

**City Council Meeting
City of Richmond Heights
February 24, 2009**

Council President, David Roche, called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call:

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

Excused: Gambatese

O'Toole motioned to excuse Gambatese for tonight's meeting and Henry seconded.
Motion passed 6-0.

Consent Agenda for Tonight:

- Minutes from City Council Meeting of February 10, 2009
- Resolution 12-2009, Introduced by Mayor Ursu and All Members of Council: A Resolution Congratulating Priscilla and Edward Douglas on the Occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda by Morgan, seconded by Henry.
Motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS:

Mayor Ursu: Presented Res 12-2009 to Priscilla and Edward Douglas and congratulated them on 50 years of marriage. He discussed Ord 14-2009, which brings the budget into line for the City this year. With the 35 hr work week, and the recent lay-offs, there were a lot of sacrifices made, and he recommended its passage.

Fire Chief Cek: YTD, 194 alarms, 152 EMS 78%, and 42 were fires and misc at 22%. The EMS Billing System generated \$14,797.

O'Toole asked how many fires there was this year. Cek said there have been 6 working fires, which is above the norm.

Police Chief Rowe: We finally received the new police vehicle to replace the one that was totaled. In a few weeks, we will receive the decals. There have been 624 calls for service this month, which is up a bit. Lyndhurst and High Hts will offer help to us if needed during this time of lay-offs.

O'Toole asked if the taxes from the Mall can help with the assistance from So Euclid. Rowe said any surrounding cities would be willing to help and do what they can. So Euclid does not have jurisdiction at the mall though.

Building Commissioner, Rodic: Working on annual inspections, which commence next week. Morgan asked about the apt fire and if residents were back in there yet. Rodic said that wing is blocked off and may not be ready to live in for 6-8 months.

Finance Director, Rossiter: Met with the auditor, and the 2005-2006 audit is winding down. Adjustments have been made and they will be sent to the next level. It should not take long to complete.

Development Director, Gase: Thanked Council for supporting Res 16-2009 regarding the opposition to the airport runway expansion. He hopes this to be effective.

Service Director, Lazar: With the increase of salt of \$13-15/ton more, we still should be within budget.

City Engineer, Chris Courtney: Discussed the prioritized list for the stimulus that was submitted to Council tonight. He will also submit it to Kenny Yuko's office. If anyone else has anything to add to the list, please let him know. Phase II Stormwater is nearing completion with new Phase II regulations.

Recreation Director, Drda: Had the first meeting for 4-6th graders on the Rec Advisory Board. She said she was very impressed with the kids, as they have come up with everything on their own. We will look to add the 7-8th graders to start on this and hope to do with the high schoolers in the future. She also commented on the Rich Hts school meeting to set up committees.

Roche added that the school meeting was a good event with about 60 people there, and good feedback.

O'Toole said the meeting was useful and this community needs the school to survive. We need to pass a levy. If the State takes over, it is not a pretty sight. He added that he is on the Communications Committee.

Audience:

Rita Kolter, resident, asked why the City is in trouble financially. Aren't people paying taxes?

Mayor Ursu explained that the City receives revenues from workers in the City and explained the tax process. He added that 2 major employers in the City had lay-offs (Merit Brass and Flight Options) and that decreased the money for the City as well. We are doing the best we can to provide and move forward.

Chris Wise, PD Dept employee, asked about taxes in the City, and wondered if the airport runway expansion would help with taxes and money to the City. Why should we oppose it then? Wouldn't it create more jobs?

Roche added that a new company (Transzonics) is moving its headquarters in the City and we are optimistic about that.

Alexander said we need to weigh the balance of the community to what bigger and larger jets would do to the City. Look at the Master Plan and what they want to do. The biggest issue is safety. Big planes are not good for the City.

Gase said the bottom line is that the runway extension is not necessary for the airport or the City.

Mayor Ursu said the material to be used at the end of the runways makes it safer. The FAA ranks it with the runway length, and it could be used instead of re-locating roads and building new structures.

O'Toole said this master plan would not take place for another 7-8 yrs, if it takes effect. They would have the ability to expand the airport and the hours. It would be strategic of us to be against this now.

Wise asked if there was a compromise.

Roche said there are other options, since the City opposes Option #38. In Res 33-2008, we gave support to the safety items in the other options.

Mayor Ursu said there are no customizing options once an option is chosen. They plop down there option and say "There it is!" and you have to accept the whole thing or oppose the whole thing.

O'Toole added that other communities are against this as well.

Chief Cek added that the ability to provide services for fires and EMS needs to be looked at and could be problematic if Richmond Rd is relocated.

OLD BUSINESS: -none-

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO.: 13-2009, INTRODUCED BY ALEXANDER, FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE GAS SUPPLY, INC. FOR NATURAL GAS.

- MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEXANDER AND SECONDED BY O'TOOLE TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 121.22 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.
- MOTION WAS MADE BY HENRY, SECONDED BY O'TOOLE TO PASS RESOLUTION NO.: 13-2009. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO.: 14 -2009, INTRODUCED BY ALEXANDER, FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO 121-2008; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- MOTION WAS MADE BY ALEXANDER AND SECONDED BY HENRY TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 121.22 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.
- MOTION WAS MADE BY HENRY, SECONDED BY MORGAN TO PASS ORDINANCE NO.: 14-2009. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 15-2009, INTRODUCED BY O'TOOLE, FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROCK SALT) FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE 2009-2010 WINTER SEASON.

- MOTION WAS MADE BY O'TOOLE AND SECONDED BY HENRY TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 121.22 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.
- MOTION WAS MADE BY HENRY, SECONDED BY O'TOOLE TO PASS RESOLUTION NO.: 15-2009. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

RESOLUTION NO.: 16-2009, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL, FIRST READING

A RESOLUTION ADVISING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE EXTENSION OF THE RUNWAY AT CUYAHOGA COUNTY AIRPORT.

- MOTION WAS MADE BY O'TOOLE AND SECONDED BY MORGAN TO SUSPEND THE RULES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 121.22 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.
- MOTION WAS MADE BY MORGAN, SECONDED BY HENRY TO PASS RESOLUTION NO.: 16-2009. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

ADDITIONS: -none-

CORRESPONDENCE: -none-

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by O'Toole, seconded by Henry to adjourn this February 24, 2009 City Council Meeting at 8:57 PM

Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council

David H. Roche, Council President