
- The Downtown Design Review Committee is set-up to review and approved all new construction and additions in the D-1; the Board of Site Arrangement would not be required.
- Permits outdoor cafes with DDRC review.
- Adds minimal building design elements to the Code.
- Parking ratios and requirements generally become less demanding.
- Adds specific drive-in and drive-through criteria to Special Use chapter 1183 for applications in the D-1.
- As a result of Council comment at the November 9th meeting, changes were also made to Section 1159.06(d)(5) to reflect that masonry facades other than brick are acceptable.

To address other discussion held at the November 9th Public Hearing, the City Engineer recommends maintaining the current standards for parking lot configuration and parking space sizes. The Code currently requires a minimum 9x18 foot space and an isle width of no less than 20 feet in the D-1 district. This is a typical configuration in downtown environments where space is at a premium and pedestrian activity is desirable. Also, additional Code language to allow for or to encourage underground or structured parking is not necessary. The same space and configuration requirements apply to structured parking as to external parking, except landscaping. City staff will continue to encourage higher density land uses at potential Downtown developments, including structured parking, as called for in the Downtown Plan.

Existing land uses and fixtures that are not provided for in the proposed Code will automatically become legally nonconforming ("grandfathered") if this Code is adopted. Grandfathered uses and fixtures can continue and changes are not required unless the property owner chooses to make changes to the property. Any current land uses, fixtures, or activities that were not legally established do not become grandfathered.

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

9.d.2. Ordinance No. 2006-84 - Authorizing contract for professional electrical inspection services for 2007

Ordinance No. 2006-84 authorizes a one-year contract with Inspection Bureau, Inc. (IBI) for professional electrical inspections, including plan reviews, for 2007. It is possible that for future contracts, the City Administration may recommend moving forward with the original thought of having NIC perform the electrical inspections assuming the relationship and work performance of NIC continues satisfactorily through the year. However, in the meantime, the desire is to have IBI continue with these responsibilities in 2007. The ordinance authorizes the one-year contract (for 2007) for the rates that are based upon IBI's standard governmental schedule. Extending IBI's contract through 2007 will also bring the two professional service

contracts' expiration within a couple of months of each other, presenting an opportune time to consider such a change, if determined to be appropriate and in the best interests of our citizens and businesses.

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

9.e.1. Ordinance No. 2006-80 - Amending in its entirety Chapter 309 of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances regarding parades and assemblages

As Council is aware, the Police Department has been working on updates to Chapter 309 of the Code relating to parades and assemblages. The goal is to improve the overall efficiency of the public rally and parade permit process, as well as to address concerns related to the insurance coverages to assure adequate protection for the City. The Police Administration worked with legal counsel at Dinsmore & Shohl and with the Parks & Recreation Department throughout the process, and the recommended new Chapter 309 is presented to Council for consideration at Thursday's meeting via Ordinance No. 2006-80.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to Police Captain Jim Schaffer at 745-8459 or the City Manager.

9.e.2. Ordinance No. 2006-81 - Authorizing a 2007 contract with Youth Services

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 \$38,000 – representing no increase from the 2006 authorized level.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Police Chief.

9.e.3. Resolution No. 2006-16 - 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. 2006-16 provides appointees to the Board for calendar year 2007. 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.

9.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

See Item 11.c.1. This motion would cover safety-related items with the potential for public bidding.”

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-70 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY (it having been read in full on November 9th):

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-70

AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY AND RE-ENACTING CHAPTER 171
OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "INCOME
TAX"

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-70. 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. 2006-70 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-71 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-71

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF
THE CITY OF BLUE ASH, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2007;
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 yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-71. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2006-71 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-73 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-73

AMENDING SECTIONS 131.07-1, 131.07-2(a), 131.07-3 AND
131.07-19 OF CHAPTER 131 OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF
ORDINANCES; AND AMENDING SEC. 133.18-1 AND 133.18-2(a)
OF CHAPTER 133 OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF ORDINANCES;
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 yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-73. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2006-73 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-74 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-74

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL
AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS OR OTHER
DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY PURSUANT TO THIS
ORDINANCE; 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 Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-74. In addressing questions from Councilman Sumner, Solicitor Mark Vander Laan explained that the composition of this Review Council is prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. Councilman Sumner urged that the individual to be appointed by the Mayor be approved by Council as well, as is the person(s) to be appointed by the City Manager. After some discussion, City Manager Waltz commented that based upon his experience in other communities, this Review Council is not an extremely consequential board, and that its overall purpose is as a performance check -- to confirm that the investment has been met as promised. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2006-74 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-75 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-75

ESTABLISHING THREE NEW ACCOUNTING FUNDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF ISSUE 15 RELATED TO THE AIRPORT (PARK LAND PURCHASE, PARK DEVELOPMENT, AIRPORT RELOCATION); RECREATION CENTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT; AND GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT; 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 Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-75. 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. 2006-75 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-76 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-76

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT WITH LIFESPHERE (DBA SYCAMORE SENIOR CENTER) FOR YEARS 2007, 2008, AND 2009 FOR RECREATIONAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES; 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 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. 2006-76. In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, Treasurer Jim Pfeffer explained that Blue Ash residents receive no different services at the Senior Center compared to other members. He commented that he is very pleased the Center decided to build its new facility in Blue Ash, near our citizens, and that Blue Ash has historically provided more support to the Center than other participating communities. This multi-year approval does not “lock in” Blue Ash’s contribution since Blue Ash’s support each year is contingent upon inclusion in the annual Budget. After some discussion, it was agreed that additional information regarding usage of the Center by Blue Ash citizens would be provided to Council. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2006-76 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-77 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-77

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE, SOFTWARE UPGRADES, AND RELATED IMPLEMENTATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICES, AND DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FROM SANDERSON CMI DURING 2006 AND 2007 FOR AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$94,000; 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 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. 2006-77. 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. 2006-77 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-78 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-78

AUTHORIZING GENERAL ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND RELATED SERVICE RATES FOR 2007 WITH CDS ASSOCIATES, INC.; 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 Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-78. 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. 2006-78 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-83 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-83

AUTHORIZING MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIRPORT RELOCATION AND PARK PROJECT; 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 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. 2006-83. In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Mr. Waltz explained that he talked directly with representatives from two potential consulting firms, and asked various knowledgeable sources regarding others. It is the Administration's recommendation that a contract be authorized with Colwell as he believes this firm represents the best fit for Blue Ash's purposes. Also, this firm was highly recommended by several legislators knowledgeable about the processes involved. Councilman Sumner commented that it is his belief Colwell has telecommunication expertise, and may not be the best fit for this project. After some discussion, Mr. Waltz commented that Chip Gerherdt, whom Councilman Sumner mentioned, is representing the Aircraft Operators and Pilots Association (AOPA) and that he could not take us as a client because of a potential conflict of interest. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Councilman Sumner voted no. Six yeases. One no. Ordinance No. 2006-83 passed.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-79 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-79

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 2007; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Bryan 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. 2006-79. In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Mr. Waltz explained that this framework is based upon recent past years practice, and that it is impossible to formally bid some of the services, especially relating to entertainers. Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk added that he has worked with six to 12 booking agents in the past, and prices do vary. He is confident the City is getting a fair market value with the current agency utilized. He also added that the staff does solicit informal bids on the various services where practical. Councilman Sumner urged the staff to work hard to get the best possible price for all services. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2006-79 passed.

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2006-15 by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-15

ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE USAGE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT OF THE CITY OF BLUE ASH, OHIO

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2006-15. Councilman Czerwonka added that the Recreation Board, at its meeting on Monday, unanimously approved the recommended fee structure. Some discussion was had regarding the likelihood that all groups would be able to book 60 days in advance and the overall flexibility in the regulations. After some discussion, it was determined that the Administration would be able to accommodate appropriate requests. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Resolution No. 2006-15 passed.

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-82 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-82

AMENDING SECTION I OF ORDINANCE NO. 2006-4 REGARDING A MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE BLUE ASH/MONTGOMERY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA; 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 Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-82. Councilman Czerwonka commented that the City of Montgomery contributes the same as Blue Ash to this organization. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2006-82 passed.

Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Weber seconded to authorize the solicitation of bids for sidewalk construction; curb, gutter, and concrete construction; storm sewer upgrades; traffic control systems and equipment; 2007 paving program and other road improvement projects, including the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project; 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.

Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2006-60 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY (it having been read in full on November 9th):

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-60

AMENDING PORTIONS OF PART ELEVEN – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BLUE ASH INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: IN ITS ENTIRETY AS SHOWN IN THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1159 (D-1 DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT); SECTION 1131.02 OF CHAPTER 1131 (BOARD OF SITE ARRANGEMENT); AND SECTION 1183.06 OF CHAPTER 1183 (SPECIAL USE REGULATIONS)

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-60. 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. 2006-60 passed.

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2006-84 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-84

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTION SERVICES IN 2007 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 Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-84. 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. 2006-84 passed.

Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-80 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-80

AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING CHAPTER 309 OF PART THREE – TRAFFIC CODE OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING PARADES AND ASSEMBLAGES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Stoller 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.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-80. Councilman Stacey commented that the phrase “unless participating in a parade” has been added to accommodate the typically larger signs and banners often carried in a parade. 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. 2006-80 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2006-81 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-81

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A 2007 CONTRACT WITH YOUTH SERVICES OF READING, OHIO, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,000 (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 Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-81. In addressing a comment from Councilman Sumner, it was explained that Officer Burdick handles the Juvenile Referee Court which utilizes this agency most often. Councilman Bryan moved to table this ordinance until further information could be gathered regarding the quality of service received from this agency. (There was no second to that motion). After some discussion, it was agreed that additional information would be provided to Council regarding the quality of this agency's services as well as the number of residents who have benefited. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2006-81 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2006-16 by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-16

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, 2008

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2006-16. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Resolution No. 2006-16 passed.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Bryan 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

City Manager Waltz commented that City Engineer John Eisenmann is present to make a brief presentation regarding issues associated with the Plainfield/Hunt Roads intersection. He explained that a more in-depth corridor study is planned for 2007.

City Engineer John Eisenmann gave a presentation regarding issues associated with the Plainfield and Hunt Roads intersection, and highlights from that presentation are summarized below:

Today's condition:

- The situation at the intersection today involves very heavy traffic in the morning entering Blue Ash from Ronald Reagan Highway (RRH) from the south and west, in addition to residents commuting elsewhere utilizing RRH. The evening rush is the reverse with business traffic leaving the City.
- The evening results in heavy backups on Plainfield southbound from Hunt Road to Sycamore Trace, backing up sometimes to Cooper. Northbound, the left turn to Hunt impacts through traffic on Plainfield.
- The issue is lack of capacity and inadequate stacking ability between intersections to handle volumes.
- Some of the above issues can be handled through timing and coordination.

Potential short-term solutions (what can be done within the next year at relative[y little expense]):

- Add an exclusive southbound right turn lane on Plainfield onto westbound Hunt. This would involve restriping the southbound approach, modifying the traffic signal, and changing the signal timing.
- This should help the evening rush hour, especially the southbound backup on Reed Hartman. Storage length may still be inadequate at times and it will not address many of the inbound issues in the morning.

Potential long-term solutions:

- Need to consider new redevelopment likely in the area, such as The Landings further north on Carver Road, the new Kroger retail store soon to be developed, and other potential office and retail development or redevelopment likely to utilize that corridor.
- Additional capacity must be provided. Must provide for anticipated growth in traffic for what is anticipated for the next 20 years.
- Capacity means widening, including of the bridge on Plainfield over RRH. Some items to be considered would be double left turns from northbound Plainfield to westbound Hunt; double left turns from southbound Plainfield to eastbound RRH, including ramp widening; double right turns from southbound Plainfield to westbound Hunt; double left turns from westbound Hunt to southbound Plainfield; two lanes westbound on Hunt from Plainfield to westbound RRH on ramp; and extension of the southbound right turn lane from Georgetown north to Peppermill.
- Potential significant impacts include widening the bridge over RRH from its existing six lanes to eight lanes, potential impact to take some or all of the gas stations/car care operations at the corner; and further limitation of drive access.

Councilman Weber commented that he travels this portion of the City a minimum of two times daily, sometimes three. It is his belief that Hunt Road is the problem.

In addressing some questions from Council, Mr. Eisenmann commented that if the City were to finance whatever project it determines best, the project will be completed more quickly. Once State or Federal funds are involved, the project timetable will be slower. Mr. Eisenmann also commented that he believes the Evendale Wal-Mart project will have no impact upon Blue Ash traffic.

City Manager Waltz commented that the City has been working to be in compliance with the new smoking amendment recently passed by Ohio voters. Signs have been posted at entrances. No smoking will be allowed within 20 feet of a door, or within City vehicles. The issue not yet resolved involves smoking at special events. Currently, legal counsel has advised that smoking is allowed at special events because the locale is not qualified as a “facility.” The Reds and Bengals stadiums differ from our special event venues because they have walls.

City Manager Waltz commented that the consultant assisting with the airport reconfiguration will soon have a schematic drawing and one alternate plan completed. They may be asked to come to a future Council meeting. The City of Cincinnati is in the process of talking to consultants to do more detailed planning. Early in the year, Blue Ash will meet with the City of Cincinnati and the AOPA to secure a more definite timeline. Also recently, the UC students presented their study.

Councilman Bryan commented favorably on the excerpt from Mayor Mallory’s letter.

In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Mr. Waltz commented that he is in the process of drafting a memo regarding the process and concepts that must be contemplated to assure the plans for the airport as presented to voters are followed through.

Councilman Czerwonka wished residents, the Administration, and fellow Councilmembers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Bryan commented on the recent successful National League of Cities conference attended by him and Mayor Buckman. About 3,500 delegates representing 1,200 cities (and all 50 states) attended. He gained particular value from four themes he heard consistently at the conference:

- The importance of housing as a first step in the economic development process.
- “Play” is a key point – need to consider what the residents want in our upcoming projects.
- A key question is how can we keep people in Blue Ash after 5PM.
- Intergovernmental collaboration is important. Governments can work together to solve common problems.

Councilman Bryan encouraged the Community Development office to do whatever it can to improve the appearance of the yet to be developed Towne Square Avenue future Lofts project.

Mayor Buckman commented that it has been a pleasure to serve in his first year as Blue Ash's Mayor, and he wished the Administration, Council, and residents a happy holiday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After all items on the agenda were acted upon, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to convene an Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to potential litigation. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

After matters pertaining to potential litigation were discussed, Councilman Weber moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to convene to the regular meeting. A voice vote was taken. All Council members voted yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Weber seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.

Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council