

January 28, 2008

CALLED MEETING 1

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a special called meeting on January 28, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Virginia R. Hillman, City Attorney Steve Cobb, City Clerk Angela Nicholson, Aldermen Vassar, Rankin, Fender, Davis, Sulcer, Henry, Brooks and Harmon.

Tim McMinn, pastor of Sylvan Hills Community Church, led in prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given to the flag.

Ordinance No. 1767, entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONDEMNATION OF THE PROPERTY AND STRUCTURES COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS NORTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES” was read. Mayor Hillman stated that it is her opinion that a large number of Sherwood citizens desire to vote on the purchase of the North Hills Country Club property. Mayor Hillman stated that negotiations need to be made with the owners to purchase the property rather than condemnation, and to allow the citizens to vote on this issue. She stated regardless of the outcome of the vote the City will move forward and work together for the best interest of the residents of Sherwood. Alderman Harmon stated that it was unfortunate that this has become such a divisive issue. He has spoken with citizens about the North Hills Country Club and a majority of the citizens have asked him to do anything he can to save the green space. Alderman Harmon stated the North Hills Country Club predates Sherwood. The City fathers came to Sherwood and built our City up around what was already here. When he attended the annexation meeting at Gravel Ridge, residents of Gravel Ridge asking him not to allow development on the North Hills Country Club property approached him. Alderman Harmon stated that we live in a representative democracy. The representatives are elected to make the hard decisions for the citizens. He went on to say that the Bill Harmon Recreation Center, Senior Citizen Center and the Sherwood Forest were all purchased and built without a vote of the citizens. He believes a vote of the people is not necessary in this issue. He referred to the bond issue of Ordinance No. 1060 from 1992. This issue was put on the ballot for a \$2 million bond issue that included the 2% tax that was associated with Advertising & Promotion. Because the tax was associated with the Advertising and Promotion tax the bond had to be put to a vote. This \$2 million bond issue financed the softball complex, and the vote was to determine the method of financing the softball complex, not for the purchase. Alderman Vassar stated normally a bond issue does not cover that low of an amount, but the council was required by law to have a vote because it involved the Advertising and Promotion tax. Alderman Harmon stated the other issue is on condemnation itself. When eminent domain is proclaimed the owners of the property go before a jury in court and the jury determines what the full fair market value of the property is. The owners receive the full fair market value for the property. A determination is made that the property is more valuable for the community as a whole, so it needs to be used for a public purpose. Alderman Sulcer stated that since she has property adjoining the North Hills Country Club property she is going to abstain from the vote. She stated that if she did not have property on it, she would not be able to vote for the condemnation. A motion was made by Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Rankin, to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes, Alderman Sulcer abstained. The ordinance was read for the second time. A motion was made by Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Henry, to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was 7 ayes, Alderman Sulcer abstained. The ordinance was read for the third time. A motion was made by Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Henry, to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was 7 ayes, Alderman Sulcer abstained. The emergency clause passed with 7 ayes, Alderman Sulcer abstained.

A motion was made by Alderman Vassar to adjourn.

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CALLED MEETING 2

ATTEST:

Angela Nicholson, City Clerk

Virginia R. Hillman, Mayor