

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2008
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Gary Herbert, Helen Gardner, Darrell Poling, Jamie Cain, Herb Hunter and Bill Wenning.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken with all present and minutes were approved for 2/4/08 and 2/27/08 meetings.

EDC Director Vicki Kellerman was present and provided Council members and Mayor Herbert with copies of a Strategy Map for 2008, a report for January and February 2008 and an EDC project assessment annual project data for Greensburg/Decatur County.

Vicki thanked the City Hall, City Employees, Boards and Council for the Wings of Prayer Angel given to her upon the death of her husband.

Judy Curd, president of the Downtown Greensburg Development Corporation was present and introduced Mark Keillor. Mark presented a slide presentation and discussed the new direction the Downtown Greensburg Development Corporation is planning to proceed with. They have decided to adopt a long term future plan for downtown.

They are requesting the City to invest in an action plan for four years and pledge \$30,000 a year to the Downtown Greensburg Development Corporation.

Mayor Herbert expressed that the DGDC and HOTTTCITY have both worked on the same goals and he would like to see them merge together.

Bryan Robbins of HOTTTCITY presented Council members and Mayor Herbert with an annual report and a booklet that has been produced by Heart of the Tree City in part with the support of the Decatur County Visitors and Recreation Commission for tourist, businesses and new residents.

Bryan and Greg Rust presented a slide presentation covering the organizations history and their priorities for 2008 and proposed budget. Ratio will be holding another meeting in approximately two weeks. They reviewed the grants they have secured as well as the grants they have helped to secure, and tracked the flow of money and projects begun in 2007 that total \$1,049,780.

They are requesting \$30,000 from the City for the year 2008.

Jamie Cain brought up that the City spends \$30,000 to HOTTCITY, \$60,000 to the EDC and now the Downtown Greensburg Development is requesting \$30,000.

Herb Hunter suggested that all entities requesting money should come before Council at Budget time.

Bill Wenning sees the City at a crossroads and would like to review all the presentations from DGDC, EDC and HOTTCITY.

Helen Gardner questioned the DGDC if they would be hiring Mark Keillor as the DGDC Executive Director. Judy remarked that at this time we have only discussed it and not made a decision to hire a director.

Darrell Poling agrees with the other Council members, but wonders if all the monies could be put together instead of so many separate organizations.

Mayor Herbert stated he applauds the HOTTCITY, EDC and DGDC. He feels that Council should take more time to discuss these requests and grant monies are available to MainStreet. He questioned Judy Curd if the DGDC would be willing to sit down with HOTTCITY and try to come up with one group under the name MainStreet. Judy remarked that they would be willing to meet with HOTTCITY.

Motion by Herb Hunter and seconded by Bill Wenning to table any decision at this time. Ayes Herb Hunter, Darrell Poling, Bill Wenning, Jamie Cain and Helen Gardner. Nays none. So passed.

Fire Chief Scott Chasteen reported to the Council that the Fire Department is planning on submitting applications for three different grants. One grant is for 800MHZ radios for all the trucks, the second grant is equipment and the third grant is an apparatus fire truck. The application process starts today. There would be a local match of 5-10%. He is looking at replacing the 1989 fire truck.

Helen Gardner remarked about the time frame there is that needs to be worked with on grants.

Mayor Herbert stated the City is looking at another fire station and if this could be worked in with Washington Township it would help to save taxpayers dollars.

Council members gave their permission to proceed with grant applications.

Brian Heaton Police Chief stated that he has two captains and would like to amend the salary ordinance and create an assistant chief position and fill that position with Stacey Chasteen and compensate her with a higher salary. She would become an exempted employee. He would need to pay Stacey's comp time off and it amounts to \$8,000 - \$9,000. He told Council that Stacey has been doing the job of assistant chief.

Helen Gardner questioned if Stacey would then receive comp time and Brian answered no. She stated that normally these changes are made at budget time and questioned that other departments would request changes at times other than budget time if Council approves this request and changes the salary ordinance. She told that at budget time Council and City has always been concerned with all the different ranks and monies for them. She does not doubt that Stacey has earned her time and comp, but would like to see these changes made at budget time.

Mayor Herbert stated that they are putting in a chief change and people would feel more secured with a chief and assistant instead of a chief and captains. He would like to see Stacey's comp time paid off completely. When a fireman is called out he is paid for three hours. A policy could be made that this is a one time only change.

Bill Wenning commented that he has a problem with the amount of comp time that Stacey has. He questioned paying her comp time off and giving her the title of assistant and then change it at budget time in the salary ordinance.

Jamie Cain feels this is a different situation.

Bill Wenning handed out a pamphlet of a recording device for recording the meetings and then putting them on the website. The cost is \$699 and a card size is 4 GB at \$49 a card and he would propose buying two cards.

Discussion was held and Council decided to table this for now.

Jamie Cain inquired about holding a town hall meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Attest:

Clerk-Treasurer

