

PRESENT: Mayor Maxine Gilman; Council Members Jim Bowers, Angie Fryman, Jody Jones, Linda Lotspaih, Jeff Sanner and Harold Robinson; City Manager G. Tracy Williams; Law Director Patrick G. Carney; Director of Economic Development Kathy Perkins; Chief of Police Rick Barnhart, Deputy Police Chief Doug Woodard; Fire Chief Jack Keister; and Assistant Clerk of Council Alicia Waymire.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gilman. Mr. Tracy Williams, City Manager, gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

### **MINUTES**

Mrs. Fryman motioned, seconded by Mr. Sanner to approve the Regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2006. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bowers –yes, Mrs. Jones –yes, Mr. Robinson –yes, Mayor Gilman –yes, Mrs. Lotspaih –yes, Mrs. Fryman –yes, Mr. Sanner - yes. The motion carried.

Mrs. Jones motioned, seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the Special meeting minutes, with the corrections as specified by the Mayor, of August 15, 2006. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bowers –yes, Mrs. Jones –yes, Mr. Robinson –yes, Mayor Gilman –yes, Mrs. Lotspaih –yes, Mrs. Fryman –yes, Mr. Sanner -yes. The motion carried.

Mrs. Jones motioned, seconded by Mr. Bowers to approve the Special meeting minutes of August 17, 2006. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bowers –yes, Mrs. Jones –yes, Mr. Robinson –yes, Mayor Gilman –yes, Mrs. Lotspaih –yes, Mrs. Fryman –yes, Mr. Sanner - yes. The motion carried.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **WEST CARROLLTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WEST CARROLLTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Keister began the presentations by thanking the City Council for allowing them to come and recognize some very important people. Chief Barnhart and he were witness to some very extraordinary efforts by some people during the fatal arson fire on July 13, 2006. He wanted to personally thank all the members of the West Carrollton Fire and Police Departments, the State of Ohio Fire Marshal's office, and everyone in the area that provided cards, letters, and phone calls of support, and thanked council for their support as well. "While they deal with fires and emergencies on a daily basis, the

last thing they expected on a hot and humid lazy summer day, was an event to unfold like this one, where two innocent children would die at the hands of the very people responsible for their protection. They went into the building that day to save the life of a four month old girl and rushed a four year old boy to the hospital with critical burns. Our personnel performed with great courage and professionalism despite the many challenges they faced that day. We had no idea going in there that day that the odds were against us. Police and Fire personnel were on the scene in minutes, a burn victim was rapidly transported to the hospital and a primary search was performed simultaneously for the four month old. Although our efforts that day were not successful, the actions of all the people involved that worked so hard during that emergency are to be commended. We had no way of knowing that the events would unfold in such a manner. This certainly was no accident, and it is no accident that the people of this community are protected by such honorable fire fighters and police officers, and as your Fire Chief I am truly proud to serve alongside these fine people.”

Chief Barnhart indicated that they are honored to be here tonight to recognize our own “hometown” heroes. While the event that gave rise to this ceremony was horrific and criminal, we truly had city employees and citizens who instinctively reacted to persevere in attempts to save lives and to solve a crime. The awards presented tonight will be individual by department, to our individual employees, and jointly presented to our citizens. The individual awards were determined by the individual department policies, but the fire department and police department got together on the citizen awards. All the awards being presented are designed to recognize the great work that the city employees did under extreme emotional and stressful conditions which are not typical of a routine day, and to recognize our great citizens for their great assistance that they provided to all of us.

#### -EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARDS

This award is given to the employee who displays highly professional conduct and performance under arduous conditions.

The performance and conduct that was exhibited directly contributed to the safety of the public and the coordination and benefit of the members of the West Carrollton Police Department and aided in the resolution of the incident at hand.

- ☞ Detective Mark Allison - displayed great tenacity and dedication by working non stop for more than 36 hours in an effort to examine the evidence in this case. Because of his perseverance and commitment, Detective Allison was able to establish a suspect and subsequently make an arrest.
- ☞ Detective Bob Bell - displayed great tenacity and dedication by working non stop for more than 36 hours in an effort to examine the evidence in this case. Because of his perseverance and commitment, Detective Bell was able to establish a suspect and subsequently make an arrest.
- ☞ Dispatcher Julie Jackson – Under the most arduous situation Dispatcher Jackson remained extremely calm and composed. Dispatcher Jackson collected and relayed all the necessary information for the responding units, while

simultaneously attempting to calm and reassure the caller. She exhibited a tremendous amount of professionalism under extremely difficult circumstances.

- ⌘ Fire Captain Ed Huffman – He responded to a structure fire with a report of children still trapped inside the building. Without hesitation, he entered the home in full protective clothing and initiated a primary search before the initial hose line was placed in to attack the fire. While his efforts were not successful in attempting to find the trapped victim, he is to be commended for his efforts. This is clearly above and beyond his normal duties.

Fire Captain Ed Huffman was also presented with a medal from the Fire Department.

- LETTERS OF COMMENDATION were presented to the following employees:

- ⌘ Sergeant Rob Hensley – arrived on scene shortly after the initial police units and took charge of the scene. Rendered assistance to the on-scene police units, fire department, and personnel of the State Fire Marshal's office. Remained on scene long after his assignment was over to provide whatever other assistance was needed.
- ⌘ Officer David Banas – First officer on the scene, ran toward the house attempting to evaluate the situation as quickly as he could, continued to retrieve as much information as possible concerning additional victims and relay the information to Dispatchers Jackson and Moore. He learned that an infant child was still in the fire, and attempted to make entry, however, the smoke was such that he could not get in.
- ⌘ Officer Gene Jarman – Was the officer in charge, arrived seconds after Officer Banas, he too ran to the front of the house and attempted to render aid as quickly as possible, but was unable to do so. Once they determined that entry was not feasible, he began to direct units into their various intersections for traffic control, and to restrict the access of citizens into the area. Officer Jarman also began the evidence collection process by taking photographs of the outside structure. He remained on scene until everything was cleared.
- ⌘ Officer Ron Jensen – arrived on scene at the same time as Officer Jarman, he too attempted to enter the structure, but was forced away from the scene. He then responded to the side yard of 641 Maplehill where the four year old child had been taken, and assisted the medic crew with their equipment.

He also stayed on long after, assisting with traffic control and any other duties as needed.

- ⌘ Officer Dave Wessling – Called to the scene to assist the State Fire Marshal in evidence collection. He also attended the autopsy of the infant and is to be commended for volunteering for this duty, as they were looking for someone who might have the stomach for this duty. He also ended up going to Indiana and assisted one of the detectives with interviews.
- ⌘ Dispatcher Donna Moore – While Dispatcher Jackson was on the line with the 911 caller, began dispatching police and fire to the scene. She also made

several other important phone calls to the appropriate personnel to advise them of the incident.

#### -CITIZEN AWARDS

Citizen Service Award is given to a citizen for an act which displays an outstanding performance of citizenship.

- ⌘ Sarah Busby – She called 911 and reported a fatal arson fire. Her involvement in this tragic event has aided the West Carrollton Police and Fire Departments and the members of this community. Her willingness to assist others has helped ease the burden and strain of many individuals associated with this heartbreaking experience.
- ⌘ J.W. Lunsford – He observed a house fire while driving through the neighborhood. Without hesitation and thought for his own personal safety he ran into the house and attempted to locate anyone that might be inside the burning structure. While risking great personal injury, he was able to locate a small child who was badly injured. He removed the child from the home and carried him to safety across the street.
- ⌘ Rich McKinley – He responded to scene of the fatal arson fire that claimed the lives of two small children. His immediate response and willingness to help members of the community and the department were positive contributions during this tragedy. The aid that he rendered to everyone involved is greatly appreciated and will ultimately assist in bringing this horrific event to a positive conclusion. He is a Chaplain for the Miamisburg Police Department. At the time of this event, both Chaplains for West Carrollton were out of town. We called Miamisburg, and Rich graciously came to assist our citizens and our employees to see them through this event. We are greatly appreciative to Miamisburg and him for allowing him to come down to help us.

In conclusion, Chief Barnhart indicated that West Carrollton is a great community, and we will bounce back from this tragedy. With citizens who are willing to help us, we are going to be stronger than ever. He's always said that without citizen involvement, there can't be a great police department, and with great citizens like this, we truly are.

Mayor Gilman thanked all the men and women who are serving this community. This event has brought the neighborhood and community closer together to realize what dedicated individuals we have that serve us day in and day out. This event made national news. It takes working together to survive this. She appreciates each and everyone honored tonight for what they have done. Mr. Bowers is constantly amazed at the professionals that serve the community and the citizens who are willing to jump in and help. This is a wonderful community to live in and he is proud to be associated with everyone.

Mrs. Jones thanked the Fire and Police Department. It is obvious by the job and the performance during the tragedy that West Carrollton has the best of the best. She thanked the citizens for having the courage to step out and step up when they were needed. She concluded by thanking Rich for helping us as well.

Mr. Robinson stated that tonight is an occasion where we are reminded how fortunate we are to live in a good community with good people, and good professionals. It's a good feeling to know that we are surrounded by good people like those who were honored here tonight.

Mrs. Lotspaih words can't say enough to express thanks, and the people honored tonight are truly our heroes. She thanked everyone for all they did.

Mrs. Fryman wanted to thank everyone as well. Tonight was about a group of admirable people who stepped in and did things that most people would not even be willing to do on the job, let alone citizens running across the street, to assist in this tragedy.

Mr. Sanner stated that this tragedy shows what a professional police department and fire department we have, and truly some extraordinary citizens. So often today people don't want to get involved, but these citizens did get involved and he expressed his gratitude to each and everyone of them.

Mr. Williams indicated his gratitude for the people who work at the city, and for the community we have. There is no greater service in our life that we can give than serving others, because by serving others we are truly serving our Heavenly Father, and reaching out and blessing the lives of others. He is grateful to each and everyone for the service they give, to the men and women in uniform, and to the citizens here that truly showed care and concern, and thanked everyone.

Mr. Carney expressed gratitude for being able to work with officers in the past, and congratulated everyone for what they did.

Mayor Gilman read letters of commendations received by citizens thanking Officers Don Charles, Scott Lawson, John Whittemore, and Dispatcher Ginny Himes for their services. The letter expressed gratitude to the officers and a dispatcher for assistance during a terrifying moment.

The second letter thanked Officer John Garwood. A woman's car was broken down and Officer John Garwood picked her up, and loaded her groceries into his patrol car, and then carried the groceries to her door.

LABOR DAY FUND RAISER FOR THE  
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION (MDA)

West Carrollton Firefighter/Paramedic Andy Shepherd talked about the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual

Fill the Boot Fund Raiser Drive for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. They will be out at Alex Road and Dixie Drive, and at Alex Road and Central Avenue on Saturday, September 2, and Sunday September 3 holding a boot for donations. They have raised just over \$25,000 in the last six years. This is a great fund raiser, and he hopes to see everyone out there. Thanked Chief Keister and the city administration for allowing them to participate in this fund raiser.

PAT CARNEY  
APPRECIATION FOR YEARS SERVED

Mayor Gilman made a special presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to Pat Carney in appreciation for years served, for his almost 40 years of dedicated and professional service as the Law Director for the City of West Carrollton.

**COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE**

Mr. Marsh

Thanked all the recipients of the awards for doing a service to the city, and citizens of the city, and wished them all well in the future.

Wanted to express an opinion regarding the Alex Road railroad crossing. He feels that it is now worse than it was, and that the railroad did a pitiful job repairing it.

In regards to speed limits throughout the city, he went over the different speed limits at various points in the city and inquired why someone couldn't just make everything be 35 mph. Inquired why there isn't a 20 mph light in front of the Middle School for the school zone.

Mayor Gilman indicated that this is not justified due to the recent traffic study, because the school itself is not located on Central Ave, and indicated that recently the speed limits had all been raised to 35 mph in front of the Civic Center and past the Middle School for consistency.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **REPORTS BY OFFICERS**

Mr. Williams expressed appreciation for all Pat Carney's years of service and dedication. He wished him the best in his retirement. He indicated that the water main replacement project was 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule and would be wrapping up soon. He stated that the Police Department expansion was moving along, and the steel was getting ready to go up.

Mr. Carney expressed gratitude for being able to serve for 40 years. He indicated that he had always been proud to be the Law Director and City Prosecutor for the City of West Carrollton.

### **UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS**

None

### **COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **COMMENTS BY COUNCIL**

Mr. Bowers indicated that the Miami Valley Communications Council would be holding an open house on September 20 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. He indicated that MVCC had approved rebates for member cities, and the rebate for West Carrollton would be approximately \$14,181.00. He thanked the award winners again, and thanked Pat Carney for all his years of dedication and service. He reminded the residents that the food pantry would be having a fund raiser at the first West Carrollton High School football game.

Mrs. Jones thanked Pat Carney for all his years of dedication and service.

Mr. Robinson stated that Mr. Carney's reputation had been well known, and thanked him for all his years of dedication and hard work. He indicated that new computers had been ordered for the city offices, and thanked LuAnn Saunders, from the West Carrollton Schools, for sitting on the committee to choose the new computer systems for the city offices. He indicated that the West Carrollton School District, and LuAnn Saunders had offered to assist in computer training for the city employees. He went on to say that in the future, he would like the city staff to look into the GPS technology and determine how to utilize this technology too.

He stated that he would like the budget for 2008 to include funds to allow council to use laptops, thus eliminating the amount of paper generated. He inquired as to how long it had been since any staff had been sent for training on new software and upgrades. He indicated that the city needs to take advantage of all opportunities we may have.

Mrs. Lotspaih thanked everyone who participated in the Relay for Life. She indicated that there had been 23 teams, and they had raised \$30,000 so far. At 9:00 p.m. the luminaries were lit, attracting a couple driving on the interstate, and they stopped to see what was going on, and then stayed to participate. She thanked Pat Carney for all his years of dedication and service, and congratulated him on his retirement.

Mrs. Fryman extended her best wishes to Pat Carney on his retirement.

Mr. Sanner indicated that he and Pat Carney had been friends for a long time, and he would be missed. He congratulated him on his retirement.

Mayor Gilman indicated that Canterbury Court would be holding a fundraiser at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which is responsible for providing affordable housing for the elderly.

She indicated that the fundraiser would be from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The tickets would be \$25.00 per person, and all funds raised would go to Canterbury Court. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please call 859-7940 ext. 103. The Mayor reminded the residents that the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church would be holding the Children's Festival on August 26 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. She indicated that the opening ceremony for the Relay for Life had been very impressive. She stated that the West Carrollton High School Choir would be performing on September 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Dayton Dragons Game. She reminded the residents that the next big trash pickup would be the week of October 9, and concluded by wishing everyone a happy Labor Day.

### RECESS

A motion was made by Mayor Gilman, seconded by Mr. Sanner, to recess to a work session to discuss the items on the agenda. A unanimous roll call vote carried the motion.

Council adjourned.

### WORK SESSION

### PROPOSED STORM WATER UTILITY DISTRICT

Those present for this discussion in addition to members of City Council included City Manager G. Tracy Williams; Service Director Rich Norton; and Jim Rozelle and Joe Busemeyer. Jim Rozelle and Joe Busemeyer are with the engineering firm of FMSM Engineers Inc. from Cincinnati.

Engineer Jim Rozelle made a PowerPoint presentation concerning the recent study on the feasibility of establishing a storm water utility for the city of West Carrollton. Mr. Rozelle noted that the utility could not only serve the needs for establishing storm water control on Owl Creek, but also could be used to raise funds needed for other storm water purposes throughout the entire community. It was noted that the estimated cost to widen Owl Creek and to provide for one hundred (100) year storm protection is approximately \$10 million. Based on this number, Mr. Rozelle noted that the cost per month per property in West Carrollton would exceed \$9.00. He noted that this was high in comparison with other communities. City Manager Williams stated that the project to establish a storm water utility would probably only be feasible if outside funding sources could be obtained to reduce the local share of the project in order to keep the individual property assessments at a more reasonable rate in comparison to other communities in the region that have formed storm water utilities. It was also discussed that possibly the best approach would be for the city to prepare documentation showing the impact of a one hundred year flood on the area within the flood plain in order to substantiate the need for outside funding. It was noted that possibly the city could work with its congressional delegation, the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pursue outside funding sources to assist with this flood control project.

Following discussion on this item, Jim Rozelle, Joe Busemeyer and Rich Norton left the meeting.

#### ANNUAL APPRECIATION EVENT

Director of Economic Development, Kathy Perkins, discussed various ideas proposed by the city's Business Advisory Council on alternative approaches to the traditional annual business appreciation breakfast. Following discussion on various ideas, it was the consensus of City Council that the city should hold a business-to-business exchange program that would be held in an open house format with city officials present to talk with the businesses and to express appreciation and get better acquainted with them, as well as allowing the businesses the opportunity to better share with each other their services by having displays on their goods and services at the event. It was suggested that possibly this open house could be held from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Council requested that staff pursue the details on holding such an event.

Following discussion on this matter, Kathy Perkins left the meeting.

#### MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION STUDY

City Manager Williams discussed with City Council the Land Use and Transportation conceptual plans being developed by MVRPC in all of the jurisdictions within the western Montgomery County study area. Following discussion on this matter, the City Council indicated that they had no objections to passing a resolution in support of this conceptual plan and requested that it be placed on their September agenda for consideration.

#### COMMENTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Williams updated City Council on the status of efforts to clear the Woody=s Market site for redevelopment. He also noted that he had discussions with a representative of the Walther family concerning the Boathouse property and the city=s desire to see that area redeveloped. City Manager Williams also discussed with City Council staff=s efforts to assist in identifying a suitable interim Law Director, and plans to move forward with recruitment efforts to help Council select a new Law Director for the City of West Carrollton.

#### COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

Discussion was held concerning the recent Planning Commission meeting regarding the facility for handicapped citizens to be built in the Long Bow Lane area. Discussion was also held concerning the upcoming discussions regarding the re-zoning of the former Fraser Paper mill site.

Mayor Gilman discussed various upcoming civic events.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Jeff Sanner, seconded by Councilmember Linda Lotspaih to adjourn. All present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.