



City of Hudson, Ohio

Council Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Council Workshop

William A. Currin, Mayor

David A. Basil, City Council President (Ward 2)

Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., City Council Member (At-Large)

Dennis N. Hanink, City Council Member (Ward 1)

Alex D. Kelemen City Council Member (Ward 3)

Keith W. Smith, City Council Member (Ward 4)

J. Daniel Williams, City Council Member (At-Large)

William D. Wooldredge, City Council Member (At-Large)

Anthony J. Bales, City Manager

R. Todd Hunt, City Solicitor

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

7:30 PM

Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Mayor Currin called to order the workshop meeting of Hudson City Council at 7:30 p.m. and turned the meeting over to President of Council Basil.

Present 6 - Mr. Basil, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Hanink, Mr. Kelemen, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Wooldredge

Absent 1 - Dr. Williams

Staff in Attendance: Mr. Bales, City Manager; Mr. Schroyer, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Comeriato, Public Works Director; Mr. Hutchinson, Parks Superintendent; Mr. Knoblauch, Finance Director; Mr. Richardson, Community Development Director; Mr. Sheridan, City Engineer; Mrs. Slagle, Clerk of Council; Mr. Wiedie, Economic Development Director.

2. Correspondence and Council Comments

As Council Liaison to the Tree Commission, Mr. Kelemen reported that Summit Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a 'Big Tree' contest. As Liaison to the Environmental Awareness Committee, he noted a rainbarrel project in cooperation with the Library and Schools; the 'Green on the Green' event in September; and the 'Get Caught Green Handed' program, which encourages recycling throughout the City. In addition, he said that the Committee is researching the benefits of using a common wastehauler. Finally, pending official notification, Mr. Kelemen said that Safe Routes Hudson was successful in obtaining \$50,000 in grants, according to the State's website.

As Council Liaison to the Planning Commission, Mr. Basil reported on June 10, 2013, meeting decisions including approvals of: 1.) Hudson Station, Phase 2; 2.) conditional use of a baseball academy at 793 Seasons Road; and 3.) compatibility use for the Reserve at River Oaks subdivision.

3. Proposed Consent Agenda Items

- A. 13-87 **A RESOLUTION TO CONSENT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS WITHIN THE INTERSTATE 480 RIGHT OF WAY WITHIN THE CITY OF HUDSON LIMITS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Executive Summary: The Ohio Department of Transportation requires local consent legislation allowing its highway maintenance department to perform periodic highway maintenance and repair work within the corporate limits of any municipality that the interstate transects.

Attachments: [ODOT Letter](#)
[I480 Highway](#)
[Resolution No. 13-87](#)

Staff recommended that City Council grant formal approval to the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Right-Of-Way highway maintenance and repair within the portions of I-480 within the City's corporate limits.

Council members supported staff's recommendation, and legislation will appear on the June 19, 2013, meeting agenda.

- B. 13-88 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF STATE ROUTE 8 CONCRETE ROAD PANELS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Executive Summary: This project consists of maintenance of traffic plan, removal of designated road concrete panels and replacement of the panels. The project will have lane closures along SR 8 during construction.

Attachments: [Resolution No. 13-88](#)

Staff recommended that Council approve this Resolution. Discussion followed regarding the scope of this project, as well as the cost of the local maintenance responsibilities for this state route, including snow plowing and roadway repairs. Mr. Basil said that several years ago, area communities from Akron to Macedonia had considered pursuing an interstate route designation for this highway, which would shift maintenance responsibilities to the Ohio Department of Transportation. While at the time, all communities were not in favor of proceeding, Mr. Basil asked that staff investigate this matter again, in light of different fiscal situations, to see if an agreement regarding support of interstate route designation could be reached among the affected communities. Other Council members and Mayor Currin supported pursuing this designation, as well.

Council members supported staff's recommendation to authorize advertisement for competitive bids for the replacement of concrete road panels along State Route 8, and legislation will appear on the June 19, 2013, meeting agenda.

- C. 13-89 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RANDSTAD, INC. FOR TEMPORARY STAFFING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Executive Summary: Utility Billing and Public Works Administrative Support Divisions have each been using a temporary employee to supplement operations due to employee resignations. The cost of each temporary employee will exceed \$25,000. To

ensure compliance with the City Manager's spending authority, staff is requesting Council's approval of the agreement with the temporary agency (Randstad, Inc.)

Attachments: [Resolution No. 13-89](#)

Staff recommended that City Council approve a contract with Randstad, Inc., to use temporary employees in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Discussion followed regarding the need for support in Utility Billing and Public Works Department offices, as well as overall staffing levels. Mr. Bales said that current staffing levels are at their lowest since his employment with the City. He addressed questions regarding permanent positions currently advertised, saying that these are vacancies, not additional positions, that were budgeted for hiring. Council members asked that staff provide information regarding the City's history of positions and employment levels.

Council members supported staff's recommendation, and legislation will appear on the June 19, 2013, meeting agenda.

D. 13-90

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CREATIVE GROUP FOR TEMPORARY STAFFING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Executive Summary: Economic Development and Administration (City Manager's Office) have been sharing a temporary employee to supplement operations. The cost of the temporary employee will exceed \$25,000. To ensure compliance with the City Manager's spending authority, staff is requesting Council's approval of the agreement with Creative Group.

Attachments: [Resolution No. 13-90](#)

Staff recommended approval of a temporary contract with The Creative Group in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. City Council discussed changes in staffing during recent years and the need for administrative support for the City Manager's Office and Economic Development Department.

Council members supported staff's recommendation, and legislation will appear on the June 19, 2013, meeting agenda.

4. Legislation and Other Discussion Items

A. 13-0103

Veterans Trail Presentation

Executive Summary: The Veterans Trail is a sixteen mile trail that runs from the City of Akron, through Hudson, and ends in the Village of Boston Heights. Hudson's section of this trail is about six miles in length. The Parks Department is hopeful to begin construction on its first phase of the trail along Hines Hill Road in late 2013.

Attachments: [Veterans Trail Presentation](#)

Staff recommended that Council consider this project and provide direction regarding proceeding with related design and engineering work. Mr. Hutchinson provided a history of the Veterans Trail Plan and said that strong citizen support of connectivity plans included in the Parks Master Plan have been the basis for citywide trail network plans, including this trail. He spoke of the Summit County Trail and Greenway Plan, a County-wide initiative that focuses on regional linkages. He reviewed 2005 and 2012 feasibility studies performed through coordinated efforts with neighboring communities, 2009 survey/needs assessment, cost savings if the Hines Hill Road trail portion is performed concurrently with the repaving project, and potential funding sources, including grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODOT) and the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS). He provided an overview of project phases proposed annually from 2013 through 2016, and he discussed the importance of the Friends of Hudson Parks, a local community support group. He proposed funding through the Parks Budget and grants from ODOT and AMATS, and indicated that optional funding could be sought through

a bond issue, if necessary.

Discussion followed of the Veterans Trail as a long-term project and Park Board priority, citizen support, proposed phases and timeline, funding availability, expectations of grant funding, options for use of funding on other projects to benefit more residents, overall connectivity, and regional impacts. Support for this project was mixed, with Mr. Basil, Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Wooldredge, and Mayor Currin generally in favor; questions were raised by Mr. Smith, prompting a request that Mr. Hutchinson provide additional information, including a map, showing connectivity to the Veterans Trail; and opposition was voiced by Mr. Hanink and Mr. Kelemen.

This topic was discussed.

B. 13-0105

The Economic Development Department's presentation by the Director to discuss the department's plans for the future.

Executive Summary: As part of the on-going presentations by City departments, Chuck Wiedie, Economic Development Director, will discuss the future of the department and how it relates to City Council's Strategic Plan.

Attachments: [Background Materials](#)
 [2012 SWOT Analysis](#)
 [Presentation](#)

Mr. Wiedie provided an overview of the Economic Development Department, including its history, duties and responsibilities, programs and services offered, objectives, staffing, and performance statistics. He reviewed strategic planning, referring to the Economic Development Strategic Plan, approved 'in concept' by City Council in 2006 and revisited in 2010/2011 by a Committee in a coordinated effort with the Hudson Economic Development Corporation; as well as Goal 2 of the City's Strategic Plan, which encourages the development of the commercial and industrial base of Hudson, and he noted Strategic Plan priorities for economic development.

In addition, Mr. Wiedie reviewed the budget, noting that revenues are from the General Fund and income taxes, stating that cost pressure would come from reduced levels of collected income tax, and reduction in funding would impact marketing efforts, the department's largest expense.

Other discussion topics included the 2012 SWOT Analysis, Economic Growth Board initiatives, the current marketing project with Atlas Advertising, regional collaboration, business visitation program, metrics, customer service, and department staffing.

This topic was discussed.

C. 13-0104

A discussion concerning the Downtown Phase II Redevelopment Plan.

Executive Summary: Staff is seeking Council's agreement to proceed with the Downtown Phase II Redevelopment Plan including the scope of the plan and a schedule for adoption as proposed.

Staff requested Council's direction to proceed with the Downtown Phase II Redevelopment Plan, suggesting that staff seek requests for proposals and gain Council's approval to enter into an agreement with a recommended consultant for plan development. Mr. Richardson noted that Goal 1 of the City's Strategic Plan, to "create a more vibrant and connected residential community" includes an objective to reactivate the planning for Downtown Phase II. He also discussed timing of this project as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan Review, scheduled in 2014. He said that the City was unsuccessful in obtaining grant funding for this project from the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, and he asked that Council authorize funding of \$50,000 for the the City to proceed on its own. He explained that the scope of the project would include a land use plan component, a transportation component, and an implementation component.

Discussion followed regarding the need for a feasibility study, economic development analysis, and ensuring synergies with the existing development. Mr. Wooldredge noted that the land use component should include residential. Council members agreed that citizens involvement was an important part of the Phase I development, and Mr. DeSaussure proposed that a similar process be followed for Phase II. Mr. Bales noted that a citizen group already exists, and City officials will meet with the group on June 28, 2013. Mr. Kelemen asked that staff provide a map and deliverables of the study. There was a consensus to proceed with the a consultant after Council reviews the Request for Proposal.

Council considered this topic and will revisit for further discussion at a future workshop.

5. Other Items Added to Agenda

None.

6. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Basil adjourned the Council workshop meeting at 10:19 p.m.

David A. Basil, President of Council

Elizabeth Slagle, Clerk of Council