

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on March 13, 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, Councilman Henry Stacey, Councilwoman Stephanie Stoller, Councilman James Sumner, and Vice Mayor Mark Weber

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Waltz, Deputy Solicitor Bryan Pacheco, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Service Director Mike Duncan, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, member of the press, and interested citizens

Mayor Buckman appointed Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler to read the legislation in its entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller 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 February 28, 2008

7. COMMUNICATIONS

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

b. Reports From Outside Agencies

c. Mayor's Report – February 2008 – Honorable Robert J. Buckman, Jr.

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

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2008-19, transferring funds

2. Ordinance No. 2008-20, authorizing payment for reproduction and distribution services associated with the Recreation Center bid activity

3. Ordinance No. 2008-21, authorizing extension of HVAC maintenance and service contract

4. Ordinance No. 2008-22, authorizing real estate agreement in the D-1 District

b. Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2008-16, awarding bids for Phase II of the Recreation Center Expansion & Renovation Project

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Property Matters

12. ADJOURNMENT"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 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 – February 2008

RECEIPTS:

Fines	\$ 11,190.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over	\$ 0
Interest Earned.....	\$0.50
Bonds collected	\$ 0
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$ 11,190.50

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures)	\$ 8,439.50
To the State of OH	\$2,751.00
Refund of Overpaid Fines.....	\$0.00
Bond Money applied	\$0.00
Bond Money returned	\$ 0.00
BMV	\$0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$11,190.50

BALANCE IN BONDS:.....	\$0
Mayor's Court traffic citations	127
Mayor's Court criminal citations	15
Total Mayor's Court cases	142
February revenues from Mayor's Ct. Cases:	\$ 8,439.50

Financial Report – February 2008

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

CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT - MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2008

MONTH TO DATE	2007	2008
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 2-1-08	\$16,012,542.23	\$24,723,320.09
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	1,872,076.40	2,191,138.14
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	570,752.13	583,002.63
= Total Monthly Receipts	2,442,828.53	2,774,140.77
Expenditures:		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	2,947,147.57	3,279,655.31
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-2,947,147.57	-3,279,655.31
END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 2-29-08	15,508,223.19	24,217,805.55
YEAR TO DATE	2007	2008
START OF YEAR FUND BALANCE:	\$17,286,456.32	\$24,395,221.48
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	4,012,273.77	5,199,756.41
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	1,066,744.71	1,049,739.69
= Total Monthly Receipts	5,079,018.48	6,249,496.10
Expenditures:		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	6,857,251.61	6,426,912.03
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-6,857,251.61	-6,426,912.03
YTD FUND BALANCE:	15,508,223.19	24,217,805.55

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 2/29/08. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$177,764.15. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIVISION INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY FOR MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2008

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2007	2008
Business Net Profit	41,381.00	109,123.56
Resident Net Profit	19,740.86	26,091.05
Non-Resident Net Profit	10,920.61	9,246.54
Subcontractor Net Profit	1,316.35	1,646.01
Net Profit Total	73,358.82	146,107.16
Withholding	1,760,655.61	2,002,538.69
Subcontractor Withholding	38,061.97	42,492.29
Withholding Total	1,798,717.58	2,045,030.98
Monthly Collection Totals	1,872,076.40	2,191,138.14
YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS	2007	2008
Business Net Profit	288,363.65	748,085.58
Resident Net Profit	95,285.82	108,280.79
Non-Resident Net Profit	36,892.93	31,400.99
Subcontractor Net Profit	3,213.19	3,742.39
Net Profit Total	423,755.59	891,509.75
Withholding	3,488,085.83	4,196,345.12
Subcontractor Withholding	100,432.35	111,901.54
Withholding Total	3,588,518.18	4,308,246.66
YTD Collection Totals	4,012,273.77	5,199,756.41
YTD Refund Totals	48,972.23	115,396.65

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

No citizens wished to be heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2008-19 - Transferring funds

Several adjustments are necessary to the Final Budget ordinance approved by Council in January. The attachment provided appears overly complex, due to the need to appropriate a prior year fund balance/excess in the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project fund #441, and the need to utilize shifts in transfer allocations to accomplish the funding objectives described below.

The first significant issue involves an additional expenditure appropriation for \$100,000 in the SCMR (streets) fund #221 for the purchase of supplemental ice control supplies. Even though we possess one of the largest salt storage domes in the area, the Service Director has requested this funding to make certain that we have adequate resources to treat the roads for the remainder of this season, and allowing us to enter the fall 2008 winter with a full salt barn. Funding for this item was derived from the contingency account in the General Fund.

The other item of major impact involves funding for the Blue Ash/Hunt Road project in fund #441. This significant road improvement project, which has been planned and engineered for a number of years, is currently underway following an award by City Council to CJ&L. Several issues require the provision of additional resources from the City's General Fund (capital reserve) which are necessary to adequately fund this project to completion.

It is clear that the proposed and final budgets did not adequately assess the non-construction costs associated with project management and inspection, nor was there a realization that the ten-year, no-interest construction loan provided from the State's "Issue II" program would only compensate the City for 95% of the construction costs. It was believed that the loan provided 100% loan reimbursement for construction costs, but that has been determined to be incorrect. These items require transfers into the fund of over approximately \$170,000 at this time, utilizing resources from the capital reserve.

The remaining necessary funding, totaling \$250,000, is related to an anticipated agreement with the Cincinnati Water Works (arranged by Service Director Mike Duncan) for CWW to design and negotiate the replacement of an 80-year old 12-inch waterline within the scope of our roadway project. This line, given its age and likely condition, needs to be replaced in conjunction with this project to avoid the potential need to dig up the roadway to fix this waterline during the next several years. Mike Duncan identified this issue, worked out an arrangement with CWW to accelerate their main replacement scheduling, and anticipates bringing a change order to Council at an upcoming meeting to provide for CJ&L to perform this work on behalf of CWW. The City will pay CJ&L as work progresses, with ultimate reimbursement coming from CWW upon project completion.

Since the City will need to write checks from this fund in advance of receiving CWW's payment, it will be necessary to provide resources and to fund 441 so that these payments can be made. Once the project is complete, the reimbursement from CWW will create a surplus in the fund of \$250,000, which will be available for return to the City via the debt retirement fund. One might consider this quarter-million dollar "loan" to the fund a temporary financing mechanism to avoid having this fund go into the "red" to achieve this waterline replacement objective.

The only other significant item involves a correction to the Final Budget in the General Fund advertising area in the amount of \$40,000. The combined advertising budget should have been in the \$80,000 range, but the Community Development request for marketing/advertising funding had been inadvertently omitted, thus \$40,000 needs to be directed to this area.

The remaining items involve approximately \$2,500 to reflect a traffic signal insurance payment recovery, and supplemental training in the Facilities Maintenance, Streets, and Parks & Grounds accounts.

Please direct questions regarding the transfer to the Treasurer.

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2008-20 - Authorizing payment for reproduction and distribution services associated with the Recreation Center bid activity

As Council is aware, significant effort has been put forth this year towards the Recreation Center Phase II bids. This bidding opportunity was advertised late in January, made available online, and bids were opened in February. Recommended bid awards are presented to Council later at this meeting via Ordinance No. 2008-16.

For this complex renovation and expansion project, the City utilized Queen City Reprographics to assist with dissemination and "assembly" of bid information and specifications, which included online publication of the specifications/prints, as well as creation of the relatively "bulky" bidding and print specification packets. With 40+ companies submitting bids, and multiple others who most likely obtained the information but did not submit a bid, there was significant activity by Queen City in terms of outputting and making available this specification information. Queen City also kept track of the

bidders, collected fees, and assisted with the dissemination of the addendum information to potential bidders.

Ordinance No. 2008-20 authorizes an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the services performed by Queen City Reprographics in 2008. It should be noted that a portion of these costs will be (or have been) recovered via the non-refundable deposits required from bidders requesting a specification/print package.

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

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2008-21 - Authorizing extension of HVAC maintenance and service contract

Ordinance No. 2008-21 authorizes a one year extension of the current HVAC maintenance and service contract with Peck, Hannaford & Briggs Service Corporation to cover the April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 period. The current contract was a result of formal bidding procedures followed in 2005, resulting in a three-year bid award to Peck. This maintenance and services contract includes all City-owned facilities, and would authorize an additional year's extension at terms similar to the current contractual period (allowing an amount not to exceed an additional 15% over the current contractual period ending March 31, 2008).

The Administration is recommending that this contract extension be allowed due to the difficulties of bidding while the bulk of the construction associated with the Recreation Center expansion and renovation project is due to begin soon.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.4. Ordinance No. 2008-22 - Authorizing real estate agreement in the D-1 District

Ordinance No. 2008-22 provides the authority for the City Manager to negotiate and thereafter enter into an agreement with MV Real Estate Ventures Ltd. related to their efforts in acquiring the Towne Court building at 9514 Kenwood Road in Downtown Blue Ash. They are in the process of purchasing the building and real estate with the intent to redevelop the property in line with the Council-adopted **Blue Ash Town Center Concept Redevelopment Plan**. MV Real Estate has asked that the City agree to purchase this property from them at an amount not to exceed the purchase price paid, plus related and reasonable expenses (cost of carry) should their efforts and desires for redevelopment not come to fruition. The Administration recommends approval of this given Council's stated desire for fresh and creative development in line with the new Downtown Concept plan. The agreement will be drafted with assistance from and approval by the City Solicitor's Office.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2008-16 - Awarding bids for Phase II of the Recreation Center Expansion & Renovation Project

As Council is aware, bids were recently solicited for the Phase II work associated with the Recreation Center expansion project. Bids were advertised in the January 30th edition of the *Northeast Suburban Life* and were made available through several plan rooms (such as FW Dodge, Allied, Queen City online, etc.). Bids were opened on Friday morning, February 22nd.

Fourteen categories of work were included in this phase of the project, and the project team is prepared to recommend awards for 13 of the 14 categories. At the February 28th meeting, Council authorized the rebid for Category 8, aluminum, glass & glazing, due to lack of sufficient bids, and that rebidding process will soon be underway. In addition, as discussed with Council in February, the only project alternate being recommended for award at this time is Alternate 12 relating to the lockers. The recommendation results in a reduction in cost as result of the substitution of metal lockers in lieu of phenolic lockers in the men's and women's locker rooms.

The team continues to work with our engineers and construction manager to "value engineer" the canopy (Alternates 2 and 3) and trellis components (Alternates 4 & 5) of the project and intends to bring those items to Council with significant reductions in cost at a future meeting. Other alternates may be considered dependent upon results of the value engineering savings. A summary of all the project's alternate components as included in the bid specifications, but not being awarded at this time (except for Alternate 12), is listed below:

- Alternate 1: Finished basement meeting space
- Alternate 2: North canopy
- Alternate 3: West canopy
- Alternate 4: North (front) trellis
- Alternate 5: Pool trellis (outside family area)

- Alternate 6: Exercise roof deck
- Alternate 7: Install FRP (fiberglass reinforced panels) along perimeter corners of running track
- Alternate 8: Replace roof membrane on remainder portion of building
- Alternate 9: Substitute reinforced PVC roof membrane in lieu of EPDM membrane
- Alternate 10: Water softener
- Alternate 11: Furnish and install high density spray on fireproofing in lieu of intumescent paint in some locations
- Alternate 12: Substitute metal lockers in lieu of phenolic lockers

The awards recommended at this time via Ordinance No. 2008-16, in accordance with all the bid specifications and plans, are summarized below:

- Category 1 (Site Utilities & Plumbing): P J Plas Plumbing, Inc.; base amount of \$322,713.
- Category 2 (Site Demolition, Excavation & Asphalt Paving) and Category 6 (General Trades, with acceptance of Alternate 12): Mark Spaulding Construction Company, for a total combined amount submitted within their combination proposal of \$3,821,000.
- Category 3 (Concrete): Empire Building Company, LLC, for a base amount not to exceed \$767,000.
- Category 4 (Masonry): Weisbrod Masonry, for a base amount not to exceed \$922,000.
- Category 5 (Structural Steel/Metals): Champion Bridge Company, for a base amount not to exceed \$1,230,325.
- Category 7 (Wood Flooring): Cincinnati Floor Company, for a base amount not to exceed \$111,525.
- Category 9 (Painting & Wall Covering): Flannery Painting, for a base amount not to exceed \$74,550.
- Category 10 (Flooring & Tile): T.H. Winston Co., for a base amount not to exceed \$586,000.
- Category 11 (Elevator): Vertical Systems Elevator Company, for a base amount not to exceed \$68,000. Note also within Section IX of the ordinance that work continues with this vendor to confirm specifics related to this bid and is contingent upon satisfactory resolution of these outstanding issues.
- Category 12 (Fire Protection): Dalmatian Fire, for a base amount not to exceed \$115,786.
- Category 13 (HVAC/Mechanicals): Langdon, Inc., for a base amount not to exceed \$605,000.
- Category 14 (Electrical): Volpenhein Brothers Electric, for a base amount not to exceed \$749,514.

A bid summary of all categories is included in Council packets for reference, with the recommended awards highlighted.

These recommended bid awards represent \$9,253,413 (including Alternate 12 deduction). Combined with the anticipated category 8 bids (aluminum glass & glazing), we are estimating total Phase II construction awards of \$9.7 million, which is approximately \$450,000 over the Architect's estimate. However, as noted above, the Architect and Construction Manager are currently focusing on value engineering, changes in material or scope of work, with an expected outcome that could save up to \pm \$300,000, which will be reflected in follow-up change orders to be summarized for Council at a future meeting. Through the process of awarding the categories of work described above and in the ordinance, a basis has been established which will permit the design team, Architects, Engineers, and Construction Manager to work with the successful bidders, and with the glass bid yet to be awarded, to generate the expected project reduction benefits described in the last meeting.

The various alternates, such as the trellis/canopies, etc., are not reflected in the awards or budgetary calculations above, and will also be addressed at a future Council meeting.

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

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-19 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-19

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2008-3 FOR THE YEAR 2008 (AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT); 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 Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-19. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2008-19 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-20 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-20

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH DUPLICATION, ONLINE POSTING, AND DISTRIBUTION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH FORMAL BIDDING ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE RECREATION CENTER RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT IN 2008; 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 Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-20. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2008-20 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-21 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-21

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT ORIGINALLY AUTHORIZED VIA ORDINANCE NO. 2005-23 FOR HVAC REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE MUNICIPAL & SAFETY CENTER/FIREHOUSE COMPLEX AND ALL OTHER CITY-OWNED FACILITIES; 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, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-21. In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller, Treasurer Jim Pfeffer explained that three years ago, this HVAC maintenance and service contract was formally bid and awarded by Council. Because of the difficulties associated with trying to bid these services while the Recreation Center renovation and expansion project is underway, the Administration is requesting Council approval to extend the current contract one year. In his opinion, the current contract is very reasonable and offers beneficial coverage which would be difficult to secure otherwise. He added that extending this contract one more year is still significantly less costly than the second closest bidder three years ago. There being no further

discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2008-21 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-22 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-22

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND THEREAFTER ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE AGREEMENT WITH MV REAL ESTATE VENTURES LTD. RELATING TO PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN BLUE ASH; 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 Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-22. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Councilman Sumner voted no. Six yeases. One no. Ordinance No. 2008-22 passed.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2008-16 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-16

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF WORK ASSOCIATED WITH PHASE II OF THE RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT FOR THE AMOUNTS AND UNIT PRICES (IF ANY) AS DESCRIBED WITHIN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Stacey seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. 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. 2008-16. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Councilman Sumner voted no. Six yeases. One no. Ordinance No. 2008-16 passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Service/Public Works Director Mike Duncan complimented the snow removal employees on an outstanding job of snow and ice control during the recent extreme snow experienced over the past weekend (12-15" fell on Friday and Saturday, including blizzard-like conditions at times). As this is his first snow experienced as the City's new Service Director, he commented that the Blue Ash crews did as efficient a job as he has ever experienced in similar positions with other communities. He also expressed thanks to employees based in other City divisions for their assistance with this work. He added that by approximately Noon on Sunday, all of Blue Ash's streets were essentially clear.

Mr. Duncan gave a brief update on the Blue Ash Road project. Crews are now north of Ronald Reagan Highway installing the main storm sewer collection pipe. They will soon begin installation of a 16" water main on the west side of the road for Cincinnati Water Works (CWW), and work on Hunt Road will also begin shortly. The project is on schedule to be completed by late fall/early December.

City Manager David Waltz reminded Council of the recent resignation of Bill Sikute from Planning Commission (due to relocation/retirement to Tennessee), and noted that the Administration would look for input from Council regarding filling of that vacancy.

Mr. Waltz welcomed Mike Duncan to his first official meeting as the City's new Service/Public Works Director, and mentioned that he is already off to an excellent start with some significant discoveries and suggestions. For example, Mr. Duncan has arranged with Cincinnati Water Works (CWW) for the replacement of 80-year old 12" water main along Blue Ash Road, and the need to realign this new line due to easement circumstances. Our current contractor, CJ&L, will install the new CWW pipe under the current contract, which will require a future project change order. However, CWW will fully reimburse the City for this extra work upon completion. Completing this work now will undoubtedly prevent the premature need to damage the road improvements currently underway and scheduled to be completed later this year.

Mr. Waltz also expressed his thanks and compliments to the snow and ice control crews for a job well done this past weekend.

Mr. Waltz mentioned that tomorrow at 2:45PM at Madeira City Hall, a brief presentation to State of Ohio legislators is planned regarding the potential of the future Performing Arts & Conference Center receiving State capital funds. The presentation is expected to be approximately ten minutes, and any Councilmember is welcome to attend if interested.

Mr. Waltz commented that he recently met with the new Cincinnati Assistant City Manager, David Holmes, who moved to Cincinnati from the Lexington area. Mr. Holmes will be responsible for Cincinnati's Transportation Department, including the Blue Ash Airport reconfiguration project. Mr. Waltz commented that Mr. Holmes appears to be a competent and enthusiastic representative who he and the Administration look forward to working with to advance the Airport project. Also related to the Airport project, Mr. Waltz commented that the City recently made a formal request to Ohio Congresswoman Jean Schmidt's office for federal funding to assist with the airport reconfiguration. Though the request was for \$1 million (per recommendation of the City's consultant), he explained that it is not likely that the City will receive funding this year; however, by putting ourselves in the funding "pipeline," it could improve chances of receiving such funding in future years. He also noted a comment recently read in the *Washington Kiplinger Report* newsletter which predicts that small airports may have a more difficult task in securing federal funding this year. Regardless, he noted that the Administration will continue efforts to keep this project moving forward.

Councilwoman Stoller expressed welcoming comments to Mr. Duncan.

Councilman Sumner complimented the snow and ice removal crews on a job well done over the weekend.

Councilman Bryan also expressed his thanks and compliments to the snow crews. He also thanked Mr. Pfeffer for being the point of contact regarding recent calls he has received from energy aggregators. Councilman Bryan also explained a recent experience with a "water hammer" situation which occurred at his place of work, The Wellness Community, caused by the nearby Cincinnati Water Works project in the surrounding Arcadia subdivision.

Councilman Czerwonka expressed his thanks to the snow removal crews and mentioned that his neighborhood was very impressed with the service provided.

Councilman Stacey welcomed Mr. Duncan to the Administration and complimented him on progress made on the waterline project on Blue Ash Road.

Mayor Buckman also welcomed Mr. Duncan to the Blue Ash team and complimented the snow crews on their efforts over the weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After all items on the agenda were acted upon, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to convene an Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to property. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried. The Executive Session was held in the new community conference room almost complete off the main lobby (the former home of the Tax Office).

After matters pertaining to property were discussed, Councilman Bryan moved, Vice Mayor 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 Stacey moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:31PM.

Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council