

Record of Proceedings  
Regular Council Meeting  
February 26, 2015

Presiding Officer, Mayor Donald Kuchta called the February 26 regular meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**Present:** Council members' Rita Darrow, David Engle, Sylvia Hanneken, Nicholas Molnar and Janet Tulley; Council Clerk Josephine Arceci and Associate Law Director Mark Guidetti.

**Absent:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Council President Darrow

**INVOCATION** was led by Council President Darrow

**MINUTES** Council President Darrow requested that the minutes of February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting be held for approval until the next regular meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** Ms. Hanneken moved, Ms. Darrow seconded, and acknowledged receipt of Financial Report dated January 31, 2015.

Roll call: Ayes: Darrow, Engle, Hanneken, Molnar and Tulley  
Nays: None  
The motion carried.

**PRESENTATION** Officer Shawn Hathaway presented his partner K-9 Officer Haro, 17 month old German Shepard trained in building searches, tracking and narcotics. Officer Haro resides with the Hathaway Family and the cost to maintain him his provided through donations.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Torrey Blackburn, Macedonia resident and family owner of Blackburn Hubcaps and Wheels, Roll & Hold Parkway explained that the Blackburn business was established in Macedonia in 1983 by his father. Mr. Blackburn Sr. was the company's only employee at the time. Today, Blackburn's employs 46 and has an annual payroll of \$2.2M dollars. The current Roll & Hold Parkway facility is the third business facility in Macedonia the Blackburn's have occupied. In 32-years of doing business in Macedonia the Blackburn's have never asked for any financial concessions or rebates until the recent request for a MOP. The Blackburn's move from S. Freeway Drive to the Roll & Hold Parkway facility which had been abandoned for three years provided ancillary growth in Macedonia with the addition of Standard Signs, Hitachi and Bennett Supply. The Blackburn's applied for the MOP understanding their payroll met MOP standards; in fact, its payroll doubled the minimum requirement. Employing 10 additional employees would be a substantial requirement Mr. Blackburn stated since Blackburn's workers are not minimum-wage employees. The Blackburn's do not intend to sell the Roll & Hold facility but lease it. The Blackburn's are confident the Roll & Hold facility will be readily leased for the reason two publicly held companies are currently courting the Blackburn's, one of which is a German steel company who has proposed a ten-year commitment. While the goal of the Blackburn's is to continue its business operation in Macedonia at the abandoned junk-yard on Highland Road, the city of Independence has expressed an interest in the Blackburn business. The opportunity for the Blackburn's to continue in Macedonia by moving to the lighter Highland Road still provides the Blackburn's the ability to remain on its projected growth schedule. The Blackburn's move within the City provides a ripple effect which not only benefits the Blackburn business but the City as well. With that in mind Mr. Blackburn asked Council consideration in this matter and because he added his heart and family are in Macedonia.

Regarding another topic Roy Metzel of Smokerise Drive complained about discord between the administration and Council. As a 35-resident he has never witnessed such embarrassing actions he stated. There is too much turmoil, too much negativity. Everyone wants to do everyone else's job, take on responsibilities that are not theirs. Some seem to have their own agenda. Where's the division that's supposed to exist between the legislators and administration he asked? Macedonia is getting bad press and looks silly in the local newspaper. Macedonia was a nice community and Mr. Metzel would like it to continue to be so. There is too much that needs to be done, like road repairs and building up the service department for infighting to continue. Start showing Macedonia resident that city official care for them Mr. Metzel stated. Mr. Metzel commended Mayor Kuchta.

**PENDING &/OR NEW LEGISLATION**

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**ORD. NO. 8-2015**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE 549.10 POSSESSION AND DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS was **offered** by Mr. Engle for its **third reading by title only**. Second not required.

Mr. Engle moved, Ms. Hanneken seconded, **to amend ORD. NO. 8-2015**, by deleting and adding the following language to the title of the ordinance and to the title of Exhibit A: ~~POSSESSION AND~~  
REGULATING

Roll call: Ayes: Darrow, Engle, Hanneken, Molnar and Tulley  
Nays: None  
The motion carried.

Mr. Engle moved, Ms. Hanneken seconded, to adopt **ORD. NO. 8-2015, as amended**, and post same according to law.

Roll call: Ayes: Engle, Hanneken and Tulley  
Nays: Darrow, Molnar  
The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 8-2015, adopted as amended**

Relative to ORD. NO.8-2015, Councilor Engle explained this legislation repeals the ability to discharge firearms within city limits by individuals other than those in the official line of duty (police officers/military). In 2012 when the ordinance was adopted allowing property owners with five or more acres the ability to discharge weapons on a specially designed range, many, including the police chief where opposed, and since then no one has applied for an application Mr. Engle felt it in the best interest of Macedonia residents to repeal it. Ordinance No. 8-2015 does not disallow legal possession or ownership of firearms he added.

**ORD. NO. 24-2015**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ADD A FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER IN THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA was **offered** by Mr. Molnar for its **second reading by title only**. Second not required.

**ORD. NO. 28-2015**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MACEDONIA OCCUPANCY PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH BLACKBURN'S HUBCAPS AND WHEEL, INC., was **offered** for its **first reading by title only**. Second not required.

**MOTIONS OR OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS** See "New Business" for motion relative to funding the senior snow removal program.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** [Imported from Word document]

"The Future Growth Committee has been selected and will be meeting soon. Personally, I think this committee is very important in giving elected officials an agreed upon vision of the future created by local residents. To me it definitely was not a waste of time being on the original Future Growth Committee in 1997, and then again in 2002. The Addendum passed by Council on October 10, 2002 was very much a road map for me when I was elected in November of 2003. The 2002 Future Growth Committee met 9 times and agreed upon the issues within the Addendum. At that time and in the plan that resulted, 6 priorities were listed. Number one on that list of priorities was to prepare a thoroughfare plan. The paragraph read "We recommend adopting a Comprehensive Thoroughfare Plan so that we can better understand the impact of growth and the related increase in traffic in the City of Macedonia". "Specific areas that should be addressed in this plan include the Route 8 Corridor, the Route 82 Bridge, the Crossings/Golden link project, and the I-271 northbound on-ramp".

If the new Future Growth Committee comes up with a new perspective of how we can continue to improve on the success of the past plans, and if it results in as much success as this plan did, Macedonia will become the Mecca people want it to be. This plan must continue to stress economic growth in a balanced format that will result in strengthening the tax base of our City so that it provides the services we get as homeowners and business owners to be best that they can be. That too was one of the 6 priorities of the 2002 addendum.

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The new committee will include homeowners and business owners, my staff (whomever will be deemed necessary). First, we will include input from our City Planner. He is a qualified, licensed professional that will be providing input for them. The police will also be advising them because as in the past, traffic, traffic, traffic, will always be an issue. Building and Engineering, along with the Service Department can give valuable input.

Zoning is another burden on the City, and it always has been. We still need to try and slowly blend our zoning to create functional transition. That was accomplished across the street (Valley View) when zoning was changed so that at the corner of 82, the zoning starts off as Business then blends into a zoning known as Business Office and then continuing south it changes into Light Industrial. If only we would have had this foresight previously, we would not have residential and industrial zones within feet of each other in so many areas as we do today. It is no fun having the woods you look out at from your window turn into buildings that might emit noise or bustle with all kinds of activity. Nobody wants to live with that...yet we can't exist without it. It provides income that keeps your City's operating real estate taxes down.

For the people who have volunteered their time to be on this committee, those of you selected should take this venture very seriously. Plan our future and plan it well. Thank you for taking time away from your life to make ours better. Your efforts may not happen tomorrow, or next week, or maybe not even next year.....but someday. There is proof that your vision will be taken into consideration and possibly implemented to improve our City”

**COMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Commission** Mr. Engle announced Planning's next meeting is March 16 at 5:30pm.

**Charter Review Commission** Mr. Engle announced the Commission's next meeting is March 11 at 6:30pm.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Service Department** Mr. DeGaetano reported: Salt bins at both service garages are at full capacity. To date \$177,536 has been expended. To comply with minimum salt supply order \$97,464 will be ordered. (Minimum annual order \$275,000) Sensible salt practice is being followed. Service received only two telephone calls during the February 20<sup>th</sup> snow event. One from a resident fearing Ledge Road would not be navigable upon returning from visiting her hospitalized husband but who was relieved road was clean and safe to drive. The other from a disgruntled Lancewood Drive resident who complained, using profanity that Lancewood was never plowed. Each truck Mr. DeGaetano explained is equipped with a GPS system. This system provides a record, an account of the speed, the time and the place relative to each vehicle and the documentation that Lancewood was plowed four times February 20<sup>th</sup>. Crews are cold patching when weather conditions permit primarily the largest and worst holes. Highland Road between Route 8 to Capital Blvd is beyond cold-patching. Engineer Fini estimates repairs will cost \$130,000.

Councilor Hanneken interjected the office of the Summit County engineer has indicated the permissive license tax fee will provide about \$100,000 by this July which can be used to repair Highland Road. Regarding the senior snow removal program, Ms. Hanneken questioned how much more funding is needed to complete the season to which Mr. DeGaetano estimated about \$10,000 (See “New Business” for motion for additional funding).

Mr. DeGaetano, at Council President Darrow's request announced the posting of job opening relative to full-time maintenance position.

Councilor Tulley commended the service department its efforts during the numerous snow events this season. Ms. Tulley asked Mr. DeGaetano the savings realized by the implementation of the 10-week temporary night shift to which he did not have the information readily available but he will by next meeting. There was savings however he added. He also added the night shift was canceled prematurely because day work is being short changed. There are just not enough service employees to continue the night shift. Ms. Tulley questioned if bid packages were completed regarding the roads not repaired last year and the roads scheduled to be repaired this year to which Engineer Fini answered they are for one exception. The weather has prevented GeoTech from performing pavement core sampling. The samples

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are imperative because they provide the information needed in determining extend of repairs and thus a better estimate of the costs per road. There are presently 15 roads on the list in addition to other roads on the wish list with a cost estimate of \$2.4M Mr. Fini added.

Councilor Hanneken interjected funds were budgeted this year to repair as many road as possible.

Mayor Kuchta interjected during snow events service crew drive 155 lane miles and sometimes more four or five times during an 8-10 hour period.

**Building Commissioner** Mr. Hlad reported demolition relative to Dos Coronos Restaurant, Days Inn Motel and the existing Get N Go is imminent in preparation of the construction new, larger Get N Go. The first occupancy of Redwood Rental units anticipated April 1, Macedonia had 42 new business starts last year and 54 new homes.

Councilor Hanneken asked Mr. Hlad the status of the in-door soccer stadium to which Mr. Hlad stated the company has indicated there would a redesign of its initial proposal to be compliant with the Code and thereby no longer needing a variance. There is no timetable indicated to him relative the redesign. Ms. Hanneken asked the status of the proposed Marriott to which Mr. Hlad answered the company is no longer interested after the BZA denied its appeal for additional. The company was however encouraged to review the area of B-4 zoning at Highland and Route 8 where higher structures are permitted.

**Engineer** Mr. Fini reiterated bid packages are nearly complete except for the reporting of pavement core samplings. The complete list of roads to be repaired is estimated to cost \$2.4M. Favorable results from core samplings may reduce the estimate. GPD is in receipt of retrofit plan by Norfolk Southern relative to the repairs of the Ledge Road Bridge.

Council President Darrow interjected she asked Ms. Hanneken as chair of the Streets and Highway Committee to schedule a committee meeting to review the additional roads which now need attention following this winter season.

Councilor Hanneken questioned Engineer Fini whether the list of 15 streets is prioritized to which he answered that it is. Mr. Fini added the results of the core sampling may have an effect on the list, in which case his recommendations will be based on cost benefit, i.e., repairing the roads having the most traffic.

A brief discussing ensued regarding core sampling, the advantageous results from sampling Westwood as being an example of learning after sampling the road that it has a 12" base and thus the scope of the repairs thought to be required were minimized and less costly.

Councilor Molnar interjected he has been conferring with Mr. Fini about the condition of Highland Road and the City's liability in this regard. Patching is no longer an alternative, core sampling not practical. In his opinion Highland Road has moved to the forefront to be repaired.

Councilor Hanneken reiterated the license tax funds anticipated to be \$100,000 by July can be used for Highland Road. The Highland Road project is not in financial conflict with the revenue previously allocated in this year's budget for the other road projects.

Councilor Molnar mentioned Mayor Kuchta sent Mr. Molnar an email about the availability of these funds. Mr. Molnar's goal is to be prepared this year unlike last when Westwood and Airline were not repaired as promised the residents. The total cost of repairs may be less if the scope of the project is larger meaning companies sometime bid on volume.

Mayor Kuchta interjected that he provided Mr. Molnar the license tax information because they had mutually discussed funding additional roads like Highland Road. Mayor Kuchta had reminded Mr. Molnar \$500,000 from these types of funds was carried over from last year and now there would be an additional \$100,000 by mid-year.

Councilor Tulley asked the administration to submit to Council by the March 12 meeting a complete list of roads including Highland and a cost estimate.

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**Recreation Department** Ms. Gmerek was not present.

**Finance Department**

**Fire Department** Chief Black reminded residents to clear/remove snow from around their fire hydrants.

**Police Department** Chief Golden reiterated the support of K-9 Officer Haro is provided through donations. Chief Golden mentioned 12 crashes occurred on I271 within 2.5 hours on the 23<sup>rd</sup> because of icy road conditions. Road salt is ineffective at bitterly frigid temperatures and motorists just do not slow down. Residents were reminded to download free Nixle for alerts on road conditions/closures etc.

Councilor Tulley added Nixle has been a great traveling tool. Cleveland.com also provides road alerts relative to the greater Cleveland area.

Mayor Kuchta interjected many municipal buildings were closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> due the subzero temperatures. Macedonia however was not.

**Law Department** Mr. Guidetti had no report.

Councilor Hanneken mentioned she reviewed the legal invoices for January and February and appreciates the adjustments Mr. Diemert has made to those bills and thanked Mr. Diemert for utilizing the new format she suggested.

Councilor President Darrow asked that she has copies of the legal department's invoices as well.

**Unfinished business**

Councilor Tulley asked if the sand and storm water report relative to Lake Forrest has been completed to which Mr. DeGaetano responded the City is waiting from authorization from Medina Supply to take samples from their property. Mr. DeGaetano does not want to pay \$5,000 in taxpayer dollars on a report until Medina Supply grants the City permission.

Councilor Hanneken asked for an estimate of time relative to getting permission to which Mr. DeGaetano was uncertain.

**New business**

**MOTION**

Ms. Hanneken moved, Mr. Engle seconded authorizing the transfer of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) from the General Fund unencumbered fund balance to Fund/Account 101.110.5600 for the purpose of funding the senior snow removal program

Roll call: Ayes: Darrow, Engle, Hanneken, Molnar and Tulley  
Nays: None  
The motion carried.

Regarding another topic, Ms. Tulley commended Nordonia High School student Jarod Riedel, member of the swimming and diving team for successfully competing in Division I Swim Meet. This is first time in Nordonia's history that a swimmer has qualified for the state meet. Coach Costanzo, former soccer coach and who Ms. Tulley worked with in paring Nordonia with the Macedonia Family Recreation was commended as well. Ms. Tulley recognized Nordonia Knights Boys Bowlers who won the Summit Sectional Tournament and Lady Knights Bowler sophomore Morgan Maytus who personally qualified for districts. The Nordonia Hills student wrestlers were recognized too as were NewsLeader sportswriters Messer's Michael Leonard and Matt Duetsch for their coverage of local youth sports.

Council President Darrow thanked Ms. Tulley for mentioning the bowlers, many of whom have been at the Darrow home during school closure days because their friends of her son Luke.

There being no further business the regular meeting adjourned at 8:39pm (Roll call taken)