

Cold Spring City Council November 23, 2009

The regular meeting of the Cold Spring City Council was called to order by Mayor Mark Stoeber. Pledge to the flag and prayer was led by the City Clerk. Roll call showed the following council members present – Lou Gerding, Rob Moore, Stuart Oehrle, Janis Reiman, and Sandy Ross, excused – Brenda Helton. Also present were Police Chief Ed Burk, City Clerk Rita Seger, Administrative Officer Michael Vank, and City Attorney Brandon Voelker.

Mayor Stoeber pointed out exits from Council Chambers, per Fire Department regulations.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the city offices are closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th. There is no change to the trash pickup for the Thanksgiving holiday, which will be on the regular pickup date of Friday, November 27th. However, as mentioned in the city newsletter and on our website, because Christmas Day and New Year's Day are both on a Friday this year, the trash pickup will be delayed one day. During Christmas week, the trash pickup will be on Saturday, December 26th, and during New Year's week the trash pickup will be on Saturday, January 2nd.

Mayor Stoeber stated that we had a very successful Day in the Park on October 4th as mentioned at our last council meeting, however we need to thank an additional sponsor, Kentucky Farm Bureau. Kelly Eisenman and Bob Neises of the Kentucky Farm Bureau generously provided hot dogs, buns and condiments for over 1,000 people who attended that event. We greatly thank the Kentucky Farm Bureau for their generosity.

The annual Visit With Santa will be held on Sunday, December 6th from noon until 3 pm at the Central Campbell County Firehouse. Children can visit with Santa and have their picture taken. It is always a great time and well attended.

Light Up Cold Spring will be held on Sunday, December 13th from 6 to 9 pm. The Mayor and Council will be out judging all of the houses in the city for this annual Light Up Cold Spring contest.

There will be a special council meeting on Monday, December 14th, at 7:30 pm. The regular caucus meeting has been cancelled and converted into this special council meeting because the December 28th council meeting has been cancelled.

There will be a drawing for an American flag and pole for residents who stay until the end of this meeting.

The minutes of the regular October 26th meeting were reviewed by all. Lou Gerding made a motion for approval and Rob Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor with the exception of Stuart Oehrle, who abstained. Motion carried.

The minutes of the November 9th special meeting were reviewed by all. Stuart Oehrle made a motion for approval and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Stoeber stated that there was an article in the newspaper about the Brighton Center and all of the work that they do and how tremendous their need is, particularly at this time of year. He introduced Bear Clifton, Director of Development for Brighton Center.

Mr. Clifton gave a brief summary of the history of Brighton Center, and stated that it has grown to become Northern Kentucky's largest and most comprehensive social service agency. Their mission is to help people become self-sufficient, have the best quality of life possible, and become productive members of the Northern Kentucky community. Brighton Center works with them to form a plan for their future so that they are free of government programs and subsidies. They provide emergency assistance, financial services, and employment training. They are Northern Kentucky's only emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth. They have a recovery center for women who are battling alcohol and drug substance abuse. Brighton Center also provides a Child Care Development Center where the children are not only safe, but they are learning and being prepared for kindergarten.

Bear Clifton stated that with unemployment at an unprecedented level, one of their core activities is to offer an employment training network. Last year alone their program served over 17,000 individuals in Northern Kentucky. People can come to their center and get a debt free, fully accredited education without costing the individuals one dime. The closest thing to self-sufficiency is education. Brighton Center partners and collaborates with Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More College, and Gateway Community College, who help provide these educational services.

Brighton Center offers emergency financial assistance for individuals facing foreclosure or having their utilities closed off. Compared to this time last year, foreclosure numbers are up by over 300%. Over 65% of the individuals that they are serving now have never had to ask for help in their entire life. They are people just like us, who are at a terrible point in their lives. These individuals can come to the Brighton Center at 799 Ann Street, Newport. They take care of their immediate needs, and then sit down with them to see what they need to do to move that family up the chain to reach self-sufficiency. Last year they saved over 80 homes from being foreclosed upon right here in Northern Kentucky. Brighton Center is a beacon of hope to families in need.

They have also been recognized by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. No one in the entire midwest region does the kind of work that the center does. Last year alone they served over 72,000 individuals in Northern Kentucky. Out of that total, 28,000 of those individuals came from Campbell County. They are feeding 1,000 families per month. They can use help, not only with food items, but with personal care and hygiene products, cleaning supplies, diapers, formula, gloves, scarves, and things of that nature. A financial contribution of just \$20 can help feed a family of four for three square meals a day. Brighton Center specializes in success stories. Some of the people they have helped have become some of their most passionate donors and volunteers. Mr. Clifton thanked the mayor and council for their time, and he left informational brochures for distribution.

Mayor Stoeber stated that the thought of 28,000 people in Campbell County (over one in four people), who are accessing the services of Brighton Center is a stunning statistic. It was reported that in the eight Northern Kentucky counties there are 3,500 homeless teenagers on the street. The need is absolutely tremendous. Financial donations should go directly to the Brighton Center. Any form of dry goods donations, canned goods, clothing, diapers and those types of things can be taken directly to the Brighton Center. If that is inconvenient, then the city can begin a depository in the front of the city building and, at the appropriate time, we will take the donations to the Brighton Center in order to help them out. We will do this through New Years. If it goes well, then we will continue to do this after that. Mayor Stoeber urges all citizens to support the Brighton Center.

Mr. Clifton stated that the best place to drop off donations is at 799 Ann Street, at the corner of 8th and Ann in Newport, Kentucky. Hours of drop-off are between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. They have volunteers waiting and you can just pull right in front of the building, at the spot marked for drop off, unload your cars and get a tax receipt.

Mayor Stoeber presented the American flag and pole to Bear Clifton of the Brighton Center.

Departmental reports were reviewed.

Stuart Oehrle verified with Michael Vank that there are web updates to be placed on our website.

Sandy Ross questioned Police Chief Ed Burk about the response to his neighborhood focus program. Chief Burk replied that several of the officers have had contact and they are following through. Chief Burk encourages our citizens to take a look at the newsletter. If you don't have one, call us and we will send you another one. If you have any issues within your neighborhood, just contact your officer and we will address them.

Chief Burk provided some safety tips to follow during this holiday season. Be alert and observant. When you go to a shopping center, try to park in a well-lit area, lock your vehicle, and when you bring your packages back to your car put them in the trunk out of sight. Windows can be broken but if they are in the trunk you reduce your risks of being a target. Try not to be carrying a lot of packages so that your purse is not flapping in the breeze. Avoid carrying a lot of cash. Gentlemen should secure wallets in their front pockets. Woman should secure their purses, close them, zip them up, or latch them and hold them close. If you are using shopping carts, don't leave your purses in the carts unattended. If you see something suspicious let us know. If you see it, call it. Call the police department at 292-3622, or in the case of an emergency call 911. Take the extra time to protect yourself so that you don't become a victim during the holiday season.

Mayor Stoeber stated that we are into the season of snow and ice. For your own safety and that of your neighbors, and to help us clear the streets, whenever snow or ice is predicted or occurring, please remove your cars from the street.

Sandy Ross referred to the Park Board minutes which stated that the sign at Apple Orchard Park needs to be painted. There was no mention of the Friendship Park sign and she questioned if there was a status report on it. Mayor Stoeber replied that while he does not have a report, there will be a sign at Friendship Park

Stuart Oehrle stated that the sidewalk along Crossroads Boulevard going down to Crossroads Elementary School has two sections missing around the manhole cover. There are also two sections before that as well, and the sidewalk is in four different pieces because it has completely cracked, sunken in and collapsed. Visitors at a recent school event who had to park up by Home Depot had to walk through the mud to get to the school. Michael Vank stated that our code enforcement officer has been in contact with the property management company who said they would take care of it, but that has not happened.

Lou Gerding stated that the sidewalks were put in properly, but when the school was built, they were taken out and were never fixed properly. Brandon Voelker stated the construction on the school did destroy the walks, and they did pay to have them re-done and kept intact. A year or two ago he met with a school representative and architect concerning an issue with the curb that was not rounded like it should have been. The school paid for the sidewalks but the contractor erred and had to rip it up and apparently it is still not working.

Lou Gerding stated that Rumpke was emptying dumpsters at 6:30 in the morning at the dumpster behind the city building and then they moved onto the Guys 'N Dolls lot. He reported the truck number and he requested that Rumpke be called.

Brandon Voelker reported that the Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Stine's dismissal of an action against the city by a former officer.

Stuart Oehrle made a motion to adjourn the regular November 23rd council meeting and Rob Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Approved:

City Clerk:

Mayor: