

Cold Spring City Council February 23, 2009

The regular meeting of the Cold Spring City Council was called to order by Mayor Mark Stoeber. Pledge to the flag and prayer was led by the City Clerk. Roll call showed the following present – Lou Gerding, Brenda Helton, Stuart Oehrle, Janis Reiman and Sandy Ross – excused was Rob Moore. Also present were Ed Burk, Rita Seger, Michael Vank and Brandon Voelker.

Mayor Stoeber pointed out exits from Council Chambers, per Fire Department Regulations.

On February 7th, the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission for the first time sponsored Cold Spring Night at the Town & Country Sports Complex. It was attended by approximately 100 people who enjoyed the use of the swimming pool, basketball and volleyball courts, trampoline, exercise equipment, climbing wall, and more. Everyone had a very good time. Thanks again to the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission for all of their hard work.

Campbell County will hold their litter abatement clean-up on March 27th, 28th, and 29th. Items can be taken to Pendery Park, the Campbell County Police Station in Alexandria, or the Campbell County Road Department on Racetrack Road. No liquids will be accepted.

There will be a drawing for an American flag and pole for those who stay until the end of this meeting.

The minutes of the January 26th regular meeting were reviewed by all. Lou Gerding made a motion for approval and Brenda Helton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The minutes of the February 9th special meeting were reviewed by all. Lou Gerding made a motion for approval and Sandy Ross seconded the motion. Lou Gerding requested one correction in paragraph 10 - roll call count from six to five yeses. All were in favor, with the exception of Stuart Oehrle, who abstained. Motion carried.

Jennifer Teipel of the Campbell County Cable Board addressed Council, to discuss the cable franchise agreement with Cincinnati Bell. Lou Gerding excused himself from this discussion, since he is an employee for Cincinnati Bell and he works closely with some of the people involved in this project.

Ms. Teipel stated that in March of last year Cincinnati Bell applied for a competitive cable franchise with the Campbell County Cable Board. For the past year the Campbell County Cable Board has been negotiating with them. The franchise they are seeking is a 12 year agreement, fiber to home model, which is a very high quality product. She outlined some of the highlights of the agreement. By law, they are no longer allowed to collect franchise fees, but in the event that that changes, they do have a back-up plan with language that does allow jurisdictions to collect franchise fees. You will have the same channel capacity as you have with Insight with a few additions. Channel locations will be the same with Insight, and Cincinnati Bell will do their best to match them. When all the systems go digital, they will have HD capability with offers of videos on demand and web streaming.

Mayor Stoeber verified that with web streaming we could have council meetings live on the web. Ms. Teipel stated that they will be a competitor in the market and this will be a good thing. The Campbell County Cable Board recommends approval of this franchise agreement.

Stuart Oehrle verified that this is in addition to Insight Cable and the competition will hopefully keep prices competitive. He stated that what we are basically looking to allow Cincinnati Bell to come in and compete for these services, and we have to decide if we want to open that market up.

Sandy Ross questioned how this would be introduced to the residents of Cold Spring and where this service will go first. She also stated that some apartment complexes and homeowners associations have revenue sharing agreements with the current cable provider, and questioned what would happen to them. Ms. Teipel stated that they will begin their services in more populated areas, and they don't let you know too far in advance. That is what is referred to as the build-out. If there is already an agreement at an apartment complex, they will probably go to a different zone for new customers.

Mayor Stoeber verified with Jennifer Teipel that there is not a limit to the competition. It will be whatever the market will bear. Mayor Stoeber stated that this will be placed on the March agenda.

Municipal Order 09-03 was read, re-appointing Dave Thiem to the Cold Spring Board of Adjustments, term to expire 12/31/12. Stuart Oehrle made a motion to approve this appointment and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed five yeases and no noes. Motion carried.

Mayor Stoeber stated that the Police Department had a very nice open house. They had a nice crowd with a lot of positive feedback on their new location and building renovations.

Brenda Helton questioned a code enforcement issue, where a violation was sent out with a \$400 citation. The resident did not sign for their certified mail and did not pay the \$400, and yet the case was considered closed after he moved his trailer. She questioned if we were not still entitled to our money. For it to become that large of a citation, this must have been going on for quite some time. They should not be able to drag their feet until the fine gets so high, and then remove the violation and all is forgiven.

Brandon Voelker stated that it looks like the trailer was moved and it looks like that citation was removed. Once they are cited they should go through the Code Enforcement Board or pay their fine. Apparently since they did not sign the certified letter, they were not properly served.

Mayor Stoeber stated that the good news is that the problem was fixed. We are not necessarily in this to make money, but ultimately the goal is compliance. Our code enforcement officer has a wide latitude as far as his judgment. This is our fourth season of code enforcement and our citizens should now be aware of it. Mr. Weber usually approaches the house or has been in contact with the resident or business several times before he actually sends a citation. If the resident doesn't sign for the certified mail, then the citation could be served personally, or once it gets to be a certain level of fine, it could be served by the Police Department.

Sandy Ross questioned if our Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission will be able to participate in the "Color in our Community" grant program. Brenda Helton stated that she plans on presenting it at the March Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission meeting.

Lou Gerding questioned when the budget will be presented to council. Mr. Vank has not yet finalized the schedule, but Mayor Stoeber stated that it is usually in early April.

Sandy Ross read an e-mail from Jay Harris thanking the Cold Spring snow removal crew for their great job. Our Public Works Department does a great job. She acknowledged letters from teachers and students from St. Joseph School sixth grade thanking us for the DARE program. It is great that these citizens take the time to send letters and to reach out. She also acknowledged a letter sent by our own police chief, Ed Burk, thanking everyone who attended the Police Department open house. Sometimes we focus on the things that are not right instead of recognizing the things that are good.

Stuart Oehrle commended Chief Burk on the work the Police Department did on handling the snow shovelers in his neighborhood. A resident noticed that something was not right and phoned the police. It was found that they had outstanding warrants and our police officers were able to correct this situation. Mr. Oehrle stated that it might be worth putting something on our web page saying if you see something that is not right, phone Campbell County Dispatch 292-3622. Mayor Stoeber stated that it would probably be a good idea to place a sign on the dais, visible to the camera, stating the same. We have had some very positive involvement by our citizens and it is excellent that we are getting that type of communication going.

Stuart Oehrle stated that we should also mention in our newsletters that residents should keep an eye out on residences that are for sale and empty in the neighborhoods. Many may be sold by companies that are not local and still have the foreclosure signs up.

Janis Reiman mentioned that the street sign for Town Square Circle contains an "e" at the end of Town, and this needs to be corrected.

Mayor Stoeber mentioned that council had asked to look at the re-branding of the city and they talked about partnering with NKU. He has been in contact with them and they are currently looking at their senior level marketing features and seeing if they can get us on their project list. They usually deal with business issues, and this concept of bringing in a city could be very interesting. There is no firm commitment yet.

Mayor Stoeber requested that Stuart Oehrle make contact with NKU about partnering with them on our website design. Mr. Oehrle stated that he will talk to the Department of Informatics to see if they would be interested in helping us. He stated that by updating our website, it may become more complicated and will eventually be more expensive to operate.

Mayor Stoeber stated that the upgrading of our website seems to be really catching on. Many of our residents have great ideas and the web has become an important vehicle for our residents to access.

The American flag and pole was awarded to Charles Gray of Louis Circle.

Motion to adjourn was made by Stuart Oehrle and seconded by Sandy Ross. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Approved:

City Clerk:

Mayor: