

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on January 27, 2005. Mayor Rick Bryan called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:30 PM.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Mayor Bryan asked Boy Scout Sam Kucha of Troop 3 to lead those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Marvin Thompson, Solicitor Mark Vander Laan, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Assistant City Manager David Waltz, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Service Director Dennis Albrinck, Project Manager Dan Weber, Parks Superintendent Rodney Clark, and interested citizens

Mayor Bryan appointed Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk and Service Director Denny Albrinck to read the legislation in its entirety in the rear of Council Chambers. Mr. Bryan explained to the audience that anyone interested in hearing the legislation read in its entirety is welcome to move to the rear of the Chambers. He also mentioned that written copies of the legislation on tonight's agenda may be found on the ledges near the City Administration's desks.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Weber 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. 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 January 13, 2005
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS
  - a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
  - b. Reports From Outside Agencies
  - c. Mayor's Report – December 2004 – Honorable Rick Bryan
  - d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for December 2004
- 8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS
- 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Finance & Administration Committee, Mark F. Weber, Chairperson
    - 1. Ordinance No. 2005-14, transferring funds
    - 2. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for cellular communications services, HVAC contract services, renovations to parks and grounds facilities, technology equipment, and the sale of excess property and equipment
  - b. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson
    - 1. Motion authorizing the sale of real property on Cornell Road and Florence Avenue with no further requirement to solicit additional bids

- 2. Ordinance No. 2005-16, authorizing the sale of City-owned real property on Cornell Road and Florence Avenue
- 3. Ordinance No. 2005-17, amending sections of Part Thirteen of the Blue Ash Building Code to update adopted standards

- 10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS
- 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matters
- 12. ADJOURNMENT”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2005. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Communications to Council**

There were no communications to Council.

**Reports From Outside Agencies**

Mary Ann Beard, Health Promotions Director, and Natasha Reed, volunteer, from the American Cancer Society were present to give Council a brief update on events and activities of the American Cancer Society. Ms. Beard explained that the ACA moved from its Blue Ash Kenwood Road location to Reading Road in Avondale to the Society’s Hope Lodge site. She explained that Hope Lodge is a place where people who have been diagnosed with cancer, and a family member, can stay free of charge during their stay in Cincinnati. Ms. Reed gave further details of the ACA’s Body & Soul program that works primarily with African-American churches towards the education of its members to promote healthy eating habits, such as the consumption of more fruits and vegetables.

**Mayor's Report – December 2004**

RECEIPTS:

Fines .....	\$32,809.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over.....	\$650.00
Interest Earned.....	\$5.40
Bond Applied .....	\$510.00
Bonds collected.....	\$500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:.....	\$34,474.40

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures)	\$24,628.40
To the State of OH.....	\$8,786.00
Refund of Overpaid Fine .....	\$ 10.00
Bond Money applied.....	\$510.00
Bond Money returned .....	\$240.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....	\$34,174.40

BALANCE IN BONDS:.....

Mayor’s Court traffic citations.....	254
Mayor’s Court criminal citations	12
TOTAL .....	266
December Rev. from Mayor’s Ct. Cases	\$24,628.40

**Financial Report – December 2004**

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Financial Report for December 2004 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

**CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT  
FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004**

<b>MONTH TO DATE</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 12-1-04</b>	\$9,688,053.11	\$8,856,247.04
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	1,445,362.62	1,341,143.14
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	6,100,000.00
Other Revenue Received:	<u>846,308.29</u>	<u>793,586.72</u>
= Total Monthly Receipts	2,291,670.91	8,234,729.86
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	<u>2,886,829.27</u>	<u>2,468,687.03</u>
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	<u>-2,886,829.27</u>	<u>-2,468,687.03</u>
<b>ENDING FUND BALANCE: 11-30-04</b>	9,092,894.75	14,622,289.87

<b>YEAR TO DATE STATUS</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE: 1-1-04</b>	12,119,277.19	9,092,894.75
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	20,595,095.72	20,483,282.08
Debt Financing (long term)	10,000,000.00	0
Debt Financing (short term)	3,100,000.00	11,200,000.00
Other Revenue Received:	<u>10,209,768.12</u>	<u>9,988,284.59</u>
= Total YTD Receipts	43,904,863.84	41,671,566.67
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Bond retirement:	2,035,000.00	2,460,000.00
Short term debt refinancing:	9,500,000.00	3,100,000.00
Other expenditures:	35,396,246.28	30,582,171.55
= Total YTD Expenditures:	<u>-46,931,246.28</u>	<u>-36,142,171.55</u>
<b>ENDING FUND BALANCE: 12-31-04</b>	9,092,894.75	14,622,289.87

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 12-31-04. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$111,835.76. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

**BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIVISION INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY  
FOR MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004**

<b>MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Business Net Profit	279,641.39	132,385.33
Resident Net Profit	55,194.20	58,370.08
Non-Resident Net Profit	14,195.12	15,365.08
Subcontractor Net Profit	164.00	723.75
Net Profit Total	<u>349,194.71</u>	<u>206,844.24</u>
Withholding	1,091,452.40	1,131,028.82
Subcontractor Withholding	4,715.51	3,270.08
Withholding Total	<u>1,096,167.91</u>	<u>1,134,298.90</u>
Monthly Collection Totals	1,445,362.62	1,341,143.14

<b>YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Business Net Profit	3,517,347.23	3,290,869.72
Resident Net Profit	761,916.86	749,814.56
Non-Resident Net Profit	190,861.38	215,213.04
Subcontractor Net Profit	25,259.66	18,048.51
Net Profit Total	<u>4,495,385.13</u>	<u>4,273,945.83</u>
Withholding	15,841,724.97	15,948,000.61
Subcontractor Withholding	257,985.62	261,335.64
Withholding Total	<u>16,099,710.59</u>	<u>16,209,336.25</u>
Year-To-Date Collection Totals	<u>20,595,095.72</u>	<u>20,483,282.08</u>
Year-To-Date Refund Totals	<u>1,118,006.61</u>	<u>867,244.45</u>

***HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS***

Betty Brooks, a Blue Ash Road resident, commented that it was her opinion that Councilman Weber was rude at the prior meeting, particularly his statement that Blue Ash needs to progress so as not to become like Norwood. In addressing a question from Mrs. Brooks, Councilman Weber commented that he is a 15-year resident of Blue Ash. He

offered his apology to Mrs. Brooks if any comment by him was offensive. Hearings from Citizens was declared closed at 7:46 PM.

### **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 January 27th Council Agenda:

#### **9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2005-14 - Transferring funds**

Although it is early in the year, the need does exist for a limited transfer ordinance, as expressed on the attachment to this ordinance. All of the adjustments represent shifts within existing expenditure appropriations.

The first item represents an \$18,000 redirection of funding from the Service Department's ice control supplies area to Capital. The Service Director, working with his staff, has been evaluating the specific type of equipment needed of the new snow removal truck and plow which was included in the 2005 Final Budget. Based upon their current view of requirements, the additional funding is required to purchase this vehicle and related equipment through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing program. Prices have escalated, in part, due to the cost of steel. An ordinance will be brought to Council at a future meeting to authorize this purchase.

The only other item listed on the attachment refers to requested shifts within the 2005 "DART" Task Force grant under Fund No. 282. These adjustments structure the current year grant appropriations to match those requested by the DART Administrator and as confirmed by the Police Department.

Please direct questions regarding this transfer to the Treasurer.

#### **9.a.2. Motion authorizing the solicitation of bids for cellular communications services, HVAC contract services, renovations to parks and grounds facilities, technology equipment, and the sale of excess property and equipment**

As is traditional toward the beginning of the year, this motion would appropriately authorize bids expected in 2005 within the administrative/technology areas of responsibility.

#### **9.b.1. Motion authorizing the sale of real property on Cornell Road and Florence Avenue with no further requirement to solicit additional bids**

In the fall of 2004, Council favorably considered Ordinance No. 2004-92 which amended the City's Code concerning the disposal of City property. The primary focus of that amendment was to clarify a process whereby real property owned by the City could be disposed of or sold. Section 9.12 of the Charter requires that an ordinance be in place which outlines the process by which both real and personal property owned by the City can be disposed of or sold.

At this time, passage of a motion by Council is necessary to move forward with the planned sale of surplus real estate located on the south side of Cornell Road and the north side of Florence Avenue (as reflected in the Proposed and Final Budgets).

Last year, the Administration recommended to Council that surplus real estate available on Cornell Road and Florence Avenue be considered for sale during 2005. At that time, City Council offered guidance regarding the process to provide the most beneficial outcome for disposal of this property. Estimated revenue was included in the 2005 Budget relating to these properties.

Beginning in the mid 1990s, the City began a process of acquiring property in this general vicinity when it became available. Clearly, the primary focus was the acquisition of property so that blighted structures and improvements could be demolished, and thus provide potential for future redevelopment. Blighted homes were removed on at least two of the parcels involved, and the old "Susie's" restaurant was demolished following the City's acquisition of the property at the corner of Kemper Avenue and Cornell Road.

The properties with frontage on Cornell Road are zoned C-2, while those to the rear, with frontage on Florence Avenue, are residentially zoned as R-3. A copy of the Hamilton County's CAGIS information for this portion of Page 190 of Book 612 has been included with the packet, with the properties involved being highlighted.

The City's Economic Development Director has been moving forward to dispose of these properties, utilizing the guidelines as provided by Council late last year. She has "tested the market," inquired of potential developers, and has been successful in locating a developer, JPC Properties, who has provided the City with an Offer to Purchase all the parcels for \$300,000. That proposed contract has been reviewed by the Administration and has been amended and adjusted by Steve Schreiber with Dinsmore & Shohl's real estate office as well. Ordinance No. 2005-16 authorizes the City Manager to further negotiate and finalize that contract, and to thereafter move forward with the actual conveyance of these various properties, representing about 2.44 acres, to JPC Properties in accordance with the proposed agreement.

Please direct questions regarding this matter to the Assistant City Manager.

#### **9.b.2. Ordinance No. 2005-16 - Authorizing the sale of City-owned real property on Cornell Road and Florence Avenue**

See Item 9.b.1 above.

**9.b.3. Ordinance No. 2005-17 - Amending sections of Part Thirteen of the Blue Ash Building Code to update adopted standards**

Officials from our contractual inspection firm, National Inspection Corporation (NIC), have recommended the need to update Part Thirteen (Building Code) of Blue Ash's Codified Ordinances. In summary, the need exists to adopt for the City the "2004 Ohio Residential Code of Ohio for One, Two, and Three-Family Dwellings," and all subsequent revisions, including certain appendices; to adopt the Ohio Building Code 2002 edition and subsequent updates; and the Ohio Mechanical Code (OMC) 2002 edition and subsequent updates. In addition, Section III of Ordinance No. 2005-17 deals with the administrative change relating to formal name changes of the Ohio Basic Building Code (OBBC) and the Ohio Basic Mechanical Code (OBMC) to now being referred to as the Ohio Building Code (OBC), and the Ohio Mechanical Code (OMC) respectively.

In addition, NIC is recommending the addition of Chapter 1305.99 regarding a penalty provision related to these issues.

The Administration recommends passage of this ordinance to assure the updates are in place, especially with the spring construction season approaching and the need for timely notification to contractors. Counsel at Dinsmore has also reviewed the proposed legislation.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Assistant City Manager or the Solicitor."

**Finance & Administration Committee, Mark F. Weber, Chairperson**

Councilman Weber asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2005-14 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-14

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND  
AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION  
ORDINANCE NO. 2005-3 FOR THE YEAR 2005 (AS SHOWN  
ON ATTACHMENT); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Weber moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2005-14. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Buckman, Stacey, Czerwonka, Stoller, Weber, and Mayor Bryan voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2005-14 passed.

Councilman Weber moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to authorize the solicitation of bids for cellular communications services, HVAC contract services, renovations to parks and grounds facilities, technology equipment, and the sale 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 moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to authorize the sale of real property on Cornell Road and Florence Avenue with no further requirement to solicit additional bids. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read revised Ordinance No. 2005-16 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-16

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND  
THEREAFTER ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF  
CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTIES LOCATED ON CORNELL  
ROAD AND FLORENCE AVENUE, CONSISTING OF ALL OR  
PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING PARCELS OF BOOK 612,  
PAGE 190, OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE  
RECORDS: 968 THROUGH 998, 1002 THROUGH 1004, AND  
1172; 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 Buckman, Stacey, Czerwonka, Stoller, Weber, Sumner, and Mayor Bryan voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt revised Ordinance No. 2005-16. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Stoller, Weber, Sumner, Buckman, and Mayor Bryan voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2005-16 passed.

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2005-17 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF PART THIRTEEN –  
BUILDING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BLUE ASH  
(TO ADOPT UPDATED STANDARDS); AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2005-17. In addressing questions from Councilman Sumner, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Waltz explained that the proposed changes to the Building Code are recommended to update the codes. Some of the updates relate to the elimination of inconsistencies between the OBC and OMC. The penalty provision outlined in the ordinance does not relate to penalties for property maintenance problems (such as high grass). These updates relate to construction standards, with contractors being the parties most affected by such updates. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Weber, Sumner, Buckman, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Bryan voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2005-17 passed.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

City Manager Thompson introduced Project Manager Dan Weber along with Parks Superintendent Rodney Clark, present at the meeting to update Council on activity associated with 6171 Interstate Circle – the future home for City Parks & Grounds Maintenance activities.

Some highlights of Mr. Weber’s presentation are summarized below:

- ?? Parks & grounds activities essentially became an “offshoot” of the City’s golf course operations in 1978. As the City grew from the late ‘70s into the mid 1980s, the level of non Golf Course landscape responsibilities increased with overall responsibility eventually surpassing the golf maintenance scale.
- ?? The Golf Maintenance facility on Mohler Road, essentially designed for golf maintenance use only, became overcrowded. With the development of the Sports Center in 1985, parks maintenance “headquarters” were relocated to the Sports Center (at the same time the golf maintenance activities took over downtown maintenance).
- ?? Between 1985 and 2000, parks maintenance and grounds maintenance were two separate divisions, physically split between the golf operations and the Sports Center. During this time, both areas of responsibility grew substantially with the addition of new parks and responsibilities such as the Nature Park, White Oak Park, additional roadside mowing responsibilities, more landscaping at the Recreation Center and Municipal Center (following building expansions), Towne Square and downtown streetscaping improvements, and the expansion of Pfeiffer and Cornell Roads (including landscaped medians).
- ?? In the early 2000s, a reorganization of these functions was completed to handle the increased workload; however the issue of where to house the staff and equipment was still an issue. Temporary office space for part of the operations was relocated to the Recreation Center basement; however, housing of equipment was spread across four locations, leading to logistical challenges.
- ?? The search for a solution resulted in the leasing/renting of vacant warehouse space (fondly referred to by staff as “Area 51”) within the Kenwood Distribution Center off Kenwood Road north of Osborne Boulevard. Estimated rent payments for this space were about \$125,000 per year.

- ?? When the Service Department relocated to 6131 Interstate Circle in 2002, the need existed for additional land upon which the salt dome would need to be constructed. The City eventually purchased the building adjacent to this facility (6171 Interstate Circle), and the salt dome has since been constructed. The existing tenant recently moved out, and plans are now underway for a modest remodeling/updating of the facility to house the City's parks and grounds activities.
- ?? The building is an approximate 40,000 square foot warehouse, including 3,000 square feet being set aside for offices, restrooms, and a meeting area.
- ?? The building requires significant, but modest repairs, alterations and improvements in order to meet the basic needs of the parks and grounds maintenance activities. The most significant and immediate component is the need to replace the roof, which has numerous leaks and is 30 years old.
- ?? Another immediate change to the building relates to access. New vehicular access doors need to be installed in the front as well as rear.
- ?? The third change needed immediately relates to the office space. The existing areas had extensive water and cigarette smoke damage, requiring removal and replacement of all wall surfaces.
- ?? The total budget for this year's changes to 6171 Interstate Circle are \$350,000, with half of that representing the roof replacement cost. Given current rental costs at "Area 51," estimated breakeven for the renovations is about 3 years. Up to \$40,000 could be needed in 2006 to finish the project.
- ?? Renovations are planned in stages, with replacement of the roof to be completed first. The hope is to move equipment to the new location by early April (while office and other areas are under construction), with the completion of the move anticipated in the fall.

In addressing a question from Councilman Stacey, Mr. Weber commented that his estimated "payback" of three years did not factor in the cost of maintenance (utilities, etc). Including those factors, the estimated breakeven would be about 3½ years.

City Manager Thompson commented that additional work to the facility may be needed next year. Mr. Weber added that (depending upon how bids come in and actual costs are realized in 2005), a component of work that may be shifted to next year may be the changes proposed for the entrance to the building.

In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Treasurer Jim Pfeffer stated that a Phase I environmental assessment was done when the property was first purchased. To Mr. Pfeffer's recollection, no problem issues were discovered.

Mr. Thompson commented that the City will soon proceed with bidding the roof replacement.

Mayor Bryan commented that this project will be an excellent opportunity for the City to prove its ability to meet a project's budget (i.e., unlike the north fire station project).

Mr. Thompson commented that the agenda for the February 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting is extremely light with no critical items. Councilwoman Stoller moved, Vice Mayor Buckman seconded to cancel the February 10, 2005 meeting. Councilman Weber commented that he, along with Councilmen Stacey and Czerwonka, had recently discussed the idea of having periodic Council work sessions (with set topics) in lieu of all "business" Council meetings. After some discussion, it seemed the consensus of Council that this was a good idea; however, Mayor Bryan commented that he would like to be present at the first "work session" meeting (i.e., he would not like this first meeting to be February 10<sup>th</sup> as he would not be able to attend). It was determined that this work session concept would be further discussed at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting after all Council had an opportunity to further contemplate. A voice vote was taken on the motion to cancel the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Assistant City Manager David Waltz commented that he had attended the Ohio City Management Association conference this week and mentioned that, though none have been finalized, several ballot initiatives for Ohio voters are likely in November. Examples of issues could relate to the SCIP program, casino gambling, and other issues. Future updates will be provided as the issues progress through the State legislature. Mr. Waltz also commented that much discussion was had that could affect the local government fund.

Mr. Waltz commented that one of the most interesting speakers he heard was from Texas, with his topic being about how community investment in parks/recreation could result in positive economic benefits.

Councilman Sumner added that Issue II (relating to SCIP) is still working its way through the State legislature, and he encouraged fellow Councilmembers to talk with State legislators (when the opportunity presents itself) supporting this Issue.

Councilman Sumner commented upon the memo distributed by the Service Director regarding ODOT's desire to remove the pedestrian bridge over Ronald Reagan Highway (in order to make Ronald Reagan Highway/I-71 interchange improvements). Councilman Sumner commented that he would not be in favor of such removal and would rather the City present a resolution in favor of preserving this pedestrian bridge in that it coincides with the City's desires to better connect neighborhoods. After some discussion, it seemed the consensus of Council that the State's request of the Council to pass a resolution endorsing the bridge's removal would not be supported at this time. It was determined that the Administration would convey to ODOT the idea that tearing down the bridge works against the City's goal for neighborhood connectivity and to be an overall pedestrian friendly community. ODOT would be asked to come up with alternatives in keeping those City goals in mind.

In addressing a question from Vice Mayor Buckman, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk commented that not much further discussion has been had regarding the creation of a skate park.

In addressing concerns of Vice Mayor Buckman, City Manager Thompson explained that progress has been made regarding the property maintenance issues brought up at the last meeting. Notices have been sent out on all mentioned, and two of the three are in the process of being cited to Mayor's Court. Vice Mayor Buckman asked the City to look at the wooded property next to the Car Star property on Blue Ash Road. During the wintertime, the extent of trees down within that area is very visible.

Councilman Stacey commented that he would be very interested in hearing more relating to what Mr. Waltz learned at the OCMA conference relating to recreation investment and its return on economic development.

In addressing a question from Mayor Bryan, no Councilmember expressed interest in attending a "hybrid clean fuel day" event in Columbus (i.e., information within a letter from State Senator Mallory).

#### ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

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

After matters pertaining to personnel were discussed, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Weber 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 Sumner moved, Councilman Weber seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:27PM.

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Rick Bryan, Mayor

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Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

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Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council