

City of Deer Park
City Council Meeting
Municipal Building
April 28, 2014

President Comer opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk read the roll. Mr. Donnellon, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hedger, Mr. Lehane, Ms. Newsom, Mr. Rapp, Mr. Tassell. Mrs. Hedger motioned to excuse Mr. Donnellon. Mr. Lehane seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2014 Council Meeting. Mr. Tassell seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment – Citizens and Guests - None

Standing Committee Reports

Legislative and Finance Committee

March 2014 Auditor and Treasurer's Report

- Mrs. Hedger motioned to approve the March 2014 Income Tax report. Mr. Lehane seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Safety Committee

Police Report

Mr. Hall stated that the police report was given at the April 14, 2014 meeting. Mr. Lehane mentioned that the persons who climbed the light pole at Chamberlin Park and the railroad crossing have been caught.

Chief Schlie is currently attending an Ohio Association Chiefs of Police Conference in Newark and has posted on the Deer Park Police Facebook page about some of the classes he has taken at the conference.

Public Works Committee

Sidewalk Program

Mr. Tassell reported that the documents are out for the sidewalk program. Ms. Newsom stated she wrote an article for the Enquirer that is online now, sent the article to the Suburban Press as well and would like to have brochures available at the city building. Mr. Berens stated he would like to consult with Ms. Newsom on a few things to be changed on the brochure and said that the information is also now on the city page website. Mrs. Hedger stated she will be glad to take brochures to businesses in Deer Park for distribution.

CIC Report STP and TAP Grants for Blue Ash Road Improvements

Mr. Tassell stated that the CIC committee met for an open house prior to tonight's meeting to discuss our comprehensive plan with Klinergers Group. There are posters in the city building hallway to show the planned improvements. Mrs. Hedger asked if this was the 5 million dollar grant to redo Blue Ash Road businesses and wanted to confirm

that this grant money cannot be used to fix other streets. Mr. Tassell replied that yes it is the 5 million dollar grant for improvements to Blue Ash Road businesses and this improvement project will go from just south of Matson Avenue to the Blue Ash and Galbraith Road intersection and is for business redevelopment only, not for other streets and said that there will be another OKI meeting in the next few days. Mr. Berens mentioned that the grants have been filed. Tim from Klinergers Group stated that it takes 30 – 60 days to hear back. Mr. Berens also mentioned that anyone is welcome to look at the posters in the hallway and we will be glad to talk with anyone that has questions also stating that this is a vision from the last comprehensive plan, which was 5 years ago. Mr. Berens reported that we have lots of support from OKI and the county level. We will have another open house in July, the steering committee will meet in May, and a joint meeting will take place with our Planning Commission and Board Zoning in May as well. It is all moving forward right along schedule.

Planning and Zoning Report

Mr. Berens acknowledged that there has been some confusion in the past about some not being aware of new businesses opening in Deer Park, reason being that businesses are not required to go through public hearings if all aspects of the zoning code are met. One recently came up about the suboxone clinic opening on Galbraith Road. Mr. Berens is going to be keeping us more informed about new businesses that are opening. A case is coming up next week at 5:30 p.m. regarding a firearms business who is applying for conditional use in a home on Lansdowne Avenue, as is required for any in home business. President Comer mentioned that up until 5 or 6 years ago, the final approval on the zoning regulations came to City Council with the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations which council did not always go with. Now Ohio revised code says you can no longer do that. City Council has no say over it now whatsoever. Mrs. Hedger asked if anyone can come to express their opinions or write letters to the commission. Mr. Comer stated yes and noted that anytime someone applies for a variance, the residents within 150 feet are notified. Tim, from Klinergers Group remarked that it is required within 300 feet. Mr. Berens stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission makes the recommendation and the decision. If either party wants to appeal it then it goes to the Board Zoning Appeals and if there is still a disagreement on the decision then it goes to the Court of Common Pleas.

Sink Holes in rear yards on MacNicholas

Mr. Berens reported that there are sink holes in the 3700 block of MacNicholas Avenue where the backyards are combined with Matson Avenue. There is a storm sewer that runs through with two branches of 18 inch pipes that are both collapsing and have lots of damage. Repairs were done once but we still need more repairs. It will be quite costly and will require digging out pipes and replacing. Mr. Berens is meeting with a consultant next Friday to see if the pipes can be sealed from the inside which will also be costly. When the pipes break the water seeps into the ground and dirt flows into the pipes and it slowly washes away and over a period of years the backyards have actually sunk in. The house where it's occurring the most has been vacant for a few years and now that people have moved in they've brought it to our attention. A TV/video device was used to look into the pipes already to know what we're dealing with. Mayor Collins asked if these pipes belong to the Metropolitan Sewer District or to us and if these pipes

were part of the 560 sewer system that was put in from Deer Park/Silverton down to Stewart Road from 35 years ago in case we wouldn't have to pay for repairs. The pipes are ours and not MSD's stated Mr. Berens and he doesn't know if the pipes were put in as part of the 560 sewer system or not, mentioning that they were probably put in when those neighborhoods were built and we don't have drawings. Mr. Rapp mentioned that the neighborhoods were built in 1947 and also has a topographical map from 1912 showing a creek bed on the south side of Matson that runs to French Park and to the Mill Creek. Tim from Klinergers Group stated that a lot of projects are being done by the Metropolitan Sewer District in the Cincinnati area to remove pipes and go back to having the creek and leaving an open channel. Mr. Berens stated he will meet with Tim to discuss this further.

Report of Special Committees / Boards

Park Board Report

Mr. Perin reported that the softball leagues have started, co-ed softball starts on Friday May 2, 2014 and the concession stands will open soon after. President Comer asked Mr. Perin if they have found enough teams. Mr. Perin responded that he wasn't sure about that but did mention that is handled by Don Braun. On May 17, the restrooms by diamond one will be painted by the Kenwood Baptist Church and the Park Board. The old partitions will be taken out first and new ones will be installed after painting is complete. Mr. Perin is still waiting to hear back from the company that will install the new ones. Mr. Perin noted that summer is upon us and that the next park event will be the yard sale in June.

Mr. Berens reported that "Bark in the Park" will be on May 17, 2014. This year we have the most participation ever with 32 businesses! Registration is at the new location of Deer Park Roofing on Blue Ash Road at 10:00 a.m. There participants will receive their passports and maps and will be entered into a drawing if all 32 businesses are visited with stamps received as they walk along the route with their pets from Deer Park Roofing down Blue Ash Road to Galbraith Road and on to Dillonvale Shopping Center. Mrs. Hedger thanked the Deer Park Business Association for their participation.

Citizen Questions or Comments on Agenda Thus Far - None

Correspondence (Clerk of Council) & Miscellaneous - None

New Business

Mr. Tassell mentioned a follow up on the needle issue/overall Heroin epidemic. The Attorney General is having a round table in Sharonville on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Mr. Tassell will be attending. Mr. Comer asked if they've totally abandoned the needle exchange van. Mr. Tassell stated that it has been abandoned. Mrs. Hedger asked if the follow up round table is regarding needle exchange only or the heroin epidemic overall. Mr. Tassell responded that it's for the heroin epidemic overall and the Attorney General is putting on the round table himself while also mentioning that the group that is pushing for needle exchange hasn't gone away and the effort hasn't gone away either.

Mr. Tassell welcomed some of the Deer Park School Board members at tonight's meeting and thanked them for a great weekend of Parkers at the high school.

Reports from other City Officials

Treasurer – None

Law Director – None

Auditor – None

Safety Service Director – None

Mayor's Report – Mayor Collins reported that he received a letter from the Veterans of Foreign Wars regarding the Memorial Day Parade which will take place Monday May 26, 2014 where a ceremony is to begin in Silverton at 9:45 am. The parade will then proceed north on Ohio Avenue to Webster Avenue and on to Blue Ash Road where a ceremony will also take place at Chamberlin Park. The parade will then resume on to Bechtold Park in Sycamore Township where the parade will finish for a final ceremony. Mayor Collins stated that membership and participation in the VFW is dropping much like many organizations around this country. We will have to look into keeping this traditional parade going in the future by working along with the other two municipalities. It is too important to the backbone of this country.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hedger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Tassell. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Joseph W. Comer
President of Council

Joanie Perin-Seitz
Clerk of Council