

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on February 8, 2007. 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 Dennis Albrinck, Technology Officer Dan Klapp, Police Chief Chris Wallace, Police Captain Jim Schaffer, Police Officer Chris Zielinski, other Officers of the Police Department, member of the press, and interested citizens

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR POLICE K-9 OZZY AND HIS HANDLER OFFICER CHRIS ZIELINSKI

Police Captain Jim Schaffer explained that Police K9 Ozzy began service with the Blue Ash Department in August 2003. Unfortunately, Ozzy developed an illness after only 3 ½ years and had to be put to sleep earlier this month. Ozzy and his Handler, Officer Chris Zielinski, participated in many public appearances, demonstrations, drug sweeps, searches, etc. Just one example of a relatively recent success occurred in October 2005, when Ozzy and Officer Zielinski were recognized for apprehending two armed bank robbers in Sharonville late at night. Captain Schaffer further explained that K9's are a recognized valuable asset to law enforcement, and relationships development between the dogs, their handlers, and their families. Captain Schaffer invited Officer Zielinski to the podium and presented him with a plaque honoring his and Ozzy's service to the Department. Officer Zielinski's wife and son joined them at the podium.

Captain Schaffer explained that shortly after Ozzy passed away, a representative from the Matt Haverkamp Foundation contacted the City. Captain Schaffer introduced Mr. Bruce Haverkamp, Matt's father.

Mr. Haverkamp explained that in 2005, his son Matt, a Golf Manor Police Officer and K9 handler, passed away in an auto accident. Afterwards, The Matt Haverkamp Foundation, a non-profit group, was formed in Matt's honor, and its purpose is to further causes that were important to Matt. Last year, the Foundation funded two police dogs in the Greater Cincinnati area, one for Madeira and one for Loveland. In 2007, the Foundation would like for proceeds of its events to partially fund a replacement K9 for Blue Ash. The Foundation sponsors a 5K run in April and a golf outing in July. After some discussion, Councilman Bryan suggested that perhaps some Council members and persons from City staff may be interested in volunteering at these events as rounding up volunteers is often a most difficult task for non-profit organizations. It was agreed that Sue Bennett would assist in coordinating this effort.

Mayor Buckman welcomed a Boy Scout from Troop 299 who was in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Buckman appointed Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk and Service Director Denny Albrinck to read the legislation in its entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka 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. SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR POLICE K-9 OZZY AND HIS HANDLER OFFICER CHRIS ZIELINSKI
5. APPOINTMENT OF PERSON(S) TO READ ORDINANCES IN FULL IN REAR OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Regular Meeting of January 11, 2007
 - b. Hearing and Work Session of January 25, 2007
8. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
 - b. Reports From Outside Agencies
 - c. Recording of the 2006 Annual Report
9. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS
10. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson
 1. Ordinance No. 2007-10, authorizing purchase of computer equipment and software for multiple City departments and divisions in 2007 using pricing from the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program
 - b. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson
 1. Motion accepting the Findings of Fact/Conclusions of Law associated with the Budget Rent-A-Car hearing held on January 25, 2007
 2. Motion setting a public hearing for 7:00PM, Thursday, February 22, 2007, regarding a modification of an approved large-scale residential development at the end of Myerdale Drive
 - c. Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson
 1. Ordinance No. 2007-11, authorizing contracts for professional architectural and engineering services associated with the Recreation Center Expansion Project and the Golf Course Clubhouse Construction project
 - d. Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson
 1. Ordinance No. 2007-12, authorizing purchase of replacement video cameras for Police vehicles using pricing from the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program
 - e. Public Works Committee, Henry Stacey, Chairperson
 1. Ordinance No. 2007-13, amending Ordinance No. 2006-45 regarding the 2006 Paving Program
11. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS
12. ADJOURNMENT"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2007. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to approve the minutes of the Hearing and Work Session of January 25, 2007. 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

There were no reports from outside agencies presented at the meeting.

Recording of the 2006 Annual Report

Councilwoman Stoller and Councilman Czerwonka complimented the format and content of the 2006 annual report. Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to accept the 2006 annual report. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried. (The 2006 Annual Report is spread at the end of these minutes)

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

A summary of comments presented by Jim Dyer, 5275 Myerdale Drive, is below:

- He complimented the City on the excellent snow removal during the storm earlier this week.
- He commented that he learned that City Council meetings are tape recorded only when requested by the City Solicitor. He suggested the City consider taping all meetings so citizens can later hear the discussion.
- As a member of the group "best for Blue Ash," Mr. Dyer mentioned that they are interested in finding ways to educate citizens and voters about Blue Ash. His group plans to begin videotaping Council meetings.

Michael Kelly, 9639 Cooper Lane, also complimented the City on its snow removal efforts. He mentioned still pending issues with the construction underway at Monroe and Cooper, including periodic parking of cars by construction workers over the sidewalk, a portion of the sidewalk on Cooper Road having sunk in after excavation for a sewer lateral, and hanging wires/cables (though he believes they are not live wires). He urged Council to consider the needs of existing residents when considering future development, including issues with noise.

Dave Bonta, 11288 Cornell Woods Drive, spoke briefly regarding a problem he has been experiencing at his home with noise from an adjacent business (Ground Masters). He understands that Council plans to soon consider an ordinance limiting work hours, and he remarked that he believes asking for volunteer cooperation from a business is not likely to solve his problem and perhaps others in the community. He has been talking with the City often, including with Dan Johnson, about the problem experienced by his family, and the current restrictions in the Blue Ash Code are based on consistent noise at certain levels (60 db). The nature of his noise problem is that it is a constant drone, which when measured by the City, has not reached that 60 db limit. He also mentioned the consistent beeping of vehicles backing up, the noise in the middle of the night related to their snow removal activities, and frequent honking and yelling by workers (trying to be heard amongst themselves over their already loud equipment). He also mentioned that American Metals also is nearby and operates large semi trucks contributing to the problem. He urged Council, when discussing this issue, that they consider a broader scope of the noise issue, and not just the hours of operation, which in his opinion may only help with the middle-of-the-night or early morning instances. He suggested Council also consider the constant type of noises that he and his family are experiencing -- even though such noise might not reach that restricted level described in the Code, such noise is not conducive to a residential neighborhood. It is his opinion, businesses that operate such heavy machinery should not be allowed to locate adjacent to a residential area. Mr. Bonta explained that a berm has been installed; however, the shrubbery placed upon it is negligible, and perhaps even worsens the noise problem, in his opinion, by creating a tunneling effect.

Hearings from Citizens was declared closed at approximately 7:26 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 February 8th Council Agenda:

Item 4. Special recognition for Police K-9 Ozzy and his Handler Officer Chris Zielinski

Sadly, earlier this month, one of the Police canines, Ozzy, had to be put asleep due to a diagnosis of Degenerative Myelopathy, a disease in dogs that has no known cure and is similar to multiple sclerosis in humans.

Ozzy, who was seven years old, had been with the Department since August 2003, and was handled by Officer Chris Zielinski. The Police Administration has asked Officer Zielinski to attend Thursday's meeting to be presented with a plaque recognizing him and Ozzy for their service. The Department is in the process of acquiring a replacement canine, partially through donated funds (\$5,200) from the Matt Haverkamp Foundation. The Chairperson of the Foundation, Nancy Haverkamp, also plans to be in attendance at the meeting to say a few words about this matter.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Police Captain Jim Schaffer at 745-8549. (Jim will also be in attendance at the meeting.)

10.a.1. Ordinance No. 2007-10 - Authorizing purchase of computer equipment and software for multiple City departments and divisions in 2007 using pricing from the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program

Ordinance No. 2007-10 authorizes computer related purchases utilizing the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Program. The first portion of the ordinance authorizes the purchase of computer equipment from Dell Marketing L.P. for a total amount not to exceed \$70,000 in 2007. The second portion authorizes the purchase of Office Professional 2007 license applications for multiple City departments and divisions from SHI for an amount not to exceed \$27,837. All items to be purchased were included within the 2007 Budget, and the Technology Officer is extremely pleased with the reasonable prices offered for purchase of these items through the State's program.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Technology Officer at 745-6245 or the Treasurer who will be at Thursday's meeting.

10.b.1. Motion accepting the Findings of Fact/Conclusions of Law associated with the Budget Rent-A-Car hearing held on January 25, 2007

At the January 25th Council meeting, a hearing was held to discuss the appeal of the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals decision to grant a variance to Budget Rent-A-Car to locate a rental agency on Kenwood Road in the M-1 District. At that meeting, Council voted to reverse the Board of Zoning Appeals decision and to uphold the decision of the Assistant Community Development Director, thereby not allowing that rental car agency at this location.

The Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law drafted by the Solicitor's Office is included in your packets. As was explained by Deputy Solicitor Bryan Pacheco at that hearing, the next step in this process would be for Council to formally approve that document.

Please direct questions regarding this issue to the Solicitor or Deputy Solicitor.

10.b.2. Motion setting a public hearing for 7:00PM, Thursday, February 22, 2007, regarding a modification of an approved large-scale residential development at the end of Myerdale Drive

The City is in receipt of a request to modify an approved large-scale residential development at the end of Myerdale Drive to create two additional building lots. Planning Commission reviewed this at their February 1st meeting, and recommended approval to Council. Therefore, this motion would appropriately set a hearing at the February 22nd Council meeting to formally consider this request. Additional information regarding this application will be provided for Council and the public at the hearing.

Please direct questions regarding this item to the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at 745-8528 or the City Manager.

10.c.1. Ordinance No. 2007-11 - Authorizing contracts for professional architectural and engineering services associated with the Recreation Center Expansion Project and the Golf Course Clubhouse Construction project

As has been discussed with Council, the Parks & Recreation Administration sent out Requests for Proposals to solicit informal quotations for the architectural and engineering services associated with

the Recreation Center expansion project as well as the Golf Course Clubhouse construction. A total of 28 RFP's were sent out, and the City received quotes from 14 firms. After review of the submitted materials and narrowing down the prospects, the Recreation team interviewed four firms.

The team recommends that a contracts be authorized with Michael Schuster Associates for the Rec Center project, and with Steed Hammond Paul for the Golf Course clubhouse project. The ordinance stipulates hourly amounts for both firms, plus allows the payment of usual and customary reimbursable expenses as approved by the City.

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

10.d.1. Ordinance No. 2007-12 - Authorizing purchase of replacement video cameras for Police vehicles using pricing from the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program

Ordinance No. 2007-12 authorizes a contract with Camp Safety Equipment Company for the purchase and installation of digital video cameras for cruisers. Funding for this project was included within the 2007 Budget.

The Police Administration has been reviewing the potential sources for this equipment, and is recommending that a contract be authorized with Camp Safety Equipment Company. Although the purchase will not be made through the State's Cooperative Purchasing Program, the cost for the equipment proposed by Camp is the same or lower than the matching equipment through the State's bid list. However, when considering the overall cost of the project, which would include installation as well as trade-in value for 16 existing units, the Administration is recommending this contract with Camp because, all things considered, it represents the lowest and best arrangement for the purchase and installation of these items. Ordinance No. 2007-12 authorizes an amount not to exceed \$92,024, less a total trade in value of \$8,000 for 16 existing units, resulting in a net installed price of \$84,024.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to Police Captain Jim Schaffer who will be present at the meeting.

10.e.1. Ordinance No. 2007-13 - Amending Ordinance No. 2006-45 regarding the 2006 Paving Program

During the execution of the 2006 Paving Program, the City directed additional work to be done that was not covered by the unit prices listed in the bid specs. This work included grinding off existing painted striping at the Glendale Milford and Kenwood Road intersection and placing thermoplasty on the street (Change Order #1) and the adjusting of a manhole and the painting of five "SCHOOL" signs on the roadway (Change Order #2). Due to the volatility of the price of petroleum in 2006, the contractor also submitted a price adjustment for asphalt binder per ODOT spec 401.20 which allows for such a request.

The approval of these two change orders will allow the City to make final payment for the 2006 Paving Program and close out the account. Despite the added cost of the change orders, the final cost for the 2006 Paving Program will only be \$8,769.87 over the base bid of estimated quantities and will be under the amount originally budgeted for the 2006 Paving Program.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Service Director."

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-10 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-10

AUTHORIZING PURCHASES OF COMPUTER NETWORK RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE FOR MULTIPLE CITY DIVISIONS UTILIZING THE STATE OF OHIO'S STATE PURCHASING PROGRAM THROUGH DELL MARKETING L.P. (FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000 IN 2007) AND SHI (FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$27,837 IN 2007); 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 yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Czerwonka seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-

10. 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. 2007-10 passed.

Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Findings of Fact/Conclusions of Law associated with the Budget Rent-A-Car hearing held on January 25, 2007. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Weber, Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to set a public hearing for 7:00PM, Thursday, February 22, 2007, regarding a modification of an approved large-scale residential development at the end of Myerdale Drive. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Lee Czerwonka, Chairperson

Councilman Czerwonka asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-11 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-11

AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECREATION CENTER
EXPANSION PROJECT AND GOLF COURSE
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Czerwonka moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-11. Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk commented that the team had tough choices to make for these projects and is confident that the firms selected will do a fine job. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stacey, Czerwonka, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Weber, and Mayor Buckman voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2007-11 passed.

Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-12 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-12

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF
VIDEO CAMERAS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES
FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$84,024 (NET OF
TRADE-INS); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Czerwonka 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.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-12. Chief Chris Wallace commented that these cameras are of the newest technology and will be an important tool for the Department. 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. 2007-12 passed.

Public Works Committee, Henry S. Stacey, Chairperson

Councilman Stacey asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2007-13 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-13

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2006-45 REGARDING THE
2006 PAVING PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY

Councilman Stacey moved, Councilman Bryan 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 Stacey moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2007-13. 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. 2007-13 passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Service Director Denny Albrinck commented that Cincinnati Water Works plans to begin their Blue Ash Road project in early April. They do plan to begin in Blue Ash first and hope to be complete with the Blue Ash portion in July. No work will be allowed on Cooper Road until after the Memorial Day Parade event, and there is no disruption expected with any of the special events. Their hope is to be complete with the entire project, which also falls within the boundaries of Sycamore Township, in early 2008.

Discussion Regarding Memorials and Other Donations

Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk reminded Council of a previous discussion relating to memorials and other donations. He redistributed the proposed draft policy, which was first distributed several meetings ago.

In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller, Mr. Funk commented that the policy could definitely be expanded to include the airport park once it has been developed. He explained that a concept in the policy is for the City not to have the responsibility for perpetual maintenance of an item donated (unless it is the City's fault that it was damaged).

In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Mr. Funk explained that it would not be the intention to honor every request for a memorial placement. The idea would be for his department to maintain a list of potential items that there could be a need for. If a request comes in and if the donor is willing to provide an item on this "approved" list, then such a request could be honored.

Councilman Sumner reiterated his concern with honoring such requests from persons who have no Blue Ash affiliation or involvement with the community. Councilman Stacey commented that he had no problem with items that may have a plaque saying something to the effect "donated by ..." However, he would have a problem with numerous items placed with plaques containing wording such as "in memory of ..." Councilman Stacey commented that he believes Mr. Funk has proposed controls in the policy to alleviate his concerns. After some discussion, it appeared no other Councilperson shared Mr. Sumner's concern of such memorials for non Blue Ash parties.

After brief discussion, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Sumner seconded to approve the memorial donation policy as proposed (and which is spread in the minutes below for clarification) relating to memorial donations. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

"POLICY PROPOSAL FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS AND OTHER DONATIONS

Research has been completed regarding the topic of memorial donations, and the Parks & Recreation Department has the following recommendations for implementing a policy to handle these types of requests. I suggest that we do a Policy Statement and seek formal approval in the minutes by City Council. The guidelines would be as follows:

Memorial Donations – Major

- Examples would be plaques or statues.

- Placement of item would be at the discretion of Council and the Recreation Director.
- Person being memorialized would have to have made a significant contribution to the City of Blue Ash. Examples would include a past Council member, community volunteer, business contributor, etc.
- Donation would have to include item and installation of item. Future maintenance of the item would be the responsibility of the City of Blue Ash.
- All such proposals would have to have City of Blue Ash Council approval.

Memorial Donations – Minor

- Examples would be trees, benches, drinking fountains, or other appropriate items.
- Donations would be accepted based upon City needs.
- Placement for **trees** would be limited to the Blue Ash Nature Park and Blue Ash Golf Course. No plaques will be allowed. Donor information will be on display in the Recreation Center or Golf Course Clubhouse, depending upon the tree location. Future maintenance of the item would be the responsibility of the City of Blue Ash. Replacement would not be the City of Blue Ash's responsibility.
- Placement for **benches or drinking fountains** is limited to downtown Blue Ash, Blue Ash Nature Park, Blue Ash Golf Course, and the Blue Ash Sports Center. Placement of items to be determined by the City of Blue Ash. Plaques are allowed with specific wording; however, no "in memory of." Example of allowable wording: "Bench donated by the John Doe Family." All installation needs and costs must be covered by the donor. Future maintenance of the item would be the responsibility of the City of Blue Ash. Replacement in case of a disaster or vandalism would not be the City of Blue Ash's responsibility.
- The donor will have a list of approved trees, benches, and fountains to choose from. Choices will vary with location selection.
- Approval for these types of donations will be handled through the Recreation Director's Office."

Mr. Funk gave a brief update on the changes of area radio stations and its effect upon the search for sponsors for special events. These media changes have been due to corporate changes, media buy outs, etc. He commented that the City has been fortunate in replacing the radio sponsorship for the July 4th event in that WCPO Channel 9 television will be the media sponsor in 2007. Though they do not plan to televise the event this year, they do plan to telecast the 5PM, 5:30PM and 6PM news live at the event, and Mr. Funk estimates their overall "package," including promotions, etc. is worth about \$100,000. He believes that two country radio stations, B105 and The Wolf, will be sponsoring the SummerBration event, and they are currently working on possibilities for the Taste of Blue Ash event.

City Manager David Waltz suggested that the March 8th Council meeting be a work session format, with the topic being the Recreation Center expansion. In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, Mr. Waltz commented that discussion regarding noise would be handled under Miscellaneous Business at the February 22nd meeting. Council expressed no objection to this meeting plan.

Mr. Waltz commented that the Administration is planning for Student Government Day to be April 26th, and no Councilperson expressed objection to this plan.

Mr. Waltz commented that there will be some office reconfiguration within the Municipal & Safety Center in the very near future. The Tax Division will be relocated to the area that once housed the history room and will be combined with the adjacent Finance Office. The space which currently houses the Tax Division will be redone to serve as a conference room that could be used for larger staff meetings, perhaps future Council Executive Sessions or Work Sessions, and will also be available to the public for meetings.

Mr. Waltz commented that the City has chosen an architect to study the Municipal & Safety Center and potential long-term improvements or repairs that will be needed. The cost for this review is expected to be less than the \$25,000 ordinance threshold, and future updates will be provided.

Mr. Waltz gave a brief update regarding the hotel tax issue discussed at the last meeting. There was a meeting recently with the northern suburbs, associated with the North Cincinnati Convention & Visitors Bureau. Revenues have come in higher than the debt service for the Greater Cincinnati Convention Center, and a portion of those funds will be directed to an expansion of the Sharonville Convention Center. The question is would Blue Ash be an appropriate venue for receipt of a portion of these funds in the future, and if so, what amount (while still maintaining equity for the region as a whole). Discussions continue with this, and ultimately, it will be a decision of the Hamilton County Commissioners. Councilman Sumner added that a major goal would be to assure revenue flexibility for the future. He stressed the importance of continuing efforts to make County Commissioners aware of Blue Ash's opinions, while still maintaining a regional viewpoint. Councilman Sumner commented that he believes it important that Council commit to have a single point of contact with the County Commissioners regarding this issue and to speak with a unified voice. He suggested that the main contact be consultant Chris Colwell; and if the need exists for an elected person to be a contact, then he suggested that person be the Mayor. Council expressed no objection to this suggestion.

In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller, Service Director Denny Albrinck commented that the Community Development Office should follow up on the sidewalk problem on Cooper Road previously brought up by resident Michael Kelly.

Discussion was had regarding the status of the potential TIF for the Osborne Boulevard site. Councilman Sumner expressed concern with the thought that if the third office building is not constructed in the timeframe indicated, the City would be making up funding otherwise lost by the Sycamore School District (for up to five years). City Manager Waltz commented that this request by Sycamore was a very recent one. He explained that in the event the third large building is delayed, then Blue Ash would pay the difference between the surplus TIF revenues paid to the schools and 75% of what the schools would have collected on construction already in place. The City estimates this payment would be about \$150,000 annually if that third building were to be delayed. Given the proposed TIF arrangement, when buildings #1 and #2 are done, the School District would be 60% whole. If #3 is not built, the City would reimburse the schools about \$100,000 to \$150,000 for no more than five years. This amount represents the approximate difference of the Schools being 60% whole and 75% whole. He explained that this provision demonstrates the City's desire to reduce risk borne by the District. Mr. Waltz commented that the numbers still support the City doing this because of the additional income tax revenues to Blue Ash associated with the project.

Some discussion was had regarding this framework, and in addressing a concern expressed by Councilman Stacey, Mr. Waltz commented that in his opinion, this would not be setting an unwanted precedent since each TIF project is independent with conditions differing with each situation. After some discussion, it was agreed that the message was that Council was uncomfortable with this principle (i.e., the five-year reimbursement to make up for revenues if the third building is delayed), and that it is unlikely a similar offering in a future TIF would be allowed.

Some discussion was had regarding the proposed E-waste disposal service and information provided by Mr. Albrinck. Councilman Sumner encouraged the City to continue looking into alternative, more environmentally friendly, methods of disposal that would result in such waste items not being placed in landfills. Councilman Sumner also agreed to investigate additional possibilities. He also encouraged further inquiry as to ways the City could perhaps benefit from recovery costs.

In addressing a question from Councilman Czerwonka, Mr. Albrinck commented that some of the older sections of pavement with raised markings experienced loss of those markings by the snowplows. Mr. Albrinck commented that the City would likely not replace those raised markings until the street is scheduled for its next routine repaving.

Councilman Bryan suggested that perhaps Council and others in the City might be interested in volunteering at the Matt Haverkamp Foundation events mentioned earlier in the meeting and that Sue Bennett could serve as a point of contact for such efforts.

Mayor Buckman reminded all of the open house scheduled at the Hunt House on Saturday from Noon to 2PM.

ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:28 PM.

Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council

(NOTE: THE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT IS CONTAINED ON THE NEXT PAGES)