

**PORT CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Port Clinton City Council was held at the Port Clinton City Hall with Linda Hartlaub, President of Council, presiding. The meeting opened at 7:30pm. Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance, The Lord’s Prayer, and a moment of silence for those serving our Country.

The role was called and the following Council members were present: Mike Snider, Ron Aukerman, Lisa Sarty, Gabe Below, Jerry Tarolli, Nicole DeFreitas and Margaret Phillips.

Mr. Tarolli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Phillips to accept the minutes from the March 6, 2014 Special Meeting as presented. With all those in favor, motion carried.

The Chair noted the certification has been received regarding the compliance with the rules and notification of this meeting.

**TREASURER’S
REPORT**

The Treasurer passed out her report this evening.

**SAFETY SERVICE
DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Colston stated that the hot box is out patching pot holes. Residents should call City Hall at 419-734-5522 and leave a message if you see a bad pot hole. They are using recycled asphalt and that is saving the city a lot of money. The crews are fixing the streets first, then the alleys. The brush pile is not open. Curbside pick-up will be coming up. He will let everyone know when the dates will be.

CORRESPONDANCE

A letter from the Liquor Control was received advising Council that all permits will have to be renewed. This was placed in the Emergency Services Committee to get with the Police Dept to see if we don’t want any renewed.

Mr. Snider made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sarty to accept the correspondence as written including the Finance report from 3/18/14, Parks and Rec report from 3/11/14 and the Treasurer’s report. With all those in favor, motion carried.

THIRD READINGS

ORDINANCE 04-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 577.23 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snider to retain the emergency clause for Ordinance 04-14. Mr. Snider noted that the committee has recommended NOT to retain the emergency clause. Results of a voice roll call are as follows: Snider, no; Aukerman, no; Sarty, no; Below, no; Tarolli, no; DeFreitas, no and Phillips, no. The motion has failed and the emergency clause is not retained.

Ms. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Below to adopt Ordinance 04-14. Ms. Phillips stated the committee has recommended the passage of this ordinance without the emergency clause. This will stop residents from mowing into the streets. Results of a voice roll call are as follows: Snider, yes; Aukerman, yes; Sarty, yes; Below, yes; Tarolli, yes; DeFreitas, yes and Phillips, yes With all those in favor, Ordinance 04-14 has passed.

SECOND READINGS

ORDINANCE 06-14

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN LPA FEDERAL LOCAL-LET PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT), FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SECOND STREET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

With no further action, Ordinance 06-14 will be moved to the April 8, 2014 meeting for its Third Reading.

BUSINESS FROM

Mr. Snider provided an update on the Emergency Services Olympics. The 4th of July Committee has picked a theme of baseball, hot dogs, classical cars and pie. There will be events revolving around those ideas. Friendship Food Stores will be raffling off a \$500 gift card again. They will meet next on April 10, 2014 at 7pm. The Easter Egg Hunt will be April 13, 2014 at 1pm at the Court House lawn. Contact Jenn at City Hall to donate candy for the event.

Mr. Aukerman The Parks and Rec will meet on April 8, 2014 at 6:30pm

Mr. Below I would like to comment on a recent letter to the editor, which appeared in last week's *Beacon*. It likened the proposed development at WWP to casino gambling in Ohio – I imagine most of us on Council have read it. The author quotes the new tax revenue to go to the city. And that the “supposed 585 people” making an average of \$18,800 “don't pay very much in taxes, nor will they have any money to spend in the new development.” So I would ask, “Should Council make a rule that ANY jobs around \$18,800 should not be pursued by the city?” The letter referenced the “supposed 585 people” – so I would ask, what's a better estimate? And is that number enough for consideration by Council? Shouldn't our elected officials consider every option in order to improve the lives of citizens, both current and future, and the economic sustainability of the city and its businesses? Then the letter gets back to casinos and gambling. It references an article that appeared in *The News Herald* about Ohio casino revenues falling short of campaign promises. In that article an OU professor says that, “predicting revenue for a new industry is simply difficult to do.” Fair enough, but no one would consider this project a “new industry.” There is a historical precedent for tourism-related retail and lodging in Ottawa and neighboring counties. The comparison to gambling is misleading. The article, but not the letter, also stated that, “there was no historical basis for casino revenue in Ohio,” which made budgeting and planning more challenging. BUT, the article also indicated that governments were conservative in their budgeting of casino payouts. And to that I would say, of course, and good job budgeting. So I would pose a question to Mr. Hatfield as our City Auditor: Would you ever budget for every projected dollar included in such a study? Do you suspect that any responsible fiscal officer would do so? Then letter attacks IMPLAN itself, the software program used in the study. Still quoting from the *News Herald* article, “the gaming industry relies on the well-known and widely used IMPLAN Model for economic impact studies.” Correct, IMPAN is used for many different types of projects including those for the gaming industry, cities, and other groups. I found a few: the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (1999), the Trust for Public Land (2013), USGBC (2013) used IMPLAN as a tool. I hope the author of the letter would apply scrutiny equally to those types of reports as one would to the WWP project. I understand the limitations of a study like this. But, don't trust numbers? “Don't trust the numbers that went in, don't trust who put them in, and certainly don't trust the numbers that popped out because they'll fall short.” You can't really lose that argument: if the numbers were really low, that'd be a reason to abandon the project; and if the numbers are too good (like the letter indicates) than that's a reason to abandon the project. The letter closes with, “So developing WWP is a lot like casino gambling if you're betting on the numbers.” Not at all, but it does sound more exciting and scandalous – but the comparison to building a casino and Ohio revenues is a poor one. One example does not a trend make. The letter is asking Council to ignore an accepted approach to economic modeling as one part of our decision-making process. I can't ignore it. If I did, I might be accused of “premature termination of search for evidence,” which was included in the letter as a form of bias to be avoided – fair enough. And the last passage, “the numbers don't lie they just fall short.” And my response is that I half agree with you. Residents can rest assured that I would never vote for a city budget that takes this report as Gospel. But I do find the potential impact to the city to be there and it's positive. I'll end by saying that I understand the report to be a forecast or an estimate, and that I'll treat it as such. Do I still think that this project could be something that, more likely than not, will improve the condition of Port Clinton and improve our chances of attracting more people (and young people) to visit or move here? Absolutely. Did the letter make me think critically about the evidence it presented? Yes. Did the letter change my mind about moving forward at this point? No.

Mrs. DeFreitas stated the 4th of July Star Spangled Squirt gun run will be happening again this year. The Infrastructure will meet on April 1, 2014 at 6:30pm

Ms. Phillips stated that there is a lot going on downtown and with the stadium and it's hard to say we are not moving forward.

VISITORS

Debbie Adams, encouraged everyone to visit www.savewaterworkspark.org

Larry Holman, 409 W. 6th Street noted the Tree Commission attended the conference in Akron. Arbor Day events will take place at the Senior Center at 5:30pm on April 25, 2014.

Roger Smith, 218 W. 4th Street asked if a scale drawing has been done yet. Mayor Leone stated not yet. They are just starting the negotiating at this time.

Don Finke 222 Adams Street, asked if a report will be made from the trip to Wooster. The report has been completed and the minutes typed up and the minutes were approved. Mr. Below stated this will be discussed at the next Planning and Development meeting. Mr. Finke asked since ownership of the park is under debate, can anyone who disrespects the park be trusted.

Roger Smith, asked Mr. Below if he would support another study from and independent company who doesn't benefit. Mr. Below indicated no he understands it is an estimate or forecast.

With no further business to discuss Mr. Snider made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tarolli. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Leah Sprenger
Clerk of Council

Linda Hartlaub
President of Council