

UHRICHSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 28, 2010

**SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING RESOLUTION 1636 – PANHANDLE
PASSAGE TRAIL - FINAL READING**

President Pro-Tem Terry Culbertson called the special meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Clerk, Brian Watkins. ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Mr. Haney, Mr. Gyurko, Miss Dunlap, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Culbertson, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Cottis. President Mick Donato was out of town.

To begin the meeting President Pro-Tem Culbertson opened the floor for discussion. The discussion is as follows:

MAYOR REIGER:

Mayor Reiger wanted Council to know that he understood the money situation but at the same time believes that this is a great opportunity for our community. I have had heard all positive comments from the community about this project. The city's portion of the project would be 20%, approximately \$140,000 dollars. He wanted Council to remember that we could apply for an OMEGA grant. Greg DiDonato is in charge of this and believes that we could get half of our portion through ARC funds. Mayor Reiger believes the remainder could be raised since we might not need to start spending the money until 2012.

As previously discussed, the tennis court project had an actual cost of around \$132,000 dollars. \$129,000 is already committed in grants and private donations. We will not need the \$25,000 that Council originally pledged.

MR. GYURKO:

Agreed with a lot of items discussed and believes this is a worthwhile project. However, he wanted everyone to keep in mind the financial situation. Carry-over is the only reason that we are currently in the black. What do we feel is important? Once the carry-over is gone, cutting services that are essential is the next step. Sometime in the near future this is what we are looking at, cutting services.

The Fire Truck Levy is coming up and that is something that absolutely has to pass. If it doesn't we are going to have decisions to make. With all of this in mind, ask people what they prefer, a fire truck, police protection or a walking trail? What's important?

MRS. COTTIS:

Does this reading tonight just give permission to apply for the grant?

VISITOR: Jeannette Wierzbicki ó W.E. Quicksall ó

Made council aware that passing this resolution allows them to submit the application and says that if approved Council will put up the necessary funds. However, if accepted for the grant there is nothing that says that you have to accept the money.

There are other grant options available to supplement the money from ODOT, such as from the ODNR.

MRS. COTTIS:

If Greg DiDonato gets half of our portion and a bank has offered to give a donation, this could put the city's portion to around \$60,000 dollars. Some people spend that on SUVs. Paving streets has been mentioned. We are not paving this year, but we have paved a lot in the past, Trenton Ave., Water Street, 12th St.

MR. GYURKO:

If that is the case why don't we borrow money to fix potholes or to do some paving?

MAYOR REIGER:

At this point we aren't borrowing any money yet and we might not need to.

MRS. DAVIS:

I have been confronted by a lot of people and have had nothing but positive comments and excitement. People are excited that they will get to stay locally and enjoy this in their own community. This trail is not just for adults. There are a lot of family type nature activities. Everyone understands the money problems, but council needs to stand by this project.

MISS DUNLAP:

Asked Ms. Wierzbicki if they (W.E. Quicksall) have received letters in support of the boat ramp or trail projects. It is her understanding that there are over 200 people signing letters in support of these projects. Mayor Reiger said that Twin City Chamber has these letters and will get them to W.E. Quicksall.

MR. PETERSON:

I understand both sides of the issue. However, when traveling around to smaller towns via the railroad I was always impressed with the small towns that had unique things that set them apart, such as a trail. That stands out to me more than paved streets. People notice our Waterpark and I am afraid that we might be missing an opportunity if we don't go ahead. This trail might impact our grandkids. We have to have the foresight to do something out of the ordinary. If we do it and do it right, as I'm sure we will; it could be a great opportunity. Through research on the internet, I have found that trails are growing in the state of Ohio.

RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION 1636 ó (Panhandle Trail) ó Third Reading ó

A motion to adopt Resolution 1636 was made by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mrs. Cottis. ROLL CALL: Mrs. Davis, yes, Mrs. Cottis, yes, Mr. Haney, no, Mr. Gyurko, no, Miss Dunlap, yes, Mr. Peterson, yes, Mr. Culbertson, no. The motion carried by a 4-3 vote and Resolution 1636 has been adopted.

Following the vote Mr. Culbertson wanted everyone to know that he voted NO, but he will see to it that this trail goes.

MRS. DAVIS:

Added, that no one knew about the Waterpark, but look where we are with it. We will be fine.

MR. HANEY:

Does not think this is a bad project, but the other issues dealing with the financial aspect, such as upkeep, worry him.

With no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Brian Watkins
Clerk of Council

Terry Culbertson
President Pro-Tem