

Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING** and was called to order by President Beacom.

Member(s) Present: **Mr. Clifford McClure** (Ward 4); **Mr. Perry** (Ward 1);
Mrs. Misener (Vice President); **Mr. Beacom** (President)

Member(s) Absent: **Mr. Paulchel** (Ward 2); **Ms. Kist** (Ward 3);
Mr. Christopher McClure (Ward 5)

Officer(s) Present: **City Manager Varckette, City Auditor Zullo,**
Clerk of Council Hennigan

Officer(s) Absent: **City Solicitor Simon**

SUNSHINE LAW: Conformity to the Sunshine Law was certified.

PURPOSE: The Council President announced the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear the pros and cons of Mr. Bob Coffield's request to vacate the driveway located at 424 East 18th Street.

WELCOME: The Council President welcomed visitors.

DISCUSSION and/or QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

The Council President noted that Mr. Coffield is referred to as "Ray" on all paperwork but that his first name is actually "Bob".

Mr. Coffield reported his request is that only the concrete driveway to be vacated, for the purpose of removing and replacing the old torn up concrete and eventually constructing an addition at the end of his home by the driveway. He reported the County says he owns 2 acres; the City says 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

From the map that was provided, it was determined that the concrete driveway is actually an alley and that Mr. Coffield owns most of the property surrounding his home. Mr. Coffield reported his home is on the east side of the driveway/alley and the vacant lot is located on the west side.

Mr. Jack White, 1813 Harbor Avenue, was present, said the vacation request would not affect him as long as he has access to his property and said he does not oppose the request. It was determined that Mr. White would still have access to his property if the vacation is granted.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Mr. White asked if there are any long term plans to construct homes in his neighborhood because he has heard rumors that 30 of the same type of home recently built by the NRP group are going to be built by his home. The body politic said they have not heard such.

**Ashtabula City Council Public Hearing
Monday, April 4, 2005 - page 2**

Mr. White said the only opinion he has regarding the NRP homes is that if they are built he would like to see the alleyway remain as such and not be turned into a street. He then asked if such homes would change the structure of his property taxes. The Council President said he does not see how the tax structure would change if the homes are constructed.

Mr. White reported there to be 30 foot tall pine tree on the treelawn north of his property which causes a view obstruction when exiting his driveway. Mr. Coffield said there were four trees; he cut three down but did not remove the one in question because it is located between power lines. The City Manager will research.

Mr. Coffield reported that by West 19th Street where the asphalt stops by Mr. Severino's home, a culvert pipe is clogged and the ditch does not drain, thus causing mosquitoes. He said about two years ago the City cut down trees and brush and left it lying which clogged the drain. He said the ditch by his home was dug out and does drain. The City Manager will research.

The Council President announced that, by law, the Council is unable to make formal decisions at a public hearing. He reported the Ward Councilor for the area in question is not present and that hopefully the request for approval can be made at this evening's Regular Council meeting.

Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Perry seconded, to adjourn the Public Hearing at 5:54 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

DATE APPROVED: _____

ATTESTED BY: _____

**Robert E. Beacom
President of Council**

ATTESTED BY: _____

**LaVette E. Hennigan, CMC
Clerk of Council**