

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD November 30, 2015

This *SPECIAL* Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michele K. Ernst at 7:44 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell'Aquila, Director of Law Pignatiello, Director of Finance Johnson, Councilman-at-Large Barth, Councilwoman-at-Large Lecznar, Councilman-at-Large Trafis, Ward 2 Councilman Fraundorf, Ward 4 Councilwoman Ernst, and Director of Public Service and Properties Moga. Absentees were Ward 1 Councilman Leech, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky, and Building Commissioner Moro.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY

Tony Biasiotta, 1227 Rockside Road, made the following comments:

"I should have asked the question during Caucus – I apologize. This is on Ordinance No. 134-2015. I was a bit confused on some of the terminology. At the last Council Meeting the representative said that it was open to a one-time amendment. So there were things that we may have missed, or the new Council wants to dig into the numbers a little bit deeper, I thought we had that coverage potentially. I didn't get a direct answer on that. But what I did hear the Law Director say is we can renegotiate it in time. Is that really one and the same? The fact that we can renegotiate at any time negates the need for a one-time amendment? Or is that really opening the contract up completely? So what I'm trying to get to – is it two independent events? Is amending the contract once negated because you can say we can renegotiate at any time? So do I need to follow up on that, or does someone from Council or the Administration need to follow up on last week's ability to amend the contract?"

Law Director Pignatiello replied:

"I think it was a statement from Renee that said that the carrier would allow us to amend the contract one time. Meaning they would rebid it for us, maybe with different parameters, only if all three unions agreed to that."

Mr. Biasiotta asked, "Is there a difference between amending it once and renegotiating?"

Law Director Pignatiello answered, "No. You'd have to do both."

Mr. Biasiotta said, "Okay, so we don't need any follow up from Renee at this time."

Law Director Pignatiello stated, "You would have to get the unions on board to change the deductible, and then get a price from Renee, and get Medical Mutual to okay the amending of this contract."

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Mr. Biasiotta said, “All right. I just wanted to make sure we had an opportunity.....”

Law Director Pignatiello asked, “Did I answer that? I’m not sure I answered your question.”

Mr. Biasiotta stated, “Well, you are saying that we don’t need to follow up with Renee because we can renegotiate the contract at any time. And then you said, of course, that renegotiating is based upon all these other factors, which I understand.”

Council President Ernst added, “Renee is still going to get back to us.”

Mr. Biasiotta continued, “All I’m trying to say is that there is no difference between a one-time amendment and opening up to renegotiate.”

Council President Ernst said, “Renee is still going to get us the information that was requested from Medical Mutual. They have not gotten back to us because this is their busy time, and last week was a holiday week. So that information is going to be provided to the new Council so that you have that to look at – at the time either if you want to try to negotiate with the unions for this new amount -- for the insurance.”

Mr. Biasiotta replied, “Well, whatever – there’s a lot of numbers in there. Potentially it may not all be related to the unions, and I want us to have the opportunity to kick the tires and dig in because that stuff is doing our due diligence. And if we find anything, I want to know what the procedure is. And if we don’t know this week – we should know next week – I really hope we know by the 14th by the time the new Council sits in. Is there a process to one-time amend, and is that process any different than renegotiating the whole contract? That’s all that I’m trying to find out, and I’m not sure who to ask. Is that a fair question? Am I doing something.....?”

Finance Director Johnson added, “If I could. I’m listening to the conversation and I want to make sure that we all understand that we’re talking about two contracts – the City’s contract with Medical Mutual and the City’s contract with all the collective bargaining units. And the collective bargaining units all specifically state the levels of coverage that the City is going to provide. So if we do the one-time amendment to the Medical Mutual contract, we need to be clear before we do that that all the collective bargaining units are going to agree to whatever that one-time change is. So they kind of have to be done simultaneously. But you have to get buy-in from the unions before we would go to Medical Mutual and say this is what we want changed.”

Mr. Biasiotta said, “I absolutely understand. You can’t put the cart before the horse. Until you have an agreement in hand, you can’t – but why even spend the time renegotiating with the unions if we don’t even have an opportunity to amend it. So what I’m trying to ascertain is what options we have available going forward. And everything is contingent upon getting agreements and sign-offs with all our labor. I understand that.”

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Mrs. Lecznar commented:

“The renegotiating is not between Medical Mutual and us. The renegotiating is when we go to do the union contracts. We need to make the unions realize that we want to change the Medical Mutual deductibles, and they have to agree to that. That’s the only renegotiation you have. The one-time change to the contract would be after you negotiate that contract with the unions, and they say yes we will agree to let you have these deductibles, then we can go in and make the one-time change with Medical Mutual that says, okay we’re going to change these deductibles to the higher deductibles. So you’re confusing renegotiating, which is only with the contract with the union people with the one-time change, which is the only thing that can be done with Medical Mutual. Do you understand?”

Mr. Biasiotta replied, “I understand now.”

Mr. Moga asked, “The question I have – regardless if we have another contract for a year – what you’re saying is you want to bring this up to the unions before that time?”

Mrs. Lecznar answered, “Yes, because the union negotiations start in June.”

Council President Ernst said, “We’re not actually saying that at all at this point. That is for the next Council to decide. You have the option of making the change and the Law Director came back and said that if we want to make a change we do have to negotiate that with the unions.”

Mr. Moga asked, “And that is if all the unions approve?”

Council President Ernst replied, “Yes. So, you will have the chance. You have the chance, according to the Law Director, to make changes in the Medical Mutual insurance coverage. That is an option. Renee did make that statement.”

Mr. Biasiotta concluded:

“I’m just looking for confirmation that if we find an opportunity – wherever we find an opportunity – whether it’s renegotiating with the unions or any other kind of options we find where we can save money or deliver better for the citizens – that we have an opportunity to amend it.”

Council President Ernst added, “And according to Renee, at last week’s meeting, that is true. And she is still waiting for Medical Mutual to get back to us.”

Mr. Biasiotta said, “She wasn’t real firm on that. So I was just hoping that when we do get the information from her that we can confirm that we have that option. That’s all I’m asking. Thank you.”

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ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Amended Ordinance No. 134-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS TO ENTER INTO A TWENTY-TWO MONTH AGREEMENT COMMENCING DECEMBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING OCTOBER 1, 2017 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,120,773.50, WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL OF OHIO FOR THE FURNISHING OF MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR QUALIFIED FULL-TIME CITY EMPLOYEES; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO SIGN, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND GIVE FORCE AND EFFECT TO SAID MEDICAL COVERAGES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to read Amended Ordinance No. 134-2015 by title only for its second and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Amended Ordinance No. 134-2015 was read by full title only for its second and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 134-2015 as an emergency measure.

Mr. Trafis stated:

“We received this contract a little bit over a week ago, and this is an expenditure for a little bit over \$1.1 million, which is a 22-month contract. Moving forward, when this is looked at again, I really hope that we get this in enough time. Here we are – Tony had some great questions. I think other people may have relevant questions that seem to remain unanswered. I acknowledge that this needs to be passed in order to continue getting health care benefits for our employees, but the timing of this is absolutely unacceptable. This cannot continue happening.”

Mayor Dell’Aquila stated:

“This certainly did come at us very late in the process. However, I know that the underwriters control the timing on this. We don’t have control over the underwriters. I can tell you that I personally, in my own private business, experienced the same situation in the renewal of a policy that I had. We are at the mercy of the underwriters. When they submit the bids the broker gets them to us, and we act.”

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 134-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

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MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to amend Ordinance No. 135-2015 by:
(1) Adding a starting date of December 7th and an ending date of December 11th; and also further
(2) Revising the sum not to exceed \$12,000.00 to a sum not to exceed \$6,000.00; if there is no division of the question.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

Amended Ordinance No. 135-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH THREE-Z-INC., OF VALLEY VIEW, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEAF COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,000.00) FOR SAID SERVICE, STARTING DECEMBER 7, 2015 AND ENDING DECEMBER 11, 2015; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to read Amended Ordinance No. 135-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Amended Ordinance No. 135-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 135-2015 as an emergency measure.

Mr. Trafis stated:

“Thank you to Council for agreeing to amend this legislation. This is a savings of at least \$6,000.00. Hopefully our guys continue doing the great job that they’re doing, and maybe we won’t even have to spend all of this. Thank you.”

Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 135-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business brought forward before Council.

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MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to adjourn the meeting.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

The November 30, 2015 Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Michele K. Ernst, President of Council

Attest: _____
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____