

Cold Spring City Council

April 27, 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, Brenda Helton, Rob Moore, Stuart Oehrle, Janis Reiman and Sandy Ross. 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.

Mayor Stoeber requested one addition to the agenda, under New Business – police chief’s quarterly report.

On April 4th, the City of Cold Spring held their annual Easter Egg Hunt at our Municipal Park. Mayor Stoeber stated that the weather was nice and we had quite a large turnout. Thanks to the Parks, Recreation and Tree Board for all of their hard work.

Arbor Day was celebrated on Saturday, April 11th at our Friendship Park. There was a nice turnout. Mayor Stoeber stated that our Park Board is presenting, on an annual basis, a beautification award for our businesses, many of whom have beautiful grounds and help keep our city beautiful. During this Arbor Day event, the 2009 beautification award was presented to the Disabled American Veterans. We are very fortunate to have their national headquarters stationed in Cold Spring and their grounds are stunningly spotless and incredibly manicured. Congratulations and thanks to the Disabled American Veterans.

The Cold Spring night at Florence Freedom will be held on Friday, June 26th at 7:05 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the City Building at a discount price of \$8.00 each.

The regularly scheduled May 25th council meeting has been rescheduled as a special meeting on Monday, May 18th, at 7:30 pm due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Mayor Stoeber stated that he attended a play at the Campbell County High School and it was fantastic. They put on a fabulous production of “Annie”. He complimented Campbell County High School and Joe Bertucci who was the director. Mayor Stoeber urged everyone to take advantage of these local plays.

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 March 23rd regular meeting were reviewed by all. Stuart Oehrle made a motion for approval and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. Brenda Helton requested that the titles of persons listed as “also present” be recorded in the minutes for historical clarification. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Police Chief Ed Burk gave his quarterly police report. He mentioned that he is preparing the police survey, which will be sent out to 360 addresses within the city. It is an important means to find out what residents actually think of the police department, and what they can do differently or better. This will be a baseline for future surveys. First, randomly selected residents will receive a postcard. Two weeks later they will receive the survey instrument with 33 questions, along with a self addressed stamped return envelope. Two weeks after the first mailing we will send out another copy of the survey, in case they forgot or misplaced the original. Please fill them out so we can plan for the future and how we can reach the citizens more effectively.

Chief Burk stated that he is starting up the neighborhood focus. He has set up sectors of 300 to 350 residents, and an officer will be assigned as a liaison to each sector. They will make an effort to meet with the residents of their areas, talk to them and show them how to be safe and to better protect their homes or businesses, and get to know each other better. A web page is being set up so the residents can graphically see where their home is and hyperlink it back to their assigned officer. They will have the ability to contact their officer by e-mail or phone call.

Chief Burk also submitted an annual report to council that reviewed police data for 2008. He stated that the number of traffic accidents that occur in the city are mainly along US 27, AA Highway, and State Route 1998. The next group of accidents are at parking lots at our shopping centers / strip malls, leaving only 8% of traffic accidents occurring on our back streets. On May 18th thru the 31st, there is going to be a state program of Operation Click It or Ticket. Keep in mind to wear your seatbelts.

Stuart Oehrle questioned if Meijers, who had a jump with thefts, have any police officer details. Ed Burk stated that Meijers has their own protection department. When we get a call they typically have the perpetrators already apprehended.

Brenda Helton stated that she was very impressed with the annual report that was submitted.

Sandy Ross stated that the report was very impressive and really liked the positive things that Chief Burk stated about his officers. It shows that he has a truly very strong team.

Stuart Oehrle stated that it is nice to see the increase in vacation checks. Our officers check houses every shift. He urges our citizens to take advantage of this free vacation check service.

Mayor Stoeber stated that he is extremely excited about the survey and can't stress enough to our residents to fill it out and send it back. It is so meaningful to the Police Department, to the City, and to you and your neighbors. We want to get better in our tactical services and eventually it will be more of a community focus. The Police Department serves as the city's eyes and ears. They are out there all of the time, and they are the first people that you seek.

Mayor Stoeber stated that he and several council members went to a DARE graduation at Crossroads Elementary. The kids seemed to adore Officer Hyett and hung on his every word. The DARE program is an absolutely special outreach that our Police Department does. Jan Reiman said you can tell by the essays that the children wrote that they really learned a lot through this program.

Ordinance 09-954 was read in summary form for the first time, adopting the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code. Stuart Oehrle made a motion to approve this ordinance and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. Stuart Oehrle verified that we will bring this back to caucus for clarification on some of the issues. Brandon Voelker stated that the dates he filled in on the ordinance were suggestions from our Code Enforcement Officer. We still have to insert the correct fees. NKAPC will be contacted to see what they charge for inspections.

Stuart Oehrle questioned if this will have to be changed every time the fees change, or could we find some verbiage to bypass that. Brandon Voelker stated that by ordinance, we have allowed NKAPC to do our inspections. As a matter of course it wouldn't be bad that each year we go ahead and re-adopt those fees.

Brenda Helton verified that this will be discussed at caucus and we will have a final copy for the second reading. Ms. Helton requested a copy of the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code, so that they could compare the changes.

Roll call vote showed six yeses and no noes. **Motion carried.**

Administrative Officer Michael Vank has been in contact with Rumpke about extending the waste contract. Mr. Vank stated that he would like authorization from council to renew this contract for three years. There will be no increase in the fee for the next fiscal year of 2009-2010, and a three and a half percent increase for the following two fiscal years. Stuart Oehrle made a motion to **authorize the renewal of the Rumpke waste contract for three years**, and Rob Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed six yeses and no noes. **Motion carried.**

The Bluestone Court reconstruction contract was reviewed. Mayor Stoeber stated that all the parties are in agreement. Michael Vank stated that he had a pre-construction meeting this morning, and the project can be completed by June 30th. JPS Construction was the lowest bidder. The bid came in at thirty percent less than what was budgeted. Lou Gerding made a motion to **accept the bid of JPS Construction for the Bluestone reconstruction project**. Rob Moore seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed six yeses and no noes. **Motion carried.**

Brandon Voelker stated that we need to write up an execution of the agreement with the Springhouse Condo Association for this Bluestone project. Stuart Oehrle made a motion to **authorize the mayor to sign the agreement with the Springhouse Condo Association on the Bluestone project**. Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** Mayor Stoeber thanked Mick Vank for pulling all of this together.

The AT&T cell tower sublease agreement was next on the agenda. Stuart Oehrle made a motion to recess the regular council meeting and Janis Reiman seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

Rob Moore, called the meeting of the Municipal Properties Corporation to order, to discuss the sublease of the AT&T cell tower to Cincinnati Bell. Mr. Voelker stated that he had written a letter to AT&T requesting a set of plans on what they would be placing and has not received anything back from them yet. AT&T called the city asking if the lease has been signed yet but did not provide the drawing. If this body wants to take action, we can do so but we would then have no recourse if this body doesn't agree with the drawing when it is submitted.

Stuart Oehrle felt that we could not act on this until we receive a drawing. He is concerned about not having recourse. Brenda Helton stated that we cannot negotiate a lease agreement with them if they do not comply with our request. Sandy Ross stated that the bottom line is that we do not have back from them what we asked for. Brandon Voelker stated that he would contact them again and we can bring this back to our May 18th meeting. We don't want to withhold this sublease, but we need to make sure that it is not unreasonable. No action was taken.

Stuart Oehrle made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Municipal Properties Corporation and Rob Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Rob Moore made a motion to re-enter the regular Council meeting. Stuart Oehrle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Stoeber again thanked Police Chief Ed Burk on his report.

Stuart Oehrle verified that our public works department was doing the landscaping for our police property.

Stuart Oehrle requested that our Code Enforcement Officer check on overgrown grass and weeds throughout the city, especially in the Glenridge subdivision area where many residences' grass has not been cut between the sidewalk and the right of way.

There was no animal control report for March. Brenda Helton questioned the police department report which listed some animal control calls. Chief Burk stated that these would be issues with animals that occurred after hours. Michael Vank stated that our animal control officer is now occasionally patrolling in the evening, with the theory that dogs are usually locked up during the day when people are working, but allowed to run freely in the evening and at night.

Lou Gerding stated that residents from a neighboring city seem to be coming here and using our park facilities and staying past closing hours. He requested that the police department keep an eye on this so it doesn't lead to vandalism and other things. The closing time for the parks, as posted, is dusk.

Brenda Helton stated the DAV appreciated being awarded the Beautification Award and that they planned to display it in their foyer. The Park Board is planning on ordering a ground sign to present to them, and she wants to make sure this is not something being duplicated. Mayor Stoeber stated they were given a plaque, 8 ½ x 11 placed in a larger frame. The Park Board sign is something different, to be displayed on their grounds. Ms. Helton also verified that there will be discussion on the Walnut Hills lease at the next caucus meeting.

Stuart Oehrle stated that he is still working on getting in touch with the informatics person at NKU regarding our web page design. Mr. Oehrle will keep us updated. He requested that at the next caucus we discuss sidewalks that are buckling and whether we will get them fixed. He also questioned where to get recycling bins. The City Clerk stated that they are in the city building and residents can stop in and pick one up.

Sandy Ross stated that she was talking to friends about her concerns for people who are struggling with their home mortgage and who think they are losing their jobs and looking at foreclosure. She attended a meeting on April 7th sponsored by the Center for Great Neighborhoods in Covington and was very pleased to know and share with residents that Kentucky sponsors a toll free number, **866-830-7868**, which is staffed from 9 am to 9 pm for Kentucky residents only. They will advise you where there are agencies in your area that will help you with counseling, strategizing, looking at your situation and trying to help you avoid foreclosure. The agencies they will refer you to do not charge for their services – it is FREE. Ms. Ross had brochures entitled "Protect My Kentucky Home". She is leaving some of these brochures at the city building. There are also brochures at the Cold Spring Library, and she will make sure some local schools have them. If we can save just a couple of people from foreclosure, it would be worthwhile.

Rob Moore questioned the Code Enforcement report referring to a property on Pooles Creek. Debris was trimmed off the property, but there was an additional concern about refuse being dumped into the creek and causing potential flooding. He did not see that this issue was addressed, and he would like for our Code Enforcement officer to follow up on this concern.

Mayor Stoeber stated he is looking forward to the police survey and officers in the neighborhoods. Also, Mayor Stoeber wants our residents to know we are deep into the budget process. This has been a very difficult budget but we are managing

through it quite well. There have been many departmental meetings, council and finance committee meetings. A tremendous amount of effort and thought is being put into the budgeting process. During the past caucus meeting Brandon Voelker's co-attorney commented on how our council is so engaged in the city and so passionate about what goes on. Mayor Stoeber sees it in every aspect of the budget. He can't thank council enough.

Brandon Voelker commented that when you compare a lot of entities, you notice that everybody in our city is involved and provides input. One of the court reporters stated to him that if you watch all of the cities on television, it is our city that shows no animosity, even when they disagree. There is no bitterness and we work well together.

There were no residents present to be awarded the American flag and pole.

Stuart Oehrle made a motion to adjourn, and Rob Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Approved:

City Clerk:

Mayor: