





waiving water tapping fees at the site as well. She advised that there is tremendous support from the community for this project and they were eager to get started.

Discussion covered:

- Community Survey
- The use of Calvary Baptist Church Parking Lot
- Start up funding received from:
  - Nordson Corporation Foundation
  - The National Campaign against hunger and homelessness
- Possible Future Funding potential with Home Depot.

Soucy recommended that they get this launched on a one year trial basis. She felt it would be a benefit to Zion CDC to take the first year to get the raised garden beds going, test the waters, and allow the City the additional time to work out the legal aspects on its end.

Wright advised that it would suit Zion CDC well to get this approved on a one year trial basis.

Peterson asked what the total budget would be for the completion of the project. Wright advised that the total budget would be approximately \$96, 438., which could be further reduced by receiving additional funding from Home Depot.

Peterson asked if community forums would be held in addition to the surveys taken. Wright advised that they have a community advisory committee who will engage members of the community in the development of the project as they embark on this one – year trial period.

Sundance, Oberlin resident, said this project had been a community effort from day one. They have been having meetings with the public since March of 2009. These meetings are well attended by Oberlin students, interested seniors, Zion CDC Board members and representatives of the community Advisory Committee.

Burgess hoped the City would provide a water tap for the project as well as a drinking fountain. In addition Burgess stated that he would like to see the water metered in order to determine the City's contribution to this project.

Burgess also asked if it were possible to use the Fire station's parking lot for parking. Norenberg advised that the Fire Chief has indicated that parking at the station could not be relied on for the use of this project, since the parking would be needed for fire fighters reporting for duty and for people using the new community room.

Sloane reiterated that the parking situation had been settled by use of the Calvary Baptist Church parking lot. Burgess asked if it would be possible for the City to provide a bridge across Edmunds ditch somewhere near the property line of the church but still on the property of the fire station - to prevent the public from having to trudge through the ditch to get to the garden. Sloane advised that the garden would be given a one year trial period, the bridge could be given further consideration down the road. Norenberg advised that they would want to check with the City engineer before they make a determination as to whether or not the bridge would be a possibility.

Broadwell asked the presenters if they were confident - given the current state of the location – that they would be able to get a first planting season in. Wright advised that their ability to be successful would be contingent on when the fire station renovation project would be complete. One of the things that could be done to help move the project along, would be to have the construction company till the field for them, before they left. Broadwell asked if they were going to consider raised beds or not?

Sundance, Oberlin resident advised that at the community advisory committee's last meeting it was determined that they would try to get in 16 plots, some of which will be raised beds for those who were differently - abled. Regardless of whether they were going to do raised beds or not it was determined that the soil would still need to be tilled because they were in a clay environment and if they wanted proper root development they would need to do some digging down before they could build up. He felt confident that if they could get possession of that field in May they would be able to have the plots installed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meadows asked if the clay soil would need to be conditioned in order to promote the growing. Sundance advised that the soil would need to be amended in a number of different ways; because it is clay it has very little nutrient value for what they were trying to grow. It would be necessary to add nutrient amendments as well as amendments for breaking up the structure of the soil into something that is more manageable.

Wright advised that if they could get this project to fruition it would be a beautiful opportunity for the entire City of Oberlin to enjoy a green space that they have never experienced before.

Sloane asked what needed to be done in order to get this trial period started. Law Director Severs advised that there were two ways that they could precede: they could enter into a lease agreement with Zion CDC or instead of leasing the property the City could maintain complete ownership and enter into a service agreement with Zion CDC. The Law Director suggested that if Council wanted to precede at this time a motion would need to be put forth directing the City Manager and Law Director to prepare whatever necessary documents in order to permit a one year trial period for the proposed community garden.

Peterson asked when the recreation study would be completed. Norenberg advised that the study would be completed no later than August at this point. Peterson advised that he would certainly support moving forward but he would like to hear from the recreation department once the recreation study has been completed.

Sloane asked if the recreation department had an issue with the one year trial period. Norenberg advised that the recreation supervisor hadn't discussed the most recent proposal with him. This had recently been put before the commission and they seemed to be agreeable to a one year trial period. The department, as of November, had been very supportive of the gardening concept, but had at the time been approached by multiple interests for the location and felt that the recreational study would reveal which activity would be best suited for the field.

Motion to refer the community garden agreement to the Law Director and City Manager for a one year proposal was moved by Soucy, seconded by Pilacky.

**Roll Call:** 7 Ayes

0 Nays

Motion Carried

**(f.) Consider approval of funding for Community Organizations.**







**(B). Ordinance No. 10 - 16 AC CMS:** An Ordinance Approving A Participation Agreement Between the City of Oberlin, Ohio, and the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Purchase of Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt) and Declaring an Emergency. (1<sup>st</sup>)(E)

Soucy moved to have the ordinance read by number, title and substantive portions only, seconded by Burgess.

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

The clerk read as directed.

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

Norenberg advised that it was time to renew the annual Rock Salt agreement. The participation agreement with ODOT allowed for collaborative efforts between various communities which resulted in the purchase of more affordable rock salt. City’s participation in ODOT’s rock salt bid has insulated the City from reported market prices during the 2008/2009 winter of over \$100/ton.

Soucy asked how the City’s budget was impacted by the harsh winter they just experienced, in comparison to last year. Baumann advised that in terms of salt supply they were doing pretty well and the budget had minimal impact. He advised that additional time would be needed to determine the winter’s impact on costs associated with overtime pay.

Burgess asked Baumann if they had ever considered changing from rock salt to a liquid deicer. Baumann advised that they would need to change out all of their equipment on at least one truck which would result in significant capital costs. They have begun to look into using a wetting agent that would be applied at the spreader, the result would be salt that would stick better and bounce less as it hit the pavement. This unit could be retrofitted to all existing trucks.

Foregoing discussion a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings and elevate the ordinance to an emergency was moved by Broadwell, seconded by Meadows.

**Roll Call:** 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried  
(1<sup>st</sup>, Emergency)

**Roll Call:** 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried  
(1<sup>st</sup>, Final)

**5. Other New Business:**

None

**6. Council Communications:**

Soucy - Reports

Soucy read excerpts of a letter from Martha Wilkins, related to the many accomplishments of her brother the late William A. Johnston Jr. who was recently recognized by the Oberlin Main Street/Chamber of Commerce. Soucy noted that a Black History Month display paying tribute to the Oberlin hero would be in the Main Street/Chamber of Commerce's street – level window from early February through late March 2010.

Soucy advised that stimulus money was coming to Oberlin, by way of the refurbishing and rebuilding of 42 affordable housing units in town. The first of those 42 units have already been approved by the planning commission and will be refitted with green features from energy saving devices to extra insulation.

#### Burgess - Upcoming Conference

- Will be attending a Clean Fuels Conference at the end of the Month.

#### Kate Pilacky – Open Space Commission

- April 30<sup>th</sup> will be Arbor Day.
- Meadow Ordinance is being revised.
- Information about invasive species program will be forthcoming

#### Scott Broadwell - Legislative Rally in Washington D.C

Broadwell provided a general overview of the legislative rally that he attended with OMLPS Director Steve Dupee. A report was included in Council's packet from Mr. Dupee. Pamphlets regarding the events that took place are available as well.

#### Sloane – Report from the Ohio EPA West Branch Black River

- Correspondence was received related to the water treatment facility's lime sludge disposal.
- Ohio Department of Transportation. Re-igniting Ohio's Economic Engine Round Table.

Sloane advised that he would be unable to attend this discussion and hoped that another member would be able to go. Meadows advised that she would be attending that discussion on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Council Retreat

Sloane felt that the retreat was very worthwhile. He noted that the things that were indicated as priorities for this Council seemed to all be of a visionary matter.

Soucy advised that the goal of the retreat was to focus on specific goals that they would like this Council to focus on and in that respect the retreat was very successful. Pilacky advised that the Jazz Center Parking issue was very much on Council's mind.

- (A). Referrals**
- (B). Advocacy**
- (C). Correspondence**

