

City of Deer Park
City Council Committee Meeting
Municipal Building
June 2, 2014

President Comer opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Mark Bishop, Joe Bove and Spence Faxon, Energy Alliances, Energy Aggregation Update
Mr. Berens introduced Mark Bishop, Joe Bove and Spence Faxon from Energy Alliances. They presented information showing the savings for Deer Park residents and businesses totaling \$37,230.21 so far. 1419 residents have enrolled with the average totaling 1375 customers since July 2013. The Deer Park cost is the lowest it can get at an 8% discount to the Duke Energy Ohio Price To Compare (PTC). The above savings do not include this summer when the PTC will be higher and produce more savings to our residents and businesses.

Legislative and Finance Committee

Tax Review Board

Mr. Berens stated that we need three citizens appointed for the tax review board. They can be either appointed by city council, or at the direction of council one or more such members may be appointed by the Mayor. It was previously decided by city council that the Mayor will appoint the three members. This will be on the agenda at the next City Council meeting on June 9.

Hamilton County Tax Incentive Review Council Agreement

Mr. Berens stated that we need to appoint two people for this board. This will be on the agenda at the next City Council meeting on June 9.

May 2014 Income Tax Report

Mr. Berens stated that income tax report is up 2 to 3% over last year and is looking good.

2014 Budget

Mr. Berens introduced the 2014 budget and stated the years for our current dump trucks are 1994, 1997 and 2001. The 1994 dump truck is 20 years old and we have put money into it for costly repairs. Tires can't be replaced due to age. There is a need for street salt completion and a new truck would keep the salt at a special speed when dispensing salt as it's adjusted for need. We prolong the life of the oldest truck by using it most seldom. We have an opportunity to buy 2 upgrades which are \$7000.00, totaling \$72,000.00 total for both upgrades and new dump truck. Mr. Berens will check which older truck bed will go on if new one is purchased and stated the funds to buy the new dump truck and upgrades are allocated for street funds and trucks are included. Currently our newest truck is 14 years old and we have bids from Fuller Ford. We need an answer soon so we are ready for winter. Mrs. Hedger stated that there is enough money in the budget to purchase a new dump truck. We will not finance, we will pay upfront and wants to make sure that the \$72,000.00 is truck and maintenance for the 1997 and 2001. Ms. Newsom asked how we purchase the truck and suggested we shop around. President Comer asked about trade in value on old truck to which

Mr. Berens replied yes, that the old truck will go to auction. Mr. Lehane stated it's easier to protect trucks now than before. Mr. Tassell asked about details and of maintenance records. It was decided that we need to have Chris Brinkman and Mr. Lehane present at the L & F committee meeting. Mr. Berens will line up a few years of maintenance records and get Chris Brinkman to next council meeting.

Mrs. Hedger did research on Police vehicle – SUV Tahoe has all state bid records. Crown Victoria's are not made anymore. Madeira has a Tahoe which is only about \$2000.00 more at \$28,674 where Caprice is \$26,383. The trade in value on Tahoe is more (\$5,000– 6,000) for us in the long run. Oil changes cost more on a Tahoe but are done less often than on a Caprice. Fitting into Dodge Chargers and Chevy Caprices are harder for officers with all of the police equipment on.

Mr. Berens reported that the Police Chief has stated that the telephone call recording system is down. The old one lasted 10 years and is only meant to last 5 years and asked for ideas for other alternatives. It is not in 2014 Budget however.

Mr. Berens mentioned that the shingles on park shelter houses need replacing and a quote from DP Roofing states the cost to replace is \$6075.00. President Comer asked if our service department can put on new shingles if we buy them. Mr. Berens stated no and that it will keep them from other projects. Mrs. Hedger asked if the Park Board could assist with the cost. Mr. Berens stated that the Park Board does capital improvements, not repairs. Ms. Newsom asked if we can obtain other company bids as she feels Deer Park Roofing is too high and maybe they would come down in price. Mrs. Hedger feels we should shop locally when we can.

Mr. Berens stated that we are re evaluating for the need of a part time person in the tax office for a recommended 20 hours. Landlord letters/reports, done 2 times a year, are not getting done. We need to know when new people are moving in to bring in tax revenue. We had 2 full time people for years in the past. Mr. Tassell asked if the benefits outweigh the cost. Mr. Berens stated it would cost us \$18,000 in salary per year to pay part time tax person but we will get help from JEDZ.

2015 Budget

Mr. Applegate stated that he and Mr. Berens got together with the department heads and went over the budget for 2015. There is a 4 1/2 % increase for healthcare for employees while 6% was budgeted for this. A separate checking account will be established just for JEDZ funds. A public hearing will be on June 23 where the second reading will be at that City Council meeting. Mr. Applegate also noted that he will be throwing numbers out before legislation gets put out. Mr. Comer asked if an email will go out with the changes. Ms. Newsom asked if there was an increase in health care. Mr. Hall asked if miscellaneous expenditures are dues. Mr. Tassell recommended that sick time be paid on an annual basis instead of in one chunk when someone retires and will write up ideas on contract negotiations.

Hamilton County Community Development Block Grant Program

This is done every three years . We can participate in this by signing a new agreement and receive money from the county. Mr. Berens will be adding this topic to the agenda for June 9 City Council meeting.

Beautification Awards

Mr. Berens mentioned that you can nominate other residents for a beautification award. Mr. Newsom will put the form on our Facebook and website pages. Nomination forms are due by August 4 and winners will be honored at the August 11 City Council meeting and will receive a sign in their yard. These awards help foster civic pride in our community, beautify our entire city and of course recognize people and organizations making Deer Park a better, more attractive place to live. Mrs. Hedger mentioned that this award is not only for beautiful flowers and landscaping but for residents who show care in the keeping of their houses all around. Mrs. Hedger may need to order some additional signs which are about \$10.00 each.

Safety Committee

May 2014 Fire District Monthly Report

Mr. Berens stated that the Fire Report for May is in the mailboxes and will be reported next week at the June 9th City Council meeting.

May 2014 Police Department Monthly Report

Mr. Berens reported that the May 2014 Police Department report is not ready yet but expects it next week at the June 9th City Council meeting.

Public Works Committee

Temporary Summer Employees

Mr. Berens reported that since City Council gave him the authority, he has hired two new temporary summer employees after interviewing six people. We are waiting for the physicals to be completed so that they can begin working. They will make \$9.75 an hour. Mr. Berens mentioned that it's nice to have young people start in high school and work with us through college so that we don't have to re train every summer.

MacNicholas Storm Water Pipe Repair Estimate

Mr. Berens mentioned that the estimate is still not available for the MacNicholas storm water pipe repair. Only one company in the area, Insituform, can make these repairs. Mr. Berens stated that he will let all know as soon as he has the estimate.

Blue Ash Rd. TID Application

Mr. Berens said that the application for the Blue Ash Road improvement project has been turned in. It's for a six million dollar grant and is a big project. A decision is expected by June 30.

Traffic Light at Blue Ash and Galbraith Roads

Mr. Lehane asked if there were any updates to the Blue Ash and Galbraith Roads traffic light issue. Mr. Berens replied that the controller has been taken out and sent back. The traffic light is now on a regular time cycle until it is fixed.

Other Boards or Committees

Park Board

Mr. Perin is working on the Festival which is August 1st, 2nd and 3rd and will have a report at the June 9 City Council Meeting. The tent has been picked up from the Sycamore Senior Center which was donated to us. Mr. Tassell suggested a thank you note be sent to thank them for their donation.

Planning and Zoning

The case on the firearms business on Lansdowne has received a request for appeal and will go to the board of zoning appeals.

CIC

We are continuing to work on our Comprehensive Plan Update and look to accept and close once Council gives approval.

Schedule:

City Council Meeting, Monday, June 9, 2014 at 7:00pm

Park Board Meeting, Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 7:00pm

City Council Meeting, June 23, 2014 at 7:00pm

Announcements

Mr. Berens announced that the Sycamore Senior Center needs volunteers to drive Meals on Wheels to the Deer Park, Dillonvale, Reading and Loveland areas. Help is especially needed on Tuesday mornings. If you can help, or know someone who can, please call Jake Jacobs (Outreach Coordinator) at 686-1003.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Joseph W. Comer
President of Council

Joanie Perin-Seitz
Clerk of Council