

Held

March 8, 1976

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CENTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 8, 1976

The Council of the City of Centerville, County of Montgomery, State of Ohio met in Special Session on Monday, March 8, 1976 at 8:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Centerville Municipal Building with Mayor Victor Green presiding. Council Members and City Staff present were as follows:

Deputy Mayor J. V. Stone  
Councilwoman Nora Lake  
Councilmen Ralph Spencer  
Charles McQueeney  
Leonard Stubbs

Clerk of Council Marilyn McLaughlin  
City Manager Darryl Kenning  
City Planner Garth Reynolds  
City Engineer Karl Schab  
Director of Finance William Bettcher  
Chief of Police William Randolph  
Municipal Attorney Robert Farquhar  
Administrative Assistant John Levermann

Mr. Spencer moved that Councilman Russell Sweetman be excused from this Meeting; he is on active duty with the Military Reserves. Mr. McQueeney seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes in favor of the motion.

Mr. Stone moved that Councilman Ralph Spencer be excused from the Meeting held March 1, 1976, he was detained at his place of employment. Mrs. Lake seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in four ayes in favor of the motion; Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Spencer abstained. Mr. Stubbs questioned excusing a Council Member without his giving notice of his absence prior to the Meeting. Mr. Farquhar will research this matter.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 16-76 PLANNING COMMISSION

Mrs. Lake sponsored Ordinance Number 16-76, An Emergency Ordinance To Appoint A Member To The City Planning Commission For The City Of Centerville For A Term Of Four Years, and moved that it be passed. Mr. McQueeney seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes in favor of the motion.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 17-76 ANNEXATION

Mayor Green explained the City's desire to unify the City of Centerville and Washington Township; he reviewed reasons for considering unification: reduce the cost of Government to the residents of this Community, additional resources can be brought to the total Community and the necessity for additional tax dollars in the future can be reduced.

Upon request of Mr. Stubbs, Mr. Farquhar explained the procedure followed in placing the question of Annexation of an entire territory to the vote of the people. Mayor Green explained why the Primary Election, June 8, 1976 has been chosen as the date for the vote; the City must plan its financial future this year. Centerville is asking Washington Township to join the City to enjoy a high level of services through a unified Community.

Washington Township Trustee Duane Snyder read a letter to Council outlining steps which he believes must be followed before such unification can take place. If, after the educational process, the residents in the unincorporated area want unification, he would then support it.

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Washington Township Trustee President Russell Miller, believes that a hasty decision has been made by the City, he encouraged additional study of the question.

Mr. McQueeney sees the City and Township as one Community. In view of the trend toward Municipal form of Government in Townships, he believes it is at present that this unification must take place, time is against the Township rural form of Government.

Mr. Stone reminded all present that unification has been discussed for many years, he believes it is now time for the Citizens of this Community to decide their future.

Mayor Green emphasized the need for all facts to be presented to the residents of the Township, they must decide the question after reviewing all facts. Mr. Snyder believes more time is required to educate the people, he proposed two years.

Mr. Elmer Tate, 5513 Knollcrest Court, believes all facts can be told to the people in a short period of time, this is not an educational process.

Mr. Stubbs reviewed how basic problems of unification were met by our forefathers, he believes now is the time for people to decide their future.

Mrs. Lake reviewed benefits which Township residents would enjoy through unification, the total Community would have the tools to cope with present day problems; commitment for unification is more important than the time needed to achieve it.

Mr. Don Wright, Editor of the Centerville-Bellbrook Times, questioned whether unification could be accomplished in three months. He is concerned with mechanism to provide representation for the residents in the unincorporated area and utilization of the Township Staff. He offered basic questions which must be answered, they will be asked by Township residents. He sees November 2, 1976 as a more appropriate date for the question to be put to the electors.

Mr. Miller suggested and Mr. McQueeney concurred that perhaps the Trustees be given the opportunity to put input into the data prepared by the City, the whole idea of unification.

In view of all items discussed at this Meeting, consideration was given to putting the question on the November 2, 1976 General Election Ballot; a regular Ordinance would set this goal.

Washington Township Trustee Walter Buchanan suggested that all ground work be completed before the introduction of legislation.

Upon question of Mrs. Lake, Mr. Farquhar advised that if the regular Ordinance was not passed for approximately sixty days there would be ample time for the question to be put to the voters on November 2, 1976.

Mr. Spencer moved that Ordinance Number 17-76, An Ordinance To Authorize Annexation Of Certain Territory To The City Of Centerville, Montgomery County, Ohio, be set for Public Hearing on March 22, 1976. Mr. McQueeney seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes in favor of the motion; Mrs. Lake voted no.

The setting of a joint Meeting between Council and the Trustees to review information and set a procedure to follow, was discussed. Mr. Buchanan offered no assistance from the Trustees to Centerville to compile an informative document to sell unification to the Township people, he believes participation must come from the Citizens themselves; he will follow what the Citizens in the unincorporated area want.

#### ORDINANCE NUMBER 18-76 ANNEXATION

Following a five minute recess called by Mayor Green, Mr. Stone sponsored Ordinance Number 18-76, An Emergency Ordinance To Authorize Annexation Of Certain Territory To The City Of Centerville, Montgomery County, Ohio, and moved that it be passed. Mr. Stubbs seconded the motion. This Ordinance places the question on the June 8, 1976 Primary Election

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Ballot. A roll call vote resulted in five ayes in favor of the motion; Mrs. Lake voted no.

Mr. Stubbs moved that this Meeting be adjourned. Mr. McQueeney seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes in favor of the motion.

Approved:

Victor A. Green  
Mayor

ATTEST:

Marie S. McLaughlin  
Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Centerville, Ohio