

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

May 26, 2011

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A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on May 26, 2011. 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, Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Public Works Director Gordon Perry, Economic Development Director Judy Clark, 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 (ordinances) in their entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Buckman moved, Vice Mayor 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. 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 May 12, 2011

7. COMMUNICATIONS

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

b. Reports From Outside Agencies

c. Mayor's Report – April 2011 – Honorable Mark F. Weber

d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for April 2011

8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

1. Ordinance No. 2011-31, repealing Ordinance No. 2007-18, declaring a parcel of real property to be exempt, and authorizing execution of agreements and other actions associated with a tax increment financing (TIF) project on property located on the south side of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road

2. Ordinance No. 2011-36, authorizing professional services contract for review and update of police policies

3. Ordinance No. 2011-37, authorizing transfer of equipment

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- 4. Motion setting Thursday, June 2, 2011, Noon, as Special Council Meeting (Executive Session only – Personnel Matters - to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official)
- b. Parks & Recreation Committee, Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2011-38, authorizing payment for temporary trailer expenses associated with construction at the golf course

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Property Acquisition

12. ADJOURNMENT”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 12, 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 – April 2011

RECEIPTS:

Receipts collected & bond activity:..... \$17,952.05

DISBURSEMENTS:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| To Blue Ash | \$11,254.02 |
| To the State of OH..... | \$6,405.00 |
| Refund of overpaid fines | \$218.03 |
| Restitution Paid..... | \$15.00 |
| Bond Money returned | \$60.00 |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS | \$17,952.05 |
| Mayor's Court Traffic Citations Issued | 159 |
| Mayor's Court Criminal Citations Issued | 24 |

Financial Report –April 2011

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to accept the Financial Report for April 2011 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT- MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2011

| MONTH TO DATE | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 4-1-11 | \$19,931,682.68 | \$33,957,197.17 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Earnings Tax Collections: | 3,063,474.61 | 3,239,257.68 |
| Debt Financing (long term) | 0 | 0 |
| Debt Financing (short term) | 0 | 0 |
| Other Revenue Received: | 2,330,694.82 | 2,301,618.17 |
| = Total Monthly Receipts | 5,394,169.43 | 5,540,875.85 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Long Term debt retirement | 0 | 0 |
| Short term debt refinancing | 0 | 0 |
| Other Expenditures: | 2,821,089.59 | 3,251,502.85 |
| = Total Monthly Expenditures: | -2,821,089.59 | -3,251,502.85 |
| END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 4-30-11 | 22,504,762.52 | 36,246,570.17 |

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| YEAR TO DATE | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 4-1-11 | 19,339,082.19 | 33,676,246.12 |
| Revenues: | | |
| Earnings Tax Collections: | 10,645,855.16 | 10,990,008.74 |
| Debt Financing (long term) | 0 | 0 |
| Debt Financing (short term) | 0 | 0 |
| Other Revenue Received: | 3,740,819.40 | 3,541,600.01 |
| = Total YTD Receipts | 14,386,674.56 | 14,531,608.75 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| Long term debt retirement | 72,250.00 | 126,320.48 |
| Short term debt refinancing | 0 | 0 |
| Other Expenditures: | 11,148,744.23 | 11,834,964.22 |
| = Total YTD Expenditures: | -11,220,994.23 | -11,961,284.70 |
| YEAR-TO-DATE FUND BALANCE: | 22,504,762.52 | 36,246,570.17 |

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 4/30/11. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$12,324.66. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

| BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIV. INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY - MONTH ENDING APR. 30, 2011 | | |
|--|--------------|----------------------|
| MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS | 2010 | 2011 |
| Business Net Profit | 847,419.54 | 705,749.83 |
| Resident Net Profit | 270,115.72 | 340,625.37 |
| Non-Resident Net Profit | 48,408.12 | 76,902.79 |
| Subcontractor Net Profit | 10,130.12 | 13,272.87 |
| Net Profit Total | 1,176,073.50 | 1,136,550.86 |
| Withholding | 1,848,189.52 | 2,061,102.84 |
| Subcontractor Withholding | 39,211.59 | 41,603.98 |
| Withholding Total | 1,887,401.11 | 2,102,706.82 |
| Monthly Collection Totals | 3,063,474.61 | 3,239,257.68 (5.74%) |

| YEAR TO DATE STATUS | 2010 | 2011 |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Business Net Profit | 2,070,657.30 | 1,930,760.92 |
| Resident Net Profit | 450,916.56 | 527,587.20 |
| Non-Resident Net Profit | 85,592.21 | 115,607.12 |
| Subcontractor Net Profit | 13,887.50 | 20,836.66 |
| Net Profit Total | 2,621,053.57 | 2,594,791.90 |
| Withholding | 7,858,908.68 | 8,218,121.22 |
| Subcontractor Withholding | 165,892.91 | 177,095.62 |
| Withholding Total | 8,024,801.59 | 8,218,121.22 |
| YTD Collection Totals | 10,645,855.16 | 10,990,008.74 (3.23%) |
| YTD Refund Totals | \$602,131.88 | \$360,705.51 |

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. George Etesse, 8899 Brittany Drive, addressed three concerns with Council, as summarized below:

- The property at 8896 Cherry Street is a major maintenance problem. The house has been vacant for about three years, and it is under foreclosure. Examples of some problems include a major hole in the roof (now covered by a tarp); openings under the foundation, allowing rodents and vermin to enter; many dead tree branches; and grass that is about 2½ feet tall. He noted that he has been working with Rich Dole in the Community Development office, who is trying to determine which bank is the current owner. He also added that the property was originally a single-story structure, with a second story added on; however, the quality of that construction is questionable. Overall, he noted the property (which backs up to his property) is a terrible eyesore for the neighborhood and asked for assistance from the City to expedite its improvement.

In addressing Mr. Etesse's comments above, City Manager Waltz noted that he has spoken with Mr. Dole this week about this property, and added that he agrees with Mr. Etesse's opinion that the property is an eyesore. He noted that the City is working with the Solicitor's office towards the possibility of having this property condemned.

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- Mr. Etesse noted that he recently learned that permits are required by the Community Development office in order to have a yard sale, and that there is a maximum of two yard sales a year allowed per property. Mr. Etesse asked that the City consider allowing more than two yard sales a year for residents, such as him, who are in the process of downsizing. Mr. Waltz commented that this seems to be a reasonable request and noted that he will work with staff to see how Mr. Etesse's request can be accommodated.
- Mr. Etesse noted that he recently had knee surgery, and that he (and others in the community) enjoys utilizing the Recreation Center pool swimming laps as a part of that rehabilitation process. He noted that the pool is closed the last week of August, and he asked that the City consider keeping the pool open that week, essentially from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Dr. Peter Nord, President of the Kenridge Lake Club, complimented the efforts and information on the website outlining the airport park open house and planning sessions. He suggested that as ideas from citizens are developed at those sessions, that the ideas be incorporated onto the website in summary format to give citizens a sense of the types of ideas being discussed. Dr. Nord also requested that when the Osborne economic development item on tonight's agenda is discussed, that the question of whether or not there will be an effect on the City's housing structure be addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

"This memo offers a brief description of the topics included on the May 26 Council agenda.

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2011-31 - Repealing Ordinance No. 2007-18, declaring a parcel of real property to be exempt, and authorizing execution of agreements and other actions associated with a tax increment financing (TIF) project on property located on the south side of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road

The City has been working with Duke Realty Ohio, Sycamore Schools, and legal counsel on economic development efforts involving the tax increment financing (TIF) tool on Duke's 29 acres south of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road. These efforts began several years ago, with a TIF agreement addressed within previous legislation passed in early 2007 (Ordinance No. 2007-18).

As Council is aware, the most recent development approach planned at this location now involves a tech company, itelligence, who has plans to develop its U.S. headquarters upon eight acres of that property (a development called Legacy Pointe) – property which they intend to purchase from Duke Realty. This company is a leading international full-service provider for solutions in the software management and technology market. This site would be their U.S. headquarters and data center site, and is expected to employ 125 to 150 highly-paid, computer-related professionals. Ordinance No. 2011-10 passed by Council in February authorized the City Manager to enter into an economic development agreement with itelligence.

In order to facilitate this project, the City needs to construct a new road as well as relocate and bury existing utility lines along Reed Hartman Highway. Both of these public improvements will encourage the entirety of the 29-acre south Osborne site to be developed, not just the itelligence facilities. It is anticipated that four to six additional office buildings and related facilities (hotel/supportive retail) could also be developed over the next few years by Duke Realty as a result of this investment in public improvements. (itelligence is not requesting any public assistance or subsidy for their headquarters – just the completion of these public improvements.) Blue Ash is also pursuing a \$250,000 roadway grant to assist in road construction.

This project involves various steps for completion, with the first step completed via passage of Ordinance No. 2011-10 related to the development agreement with itelligence. This ordinance represents the next step in the complicated TIF process, including repealing of the prior 2007 ordinance related to initial efforts which occurred four to five years ago as well as declaring the appropriate portions of this 29-acre site as exempt from property taxes. Duke's legal counsel has worked with the Solicitor's Office, Administration, and schools towards authoring of this legislation.

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Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager or the Treasurer.

9.a.2. Ordinance No. 2011-36 - Authorizing professional services contract for review and update of police policies

Ordinance No. 2011-36 addresses a recommendation relating to the review of the City's Police Department Policies.

It is customary to periodically review various City policies and procedures to ensure they are up to date. To that end, the City is proposing to contract with Management Partners, a consulting firm specializing in helping local government organizations to improve efficiencies while continuing to meet service demands. Management Partners will review the current organization in the Police Department, assess policies and procedures, and evaluate management and hiring practices.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the City Manager.

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2011-37 - Authorizing transfer of equipment

Several years ago, the City acquired via donation from Mr. Robert Draut an historic steam tractor and thresher. These items were donated with the thought that they would be restored and placed on display at the Hunt House. The equipment has been protected and insured against loss by the City since that time. The tractor and thresher have been in storage at the Parks Maintenance facilities for these years, and the recommendation is that the City transfer ownership of the tractor and thresher to the Franklin County Antique Machinery Club, Inc. in Brookville, Indiana.

Section 113.01 of the Code of Ordinances clearly delineates the method under which equipment may be sold by the City; however, it does not address transfer of ownership (involving no cost). Given that this section clearly outlines the need for Council approval for items valued over \$10,000, it is the Administration's recommendation that Council approval for transfer of this equipment also be secured.

Ordinance No. 2011-37 grants the City Manager the authority to secure an Agreement or letter of understanding outlining this transfer to the Club, including the requirement that this equipment's ownership be transferred back to Blue Ash should the Club disband, become insolvent, or otherwise cease to exist. Another requirement to be made clear in this Agreement will be that the equipment shall not be sold, transferred, or disposed of without written consent of the City of Blue Ash.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.a.4. Motion setting Thursday, June 2, 2011, Noon, as Special Council Meeting (Executive Session only – Personnel Matters - to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official)

This motion would establish a special Council Meeting for Thursday, June 2, at Noon. We will plan to hold this meeting in the Blue Ash Conference Room. This meeting will entail only an Executive Session related to personnel, as described above.

Please direct questions regarding this motion to the City Manager.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2011-38 - Authorizing payment for temporary trailer expenses associated with construction at the golf course

Ordinance No. 2011-38 authorizes payment for temporary trailer expenses associated with the construction now underway on the Cooper Creek Event Center at the Blue Ash Golf Course. Because of the heavy spring rains and delay of completion of the project to the fall, it now appears that this expense in 2011 will exceed the ordinance threshold. The ordinance authorizes an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to Modular Building Consultants for the temporary facilities in 2011 (a modular unit, or double-wide), including removal of the unit later this year upon project completion.

Please direct questions in advance of the meeting to the Parks & Recreation Director as he will not be in attendance at the meeting."

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-31 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

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ORDINANCE NO. 2011-31

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2007-18, DECLARING THE IMPROVEMENT TO A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BLUE ASH, OHIO TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE UNDER SECTION 5709.40 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, PROVIDING FOR THE EXEMPTION OF SUCH IMPROVEMENT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION, AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT, TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT AND SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY, WAIVING ANY FORMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, ESTABLISHING A TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND AND A PROJECT FUND, AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THOMPSON HINE LLP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Buckman 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, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-31. In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, City Manager David Waltz explained that for several months, the City has been working towards the location of a technology firm, itelligence, towards development of its U.S. headquarters on eight acres of property currently owned by Duke Realty on the south side of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road (a project named Legacy Pointe). Itelligence intends upon purchasing the property from Duke to accommodate this development. To facilitate the project, the City plans to construct a new connector road between Osborne Boulevard and Reed Hartman Highway, in addition to relocating/burying existing utility lines along Reed Hartman. These public improvements will not only facilitate this specific project, but will also encourage additional development on the remainder of this 29-acre site. The itelligence project is comparable in size to office developments on Lake Forest Drive east of Reed Hartman Highway (such as the MOM building, etc.). The City expects this project to break ground soon. Councilman Bryan added that approximately 100-150 highly paid employees are anticipated, with this project resulting in a negligible impact upon traffic (however, favorable impact upon earnings tax collections). The addition of these employees to the Blue Ash corporate citizenry should have a small or negligible effect upon the City's housing structure. 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. 2011-31 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-36 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-36

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO MANAGEMENT PARTNERS INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH REVIEW AND UPDATING OF POLICE POLICIES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Buckman 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.

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Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-36. 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. 2011-36 passed.

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-37 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-37

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CITY-OWNED
EQUIPMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-37. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2011-37 passed.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to set Thursday, June 2, 2011, Noon, as Special Council Meeting (Executive Session only – Personnel Matters - to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official). A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Robert J. Buckman, Jr., Chairperson

Councilman Buckman asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2011-38 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-38

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR TEMPORARY GOLF
CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE
COOPER CREEK EVENT CENTER CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT AT THE BLUE ASH GOLF COURSE FOR AN
AMOUNT IN 2011 NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000; AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Buckman 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, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Buckman moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-38. Councilman Buckman noted that the rainy spring has delayed the Cooper Creek Event Center project, making it necessary for the temporary clubhouse facilities (in the form of a modular unit) to be needed longer than was originally anticipated. 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. 2011-38 passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Public Information Officer/Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett noted that after discussion earlier with City Manager Waltz, it is suggested that the start time for the June 9 Council meeting be pushed back to 7:30PM to better accommodate meetings earlier that day related

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to the airport park efforts. As there were no objections, Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to change the start time for the June 9 Council meeting from 7:00PM to 7:30PM. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Bennett reminded Council and the audience about Monday's Memorial Day parade and ceremonies, noting that the parade begins at 10:15AM in the vicinity of Cooper Road and Reed Hartman Highway. She added that this year the City is pleased to have two prominent military bands participating (one from Columbus, Ohio and the other from Ft. Knox, Kentucky), as well as a very accomplished keynote speaker, Chief Master Sergeant Shelina Frey based at Wright-Patterson AFB. Ms. Bennett added her thanks to Vice Mayor Czerwonka for assisting in securing the use of a convertible to assist Council during the parade.

Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler noted that at the June 9 Council meeting, the Administration intends on presenting legislation related to the City's continued participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program administered through Hamilton County. This type of legislation is presented to Council and requested from the County every three years, following the block grant program's typical cycle. Approving this legislation will allow the City to secure grant monies through the program (for eligible lower-income areas of our community). The grant expected to be received over the three-year period would range from \$75,000 to \$90,000. Mrs. Osler noted that the reason this is being brought up tonight relates to recent media coverage this program has been receiving, with just yesterday, an article appearing in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* which discussed the relationship between this block grant program and public housing. The cooperation agreement with Hamilton County planned for presentation to Council June 9 (which is necessary in order for Blue Ash to participate in the program and receive grant monies during this next three-year cycle) requires the City to cooperate with publicly assisting housing activities. She added that the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) is working with the County to add 375 publicly assisting housing units within Hamilton County, with many of them slated for location in the suburbs. CMHA has \$12,000,000 available for this activity. Mrs. Osler noted that even if the City would choose not to participate in this cycle, the previous block grant agreement from 2008 remains in effect until 2013, allowing CMHA to do projects in Blue Ash even with no agreement in 2011 for the current cycle. Mrs. Osler asked that any concerns regarding the presentation of this legislation in June, and the City's overall participation in the block grant program, be brought to her attention.

Brief discussion was held regarding this issue. Councilman Sumner noted that it is his understanding that some members of the political leadership are interested in enforcing this provision and suggested that the City consider this very carefully. Mr. Waltz noted that realistically, he believes there may be minimal concern as any proposed project would still be required to meet Blue Ash's zoning code provisions. He added that it is his opinion that a mature, built-out community such as Blue Ash may not offer much opportunity for such development.

Public Works Director Gordon Perry noted that work continues towards completion of the new downtown traffic signals and poles, although the rainy weather has delayed completion of the project. He added that the 2011 sidewalk program is expected to begin in June, and bids for the 2011 paving project are scheduled to be opened next week. In providing an update regarding Cincinnati's efforts at the airport, it is his understanding that Cincinnati is currently preparing specifications for the lead remediation work, although specific timing of that bid and project is not known.

Mr. Perry added that he is working with the City of Montgomery towards an improved crosswalk at Cooper Lane/Cooper Road, near the Junior High School. The installation of pedestrian-activated flashers which would be solar powered are currently being investigated (a project which both communities would participate in since this crosswalk falls upon the municipal border). The cost of such a crosswalk installation typically ranges from \$7,500 to \$10,000, with the difference in cost relating to the sight distance of the flashing units (the further the lights can be seen, the more costly the project). In addressing a comment from

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Councilman Sumner, Mr. Perry noted that what is being considered at this point is not the type of lighted crosswalk as is currently located near Montgomery Inn, which has flashing lights within the pavement. He added that discussion with a Montgomery colleague has revealed several adverse issues their community has experienced with that type of crosswalk.

Mr. Perry added that Blue Ash is also investigating what engineering would be required to add a crosswalk in the vicinity of Cooper and Northfield Roads to facilitate pedestrian flow in the area, particularly to the Recreation Center.

City Manager Waltz noted that members of the park planning team recently spent most of a day at Sycamore High School gathering opinions of high school seniors as to their ideas for the new future park. Their opinions will be incorporated into the process.

Councilman Bryan offered his compliments to Mrs. Osler and Ms. Bennett on their efforts associated with the new resident event held earlier this month at the Sycamore Junior High and offered his opinion that the event should be continued. In addressing a question from Councilwoman Stoller, Mrs. Osler explained that the event was done in collaboration with the City of Montgomery and Sycamore Schools, and estimated that about 30 persons attended (though most were new residents from Montgomery, as only two Blue Ash families participated).

Councilman Buckman offered his congratulations to the Parks & Recreation team on the recent Business Bash/after-work event held at the Recreation Center. Councilman Buckman noted that the event was very well attended and was very well received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

After matters pertaining to property acquisition were discussed, Councilman Buckman moved, Councilman Sumner 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 Buckman moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:52 PM.

Mark F. Weber, Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council