

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

January 27, 2011

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A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on January 27, 2011. Mayor Mark F. Weber called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Weber asked Boy Scout Mr. Denis McGrath to lead those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. McGrath lives in Evendale and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 18.

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, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Public Works Director Gordon Perry, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, Property Maintenance Inspector Rich Dole, and interested citizens

Mayor Weber appointed Kelly Osler to read the legislation (ordinances) aloud in their entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Buckman 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 January 13, 2011

7. COMMUNICATIONS

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

b. Reports From Outside Agencies

c. Mayor's Report – December 2010 – Honorable Mark F. Weber

d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for December 2010

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2011-3, final appropriations ordinance

2. Ordinance No. 2011-7, authorizing payment for professional computer-related services and purchases throughout 2011

b. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2011-1, amending Sec. 1711.08 (Outside Storage) of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances related to trash containers – *Second Reading*

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- c. Public Works Committee, Thomas C. Adamec, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2011-8, authorizing payment for traffic signal parts, repair services, and upgrades throughout 2011

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2011. 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 – December 2010

RECEIPTS:

Fines	\$ 13,460.50
Vendors/Solicitor's Permits	0
Bonds carried over	\$37.00
Bonds collected	\$269.25
Bonds applied.....	0
Restitution Payment collected	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$13,766.75

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures)	\$ 8,146.50
To the State of OH:	
Victims of Crime	\$1,044.00
General Rev Fund	now included in 2b on SC form
Indigent Defense Support fund	\$2,982.50
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$421.75
Justice Program Service Fund	now included in 2c on SC form
Indigent Driver's Alcohol Trtm't Fund	\$180.75
Seat Belts	\$685.00
Refund of overpaid fines	0
Bond Money applied	\$37.00
Bond Money returned	\$0
Restitution payment	\$0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$13,497.50

BALANCE IN BONDS:	\$269.25
Mayor's Court traffic citations.....	129
Mayor's Court criminal citations	11
Total Mayor's Court cases	140
Dec. rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases:	\$8,146.00

Financial Report – December 2010

Councilman Buckman moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the Financial Report for December 2010 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 DEC. 31, 2010

MONTH TO DATE	2009	2010
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 12-1-10	\$19,676,130.29	\$34,747,114.94
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	1,925,188.94	2,101,602.81
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	888,280.76	293,772.04
= Total Monthly Receipts	2,813,469.70	2,395,374.85
Expenditures:		
Long Term Debt Retirement	0	0
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	3,150,517.80	3,466,243.67
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-3,150,517.80	-3,466,243.67
END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 12-31-10	19,339,082.19	33,676,246.12
YEAR TO DATE	2009	2010
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 12-1-10	21,919,948.20	19,339,082.19
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	28,314,410.76	28,704,462.32
Debt Financing (long term)	0	0
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	12,954,280.84	22,235,697.06
= Total YTD Receipts	41,268,691.60	50,940,159.38
Expenditures:		
Long term Debt Retirement	4,645,000.00	3,473,570.49
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	39,204,557.61	33,129,424.96
	-43,849,557.61	-36,602,995.45
YEAR-TO-DATE FUND BALANCE:	\$19,339,082.19	\$33,676,246.12

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 12/31/10. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$27,266.99. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIV. INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY - MONTH ENDING DEC. 31, 2010

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2009	2010
Business Net Profit	\$268,034.15	\$359,719.17
Resident Net Profit	90,370.26	65,327.24
Non-Resident Net Profit	10,754.19	21,388.67
Subcontractor Net Profit	1,925.00	1,114.00
Net Profit Total	371,083.60	447,549.08
Withholding	1,538,751.01	1,636,904.80
Subcontractor Withholding	15,354.33	17,148.93
Withholding Total	1,554,105.34	1,654,053.73
Monthly Collection Totals	1,925,188.94	2,101,602.81 (9.16%)
YEAR TO DATE STATUS	2009	2010
Business Net Profit	4,426,539.87	4,638,877.94
Resident Net Profit	1,054,247.74	973,036.29
Non-Resident Net Profit	244,924.32	209,023.64
Subcontractor Net Profit	45,404.11	34,025.41
Net Profit Total	5,771,116.04	5,854,963.28
Withholding	22,141,825.19	22,380,373.92
Subcontractor Withholding	401,469.53	469,125.12
Withholding Total	22,543,294.72	22,849,499.04
YTD Collection Totals	28,314,410.76	28,704,462.32 (1.38%)
YTD Refund Totals	1,442,230.05	1,105,665.83 (-23.34%)

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HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Dr. Peter Nord of Kenridge Lake expressed concern with the wording within Ordinance No. 2011-1. In his opinion, the phrasing contained within the second paragraph of Sec. 1711.08, "... Any firewood so stacked must be free of insects, rodents, and vermin" indicates that "insects and vermin" are to be outlawed within Blue Ash. He criticized legal counsel's assistance in preparation of this Code wording and indicated that the City should request a rebate for their work associated with this ordinance.

Denis McGrath, an Evendale resident and member of Boy Scout Troop 18, thanked Council for allowing him to participate in this evening's meeting.

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 January 27 Council agenda:

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2011-3 - Final appropriations ordinance

City Council and the Administration have intensified their focus on both short- and longer-term financial planning in response to recent economic conditions. Although plans were in place to monitor and reduce operational expenses, and to invest in economic development, before the start of the recession, the intensity of the slowdown, and the uncertainties associated with it, required nearly constant budgetary review during 2009 and 2010.

Although Blue Ash took a "defensive" posture during these times to protect General Fund reserves, to lower costs, and to enhance revenue, the City was well positioned to "weather the storm" and to still provide excellent services and proceed with capital investment in targeted areas.

The City Manager kept Council up-to-date on financial issues throughout 2010, secured their input on 2011 via an August 30, 2010 Work Session, prepared and distributed to Council a 2011 Proposed Budget, and presented the expectations for 2011 in a Budget Study Session on November 29, 2010. City Council adopted this Proposed Budget at the December 9th meeting, permitting financial operations to transition into 2011, the determination of actual year-end fund balances, and this presentation of the Final 2011 Budget.

Ordinance No. 2011-3, and its related attachments, reflects the actual year-end fund balances, and any adjustments needed to modify the Proposed Budget into an updated document for this year.

There are very few significant adjustments to the Proposed Budget in this Final Budget. No capital or construction projects were changed as to funding, nor were there any additions. Expected expenditure levels also remained unchanged in the operational area, except where a review of final personnel costs were examined and adjustments were necessary based on actual expenditure levels and potential retirements. The intent was to include the actual year-end closing fund balances from 2010, adjust some revenue areas and a number of expenses where prudent to do so, and remain "on track" toward fiscal sustainability. As expressed by the City Manager in the past, Blue Ash's progress toward fiscal sustainability is based upon continued investment in economic development, operational cost containment efforts, expanding reserves to permit future major capital projects, and the judicious use of debt financing to provide the City flexibility in moving ahead. This objective can be accomplished as long as all parties remain aware of the goal, the challenges, and the steps that need to be taken. As stated in our various presentations and sessions, this is not a "one year" exercise or process.

Such an approach is reflected in the 2011 Final Budget. Revenue estimates remain conservative, and operational cost levels were closely scrutinized. Even so, substantial resources are included for not only routine or replacement capital items, but funding also exists for road and connectivity projects, as well as Issue 15 components, such as the improvements to the golf course and new clubhouse/banquet facility and planning for the new 130-acre park. This budget, as described below, accomplishes stated goals and also provides some flexibility for further investment in economic development, property redevelopment, or land banking.

Some of the "highlights" of the conversion of the Proposed Budget into the Final Budget include:

- Actual gross earnings tax collections totaled \$28,704,462, a 1.38% increase over actual 2009 levels. Both net profit and withholding collections came in ahead of 2009 levels, far better than

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the anticipated -4% reduction in earnings tax originally shown in the 2010 Budget.

- The combination of other 2010 revenue collections, reduced spending (primarily on operational items), and the above-anticipated earnings tax resources generated an actual General Fund balance at the end of 2010 of \$17,659,857. This amount is net of outstanding encumbrances or liabilities. This outcome exceeded our projection of \$16,561,856 as shown in the late November Proposed Budget. The components of the 2010 year-end General Fund balance are shown below:

	2009 ACTUAL	2010 ACTUAL
Issue 15	\$6,722,000	\$7,679,384
General Reserve	3,050,000	2,800,000
Unappropriated balance	<u>3,817,330</u>	<u>7,180,443</u>
	\$13,589,330	\$17,659,827

- Adequate resources were contained in the Issue-15-funded golf course improvement fund #447 as of December 31, 2010 to complete the planned components of that project (bonds were issued in 2010).
- All encumbrances or known liabilities were fully covered in each of the City's 23 funds.
- Adjustments were made to the combined 2011 earnings tax estimates to essentially match actual 2010 collection levels of \$28,704,462, conservatively predicting no overall increase in 2011 over 2010 levels. Net profit was included at \$5,400,000 and withholding at \$23,307,000. The combined total is \$28,707,000. Given the variability of net profit collections, 2011's estimate was lower than 2010's value of \$5,854,963, but withholding reflects an increase for 2011 from \$22,849,499 to \$23,307,000, or approximately 2%. Such an approach for 2011 appears reasonable given expectations for next year as to gradual economic recovery.
- Other revenue adjustments from what was contained in the Proposed Budget were an addition of \$15,000 to the estimate for our Workers Compensation rebate and partial-year clubhouse-related sales tax receipts.
- Operational expenditure allocations remained essentially unchanged, except in those areas where changes were needed to balance a fund (external to the General Fund), or in several Personal Services areas as mentioned earlier. Given that the golf course facility is new, and that it will be in full operation only a few months in 2011, the decision was made to address funding/staffing issues within the existing golf course fund 752 in 2011. Expected revenues had been shown in the Proposed Budget, and funding was included on the expenditure side in the Final Budget. Those estimated costs were shown in salaries and benefits, marketing, and related sales tax for a total of \$216,000. It is likely that a new Enterprise Fund will be created and employed in 2012 for the non-golf component of the new facility.
- Although all capital purchases and capital projects shown in the Proposed Budget are funded, supplemental resources were included within the Economic Development area in case an opportunity arises in 2011 which Council may wish to pursue. An additional \$300,000 in land banking funds was provided for a total of \$800,000.
- Tax refunds remained unchanged at \$1,300,000.
- Although unrelated to our General Fund and ongoing operations, the 2011 Final Budget does include the capacity to make the first payment to the Sycamore School District from the Duke Landings TIF (Fund #332). Even though the third building has not yet been built, a surplus exists in this fund beyond what is needed to pay debt retirement. Therefore, a payment can be made in 2011 of the surplus fund balance to the Sycamore School District.
- Both the Proposed and Final Budgets were evaluated as "operational results," to assure 2011 reflects a continuation of past revenue enhancements and operational cost containment so that further progress can be made toward fiscal sustainability.
- During 2010, the Administration utilized the ICMA consultant group to assist in defining the

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expectations of the City, what programs and services are provided, cost analysis, and priority rankings. As stated by the City Manager on several occasions, the results of the ICMA study, further evaluation of the City's operational costs and staffing structure/organization, and benchmarking will be used in 2011 and beyond to continue efforts to become more efficient, streamlined, and cost-effective. The need to focus on operational cost controls is not a one-year issue and Council should expect the Administration to present options and alternative methods to reduce costs/enhance revenues during the early part of 2011.

As one would expect, the transition of the Proposed Budget into its "final form" changed the expected end of 2011 projections for General Fund balances. Should 2011 unfold as shown in our document, the December 31, 2011 balances should be as shown in the second column below:

	2011 PROPOSED	2011 FINAL BUDGET
Issue 15	\$8,776,694	\$8,817,076
General Reserve	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000
Unappropriated balance	<u>\$5,129,473</u>	<u>\$5,438,930</u>
	\$16,806,167	\$17,156,006

Following consideration by Council under Ordinance No. 2011-3, the Final Budget values will be loaded into the budgetary system, and shall serve as a benchmark against which our actual 2011 revenues and expenses will be examined. Any changes deemed necessary during the year will be presented to Council via transfer ordinances.

The City's earlier efforts in reducing operational costs, and in preserving reserves, proved most beneficial as the recession unfolded. That same approach, targeting fiscal sustainability, will continue to be our focus in 2011 and beyond.

The projected end of 2011 General Fund balances shown above assume that the Contingency of \$300,000 will need to be utilized, and that the funding set aside for economic development (\$300,000) and land banking (\$800,000) will be expended. To the extent such funds are not used, the expected end of 2011 General Fund balance will be enhanced.

For more information about the capital projects intended for 2011, or major capital purchases (equipment), please refer to your November 23, 2009 Proposed Budget. All such allocations remain unchanged in the Final Budget.

Please direct any questions regarding the Final Budget to the Treasurer.

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2011-7 - Authorizing payment for professional computer-related services and purchases throughout 2011

Ordinance No. 2011-7 authorizes payment throughout 2011 to multiple vendors for anticipated professional computer-related services and purchases throughout the year. A summary of the vendors and expected expenditures is summarized below:

- Dell Computers: Not to exceed \$45,000 for computer purchase/replacement throughout the City's various divisions and departments. This amount should also cover the purchase of new equipment for the new golf clubhouse/banquet center facility to be completed this fall.
- Intrust Group: not to exceed \$40,000 for annual software licensing, technical consulting, E-mail virus/spam filtering, and firewall protection. Intrust is located in Blue Ash, and was formerly known as LAN Solutions.
- Spectrum Computing: not to exceed \$43,000 for contractual printer maintenance, toner, and printer purchases (including for the new golf clubhouse/banquet center).
- Active Network: not to exceed \$31,000, primarily for annual licensing associated with the Recreation Center's membership software as well as additional software and compatible hardware required for the new golf clubhouse/banquet facility.

Although no single purchase associated with any of these vendors is anticipated to exceed the ordinance threshold of \$25,000, because aggregate purchases throughout the year will likely exceed

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that threshold amount, Council approval via ordinance would be appropriate and in compliance with audit guidelines.

Before May 2011, we will address Council for consideration of another "communication" ordinance. This separate item will address the need to upgrade, and expand, the City's phone system originally bid, awarded, and installed in 2003. The current multi-year maintenance agreement expires in mid 2011, and the need does exist for new equipment for installation at the new golf/banquet facility as well.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2011-1 - Amending Sec. 1711.08 (Outside Storage) of the Blue Ash Code of Ordinances related to trash containers – Second Reading

For the past several months, the Community Development office has been working closely with representatives from Dinsmore & Shohl towards suggestions for revisions to Section 1711.08 of the Blue Ash Code relating to trash containers. The suggested changes as outlined in Ordinance No. 2011-1 affect only the third paragraph of that section of the Code, with the changes summarized as follows (underlining representing new text):

~~Trash containers kept between a structure and a public street must be completely screened from view from the -any street. and be located behind the front building line of the house. Trash containers located in a side or rear yard area are not required to be screened, but shall be maintained and stored in a clean and orderly manner. In case of a corner lot, trash containers cannot be located in the side yard adjacent to a street. Any structure that contains or screens trash containers must satisfy all other applicable Codes. Trash containers can also be stored in a fully enclosed structure.~~

Thursday's presentation of Ordinance No. 2011-1 represents the second reading and formal vote. The first reading of this ordinance took place at the January 13 meeting.

Please address any questions regarding this ordinance to the enforcement official, Rich Dole, at rdole@blueash.com or 745-8542 or to Deputy Solicitor Bryan Pacheco who will be at Thursday's meeting.

9.c.1. Ordinance No. 2011-8 - Authorizing payment for traffic signal parts, repair services, and upgrades throughout 2011

Ordinance No. 2011-8 authorizes payment for routine purchase of parts, maintenance, upgrades, and repair of traffic signals provided throughout 2011 with Capital Electric Line Builders for an amount not to exceed \$140,000. The City has a favorable long-term relationship with this vendor, formerly known as Wager-Smith, for these types of services, and these items were included within the 2011 Final Budget. The items include routine maintenance and parts, as well as the upgrades (to LED lights) made throughout the year and the addition of uninterruptable power backup systems (UPS) at main intersections.

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

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-3 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-3

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF BLUE ASH, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2011; 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, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeses. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-3.

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In addressing a comment from Councilman Bryan, Treasurer Jim Pfeffer explained that 2010 was a difficult year for many municipalities across the nation; however, Blue Ash fared very well given the economic conditions and ongoing recession. He noted that earnings tax collections came in 1.38% over actual 2009 levels, which was better than the anticipated 4% decrease in earnings tax originally shown in the 2010 Budget. He also noted receipt of some one-time revenues and noted that extensive cost-savings efforts over the past few years by each of our Departments have helped to keep operational expenses in line. Overall, there were very few changes in the Final Budget as compared to the Proposed Budget presented to Council in November, notably a shift of \$300,000 to the Economic Development/land bank area to accommodate potential opportunities in the year. Councilman Bryan commented that Blue Ash is fortunate to be in the position it is, compared to what is typically heard daily in the news about other municipalities, and he complimented the Administration on their diligence in maintaining the City's financial health. Councilmen Adamec and Buckman and Councilwoman Stoller added their compliments, and Councilwoman Stoller further commented that Blue Ash's conservative financial planning nature over the past many decades has contributed to its financial health. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-3 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-7 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-7

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR EXPECTED 2011 PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER RELATED PRODUCTS/ SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY MULTIPLE VENDORS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING DELL COMPUTERS, INTRUST GROUP, SPECTRUM COMPUTING, AND ACTIVE NETWORK; 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 Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-7. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Buckman, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-7 passed.

Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2011-1 by title only (it having been read in full at the public hearing on January 13, 2011).

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-1

AMENDING SECTION 1711.08 OF THE BLUE ASH CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING OUTSIDE STORAGE

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-1. Councilman Sumner noted that this ordinance results in the adjustment of wording in only one paragraph of Sec. 1711.08 (the third paragraph), and added that he disagrees with the previous opinion expressed by Dr. Nord (under Hearings from Citizens) that the wording would be interpreted as the City's attempt to "outlaw" insects and vermin. He noted that similar wording would be found in many other municipality's property maintenance codes, and added that this section of the Code is just one tool the City can use to pursue enforcement (where appropriate). He concluded that the Code's true intent would be understood and that it would not be interpreted as the City's attempt to "outlaw" insects and

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vermin. Vice Mayor Czerwonka added that this wording also assists homeowner's associations as it is common that such specific provisions are not included within their bylaws and regulations. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2011-1 passed.

Public Works Committee, Thomas C. Adamec, Chairperson

Councilman Adamec asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-8 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-8

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL PARTS, REPAIR SERVICES, AND UPGRADES THROUGHOUT 2011 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$140,000; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Adamec moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-8. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeses. Ordinance No. 2011-8 passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Public Works Director Gordon Perry commented that the Blue Ash snow plow trucks are loaded and ready to allow crews to treat the snow expected late this evening. In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, Mr. Perry noted that Blue Ash has a significant amount of salt on hand, and is expecting a delivery tomorrow and next week. He mentioned that within the past several weeks, the region has experienced delays in road salt deliveries; however, Blue Ash is well stocked for at least the next couple of snow events.

Councilman Sumner added that he recently received a compliment from a former resident regarding the City's quality snow and ice control services. The former resident expressed a desire for his new municipality to perform these services as well as Blue Ash.

Councilman Bryan noted that it is seldom noted in newspapers about communities which are actually doing a good job with their financial planning and efforts. He encouraged the Administration to be proactive in their sharing of this good news with local media, perhaps in the form of a news release highlighting these accomplishments. He also noted that he was pleased to read within the City's descriptive memo that even though we are passing a Budget this evening, that it will be an ongoing process (in terms of continued efforts to monitor and reduce operational expenses and increase revenue opportunities). City Manager Waltz noted that the City does regularly submit a "letter to the editor" or "guest column" from all City department directors containing updates, news, etc. After brief discussion, it was decided that a near future letter/column from the Mayor will be considered.

Councilman Buckman asked everyone to keep Mayor's Court Coordinator Judy Bacher's family in their prayers, as well as the family of retired Police Officer Weldon Julien. (Ms. Bacher is very ill, recently admitted to Hospice, and Mr. Julien recently passed away.)

Vice Mayor Czerwonka welcomed Gordon Perry to the Blue Ash team.

Mayor Weber noted that he believes the City should remain vigilant with its budget efforts.

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ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Buckman moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:27 PM.

Mark F. Weber, Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council