

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 2008

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A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on September 25, 2008. 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, Councilwoman Stephanie Stoller, and Vice Mayor Mark Weber

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmen Henry Stacey and James Sumner

Councilman Rick Bryan moved, Councilman Lee Czerwonka seconded to excuse Councilmen Stacey and Sumner from the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Waltz, Deputy Solicitor Bryan Pacheco, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Public Works Director Mike Duncan, Fire Chief Rick Brown, Police Captain James Schaffer, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, and interested citizens

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

PARTICIPANTS: Sycamore High School Seniors: Eric Hodgdon – 4568 Hunt Road; Matt Retta - 9547 Heather Court; Keondra Nichole Gibbs – 11119 Centennial Ave; and Brianna Moody -9534 Heather Court; and Sycamore High School Junior Chris King – 5167 Muirwoods Court (it was noted by the Mayor later in the meeting that the recent wind storm and subsequent closing of schools for several days thereafter due to power outages disrupted the participation of several students who originally were expected to participate)

Mayor Buckman appointed Kelly Osler to read the legislation (ordinances) in its entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Vice Mayor Weber moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to accept the revised 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 September 11, 2008

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert

b. Reports From Outside Agencies

c. Mayor’s Report – August 2008 – Honorable Robert J. Buckman, Jr.

d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for August 2008

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

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9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson
  - 1. Resolution No. 2008-11, appointing Vice Mayor Weber to the Sycamore Schools Planning Commission
  - 2. Resolution No. 2008-12, accepting property tax rates for 2009
  - 3. Ordinance No. 2008-55, authorizing the establishment of a health insurance internal service fund
  - 4. Ordinance No. 2008-52, authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements related to employee health insurance coverage and administration
- b. Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson
  - 1. Ordinance No. 2008-54, amending Chapter 917 of the Code of Ordinances regarding refuse collection

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT"

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2008. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Communications to Council**

There were no communications presented to Council.

**Reports From Outside Agencies**

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

**Mayor's Report – August 2008**

RECEIPTS:

Fines .....	\$ 16,406.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over .....	\$0
Interest Earned .....	\$0.51
Bonds collected .....	\$ 169.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS:.....	\$16,575.51

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures).....	\$12,000.51
To the State of OH.....	\$4,286.00
Refund of Overpaid Fines .....	\$ 220.00
Bond Money applied.....	\$60.00
Bond Money returned .....	\$0
BMV .....	\$0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .....	\$16,566.51

BALANCE IN BONDS:..... \$ 9.00

Mayor's Court traffic citations .....	164
Mayor's Court criminal citations.....	16
Total Mayor's Court cases .....	180
August revenues from Mayor's Ct. Cases:.....	\$12,000.51

**Financial Report – August 2008**

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to accept the Financial Report for August 2008 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

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**CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT MONTH ENDING AUGUST 31, 2008**

MONTH TO DATE	2007	2008
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 8-1-08	\$17,394,903.05	\$27,900,938.34
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	1,977,089.66	2,098,180.72
Debt Financing (long term)	9,975,000.00	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	837,936.72	2,060,217.01
= Total Monthly Receipts	12,790,026.38	4,158,397.73
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Bond Retirement	1,000,000.00	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	2,880,788.20	4,166,332.16
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-3,880,788.20	-4,166,332.16
END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 8-31-08	26,304,141.23	27,893,003.91
YEAR TO DATE	2007	2008
START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	17,286,456.32	24,395,221.48
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	18,333,932.14	20,577,438.63
Debt Financing (long term)	9,975,000.00	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	7,424,000.11	9,697,451.69
= Total Monthly Receipts	35,732,932.25	30,274,890.32
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Bond Retirement	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	25,715,247.34	25,777,107.89
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-26,715,247.34	-26,777,107.89
YTD FUND BALANCE:	26,304,141.23	27,893,003.91

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 8/31/08. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$502,685.52. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

**BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIV. INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY - MONTH ENDING AUG. 31, 2008**

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2007	2008
Business Net Profit	110,426.44	102,686.56
Resident Net Profit	44,968.42	37,353.88
Non-Resident Net Profit	6,850.78	7,378.35
Subcontractor Net Profit	67.91	748.00
Net Profit Total	162,313.55	148,166.79
Withholding	1,769,727.61	1,902,032.38
Subcontractor Withholding	45,048.30	47,981.55
Withholding Total	1,814,775.91	1,950,013.93
Monthly Collection Totals	1,977,089.46	2,098,180.72
YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS	2007	2008
Business Net Profit	2,382,953.74	3,516,784.50
Resident Net Profit	731,751.07	766,811.78
Non-Resident Net Profit	191,726.33	203,620.77
Subcontractor Net Profit	46,751.70	43,781.61
Net Profit Total	3,353,182.84	4,530,998.66
Withholding	14,630,999.11	15,703,199.42
Subcontractor Withholding	349,750.19	343,240.55
Withholding Total	14,980,749.30	16,046,439.97
YTD Collection Totals	18,333,932.14	20,577,438.63
YTD Refund Totals	1,228,975.67	751,096.92

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

Jamie Pike, 4907 Myrtle Avenue, asked Council to consider passing legislation preventing children from playing in the streets, including basketball hoops, etc. She cited legislation passed by Garfield Heights, Ohio, (a "no tolerance" policy), and commented that in her opinion, such legislation would improve the quality of life for Blue Ash citizens.

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Jim Meyers, 9588 Linfield Avenue, asked if the plans for the new park near the airport still included a relocated Veterans Memorial, and City Manager Waltz stated “no.”

Cheryl Popp, 8627 Calumet Way (not in Blue Ash), thanked the City for their assistance during the recent Airport Days event. She presented “awards of excellence” to the Recreation, Fire, Police, and Service Departments of the City for their assistance with the event, as well as event T-shirts. Though the event had to be shut down on Sunday, September 14, due to the wind storm, event organizers are hoping for some proceeds to be donated to Children’s Hospital. She reported that to her knowledge, no persons were injured or aircraft damaged during the storm on Sunday. Mayor Buckman commented that on Saturday, the delegates from Blue Ash’s Sister City, Ilmenau, Germany, very much enjoyed attending the event, including being a part of the opening ceremonies and “flag catching.”

Hearings from Citizens was declared closed at approximately 7:10 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 topics included on the September 25th Council agenda:

**Student Government Day Activities**

To date, 13 students have signed up for Student Government Day activities on Thursday. Of those students, 12 are from Sycamore and one from Ursuline. The students will spend the day at City hall beginning at approximately 10:15AM, and their day will include discussions, lunch, and tours of the various City facilities and areas of responsibilities. Those expected to participate include:

**Sycamore Seniors:**

- Eric Hodgdon – 4568 Hunt Road
- Matt Retta - 9547 Heather Court
- Aliza Weinberger – 4440 Hunt Road
- Michelle Marie Johnson – 3440 Aston Place
- Michael Natarus - 11239 Cornell Woods Drive
- Brianna Moody -9534 Heather Court
- Jasmin Lewis – 11075 Grand Avenue
- Keondra Nichole Gibbs – 11119 Centennial Ave
- Dainesha Cline – 11148 Oak Avenue

**Sycamore Juniors:**

- Jeff Goodman- 17 Heritage Road
- Chris King – 5167 Muirwoods Court
- Annie Brant – 9604 Linfield Drive

**Ursuline Senior:**

- Regan Harrell, 9203 Bluewing Terrace

**9.a.1. Resolution No. 2008-11 - Appointing Vice Mayor Weber to the Sycamore Schools Planning Commission**

As directed by Council, Resolution No. 2008-11 appoints Vice Mayor Weber to the Sycamore Schools Planning Commission. This is an appointment most recently filled by Councilman Stacey; however, due to his involvement with other Council commitments, an alternative appointment was recommended.

Please direct questions regarding this appointment to Vice Mayor Weber or the Mayor.

**9.a.2. Resolution No. 2008-12 - Accepting property tax rates for 2009**

As is customary this time of year, Council’s consideration of this resolution is a part of the City’s annual budgetary process, and involves the Hamilton County Budget Commission. The Year 2009 Tax Budget, which was considered and adopted by Council in July, was submitted to the County Budget Commission for their review of our projected financials for next year. Resolution No. 2008-12

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seeks Council's acceptance of the amounts and rates of taxation that were included within the Tax Budget, as certified by the Commission and reviewed by the County Auditor's office. In accordance with our Charter provisions and with our historical practice, the inside millage as expressed in this resolution remains at 3.08 mills.

Even though the millage is small (one of the smaller municipal rates in the region), the overall assessed valuation that the City of Blue Ash enjoys contributes to a substantial source of revenue for the City (and, of course, property taxes from the Blue Ash property owners represent the majority of revenue for the Sycamore Schools). Based upon the County's estimated December 31, 2008 total assessed valuation for Blue Ash (considered somewhat conservative), including all real, utility and personal property, the 2009 estimated property tax revenue to the General Fund to the City of Blue Ash should be approximately \$2,220,000, including Homestead, Rollback, 10K exemption, and public utility reimbursement.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

**9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2008-55 - Authorizing the establishment of a health insurance internal service fund**

Council was recently informed that efforts have been underway during 2008 to address the City's health insurance costs, utilizing an employee-staffed advisory committee as a resource. After significant efforts, a recommendation was made by the committee to shift to a high-deductible plan (from an HMO plan), and to establish both Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) starting November 1, 2008.

In order to properly track incoming revenues and related expenses for those two accounts, the need exists to set up a new accounting fund. This fund will be classified as an internal service fund. Funds from the City relating to payment of part of the employee's deductible must be "deposited," or shown in this fund, as must pre-tax contributions made by the staff relating to their part of the deductible and other eligible expenses. Costs/payments to the third party administrator handling the HRA and FSA will also be made from this fund.

The proper amounts for each appropriation in this new fund will be addressed in a transfer ordinance in October, and will also be included in the 2009 Proposed and Final Budgets.

Establishing the FSA and HRA will permit this migration to a high-deductible plan with Humana. Overall costs to the City should be level in 2009, and the costs to be paid by the staff are moderated with the use of pre-tax earnings.

Of course, it will be necessary for the City Manager to execute certain documents, agreements, and contracts to implement these changes, thus the need for Ordinance No. 2008-52 next on this agenda. It is anticipated that the Manager will need to enter into agreements with, and to make payments to, Humana as the health care organization, to a third party administrator who will handle all claims and reimbursements, and execute documents relating to the proper set-up of the HRA and FSA. Ordinance No. 2008-52 authorizes the City Manager to negotiate and enter into the necessary documents to enable this cost-saving shift in providing first-rate health care for our eligible employees.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

**9.a.4. Ordinance No. 2008-52 - Authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements related to employee health insurance coverage and administration**

See Item 9.a.3. above

**9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2008-54 - Amending Chapter 917 of the Code of Ordinances regarding refuse collection**

Ordinance No. 2008-54 amends Sections 917.01 and 917.02 of the Code of Ordinances. As explained by the Public Works Director at the September 11 meeting, the intent of these changes is to help control the removal of recyclables from bins and other areas.

The City of Blue Ash receives a cash incentive annually for the quantities of recycled materials collected by the waste hauler – currently Rumpke. In 2007, the City recycled almost 25% of the waste generated by our residents, and the City's goal is over 25% in 2008, and to continually increase the recycling rate for the City.

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The redemption value of certain recycled materials has increased significantly over the past few years, particularly for aluminum, plastic and paper. Because of this, many cities have experienced "thefts" from recycle bins before the authorized collector can collect the contents of the bins. In some extreme cases, bundles of same-day newspapers have been stolen after the distributor has left them at store fronts or markets. Not only do these thefts reduce the amount of recycled materials collected by the authorized collector, the thieves frequently litter the area with other contents of the recycle bins.

The recommended changes to Chapter 917 of the City Codified Ordinances will make it illegal for anyone to remove recyclables or other trash from containers once they have been set out for collection by the City's Authorized Collector (Rumpke). The recyclables and trash become the "property" of the Authorized Collector once set out for collection. Only the person(s) originating the recyclables and/or trash, or a City employee, can remove items from the bins and waste containers. These proposed changes to Chapter 917 will help ensure the City receives credit for our residents' efforts to recycle and will help prevent a potential litter problem. For Council's reference, a marked-up version, showing the proposed changes to the affected sections, is shown below:

917.01 MANAGER TO ARRANGE FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSITION.

The City Manager or his designee shall arrange for the collection and disposition of all garbage, ashes, refuse and rubbish created or found within the City. The City's Authorized Collector shall be either authorized employees of the City of Blue Ash or a Commercial Collector under contract with the City of Blue Ash for collection and disposal of garbage, ashes, refuse and rubbish.

~~917.02 DEPOSITING OF REFUSE AND TRASH BY NONRESIDENTS. UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSAL, OR REMOVAL, OF REFUSE, GARBAGE OR TRASH.~~

(a) Unauthorized Disposal. No nonresident individual, group or company shall deposit any refuse, garbage or trash within the City. The depositing of refuse, garbage and trash shall be limited to residential, commercial, industrial and institutional residents of the City. ~~No nonresident individual, group or company shall deposit any refuse, garbage or trash within the City.~~ Subject to any exclusions or additional provisions set forth in Section 917.03 of this Chapter, no person shall deposit refuse, garbage or trash from a residential, commercial, industrial or institutional premises in any place other than in an approved container.

(b) Unauthorized Removal. No person other than the Authorized Collector shall tamper with or remove any solid waste or recyclables from a container, other than the owner or occupant of the property served by such container, or an authorized employee of the City.

(c) Ownership. At such time as the solid waste and/or recyclables are placed for collection at the usual place of collection, the solid waste and/or recyclables become the property of the City's Authorized Collector.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Public Works Director."

**Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson**

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2008-11 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-11

MAKING A COUNCILMANIC APPOINTMENT TO THE  
SYCAMORE SCHOOL PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2008-11. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Weber, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Five yeses. Resolution No. 2008-11 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2008-12 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

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RESOLUTION NO. 2008-12

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2008-12. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Five yeases. Resolution No. 2008-12 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-55 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-55

ESTABLISHING AN INTERNAL SERVICE FUND (NUMBER 801) ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHANGE OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO A HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE PLAN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-55. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Five yeases. Ordinance No. 2008-55 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-52 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-52

ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF A CHANGE OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FROM AN HMO TO A HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE PLAN, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE RELATED DOCUMENTATION, PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, AND CONTRACTS; 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 Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Five yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan explained, especially for the benefit of the students in attendance and participating in Student Government Day, that over the next few months, the Administration will be very involved with development of the budget for the next fiscal year, with the Proposed and Final Budgets to be presented to Council later this year. Over the course of the year, Council routinely acts on ordinances and authorizes specific spending based upon what was discussed and approved through the annual budgetary process. The previous resolution addressing property taxes (ref. Resolution No. 2008-12) was a legal requirement and confirmed the City's long-standing rate of 3.08 mills, as authorized by the City's Charter. This millage level represents a modest amount directed towards the City -- probably less than 5% of the residents' total property tax bill.

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There being no further discussion, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-52. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Weber, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Five yeses. Ordinance No. 2008-52 passed.

**Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson**

In Councilman Stacey's absence, Councilman Czerwonka was asked to preside.

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-54 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-54

AMENDING PORTIONS OF SECTIONS 917.01 AND 917.02 OF  
CHAPTER 917 (REFUSE COLLECTION) OF THE BLUE ASH  
CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATING TO COLLECTION AND  
DEPOSITION OF REFUSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-54. In addressing a comment from Councilwoman Stoller, Vice Mayor Weber explained that the change in the Code would "protect" recyclable items placed at the street for pickup. The change would make it illegal for anyone except the homeowner who set it out to be picked up or the collection company, currently Rumpke, to take recyclables once set out to the curb for pickup. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Five yeses. Ordinance No. 2008-54 passed.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Treasurer Jim Pfeffer expressed thanks and compliments to the students participating in today's Student Government Day.

Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler commented that the first of two required public hearings was held this past Monday, September 22, at the Hazelwood Drop In Center regarding the Block Grant Funds program. The hearing had a good turnout, with an estimated 30+ residents in attendance, and resulted in useful suggestions, ranging from suggested infrastructure improvements to Hazelwood Drop In Center improvements. The second and final hearing is set for the October 23 Council meeting. Council will receive information regarding the suggested projects prior to that hearing.

Ms. Osler commented that she plans to make a brief presentation at the October 23 Council meeting regarding the previously suggested dog park idea. In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller, Ms. Osler asked that any suggestions or comments regarding the dog park be provided to her prior to that meeting so such concerns could be addressed in the presentation.

City Manager David Waltz expressed thanks to the staff for their response to the recent wind storm and resultant power outages throughout the community, and also complimented the leadership shown by Fire Chief Rick Brown as well as Police Captain Jim Schaffer. He explained that overall the City remained functioning throughout the crisis, and he had conference calls each morning with Duke Energy officials as well as other city leaders throughout Greater Cincinnati. He commented favorably on the City's past expenses (including Council's approval) of items such as a large generator for the new firehouse. With the plans for the new Rec Center, in the future, because of the modest extra expense incorporated within the approved plans approved by Council, if a major storm would again



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strike, the City would be able to house a limited number of residents. Mr. Waltz complimented the entire City staff, including administrative employees who went door-to-door in the hardest-hit neighborhoods distributing information and offering assistance.

Mr. Waltz commented that collected brush and trees are being temporarily stored near Osborne Boulevard. Public Works Director Mike Duncan added that the City has already collected and disposed of thousands of yards of brush thus far. The plans for the brush being placed near Osborne are to rent a tub grinder to further reduce its bulk.

Councilman Bryan complimented that he was impressed with how people in general remained very considerate of each other during the recent storm and extended power outage. For example, he noted that when traffic control devices were out of commission, people were in fact taking turns, as they should, and overall were considerate. Mr. Duncan commented that Service Department employees this week worked 58 hours. He noted that extra time is needed to take care of the quantity of brush because it takes longer to load and deposit at Osborne. He estimates that most brush should be taken care of by the third time crews are able to canvass the City.

Councilman Czerwonka expressed his compliments to the staff on their response to the wind storm and commented that he has heard nothing but compliments from citizens regarding the City's response. He expressed compliments to the City staff also on its ability to efficiently handle the Sister City delegation in the midst of the storm and power outages.

Councilwoman Stoller commented that even though most of her neighborhood was out of power for a full week, most people were understanding given the nature of the crisis.

Vice Mayor Weber commented that this is his seventh Student Government Day activity, and he has renewed confidence in the future leaders. He commented that interesting discussion was had at dinner with the students, and he is pleased that the City hosts an event which can show our future leaders how a well-run city operates.

In response to a suggestion from Councilman Bryan, each of the students introduced themselves:

- Eric Hodgson, a Sycamore senior residing on Hunt Road, commented that he thoroughly enjoyed his experience with the Student Government Day activities. He appreciated the opportunity to see how the City government is run, and he noted an interest in getting involved in the future in local politics. He is enrolled in the Marine delayed-entry program, and next summer will be at basic training.
- Matt Retta, a Sycamore senior who resides in Sycamore Trace, expressed his thanks to all involved with the day's activities. He appreciated the chance to learn how a well-run city operates, and hopes to attend Ohio State University next year, with desires to be a plastic surgeon in the future.
- Brianna Moody, a Sycamore senior who lives in Sycamore Trace, commented that she is pleased to live in a great community. She was impressed with how everyone works so well together – all departments seem very compatible and friendly. She hopes to attend the University of Kentucky next year to study Equine Science. She thanked the City for the day's experience.
- Chris King, a Sycamore junior who resides on Muirwoods Court, commented that he enjoyed today's activities and the chance to learn how local government works on a personal level. He thanked the City for the fine job it does, and he hopes to attend the University of Cincinnati to study engineering.
- Keondra Nichole Gibbs, a Sycamore senior who resides in the Hazelwood neighborhood, expressed her thanks to the City for the day's activities. She explained that she recently moved to Blue Ash and commented that everyone has been very nice. She hopes to attend Georgia Tech next year to study mechanical engineering.

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Mayor Buckman expressed his thanks to all the students for being a part of Student Government Day. He noted that due to the power outage, some students who originally signed up to participate were not able to come, likely due to shifts in school schedules and requirements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 PM.

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Robert J. Buckman, Jr., 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