

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012
5:30 P.M. CIVIC CENTER / CITY HALL**

OFFICER PRESENT: WILSON

COUNCIL PRESENT: HUSTON, PRIOR, KAALBERG, REES,
RODRIGUEZ

Meeting called to order by Mayor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Previous minutes, claims and liquor license renewal request from Casey's General Store.

Motion by Prior, second by Kaalberg to approve consent agenda. Huston – yes, Prior – yes, Kaalberg – yes, Rees – yes, Rodriguez – yes. Approved.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS – None

APPOINT OFFICIAL BANKS – Mayor Wilson recommends appointing the Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank of Columbus Junction as the City's official banks.

Motion to appoint Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank as official banks of the city by Kaalberg, second by Prior. Huston – yes, Prior – yes, Kaalberg – yes, Rees – yes, Rodriguez – yes. Approved.

APPOINT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER – Mayor Wilson recommends appointing the Columbus Gazette as the city's official newspaper.

Motion by Huston, second by Kaalberg to appoint the Columbus Gazette as official paper for the city. Huston – yes, Prior – yes, Kaalberg – yes, Rees – yes, Rodriguez – yes. Approved.

APPOINT MAYOR PRO-TEM – Mayor Wilson appointed Mark Huston to serve as Mayor Pro-tem. Motion by Kaalberg to approve appointment by Mayor, second by Rodriguez. Huston – yes, Prior – yes, Kaalberg – yes, Rees – yes, Rodriguez – yes. Approved.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – The following appointments were made by Mayor Wilson.

Council Committees

Utilities – Kaalberg – Huston
Streets & Sidewalks – Rodriguez – Kaalberg
Public Safety – Prior – Rees
Finance – Huston – Prior
Economic Development – Rees – Rodriguez

Board Representatives

Planning & Zoning – Kaalberg
Board of Adjustments – Huston
Library – Rees
Park & Recreation – Prior
Community Development – Rodriguez

PLANNING & ZONING RECOMMENDATION –Planning & Zoning met last week on a request by Nick Pugh to re-zone his property at 501 4th Street, formerly the State Sheds to allow him to get a car dealership license and car restoration with no plans for signage or car inventory on the site. Building has always been a commercial type use, but zoned residential. Planning & Zoning feel it falls under the Nonconforming Uses Code which allows these nonconformities to continue until the building would be removed.

Planning & Zoning recommends allowing the building to continue as a nonconforming use, therefore the property will not need to be rezoned as commercial and avoiding spot zoning in that area.

Motion by Kaalberg to approve Planning & Zoning recommendation to allow use of 501 4th Street as a nonconforming use which will allow Nick Pugh to obtain a car dealer license, second by Rees. Huston – yes, Prior – yes, Kaalberg – yes, Rees – yes, Rodriguez – yes.
Approved.

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY HERITAGE CENTER REQUEST – Lisa Hills Chairman of the Heritage Center informed the council that her group have two projects they are working on; one is to replace the furnace / air conditioner units, the other to replace display units in the building. Building is owned by the city.

They have received \$1,700.00 from Riverside Casino and another \$1,250.00 toward the shelving project. They will receive \$3,500.00 from Community Foundation towards the furnace / air conditioner. An estimate from Bob Reid of \$10,905.44 to replace the unit will leave them \$7405.44 short to complete the project.

After council discussion Huston made the motion to go ahead and replace current furnace / air conditioner units based on bid from Bob

Reid and the City will cover what grant money does not, second by Prior. Huston – yes, Prior – yes, Kaalberg – yes, Rees – yes, Rodriguez – yes. Approved.

GOAL SETTING - Goals for the year were discussed at length by the Council. Some of these being, to continue working to complete new water plant and levee projects, addressing rental and zoning issues with the completion of updating city’s Comprehensive Plan, more sidewalk replacement, complete REAP Park improvement project along with REAP Monkey Run project.

Chief Orr would like the City to work on getting more Tornado / Emergency sirens in place, currently there is only one that works and it is placed at the School. He feels there is a need for one to be in the downtown area and one for the West Hill area.

Mallory Smith, Director of the Community Development Center, received a letter awarding the city \$87,500.00 for Safe Routes to School Grant. This Federal Grant is to fund construction of a sidewalk from Colton Street to Roundy Elementary. Mallory also reported on grants her office applied for and received from Community Foundation, these include; \$2,000.00 for Keep Columbus Beautiful projects, \$1,000.00 to fund marketing projects from her office, \$3,000.00 for Farmer’s Market Performing Arts Series and \$500.00 for her to attend the annual National Conference for Keep America Beautiful.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Invited the council to attend a workshop on January 17th at 5:00 p.m. in the Civic Center to discuss the Single Family New Construction Program, Dan Eberhardt of SEIRPC will be the presenter.

Mayor Wilson received a letter from the Corp. of Engineers requesting an Archeology study for the levee project, Matt Walker of French Renker will contact the firm that did the study for the Water Plant project to complete this. French Reneker will be here on January 25th to meet with City personnel on Water Plant and Levee projects. A report will then be given at the meeting that night.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor.

Mayor

Attest: City Clerk