



<b>Executive Session - 6:00 p.m. – Conference Room 1</b> Purpose: Pending or Imminent Litigation
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**Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting**  
 Held on Monday, February 3, 2014  
 7:00 p.m.

**1. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- (a) Call Regular City Council Meeting to Order and Roll Call – 7:11 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Oberlin City Council was held on February 3, 2014 in the Council Chambers of the Oberlin City Hall, located at 85 S. Main Street Oberlin, Ohio. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m., by Presiding Officer Scott Broadwell. Roll Call was taken as follow:

<b>Council Members:</b>	Present	Absent
Sharon Pearson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bryan Burgess	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Soucy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Meadows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristin Peterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ronnie Rimbart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Broadwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Appointees:</b>		
Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jon Clark, Law Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Norenberg, City Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sal Talarico, Finance Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) Approval of Minutes – Regular City Council Meeting – January 6, 2014.

Motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2014 Regular City Council meeting as submitted was moved by Burgess, seconded by Peterson.

**Roll Call:**            7 Ayes                                0 Nays                                Motion Carried

- (c) Proclamation – Recognizing Black History Month

Broadwell remarked that the Proclamation recognizing Black History Month is being presented to the Underground Railroad Center Implementation Team in recognition of all of the hard work that they have been doing. Sharon Pearson read the proclamation as follows:

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Black History Month**

**WHEREAS**, Carter G. Woodson justly earned his reputation as “the father of Black History” in part by forming the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and establishing The Journal of Negro History in 1916; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Woodson had become familiar approximately a decade earlier with Mary McLeod Bethune’s annual celebration in Washington, D.C., of the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln during the second week of February; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association under his leadership established Negro History Week as the second week of February in 1926, and the organization now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) first celebrated Black History Month in February 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, the charge of the Woodson Branch of the ASALH is to promote appreciation for the life and history of persons of African descent, to provide information and encourage thought based on the historical truth about the numerous contributions made by the ancient Africans and Africans in Diaspora (worldwide), and to encourage the understanding and knowledge of, as well as, to remove misinformation about the contributions Africans and African – Americans have made to the founding and continuation of the United States of America.

**WHEREAS**, the Association continues to support the study of African American history in homes, schools, colleges, churches, organizations, businesses, and government; and while it believes that Black history, like American history, should be studied 365 days a year, it continues to view February as the critical month for pursuing this mission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association has made “**CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA**” the national theme for the month-long celebration in 2014, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS**, many members of the Oberlin community played a major role in the Civil Rights movement; participating in marches, speaking out against racism and bigotry, choosing to love instead of to hate. Oberlinians of all nationalities and diverse backgrounds refused to cower in the comfort of their homes, and responded to the cries of those less fortunate, and the senseless cruelty and violence against people of color. And instead chose to put their own lives on the line, be it at home or traveling into the Deep South to join the “freedom movement” to end racial segregation and white supremacy in the United States of America once and for all;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, H. Scott Broadwell, Mayor of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, on behalf of Oberlin City Council, proclaim the month of February 2014 as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** and urge all citizens of Oberlin to participate in the appropriate programs and activities of Oberlin College’s African Heritage Celebration and of our schools, churches, public library, and other organizations that recognize and honor the significant contributions Americans of African heritage have made to Oberlin, both City and College, to the State of Ohio, to the Nation, and throughout the World.

**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 3rd day of February 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Scott Broadwell **Mayor/ President of Council**

Following the reading of the proclamation Sharon Pearson announced several events taking place throughout the City of Oberlin in recognition of Black History Month (List attached).

(d) Appointments to boards, commissions, and committees.

Motion to appoint Joanne Rahn and Barbara Mehwald to the Human Relations Commission was moved by Meadows and seconded by Burgess.

**Roll Call:** 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried

Broadwell noted that there was still one vacancy left on the Human Relations Commission but at the two appointments now made it possible for the Commission to meet quorum.

(e) Discuss and consider appointing two Council members to serve on the Community Organization Funding Review Committee (COFRC).

Talarico provided an explanation of the COFR Committee's purpose which is organized to review applications for Community Organization Funding. It was noted that requests for funding totaled \$143,542, which excluded the figures requested by the Soccer Association, who had yet to submit an application. The amount that is budgeted is \$125,000. According to Resolution 00-04, they can award up to \$145,726. Talarico further noted that the committee has been established a public meeting will be scheduled and advertised by the Clerk.

Motion to appoint Sharon Pearson and Scott Broadwell to serve on the Community Organization Funding Review Committee was moved by Burgess, seconded by Peterson.

**Roll Call:** 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried

Upon request of the Finance Director, Burgess and Broadwell noted a conflict of interest with the Oberlin Early Childhood Center and the Neighborhood Alliance (Seniors Center) respectively.

(f) Hear and discuss a presentation by the Open Space and Visual Environment Commission Regarding the proposed Woodland Walking Trail.

Members of Council heard a presentation by the members of the Open Space and Visual Environment Commission regarding a proposal to establish a mile long trail in city-owned woods located in Oberlin's northwest quadrant. The proposal came out of the findings of the 2011 Oberlin Parks and Recreation Commission Strategic Plan, with concurrence from the OSVE, to provide a variety of recreational opportunities to residents by maintaining and enhancing community partnerships.

Kate Pilacky, Chair of the OSVE Commission was present at the meeting with various members. Pilacky reviewed several aspects of the proposed project, noting that the commission has sought advice from many agencies and individuals. Partners in this venture will include the Black River Audubon Society, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Oberlin Project, and Oberlin College. Input from a number of Oberlin City departments has been incorporated into the proposed plan. It was further noted that the project was met with encouragement from the City's Recreation and Planning Commissions as well as from representatives of Lorain County Metro Parks and North Coast Inland Trail.

Following a lengthy discussion surrounding, the need for tree removal due to fallen trees, ADA accessibility, concerns with cost for maintaining the trail, impacts on City personnel, alternatives for land maintenance through volunteers and future organization, Friends of Oberlin Parks; it was noted by several members of Council that more research was needed, before consensus to proceed with the project could be met. Rimbart and Broadwell raised several concerns with the aggressive schedule for getting this trail in place.

Law Director Jon Clark stated that there were a number of issues that still need to be answered before Council can make any kind of formal decision. One of them is the issue of liability; the other issues he is addressing through City

policy with the assistance of the Human Resources Administrator. Clark noted that this was still an evolving discussion.

Broadwell thanked Ms. Pilacky and the members of the Commission for presenting the information to Council. He suggested that further discussion take place with the Law Director as they continue to pursue this project. All members were interested in hearing from the commissioners at a later date once the plan was better framed.

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

John Whitman, 46802 R20 W

Mr. Whitman read a prepared statement into the record regarding his six year struggle to get the City to place a tile at Wetland A, where he alleged the City had caused a flooding problem which continued to impact his property. (Attached)

Meadows asked who he had been in contact with from the City. Whitman remarked that he has irritated Mr. Norenberg by email and by phone. He has also spoken to Steve Dupee, Oberlin Light and Power Director at length concerning this issue. He remarked that City staff would say that the EPA has said that they can't put a tile in the Wetland A area, but that isn't true, he was told by the Army Corp that a tile could be placed in the Wetlands as long as nothing else was there. It was further noted that in a previous memo from Mr. Dupee's to Lauren McEleney, Section 401 permitting contact, the installation of a tile in the aforementioned Wetlands area had never been requested, but instead, Dupee had requested a catch basin, which he knows is not allowed. He believed a tile would be permissible, especially given that the City has already placed two tiles in that location. He said he has kept all of his information dating back six years and would be willing to share it with anyone. He appreciates the attention that members of Council have given him over the years, but it's been six years and the tile still hasn't been installed. Broadwell asked the City Manager if he had any comments. City Manager Norenberg remarked that he had nothing new to add.

Burgess said that every spring he walks the Ramsey to go look at the flooding. Last spring while walking the Ramsey, he was surprised to find that in one particular area the water had washed over the roadway and had begun to erode the road bed. He stated that it was obvious to him that the water wanted to flow to the east and the road is presenting a barrier. He asked that if the EPA doesn't allow the City to install a tile in the Wetlands, that the road bed not be repaired as erosion takes its toll, and that they allow nature to take its course.

David Ashenhurst, 260 Sumner Street

Mr. Ashehurst commented on the importance of having members of Council attend the Public Records Law Training in lieu of selecting a designee to take the training for them. This training impacts Council's duties on a regular basis and is important in that regard. He felt that at least one member of Council should take the training even though they have designated Mr. Clark as their designee.

Steve Thompson, Oberlin Soccer Association

Mr. Thompson, South Park Street remarked that his intention for coming to the meeting serves a dual purpose. He wanted to hand Mr. Talarico his application for Community Organization Funding and he also wanted to address the complaints that he has heard over the years from parents and other organizations about the upkeep of the Hamilton Recreation Complex. He has sent emails to Mr. Norenberg and pertinent City staff addressing his concerns surrounding the poor conditions of the Hamilton Street soccer fields. He offered the Oberlin Soccer Associations assistance with helping to keep the soccer fields maintained. He said he understands that there have been some personnel changes and the new staff is not as experienced as the Staff that used to handle the fields a year ago, but he would hate to lose the Oberlin venue due to the poor conditions of the soccer fields. He expressed additional concern that if things didn't turn around he might not have a choice in the matter.



**Burgess**

- Announced that the Chair of the Central Lorain County Ambulance District Board called to say that a meeting had been scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. This information had been passed on to Mr. Rimbart and Ms. Peterson who were the new designees to the board.

**7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Norenberg provided the following updates.

- Retreat Interviews Scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- FAA Air traffic controller job opportunities available.
- Screening committee has selected a Developer for the Green Acres site.

**8. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- None.

**9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

John Whitman, 46802 R20 West, revisited earlier remarks concerning Wetland A.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Being that there was no further business to come before Council at this time the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Attest:**

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BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 02/18/2014

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H. SCOTT BROADWELL  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 02/19/2014

February 2 BHM Opening Dinner Afrikan Heritage House 5:30pm Join the Afrikan Heritage House for its annual dinner to kick off Oberlin College's celebration of Black History Month, Afrikan Heritage House Dining Hall, 5:30pm-7:00pm

\* -February 6, 7, and 8th "Follow Me to Nellie's" Dominique Morriseau, Playwright Justin Emekah, Director. Hall Auditorium, 8pm The dynamic voice of emerging playwright Dominique Morisseau brings the early civil rights movement to vivid life in this tale of Madame Nellie's house in 1955 Natchez. Inspired by a family memoir, Ms. Morisseau recounts a dramatic story "of an aspiring blues singer who is looking for a way out, a voting rights activist looking for shelter, a brothel of wounded women looking for change." Rich in atmosphere and character, Follow Me to Nellie's scintillates with unfulfilled desires illuminated by hope "during the reign of segregation and under the watchful eye of Miss Nellie Jackson."

\* -February 13th "The 1964 Civil Rights Acts: Now and Then" A Conversation Between Four Historians on the Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act Hallock Auditorium 6:30pm-8:00pm In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Dr. Pam Brooks (Oberlin College) will moderate a discussion between historians Dr. Francoise Hamlin (Brown University), Dr. Hasan Jeffries (OSU), Dr. Charles McKinney (Rhodes College) and Dr. Renee Romano (Oberlin College) about the historical importance of the Act and the contemporary implications of the act in an age of changing election and voting expectations. Free and open to the Public. Sponsored by the Afrikan Heritage House, the Department of Africana Studies, the Department of History and ABUSUA

-February 13th Angelique Kidjo perform Finney Chapel, 8pm A performance by the Grammy Award winning Beninoise singer songwriter and activist. Sponsored by the Assemblies Committee \$8 OCID \$20 Public

\* -February 15th "An Afternoon with Ryan Coogler" a screening and discussion of the Film "Fruitvale Station" in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Apollo Theater, The Apollo Theater, 12pm-4pm Ryan Coogler the director of the highly acclaimed film "Fruitvale Station" will discuss his work in conjunction with a screening of the film. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Office of Community and Government Affairs

-February 18 Film: "Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and His Music in America, 1900-1912" Lord Lounge Afrikan Heritage House, 7:30pm "Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and His Music in America, 1900-1912" tells the story of

this Afro-English composer and his influence on American music and culture during the first decade of the twentieth century. The film features many fine performances of Coleridge-Taylor's compositions -- some never before recorded -- by a number of professional African-American musicians, among them Angela Brown, soprano, Rodrick Dixon, tenor, Robert Honeysucker, baritone, and a chorus comprised of nearly two dozen professional opera singers from Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Oberlin College Black Musician's Guild

-February 20th "Whys Black Magicians": Amiri Baraka in Word and Image, Lord Lounge Afrikan Heritage House, 7:30pm A commemoration of the writings of poet, essayist, novelist, playwright and activist Amiri Baraka. Included is a screening of the 1967 cinema adaptation of Baraka's award winning play "The Dutchman" starring Al Freeman, Jr. and Shirley Knight. Sponsored by the Afrikan Heritage House and the Department of Africana Studies.

-February 22 Convocation: An Evening with Avery Brooks '70 Finney Chapel, 7:30-9:30 Avery Brooks '70 is an accomplished actor, director, musician and teacher. His extensive stage experience includes the title roles in the Shakespeare Theater production of The Oedipus Trilogy, Paul Robeson, and the opera X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X. Television viewers will recognize him as Captain Sisko in Star Trek: Deep Space Nine and as the host of the recent PBS/BBC documentary, Bible Mysteries. A former Artistic Director of the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, Brooks is currently a tenured professor of theater at the Mason Gross School of the Arts.

-February 26 Lecture by Dr. Earl Lewis, President of Mellon Foundation Dye Lecture Hall, 7:30 p.m. Title: TBD.

\* --March 3 Convocation Rev. James Lawson "The Influence of Plantation Capitalism on Today's Human Rights" First Church 7pm



Thank you, Mr. President.

1-30-2014

John Whitman 46802 Rt. 20, West, Oberlin, Ohio

Throughout history, many things have been deemed impossible. With the leadership, and guidance of a few dedicated men, these impossibilities were overcome. Let me state a few examples:

Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves:

John F. Kennedy put a man on the moon:

Martin Luther King Jr. achieved racial equality:

Overcoming these impossibilities took many years of dedication!

For 6 years I have been dedicated to trying to get the city to place a tile at wetland A, where the city has caused a flooding problem!

For 6 years I have been told by the city that this is an impossibility!

I now offer a challenge to the Great City of Oberlin, through this council, to strive to overcome this impossibility!

6 years is long enough to overcome an impossibility that could be achieved in less than a day!

Of course, I offer my support!

Will this council accept this challenge!

Thank you,  
John Whitman