

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

President Comer opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Guests: Mr. Tim Casto, Kleingers & Associates

### **Legislative and Finance Committee**

#### Redmont Improvement Project Update

Mr. Berens introduced Mr. Tim Casto, City Engineer from Kleingers. Last week a meeting was held with our engineers regarding the Redmont improvement project and a schedule is set. Stakes will start being placed in the ground this week and construction will begin next week on Monday.

#### Plainfield Road Improvement Project

Mr. Berens stated there is a new project that is being planned for the majority of Sycamore Township but will stretch into Deer Park from Oakwood Avenue up to Donna Lane. Mr. Casto passed out some handouts showing the proposed improvements. There will be two roundabouts with one lane each and no stop lights; one at Plainfield Road, Myrtle Avenue and Donna Lane and one at Plainfield and Sycamore which will be part of a different project extending up to Larchview. Mr. Casto explained that this came about out of the need for safer routes to school. A lot of money is being pumped through OKI and Hamilton County with federal funds for improvements. Mr. Berens and Mr. Casto met with Hamilton County and Sycamore Township. Interest is in having Plainfield Road repaved. The improvements include sidewalk improvements in front of Deer Park High School. There will be one designated parking lane on Plainfield to help avoid accidents. Sycamore Township is embracing roundabouts. Mr. Casto stated that was correct and that traffic during peak times will run more efficiently than current intersections with traffic lights. Mr. Berens noted that it will greatly improve the safety for pedestrians crossing Plainfield Road. Mrs. Hedger expressed concern that this will take away parking in front of Deer Park High School. Mr. Berens mentioned that if our Natureworks Grant is approved and the tennis courts are used only at Chamberlin Park it could possibly free up more places to park where the high school's tennis courts are currently located if they don't use them. Questions and concerns will need to be addressed as the planning and gathering of data is in the early stages. The city portion of this is minute and lots of figuring is left to do. Grants need to be in place and an agreement to possibly follow. The project will take years.

#### Blue Ash Road TID Project for Blue Ash Rd

Mr. Berens and Mr. Casto shared great news that we have been awarded two federal grants for 80% of the \$6.6 million dollar Blue Ash Road improvement project. There is still work to be done to secure funding and to continue to make plans for this great upgrade to our business district. We have also received \$250,000 in Hamilton County TID funds which is eligible for reimbursement within 30-60 days of our invoicing back to the county. Legislation will be passed at the next city council meeting. There will be an open house at the 2<sup>nd</sup> city council meeting in September and the 1<sup>st</sup> city council meeting in October.

#### Ordinance Approving the Inclusion of Ordinances into the Codified Ordinances of Deer Park

This Ordinance is done each year and is an Ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of various component codes of the codified ordinances of Deer Park, Ohio and declaring and emergency. This will be passed at the September 8 city council meeting.

#### August 2014 Income Tax Report

Mr. Berens announced that the August 2014 Income Tax is about even compared to last year. It is in the mailboxes and we will look at it at the September 8 city council meeting.

### Sidewalk / Bike Path Grant

Mr. Tassell explained the sidewalk/bike path grant in which he has been working on with Al Freeman. This is a grant from the Transportation Alternative Fund. The timeline is a 4 year period and will target areas while encompassing whole city piece by piece. We will look at how far we want to explore and will look at what's available. STP funds were over requested however 12 mil under requested for Transportation Alternative Funds. The decision will be up to council and has to be separate from TID funds.

### Cincinnati Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

President Comer and Mr. Tassell discussed what in our current ordinance may need to be updated to avoid loopholes that could businesses could use to open up a sexually oriented business here. Mr. Tassell named Cincinnati as an example on how businesses use loopholes to open up by leaving the word "adult" out of their name or not advertise that only people 18 and older can enter their store. Businesses that sell retail material are not considered a sexually oriented business but are considered a sexually related business and there are different zoning laws on both. We may need to look at this to see what to fine tune and what to leave alone. Mr. Helmes will look into this. Mr. Berens stated that it's an ever changing world in regards to needles and everything else going on.

### July 2014 Auditor & Treasurer's Report

Mr. Berens announced that the July Auditor & Treasurer's Report is in the mailboxes and we will look at it at the September 8 city council meeting.

### **Safety Committee**

#### August 2014 Fire District Monthly Report

Mr. Berens announced that the August 2014 Fire Report is in the mailboxes and will be given at the September 8 council meeting.

#### August 2014 Police Department Monthly Report

Mr. Berens announced that the August 2014 Police Report will be given at the September 8 city council meeting.

#### Police Officer Civil Service Entrance Examination

Mr. Berens reported that the police officer civil service examination had only 18 applicants which was a record low turnout. Results will be back soon so that we can begin the process for hiring. Applicants were certified before they applied which shows they are interested. Mrs. Hedger asked if the wages we pay are the reason that we had a low number of applicants. Mr. Berens and President Comer stated that we pay a competitive salary in comparison to other local cities in our area.

### **Public Works Committee**

#### MacNicholas Storm Water Pipe Repair Update

Mr. Berens stated that this work has been completed. CME Sewer did the work for \$14,900 which has been paid.

#### Sidewalk Repairs

Mr. Berens stated that he looked into alternative on how to prevent trip hazards around town. He contacted Precision Concrete Cutting. They adjust sidewalk blocks instead of replacing them. They shave the block down that sits higher than the other. The estimate he received was \$60.00 per block which is much less expensive than the cost of replacing for \$200.00 per block. Problem sidewalks can be marked and homeowners notified. Ms. Newsom asked if a list of contractors exists to give to residents. Mr. Berens and other council members stated that there are at least three on the list that are bonded and can be hired in Deer Park including Bryant, Feldhaus and Hedges.

*A short break was taken from 8:09 p.m. – 8:18 p.m. to allow council and guests to see an example of sidewalk repairs made in front of the City Building by Precision Concrete Cutting.*

**Other Boards or Committees with a Report**

**Park Board**

Mr. Perin announced that the Days in the Park Festival made \$24,454.14! Mr. Perin thanked everyone again for working together to make this one of the most successful festivals ever!

**Schedule:**

- City Council Meeting, Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7:00pm
- Park Board Meeting, Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:00pm
- City Council Meeting, Monday, September 22, 2014 at 7:00pm

**Announcements** - None

**Executive Session – RE: Employee Compensation**

At 8:18 p.m. Mrs. Hedger motioned to retire to executive session to discuss employee compensation, including City Council, President Comer, Mrs. Seitz, Mr. Todd, Mr. Helmes and Mr. Berens. Mr. Donnellon seconded the motion. Mr. Donnellon – aye, Mr. Hall – aye, Mrs. Hedger – aye, Mr. Lehane – aye, Ms. Newsom – aye, Mr. Rapp – aye, Mr. Tassell – aye. Motion carried. At 8:22 p.m. Mr. Berens exited the executive session as employee compensation for Mr. Berens would be discussed next. At 8:39 p.m. Mrs. Hedger motioned to end executive session and reconvene the regular meeting. Mr. Lehane seconded the motion. Mr. Donnellon – aye, Mr. Hall – aye, Mrs. Hedger – aye, Mr. Lehane – aye, Ms. Newsom – aye, Mr. Rapp – aye, Mr. Tassell – aye. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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Joseph W. Comer  
President of Council

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Joanie Perin-Seitz  
Clerk of Council