

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH CANTON PUBLIC HEARING Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held Monday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. 20 07

## CALL TO ORDER:

The public hearing was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President of Council Doug Foltz.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Council of the City of North Canton on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at North Canton City Hall.

The hearing is with regard to applications to the Environmental Protection Agency for Two (2) Brownfields Assessment Grants for the purpose of funding community-wide assessments, one for Hazardous Substances Assessment and one for Petroleum Assessment.

If awarded, the grants would provide funding for the City of North Canton to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup and redevelopment planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.

Copies of the applications are available for review in the Administrative and Council Offices at North Canton City Hall, 145 North Main Street, North Canton, Ohio 44720.

Mr. Foltz: This hearing is in regards to applications to the Environmental Protection Agency for two Brownfield Assessment Grants, the purpose of funding community wide assessments, one for hazardous substances assessment and one for petroleum assessment. With that we'll call roll.

The following members of Council were present for the public hearing: Snyder, Hines, Repace (leaves halfway through to answer a phone call – does not return), Magel, Foltz. Also present were: Mayor Held, Director of Law McFarren, Financial Director Herr and Director Economic Development Bowles. Director of Administration Wise was not in attendance for the public hearing.

Mr. Foltz: With that I'll excuse Member Lane, he will not be able to attend until 7, and Member DeOrto had to go back home and retrieve something for the committee later. So, with that, we'll turn things over to Eric Bowles, our Community and Economic Director. Eric.

Mr. Bowles: Thank you so much. Good evening, good evening to all the Council members and everybody in attendance. I want to thank you for coming tonight. This is a public hearing, this public hearing is not required...by the US EPA for this – for this project unless it's funded. However, we wanted to be proactive and get – hear some – get some community input on these applications. As you know...Council, unanimously authorized the Mayor to submit two applications to the US EPA, one for Petroleum Substance Brownfield Assessment Program Grant and one for Hazardous Substance Brownfield Assessment Program Grant. Both applications were in the amount of \$200,000, and they're both a community-wide and not...site specific. With us here tonight, we have Tom Minnery from Burgess and Niple, and if there's any technical questions as part of the public hearing that I can't answer and there could be quite a few, if you get into details, Tom has the expertise to answer what I can't. Purpose of this public hearing is to get input...from interested residents...Council members, Mayor, everybody that's here, I'd like to give any comment or input on this...on these applications. Once again, the applications...were for...getting grants for assessment funds so that we can identify, or potentially identify sites in the City that may have...petroleum contamination or hazardous material...contamination. Right now, this will let the public meeting go on, if there's anybody here that would like to speak in favor or give their comments about the applications, we'll take public comment at this point in time.

Ms. Dunlap: Good evening everyone.

Mr. Foltz: Good evening.

Ms. Dunlap: I'm Cathy Dunlap, President of the North Canton Chamber of Commerce, and I would like to speak in support of these grants. I think that we all need to be responsible for our properties here in North Canton and...there are a couple properties...especially the one up north of Kmart and – and the car dealership that's closed and maybe perhaps some of our...gas stations and there are properties that need to be checked, and I – I think that the owners of these properties...would, it would behoove them to also want those to be checked before they develop or before they sell. And, like any other community, we need to be responsible for making sure that we don't have toxic wastes or petroleum underneath our ground and so I'm just, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, expressing our support for this, and I hope...it would be well spent money if these grants come through, so...we're here to support that in any way we can to help those grants come through. Thank you.

Mr. Foltz: Okay, appreciate your comments. Anyone else like to speak?

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Mr. Schilstra: Ken Schilstra. I live at 601 Linwood. I'm also here to speak in support for this. It's something that's, I think, quite important for everything to be done. Has some very laudable goals in here, looking at things like dealing with our green space, maintaining it, compact, smart development, where we deal with keeping surface areas available for water absorption and you know, all the – the trees and all the atmospheric benefits of that...it addresses the issue of flooding, which is going to be a down side unless we address it for the – for the community, and who would want to come here if we have these issues that are problems and we haven't begun to even address them. But as laudable as these goals are, and targets the problem is that it requires discipline, and it requires a good deal of discipline to do this. That means, you know, our zoning people, our building people, have to stay in line and not have deals cut that, you know, take the legs out from underneath something that's you know, great value for both the community as well as the businesses that would want to relocate here. That's – that's my biggest concern about this, and the only other comment I have is, information be collected by drive-by site visits, might want to have to visit the sites actually, instead of just drive-bys, because actually looking at some of the property, and then you know, you're going to research the records and so forth, in respect to infrastructure and buildings...but, it just seems like a – a physical onsite inspection for those that are probably considered to be of questionable concerns would be worthwhile. Other than that, I – I fully support the proposal, green space, retention of like, the mentioned Kmart, retention of the wetland out front which is a way to reduce our issues that we have to deal with phase 2 with EPA with releases for storm water and so forth, so it's a win – win situation for a whole lot of people. Thank you.

Mr. Foltz: Okay, thank you for your comments.

Mr. Smith: Good evening. My name's Randy Smith and I sit on the North Canton Chamber's Economic Development Task Force, one of the members there. I just wanted to speak real briefly to the fact that this is a real good opportunity for the City of North Canton to help...assess any environmental issues with our properties. The neat thing about this is that if there is any damaged property or tainted property, by doing these assessments right now...obviously we're able to identify the...the problem, but also come up with a remediation or a solution. So we think this is an excellent way of – of getting the ball rolling on that, helping us to determine if we have clean properties, obviously we hope we do. But this we think is a great initiative, it's something that it's worthy of support, so thank you.

Mr. Foltz: Okay, thank you sir. Anyone else like to publicly speak tonight?

Mr. Nau: Hello. My name is Bob Nau, I'm the Director of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission and I would just express support for the grant proposal. I believe this proactive approach by the City...will certainly put you in position to move quickly as opportunities arise. Also from a planning standpoint, this – the grant proposal is consistent with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission's 20-30 Plan, which...quotes...to put to economic use buildings and lands that may currently contain environmental hazards and also...it says to explore and make application for clean up from state and federal sources. So clearly being good stewards of our environment...with economic development in mind is certainly a – a proactive approach and we would you know, support the proposal.

Mr. Foltz: Okay, thank you for your comments. Anyone else here would like to publicly speak on this issue? Okay, Eric.

Mr. Bowles: One – one quick comment, in addition to the Stark Parks support letter, which everybody was provided with, and we have some other comments. We also have an official support letter...from Robert Nau from Regional Planning Commission, so in addition, and we'll be sending those on to the US EPA...as well. Are there any other questions regarding the application?

Mr. Snyder: Mr. Bowles, did – did – my understanding, we've already submitted our grant request, have we not?

Mr. Bowles: Right, yes.

Mr. Snyder: To meet that deadline?

Mr. Bowles: Yep.

Mr. Snyder: And...

Mr. Bowles: We received our...

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Mr. Snyder: and this hearing is subsequent to that. It wasn't necessary unless we receive the grant, that's as you stated...inaudible...

Mr. Bowles: Right, if - if we do receive funding then we will have...

Mr. Snyder: Have another meeting, is that what you intend?

Mr. Bowles: We'll have - we'll have another public hearing then following that, there will be regularly scheduled public meetings, either at council committee meetings, at council meetings, or special meetings, make sure...everybody, all the residents, are informed.

Mr. Snyder: And at the present time, the...land in question here, in question, is actually contaminated to the point where it could not change ownership and be of...

Mr. Bowles: We don't - we don't know that.

Mr. Snyder: oh, we don't know that. We only assume that.

Mr. Bowles: Right. We - basically at this point in time, no sites have been identified 'cause it's in a community-wide basis. But part of the reason for this public hearing and other public hearings, if we do get funded, is to be able to identify those sites and take suggestions from the public and at that point in time we would, before could move forward, we would have to have participating property owners as well.

Mr. Snyder: Well I - I have to say we're bullied by the fact of your office moving towards some way that we will be able to attain some land that possibly could be used in the future for some type of economic development and as I sit on that committee with Mr. Repace and Member Lane, we do appreciate that very much. Thank you.

Mr. Bowles: Thank you so much, I - I think there were a couple of good suggestions here for other sites and certainly if Council has any...suggestions or recommendations...after this meeting, please feel free to get those, 'cause as I said, we're looking for citizen...participation.

Mr. Snyder: Well, I appreciate that. Thank you Mr. President, that's all.

Mr. Foltz: Okay, thank you.

Mrs. Magel: No, I just have a comment, Eric...I would like...to thank you for all your hard work. It appears...comments here are unanimous, from Stark Parks, Regional Planning, Chamber of Economic Development, citizens...Chamber of Commerce, Burgess and Niple, the Council, and...with this unanimous support it's very important for us, and I know you put a lot of hard work into it and thank you. For presenting this to us.

Mr. Bowles: Well, thank you so much, we appreciate that, but at - once again, you know, we're - we're looking for your ideas, so, support, we appreciate very much, but it's good to get ideas on the record, so later on, if we are funded, we can - we can take a look at some of these sites and approach the property owners.

Mr. Foltz: Thank you. I guess that was it, and I'll just make a comment that I appreciate you filling out the grant very thoroughly and we have to access something before we can begin to, I guess, intelligently develop it and through that development process, as Member Magel indicated we got cooperative partners here, I think it's very important that you have partners to do anything in the area. I mean, that's going to hopefully bode for a more successful grant opportunity for the residents of North Canton. When you say the Chamber of Commerce, Stark Development Board, the Jaycees, Stark Parks, the Rotary, people that spoke here tonight, very influential in the...community. I like our chances here and I'd also like to see that we're going to do something with a piece of property and immediate neighborhood that can be a win for the neighbors and for economic and commercial development. I think that's very important 'cause if we don't do these type of things, you know, that land might just stay stagnant and...we're looking at it for another 5 or 10 years. So I think we're being very proactive here and I think that's very important, so, you're right, Eric. We need to get more community...involvement from the residents and people that live in the - in the City that's going to be affected with, you know, where this criteria is going to be looked at, so, appreciate your - your effort on this, so.

Mr. Bowles: One comment is, I did speak with the President of the Rotary and President of the Jaycees, they were going to attempt to be here tonight, but...once again, they - they have expressed their support. We - we don't have support letters but, I believe that they're in the process, of putting those together and also the EPA has contacted the Jaycees, we understand...from our application...to get their - their input.

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Mr. Foltz: Okay. Any other comments from anybody here in the audience or Administration or Council?

Mr. Lane: Good job Eric.

Mr. Foltz: I guess that'll end the public speaks part of the meeting, so...

Mr. Bowles: Did everyone get a chance to sign this sign in sheet? Anybody who didn't sign the sign in sheet?

Mr. Snyder: We put your name on twice.

Mr. Bowles: Alright. That might hurt us. Thank you very much.

Mayor Held: Alright, thanks Eric.

Mr. Foltz: I guess we'll...entertain a motion to...end the public speaks meeting.

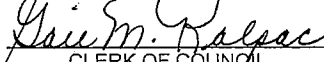
Mr. Snyder moved and Mrs. Hines **seconded to adjourn the meeting**. All members present voting.

Yes: Snyder, DeOrio, Hines, Magel, Foltz.

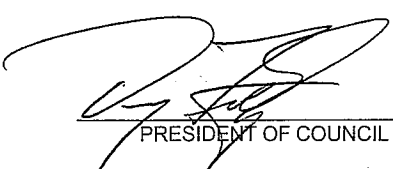
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The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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