

**City of Crescent Springs**  
**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Those in attendance included the following:

**Council Members:**

Christie Arlinghaus  
Mike Daugherty  
Dale Ramsey  
Scott Santangelo  
Tom Vergamini  
Matt Zeck

**Jim Collett, Mayor**

Joe Baker, City Attorney  
George Ripberger, Public Services Director  
Sue Hill, City Clerk

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Arlinghaus made a motion to adopt the minutes of the **March 13, 2009 Regular Council Meeting**. Mr. Santangelo seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC SERVICES/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Resident **Claire Moriconi**, Western Reserve Ave., brought to the Council's attention the matter of a pick-up truck with an open trailer attached that is frequently parked on the street across from her house. The owner lives on Audrey Terrace and appears to be in the tree trimming business. Mr. Ripberger noted that parking there is not illegal, but that he will speak with the owner to see if there is another place to park, such as the public lot at the end of the street, and if he can clean up his yard and driveway in order to park there. There was discussion concerning possible solutions and implications of changing our ordinances. Consequently, the Mayor suggested the following: 1) Mr. Ripberger will talk to the owner 2) we will work on the process of communicating problems to the Kenton County Code Enforcement Board 3) we will report reoccurring code violations and traffic situations to the police to write citations if necessary, and 4) we will be more proactive in enforcement of codes and more diligent in following up to see that the situation is remedied.
- Mr. Ripberger reported that he is in discussion with the NKAPC to revamp the current **Code Enforcement process**. He hopes to shorten the time it takes to get results from the property owners and in the case of tall grass, is trying to determine the best way to give a warning, cut the grass if there's no response, and then file a lien on the property immediately. With the number of vacant houses and foreclosures on the rise, this problem will most likely only get worse.
- The **Buttermilk Pike Bridge Expansion** work is progressing, with the large steel beams being set last week. The entire bridge will then be resurfaced, and work is to be completed by Memorial Day. There will be a sidewalk installed on the south side of the bridge.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Zeck reported that the Finance Committee met April 9<sup>th</sup>. The numbers through the 9 months of the fiscal year look good, with Public Works and Administration keeping costs in line. The first payment of the NKAPC Small Area Study was made. Ms. Arlinghaus requested \$3,000 for website revisions, which will come out of the Administration Budget. We will do a revised budget in May. Mr. Ripberger noted that the FEMA reimbursement of approximately \$28,000 had not yet arrived – due in May – and that he is in the process of submitting more receipts for salt etc. to FEMA from the ice storm.

## **FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT**

Mr. Daugherty reported that the Fire Authority adopted **by-laws**. The Friday Night Fish Fries are over and were well attended. Fire Authority has applied to the **State of Ky. for a grant** to build a new firehouse using Economic Stimulus Funds. The recent bid process (for a building addition, a generator and a Cascade System) is on hold until Governor Beshear decides about the grant money. The Fire Authority will be submitting its proposed **Budget**. The Mayor commended the strong **volunteer base** at the Firehouse for keeping costs down and for working so hard to make events such as the fish fries possible.

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Arlinghaus reported that the committee has not met since the last meeting, but is now concentrating on the **website redesign**. With the newly appropriated funds, we can now commence looking at web designers. The next newsletter will go out in May. Please submit articles or suggestion for content by May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Also note the Armed Forces Day Military Cup **5K Run/Walk** will be held Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, and the **Old Fashioned Picnic** for the Veterans Memorial Fundraiser will be held Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Collett thanked all who helped with the **Easter Egg Hunt**, and presented Bunny Zeck with a 'carrot cake' as a thank you. The list of business who donated was impressive and there were approximately 125 children there. Thanks to Susan Laws for her work on this.

The Mayor passed out copies of the **GEM Marketing Study** showing various demographics and marketing statistics for Crescent Springs. Mr. Santangelo called particular attention to the last 2 pages of the report which documented the market saturation of business sectors in our City. Categories with low percentage numbers indicated opportunity for future business growth.

## **ADOPT A UNIT**

Ms. Arlinghaus reported that Crescent Springs won the Girl Scout Cookie competition over Villa Hills and the troops were shipped many boxes of cookies to enjoy. They are state-side for now.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Baker addressed several issues concerning the **sign ordinance** changes being considered, specifically, the 'changeable copy' signs being requested. The Model Sign Ordinance limits them to 200 square feet, which is the size of a small billboard. We may wish to limit ours to a

significantly lower number. The brightness, placement, and the manner in which they change messages (no 'running' messages allowed) can all be tailored to our City's needs. Mr. Baker will do some more work on this. Ms. Arlinghaus suggested our budget for next year include money for a sign(s) of our own. We will research the potential sites, designs and costs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Baker read Municipal Order 2009-4 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Interlocal Agreement for Advanced Life Support Services with the City of Erlanger. The question was asked is there a cap on increases and Mr. Daugherty replied he thought there was a 10% cap.
- Mr. Vergamini brought up the question of opening competition for our Cable Franchise, which is currently with Insight Communications. Mr. Baker said that Cincinnati Bell could compete in Crescent Springs, but because of the contract with Insight, not on better terms than currently contracted with Insight. Mr. Vergamini commented that Cincinnati Bell would be converting to fiber optics soon. Since we are not a member of the Communications Board we can negotiate as we see prudent.
- Mayor Collett commended Mark Rogge, the City's NKAPC Representative, for being named Volunteer of the Month by the Northern Ky. Chamber of Commerce.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Fields, responding to Mayor Collett's commendation of the interview process and the high quality of candidates he witnessed, reported that Patrolman Robinson (one those being interviewed) was involved in an incident at 5/3<sup>RD</sup> on Dixie Highway last Friday. He was off duty but stepped in and gave chase and was responsible for apprehending the suspect.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Mr. Santangelo seconded and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

### **ATTESTED BY:**

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Sue Hill  
City Clerk

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Jim Collett  
Mayor

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ May 11, 2009 \_\_\_\_\_