

Regular Meeting

March 27, 2008

Presiding Officer, Mayor Donald Kuchta called the March 27 regular meeting of Macedonia City Council to order at 7:30m.

Present: Council members' Shane Barker, David Engle, Kenneth Martin, Nicholas Molnar, Peggy Spraggins and Janet Tulley; Assistant Law Director Thomas Hanculak and Council Clerk Josephine Arceci

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Council President Dave Engle was followed by an invocation led by Councilor Jan Tulley.

MINUTES None.

FINANCIAL REPORT Mr. Barker moved, Mr. Engle seconded, acknowledging receipt of the Financial Report dated February 29, 2008.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried

INTRODUCTION, READINGS & ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION

ORD. NO. 2-2008

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was **offered** by Mrs. Spraggins for its **third reading by title only**. Second not required.

Prior to Mrs. Spraggins' motion to amend Ordinance No. 2-2008 (see below) she had stated that Council had asked for a healthier unencumbered balance, "a heftier cushion" as it were but all Mr. Brunot increased it to is \$56,000. That is not enough Mrs. Spraggins stated. Mr. Brunot was however able to add \$200,000 to the Emergency Fund she said. To get unencumbered more in line with what Council had requested Mrs. Spraggins prepared a spreadsheet in which she took 2007 actual in all but nine funds and increased them by 3.5%, the same percentage Macedonia's unions had negotiated through collective bargaining. She kept operating expenses relative to Police Law Enforcement, Fire Prevention, Planning/Engineering, Macedonia City Center, Mayor's Office, Finance -Administration; Mayor's Court; Service Department and Administrative Support at their 2007 levels because she felt the administration did not provide an adequate explanation why they were increased so dramatically. She anticipates that the administration will ask Council on monthly bases and certainly quarterly to advance funds as they are needed. Shaving off dollars from the various funds to provide an unencumbered balance of over \$900,000 provides assurance that this Council feels is needed in the face of economic uncertainties Mrs. Spraggins stated.

Councilor Tulley chastised Mrs. Spraggins' evaluation as being shortsighted. Mrs. Spraggins criticizes the increases in various funds but she does not account for the fact that overall variations are within the range of 5.74% Mrs. Tulley stated. Mrs. Spraggins' inexperience and tunnel vision is short changing the 2008 budget in catastrophic proportions. Mrs. Spraggins accounts for pay increases but mistakenly does

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not account for the cost of employee benefits or increased fuel and utilities costs. Mrs. Spraggins was far too selective in her re-preparation of the budget. She was not the least bit thorough in her evaluations. Mrs. Spraggins financial philosophy is misconstrued Mrs. Tulley stated. Besides that Mrs. Tulley said, unlike Mrs. Spraggins, she is not of firm believer of micro managing, which Mrs. Spraggins is very much trying to do.

Councilor Barker interjected that last year Council chose to hold or eliminate some capital purchases to contain costs. Earlier this year discussion was had that Council may have to do the same this year, when did that plan change, he asked. Cutting some departments 2008 operating budgets and at 2007 level is not the least bit realistic he stated. The increase cost of gasoline alone is going to seriously impact every department, particularly police, fire and service.

Mrs. Spraggins stated she does not feel what she did constitute as cuts. She just moved money around; the money will be there when the departments need it she said. Mrs. Spraggins' hope is that her budget will cause department heads to plan their budgets better, to think before they spend she added.

Councilor President Engle added that Mrs. Spraggins' budget is a good attempt to approving the overall budget. Council needs to be more involved in its creation and implementation which Mrs. Spraggins has endeavored to do. It is Council's responsibility Mr. Engle stated to be pro-active particularly with regards to ensuring that the money needed for Macedonia's many infrastructure projects is there when needed. Council is proposing that there be no new hires this year and that the capital purchases be held. Mrs. Spraggins' budget has to be tweaked Mr. Engle admitted but for the most part he feels it is a good budget. It certainly is an improvement to the budget proposed by the administration he added.

Councilor Tulley stated Mrs. Spraggins' budget was not made as a result of the collective decision of Council. Mrs. Spraggins just presented it during this evening's work session. Council is the Finance Committee of the Whole; it is not Committee of Mrs. Spraggins. Any changes should have been made by the general consensus of the Council of the Whole Mrs. Tulley stated. Mrs. Tulley reiterated that there truly is no logic or justifiable reasoning to Mrs. Spraggins' budget. For example Mrs. Tulley stated, Mrs. Spraggins capped a line item that had a 13% increase over last year but she did not cap one that had 63% increase. Where is the financial logic in that Mrs. Tulley asked?

Mrs. Spraggins answered that she did not use a formula because certain costs, like the cemetery assessment the City must pay. Mrs. Spraggins reiterated that her reductions are not cuts as they are being referred to. By years end she feels that every one of the nine items she reduced will be back to their original appropriation.

Finance Director Brunot told Mrs. Spraggins that more than anyone she should understand that the appropriation ordinance is the single most important the document that establishes the limits the administration spends in a year's time. Moreover, in addition to understanding its relevance she should understand the devastating effect slashing \$900,000 from it will have on the City. Cuts in this amount are truly catastrophic as Mrs. Tulley has said Mr. Brunot stated. Departments cannot operate as if they are going to eventually get the funding it needs. Mrs. Spraggins knows that legally, they are not allowed to function that way Mr. Brunot stated. The seriousness of the constraints created in Mrs. Spraggins' budget are to the extent that cuts in personnel and operating are going to have to be made early in order to be in compliance with state law he said. Mr. Brunot reminded Council that there is a zero percent growth over the 2006 budget and that revenue for the first part of this year has been slightly higher than the first part

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of last year. Mrs. Spraggins' actions are premature, narrow minded and shortsighted he stated

Mayor Kuchta angrily commented that Mrs. Spraggins' budget and actions implies that his administration "runs amuck" with taxpayers dollars. Nothing is farther from the truth Mayor Kuchta stated. Since he has been mayor there has not been one department that has gone over budget he stated. To imply otherwise and micro manage as Mrs. Spraggins is doing is an affront to his office and his abilities he stated. Mayor Kuchta added that as mayor he has saved Macedonia financially, unlike Mrs. Spraggins who when she was finance chair the City spent more than what it had.

Councilor Barker described Mrs. Spraggins' actions as "shady" because she waited until this evening to present her budget just days before the appropriations must be legally adopted (March 31). It was irresponsible of her as finance chair he said to have left virtually no time to discuss her proposals in depth. Mrs. Spraggins has acted in a wrongful and self serving manner which is proving to be her method of operation Mr. Barker added.

Fire Captain Dan Gagliardi questioned what criteria will be used to determine when those departments whose budgets have been cut have to ask Council for additional funds. Will it be first come, first serve he asked. Captain Gagliardi fears that departments won't get their funds as promised based past experience of no cooperation between Council and the administration. Is Mrs. Spraggins' guaranteeing this is going to happen again he asked?

Mrs. Tulley interjected that Mrs. Spraggins guaranteed during work session that each department whose budget was cut would be made whole. Mrs. Spraggins did not refute Mrs. Tulley's comment.

Police Chief Golden questioned how the police department hire new officers because Mrs. Spraggins' cuts.

Mr. Engle reminded Chief Golden that Council has yet to determine whether the police department will even be given the authority to hire new officers this year.

Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Engle seconded, to **amend Ordinance No. 2-2008 relative to General Funds items** provided in the list distributed to Council during work session. (Attached)

Roll call: Ayes: Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins
 Nays: Barker, Tulley
 The motion carried

Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Engle, seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 2-2008, as amended.**

Roll call: Ayes: Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins
 Nays: Barker, Tulley
 The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 2-2008, adopted as amended**

Also relative to the adoption of ORD. NO. 2-2008, a brief discussion was had about capital improvement purchases in that no determination was made to hold any request in abeyance.

Mrs. Tulley suggested to all the department heads in light of Mrs. Spraggins' stripping their operating

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budget that they move swiftly and purchase their capital purchases before Mrs. Spraggins' decides to strip that as well.

Mr. Barker reiterated his disappointment in Mrs. Spraggins' last minute presentation, calling it deceitful and manipulative.

Mayor Kuchta reiterated his disappointment as well in what he described as a travesty and total disregard for the functions of his office and those of his department heads.

ORD. NO. 17 -2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1129 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA REGARDING SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS MANDATING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF BUILDING PLANS FOR HOMES OF THE DEVELOPER OR THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ASSURING CONFORMANCE TO THAT SUBDIVISIONS' COVENANT AND DEED RESTRICTIONS was offered by Mr. Molnar for its **third reading by title only**. Second not required

Mr. Molnar moved, Mr. Engle seconded to **adopt ORD. NO. 17-2008** and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 17-2008 adopted.**

RES. NO. 18-2008

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO IMPROVE SOUTH FREEWAY DRIVE BETWEEN CERTAIN TERMINI BY GRADING, PAVING, CONSTRUCTING DRIVEWAY APRONS, REPLACING GUARDRAILS WHERE NECESSARY, REHABILITATING THE RELATED STORM SEWER SYSTEM BETWEEN CERTAIN TERMINI BY CONSTRUCTING STORM SEWERS, CATCH BASINS, MANHOLES, JUNCTION CHAMBERS AND A CONCRETE HEADWALL, AND ACQUIRING ANY NECESSARY REAL ESTATE AND INTERESTS THEREIN, ALL TOGETHER WITH TE NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was offered by Mrs. Spraggins for its **third reading by title only**. Second not required

Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Molnar second, to **amend RES. NO.18-2008, Section 4** to read as follows: "The City shall assume and pay 58.24% of the cost of the improvement (which City portion exceeds the cost of intersections plus 2% of the cost of the improvement plus 50% of appropriating any required real estate and interests therein). The remaining 41.76% of the cost of the improvement shall be assessed in proportion to the benefits that may result from the improvement upon the following lots and lands:.....".

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried

Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Molnar seconded. to **adopt RES. NO. 18-2008, as amended**, and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None

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The motion carried. **RES. NO. 18-2008, adopted as amended.**

ORD. NO. 20 -2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MONTROSE FORD FOR THE PURCHASE FOUR (4) POLICE VEHICLES FOR USE BY THE MACEDONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AT PRICES LOWER THAN OR EQUAL TO THE STATE PURCHASING PROGRAM was **offered** by Mr. Barker for its **second reading by title only**.

ORD. NO. 25-2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE PLACEMENT OF LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROPERTY AT 9541 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD ALSO KNOWN AS THE ROBERTSON FARM was **offered** by Mr. Engle and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for its second and third readings**. Second by Mrs. Tulley.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried

Mr. Engle moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 25-2008**, and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 25-2008, adopted**

RES. NO. 26-2008

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO REPLACE ALL OF EXISTING 0.8 MILL TAX LEVY AND INCREASING THAT LEVY BY 0.2 MILL TO CONSTITUTE A TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AND PAYMENT OF PERMANENT, FULL-TIME FIREMEN AT A RATE NOT EXCEEDING 1.0 MILL PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISE CODE SECTIONS 5705.19, 5705.191, AND 5705.192 AND REQUESTING THE SUMMIT COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER TO CERTIFY TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF CITY & DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THAT LEVY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was **offered** by Mrs. Spraggins for its **second reading by title only**. Second not required.

Relative to RES. NO. 26-2008, Councilor Spraggins invited the public to Council's April 10 meeting at which time comments will be heard around 8:30pm relative to the public perceptions regarding the proposed fire replacement levy.

ORD. NO. 27-2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF JENKINS ROAD IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 723.05 AND MACEDONIA CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1125.05 was **offered** by Mrs. Tulley and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only through Section 1 for all three readings**. Second by Mr. Engle.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None

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The motion carried

Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Engle seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 27-2008**, and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 27-2008, adopted**

Relative to ORD. NO. 27-2008, Engineer Fred Tufts explained that it was determined that portion of the road should be vacated in light of the expansion of the railroad and the fact that there is no longer any structures at the north end of Jenkins Road.

ORD. NO. 28-2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KOKOSING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR THE REHABILITATION OF NORTH BEDFORD ROAD was **offered** by Mrs. Spraggins and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only through Section 1 for all three readings**. Second by Mrs. Tulley.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried

Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 28-2008**, and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 28-2008, adopted**

Relative to ORD. NO. 28-2008, Councilor Spraggins mentioned that the road improvement is from Aurora Road (SR82) north to the City's corporate line.

Mrs. Tulley added that the bid came in slightly less than the engineer's estimate of \$600,000.

RES. NO. 29 -2008

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APPOINTEES TO COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT HOUSING COUNCIL PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 3735.69 was **offered** by Mr. Molnar and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mr. Engle

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
Nays: None
The motion carried

Mr. Molnar moved, Mr. Engle seconded, to **adopt RES. NO. 29-2008**, and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley

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Nays: None

The motion carried. **RES. NO. 29-2008, adopted**

Relative to RES. NO. 29-2008, Mayor Kuchta mentioned that a vacancy still exists on the Housing Council. He encouraged interested residents to apply.

MOTIONS OR OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

~A letter of appreciation from Melva Brnilovich regarding 911 emergency care provided to Ms. Brnilovich by Macedonia's paramedics.

~A letter of appreciation from Ben & Helen Cial regarding 911 emergency care provided Mr. Cial by Macedonia's paramedics.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kathy Thomas, member Longwood Manor House Historical Society provided a list of LHMS members the administration should contact when those who donated items to the Manor House want to retrieve them. Mrs. Thomas is aware that no one can enter the home without a City employee being present. She asked however the City call a member of LHMS to be present to insure that items that were donated get returned to the rightful donor. Mrs. Thomas thanked members of the LMHS who were present for their energy, commitment and dedication to the dream of restoring the Manor House to its former glory. Mrs. Thomas had mentioned that she contacted the Ohio Preservation Society and according to the Society there was a possibility that the Manor House could have been placed on the historical registry. However, she chose not to submit the nomination (application) once the City condemned the structure. Ms. Thomas announced that the LMHS' new website is www.LongwoodManor.org

An identified member asked why Council is turning their backs on the Manor House, why are they taking any action.. Why aren't you willing to protect, why can't some of the park property be sold to fund it she asked.

Councilor Engle informed the member that Council received an email from Mayor Kuchta who had asked that a motion of Council be made this evening relative to what should be done with the Manor House, that is, fund it or order its demolition. Mr. Engle however said he feels more discussion and review of various reports on the Manor House's condition should be had before a final determination is made.

Assistant Law Director Hanculak reminded Mr. Engle and the public that the Manor House has been formerly condemned. The only persons allowed to the home are city personnel. There is no written report about the house's condition as Mr. Engle has stated. A pro bono oral report on its condition was provided the administration. A written report will cost \$35,000. It is enough to say Mr. Hanculak stated that professionals have entered the building and have deemed it hazardous for use and occupation.

Mayor Kuchta added that unfortunately the City does not have the financial resources to provide the amount of funding necessary to restore or maintain the Manor House. It pains him to see what has become to one of Macedonia historical structures. But there is not much he can do as a public official. Personally he has donated to the Manor House by buying bricks for the walkway and has encouraged

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others to do the same. Mayor Long donated his beautiful farm and home to the City but he did not include the cost of upkeep in this prize. The home tragically went unattended for too long. Its repairs and restorations are now too numerous and costly. Years ago Mayor Kuchta stated Council made motion stopping all funding to the Manor House because of the financial crisis of the City. This City still does not have money to help save the Manor House. When the home is demolished the mayor said he will what he can to see that an appropriate memorial will be constructed in its remembrance.

Councilor Barker mentioned that a resolution was presented last spring renewing the City's dedication to the preservation and restoration of the Manor House. Unfortunately it tabled because Council could not make a decision as to what it was willing to do. This issue has been batter around for far too long Mr. Barker added.

Councilor Martin asked Councilor Barker what the Park & Recreation Commission's opinion was at that time the resolution was presented to which Mr. Barker answered that they recommended using a portion of the \$120,000 "found money" to replace the roof if not at least repair to stall further damage to the interior.

Engineer Tufts interjected that total restoration will cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

Debra Malkowski, Northfield Village resident and former member of Bedford Historical Society implored Council to reconsider their commitment to the Manor House. Macedonia's history needs to be preserved she said. Mayor Long's home is at the gateway to the Western Reserve Ms. Malkowski stated. Civilization cannot move forward without embracing parts of it's past. Macedonia is no different she added. If the Manor House cannot be saved as an entire structure, she asked if at least the very least an architectural memorial be created in its stead

Mayor Kuchta told Ms. Malkowski that he understands her feelings and commiserates with her sentiments. But personally or publicly there is nothing he can do to save Manor House. In this situation it is ultimately Council's decision whether the Manor House is restored or demolished because financial considerations and priorities relative to the expenditure of public dollars are truly their decision. Mayor Kuchta agreed with Ms. Malkowski suggestion that an architectural memorial would be a fitting remembrance to Mayor Long's legacy.

Regarding another matter Dennis Kornet of 509 Bluejay Trail complained as he did last year of ground water forming in his yard as a result of a poorly placed storm water pipe. He provided photos of the current condition. Mr. Kornet expressed concern as well about property behind his home that is owned by the high school in that there doesn't seem to be any maintenance being done. He fears the debris and tree limbs caught in the portion of the creek on Nordonia's property are going to cause the creek to back up again. Relative to another topic, Mr. Kornet asked if there could routinely be a police officer placed at intersection of S. Bedford Road & SR82. Mr. Kornet said he witnessed tractor trailer rigs running the light more than once and knows that situation is an accident waiting to happen. Mr. Kornet also asked if the school system receives any revenue when tax abatements are offered by the City to which he was told that they do through what is called a Pilot Program that is payments in lieu of taxes. It was explained to him that the school is paid a specific negotiated dollar amount in lieu of the taxes they would have been paid. Mr. Kornet only asked he said because the school system's continual attempt at tax levies.

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Police Chief Golden told Mr. Kornet that he doesn't have the budget or manpower to place an officer at that intersection at all times. With current staffing he can only afford to stagger officers at problem locations during peak hours.

Mayor Kuchta suggested to Mr. Kornet that he inform Macedonia's Drainage and Sewer Control Committee (DSCC) to what is happening in his yard. The DSCC will take his issue under advisement. The DSCC has created a problem priority list the mayor stated. The mayor added that the DSCC typically notifies the administration when a situation requires the City's intervention.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Commission Mr. Martin reported that Planning's next meeting is April 14.

Patio Enclosures Update Mr. Engle, as Council and the City's representative relative to Patio Enclosures and the situation regarding the Highland Road Grade Separation mentioned that he met recently with legal counsel for Patio Enclosures, officials of the company and Summit County Council President Nick Kostandaras. Nothing came of the meeting however. Mr. Kostandaras has asked for additional information from Patio Enclosures which the company has yet to provide. Patio Enclosures asked for a meeting to be held with officials of Governor's Strickland's Department of Economic Development which Mr. Engle said had been tentatively scheduled for next week but for unknown reasons was canceled by DOED. As far as Mr. Engle knows the situation is at a stand still he said.

Parks & Recreation Commission Councilor Molnar reported that the Commission's next meeting is Monday, April 21 at 7pm at the Recreation Center.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Service Department Assistant Service Director Rob Jamison reported in Mr. Crevar absence that spring snow storms and pot holes have kept service crews busy. Since January, 107 tons of cold patch has been used, 71 of which was used in March alone. Mr. Jamieson mentioned that two crews out are out on the roads on most days in order to catch up with the many large holes that have been created by the extreme changes in weather. The thaw freeze cycle is particularly damaging to asphalt surfaces he added. Mr. Jamieson also mentioned that service crew will be replacing 8-30" diameter roadway crossover culverts along N. Bedford Road before the re-paving of it begins.

Building Department Prior to his report (attached) Mr. Tufts chastised Council, Mrs. Spraggins in particular regarding the cuts in the budget. Mr. Tufts said each department head/director is very conscientious in the preparation of their budget. Projections and estimates are made cautiously and responsibly. To assume otherwise is an affront as the mayor stated earlier to every professional on staff Mr. Tufts stated.

Recreation Department Ms. Gmerek mentioned that she distributed to Council, the department heads and the Mayor information regarding promotional new member packages. The different memberships now include business and corporate levels she added. Business memberships will be available to those who work for the City of Macedonia but do not reside with the city. Corporate memberships will be available to both Macedonia based corporations and corporations based outside the city she said. There

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are two separate pricing scales for resident based corporations and non-resident based corporations. Businesses must have a minimum of 10 employees who have enrolled to qualify. Additionally, she said, there is a new membership referral program that allows current members to earn a savings on their renewal by referring friends, families and neighbors. Aetna is also teaming with the Recreation Center she stated so individuals who are covered by this insurance plan may be able to have their membership paid by Aetna. Ms. Gmerek stated that new employee Chris Griffith has been very instrumental in establishing the various tiers of membership. Mr. Griffiths will be the contact person with regards to the various new levels she stated. Ms. Gmerek also mentioned that Council received a copy of the Spring and Summer Program Brochure. The brochure outlines all upcoming programs, including summer camp and youth sports information. Brochures are currently available at the front desk of the Recreation Center and will be an insert in the April 2 edition of the NewsLeader.

Finance Department Mr. Brunot reported that tax court generated \$22,700 in delinquent taxes. A number of continuances were offered which will generate another \$12,000 he added.

Fire Department Captain Gagliardi in Chief Black's absence reported that call volume relative to emergency runs have increased by over 20% from last year.

Police Department Chief Golden mentioned that his department is creating a new form that can be upon online relative to false alarms. The chief reminded motorists to lock their vehicles even when their vehicles are parked on their own property. The number of vehicles being broken into is on the rise and 99% of the time the chief said, this type of theft can be avoided if the vehicle had been secured. The chief also reminded residents to find alternate routes through and around Macedonia particularly with the onset of all the major construction that is in or will be in progress. Lastly, the chief mentioned that Officer Chris Neal will be featured on four or five episodes of the second season of Spike TV.

Law Department Mr. Hanculak had no report.

Unfinished business None.

New business: None.

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm

Mayor's report, March 27, 2008

Wednesday was a big day for our City. In case anybody out there is unaware, the opening of the bids for the route 82 bridge project happened that day. The winning bid came in \$2.6 million dollars under ODOTS estimate. It looks like after everything is said and done, this project may actually cost the residents of Macedonia less than first calculated as our cost almost two decades ago. This also means we are very close to starting this project. We will be starting the resurfacing of North Bedford Road also very shortly. I am imploring you to look for alternate routes before the traffic gets really, really bad. Once you are trapped in it, it's too late.

I have been working to find some relief for our local businesses during construction at every level. If you remember, I have voiced great concern for our local businessmen and women. I have been in contact with every level of government from our County, to our State, and our Federal Representatives. I am following up on some leads given me now. However the best way to help them is still to continue to patronize them, even though it might be difficult. In so many instances of doing huge projects like we are undertaking, we

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lose our local independent businesses. Please try and remember that and do your best to keep it from happening.

As far as the safety and plans of how traffic will flow...it will have be monitored my staff constantly. Eventually you will see a light on each side of the bridge. That means that traffic flowing east and west will use the same lane under the bridge. That flow will be controlled by the two lights. You may even see some temporary lights pop up in different locations as deemed necessary.

In my latest correspondence with resident Fred Schuld concerning AMAT's meetings, we talked about what many people feel will become a necessity... Public Transportation. AMATS stands for the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study. We are allowed to have residents serve on the AMATS Citizen Involvement Committee portion of that very important body. Fred has been our representative for the last four years. This is an important position because it allows input for infrastructure improvements and changes from the people of our community. With the cost of gas skyrocketing and the air quality of our area deteriorating, alternate methods of transporting large amounts of people are being considered. This is especially true because of the recent passing of the Metro Levy that was on the last ballot. They plan to purchase 30 more buses. We could be seeing more and more buses throughout the area. Fred is having a harder time attending these meeting and has asked to be replaced. If you are interested in speaking out for our residents on all major transportation issues, please contact my office. I think the meetings are every other month and last about an hour or less. We can fill you in on all of the pertinent information.

If anybody out there would like to see some of our finest policemen in action you just need to watch "Disorderly Conduct" on Spike TV on Friday nights at 11:00 PM. They have had more than one segment already show and I am told that more are coming. We have a very good police department as witnessed by their earlier appearances on Spike TV.

Our local YMCA will be having a Grand Reopening and 5K Race on Saturday April 5th. The Race will start at 10:00AM and part of the Race route will include Shepard Rd and side streets close to the "Y". They will also be having a 1Mile Run/walk starting at 11:00AM. They will offer tours, food, vendors, and the unveiling of their new playground. You can contact Lisa or Eane at 330-467 if you have any questions.

We are looking for the Route 8 Corridor study to be completed in late April. The early reports from what is happening with this study are indicative that we made the right decision to approach development of this area this way. It will actually be precedent setting in that it will forecast any ill effects that development will have east of Route 8 between Highland and Hines Hill Road. Knowing this will allow us to move forward within the parameters that will be set to protect, and in some cases, enhance the area.

I would encourage everyone to attend our public meetings on the fire levy. I promise that it will be a learning experience and we will want to hear what you have to say. I ask you to please be aware that the City actually receives only about 8 percent of your total real estate taxes. Cleveland magazine says that our average home in Macedonia is in the \$200,000 price range. If that describes your house, the taxes that you pay to the City are roughly \$260 a year. That is very little to spend for all the services the City gives to its residents. We (your city government) are still living within the same budget that we had in 2006! Are you? The answer is probably no. Just the cost of fuel can play havoc with anybody's budget. The Real Estate taxes you pay mostly go to the schools. We rely on City Income tax to run this City and keep it in the black. That tax is paid to the City by the employees of our businesses. This re-iterates the need to continue to patronize them during construction. I have to repeat that the City only receives 8% of the real estate taxes you pay. You really are getting a "good bang for your buck".

Regular Meeting

March 27, 2008

FROM: Fred Tufts, P.E., City Engineer , March 27, 2008

Major Infrastructure Projects:

SR 82 Widening, Phase 2:

- a. The relocation of the fiber optic cables continues.
- b. The permanent and temporary right-of-way takes have been staked to accommodate utility relocations,
- c. Tree clearing by ODOT will commence next week.
- d. Construction bids were opened on Wednesday, March 26th; nine (9) bids were received ranging from a low of \$8,918,274.85 to a high of \$11,894,952.23. The apparent low bid was submitted by the Kenmore Construction Co. Inc. from Akron, Ohio and is 22.4% below the official construction estimate of \$11,500,000.

In summary: We received a great price for the construction and are fortunate to have an excellent contractor familiar with Macedonia.

cc: Mayor Don Kuchta

FNT/km