

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the City Council, City of Audubon Park, was held on Monday, May 16, 2011, at 3340 Robin Road with the following present: Mayor Michael Scalise along with Council Members Cindy Habeeb, Rose Mangino, Gary Vogel, Al Huber, Judy Schwenker, and Patrick Kehoe. Also present were Police Chief Reesor and City Clerk Stephanie Lee along with Assistant City Attorney Jonathan Leachman. City Attorney Patrick McElhone was absent from the meeting.

Call to Order: Mayor Scalise called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes: Mayor Scalise asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from the previous month.

Rose Mangino said she read a part from the Audit Report last week, and she read from the report again. She said what was reported in the minutes was incorrect as stated about lowering police protection. She said that's not what it says, and she said that's not what she said. She said she would like for the minutes to say she read from the Audit Report regarding the increased cost of salaries and the cost of providing police protection are significant, and she said that's exactly what she said. She said she didn't say anything about lowering police protection; and she said, unfortunately, she has received several letters saying she did.

Mayor Scalise asked for clarification on how she would like for the minutes to read, and Rose Mangino said she wants it to read as the increased cost of salaries and the cost of providing police protection are significant.

Patrick Kehoe made motion to accept the minutes as amended. Rose Mangino seconded, and the motion passed.

Al Huber made motion to accept the minutes as presented. Cindy Habeeb seconded, and the motion passed.

Public Comments: The following is a list of people who spoke and a general summary of what they had to say:

1. Judith Basham, 3101 Chickadee – said she has lived in Audubon for about 71 years, and she read from a Petition containing approximately 250 signatures supporting the Police Department and most opposing Farmer's Markets or parties in the City's parks. She presented the Petition to the Mayor and Council, and the City Clerk accepted the information submitted for the record. She went on to thank the Mayor and Council for their diligence in continuing

to maintain the City as it is. She also thanked Chief Reesor for his work and dedication, and she thanked all of the City's Police Officers.

2. Gene Stotz, 3330 Robin Road – said he is the new President-elect of the Garden Club. He commented about the Council and Garden Club working together on items such as the Dogwood Festival, the flowers along Audubon Parkway, fertilizer in the parks, and the annual Garden Tour. He read a statement from the Garden Club (unanimously approved on May 9, 2011) supporting the Police Department saying they have been an invaluable help during the Dogwood Festival, Garden Tour, and the Arts and Crafts Festival each year. He also said the individual members appreciate the efforts of the Police Department in keeping the community safe and secure. He submitted the statement to the City Clerk for the record.
3. Nancy Heine, 3219 Oriole Drive – said her family has lived in Audubon for 40-50 years, and she said she is very disturbed by the atmosphere that is going on with all of the hostility. She said it is like a “Civil War” putting family against family, and she said it is totally unnecessary. She mentioned calling City Hall if you hear of rumors, and she suggested talking to Mayor Scalise or the Council if you have questions. She said gossip and rumors are very harmful and not creative or positive, and she said they hurt people. She added that she is very supportive of the Police Department. She said Audubon is like a little “haven” if you look around. She said the community needs the Police with the economic times of today. She went on to say she had called Metro when she witnessed a crime a week ago, and she did not get a response when needing help when using her cell phone. She found an Audubon Officer in the area that helped her. She said if you think lowering or getting rid of the Police Department will make you safer, you are absolutely wrong. She commented that Metro would not come to do vacation watches or listen to little disputes among neighbors.
4. Ben Cawthon, 1013 Audubon Parkway – spoke about looking over the Budget, and he said he noticed a discrepancy in sanitation. He said there is a large discrepancy in the difference between what is collected and what is paid out. He inquired about correcting it in the upcoming Budget, and he commented about it running like that the past couple of years.

Mayor Scalise said the money collected not only goes for sanitation, but he said it also goes for cleaning up streets, etc.

Mr. Cawthon went on to inquire about putting additional lines or proper categories to reflect where the funds are being used, and he said the accounting procedures do not seem to balance over the past couple of years. He said he would like it noted that either some accounting procedures need to be changed, or he said the Budget needs to be looked at on the sanitation line.

Mayor Scalise said there are other categories such as payroll for the Works Department when they pick up the streets, etc. He added that the end of the fiscal year is approaching, and he mentioned discussing it with the Auditor when the annual Audit takes place.

5. Laura Kelty, 3242 Cross Bill – commented about Audubon being a great place to live and the beauty of the area. She talked about people allowing their animals to use the bathroom when walking around and not cleaning it back up. She mentioned seeing the information in the Newsletter, and she said she sees people allowing their animals to do this all of the time in the parks. She said it is not only rude and inconsiderate, but she said it is also a health hazard.

Mayor Scalise said it is addressed in each Newsletter, and he mentioned people having been cited in the past for this same issue as well.

Mrs. Kelty said she has called about a particular person that does this every day, and she said she was told an Officer has to witness it. She later added that this particular person had done this the day before on Audubon Parkway around 11:30 A.M. (allowing the dog to go approximately 20 feet into a resident's yard).

Mayor Scalise agreed about an Officer having to witness it, and he said they will make it a point to be there around that time to possibly put a stop to the problem.

Judy Schwenker mentioned the possibility of Mrs. Kelty approaching the person herself, and Mrs. Kelty said she had already tried that.

Rose Mangino said Mrs. Kelty should not do that. She said she came to the right place, and she said they will look into it for her.

6. Pete Becker, 3105 Chickadee – inquired about notifying the public of Special Council Meetings. He went on to inquire about using email addresses to send the notice out or posting the notification on the website. He later asked about the possibility of putting the information from the Police Report on the website also. He said he agrees with the good job the Police do, and he said he does think they are needed.

Mayor Scalise said a sign is posted at City Hall for notification of the meetings. He added that the Newsletter and minutes are placed on the website, and he said they can look at putting the notice on the website as well. He said the Police Report is here at City Hall for review, and he said it has not been decided if it will be put on the website or not.

Financial Report: The information submitted on the Financial Report showed the figures through the month of April.

Rose Mangino commented about speaking with Mayor Scalise prior to the meeting about an issue.

Al Huber made motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Gary Vogel seconded, and the motion passed with Rose Mangino opposing.

Budget Ordinance for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 – 2nd Reading: Al Huber made motion for the second reading of the proposed Budget. Cindy Habeeb seconded, and a lengthy discussion followed.

Stephanie Lee read ORDINANCE NUMBER 005, SERIES 2011, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF AUDUBON PARK, KY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012.

Rose Mangino said she is very concerned. She said she had been reading from the Audit about post retirement benefits, and she said she doesn't see it in the Budget.

Mayor Scalise went into a brief explanation saying it was a new requirement for this year for the Audit due to new accounting standards.

Chief Reesor explained about the fifteen year projection in the Audit talking about the deduction and what is actually taken in (debt versus revenue).

Rose Mangino said she is concerned because we are using the money all up, and she asked where this is going to come from.

Jonathan Leachman agreed with the Chief saying you are only going to show money that is appropriated for this year in your Budget versus future expenditures.

Chief Reesor said in regards to the sanitation questions earlier, FEMA had paid back some but not all of the expenses paid out for the storms. He said by raising the sanitation, it has taken the City the past few years to make back up the difference to try to get rid of the deficit. He said last year when discussing the Budget, they said they would keep the garbage the same for another year to try to equal out and to have a surplus to try to cover storms.

Gary Vogel mentioned the money the City was supposed to have gotten before from FEMA and didn't end up getting.

Patrick Kehoe commented about increasing sanitation a few months ago; and several other Council Members, the Mayor, and Chief all said the rate remained the same and was not raised.

Rose Mangino questioned about the City running short on money in the Amended Budget.

Chief Reesor said the City was not running short but had gotten some grants that had to be shown on the Budget, and Mayor Scalise commented about the Budget having to be amended each year.

Patrick Kehoe commented about the Budget this time being the same as the previous year, and he asked how they were planning on meeting the Budget this year if it wasn't met last year.

Mayor Scalise said some expenses will be cut, and he said some categories were adjusted versus saying the Budget was not met. He said they are projecting a surplus this year.

Patrick Kehoe said he saw the projected surplus, but he said he thinks it is just a number game.

Chief Reesor went into a brief explanation of unexpected revenues (grants, road funds, etc.) and unexpected expenditures (trees that need to be removed, storms, salt, engines that may blow, etc.).

Patrick Kehoe asked if after this year there would not be any increase in sanitation, and Chief Reesor said they should be able to lower it the next time with the new contract.

Chief Reesor briefly explained about the possibility of only having one Officer on duty and the liability issue of "failure to protect".

Patrick Kehoe commented about a personal issue he had at his house in calling for the police and waiting for them to respond; and a discussion took place regarding his personal matter, the patrol area, what Budget issues are, and what policy issues are, etc.

Cindy Habeeb mentioned four letters she had received from residents, and she submitted them to the City Clerk for the record.

Al Huber commented about receiving the four letters also.

Mayor Scalise called for the vote, and the Budget passed with Patrick Kehoe opposing and Rose Mangino abstaining.

Police Report: Chief Reesor read the Police Report for the month of April. A copy of the said report is made a part of these minutes.

Forest Board Business: Gilbert Zinner passed out copies of the Forest Board Report dated May 11, 2011 to the Council and Mayor for their review. He said they are currently looking for easement tree sites for possible planting in the Fall.

Unfinished Business: Patrick Kehoe inquired about the Farmer's Market issue.

Mayor Scalise said he had talked to Mr. Perkins about it, and he said Mr. Perkins has the literature on it.

Mr. Perkins said Mayor Scalise had said Audubon Park was not interested in being a part of it.

Mayor Scalise said he had said they could not have the Farmer's Market in the parks.

Mr. Perkins said Mayor Scalise said the City was not behind it.

Mayor Scalise said he did not say that, and he said they could agree to disagree.

New Business: Rose Mangino made a motion to look into getting a Farmer's Market in one of the parks in the City, and Patrick Kehoe seconded.

Mayor Scalise asked if it should be a Resolution instead of an Ordinance, and he explained the difference between the two.

Rose Mangino said she would be okay with it being a Resolution.

Al Huber asked if another location such as the Audubon School would be okay instead of using the parks, and Rose Mangino commented saying what is wrong with using the Audubon School?

Rose Mangino made motion for a Resolution to support Farmer's Markets, and Patrick Kehoe seconded. A short discussion followed. Mayor Scalise said the City is not against having the Farmer's Market, but he said they have to find a way to do it without using the parks. The Resolution passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Scalise mentioned the upcoming Newsletter, and he said it will be on-line only versus being delivered to homes this time. He went on to thank the residents that help with the normal delivery of the Newsletters such as Joanne Bader and Nancy Heine.

Rose Mangino thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She said she did not say she wanted to reduce the Police force, but she said it definitely had gotten around because she's had people stopping at her house daily. She said until she had gotten the minutes, she didn't know why they were doing that.

Patrick Kehoe thanked everyone also, and he said he agreed with Mrs. Heine. He said he's not against the Police Department, but he said he would like to meet with Chief Reesor to talk about focusing more within the City versus elsewhere.

Al Huber made motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy Habeeb seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTESTED

APPROVED