

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE AVON LAKE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
HELD OCTOBER 19, 2009**

A Special Meeting of the Avon Lake Municipal Council was called to order on October 19, 2009 at 9:10 P.M. in Council Chambers with Council President Zilka presiding.

Mr. O'Donnell led the Council, staff, and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council Members Jennifer Fenderbosch, David Kos, Mr. O'Donnell, Timothy Rush, Michael Stanek, Gregory Zilka, Mayor Zuber, Law Director William Kerner, Director of Finance Tom DiLellio, Engineering Department Manager Joseph Reitz, Clerk of Council Barbara Dopp.

There being no objections, Mr. Meiners was excused from attendance at the meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Darrel Ludwig, 233 Inwood Boulevard, Avon Lake, expressed his support for the \$15,000 expenditure to continue bus service in Avon Lake.

MOTION

Mr. Kos moved to authorize a \$15,000 expenditure to RTA for continued service in Avon Lake.

Mr. Kos made the following comments. Feedback from Mayor Smith of Avon is a clear example of regionalism. Passage of the motion will allow all parties, including the City of Avon, to develop a plan for public transportation. If the plan is not viable, then Council will have the opportunity to vote against any further funding.

Mrs. Fenderbosch stated that she believes in regionalism, but questioned the best use of funds. There have been ongoing discussions between RTA and the County, but until this point, Avon Lake has not been part of those discussions. She cited articles from various newspapers reporting on the budget deficit of Lorain County Transit. Mrs. Fenderbosch gave suggestions for car pooling and the use of a circulator bus to take passengers to a park and ride facility. Mrs. Fenderbosch stated that she cannot support a \$15,000 expenditure for only 24 residents who use the RTA service.

Mr. Stanek stated that he cannot support the \$15,000 expenditure for three months of service for a very limited number of residents. He made the following comments. If the Mayors of Avon and Avon Lake and the respective Public Service Committees develop a viable plan, RTA will most likely be open to

discussing the plan. The City should put forth an effort in support of the commuter rail which is an option that may provide better long term benefits to Lorain County residents.

Mr. O'Donnell agreed with Mr. Stanek and Mrs. Fenderbosch. He stated that RTA has not been interested in service in Lorain County, and that a plan should have been developed before this time. The area of regionalism and public transportation should be addressed by RTA and the County Commissioners.

Mr. Rush stated that he cannot support the \$15,000 expenditure and made the following comments. In three months, Council will be discussing the same issues and problems. The expenditure does not necessarily support regionalism; it simply buys time on a particular bus line and does not improve the area as a whole.

Mayor Zuber made the following comments. He and Mr. Kos have been working with Lorain County Transit for months to put together a plan. The County just recently advised the City that they would no longer contribute to the RTA service, which is why they are requesting the \$15,000 expenditure. The money was placed in the budget for such a situation as now exists. Any plan or cooperative agreement will cost the City money.

Mr. Zilka stated that he is in favor of regionalism and suggested that if the motion is defeated, it does not mean public transit will never be available in Lorain County. If the income tax issue passes in November, more funds will be available and perhaps it will encourage the Mayor of Avon to join Avon Lake and work with the County Commissioners on a proposal to offer some type of public transit in Lorain County. A circulator bus could be an option.

Yes: Kos

No: O'Donnell, Rush, Stanek, Zilka, Fenderbosch

Absent: Meiners

Motion failed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. O'Donnell moved to adjourn.

Yes: O'Donnell, Rush, Stanek, Zilka, Fenderbosch, Kos

No: None

Absent: Meiners

Motion carried.

Adjournment: 9:32

Approved: _____
Council President

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

October 19, 2009 Special Council Meeting Minutes