



City of Hudson, Ohio

Meeting Minutes - Draft

City Council Workshop

David A. Basil, Mayor

Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., President of Council (At-Large)

Dennis N. Hanink, Council Member (Ward 1)

Alex D. Kelemen, Council Member (Ward 3)

Casey M. Weinstein, Council Member (Ward 2)

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

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

Vacant, Council Member (Ward 4)

Jane Howington, City Manager

R. Todd Hunt, City Solicitor

Elizabeth A. Slagle, Clerk of Council

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

5:30 PM

Town Hall

Early start to allow for interviews of Ward 4 Council applicants. The regular order of business will commence at approximately 7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

President of Council DeSaussure called to order the workshop meeting of Hudson City Council at 5:47 p.m., in accordance with the Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio, O.R.C. Section 121.22.

Present 6 - Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Hanink, Mr. Kelemen, Mr. Weinstein, Dr. Williams and Mr. Wooldredge

Staff in Attendance: Mrs. Slagle, Clerk of Council.

2. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. DeSaussure, seconded by Mr. Hanink to enter into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G) to interview applicants for the Ward 4 Council position. Mr. DeSaussure recessed the meeting at 5:48 p.m. after the motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Mr. DeSaussure, Mr. Hanink, Mr. Kelemen, Mr. Weinstein, Dr. Williams and Mr. Wooldredge

Staff in Attendance: Ms. Howington, City Manager; Mr. Comeriato, Assistant City Manager for Operations; Mr. Knoblauch, Finance Director; Mr. Leiter, Production Assistant; and Ms. Roberts, Communications Manager.

Mr. DeSaussure reconvened the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

3. Correspondence and Council Comments

Ms. Howington said that the 3rd Annual Community Service Day for community clean-up, sponsored by Friends of the Parks and Community First, will be held on May 7, 2016.

Ms. Howington congratulated the Hudson School Board for unanimously approving the Tax Increment Financing agreement related to the Downtown Phase II Project at their meeting on April 26, 2016.

Mr. Wooldredge stated that the City of Hudson was mentioned in the book entitled "50 Great American Places".

Mr. Hanink stated that there was an article in the Akron Beacon Journal regarding the developable land along Seasons Road.

Mr. Weinstein stated that the ribbon cutting for the Barlow Community Center Solar Training and Education Facility was held on April 22, 2016. He reported that the panels are up and running and supplying power to over half of the facility. He further thanked City staff and Council for all of their support. Mr. Weinstein invited interested citizens to attend the next Ward 2 Open Forum which will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 5, 2016, at Town Hall.

Mr. DeSaussure announced that there are terms expiring for the following boards: Architectural and Historic Board of Review, Park Board, and Tree Commission, with applications due on May 20, 2016. He encouraged interested citizens to apply for these volunteer positions.

4. Public Open Forum

- A. [16-58](#) **A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT TO INTRODUCE AN ORDINANCE ON JUNE 23, 2016, AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A NOVEMBER 2016 BALLOT ISSUE TO HUDSON VOTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF THE CURRENT INCOME TAX CREDIT BY TWENTY FIVE PERCENT (25%) AND SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT ON THIS ISSUE.**

Executive Summary: This Resolution is being introduced at Council's request.

Attachments: [Tax Credit Reduction Presentation 4-26-2016](#)

[Resolution No. 16-58](#)

Mr. DeSaussure stated that questions or comments can be e-mailed to the City or to Council members. A list of the questions with answers will be compiled and made available to the public.

Ms. Howington stated that the presentation is meant to provide background information and data. She also stated that there will be another public forum on June 14, 2016.

Mayor Basil and Council expressed their reasons for the public forum and the income tax reduction. Mr. DeSaussure opened the meeting up to public input, and elected officials and staff responded to the following comments and questions.

Doug Price, 7265 Darien Drive, asked the following: have other options been considered, will projects be prioritized for funding, would any future proposed income tax increases need to go to the voters, how many Council members would be affected if this were to pass, how did Council decide on 25% as opposed to 30%, etc.

Brad Bellomo, 1695 Barlow Road, stated that people may choose to live elsewhere as they compare taxes with other communities. Mr. Bellomo asked if the distribution of property taxes can be adjusted.

Jim Swift, 6768 Pinebrooke Drive, asked for an explanation of Council comments that 70% of residents working outside of the City do not contribute to the City of Hudson income tax.

Skylar Sutton, 2243 Ravenna Street, asked if the income tax proposal will be earmarked for specific projects. He was not in favor of the income tax reduction, and felt there are better ways to achieve the City's goals.

Ralph Frank, 4514 Hemmingway Court, asked the following: how much revenue will be generated annually, what is the work/live ratio for other communities, how is the lack of economic development activity in Hudson going to be addressed.

Kelly Frank, 4514 Hemmingway Court, said that she would like to see connectivity be provided to those that do not currently have infrastructure as opposed to how the Connectivity Plan currently is prioritized to those that already are connected to neighborhoods.

Will Rush, 2358 Brafferton Avenue, stated the those that work outside of the City will be paying more taxes than those that currently work and live in Hudson. Mr. Rush questioned the fairness of the income tax reduction and stated that the tax should be increased across the board.

Dwight Davis, 172 Brentwood Drive, asked the following: how much money will be raised by the credit reduction, how many people that work outside of Hudson have ever filed to have their money reallocated back to Hudson, and what percentage of the Ohio taxing authorities do not give full credit.

Becky Mooney, 804 Norbury Drive, asked what percentage of people that work in Hudson, live outside of Hudson.

Keith Smith, 6568 Chestwick Lane, stated that the meeting today is about getting the issue on the ballot. He commented that Council does a good job at looking at the expense side, but it is sometimes challenging to look at the revenue side. In response to a previous comment, Mr. Smith stated that economic development is difficult in Hudson, due to the property taxes. Also in regards to earmarking the funds, he believes that RITA can segregate every dollar from the credit reduction to a separate account so it does not go into the General Fund. He felt that Council's job is to educate the public, so the public has all the information they need to vote.

Bob Drew, 66 E. Streetsboro, applauded Council for considering the reduction. He stated that new revenue sources are needed and that the property taxes are high, but most of the money goes to the schools. He also asked to see an income tax comparison of surrounding communities.

Phil Burling, 6009 Heather Lane, stated that he was not in favor of the tax credit and said that he had moved from a community that offered no tax credit because he felt they were being double taxed. He asked for the number of those that work in Hudson but live elsewhere.

Staff provided a presentation regarding Resolution No. 16-58, and a public forum was held.

5. Proposed Consent Agenda Items

Tentatively scheduled for the May 3, 2016, Council meeting.

- A. Enter into an Agreement for the Purchase and Installation of Playground Shade Structures for Veterans Way Playground.**
- B. Permission to Advertise, Bid and Award the Barlow Road Improvement Project.**

C. **Permission to Advertise, Bid and Award the 2016 Storm Sewer Lining Project.**

D. **2016 First Quarter Appropriations**

6. **New Items to be Added to Future Agendas**

Tentatively scheduled for the May 3, 2016, Council meeting.

A. **Repeal of Codified Ordinance Chapter 1070, Golf Advisory Board**

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Mr. DeSaussure adjourned the Council workshop meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Hamilton DeSaussure, Jr., President of Council

Jane Howington, City Manager, Clerk of Council Pro Tempore

Workshop Minutes prepared by Melissa Raber, Office Manager.

Upon approval by City Council, this official written summary of the meeting minutes shall become a permanent record, and the official minutes shall also consist of a permanent audio and video recording in accordance with Codified Ordinances, Section 220.031 (a), Rules for Workshop Meetings.