

December 10, 2008

CALLED MEETING 1

The City Council of the City of Sherwood met for a called meeting on December 10, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Those present were Mayor Virginia R. Hillman, City Attorney Steve Cobb, City Clerk Angela Nicholson, Aldermen Vassar, Rankin, Davis, Sulcer, Brooks and Harmon. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent.

Ordinance No. 1803, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CITY BALL FIELDS MAINTAINED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" was read. Alderman Davis asked how long these repairs have needed to be done. Sonny Janssen, Director of Parks and Director, replied since 1989 or 1990. This ordinance is for the safety of the umpire, batter, and catcher, because they were facing the sun. The games would have to be delayed. When the tornado hit in April 2008, the parks committee thought it would be in the best interest to make the switch. Alderman Davis asked if \$250,000.00 would be what it would take to turn the ball field around. Mr. Janssen stated approximately, that the cost would be kept to a minimum. Mr. Janssen stated this is Phase I of the project. The blue prints show there will be grandstands built in the future and this would incur in other budget processes. The money will have to be appropriated one phase at a time. Alderman Brooks asked if there would be bleachers there at this time. Mr. Janssen stated there would be portable bleachers. Alderman Harmon informed the council that some of the work has already been done by the city, and the \$250,000 is what it is going to take from this point forward. If the city had hired a contractor for the work that has already been done by the city, the cost would have been substantially higher than the \$250,000.00. Mr. Janssen stated that where the backstop is and the out field fence it is 375', and you have drainage of approximately four and half to five feet across the entire field for the water to drain off. When you flip the field from one direction to another you have a 4' cut where you have to remove 4' of dirt from one end of the field to the other. The city has done this, except for one spot that can be taken care of and this has saved a tremendous amount of money. Alderman Harmon stated that the city employees have done everything they could do and it has reached a point where there is a need to hire a contractor. Mr. Janssen stated that it is to the point where the project is out of their expertise to get to the final grade to level it off. Alderman Sulcer stated that she understood that bids have already been received. Mr. Janssen stated that contractors were called and asked to give the city some prices of what it might cost to do the flip. The prices given were high. The contractors were asked if they could do the work for the city if a negotiable price could be reached. There is a contractor available now that said he would like to start next Friday because he wanted to beat the rain. Two other contractors that came out never showed back up. There will need to be ten to fifteen good working days. The sod can be placed on the field to be ready for when league play starts. Alderman Sulcer stated that when you start moving dirt it is very expensive. Mr. Janssen stated it would take approximately 119 truckloads of topsoil. The city is looking at making sure this is done correctly. Alderman Vassar stated that when the problem was discovered in 1989 there was some group discussion about what to do. The city was in a time crunch to get the job done and the plans back then were to fix it later. She questioned if the city was doing the best they could do so the high school could have their season on this field. Mr. Janssen stated that was correct. There are two high schools, Abundant Life and Sylvan Hills, which use the facility. The goal is, if the ordinance is approved, to get work started so the schools will be able to start their season there. Alderman Vassar asked if the weather gets bad would the field be covered. Mr. Janssen stated no, because once the topsoil is on and is leveled it will not wash away. The problem is if the topsoil that they put on there is wet or gets wet because they cannot take the trucks out there with the topsoil on it. Alderman Rankin stated this was one of the worst times of the year to do a project like this. Alderman Vassar asked if there would be more volunteer work. Mr. Janssen stated there would be more volunteer help, and particularly the optimist club raised several thousand dollars to help the city build the park back. The outfield fence, which is metal from corner to corner, \$20,000 has been raised by the optimist to go toward this project. A fence would have cost \$27,000.00. Volunteers are ready at this time to put the fence up. There are things being donated to the parks department to help cut costs. The scoreboard will possibly be donated. Alderman Vassar made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the

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second reading. Alderman Davis stated he had more questions for Mr. Janssen. Alderman Davis asked about the scoreboard, if it was covered under the insurance. Mr. Janssen stated this particular scoreboard, some had insurance and some did not have the needed coverage. This scoreboard was demolished, and the money was spent on the other scoreboards on top of the hill. He felt that if the field was flipped, the ball field could be made into a showcase and someone stepped up and stated they would like to donate the scoreboard to the city, so the insurance money was used for other things. Alderman Davis asked of the \$250,000 if Mr. Janssen planned on using it all. Mr. Janssen stated he could not confirm that, at this time. He feels that he could get close, but there may be some issues that cause price increases. Alderman Davis asked if all the other ball fields were in good shape. Mr. Janssen stated they were. The most expensive thing is already in place, the lights. Alderman Sulcer asked if the funds were available to do this project. She was advised the funds would be taken from the reserves. Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was 5 ayes. Alderman Davis no. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. The ordinance was read for the second time. Alderman Sulcer, seconded by Alderman Harmon made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was 5 ayes. Alderman Davis no. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. The ordinance was read for the third time. Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Sulcer made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was 5 ayes. Alderman Davis no. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. The emergency clause passed with a roll call vote of 5 ayes. Alderman Davis no. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. Steve Cobb, City Attorney, stated a 5-1 vote to adopt the ordinance. After a few minutes it was determined that it took six votes to suspend the rules to place the ordinance on the second and third reading and there were only five. Alderman Vassar stated that Alderman Davis could vote no on the last one and vote to suspend the rules. Steve Cobb stated to Alderman Davis that he could vote again to suspend the rules for the first two times to get it to the third reading then a no vote could be done on the last reading. His vote was needed to get the ordinance to the third reading. Alderman Vassar, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the second reading. The roll call vote was 6 ayes. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. The ordinance was read for the second time. Alderman Rankin, seconded by Alderman Sulcer, made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on the third and final reading. The roll call vote was 6 ayes. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. The ordinance was read for the third time. Alderman Sulcer, seconded by Alderman Rankin made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The roll call vote was 5 ayes. Alderman Davis no. Aldermen Fender and Henry absent. The emergency clause passed with 5 ayes. Alderman Davis no. Alderman Fender and Henry absent. The meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Angela Nicholson, City Clerk

Virginia R. Hillman, Mayor