

# CITY OF BLUE ASH

## Interoffice Memo – City Manager's Office

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager and Department Directors  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Items for the April 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
**DATE:** April 10, 2018  
**COPIES:** Department Directors, Press, Clerk of Council, Solicitor

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This memo offers a brief description of the topics included on the April 12<sup>th</sup> Council agenda.

### **7. APPEAL HEARING to consider an appeal from a decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals approving a variance for the size of a ground sign at 10816 Millington Court (Iacono Creative Event Production) in the Blue Ash North Zoning District**

The Board of Zoning Appeals granted a variance on February 12, 2018 to allow the building owner, Iacono Creative Event Production, to install a ground sign that exceeds the dimensions of a normal ground sign, but included a condition in the approval that the larger sign may not include an electronic message face. The owner had also applied to the Planning Commission for permission to use electronic message faces on the sign, but the condition of the variance makes the application to Planning Commission moot.

As a result of the variance that was granted, the owner could either install the larger sign allowed by the variance or ask the Planning Commission for approval of an electronic message sign, but not both.

The property owner has filed an appeal to City Council relative to that condition of the variance.

Please direct any questions to the Community Development Director.

### **11.a.1. Resolution No. 2018-13 authorizing a multi-year collective bargaining agreement (Fire Fighters) and amending the 2018 position classification plan**

Resolution No. 2018-13 authorizes the City Manager to enter into a multi-year collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Blue Ash Firefighters (International Association of Firefighters, Local No. 3202) and amends the 2018 Position Classification Plan as provided for in Resolution 2017-63 - Administrative Rules and Regulations related to pay classifications and pay schedules of non-bargaining personnel.

The City entered into negotiations with the Firefighters' bargaining unit beginning in January of 2018. After four sessions of negotiations, all parties have agreed to a couple of changes to the previous bargaining agreement. The following is a summary of those changes:

- Section 18.1 – Wage increases are as follows: 2.5% for 2018; 2.5% for 2019; 2.5% for 2020.
- Contract period from February 24, 2018 – February 19, 2021.

This resolution also amends the 2018 Position Classification Plan by authorizing a Community Development Assistant position as well as the related job description and pay range. This new position will better fit the needs of the Economic and Community Development Department and eventually replace the current Community Development Program Administrator position upon his expected retirement this summer. Both positions must remain on the position plan until such time to facilitate the transition and hiring process of the Community Development Assistant.

Please direct questions related to this resolution to the Treasurer/Administrative Services Director or City Manager.

**11.b.1. Resolution No. 2018-14 awarding bid for Downtown Streetscaping Phase 5**

As part of the City's effort to maintain and improve the downtown streetscape in the City, bids for this project were advertised on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 in the *Northeast Suburban Life-Press*, and were publicly opened and read on March 14, 2018. Four bids were received and Administration is recommending Council authorize a bid award to the low bidder, Tri-State Concrete Construction for unit prices as shown on the bid summary.

Sidewalk replacement will take place along the east and west sides of Kenwood Road from Hunt Road to Towne Square Avenue. This work will consist of removing the existing pavers and replacing them with new concrete sidewalk, part of which will be decorative. In addition to the sidewalk work, the existing light and sign poles will be taken down and moved to the back of the sidewalk and new trees will be installed. New landscaping walls and fencing will be installed at the intersections of Kenwood and Towne Square as well as Kenwood and Cooper Road.

Please direct any questions regarding this resolution to the Public Works Director.

**11.b.2. Resolution No. 2018-15 awarding bid for Guard Rail Replacement**

Bids for the 2018 Guard Rail Replacement Project were advertised in the March 21, 2018 *Northeast Suburban Life-Press*. One bid was received and publicly opened and read aloud on Tuesday, April 3, 2018. Administration is recommending Council authorize an award to M.P. Dory Co. for unit prices as shown on the bid summary. Staff recommends the award include the base bid and alternate 1.

Guard rail replacements will be done on Reed Hartman Highway, Cooper Road, and Hunt Road. The existing guard rails have become a safety hazard and will not function properly upon impact of a motor vehicle.

Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Public Works Director.

**11.b.3. Resolution No. 2018-16 awarding bid for Culvert Repairs**

Bids for the 2018 Culvert Repair Project were advertised in the March 21, 2018 *Northeast Suburban Life-Press*. Two bids were received and publicly opened and read aloud on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Administration is recommending Council authorize an award to the low bidder, National Shotcrete, d/b/a National Gunite, for unit prices as shown on the bid summary. Staff recommends the award include the base bid and alternate 1 and 2.

Corrugated metal culvert pipes under Chimney Hill, Bentwood, and on the golf course will be lined to restore the structural capacity and flow lines to the pipe. In addition to this work, a concrete arch culvert under Cooper Road will have the flow line reconstituted and headwall stabilized to prevent further erosion and restore the structural capacity of the pipe. This work will lengthen the life span of the pipe and help prevent further settlement or collapse.

Please direct questions regarding this resolution to the Public Works Director.

**11.c.1. Resolution No. 2018-17 amending Resolution No. 2018-7 accepting rights-of-way within the Blue Ash Estates Subdivision**

The Blue Ash Estates Subdivision has been completed for many years and the City has inspected the public streets and found them to be constructed and maintained consistent with Code requirements. Public rights-of-way are dedicated to public use when a Subdivision Plat is filed with Hamilton County, but the City will accept the streets for public maintenance only after at least 80 percent of the lots in the plat have been developed, one year has passed, and any failed or damaged improvements have been repaired to the City's satisfaction.

The original Resolution has been amended to include information that the Hamilton County Engineer requires for filing and to include references to two parcels that were inadvertently omitted from Resolution 2018-7.

Please direct any questions regarding this resolution to the Community Development Director.

**11.c.2. Resolution No. 2018-18 authorizing an economic development agreement with Blue Ash Corporate Center II, LLC**

Neyer Properties has requested assistance with the construction of a secondary access road from the Blue Ash Corporate Center on Glendale-Milford Road to McKinley Road. The additional connectivity will alleviate the challenges of exiting the property during the evening rush hour and will make the mostly vacant property more attractive to potential tenants. Additionally, it will open an 11-acre vacant site just north of the Blue Ash Corporate Center for future development. It is estimated that the two sites at full capacity will contain nearly 600 jobs and contribute \$350,000 per year in annual Blue Ash city withholdings tax. Staff recommends a \$300,000 forgivable loan to assist with this infrastructure project.

Please direct any questions regarding this resolution to the Economic Development Director.

**11.c.3. Resolution No. 2018-19 authorizing an economic development agreement with Graphic Village**

Graphic Village is a Blue Ash-based company that plans to relocate its HQ and printing operations to 4440 Creek Road. The company will invest \$13 million in the facility, retain 81 employees and hire an additional 91 employees by December 2021, with an annual estimated payroll of \$8.7 million. This will result in \$110,000 in annual earnings tax for the City. The City is offering the company a \$100,000 forgivable loan.

Please direct any questions regarding this resolution to the Economic Development Director.

**11.c.4. Resolution No. 2018-20 authorizing an economic development agreement with PCMS Datafit, Inc.**

PCMS Datafit, Inc., is a United Kingdom-based retail technology and software company that plans to locate its U.S. office in the Blue Ash Corporate Center at 4300 Glendale Milford Road. The company will bring 180 new jobs to Blue Ash, with a \$17.5 million payroll by December 2021. This will result in \$220,000 in new annual earnings tax for the City. The City is offering the company a \$200,000 forgivable loan.

Please direct any questions regarding this resolution to the Economic Development Director.