

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

March 25, 2010

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A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on March 25, 2010. Mayor Mark F. Weber called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Mayor Weber led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Waltz, Deputy Solicitor Bryan Pacheco, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Public Works Director Mike Duncan, Fire Chief Rick Brown, Deputy Treasurer/Tax Commissioner Sherry Poppe, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, and interested citizens

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Bryan 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 March 11, 2010
7. COMMUNICATIONS
  - a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
  - b. Reports From Outside Agencies
  - c. Mayor’s Report – February 2010 – Honorable Mark F. Weber
  - d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for February 2010
8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson
    1. Ordinance No. 2010-16, transferring funds
  - b. Public Works Committee, Thomas C. Adamec, Chairperson
    1. Resolution No. 2010-1, authorizing the City of Cincinnati to file a grant application associated with the Airport
10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS
11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Property Acquisition & Litigation
12. ADJOURNMENT”

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Adamec moved, Vice Mayor Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2010. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Communications to Council**

There were no communications presented.

**Reports From Outside Agencies**

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

**Mayor's Report – February 2010**

RECEIPTS:

Fines .....	\$ 10,094.00
Vendor Permits .....	\$45.00
Bonds & BMV fees carried over .....	\$0
Restitution Payment collected.....	\$50.00
Bonds collected.....	\$ 333.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:</b> .....	<b>\$10,522.00</b>

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures).....	\$6,615.00
To the State of OH:	
Victims of Crime .....	\$748.00
General Rev Fund.....	\$1,734.00
Indigent Defense Support fund.....	\$342.50
Drug Law Enforcement Fund .....	\$232.56
Justice Program Service Fund .....	\$7.19
Indigent Driver's Alcohol Treat't Fund.....	\$102.75
Seat Belts .....	\$345.00
Refund of overpaid fines .....	\$45.00
Bond Money applied.....	\$50.00
Bond Money returned .....	\$0
Restitution payment (re Trost) .....	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	<b>\$10,272.00</b>
<b>BALANCE IN BONDS:</b> .....	<b>\$ 250.00</b>
Mayor's Court traffic citations.....	111
Mayor's Court criminal citations.....	2
Total Mayor's Court cases .....	113
February rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases:.....	\$ 6,615.00

**Financial Report – February 2010**

Councilman Buckman moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Financial Report for February 2010 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

**CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT- MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2010**

MONTH TO DATE	2009	2010
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 2-1-10	\$22,028,561.35	19,812,808.59
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	2,271,285.11	1,983,585.14
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	361,566.30	413,234.68
= Total Monthly Receipts	2,632,851.41	2,396,819.82
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Bond Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	3,942,098.60	2,556,986.42
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-3,942,098.60	-2,556,986.42
END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 2-28-10	20,719,314.16	19,652,641.99
YEAR TO DATE	2009	2010
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 2-1-10	21,919,948.20	19,339,082.19
<u>Revenues:</u>		
Earnings Tax Collections:	5,105,595.21	5,147,725.67
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	1,137,093.99	866,542.78
= Total YTD Receipts	6,242,689.20	6,014,268.45
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Long term Debt Retirement	0	72,250.00
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	7,443,323.24	5,628,458.65
= Total YTD Expenditures:	-7,443,323.24	-5,700,708.65
YEAR-TO-DATE FUND BALANCE:	20,719,314.16	19,652,641.99

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 2/28/10. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$4,317.92. Receipt and

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expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIV. INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY - MONTH ENDING FEB. 28, 2010			
MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2009	2010	
Business Net Profit	115,316.13	86,189.85	
Resident Net Profit	42,230.09	40,133.15	
Non-Resident Net Profit	10,394.76	9,798.16	
Subcontractor Net Profit	3,596.04	596.00	
Net Profit Total		171,537.02	136,717.16
Withholding	2,051,994.76	1,799,133.38	
Subcontractor Withholding	47,753.33	47,734.60	
Withholding Total		2,099,748.09	1,846,867.98
Monthly Collection Totals		2,271,285.11	1,983,585.14 (-12.67%)
<b>YEAR TO DATE STATUS</b>			
Business Net Profit	629,842.14	922,377.74	
Resident Net Profit	114,181.36	115,555.47	
Non-Resident Net Profit	37,071.03	26,813.32	
Subcontractor Net Profit	4,382.24	1,099.13	
Net Profit Total		785,476.77	1,065,845.66
Withholding	4,210,190.70	3,974,027.14	
Subcontractor Withholding	109,927.74	107,852.87	
Withholding Total		4,320,118.44	4,081,880.01
YTD Collection Totals		5,105,595.21	5,147,725.67 (.83%)
YTD Refund Totals		221,004.76	134,490.01 (-39.15%)

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

No citizens wished to address Council.

**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 March 25 Council agenda:

**9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2010-16 - Transferring funds**

Several adjustments are necessary to the budget approved by Council in January, as illustrated on the attachment to Ordinance No. 2010-16.

All of the items with the amount of "\$5,000.00" relate to the need to shift \$5,000 out of Contingency into the bond retirement fund #331. The budget was finalized without providing sufficient resources to account for fees charged to the City on that fund by the Hamilton County Budget & Settlement Division. Those fees relate to the tracking and distribution of a portion of the City's 3.08 millage received through the County on an annual basis.

There is an additional revenue appropriation in the amount of \$3,896.50, which pertains to a savings/reimbursement received by the Fire Department related to turnout gear acquisitions, and those funds are being applied in the Fire Department uniform and operating supplies areas.

Finally, an item in the economic development area totaling \$123,000.00 is shown representing the appropriation of funds from a previous year excess fund balance created when a purchase order, or reservation in funds, had been cancelled dating to 2009. Cancellation of that purchase order freed up these funds, and will be applied in the economic development area to accommodate the recent incentives granted by the City to encourage job retention in Blue Ash.

Please direct questions regarding the transfer to the Treasurer.

**9.b.1. Resolution No. 2010-1 - Authorizing the City of Cincinnati to file a grant application associated with the Airport**

In 2007, the City of Blue Ash purchased 130 acres of the Blue Ash Airport from the City of Cincinnati. As part of the purchase agreement, the City of Cincinnati is responsible for environmental remediation of any contaminated soils on the property and has proposed a project to remove lead contamination from the area of a former firing range.

The City of Cincinnati plans to apply for a Clean Ohio Assistance Fund grant to assist with funding the Blue Ash Airport Lead Remediation project. The estimated remediation costs are \$850,000 and the

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grant request will be \$750,000. The City of Cincinnati is responsible for all remediation costs up to \$1.5 million, in addition to the value of any grants. The grant application requires supportive legislation from the jurisdiction where the project is located if it is different than the applicant's (City of Cincinnati) jurisdiction. Additionally, the City of Blue Ash will be listed as the "Property Owner" and the "Development Partner" in the grant application documents.

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

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

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2010-16 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-16

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND  
AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION  
ORDINANCE NO. 2010-3 FOR THE YEAR 2010 (AS SHOWN  
ON ATTACHMENT); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-16. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2010-16 passed.

**Public Works Committee, Thomas C. Adamec, Chairperson**

Councilman Adamec asked the Clerk to read Resolution No. 2010-1 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-1

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CINCINNATI, OHIO  
TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO, TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE CLEAN OHIO FUND FOR THE BLUE ASH  
AIRPORT LEAD REMEDIATION PROJECT

Councilman Adamec moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2010-1. Councilman Adamec explained that this resolution relates to Cincinnati's responsibility for removal of lead contamination from the area of the property which was once a firing range years ago. This resolution allows Cincinnati to move forward with applying for funds through the Clean Ohio Fund grant to help pay for that process. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Resolution No. 2010-1 passed.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

City Manager Waltz re-introduced Jon Johnson and Chris Fabian, the ICMA consultants assisting the City with the budget prioritization process. Mr. Waltz commented that much effort has been put forth in recent weeks to engage citizens in the budget prioritization process, including several news releases/guest columns; information contained in the community newsletter; regular updates to the website; and establishment of a station at the Recreation Center seeking public input and participation in a virtual "spending" exercise associated with the City's overall results/objectives. Mr. Waltz explained that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Fabian spent this morning at Sycamore High School talking with five senior government classes, gathering students' input on the City's overall objectives and results. The students participated in an exercise similar to what Council did in late January, answering the question as to what they believe the Blue Ash government should be doing for its citizens. The consultants were also present at today's open house from 4:30 to 6:30 PM and talked with citizens directly about their work with the City.

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Mr. Johnson and Mr. Fabian gave a brief PowerPoint presentation providing an update of the prioritization process currently underway. Highlights of their presentation are summarized below:

- Mr. Johnson noted that several of the other governmental entities from across the nation whom they have been working with know the Blue Ash name. They recognize it as a model community and one which they would like to emulate. He noted that one of the City Managers is a former City Manager of Dublin, Ohio.
- They believe that governments will need to learn to operate at the level of a “new normal.” For many years, we were enjoying a high economic level and ability to spend; however, events such as the recession, 9/11, etc. caused economic levels to descend. The consultants believe that although the economic situation will improve and government will experience availability of increasing revenues, they also believe that governments will not return to the previous “high” level of before. Governments will have to learn to operate at a “new normal” level which is lower than before.
- The process they created attempts to determine the things that are important to residents and helps the government prioritize their spending based upon what those are. The process is designed to assist the government in using their resources the best way in order to get those most important things accomplished.
- They found the discussion at the high school classes this morning fascinating. Overall, the students discussed many of the same desirable results or City objectives that Council did; although, they may have expressed their thoughts in a different way. The consultants were very impressed with the level of understanding the students had of the concept. Students brought up similar concerns that Council has – such as safety, wanting an attractive and clean environment, effective transportation/connectivity, more places to “chill,” a strong desire for “community,” a strong educational system, and much more.
- The five basic steps of the prioritization process created by the consultants includes:
  1. **Determine the desired results** – determine what it is that the City is in business to do. At the January 28 Council meeting, Council went through an exercise to help determine the following six desired results (in no particular order):
    1. Quality & diverse leisure-time activities
    2. Connected, accessible, & reliable transportation network
    3. Quality & desirable neighborhoods
    4. A safe community
    5. Strong & vibrant economic development
    6. Attractive & well-maintained community
  2. **Clarify the results** – more closely define the desired results which are the product of step 1. The consultants worked with the City’s department & division heads to complete this step, and these results maps were displayed at today’s open house.
  3. **Identify the programs and services offered by the City.** Mr. Johnson noted that the City’s department and division heads have done a wonderful job in accomplishing this step. They have identified 373 individual programs or services that the City offers for its citizens.
  4. **Program scoring process to identify a “value” based on the evidence of each program/service’s influence on the desired results.** This step also involves a peer review process, and results in a top-to-bottom ranking of all of our services and programs. These results are then divided into quartiles.

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**5. Allocate resources based on the prioritization steps described above.**

Mr. Johnson concluded by thanking Council for this opportunity to work with Blue Ash, He noted that the staff has been a pleasure to work with and seem very interested and intrigued with the process.

In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, Mr. Johnson commented that about 10 to 15 citizens attended today's open house. He noted that their questions and level of interest were good. Mr. Waltz added that approximately 50 citizens so far have participated in the spending exercise set up at the Recreation Center, which will remain there at least through April 1. Citizens are asked to spend \$100 among the six results previously established.

In addressing a question from Councilman Adamec, Mr. Johnson noted that they rely on the departments to score the various services/programs. This process also involves a peer review process.

Councilman Buckman thanked the consultants for their compliments on Blue Ash being a model community. He mentioned that such comments make him very proud to have been Mayor, and now Councilman, for Blue Ash.

Councilman Czerwonka noted that he is trying to coordinate a time when the consultants can present to an upcoming Hamilton County Municipal League meeting as several members have expressed interest in the process the City is undergoing.

City Manager Waltz noted that he has asked Deputy Treasurer/Tax Commissioner Sherry Poppe to take a leadership role in this prioritization project, and noted her attendance at tonight's meeting. He mentioned that Mrs. Poppe has done an excellent job in leading the staff through this process.

Mayor Weber reminded all of the April 15 town hall meeting scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30PM. The subject of the meeting is street and traffic safety.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

After matters pertaining to property acquisition and litigation were discussed, Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Bryan 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 Adamec moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:08PM.

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Mark F. Weber, 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