

(c.) Approval of Minutes – Public Hearing – March 19, 2012.

It was moved by Mucciolo seconded by Meadows that the minutes of the March 19, 2012 public hearing be approved as submitted.

Roll Call: 5 Ayes

0 Nay

Motion Carried

(d.) Proclamation – Fair Housing Month.

Councilor Aaron Mucciolo read a proclamation recognizing Fair Housing Month. The proclamation was presented to Marty Buck, President of the Human Relations Commission.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, on January 13, 1961, the Council of the City of Oberlin was presented with a “Statement of Belief” which had been circulated throughout the community and signed by more than 550 residents of the City of Oberlin, and which read in part:

“Believing that we are not being true to our religious and democratic heritage if residence in any neighborhood is restricted to certain racial and ethnic groups on purely arbitrary grounds, we the undersigned declare our intention to practice the principle of equality with respect to housing, and we declare our desire to see people given the right to acquire residence without prejudice as to their race, religion, or national origin.” and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 1961, City Council passed Ordinance 235 AC, the third Fair Housing law enacted in this nation; and which on March 10, 1965, with the decision handed down in *Porter v. Oberlin*, became the first Fair Housing law in the United States to survive legal challenge in a state supreme court; and

WHEREAS, City Council has continually committed itself to equal access to housing and mortgage borrowing opportunities, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, handicap status, gender, or sexual preference or orientation, through the passage over the years of Ordinances 67-491, 73-927, 88-70, and 91-31, together today comprising Chapter 1185 of the Oberlin Codified Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, April has come to be designated Fair Housing Month by the President of these United States and by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in part to commemorate the enactment, at long last, of the first federal Fair Housing Act, on April 11, 1968, in the wake of the shocking assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Rimbart, Mayor of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, on behalf of the Council of the City of Oberlin, proclaim the month of April 2012 as:

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

and encourage the citizens of Oberlin to reacquaint themselves with their human rights that are protected by law from arbitrary or prejudicial consideration, and join with the Human Relations Commission in reaffirming our City’s commitment to equal treatment in housing, public accommodation, and other matters, regardless of circumstances of origin, age, status, or orientation;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, to be affixed hereto this 2nd day of April 2012.

Ronnie J. Rimbart
Mayor/ President of Council

Council President Rimbart entered the meeting at this time and asked that Sharon Soucy read the Friendship Day Proclamation.

(e.) Proclamation– Friendship Day.

The proclamation was presented to Amir Mahallati, Professor of Religion at Oberlin College. Comments were heard from Mahallati about the events that transpired during last year’s Friendship Day festival. He remarked that this was the third year that they have sponsored this event and many scholars from around the world are now becoming involved. On the local front businesses were beginning to take an interest in the Friendship Day movement as well as participating as contributors to ongoing Friendship Day contests.

PROCLAMATION
AMERICAN NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY
April 10, 2012

WHEREAS, friendship is a concept promoted by all religious, ethical and cultural traditions of the world; and

WHEREAS, friendship transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political and religious affiliations; and

WHEREAS, the designation of a day in our calendar as the National Friendship Day is an effective way to transform an ideal humanitarian philosophy into a public ritual and thereby helping communal cohesion and solidarity; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of friendship exemplifies strength of character, sound human values, and human bonds that go beyond self-interest; and

WHEREAS, friendship can be a powerful foundation for international peacemaking; and

WHEREAS, the globalization of an American National Day of Friendship can change the image of the United States abroad and therefore can serve as a powerful leverage in our foreign affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oberlin has a long tradition of promoting diversity, equality, fairness and friendship.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Rimbart, Mayor of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, on behalf of Oberlin City Council, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 10th, 2012 as

“AMERICAN NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY”

in the City of Oberlin, and urge all citizens to celebrate American National Friendship Day and support efforts to foster friendship within the City as well as within the international community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, to be affixed hereto this 6th day of February 2012.

Ronnie J. Rimbart
Mayor/ President of Council

(f.) Receive a presentation from New Russia Township.

Patty Brubaker member of the New Russia Township Trustees board presented a check for \$1,000 to the City of Oberlin as a contribution towards the 4th of July holiday festivities. Soucy noted that they had also received a \$1,000 donation from Oberlin College. Norenberg remarked that the goal was \$13,000 and they were fast approaching their target.

(g.) Hear a report from Sergeant Vic Ortiz regarding his recent training at the FBI Academy.

Chief Miller thanked Council for taking the time to recognize Sergeant Ortiz for his accomplishment in completing the FBI Academy. He remarked that the training at the Academy was one of the most prestigious courses offered to police executives from all over the world. Following congratulatory remarks from Chief Miller, Council heard an overview of the program as experienced by Ortiz. Additional congratulatory remarks were extended by the members of Council.

2. ANY CONCERNS THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF COUNCIL AT THIS TIME.

Mary Rhodes, 65 East College Street

Council heard a request from Mary Rhodes, lifelong Oberlin resident, who asked that Council consider using the Green Acres building as the new location for a Recreation facility. She remarked that collaborative efforts with the school have been reasonably successful but at times conflicting schedules have caused City recreation programs to take a back seat to the needs of the schools. She felt that the City made an astute move in purchasing the property and saw it as a golden opportunity to provide something that's needed and wanted by Oberlin residents.

Rhodes asked if any bids had been collected to see what the cost would be to renovate the building and if those bids were open to the public. She further requested that if the decision was made to demolish the building, that the City hold an open forum to hear from the public.

Norenberg remarked that there had been discussions surrounding questions raised by Mrs. Rhodes. Council will recall that an appraisal and inspection done prior to purchasing the building, indicated that due to problems with deterioration, mold, and asbestos that the cost to renovate Green Acres would be well over the purchase price of the building, not to mention it was also noted that the current configuration of the structure, which was originally used as an orphanage, provided limited space that could be used for a recreation facility. In addition from an economic perspective, the added cost associated with operating a recreation facility would also prove to be a burden on the City. He announced that the City was currently in the process of taking bids for the demolition of the building and planned to hold an Open House for members of the public on April 11th from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the depot for people who would like to come and offer thoughts about potential redevelopment of the site.

Burgess remarked that last year when the inspection report was completed, Council was provided with pictures of the location and although he had never been given a tour of the inside, he felt that the pictures spoke for

themselves. The building was in deplorable condition, with cracked walls, failing foundations, missing windows and a leaking roof. When Council decided to purchase the facility it was with the understanding that the building could not be saved, but the property could still be put to good use in the future.

Rimbert remarked that he was not on Council when the decision was made to purchase the building but he supported the purchase. However, he wanted to look at the building before total demolition was done. It was unclear to him whether the study on the building had been done internally or by a third party, but he felt that another look at the building along with some outside consultation would be a good idea, before they decided to spend \$300,00 or more on a demolition project.

Shirley R. Johnson said that she didn't recall having a forum when the decisions were made about not using the building and tearing it down. She questioned where the documentation concerning the decision to demolish the Green Acres building was housed and if the public were permitted to have access to this information.

Norenberg remarked that they had the photos and the report from the building official. Two appraisals were done, one by Lorain County and an independent appraisal was done by the City. Those documents were being kept in the City Manager's office and some of that information was provided to Council last summer. They also had public participation through the discussion and preparation of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. The topic of facilities and operations was evaluated at that time as well. He remarked that the City Engineer's estimate was around \$100,000 - \$120,000 for the demolition which was a little more than they expected when preliminary estimates were done last year. That number may come down some when they take the salvage materials found in the building into consideration.

Johnson asked where that material was presented. Burgess remarked that the material was presented in an executive session where they discussed the purchase of real property. Johnson replied that the information had never received public input which was the original question posed by Mrs. Rhodes. She advised that this was a very important question, particularly if they had previously placed the bids and were already moving forward as if to keep this a secret from the public.

Norenberg remarked that this was not done in secrecy. Council did authorize the purchase of the property and the point about moving ahead with the Green Acres purchase was talked about in an open meeting when they made the purchase in August. He felt this discussion could also happen when the award of the contract took place in the next few weeks and at the Open House regarding what to do with the site.

Meadows asked if it were possible to see the inside of the building. Norenberg said there were some safety concerns but he would make arrangements for it to happen. Mucciolo asked if it were possible for the City Manager to forward the building official's report to those who were not on Council when the Executive Session was held. Norenberg concurred.

Peterson added that he felt that this information should be provided to the public as well. Norenberg remarked that he would post it to the website.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Norenberg remarked that in 2012 new emission requirements would go into effect and this mower would be subject to those changes. The market anticipates that the prices for the proposed mower will go up 10-20 percent over the current year's pricing to implement those new emissions requirements. In addition staff has voiced concerns with purchasing untested novice equipment that can potentially cause additional headaches down the road.

Peterson asked if the mower would be used for multiple purposes. Norenberg remarked that the mower would just be used for grass cutting at this point. Burgess noted that the proposed mower could take up to 20 percent biodiesel. He asked if the Public Work's department was still working on the biodiesel experiment that they had started over a year ago. Norenberg responded that biodiesel is still an option but the experiment was complicated by manufacturers who urged them not to use biodiesel in some of the newer equipment that they had purchased. However, they were currently evaluating alternative fueling options for a wide range of other vehicles. Burgess asked if the biodiesel was available for City use. Norenberg remarked that it was not being used at the Public Work's garage and he was unaware if it was being used at the Hamilton Street Complex.

Motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings and to elevate the ordinance to an emergency was moved by Mucciolo and seconded by Meadows.

Roll Call: 5 Ayes (1 st , Suspension of Rules/ Emergency)	1 Nay (Burgess)	Motion Carried
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Roll Call: 6 Ayes (1 st , Final)	0 Nays	Motion Carried
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(C). ORDINANCE No. 12-29 AC CMS: An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Clinton Climate Initiative, a Program of the William J. Clinton Foundation, and Partner of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Regarding the Climate Positive Development Program and Declaring an Emergency. (1st)(E)

Soucy moved to have the ordinance read by number, title and substantive portions only. The motion was seconded by Meadows.

Roll Call: 6 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
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The Clerk read as directed.

Motion for passage on first reading was moved by Peterson, seconded by Soucy.

Norenberg provided an overview of Council's involvement in the Clinton Climate Initiative. He advised that by participating in this program the City has received a great deal of support including:

- Advice and resource during the development of the City's Climate Action Plan.
- Information in response to local inquiries, participation in discussions and access to research.
- Consultation advice for a wide range of projects including the anticipated demo project for Green Acres.
- Access to expertise at relatively little cost to the City.

(Mucciolo)

Mucciolo said that four weeks time is not enough time in his opinion to make the transition. The Clerk noted that she had an email system set up that would allow her to notify members of the public of the meeting time change.

Burgess asked if the Judge would have an issue with Council starting earlier. Severs remarked that the Judge was usually done by 6:00 p.m.

Rimbert

- Intergenerational Award presentation.

7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Norenberg reported on the following items:

- Schedule Public Hearing.

Motion to schedule a public hearing for Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers for the purpose of considering a proposed request for funding under the Formula Allocation Grant program was moved by Mucciolo, seconded by Soucy. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

- Green Acres Open House.
- Oberlin Main St. Chamber and City have been re-accredited as a nationally certified Main Street Community.
- Brush collection begins April 16.
- Compost is available monthly starting April 21.
- On April 28, residents can bring their shredding to the Lorain County Solid Waste Facility from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. noon.
- Out of office Thursday through Monday.
- Brush collection will start Monday the 19th of September.
- OPD has come up with a new design for the new vehicles.

Burgess asked if the City had hired a Recycling Coordinator yet. Norenberg advised that they were very close to making an offer.

8. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Being that there was no further business to come before Council the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Attest:

BELINDA B. ANDERSON, CMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 05/21/2012

POSTED: 05/22/2012