

The Council of the City of North Royalton met in the North Royalton City Hall caucus room, 13834 Ridge Road on **June 6, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** President of Council Robert Stefanik, Council Representatives Denise Bobulsky, Vincent Gentile, Kurt McKee, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch; Legislative Services Director Laura Haller, Mayor Cathy Luks, Law Director Thomas O'Donnell, Finance Director Karen Fegan, City Engineer Clark Merdes, Police Chief Paul Bican, Fire Chief Michael Fabish, Service Director Skip Mayer, Office on Aging Director Debbie Duffy, Recreation Director Ed Swim, Community Development Director Mike Kosdrosky.

Agenda reviewed.

Mrs. Haller announced that there would only be 5 Council Representatives in attendance at this evening's meeting. Therefore, no legislation on first or second reading can be acted upon this evening due to the need to have 6 affirmative votes to suspend the 3 reading rule. City Engineer Clark Merdes had stated that Ordinances 06-76, 06-78 and 06-81 could not wait until the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. It was therefore decided to hold a Special Council Meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. to take action on these three Ordinances. Mrs. Haller said that these Ordinances will be on third reading for that meeting and therefore only 4 affirmative votes are needed to adopt; 5 affirmative votes are needed to activate the emergency clause. Law Director Thomas O'Donnell stated that there would not be a problem if the emergency clauses were not put into effect for these Ordinances. It was agreed to call this special meeting from the floor of Council this evening.

The Council of the City of North Royalton met in the North Royalton City Hall Council Chambers, 13834 Ridge Road on **June 6, 2006, in regular session.** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President of Council Robert A. Stefanik and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT: Council:** President of Council Robert Stefanik, Council Representatives Denise Bobulsky, Vincent Gentile, Kurt McKee, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch; Legislative Services Director Laura Haller.

Moved by Mr. Gentile, seconded by Mr. McKee to **excuse Mr. Willey and Miss Zaccardelli.** Roll Call: Yeas: **Five** (Stefanik, Bobulsky, Gentile, McKee, Uffman-Kirsch). Nays: **None.** (Excused: Willey, Zaccardelli). **Motion carried.**

**Administration:** Mayor Cathy Luks, Law Director Thomas O'Donnell, Finance Director Karen Fegan, Community Development Director Michael Kosdrosky, Wastewater Supt. Charles Johnson, City Engineer Clark Merdes, Police Chief Paul Bican, Fire Chief Michael Fabish, Service Director Skip Mayer, Office on Aging Director Debbie Duffy, Recreation Director Ed Swim.

**ABSENT:** Building Commissioner Rito Alvarez.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Gentile, seconded by Mr. McKee to **approve the minutes of the May 16, 2006, City Council Meeting.** Roll Call: Yeas: **Five** (Stefanik, Bobulsky, Gentile, McKee, Uffman-Kirsch). Nays: **None.** (Excused: Willey, Zaccardelli). **Motion carried.**

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Luks provided Council with a copy of the overtime reports that Council had requested.

Mayor Luks said that the city's payroll constitutes over 70% of the city's budget. We are a service industry and in order to be able to provide these services we need people. It is quite common in every city that the payroll be around 70%. In reviewing last year's overtime which was 7% of our overall budget, this is in no way alarming, out of line or demonstrative of inefficiencies in operations or overtime abuse. In fact it's quite the opposite. Departments are running as efficient and lean as they possibly can.

At this point in time with the lean budget we have, we are continuing to try and do duty assignments as efficiently as possible and do everything we can to prevent overtime. There are many scenarios that occur that prevent us from totally eliminating overtime such as employee injuries, required training and not being able to provide shift fill and training at the same time, public programs and public outreach that this administration has always felt are extremely important to the community. One of those programs is the DARE Program. This city has been conducting a DARE Program in the schools for years and we feel it has provided a good baseline to teach our children about saying no to drugs, violence, alcohol and tobacco, and to be able to stand up to peer pressure. Unfortunately, because of the lack of manpower even after reassignments and in order to maintain minimum shift levels in patrols, we have had to cancel the DARE Program for the upcoming school year. Mayor Luks said that they are very disappointed to have to do this but because of the financial situation that we are forced to be in, we had no other choice.

Mayor Luks reported that for the years 2000-2005, salt costs rose by 116%; fuel costs rose 78%; heating costs rose 78%; and health insurance costs rose 82%. Conversely, our income tax revenues rose by 16% and our property tax revenues rose by 23%. This should provide the overall picture of why we are facing the financial situation that we are; costs have gone up at a much more rapid rate and at a greater increase than our revenues. We are at a point where something has to give and unfortunately that means cutting services and cutting programs.

Mayor Luks said that she is anxious to work with Council in the upcoming months to try to put together a plan that Council will get behind, that will work with the Administration, and that the community will get behind so that we can finally address our financial shortfalls. There has been a lot of talk about a plan and a lot of talk about Economic Development as being an answer. The fact of the matter is that we need to all collaboratively come up with a plan on which we can all agree. Mayor Luks said that she has proposed plans in the past and they have not been received well by Council. She said that she is open to any suggestions and any input from Council members as to the appropriate plan that they feel the community would embrace. She said that she is more than willing to work with Council toward that end.

In terms of Economic Development, certainly it will assist us. But when you look at the budget shortfalls that we are facing, we don't have enough land in this city to bring in enough business to be able to create the revenues to overcome this shortfall. The Economic Development Director and Finance Director are working to put this information in writing.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Community Development Director **Mike Kosdrosky** read a report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

City Engineer **Clark Merdes** read a report to Council, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL'S REPORT:**

Moved by Mr. Stefanik, seconded by Mr. Gentile to hold a **Special Council Meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. in the North Royalton City Hall Council Chambers to take action on Ordinance 06-76, Ordinance 06-78 and Ordinance 06-81.** This meeting is being called pursuant to Article III, paragraph (g) of the Charter of the City of North Royalton. Roll Call: Yeas: **Five** (Stefanik, Bobulsky, Gentile, McKee, Uffman-Kirsch). Nays: **None**. (Excused: Willey, Zaccardelli). **Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

All Committees, Boards, and Commissions announced the dates and times of their next regularly scheduled meetings. All meetings are held at City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road, unless otherwise noted. A complete meeting schedule is available from the Council Office. ***Any changes to the regular schedule are noted below.***

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** None.

**LEGISLATION****THIRD READING CONSIDERATION**

No Action: 05-82, 05-83, 05-84, 05-166, 05-181, 05-182, 05-183, 05-187, 06-45, 06-59, 06-64, 06-72, 06-73.

**SECOND READING CONSIDERATION****ORDINANCE 06-75**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE: 2007-2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **third reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-76**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AN EASEMENT INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 488-03-019 VIA QUICK-TAKE PROCEDURE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **third reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-78**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AN EASEMENT INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER 488-03-031 VIA QUICK-TAKE PROCEDURE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **third reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-80**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING WOODCROFT GLEN'S PROPOSED WOODCROFT GLEN SUBDIVISION PHASE 1 FOR RECORD PURPOSES ONLY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **third reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-81**

**AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF TRI-MOR CORPORATION FOR THE STATE ROAD AND WALLINGS ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,259,765.15 AS THE LOWEST AND ONLY BID, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **third reading.**

**FIRST READING CONSIDERATION****RESOLUTION 06-82**

Introduced by: Mayor Luks. **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN SHEFFIELD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KEVIN MCDERMOTT AS A MEMBER OF THE CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading.**

**RESOLUTION 06-83**

Introduced by: Stefanik, Bobulsky, Gentile, Willey, McKee, Zaccardelli, Uffman-Kirsch, Mayor Luks. **A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JOHN A. ELEK TO THE POSITION OF POLICE LIEUTENANT IN THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-84**

Introduced by: Bobulsky, Gentile, Willey. **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A SURETY BOND FROM THE HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,539.68 AS A GUARANTEE FOR THE FUTURE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS IN THE WORTHINGTON SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-85**

Introduced by: Gentile, Bobulsky, Zaccardelli. **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE BID OF BDP INDUSTRIES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,000 AS THE LOWEST AND BEST BID, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-86**

Introduced by: Mayor Luks. **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTION, INC. TO PROVIDE SUBDIVISION INSPECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-87**

Introduced by: Mayor Luks. **AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF SOLAR TESTING LABORATORIES, INC. TO PROVIDE SUBDIVISION INSPECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading.**

**ORDINANCE 06-88**

Introduced by: Uffman-Kirsch. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, PART 14 BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE, CHAPTER 1492 CONTROLLING RIPARIAN SETBACKS AND WETLANDS SETBACKS, SECTION 1492.02, SECTION 1492.09 AND SECTION 1492.11, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading** and referred to the **Storm Water Committee.**

**ORDINANCE 06-89**

Introduced by: Mayor Luks. **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, PART TWELVE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, CHAPTER 1246 DESIGN STANDARDS, BY ADDING NEW SECTION 1246.14 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Title read.

Placed on **second reading** and referred to the **Planning Commission** and the **Building & Building codes Committee.**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Ed Miller**, 10613 Tudor Circle, addressed Council regarding a city income tax proposal he has presented to Council at previous meetings.

**Sherry Matusek**, 11759 Beckenham, addressed Council regarding her home.

In response to Mr. Miller's comments, Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked the Finance Director to make a clarification on the \$1 billion tax base x the .25% income tax that he is proposing and the amount of money it would raise. We are hearing this number repeatedly and she is asking if this is a correct number.

Mrs. Fegan said unfortunately is it not a correct number. It's not as simple as multiplying the base by the increase in the percentage. We have asked Regional Income Tax to run the figures and they come up with \$2.1 million, not the \$2.5 million Mr. Miller is estimating. Mrs. Fegan said that either one of those numbers are grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the city. The cost of services study said that we needed \$3 million additional funding per year just for streets. This does not take into account the monies that we need for the solutions to our storm water problems, for ongoing maintenance, and for general operations.

Mayor Luks said that Mrs. Matusek stated earlier that she was instructed that the city would pay for the environmental review and she asked who instructed her to get this review.

Mrs. Matusek said that the insurance adjuster that the city hired independently approved this though Mr. O'Donnell.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Willey, seconded by Mr. Gentile **to adjourn the June 6, 2006, City Council Meeting.** Roll Call: Yeas: **Five** (Stefanik, Bobulsky, Gentile, McKee, Uffman-Kirsch). Nays: None. (Excused: Willey, Zaccardelli). **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES