

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY OF MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE
OCTOBER 27, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of Council of October 27, 2009 for the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio, was Called to Order by Council President, Dale O. Langbehn, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:
Aye: Andrew M. Rose, Vice President
Aye: David R. Eva
Aye: Susan M. Shirley
Sharleen Connolly (excused)
Aye: Troy D. Elam
Aye: John Hawkins
Aye: Dale O. Langbehn, President

READING OF MINUTES: October 13, 2009 – Regular Meeting of Council

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROSE, Seconded by Ms. Shirley, to approve the Minutes for the October 13, 2009, Regular Meeting of Council, as submitted by the Clerk. **ROLL CALL:** Ayes: Council Member Rose, Eva, Shirley, Elam, Langbehn. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

Council Member Hawkins arrives and is present for Roll Call.

CORRESPONDENCE: (none)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mayor and Safety Director – Mayor Rogers

Mayor Rogers said he invited Lynn Hawkins this evening to receive her proclamation for her work on the Parks & Recreation Board. A copy of Mrs. Hawkins proclamation will be made a part of the Minutes at the time of her receiving the proclamation.

The Administration is working on the budget. There was an article in the newspaper and the News-Break whereby the City will see a reduction in available revenue in the amount of approximately \$450,000. Mayor Rogers said it will have somewhat of an impact on how we do things. Mr. Molenaar is diligently working on the numbers and more than likely the budget will be prepared before the end of the year.

Mr. Lyons reported at the last meeting on the new McMinn Pavilion. Mayor Rogers said Mr. Lyons went over a few ways the City can approach this project. He asked Mr. Lyons to prepare a formal memorandum on the matter and distribute same to all Members of Council.

Mayor Rogers ask that Council support Ordinance No. 2009-O-17 which has to do with rescue service fees that we charge the insurance companies. The old fee structure was designed in 1998 and there have been no adjustments since that time. Chief Mahoney has been talking to the Mayor over the last few years regarding increasing those fees so they would be consistent with the other departments within our County as well as throughout the State of Ohio. Chief Mahoney also informed the Mayor that they can bill mileage also. Mayor Rogers said he is of the opinion that the mileage fees can be earmarked for the replacement of rescue squads. Based on our run history this amount would be approximately \$14,000/year. There will also be approximately \$20,000/year increase in revenue from this tier increase. Mayor Rogers said that due to the economical times this all make sense.

Administrative Director – Mr. Molenaar

Mr. Molenaar said he would answer any questions regarding the legislation at the appropriate time.

Law Director – Mr. Lyons (no report)

City Engineer – Mr. Federico

Mr. Federico said he would like to remind Council that they have an ongoing and never ending monitoring of any and all possible available sources of grants be it County, Federal, or State that may be available to the City for funding of any type of project that may come up in the near future.

Fire Chief – Mr. Mahoney

Chief Mahoney said the Fire Department has been very busy with the H1N1 planning. There are two levels to this one being the inoculations and the second is that if this should turn into a pandemic situation there are plans in place for administration of the medications. They are working with the City of Mentor in conjunction with this plan.

Chief Mahoney said he has been talking to the Mayor over the last few years regarding the increase in rescue squad fees. Chief Mahoney said this truly is bringing us in line with what is the current standard. He made phone calls to the departments throughout Lake County to find out with the current standard was, and the levels they are requesting now just brings them up to what everyone else is charging. The ALS-1 and ALS-2 is the insurance company's classification and it really is just the number of drugs that get used on a run. Chief Mahoney said he sees no reason why his department and the City should not take advantage of the standard.

The 12 lead EKG Program is finally ready to go. Chief Mahoney said the equipment is in and very shortly within the next few weeks all of the departments throughout the County will be getting the equipment so they can do the transmitting of the 12 lead EKG directly to the hospital. The information will go directly to the Cath Lab. Chief Mahoney said the key with heart attacks is that it is vital to get an individual into the Cath Lab within an hour of the occurrence of a heart attack. The funds for this program are basically coming from the hospital foundation.

QUESTIONS TO ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Council Member Rose asked how old the rescue squads are right now. Chief Mahoney said the program they have in place is that they run a squad for 15 years. When they say 8 years, the oldest truck at that point is 15 years old so they rotate this one out and puts the other one at the 8 year mark then they buy a new one. Chief Mahoney said he believes they have another 4 years before they will have to purchase a new one.

Council Member Elam asked that if the fee for the hospital runs would not cost the residents anything out of pocket. Mayor Rogers said this is a valid concern; however, no residents will be billed. Early on Mayor Rogers said they were billed, but the laws have changed that.

Council Member Hawkins asked if there is a co-pay. Mayor Rogers said there is no co-pay. The insurance companies are billed the amount and if they pay 80% then that is the money that comes back to us. Those monies are used to offset the expense of the part-time firefighters at night and on the weekends. Mayor Rogers said that before they began this program, they did not have anyone here around the clock.

Council Member Hawkins said he is concerned with the fact that if the cost of providing the service exceeds the amount that the insurance companies reimburse us, who makes up the difference. Mayor Rogers said that the program in the fire department is on a break even basis, although it is slowly declining. Mr. Hawkins said that conceptually this is different, and he wanted to know how much of the subsidy are they willing to provide for this program. Mr. Molenaar said there is no subsidy and they accept what the insurance company pays and write off the balance. Mr. Molenaar said they are not physically subsidizing this from the general funds. Mr. Molenaar also stated that if we did not have this program, we would be providing the same services that we do today. Mayor Rogers said when this program was implemented there was not round the clock coverage. He said what they wanted to accomplish with this program was to have trained personnel available to respond immediately. In addition to that he recalls that before this program was in place, there was a fire within City and there were 15 firefighters who responded and none of them were able to drive the truck. Mayor Rogers said for the most part this program has been self sufficient. Mr. Hawkins asked who pays the co-pay. Mayor Rogers responded by saying that no one pays the co-pay.

Council Member Elam said the State law was changed specifically saying the taxes we pay would be considered the co-pay. He said this is State law, not an arbitrary decision on Council's part. Mr. Hawkins said it is discretionary. Mayor Rogers said it is his understanding that it is not required that we collect a co-pay. He said they chose to do it this way so residents would not be afraid to call the squad for help whenever there was a need because they did not have the money to pay an additional fee. Chief Mahoney said Medicare pays about \$200.00 for a run, and there are also indigents who have no coverage whatsoever. Chief Mahoney said we are a safety net for those individuals. He brought this matter forward because we were falling behind on the fee schedule compared to what other communities were charging.

Council President Langbehn asked if it would be possible to get a report on what the actual cost is compared to what we are actually taking in. Mayor Rogers said the part-time firefighter expenses to be in the station at night and on the weekend is approximately \$140,000/year and with adjustments of the revenues based on this legislation it will bring us up to that figure of \$140,000 as we are collecting about \$120,000. Mayor Rogers said when the program was designed originally; it was a wash then, so by adjusting the billing practices it will bring us back up the point as to where we were 10 years ago. He also said the mileage monies will be allocated strictly to the replacement of vehicles.

Council Member Elam said that a number of years ago when we started this program we had no money coming in from any other source except the general fund to pay for these runs. He said they instituted billing the insurance companies to pay for this. Mayor Rogers said that if this is approved tonight they expect the revenues from this to be approximately \$140,000 plus the mileage monies.

Council Member Hawkins said the point he is trying to make is that it must be a wash. Council Member Elam said the point of this program to begin with was to bring in a stream of income to the City and not to provide free services.

BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Storm Water Management Committee / Meeting of October 27, 2009 / Mr. Elam

The Storm Water Management Committee met on October 27, 2009 at 6:40 p.m. They were looking at the feasibility of enclosing the ditches in the City by putting in the storm drainage. They came to the conclusion they would not be able to proceed along those lines because of budgetary issues, and it will take the cooperation of Council and the Administration as well as other agencies to begin to accomplish this. Council Member Elam said the Committee will be making no recommendation to Council for any action at this time.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK: 7:38 p.m.

CLOSED OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SECTION: 7:39 p.m.

LEGISLATION BEFORE COUNCIL:

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-O-17

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY CODIFICATION SECTION 232.06(b), RESCUE SQUAD FEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ELAM, Seconded by Mr. Rose for Suspension of the Rules.
ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Rose, Eva, Shirley, Elam, Hawkins, Langbehn.
Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6/0

MOTION MADE BY MR. ELAM, Seconded by Ms. Shirley for Passage. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Rose, Eva, Shirley, Elam, Hawkins, Langbehn. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6/0

(Legislation Continued)

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-O-18

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING LIENS FOR EXPENSES INCURRED FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE AND/OR CULVERT REPAIRS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION MADE BY MR. ROSE, Seconded by Ms. Shirley for Suspension of the Rules. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Rose, Eva, Shirley, Elam, Hawkins, Langbehn. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6/0

MOTION MADE BY MR. EVA, Seconded by Ms. Shirley for Passage. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Rose, Eva, Shirley, Elam, Hawkins, Langbehn. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6/0

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Member Rose reminded everyone that the Boo Bash will be held this Thursday at Lake Elementary School from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SETTING OF MEETINGS:

Parks & Recreation Board	October 29, 2009	6:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning Commission	November 2, 2009	7:30 p.m.
Agenda Meeting of Council	November 5, 2009	6:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting of Council	November 10, 2009	7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning Commission	November 2, 2009	7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION MADE BY MS. SHIRLEY, Seconded by Mr. Rose for Adjournment. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Council Member Rose, Eva, Shirley, Elam, Hawkins, Langbehn. Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIED: 6/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Date

Dale O. Langbehn
President of Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council