

# FINDLAY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

October 1, 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**PRESENT:** Monday, Murray, Nichols, Russel, Schedel, Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward

**ABSENT:** none

President J Slough opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

## MINUTES:

Councilwoman Spence moved to accept the September 17, 2013 Regular Session City Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilman VanDyne. All were in favor. Motion carried. Filed.

## ADD-ON/REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL FROM THE AGENDA:

Councilman Ward made a motion to remove and add the following to tonight's agenda. Councilwoman Spence and Councilman Nichols seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## REMOVALS:

- Sarah Totedo and Genna Newman – city logo designs to be voted on by City Council (*ORAL COMMUNICATIONS* section).

## ADD-ONS:

- Letter from Fire Chief Tom Lonyo – Ordinance No. 2013-045 adopted on 8/6/13 (*REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS* section).

**PROCLAMATIONS** – none.

## RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS:

**RESOLUTION NO. 040-2013** (*Hancock County Special Olympics volleyball & softball teams*) **First reading** **Adopted**  
A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HANCOCK COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS BUCKEYES VOLLEYBALL TEAM IN CAPTURING THE BRONZE MEDAL AT THE JUNE 2013 STATE SUMMER GAMES, AND THE HANCOCK COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRADITIONAL SOFTBALL TEAM FOR PLACING THIRD AT THE SEPTEMBER 2013 STATE SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT.

Councilwoman Spence moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Ward. Ayes: Monday, Murray, Nichols, Russel, Schedel, Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIII, and is hereby made a part of the record.

### Discussion:

A couple of months ago, Mayor Mihalik ran with our local law enforcement personnel in the Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run at the State Highway Patrol barracks all the way down and through Findlay, ending at Kroger, but not before they stopped and picked up the athletes in mile 6 over by the Hancock County Fairgrounds and then going over to the Blanchard Valley Center to celebrate their pending achievements. She congratulated everyone on their hard work and dedication in representing Findlay and Hancock County.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** – none.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

**PETITIONS** – none.

## REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

Traffic Commission minutes – September 16, 2013. Filed.

Findlay City Board of Health minutes – August 21, 2013. Filed.

### Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – Deidre Ramthun work in Engineering and also Civil Service

Deidre Ramthun has agreed to work in the Engineering Department as well as serve as the Civil Service Commission Administrator. Since the Engineering Department will be reimbursing Civil Service Commission for her hours, a resolution of transfer is needed.

FROM: Engineering Department #21021000-personal services	\$ 15,000.00
TO: Engineering Department #21021000-other	\$15,000.00

Resolution No. 041-2013 was created.

### Discussion:

Councilman Slough asked if two (2) positions would need filled if Ms. Ramthun would decide to leave the position. Mayor Mihalik replied that the Civil Service Commission Administrator position is a part-time position and has been for a few years. There is a need for additional administrative work in the Engineering Department. Having Ms. Ramthun perform some of these duties in the Engineering Department has been discussed with both the Civil Service Commission and also with Ms. Ramthun where it was decided that this is something she can take on. In departments where there is just one (1) employee, when that employee is sick or off work, the work waits until they return. That is the same situation here, and we are trying to make the most of the personnel we have and the skill sets we have. We feel this is the right and proper path to pursue.

Councilman Ward feels this is using the City's personnel wisely as he is certain the City is looking in other places where cross-training can be done when there is low volume in other departments. Filed.

**Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – 2013 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project No. 35630300**

By authorization of Ordinance No. 2013-022, bids were opened for the above-referenced project on September 19, 2013. Bids were received from three (3) potential contractors and are now ready to proceed with construction of the project. As budgeted in the 2013 Capital Improvements Plan, an appropriation from the Sewer Fund is needed. Legislation to appropriate funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2013-069 was created.

FROM:	Sewer Fund	\$ 230,000.00
TO:	2013 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project #35630300	\$ 230,000.00

Filed.

**Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – West Main Cross Street mid-block pedestrian crossing project #32833400**

The Traffic Commission has been discussing the mid-block crossing on West Main Cross Street. One proposed project consists of installing pedestrian crossing signals and sidewalk enhancements for handicap accessibility. This project would greatly enhance the ability of pedestrians to cross the street in a safer manner at the western most crossing location at Broadway and West Main Cross Street. An appropriation of funds is requested. Referred to the Appropriations Committee.

FROM:	Capital Improvements – CIT	\$ 20,000.00
TO:	West Main Cross Street Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing #32833400	\$ 20,000.00

Discussion:

Councilwoman Spence feels this is a great project. That intersection has been a safety concern for a long time.

Councilman Murray asked if there were any discussions to enhance it or just close it. This is very close to Main Street where trucks turning west onto Main Cross Street do not have a lot of time to react to someone in the crosswalk. Councilman Monday replied that it was discussed to enhance it to make it safer and to eliminate one of the crosswalks as there are two (2) crosswalks about forty feet (40') away from each other. It was decided to renovate one of them. This came about due to several requests for it. One came from the hospital and one from the university where they asked for some mid-block crossings. There were studies done on it and guidelines for a mid-block crosswalk were established. While it is not actually a mid-block because there are access streets, it was still discussed. There are now some guidelines. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic from Main Street to Cory Street which is why it was decided that if pedestrians are going to use the crosswalk at the West Main Cross Street area, then it needs to be as safe as possible. Councilman Murray then asked what the enhancements will be. Councilman Monday replied there will be improved painted markings and a flashing signal.

Councilman Slough noted that on Main Street in Dublin, Ohio, they have a mid-block that is activated by the individual(s) crossing. They have blinking lights which makes it obvious that there is/are pedestrian(s) crossing. Their system is impressive. Filed.

**Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – Community Park Improvement Program Grant**

The City of Findlay Public Works Department applied for the annual Community Park Improvement Program Grant through the Hancock Park District. They have requested \$4,500.00 to replace roofs of shelter houses in Riverside Park. The Public Works Department will be performing all the labor on the project. One of the requirements of the grant is to obtain project approval during a public meeting from its governing body, therefore, I am requesting that Council approve the project to be funded by the grant funds. Council's verbal approval is needed.

Councilman Murray moved to support this project to be funded by aforementioned grant funds, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor.

Discussion:

Councilman Monday asked how many shelter houses will get new roofs from this. Mayor Mihalik replied two (2) shelter houses. Filed.

**Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – reimbursement for repair of police cruiser**

The City has received payment for the repair of a police cruiser from an accident from the other motorist's insurance company in the amount of \$13,343.21. It has been deposited in the General Fund. Ordinance No. 2013-069 was created.

FROM:	General Fund	\$ 13,343.21
TO:	Police Department #21012000-other	\$ 13,343.21

Discussion:

Councilman Russe! asked how old the cruiser is and if a new cruiser should be purchased versus spending this amount on repairs. Mayor Mihalik replied that it was one of the Police Department's newer cruisers. Law Director Rasmussen added that insurance companies determine the cost to repair the cruisers. It was difficult to see what damage was done to the cruiser from the photographs, but could he tell that the front was affected. Filed.

**Service-Safety Director Paul Schmelzer – 2013-2014 insurance audit**

In an effort to better monitor the City's property/casualty/liability insurance policy each year, the insurance audit will be conducted in October of the renewal year rather than February of the following year as it has been done in the past. The insurance policy renews near the end of July each year. The insurance audit is budgeted in the Self Insurance Fund. The insurance audit for 2012-2013 insurance policy was completed in February 2013. The City would like to have the insurance audit for 2013-2014 insurance policy conducted in October 2013, therefore additional funds are needed to cover this cost. An appropriation of funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2013-069 was created.

FROM:	Self Insurance Fund	\$ 8,000.00
TO:	Self Insurance #26066000-other	\$ 8,000.00

Discussion:

Councilman Ward asked if this will be done in October of every year. Mayor Mihalik replied that is correct. Filed.

## Hancock Regional Planning Commission Director Matt Cordonnier – amendment to Findlay Zoning Code

HRPC is submitting several changes to the City of Findlay Zoning Code. There are a total of five (5) proposed changes to the code. Below is a list of the changes and the reasoning for each.

### 1. Downtown Parking Buffer

### 2. R-3 Setback Changes

The R-3 residential zoning classification is designed to accommodate the smallest residential lots in the City. Very often the R-3 zoned lots are very small and the current setbacks cause significant barriers and limit the property owners' options.

The first proposed change is to modify the rear setback from a static thirty feet (30') to a variable standard. The proposal reads, "Rear Yard Setback: fifteen percent (15%) of the lot depth or thirty feet (30') whichever is less". This standard was used in the old code and after some practical usage in the field it has been determined that the flexibility that it allows is better than a static thirty foot (30') setback.

The second proposed change is to the front setback requirement. Currently, the front yard setback allows for a variable distance depending on the setback of the neighboring houses. This works very well, but they are proposing to add a statement that limits the variable setback to a minimum of five feet (5') to provide at least a minimal standard of setback.

The final proposed change to the R-3 setbacks is to state that "Overhangs may not encroach into any setback by more than two feet (2')". Todd Richard deals with this question very often and the code does not address it. The allowance of a two foot (2') overhang is one foot less than the smallest setback ensuring that overhangs do not encroach into a neighboring property.

### 3. Non-Conforming Replacement

This is a proposed addition to the non-conforming section of the zoning code. It allows for the replacement of porches, attached garages, and other portions of a non-conforming structure provided that the replacement is the same or smaller in size.

### 4. C-1 Residential

Sometime in 2005 or 2006, residential uses were removed from commercial zoning districts. Currently, the code allows residential in the O-1 (Offices Institution) which is intended. The proposed change is in the C-1 district which allows all uses from the O-1 district (pyramidal structure). The proposed change is to add the phrase, "except residential uses" to the list of permitted uses in the C-2 district.

### 5. Electronic Message Center

Electric Message Centers are allowed to make twenty-five percent (25%) of a sign. The current wording of the code is somewhat vague. The proposed new wording will make it clear that the message center may only be twenty-five percent (25%) of the actual sign that is constructed, not twenty-five percent (25%) of the theoretical maximum sign allowed.

### 6. Accessory Building Allowances

The first change to accessory buildings in residential areas is to increase the allowable square footage of accessory structures from eight hundred to nine hundred square feet (800-900 sq ft).

The second change is to exclude detached garages from the permitted accessory use calculation of nine hundred square feet (900 sq ft). The change is an attempted to create a level playing field for those houses with a detached garage versus those with an attached garage. Essentially the code as written today allows less accessory building square footage to those houses with detached garages. Filed.

## Fire Chief Tom Lonyo – Ordinance No. 2013-045

During the August 6, 2013 Findlay City Council meeting, Ordinance No. 2013-045 was adopted which authorized the transfer of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00) from the CIT Fund to the Fire Department #21014000-other so that additional repairs could be made to Engine 2. The Fire Department Mechanic discovered that several of our trucks needed additional repairs through his regular inspection of the fleet in February. These repairs were not included in the original 2013 operating budget. This list of repairs was forwarded to Director Schmelzer and a request for additional funds was sought to complete as many repairs as possible this year. Between the time my original list of repairs had submitted to the Safety-Service Director and the time the money was appropriated, the Fire Department had already begun some of the repairs to Engine 2. Chief Lonyo is now requesting that the \$9,000.00 appropriated in Ordinance No. 2013-045 now be used on the following repairs:

Ladder 1 replacement tires \$4,267.84 and Engine 3 replacement tires \$4,875.60

The total sum of these two repairs will total \$9,143.44 which is in excess of the original appropriation, however, the Fire Department will transfer the additional \$143.44 to cover the cost difference. It is important that these tires are purchased prior to the start of winter. The remaining repairs to Engine 2 and other FFD vehicles will be included in the 2014 budget. Filed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Jeanne Wasbro (Wasbro Rental Property, LLC) to rezone 124 and 124 ½ Center Street in the North Findlay Addition from R3 Single Family High Density to M2 Multiple Family High Density. *We recommend approval of the rezone. Ordinance No. 2013-067 was created.*

Councilman Ward moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman VanDyne seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Wendy McCormick to rezone 1806, 1810, 1822, and 1849 Payne Avenue in the Thorpe and Andrews (West Park) Addition from R2 Single Family Medium Density to R3 Single Family. *We recommend approval of the rezone. Ordinance No. 2013-068 was created.*

Councilman Nichols moved to adopt the committee report. Councilwoman Spence seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to discuss amendments to the Findlay Zoning Code. *We recommend approval of items 2-6 with the following adjustments:*

- *Electronic Message Center – 1161.12.13-B. Electronic Message Centers shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total sign area as approved and constructed.*
- *Accessory Building Allowances – page 138.2.A. Any detached garage up to 576 square feet shall not count against the total allowable accessory building area. Any detached garage greater than 576 square feet will have that area in excess of 576 square feet decreased from the maximum allowable accessory building area.*

Councilman Murray moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman VanDyne seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to discuss Community Reinvestment Areas #1 and #2. *We recommend approval of the presented plan and that the plan be referred to City Council at the next Council meeting for approval.*

Councilwoman Spence moved to adopt the committee report. Councilman Murray seconded the motion. All were in favor. Filed

## LEGISLATION:

### RESOLUTIONS

#### RESOLUTION NO. 040-2013

See page 1.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 041-2013

First reading

Adopted

A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilwoman Spence moved to suspend the Statutory Rules and give the Resolution its second and third readings. Councilman VanDyne seconded the motion. Ayes: Murray, Nichols, Russel, Schedel, Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward, Monday. The Resolution received its second and third readings. Councilwoman Spence moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Ward. Ayes: Nichols, Russel, Schedel, Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward, Monday, Murray. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIII, and is hereby made a part of the record.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 042-2013 (no PO)

First reading

Adopted

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE AUDITORS OFFICE ON THE ATTACHED LIST OF VOUCHERS WHICH EITHER EXCEED THE PURCHASE ORDER OR WERE INCURRED WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING THE STATUTORY LIMIT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3000.00) ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.41(D).

Councilman Ward moved to adopt the Resolution. Councilman Slough seconded the motion.

#### Discussion:

Councilman Monday has often complained about making purchases without a purchase order. He asked if this bill was paid prior to a purchase order being in place. Law Director Rasmussen replied that the money that was in place on the purchase order for this claim had already been expended. Councilman Monday then asked if the Auditor's Office could have waited to pay this bill until a purchase order had been obtained. Law Director Rasmussen replied that they probably could have, but there are two (2) more months of outstanding bills with this group. He has asked them for their final bill so that he can ask Council for funds to pay them.

Auditor Staschiak added that the Auditor's Office has not paid the bill. The costs have been incurred. It will be paid once this Resolution is approved. This bill cannot be paid without Council's authorization.

Councilman Russel asked if Johnson and Associates represent the City for labor matters. Law Director Rasmussen replied they do in quite a few matters (i.e. Police arbitration, discipline, and contracts).

Ayes: Russel, Schedel, Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward, Monday, Murray, Nichols. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIII, and is hereby made a part of the record.

### ORDINANCES

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2013-063 (I-75 widening project – transfer land to ODOT)

Second reading

Adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE DEEDS TRANSFERRING 1.527 ACRES OF LAND TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR THE FINDLAY I-75 CORRIDOR WIDENING PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Nichols moved to suspend the Statutory Rules and give the Ordinance its third reading. Councilman Monday seconded the motion. Ayes: Schedel, Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward, Monday, Murray, Nichols, Russel. The Ordinance received its third reading. Councilman Nichols moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Slough, Spence, VanDyne, Ward, Monday, Murray, Nichols, Russel, Schedel. Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume VV, Page 2013-063 and is hereby made a part of the record.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2013-067 (124 & 124 ½ Center Street)

First reading

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1100 ET SEQ OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING CODE BY REZONING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY (REFERRED TO AS CENTER STREET REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "R3 SINGLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY" TO "M2 MULTIPLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-068** (1806, 1810, 1822, and 1849 Payne Avenue)

**First reading**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1100 ET SEQ OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING CODE BY REZONING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY (REFERRED TO AS PAYNE AVENUE REZONE) WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS ZONED "R2 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY" TO "R3 SINGLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY."

First reading of the Ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-069**

**First reading**

**Adopted**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Ward moved to suspend the Statutory Rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings. Councilman VanDyne seconded the motion. Ayes: Spence, VanDyne, Ward, Monday, Murray, Nichols, Russel, Schedel, Slough. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Ward moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman VanDyne. Ayes: VanDyne, Ward, Monday, Murray, Nichols, Russel, Schedel, Slough, Spence. Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume VV, Page 2013-069 and is hereby made a part of the record.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Old Business:**

Councilman Russel mentioned that during a previous City Council meeting, a citizen asked about making South West Street a 2-way street. They also discussed the Donnell neighborhood. Principal Williams and Councilman Russel walked around that neighborhood last Wednesday to gather some feedback from citizens in that area, which is the same day that Donnell Middle School received some graffiti. The feedback from the neighborhood is that they are happy with the new school and are excited with the energy of the neighborhood. There are some concerns about the parking on Lime Street that unfortunately City Council cannot resolve. The neighborhood would rather have the games and parking issues than not have the games. He thanked Principal Williams for walking around the neighborhood with him. Just about everyone they talked to commented how great the students are, especially how they respect the properties. There is very little trash around. There were talks about having a community neighborhood meeting, but as a result of this walk around the neighborhood, there really is no reason for one. Most likely, this Friday there will be additional parking issues at the Donnell School when Findlay High School celebrates their homecoming. He invited everyone to join him at the 50 yard to cheer on the Trojans.

Councilman Schedel thanked the Law Director for providing Bowling Green, Ohio's ordinance on roaming cats. After reading it, he does not feel that Findlay City Council can do anything to help the individual who complained via Oral Communications during the last City Council meeting.

Councilman Murray asked if items 2-6 on the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE report to amend the Findlay Zoning Code will be on future legislation. Law Director Rasmussen replied that he is waiting on approval from the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE for those items before he creates legislation possibly for the next City Council meeting. It will be the same for the CRAs. He wants to make sure before he spends the time and effort to come up with a legal description that does not include the entire city, if that is what PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE wants to do. If he gets the approval from the Hancock Regional Planning Commission's office and from the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE relatively soon, legislation can be ready for the next City Council meeting. If not soon, legislation will most likely be ready for the first meeting in November. Councilman Murray added that the downtown buffers may take a little longer to prepare between now and the next City Council meeting. It will need to go through the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE one more time. He hopes to discuss it during the October 22, 2013 PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE meeting. If that happens, legislation could be available for the first City Council meeting in November. Law Director Rasmussen replied that legislation to amend the code will be on what changes have been given so far. He will then amend that legislation for the other changes as they will not be included, but will be an addition.

Councilman Murray would like the letter from HRPC Matt Cordonnier regarding the CRA expansion to be read during City Council versus it being an FYI so that it is recorded as Matt giving it to Council. CRAs have been reviewed by the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE numerous times in which Matt was asked to give the best case scenario of what the CRA expansion should be. He has provided that, and being that it has been a lot of work to write it, Councilman Murray is asking the Law Director for his final comments. Instead of having another committee meeting, he would like to have it on the next City Council meeting agenda to review it and have Council give authorization to proceed. Law Director Rasmussen replied that he assumed Council would want his to prepare the legislation base on the fact that they approved the committee report. Councilman Murray would like to have Council give it one more look before legal descriptions are wrote. He asked if Matt's letter is considered the last look and that it be available for the next City Council meeting for Council to decide if it is ready for legislation. He would like to have someone that is not on the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE look at it and give their recommendations. Law Director Rasmussen replied that the issue is not about him writing the legislation, but the time that will be spent doing the legal description that will be posted into the legislation. The rest was already prepared earlier this year. He asked for clarification if Council wants legislation. Councilman Murray replied that conversations this week have been on why legislation was not ready tonight. Matt Cordonnier from the audience replied that the main issue is that the legal description usually takes Judy Scrimshaw, in his department, about three to four (3-4) working days to complete. He is hoping to get feedback, if Council is in favor of the most recent map that has been presented, before they go through the effort of doing the legal description. Councilman Murray asked that since Council has not seen this yet in their packet, if it is appropriate to let Council have the next two (2) weeks to review it and then come back and give a verbal vote if they want to have legislation written. He asked if verbal authorization to create legislation should be given after it has been reviewed again. He does not want to waste HRPC's time and efforts if Council is not going to authorize legislation. Councilman Nichols asked what the recommendation from the committee was. Councilman Murray replied it was approved. Councilman Nichols then replied that the recommendations from that meeting should be the authorization to proceed. Councilman Murray replied that because of the work involved, he does not want to create legislation and then have changes. If Council feels it is ready for legislation, than legislation can be available for the next City Council meeting. HRPC will prepare the legal description and Matt Cordonnier will work with the Law Director to get the legislation ready. Councilman Schedel feels CRAs should include the entire city. Councilman Slough noted that CRAs have been worked on for about the last ten (10) months. What is before City Council tonight encourages investments in industrial, commercial, and downtown areas in our community that are in older neighborhoods. The homes that have been built in the last five to ten (5-10) years in the eastern section of the city will not benefit from CRAs. He would like to proceed with what is presented tonight.

Councilwoman Spence noted that the distribution of trees for the Adopt-A-Tree Program is this Saturday at the Elks parking lot at 8:30am. Many applications were turned in. The Shade Tree Commission would like to extend their invitation to Council and the Administration to come out and volunteer that morning.

Councilwoman Spence noted that due to the success of the Mound Park Arbor Day celebration last year of the planting of several trees for a neighborhood program, the Community Foundation is now going to allow a two thousand five hundred dollar (\$2,500.00) annual grant for similar plantings in other neighborhoods in the community. Guidelines will be created for this program for next spring.

Councilman Slough asked who is working on the buffer parking for the City. Matt Cordonnier from the audience replied that he will be working with Councilman Murray on the C3 parking screening. They are going to look at what other communities are doing. Columbus has an ordinance that is somewhat similar to Findlay's situation. Their ordinance is much more demanding, but has the same intent that we have (i.e. requiring masonry walls in certain areas of downtown Columbus). He plans to continue researching other communities that have incorporated similar measures and what it would be like for the City of Findlay, and share everything with Councilman Murray. He will bring those findings to City Council. Councilman Nichols asked if landowners could go beyond the scope of what is demanded of them. For instance, if a concrete wall or curb is required, the owner could add flowerbeds and/or landscaping beyond the minimum requirements. Matt Cordonnier replied they can. The first version of the draft required a masonry wall for any new parking lots or any expansions of existing parking lots that are zoned C3 that has frontage on Main Street. The City Planning Commission requested that landscaping be removed from the code/ordinance which was presented to the Planning & Zoning Committee. They wanted to further discuss it. He feels property owners could go above and beyond what is outlined in some of the versions of the Ordinance. Councilman Murray wants to make sure the correct language is ready before the ordinance is created. He feels that can be accomplished before the next City Council meeting. They will be focusing on major cross streets and Main Street. They will discuss if anything needs done to the C2 parking portion. Matt Cordonnier added that the previous Director had wrote the C3 parking standards about a year ago. One of the reasons they want to address it is because C3 in the downtown district is the only commercial district that has no parking lot screening. All O1 (offices and institutions), C2 C3, I1, and I2 have parking lot screening. Matt worked in Indiana where masonry wall screenings were required in their downtown area. Outside of their downtown area, they can get away with just landscaping.

Mayor Mihalik noted that she and the Police Department received complaints about the Awaken Fest that took place this past weekend. It needs to be determine what is considered neighborly and what is not. The noise level that is produced from this event is worthy of consideration for the future. Discussions on this will be in the near future.

Mayor Mihalik noted that the first Susan G. Komen Race was held in Findlay this past weekend. It was an amazing event. There were more than three thousand (3,000) individuals standing at the corner of Hardin and Main Street for the start of the race. She received many emails thanking City employees for the work they did. The Police Department did what they could to make sure everyone was safe. Roads were shut down for the race. The Fire Department held the Susan G. Komen banner with their ladder truck. She thanked Karen Cline and her committee, and the City employees who helped with the planning and the execution of it. She is looking forward to next year's event where it will be bigger and better.

### ***New Business:***

Councilman Ward: **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** meeting on October 8, 2013 at 4:30pm, third floor conference room of the Municipal Building (CR1).  
agenda: West Main Cross Street mid-block pedestrian crossing *project #32833400*

Councilman Murray: **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** meeting on October 22, 2013 at 4:30pm, Council Office, first floor of the Municipal Building (CO).  
agenda: downtown parking screening

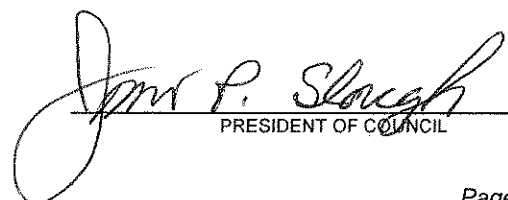
Mayor Mihalik will be giving a presentation from her trip to Japan during the First Friday Luncheon on October 4, 2013 and also at the Rotary meeting on October 14, 2013.

Mayor Mihalik would like a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting to discuss the communications plan that was recently developed. Out of the strategic planning process, it was determined that internal and external communications need to be improved. The Administration will present their final plan. She would like to have this within the last week of October.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meeting on October 22, 2013 at 5:30pm (*immediately following the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE meeting*)  
agenda: communications plan

President J Slough adjourned Council at 8:26pm.

  
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CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL