

Council met in **PUBLIC HEARING** on Monday, March 7, 2011, at 7:31 P.M. in Council Chambers with President Maurer presiding. Members present: Avant, Judge, Lysenko, Megyes, Soyars, Suboticki, and Wagner. Mr. Anderson was absent. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the **Seiberling – CORF Project**.

Ms. Sheridan, Planning Director, introduced Mr. Jim Smith from BRG. She said he is going to do a short presentation on the CORF application for the former Seiberling Office Complex on 15th Street. She asked everyone in attendance to please sign the sign-in sheet. She said that will accompany the CORF application to prove that you attended the public hearing.

Mr. Jim Smith said this is a Public Hearing for the former Seiberling Office Building Redevelopment Project. He said the City of Barberton has applied for a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant to abate the asbestos and do any environmental work necessary to obtain a “covenant not to sue” for that property as part of the redevelopment of that former office building. He said part of the Clean Ohio process is to apply for that funding which was done back in January. He said the application ends up being in a big three-ring binder filled with information of everything known about the environmental history, plus project information for redevelopment and all sorts of requirements that Clean Ohio has in order to determine whether or not the project is worthy of funding. He said for the last forty-five days that application has been in the public library for anyone to review. He said the purpose of this meeting tonight is to hear from the public -- any questions, comments -- regarding that application. He said this hearing is a mandatory part of the grant application process, with the purpose to get any feedback on the grant application. He said he would answer any questions right here and now. He said if there is a question that can not be answered this evening, that question would be recorded in the minutes and would go with the application down to Clean Ohio. He said that is the next step after the meeting tonight. He said Clean Ohio will then review the application, along with applications received throughout the State. He said after the review process, he believes it would be sometime in May before they would know whether or not they have been successful. He said that is the preface and the background and that is why he is here -- to solicit any questions or any comments that the public might have.

President Maurer asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Chuck Fowler, 1136 Wilbur Avenue, Norton, asked if this was the office complex or the factory part of it also. Mr. Smith said it is just the office complex for this application; however, they are pursuing a separate application for the balance of the property. He said it was done that way primarily to facilitate the speed in which they could get the office portion ready for redevelopment. He said if the whole property had been done, it would have really slowed down this process.

President Maurer asked if there were any questions from the Body for Mr. Smith.

President Maurer told Mr. Smith to get the project done quickly. He said they want to get this project off the ground as soon as possible. Mr. Smith said that is understood completely. He said, unfortunately, it is in the process and there is no way to speed up this process. He said everything has been done that can be done, so we should find out in May whether we have been successful.

President Maurer again asked if there were any other questions from the Gallery.

Mr. Pat Betts, 222 16th Street, Barberton, said because we have a new administration, will that change the way Clean Ohio operates? He said he has his worries about everything related to “this guy down there.” He said he just wanted to know if that would slow down or speed up the process. Mr. Smith said the Clean Ohio Program has enjoyed, since its inception, bi-partisan support, which has been very strong on both sides of the aisle, particularly the brownfield side of the Clean Ohio Program. He said there is also a greenfield side, but this grant is on the brownfield side. He said the expectation is that there would be no change in that regard. He said the funding for Clean Ohio for this round -- the round that we have applied to -- is already set and allocated and spoken for, so to speak. He said it would be very difficult and unprecedented -- and there has been no indication or rumor -- that there will be any changes to the funding round

for which we are applying. He said the program is already set in funding through January 2013, so no new significant changes are expected prior to that.

President Maurer asked if there were any other questions.

There were none.

President Maurer said hearing no questions or comments, this public hearing was closed.

Adjourned 7:41 P.M.

Frederick S. Maurer
President of Council

Susan Matuch
Clerk of Council