



City of Powell, Ohio
City Council

MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2008

A regular meeting of the Powell City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Tom Counts. City Council members present included Richard Cline, Don Grubbs, Art Schultz and Dan Wiencek. Elmer Meider and Bill Morton were absent. Also present were Steve Lutz, City Manager; Shea Allmont, Community Affairs/Special Events Coordinator; Gene Hollins, Law Director; Susie Ross, City Clerk; and interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Mayor Counts opened the Citizen Participation session for items not listed on the agenda. Hearing none, he closed the Citizen Participation session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 5, 2008 were approved as submitted.

CONSENT AGENDA

| Item | Action Requested |
|---|--------------------------|
| Monthly Community Affairs/Special Events Report | <i>Receipt of Report</i> |
| Monthly Financial Report | <i>Receipt of Report</i> |
| Monthly Historic Downtown Powell, Inc. (HDPI) Report | <i>Receipt of Report</i> |
| Monthly Planning and Zoning Report | <i>Receipt of Report</i> |
| Monthly Police Report | <i>Receipt of Report</i> |

MOTION: Councilman Cline moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Councilman Grubbs seconded the motion. By unanimous consent, the Consent Agenda was adopted and the Monthly Reports were received.

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST

Sawmill Marathon Inc. dba Sawmill Marathon
Steve Lutz, City Manager, asked the City Clerk to review this item. Ms. Ross said the notice was received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control and an attempt was made to reach the applicant by telephone. She said written correspondence was mailed inviting the applicant to the meeting and explaining the process but there has been no response received. Mayor Counts asked if this is a new liquor license. Ms. Ross said this is a request for new C-1 and C-2 licenses. Councilman Wiencek said he believes City Council reviewed a request for this site recently when the Marathon station first went in. Mr. Lutz said he remembers that they looked at the distance from this site to the school. Councilman Grubbs asked if it is known how close this is to the school. Mr. Lutz said Council has until March 10, 2008 to respond to this notice so Staff can check into this request. Councilman Cline asked for a report from the Police Chief as well. Discussion on this request will take place at the next City Council meeting on March 5, 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee: Councilman Schultz said the Committee met earlier in the evening. He said they decided to work on the Downtown Development Plan in three phases. He said they plan to step through existing planning documents and use them as a baseline. He said then they will hold a meeting with Council members, Planning & Zoning members, the Downtown Committee, and interested parties. He said they will separately list impediments noted by the developers and they will then develop a list of what they think people want in the downtown. He said a series of meetings should help them develop criteria and then they can bounce that off of developers who have worked in the downtown. Mayor Counts said there are multiple things that could come out of this process: changes to zoning code, plan development, individual rezonings, capital improvements or finance policy. Councilman Schultz said the

Committee also talked about focus groups as a precursor to an overall Community Survey. He said they don't want to find that there was something that needed discussion that was not asked as a part of the community survey. Next Meeting: February 19, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee: Councilman Cline said the Committee met last Tuesday and they discussed ways to communicate the City's financial status and the financial issues to our residents. He said they hope to have at least a draft of the Committee's recommendations to Council by the middle of March. Mayor Counts said there is an education process which needs to occur well before decisions are made. Next Meeting: March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Operations Committee: Councilman Grubbs said the Committee has been meeting regarding the Community Survey. He said this week they started interviewing companies (3) which could perform the survey. He said the Committee should be able to make a recommendation soon and they hope to have a survey completed by July. Councilman Schultz said he feels a survey only answers certain types of questions and sometimes doesn't get deep enough for the type of communications or feedback needed. He said the Development Committee heard that focus groups are effective as they ensure the right questions are asked. Mayor Counts said one of the consultants interviewed related how one community had focus groups prior to the survey and the groups were not well attended. He said the sense was that people did not have time to attend a focus group. He said they may not want to use focus groups because it skews the questions asked. Councilman Schultz said the focus groups should not be used to form questions but to help identify interest. Councilman Wiencek said if focus groups are used the Council members should personally invite people to attend to ensure attendance. Discussion continued. Councilman Grubbs said the Committee will meet prior to the first meeting in March to discuss the Community Affairs position. Next Meeting: March 5, 6:30 p.m.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lutz said in the past Council has expressed their desire to have other groups take some of the City sponsored events. He said with Ms. Allmont leaving her position with the City, several groups have expressed interest in taking over events. He said the HDPI is interested in running the Powell Festival and from a staff standpoint this would be a tremendous benefit. Mr. Lutz said Anna Steck has been involved in the Powell Festival for years with Sertoma and has a successful track record of running events in Powell and other communities. He said the City would still be very involved in the Festival from the planning standpoint and through providing Police and Public Service assistance with the event. He said Staff will meet with HDPI in the upcoming weeks to make that transition. Councilman Schultz asked if the City would maintain control over the Festival. Mr. Lutz said the fact that the Festival is on City property gives the City ultimate control over the event. He said changes can be made if in some event it takes a direction which makes Staff or Council uncomfortable.

Mr. Lutz reminded City Council that the next Council meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 5th due to the primary election.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS


Mayor Counts said this is Ms. Allmont's last Council meeting and Friday is her last day with the City.

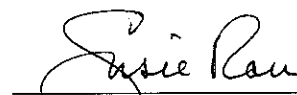
Councilman Wiencek reminded Council that the Ethics Commission forms are due by April 15th.

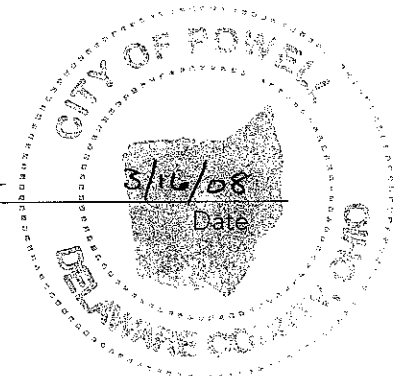
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

DATE MINUTES APPROVED:


Tom Counts
Mayor
3/16/08
Date


Susie Ross
City Clerk
3/16/08
Date



City Council

Tom Counts, Mayor

Richard Cline

Don Grubbs

Elmer Meider

Bill Morton

Art Schultz

Dan Wiencek