

**City Council Meeting  
City of Richmond Heights  
July 8, 2008**

Council President, David Roche, called the meeting to order at 8:25 PM

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call:

Present: Alexander, Gambatese, Keyerleber, Morgan, O'Toole, Roche

Excused: Henry

Consent Agenda for Tonight:

1. Minutes of the City Council Meeting from June 24, 2008
2. Resolution No. 53-2008, Introduced by Mayor Ursu and All Members of Council, First Reading: A Resolution Congratulating the Richmond Heights High School Choir's Best of Choir Award at the Music Showcase Festival in Baltimore, Maryland.

Motion to accept by Morgan, seconded by O'Toole. Motion passed 6-0.

**REPORTS:**

**Mayor Ursu:** Commented on Res 53-2008 and presented the Richmond Hts Choir with a framed resolution, to the director, Anita Caswell.

**Fire Chief Cek:** -excused-

**Police Chief Rowe:** Three vehicles that had been ordered are now in. We are tallying the number of hours on vehicle use vs. mileage. For every hour that a car idles, it compares to 3 hours of driving on engine wear.

**Building Commissioner, Rodic:** 103 permits were issued in the month of June, and 4 were for new homes. At the halfway point in the year, 371 permits have been issued accounting for just over 13 million in construction value and nearly \$119,000 in receipts. 17 permits have been issued for new homes. Last year, at this point, there were 380 permits issued for just over 3 million dollars in construction value and \$47,000 in receipts. 8 permits were issued for new homes.

**Finance Director, Rossiter:** We are evaluating 3 offers for Workers Comp and the best one so far is the Ohio Assoc of Public Treasurers.

**Development Director, Gase:** No report.

**Service Director, Lazar:** Replaced the border sign at Highland/Georgetown and we are doing landscaping around it.

**City Engineer, Courtney:** Utility work is being done at Highland Ridge. The Road program will start on work at Swetland, Fairlawn and High Rd.

**Recreation Director, Drda:** There will be a new lifeguard class on Monday, July 13 and new day camps to start the week of July 21<sup>st</sup>. She invited the Rich Hts Choir to sing at the Holiday Walk in the Park, which will actually be held in the new City Hall this year. Gearing up for the Family Day events on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Audience:**

**Vida Habjan** asked if the Cultural Commission will be having a booth at Family Day. Gambatese said Yes, they are.

**Sharone Cook**, resident on Audrey asked about the new homes being built in Rich Hts. Do these permits they get help assist the schools in any way?

Roche said the schools are funded through their own taxes and levies. The School and the City are separate in their taxes and different accounts.

Mayor Ursu added that the new construction adds to the taxbase, which does uplift the Schools taxes.

Alexander said that many of the new homes being constructed are geared towards empty nesters with no children, so although they will add to the taxbase, they will not be bringing in more children to already crowded schools. He said the City does what it can to help the schools and discussed how the City Service Dept often snowplows the schools parking lots and driveways for them in winter.

O'Toole added that the Council and Mayor are supporting the upcoming school levy and will have legislation passed at the next Council meeting on this.

**Tony Asmar**, resident on Chardon Road, asked if there were any changes made on property taxes to help fund the schools. Roche said there were no big changes made.

The State Income Tax has a percentage of income that goes to the school district.

Gase said it is in the hands of the State legislature and they are not interested. Roche suggested they contact State Rep, Kenny Yuko and State Senator, Lance Mason.

**OLD BUSINESS:** -none-

**NEW BUSINESS:**

### **RESOLUTION NO.: 54 - 2008, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR URSU & COUNCIL, FIRST READING**

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO DIRECTORS TO THE GREENWOOD FARM HISTORICAL, CULTURAL & ARTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

- Gambatese motioned for suspension of the rules, O'Toole seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

- Gambatese motioned for passage of Res 54-2008, Alexander seconded. Motion for passage 6-0.

**RESOLUTION NO.: 55 - 2008, INTRODUCED BY ALEXANDER, FIRST READING**  
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET INFORMATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2009, AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE BUDGET COMMISSION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Alexander motioned for suspension of the rules, Morgan seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Morgan motioned for passage of Res 55-2008, Gambatese seconded. Motion for passage 6-0.

**RESOLUTION NO.: 56 - 2008, INTRODUCED BY ALEXANDER, FIRST READING**  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AS A MEMBER OF THE EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL WITH THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

- Gambatese motioned for suspension of the rules, O'Toole seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Gambatese motioned for passage of Res 56-2008, Morgan seconded. Motion for passage 6-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** -none-

**Old Business Discussion** (continued from the Committee of the Whole)

Fire Station Renovation: Alexander said things are moving along. The new bay is bricked up. By the end of August, the firemen will be downstairs and it should be finished soon. Lazar added that they have removed the letters off the old City Hall building.

Family Day Open House: from 2-4pm on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Motion for an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and acquisition of property. Keyerleber motioned, Morgan seconded. Motion passed 6-0.  
Executive Session was held from 9:00-9:45pm.

Roche reconvened the meeting at 9:45pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Roche, seconded by O'Toole to adjourn this July 8, 2008 City Council Meeting at 9:45 PM

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Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council

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David H. Roche, Council President