



CITY OF TITUSVILLE

BIRTHPLACE OF THE OIL INDUSTRY

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

November 25, 2008



The regular meeting of Titusville City Council was called to order by Mayor Peden in the Conference Room at the Titusville Redevelopment Authority at 7:00 p.m. A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Peden. Present at the meeting were Mayor Dennis Peden, Councilman John Frye, Councilwomen Bonnie Hull and Esther Smith, Michael Allyn, Interim City Manager. Mary Hill represented The Titusville Herald. Jim Gross represented GBS.

It was moved by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Smith, and carried unanimously to adopt the meeting Agenda as prepared. It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mrs. Hull, and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 11, 2008 as submitted and place on file.

PUBLIC HEARING - RE: Proposed 2009 Budget

Mayor Peden opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2009 Budget and read a prepared statement concerning the financial state of the City. (Copy attached.) Mayor Peden stated that he wanted to make them aware of some of the things that are in this budget that are mandated and some that they have decided to leave in at this time. Pension Contribution - \$438,000; Parks Department - \$178,000; Snow Removal - \$82,000; Street Sweeping - \$25,000. Mayor Peden stated that the Capital Fund requests came to them in the amount of \$368,700 just for the General Fund. Council has knocked that down to \$105,000 to include a new roof at City Hall; computer equipment; contributions they make for quality of life - TRI, Shade Tree Commission, etc. Of that \$105,000, \$23,000 was a carryover so there is \$82,000 of new capital money being spent out of the \$368,700 that was requested. Insurance costs - just on liability insurance and that type of insurance - \$77,000; health care in the General Fund - \$360,000; and they left in the budget at this time the \$351,000 for paving. Mayor Peden stated that our paving situation didn't happen overnight. They are trying to catch up. Last year they gave Randy a directive to come up with a twenty year program, and as they sit here tonight, they are all in agreement that a twenty year plan cannot be abandoned the second year of that program.

Mayor Peden stated that the Department Heads have come in here with lean budgets, however, service is labor generated and that is where they have to look now. The Department Heads have a challenge ahead of them to come back to them with a 15% reduction. Mayor Peden stated he is not saying that will end up as a 15% reduction, they are not saying that there will not be a millage increase, but this Council is not satisfied with seven mills of taxation.

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Mayor Peden stated that the only reason the seven mills is there tonight is because by law they had to present a balanced budget tonight. Mrs. Smith commented that they are facing some difficult times and they are going to do their best to come up with a solution. No comments were received from the public. Mayor Peden closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Pertaining to agenda items - None.

BILL LISTING - It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mrs. Hull, and carried unanimously to ratify the bill listing warrants dated 11/14/08 and 11/21/08. It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mrs. Smith, and carried unanimously to approve the bill listing warrant dated 11/26/08.

OLD BUSINESS

COUNCIL BILL NO. 9 - Proposed Ordinance No. 3176 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Titusville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, to prohibit parking on alternating sides of certain streets within the City of Titusville between the hours of 12 midnight and 7:00 p.m. during the period of November 1 through March 31 annually.

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Hull, to adopt Council Bill No. 9 on second reading. Vote on the motion was: Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hull, yes; Mayor Peden, Mr. Frye - no. Mayor Peden stated he believes in alternate parking, however, he has a problem on spending \$18K on signs until this budget is passed.

NEW BUSINESS

COUNCIL BILL NO. 11 OF 2008 - An Ordinance of the City of Titusville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, fixing the Real Property Tax Rate for all City Purposes for the year 2009 at 26.0 mills on Buildings and 66.16 mills on Land; Also delineating that portion of the Real Property Tax to be used for Recreational Purposes, for Pension Recovery Purposes, for Library Purposes, and for Shade Tree Purposes, for the calendar and fiscal year 2009.

It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mayor Peden, and carried unanimously to introduce Council Bill No. 11 on first reading.

COUNCIL BILL NO. 12 OF 2008 - An Ordinance of the City of Titusville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the City Government, City of Titusville, hereinafter set forth, during the year 2009 and for fixing the salaries of certain offices, officers, and employees of the City of Titusville for and during the term for which they are respectively elected or chosen for appointment.

It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mrs. Smith, and carried unanimously to introduce Council Bill No. 12 on first reading.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM HOUSING AUTHORITY - It was moved by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Frye, and carried unanimously to accept with regret the resignation of James Loll from the Housing Authority.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM PLANNING COMMISSION - It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mrs. Smith, and carried unanimously to accept with regret the resignation of James Stromdahl from the Planning Commission.

APPOINTMENT TO HOUSING AUTHORITY - It was moved by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mr. Frye, and carried unanimously to ratify Mayor Peden's appointment of Stephen C. Coleman, 332 W. Walnut Street, to the Housing Authority to fill an unexpired term. Term will expire October 9, 2009.

TRI REQUEST

Mrs. Carter stated that TRI is pursuing several funding streams for projects to help prepare the downtown for the upcoming Oil 150 Celebration in 2009. Downtown beautification and promotion are the primary focus and include projects such as a second Gateway Derrick on Rt. 27 E, equipment for outdoor movies in the downtown, Victorian-style benches, empty storefront window projects and a Victorian-style street clock. TRI also serves as a pass-thru agency for other community projects, including the Walking Tour, Phase II, which was just completed. These activities involve matching funds, implementation expenses and close-out costs for grants, such as financial audits or reviews by licensed accounting firms. In recent Council work sessions, TRI has requested \$10,000 from the 2008 budget as match funding for the second Gateway project and the outdoor movie equipment. They have also discussed the \$2,700 remaining carry-over from the 2007 budget and would like to request these funds for implementation expenses and match funding for the Street Clock project. As they are quickly approaching the holiday season and some of these projects will conclude at the end of this calendar year, TRI would like to draw-down these funds so they are accessible when needed.

It was moved by Mrs. Hull, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to authorize a draw down of \$2,700 from Oil 150 Celebration Capital Fund line item per TRI request to use for their audit and towards match on one of their projects.

Vote on the motion was: Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hull, Mayor Peden - yes; Mr. Frye - no.

Mrs. Carter commented that in the course of project planning for the Oil 150 Celebration, downtown building maintenance has become a major focus. TRI would like to encourage City Council to review the City's minimal maintenance code (or develop/revise this code, as needed) and promote enforcement of this code so our downtown presents its best face for the upcoming media attention and historic celebration.

It was moved by Mr. Frye, seconded by Mrs. Hull, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting to a personnel session with the Department Heads followed by adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Suzanne Birtciel
Recording Secretary