SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2009

Members of Service Committee present: Mel Clemens, Donna Shirey, Doug Joseph, Barth R. Cotner.

Other members of Council present: Ron Stake, Fred Deskins, Jr., Leslie Kelly, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Clemens: I'll call the Service Committee Meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

The first item on the agenda is approval of agenda. Are there any items that anybody would like to present that's not on the agenda? If not, it'll stand approved.

Item 3 - Approval of minutes of the Service Committee Meeting held November 2, 2009. Are there any amendments to the Service Committee minutes? If not they'll stand approved.

Item 4 - Discussion: Code Compliance- - -on 7-6-09 item held; on 7-20-09 item discussed and held; on 9-8-09 item discussed and held - - - 9-21-09 - This item is left on in case somebody has any Code Compliance they'd like to mention, and also to keep up on some that's already been sent to Court and worked on. Are there any questions pertaining to this item? If not, we'll leave it on the agenda.

Item 5 - ORDINANCE APPROVING SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE PERMIT - (6748 E. Main Street, proposed use - automotive sales/outdoor storage); applicant, Augustin Munyemana- - -second reading 11-9-09. This has to do with the renting of storage, and storing of trailers, or U-Hauls, at the filling station at 6748 E. Main Street. We've discussed this some and I think the owner's been here. My feeling is on it, and I'll mention it since I brought it up as Service Chair, I'm not pleased with it, and I don't think it brings anything to the City of Reynoldsburg. We worked hard to make the Main Street what it is. We've had problems with this before, and I think it's going to be a problem as far as our Administration trying to handle it. Our Zoning Officer has a lot of work as it is, and to try to keep up with this, I don't think it's to the benefit of the city to do it. Are there any other questions, or anybody else would like to have any other discussion? This has had its second reading and has to be sent to Council for adoption, or for not adoption. Are there any other members of Council that have an opinion as far as this is concerned? Members of Committee, members of Council? If not, I'd like to make a motion that we send this to Council for denial from the Service Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Shirey. All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Thank you and that ends the Service Committee Meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Service Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

November 16, 2009

(Transcribed/S. Cochran, Ass't. Clerk of Council)

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2009

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Fred Deskins, Jr., Leslie Kelly.

Other members of Council present: Doug Joseph, Barth R. Cotner, Donna Shirey, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Stake: I'll call to order the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:40 p.m. Next item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Are there any additions by Finance Committee members to the agenda? I do have one. I would like to add the meeting minutes of the Special Finance Committee meeting September 28th, or, I'm sorry, November 9, 2009. All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Thank you

Item 3 - Approval of minutes of the Special Finance Committee meeting held November 2, 2009. Are there any changes to those minutes? None being heard, they'll stand as submitted.

Item 3a - Approval of the meeting minutes for November 9, 2009. Any changes to those minutes? None being heard, they'll stand as submitted.

Item 4 - Discussion: Authorize renewal verification with UHC, Alternative 1- - -listed at my request after receiving a request on Friday by the HR Director and the Mayor. Mayor.

Mayor McCloud: Thank you President, I'm sorry, Chairman Stake, members of Council. This is Administration's recommendation to enter into a renewal verification with UHC for health insurance. I'm requesting that Alternative 1 be adopted, and this would be for the time period of January 1 through December 31, 2010.

Mr. Stake: Are there any questions for the Mayor, from members of the Finance Committee, members of Council? Anything else you'd like to add Mayor?

Mayor McCloud: No, I have nothing to add at this time, Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: Okay. President Hills.

Mr. Hills: If I could, and I think it's important to note that I appreciate Administration making this recommendation, but I think people don't realize money is tight, as we've talked about. I think as we go through this budget process, you may see that annual increases are probably not going to be anything that are going to be very evident and relevant, and I appreciate Administration's thoughts of, with the increasing cost of medical care, let's try to hold the same benefits that these employees have had for the last couple of years in place. That is not what was designed when this HSA came about; however, this does benefit everyone involved. You may not get more money in your paycheck, but if you don't have to put out more money for the healthcare you're getting, it's a nice derivative and a nice benefit and if people would look at some of this and figure what percentage of their income is going into this plan, it is not going to be easy as we get through December, it is not going to be a pleasant month for Council, it's not going to be a pleasant month for Administration. It's not a pleasant month in most cities right now. The economy is, I see somebody picked up I said 'the economy sucks' - I guess I could have used a better word, but I'll repeat it, it still sucks, but this is where we've taken a step to say let's do the best we can do to protect our employees and keep our employees in a treatment that we all would like to have and derive an equal benefit from. With that Mr. Stake, I'm sure that we'll have other discussions coming on, but I did, I think, again the Administration - I'd like to give you credit for trying to keep this in place and trying to move it forward.

Mr. Stake: Okay, any other questions or comments? Hearing none, I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council for its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you.

Item 5 - Discussion: Increase of Bed Tax from 4% to 6% - - listed as separate item at request of Chairman Stake. President of Council notes that prior discussion seemed to contain the desire to amend the existing proposed ordinance with the language (see Item 15 below). I would like to run it through Council as a separate item and I know there has been some discussion on this previously, increasing the bed tax from 4% to 6% and this would be an increase whether that funding for REDI goes either way, so are there any questions or comments in regards to this? Mr. Harris. I guess he has a comment.

City Auditor Harris: Thank you, Chairman Stake. I did some additional research from the State website considering what other places in Franklin County get from this particular tax and while I read a few weeks ago what they got percentage-wise, let me get you some of the numbers that they have collected. Franklin County collects $16,964,000; Columbus - $14,882,000; Dublin - $2,476,000; Gahanna - $461,000; Hilliard - $331,000; Grove City - $886,000; Reynoldsburg - $179,000. Obviously, we're not collecting what similar cities of our size are, and I think that's once of the reasons why this Council needs to consider this. You're talking about taking $25,000 out of the General Fund. You can say it's coming out of the Bed Tax, but right now that money's going to the General Fund. If you're going to fund REDI, you should replace it, and therefore I think Council should consider very carefully what they want to do with this.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Harris, have you tallied up how many hotels or motels those other communities have?

Mr. Harris: No, all I have is the figures that, what they get from....

Mr. Stake: Because I can betcha that all the ones that are above us have more hotels and motels.

Mr. Harris: I don't think Gahanna does, but I think Pickerington only has one and they get $121,000 from the one hotel that they have. They have two?

Mr. Hills: Hampton Inn and....

Mr. Harris: And that one...

Mr. Hills: ...Holiday Inn or something.

Mr. Harris: Holiday Inn. So they have less than we do and get almost the same amount from 3%; so you know, we have, we're, here again, we're going to ask, we want to go and raise fees to make our own citizens pay more money, why aren't we trying to collect money from people who are not living here? And I'll also answer any questions on this, if you have, but that's what my statement was.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: Are the figures you just read, are they from the, what year, what time period are they from?

Mr. Harris: They're from 2008. No, that's 2007 collections that were on the yeah, the latest one that the State has posted on their website.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, what did you say on Gahanna's were?

Mr. Harris: Gahanna is at $461,478.

Mrs. Kelly: And what is Reynoldsburg again?

Mr. Harris: It is $179,431.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: And I think it's fine and I like your figures. The important thing is, what communities, what's the 4 and what's the 6? Which ones are charging the 6%?

Mr. Harris: The ones that are charging 6% are, Dublin, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Grove City, Hilliard, Upper Arlington, Westerville, Whitehall, Worthington, Canal Winchester.

Mr. Clemens: And who's charging the 4%? Reynoldsburg?

Mr. Harris: Reynoldsburg and Groveport. Upper Arlington also, Upper Arlington charges 6% and they don't even have any hotels.

Mr. Clemens: I was going to say, I didn't think they did.

Mr. Harris: Violet Township charges 3% and they don't have any hotels. So I guess it's....

(conversation/many speaking at once/inaudible)

Mr. Harris: ...if someone wants to come in, I guess they're going to pay it.

Mr. Clemens: That was the point I brought up, but we're one of the few that do not charge 6%. People do not come to Reynoldsburg, or go to Columbus, they don't call ahead and see who's charging 4% and who's charging 6%. So I think, and I've never called ahead with the trips I've taken and asked what percentage is the hotel tax? I mean, you go where you want. But I think, as you said, that's the way you increase our revenue that we need without our residents having to pay anything for it. Very few times can we do that and I just think to get the additional money in our fund, I see no reason why not to raise the tax from 4% to 6%. I've not figured any reason why not to start with. I mean, if there's a reason, then I'd like to hear it.

Mr. Stake: Bad economy?

Mr. Clemens: Bad economy....

Mr. Stake: Bet you any business, I think an increase in what they're going to have to charge is....

Mr. Clemens: We're not increasing it to anybody that lives in the City of Reynoldsburg.

Mr. Stake: Okay.

Mr. Harris: Increase it to the businesses.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens, I certainly respect your opinion and........

Mr. Clemens: It may be the businesses, don't get me wrong. We have the business that we're increasing it to.

Mr. Stake: Sure. Okay. Councilman Deskins, I believe you were next.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you Councilman Stake. Mr. Harris, I'm a dumb hillbilly sitting up here. Explain the $25,000,000 you said we need to pay attention to.

Mr. Harris: That would be $25,000.

Mr. Deskins: The $25,000 - taking it out of the General Fund. If we increase taxes, we're going to be putting it back?

Mr. Harris: What right now you're talking about with Item 15, is taking $25,000 and giving it to REDI, correct?

Mr. Deskins: Okay.

Mr. Harris: That money currently is coming into the city and it's currently going to the General Fund. If you decide to give REDI that money and don't replace it, you are taking $25,000 out of the General Fund and giving it to REDI.

Mr. Deskins: Was that our intentions, was taking all of it out of the $25,000 and putting it over into REDI or......

Mr. Stake: No, we were taking, our intention was to take $25,000 of the total bed tax money and put it into REDI; and I'll remind Council members that REDI is an economic development arm, that if funded properly, would be able to bring in additional economic development, which in turn would bring in additional payroll, that would bring additional taxes.

Mr. Harris: But currently, if you look at the General Fund, I gave you a list of what items go into the General Fund. If you look at one of the lines at the top of that page, that's the motel - hotel tax that currently comes in there and you're going to reduce that by $25,000, if you give that money to REDI.

Mr. Stake: I believe Councilwoman Kelly was next. Did you still have a question, comment?

Mrs. Kelly: No.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, the reason I brought this up, this is the way to supplement the $25,000 that we're going to take out of the General Fund.

Mr. Deskins: It's through the increase basically.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, right. It's an increase to out-of-towners is basically what it is, that all the other communities except Reynoldsburg and Groveport, and I don't know where their motel is, but I'm sure they have it. You know, of all the surrounding suburbs of the City of Columbus, we're the only one that charges 4%. Everybody else charges 6%, that doesn't not get people to stop here because of that 2%. I mean that's something they don't look at. And I agree with Ron, the $25,000 goes for a reason, and we're talking about not only if $25,000 this year, we'd be talking about $25,000 next year....

Mr. Stake: Each year, yes.

Mr. Clemens: ...each year it comes out of the General Fund, and this would be a way to supplement that, and also I think we're talking about $80,000, not only would it supplement that $25,000, but it would bring in another $55,000 to the General Fund and as we all know at the present time, our, financially at the present time, we could use that money that we need in the General Fund. That's why it was brought up. We've discussed this in years past, but I would like to ask Administration, I'd like to ask the Mayor, how do you look at this?

Mayor McCloud: I support it.

Mr. Clemens: I'm sorry.

Mayor McCloud: I support it, Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Harris: In answer to your question, Mr. Clemens....

Mr. Stake: Yeah, Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: In 2007, Groveport took in $1,406. I'm not sure what kind of hotel they have down there or whether it's hourly, nightly or whatever, but they obviously, they don't take in much.

Mr. Stake: Okay, Mrs. Kelly, do you have something?

Mrs. Kelly: I do. I just, something maybe to, for us to think about or consider, because yes, surely when I go places, I don't ask what is your 2% or 4% or 6%, but I'm wondering if there are people who are interested in either redeveloping a current hotel that we have here or building in the future, is that something that people who want to get into the hotel business consider when they're developing someplace, if the community has a 4% or a 6% and would that increase maybe discourage some people and cause them to look and say well, Pickerington or Dublin or one of these places also offer 6% and I was going to look at Reynoldsburg but you know what, these other places because Reynoldsburg has a 4% but the other places had a 6% but now it's all 6% so I'll just go one of these other places. I don't know, I don't know if that's something that people in that industry look at, but it may be something to consider also.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Kelly, that's a good point and I'm sure that any business person would certainly look at that, and I do believe that we do have a piece of property waiting for the ____ to come into, so that may be a consideration, I don't know. President Hills, I believe you were next in line, did you still have something?

Mr. Hills: Well, in, I guess, I'll go ahead and add to this that I agree with what you're saying and I can respect what your questions are, Councilperson Kelly, but I would think that anyone that is in the corporate nature that is determining whether he is or isn't going to build a hotel or a motel, is more concerned about, are people going to come to him as to whether he pays, charges 4% or 6% on the local rate. Those, that's a small percentage of what his total costs are going to be. Now, where I had my initial question and I'm sure you all have read Item No. 5 where President of Council notes that prior discussion - that does not mean that Chairman Stake and I are fighting or arguing, we sometimes don't always agree on the same thing. We have Item No. 15 tonight which is amending the same sections of the Code, 192.02. I've sat here and I've heard about fiscal responsibility and I've heard fiscal responsibility and fiscal management from a number of different places for a number of months and this fiscally makes sense. If you're going to give out part of the money you're receiving from the bed tax to another entity for investment purposes or whatever, you offset what you give away and you can do that by the 2%. There's a desire to pass two different ordinances or vote on two different ordinances. One is an increase and the other is giving it away. To me, common senses says, why have two pieces of legislation when you 're modifying the same thing? They should go together. It's just a matter if it being the increase from 4% to 6% is the first paragraph of the ordinance and the others are paragraphs two and three. Again, this is a fiscally responsible thing to do, and it's, I'm not trying to save paperwork for Nancy Frazier, but it makes sense to be able to put all the modifications into one ordinance and that's the only difference that Ron and I have on this. I mean, I don't vote unless there's a tie and Ron's expressed that he's not for a tax, because he says it's a tax, I'm not sure if it's a tax, a service charge, it's whatever it is, but let me assure you, when we're taking taxpayer dollars and we're putting them into a new venture, if your expenses exceed your revenues already, and you're going to put new dollars out here into a new venture, let's bring some dollars in to offset what we're doing. I think that's the way I look at fiscal responsibility. We have the opportunity to do it here and ought to be just in one ordinance and go flying right on through.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Deskins.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you. That was the point of my question to Mr. Harris. If we're taking $25,000 out of the kitty and we're going to raise the taxes from 4% to 6%, 4% to 8%, we're going to replenish that, that's not a bad deal. I don't know why I even brought it up, because I think we make sure we put it back in the kitty if we take it out.

Mr. Harris: I think you have to understand what it is you, exactly you are doing.

Mr. Deskins: I understand fully what you're saying now and it makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Stake: Well, my desire still is to run this as two separate pieces of legislation, having the tax increase be voted on prior to the other part, to answer President Hills. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, I think that, you know, as you mentioned, the other hotel, the reason that hotel had been built in Reynoldsburg, they were built in another suburb that has the 6% tax, it didn't bother them there so it wasn't going to bother them here; and as far as, I think the important thing, as Leslie had asked and so forth, I think they're more interested really in how much farm land's out there they can stick a sign up in as they come towards Reynoldsburg on whether they want to build or not.

Mr. Harris: I think it's like real estate - it's location, location, location.

Mr. Clemens: Where it's at.

Mr. Harris: Wherever they're looking, I don't....(inaudible/several speaking at the same time)...because they're not going to pay the tax. It's a pass-through.

Mr. Stake: We can sit here and speculate all night, so let's go ahead and move on.

Mr. Deskins: It's a pass-through, that's what it is.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments? How's the Finance Committee feel about running this as two separate pieces of legislation, which I asked to do early on when this was brought up, it will serve, it will achieve the same end.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, the other....

Mr. Stake: If it's voted for it's, I mean, it's not going to...then I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council for its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you. President Hills.

Mr. Hills: No problem, because certainly, as you and I have discussed before, before this all of a sudden showed up on the agenda, there's nothing to keep Council and Finance Committee when they get to Item No. 15 from amending item No. 15 to include the issues in Item No. 5, which is the increase from 4% to 6%, then you're voting one time on an increase and moving it out to the Development Department, REDI, excuse me, not the Development Department. Just so we can even it up Ron since you want to sell it one way and I'll sell it another. It's you-all that's going to be voting.

Mr. Stake: Bill, if you want to circumvent what I'm trying to do, go right ahead.

Mr. Hills: It's not circumventing. You and I had the discussion before you added it on the agenda, so I certainly (inaudible).

Mr. Stake: Item 6 - Discussion: Transfer of funds (Income Tax Department) for furniture. Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Thank you Chairman Stake. As we get to the end of the year, we have a situation with the Tax Administrator. She has some furniture that she's had since the building opened in 1987. A couple of problems with it. She had developed an arthritis in her neck and she's not able to use the furniture because it's an old system that was actually, that system's not actually set up for a computer. In 1987, I don't know how much they considered computers were going to be used but you know, she regularly does between 350 and 400 Income Tax returns a year. Now we also have the Red Flag issue in there where people can, because she's typing here and her screen is over here, people who are there can see information on there and some of that information is privileged; as well as her physical situation, so we're asking that we would be able to transfer some money from Conference Reimbursement Account and from Legal Counsel and Miscellaneous Contract Services and move it to 5631 to allow her to get some new furniture that will take care of both issues. This not an additional appropriation, this is just transferring money that's already been appropriated to other accounts.

Mr. Stake: And how much money are we talking about total here?

Mr. Harris: It's about $1,300 - $1,400.

Mr. Stake: For a chair?

Mr. Harris: It's $1,200, no, it's a desk and a place for her computer, a desk and a chair for her that she won't have to be off with back issues and neck issues and the desk and a place to put her computer so that people sitting here cannot see what's on her computer screen.

Mr. Stake: And we have this in various accounts I believe, right?

Mr. Harris: Yes, that's correct.

Mr. Stake: Any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee, members of Council? I'll make a motion that we unappropriate $1,200 from account no. 220.564.5322 Conference Reimbursement, $200 from account no. 220.564.5332, Legal Counsel, $184 from 220.564.5339, Miscellaneous Contract Services, and $250 from 220.564.5391, Postage and appropriate to 220.564.5631 Furniture and Fixtures and send it for first reading. Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you. Do we need to do an emergency, I imagine....

Mr. Harris: It's an emergency on it.

Mr. Stake: Oh, you need emergency on that by next week?

Mr. Harris: Yes, so we can get it by the end of the year.

Mr. Stake: Oh, for the end of the year.

Mr. Harris: I need to be able to get it so she can order before the end of the year.

Mr. Stake: So before the end of the year we can do an emergency.

Mr. Harris: Yes.

Mr. Stake: Okay, thank you.

Item 7 - **Discussion: Budget clean up ordinance for 2009**. Mayor.

Mayor McCloud: Thank you Chairman Stake. This proposed ordinance that you have before you is moving money from certain specific accounts to other certain specific accounts. It is budget-neutral in terms of impact to the General Fund. Where we had needs in some accounts, we had extra monies in others, and I think those are kind of set out in the attachment. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. Stake: I guess the bulk of it comes in the Police Department for overtime? Can you tell me why that is?

Mr. Harris: Well, if you remember back when we looked at the budget for 2009, we took the Police overtime from $200,000 down to $100,000, hoping that we could bring that in at a lesser number; however, $80,000 of the $97,700 is for overtime for the Police Department which we already knew we took $100,000 out of and it was said in that meeting at that time that they'll probably be coming back in to move some money around but we tried to move it around rather than ask for additional appropriation, so that it would be revenue-neutral by the time we got to the end of the year.

Mr. Stake: Well, thank you Dick but this is the Mayor's ordinance so Mayor, do you agree with that, I mean?

Mayor McCloud: Yes I do.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Are we budgeting for 2010 for correct overtime this year and are we using correct, and I know we, the last ordinance we moved money around. It seems like we're moving a lot of money around these days. In the 2010 appropriation requests, are we budgeting properly based on what's going on in 2009?

Mayor McCloud: That's under current consideration right now. Mr. Hills is going to come and beat me up on Thursday, and we're going to go through the Police Budget line by line, so it is a work in progress, but I think this was a direct contemplation of what we thought might happen at the beginning of the budget year, so.

Mr. Hills: This side, that side, everywhere.

Mr. Stake: So I guess Council members, the President of Council and the Mayor are going to straighten out the budget for us, so.

Mr. Hills: I don't believe the Mayor said that Chairman Stake, but I do have a question.

Mr. Stake: Go right ahead, please, yes.

Mr. Hills: The Police Department overtime - have we ever broken that, is it possible to see what the overtime is? Is it extra inspection, is it there because personnel aren't in for some reason? Is that kind of data available? Have we looked at that?

Mayor McCloud: If it is, I will get it.

Mr. Hills: Okay.

Mayor McCloud: You know, I think it's probably....

Mr. Hills: And I'm not being critical of the Police Department, it's just sometimes when you look at overtime, it's because you had an event and you had people out and you had Tomato Festival, something you had to have people out or is it just we have people off duty for military leave or people off duty on FLMA and we've had to bring in extra Officers. It's just nice to know what makes up those numbers.

Mr. Harris: I can tell you Bill, and I don't have exact figures on how much it is, but I know through May of this year, there were times we had four people on military leave during this year so I'm sure part of that overtime was due to that and then I'm sure part of it was also the fact that they have to back fill from when somebody calls in sick, and I'm sure that's a part of it as well.

Mr. Hills: And I think that just helps us, if we understand that in the budgeting process, because I believe Chairman Stake sat in some of the budgeting process when we discussed the alternatives of going to an even cut around a lot of places knowing that we were going to have to do adjustments. The thing that's wise about doing the adjustment folks, we're not asking for more money out of the General Fund. We're taking monies that are unspent before the departments have the opportunity to spend them and moving it around so your net dollars on the budget have not ____. So I think an adjustment, seeing an adjustment like this come in at the end of the year does not surprise me and I think for those who sat in last year, including Mr. Stake, we knew this was going to happen or we certainly suspected it would happen and in my mind, was probably a pretty appropriate budget.

Mr. Stake: If I could just add, in regards to what I think part of the problem was here, I believe we had a vacancy in the Sergeant position for quite a while, and that overtime occurred because of that vacancy. So that would be another reason why. Okay, well, we've got to do what we've got to do, right? Any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee, members of Council? How many readings on this?

Mayor McCloud: It can go a couple of readings.

Mr. Harris: Yeah, we've got to have it in by the end of the year.

Mr. Stake: By the end of the year.

Mr. Harris: Yeah and this is all and if you leave open, if something strange happens between now and then, we got to put something else in there, I guess we can always add it and amend and put it in.

Mr. Stake: Okay.

Mr. Harris: If something unusual happens. We don't expect it to.

Mr. Stake: All right, the Finance Committee agenda's getting pretty long now so, if you'd like to leave it open, we can do that. Okay, all right. If there are no more questions or comments, I'll make a motion that we send this item on to Council for its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion. All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you.

Item 8 - Discussion: Amend Section 160.02(a) to change full time position of Assistant Clerk of Council to part time. This has been reflected in our 2010 Appropriation Request and this legislation would be necessary in order to be able to do that. Are there any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee, members of Council? Any concerns about having a part time instead of a full time Assistant Clerk; I've not heard any from the Clerk of Council, or any Council members, so. Mr. Hills.

Mr. Hills: Mr. Stake, if I could note, I believe, and I don't need to speak for the Clerk of Council, but I think this was actually being done with all willingness of and the employee is asking to go to part time. It's not anything cutting anybody's hours or that type of thing, but it's just and I think, looking at the fiscal situation of city, everybody's going to work a little harder in there, because you're going to lose four hours a day at work, but I think it keeps everybody here and hopefully, we'll make everybody happy, correct, Mrs. Frazier?

Mrs. Frazier: That's correct.

Mr. Stake: You are correct and I agree; and of course the clerks in there do a fine job now and I'm sure there'll be nothing missed, but this is a step in the right direction in trying to reduce some expenses. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, will the same number of cookies be available when you come in?

Mrs. Frazier: Yes, they will be available.

Mr. Clemens: Okay. Just a question there.

Mr. Stake: That's a good question too. I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council for its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you.

Item 9 - Discussion: Council appointment to Design Review Board (term to be for three years and will begin January 1, 2010)- - -*letters of interest requested and item held 11-2-09.* This is a vacancy on the Design Review Board that needs to be filled by Council. The term will be for three years and will begin January 1, 2010. At a previous meeting, I did ask for letters of interest. We have received one thus far. Councilman Clemens, do you have a question?

Mr. Clemens: No, but I do know Mr. Thompson and he's very active in the community and very active with the schools and so, you know, and unless we receive any more, he would be a good person. I know he's discussed different things with the Mayor about getting involved in the community over the past year or two, so I think he would do a good job.

Mr. Stake: Okay, any other questions or comments from members of Council? So, Councilman Clemens, are you suggesting that we proceed with Mr. Thompson tonight or do you want to leave it open for a couple more weeks?

Mr. Clemens: If you want to leave it open, you know, for another week or two, that's fine. In case that I wouldn't be here, I just wanted you to know that I do know of his work within the community where he lives and in the schools and he seems like a pretty good person.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Well then we'll leave this open for a couple more weeks, but your recommendation's good enough for me. So I'll make a motion that we hold this item for two weeks. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you.

Item 10 - Discussion: 2010 Appropriation- - -on 10-19-09 item held two weeks. *On 11-2-09 item discussed and held until 11-9-09 where the Mayor's budget, and Council's budget were discussed during a special Finance Committee meeting; held until 11-16-09.* I know that the Mayor did provide us with some additional information. Where would you all like to start? Mayor, do you have any preference?

Mayor McCloud: No I don't Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: I believe we did receive some updated figures Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Yes Sir, that is correct. In the packets on Friday, there were as we talked about last Monday night, some increases based on year-to-date performance on some of the revenue items. It was about another, between $75,000 and $100,000 in expected revenue. Also, just for Council's sake, I also provided some historical data on each line of the budget back to I think 2005 or 2006 so you can look at some of what these things, some of these items, some of these lines, where they were in 2005, where they're at now, so you can get a feel about how much increase has gone into some of these. As you're looking for ways to minimize certain things, I thought the historical data might be pertinent and that was from what we had discussed Monday night, what Council had asked for so I hope that answers their questions. Certainly, if you have any additional questions, I can try to answer them tonight or we'll certainly get you whatever kind of information you need.

Mr. Stake: Okay, thank you Mr. Harris. Yes, you did give us an update on estimated revenue which I believe you estimate to be $12,660,752.

Mr. Harris: That's correct, General Fund Revenue.

Mr. Stake: General Fund Revenue, yes, thank you. In the original budget request was, for the last budget request totaled $13,279,647 which gives us a deficit of over $600,000, almost $619,000. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I've been thinking about this and I know it's, why wouldn't the Mayor, why wouldn't we not think about possibly, you know, we're not going to, we know how it's coming in and it's not going to be an increase in our revenue, why would we not think about possibly and if the Mayor's having a problem getting this together, going with last year's budget and not go with any increases, go with what we did last year and later on we can adjust that. You know, this is the middle of November and we're going to end up, I don't like going with emergencies on our budget and so forth but to get it done, change the 100 accounts, what we have to do a little bit on that and the insurance. Just the thought of you know, of referring back and holding on to last year's budget.

Mr. Stake: Well, last year's budget request was $13,334,289.

Mr. Clemens: But the appropriation last year....

Mr. Stake: That's still over. I think that's what it was.

Mr. Clemens: It's still over.

Mr. Stake: It's still over. Actually, this year's budget request is less than last year's. Unless.......

Mr. Clemens: We're not getting it done, that's what I'm trying to say.

Mr. Stake: Well, we're not getting it done because there's some serious decisions that need to be made. President Hills.

Mr. Hills: And I'm not real sure that, I may be wrong and I'm sure the Mayor's going to correct me if I am, I'm not sure that the budget projections that we're referring to have all of the 2010 budgets in them. Some of those numbers were the 2009 budgets that were presented to us coming forward. So I think that as we're getting like tonight, there's three others in here, Development, Human Resources and Engineering. I don't think we've seen all of those numbers in yet so we may end up as you say Councilman Clemens, moving back to where we were, but I don't mean this critically, and I often get accused of that, I guess sometimes a little too curt or honest or blunt or something, but we from last week to this week, we have a number of, some revenues that have changed. We have more of the expenditures to us and I think the rest of the expenditures should be here in what, a week Brad?

Mayor McCloud: Yes.

Mr. Hills: So, until actually all of those budgets are here, and then the discussion is there anything in revenues that can be increased, we're not quite to the point other than we can look at these budgets and say that doesn't look too bad but we don't know how it relates to the total revenue dollar yet. Am I out on a limb?

Mr. Stake: No, President Hills you make a good point. Normally, we get this all in one fell swoop, we're able to analyze it, we're able to see what the overall picture is. This year, we're getting bits and pieces, bits and pieces which is, I think I made this statement last week, which is very frustrating, at least for me, I don't know about anybody else, and then if you look at the three department budgets that came in this week, they don't jive with the budget requests that the Mayor gave us. In fact, they're about $39,000 over what that was.

Mr. Hills: See, there's the point I'm trying to make. Is the number that came forward, this is going to be our 2010 budget, was actually the 2009 just coming forward again with some minor changes and so now, and that hasn't been withdrawn but I think we have to look at it for what it is and we're saying it is changing but we just don't know how much it's going to change yet. I think that, it would appear to me, not later than November 30th, we're going to have a handle on how this is how much money Administration wants and this is how much money the Auditor's Office says we've got coming in and I think everybody's comfortable by November 30, we'll have those numbers, or am I wrong Dick or Mayor?

Mr. Harris: I'm, certainly the revenue numbers I've given you is the best information I've got up to this point. I know the Mayor and I've had a discussion today about trying to get the rest of these budgets, the departmental budgets done by the end of this week or the first part of next week and I think that's certainly doable. At that point, that's what we'll have. Can things happen between November 30th and December 21st, I guess they could, I mean, if we would happen to get a large amount of revenue in unexpectedly, that is a continuing thing, I mean that would make a difference, but other than that, I think at least, I think I can say at least from the revenue side, I'm pretty happy with the number you've got. I would hope that something would happen that would lead us to believe that we could go up another couple of hundred thousand. A couple things that are being discussed, I mean, for example for tonight, increasing the bed tax would be another $50,000. We certainly have had discussions before about the $50,000 a year that's going in the Rainy Day Fund. That's another $50,000 that would change the revenue projections. We could even look around at some other transferring some money here, there or wherever to add some additional dollars in there so I mean, those things could be things that we could look at that would change the revenue. As far as the budgets of what people need, obviously, the Mayor's been working with his Directors and I'm sure they're coming up with what they think is legitimate and there's going to have to be some work I think when it comes to Council as to what is and isn't an acceptable amount to put in these departments but from my own stuff, I mean, the stuff they sent out Friday to me is the best, is the best thing I have at this point with what I think is a legitimate number we can look at for the General Fund Revenue for next year.

Mr. Stake: Well, and since I've been on Council, every year the Mayor has ultimately presented a balanced budget. So I don't know why Council would have to make all those decisions, but I guess if we have to, we will. Is there any desire tonight by Finance Committee members or Council members to go through the three departmental budget requests that we have, given that we don't have the whole picture yet; and it would be my desire to hold this until we do have the full picture. If there are no objections, then I'll make a motion that we hold this item until next week and we'll have another Special Finance Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Council Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes, thank you.

Item 11 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: Amending Subsection (c) of Section 945.02 "Rate Schedule" OF CHAPTER 945 SEWER CHARGES- - -first reading 11-9-09. Any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee in regards to this item, members of Council? Then I'll make a motion that we send this item on for its second reading. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Item 12 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: Amending Subsection (a) of Section 953.01 "Water Rate Schedule" OF CHAPTER 953 WATER CHARGES- - -first reading 11-9-09. This is a companion piece of legislation with the Sewer charges which are being passed on to us from the City of Columbus. Any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee, members of Council? Hearing none, then I'll make a motion that we send this item on also for its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Deskins Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Item 13 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING SECTION 971.08 "Program and Facility Fees And Charges" OF CHAPTER 971 MUNICIPAL PARKS- - -first reading 11-9-09. This does come from the Parks and Rec Department. Any questions or comments? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, you know, as I said last week, I have very large concerns, you know, increasing our youth basketball from $30 to $80. That's a $50 increase for these kids. Volleyball Youth from $28 to $65. Those are too steep of increases. Volleyball, $235 to $695. These increases are only being made to pay the $8,000 or so that the schools are going to charge us to use the facility, to clean up afterwards. I would rather see it stay as it is and make up what comes into the General Fund, make it up another direction as far as the $8,000 or so that's going to be used to pay the schools and I believe that's what you, I asked you last week if this is why this is being increased and you said yes.

Parks and Recreation Director Shamblin: Yes.

Mr. Clemens: And I think it's ridiculous to raise the kids' fees that much, so we can make that up in the General Fund by collecting or getting that money back on, from the schools on another situation and leave these as they are, I mean instead of making these increases like that. I just don't think, you know, we're raising the Summer Playground Program $18, I just don't think this is the proper thing to do. We're talking about an economy that is not good and we have a lot of families that can't afford this and also you got the daddy dance, you know, if you bring an extra child, you know, you got $10 to pay. I just, I don't think these at this time and the way the economy is, I don't think to gain our money by charging our children to play in the youth leagues, I don't think that's the way to do it. I'd rather see you not make the changes and us come up with the money another way. I mean, that's my personal opinion on it.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Councilman Clemens. President Hills.

President Hills: If I could, and Councilman Clemens, I know you've had some feelings before on this and I'm glad to see that you brought them back up, but I'm sitting here thinking that this is a substantial increase and it's an increase to us because of the same situation the school's having but I guess I would look at this and look at this service charge increase from 4% to 6%. Once that money hits the General Fund, the additional dollars that come into the General Fund off the Bed Tax increase can certainly be dedicated to Parks and Rec to offset some of the, I would think it can, I'd want to double-check that with everybody. Why couldn't we offset some of the increases that

we are receiving as a result of the schools through our Bed Tax Increase. Could that be done Mr. Harris?
Mr. Harris: Mr. Hills, that's General Revenue money and you can spend it out.........

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, that's what I say, it goes in the General Fund.

Mr. Hills: And that may be a way that, you know, as we give money to REDI, if we give money to assist in Parks and Recreation for the development of our kids, the kids within Reynoldsburg, that we have some fiscal responsibility, there's some money coming in to do that without reaching into the taxpayer dollars that are already out there in the funds, but that's how it's redesigned, if anyone wants to do that.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: Mr. Shamblin, I have a question. If we have the same amount of participation in all these sports that we have had currently, with increased fees, do we know the amount total that it would, the extra revenue that it would create? If we have the same number of students, participating, kids participating in soccer now as we've had in the past with increase, the same amount of people in adult volleyball with the increase, what total amount would the higher fees bring in?

Mr. Shamblin: I don't know that off the top of my head. I can get those figures for......

Mrs. Kelly: Could you get that, I mean do you think that would be more than the $8,000?

Mr. Shamblin: It will be more than $8,000. The total for an annual year, a lot of these programs run from 2009 to 2010 so it's actually right about $7,500 for the 2009, these increases will effect us. So, the calendar year of 2010, it'll be double that because we're getting both, the front end and the back end. So, annually, it would be about $15,000. Our, what we did was, we tried to adjust the user fees to cover the direct cost of this increase.

Mrs. Kelly: So could you put together just what our current user amounts are and then project the new fees on that and then let us know what the overall extra income would be that would be coming in?

Mr. Shamblin: Uh-huh.

Mrs. Kelly: That would be wonderful. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, and that's fine but I want you to know, I don't care what the annual income is. I don't want to raise these kids $50 to play basketball, $50 to play volleyball. We have a situation that we have a lot of kids that can't afford this and that increase is really out of line. To go that much and jump that quick, I just can't support something like that, I mean you know, you talk about if you want to raise $5 or something like that, I can understand that, but to raise it $50,

no.
Mr. Stake: I do have a question on what services now are we providing for the schools and Jason, you may not be able to answer this, but maybe the Mayor can. What services are we providing for the schools that we're not charging for? I mean and I know it's all taxpayer money but they have decided I guess to start charging us?

Mayor McCloud: Chairman Stake, probably the first thing that comes to mind is the cost of security at the High School football games. We currently absorb that. That is roughly $1,200 to $1,400 per game.

Mr. Stake: What would be the total on that?

Mayor McCloud: I think we had six home games this year so $7,200 and I can get more examples if you would like me to follow up on that and send those down but there are some things like that.

Mr. Stake: Yeah, I mean I think that if that's the position that the school system is taking, we probably need to take a different position as well, and start charging for everything that we're providing also. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Probably waive $250,000 worth of Sewer and Water taps on the new school, as we did on the other schools.

Mr. Stake: That'd pay for a lot of volleyball and basketball.

Mr. Clemens: Right. Plus the use of this building - we don't charge when they use it so, and that's my point I want to get into. The point is, I just think the increase of the fee is too much for the individual child to be playing basketball and to be playing volleyball. I just think.....

Mr. Stake: Are these, Jason, are these children or are these adults?

Mr. Shamblin: There's both. There's an adult volleyball league and then the other programs and it's only a few of the program fees that are effected specifically. It's the basketball and the volleyball clinics specifically. The other programs don't have, quilting class that meets three times for an hour at a time to, the impact isn't as great as having practices several nights a week.

Mr. Hills: These are ones that they have to use the Field House, correct?

Mr. Shamblin: Or one of the gyms.

Mr. Hills: One of the gyms at the schools.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: That brings up another question about the Field House. Now, do we have any input in the Field House?
Mr. Shamblin: I'm sorry.

Mr. Clemens: Do we have any input as a Recreation Department within the Field House?

Mr. Shamblin: As in which way, I guess I don't know, not...

Mr. Clemens: Only on, are, what we do there as far as...

Mr. Shamblin: Yes Sir.

Mr. Clemens: Okay, that's all.

Mr. Stake: Anything that goes on in the Field House we're charged for as well?

Mr. Shamblin: As of this proposal, yes.

Mr. Stake: We will be charged for as well?

Mr. Shamblin: Yes.

Mr. Stake: That doesn't make much sense. I, Councilman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: Yeah, I have a couple of comments to make. I think I have a unique, I'm in a unique situation in that I'm privileged to have a leadership role in both worlds which sometimes takes some pretty great balancing and what I would say is that these fees are, they definitely are a high increase and you don't want kids to, families to have to afford that. The same way unfortunately because of where the schools are right now, we've had to increase sports costs within the schools athletics for kids to have to play and you don't want kids to have to do that so one of the things I would hope that we could as two areas of leadership in this Community, is maybe get together to try to come up with some solutions to help solve these issues. Because I don't know if there's easy answers and I don't know that pointing fingers back and forth is going to help.

Mr. Stake: It's my understanding that the Mayor and Superintendent of Schools met on this issue and this is what has been derived from that meeting.

Mr. Clemens: That's a different issue. I just think the increase is too much. I don't care what the schools do period. I'm talking about as a Councilman and we're talking about the Recreation Department. The other we can make up for, believe me, but I'm talking about where the school's involved or who's involved, I don't think this is the time to increase $50 for them to play basketball or $50 for them to play volleyball. I mean, we're not hurting as far as the Recreation Department is concerned. We can, as Bill had said, adjust the money if coming in if we raise the bed tax. I have nothing wrong, I mean, I'm willing to appropriate the $8,000 or whatever it is you're going to be short. I just think, I think the increases aren't correct. I just think it's too much.
Mr. Stake: Okay, I think you've made your point.

Mr. Clemens: Okay.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments? I don't think we have anything resolved yet. This will not be going for it's third reading at this time, but I would like to send it forward for its second reading so we could have some more discussion on it. So I'll make a motion that we send this forward for its second reading. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Mr. Hills: If I could Chairman Stake, I think Jason....

Mr. Stake: Mr. Hills.

Mr. Hills: ...in the interim is going to be, try to figure out what it's costing us, what is it now going to cost us? We'll have some better figures as to what type of costs we're looking at.

Mrs. Kelly: Yeah, I would like to know the revenue, like what will the additional revenue be with our current usage.

Mr. Shamblin: Yes.

Mrs. Kelly: That would be great. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Thank you.

Item 14 - RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE REVISED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO FOR THE YEARS 2010 THROUGH 2014- - -first reading 11-9-09. Any questions or comments in regards to this item from members of Finance Committee, members of Council? President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Chairman Stake, and it's just because I've sat in this meeting now and I think others did at the same time. The CIP, these are all the projects that we know they need to be done and we'd like to have them done, but what the analysis of what money's available to do these has not really been done, and I think the Auditor reminded us of that once before so as we look through all these pages, they're all not going to get done this year or the next couple of years but certainly these are projects that we know that are there and earmarked and need to be done but until we know what our General Fund Revenues are going to be and our Budget's going to be, it's hard to determine how much they're going to be and I know that Safety/Service and Engineering each have some desires but they're all going to fall in place as we go through the system. Thank you Chairman.

Mr. Stake: And they will have to come before Council. Any of these items will have to come before Council for funding so okay, then I'll make a motion that we send this item on for its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Item 15 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE

CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: Subsection (a) of Section 192.02 "Imposition of Tax" of Chapter 192 Hotel Tax and adding a new Subsection (d)- - -second reading 10-26-09; *held 11-2-09*. I see the Auditor here, so go right ahead.

Mr. Harris: Thank you Chairman Stake. You had asked last week after we'd had some discussion and I'd sent a note concerning this particular ordinance and it really kind of involves as we're, you're making the decision to give this money to the folks at REDI if there was anything, number one, that you wanted to put on this as a way of controlling what this money was spent for. Some things I put in there, obviously, I think you're looking at, is the purchase of real property, maybe even allowing them to take mortgages in order to purchase said property. Also, some of the things you may look at is if there's any travel involved, it should come under the same rules and regulations that employees for the city travel with and do you want to limit the number of the amount of money that can be used to travel? Also, I think as far as reporting, I mean, I don't think this is enough where they're going to have to produce any financial statements but I think they should provide at least semi-annual statements, not financial statements but list to Council what expenditures have been made. They will have, because they are getting tax money, will have to be subject to the state coming and auditing twice, at least once every two years which they do now and certainly we would want to continue that. Also, I don't know if and I think you may want to consider, is are you, is this going to be limited time funding mechanism that you're looking at or are you looking at this in perpetuity? Do you want to put a limit on how much they should have out there. I think all those things probably need to be discussed so that there's some kind of controls put on and I don't know exactly what you expect you weren't ready to do but certainly, these kind of things I think probably need to be discussed as to what Council wishes this to produce for.

Mr. Stake: Well, maybe the Development Director can answer some of those questions, especially the one about what you would expect REDI to do. Mr. Haire, thank you.

Development Director Haire: Thank you, Chairman Stake. In Chapter 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code, Community Improvement Corporations are restricted with what their powers are, what they can do. I would just hope that if you look at any restrictions on this money, the purpose of the money is to allow us to do some creative things that we're not allowed to do as a government entity, to do creative items, to create economic development opportunities, so I hope it wouldn't preclude any of that creativity in allowing us to do some of those things. Community Improvement Corporations are required to be audited. They're audited every other year. I believe we were audited this year, earlier this Spring, so that's already a requirement. I mean, I don't have an issue with annual audits being a requirement if you want to put that in there because I think it's something we already do. We already filed the financial reports. We had a meeting on October 29th, REDI did, and we started to look at what did we want to do as a plan for the funding if we were to receive it and just set some priorities for economic development future so I hope, we meet on a quarterly basis, I hope at our meeting in January, we'll continue that process and try to get more focused and more driven to create economic development opportunities.

Mr. Stake: Thank you. Yes, I do also. It's a great opportunity. I know that, you know, as far as being personnel-strapped in the Development Department, to have a volunteer organization to help with some economic development would be a great asset to the city. We're not talking about a whole bunch of money and as far as funding for the organization, Council can at any time, withdraw funding if they wish to. So, I mean, and I do agree with the semi-annual report, I do agree that you, you know, obviously, there needs to be a state audit done every two years and I think that as far as I've seen as being a member of REDI for the last six years, there's very responsible people part of that organization and I think their efforts are being wasted by not having the opportunity to be able to do some economic development so I would like to see this start some funding. Maybe in the future Council would take away funding, maybe they would increase funding, maybe they keep it the way it is, but I do think it would be a great asset to the city. I know in places, I think in Canal Winchester, they have an economic development arm don't they?

Mr. Haire: They do.

Mr. Stake: And I think they've been very successful.

Mr. Haire: Yeah, they actually own an Industrial Park.

Mr. Stake: Yeah, very, very successful and I think we've been missing the boat and that's why I'm suggesting this after observing REDI for a number of years and I certainly would like to see us be proactive instead of just sitting there saying oh that's great okay, let's come back in three more months. So, anyways, any other questions or comments, Councilman Clemens?

Mr. Clemens: Yeah and I agree with you on that. I think that it's something that we should do but I think this is the time I'd like to amend the ordinance to raise the Hotel Tax from 4% to 6%.

Mr. Stake: Okay, you're not willing to go with my desire to run a separate ordinance through? It's not going to change anything.

Mr. Clemens: Ron, I thought about it. I can't really think of any reason to really.

Mr. Stake: Well, what's the reason to amend part of this ordinance?

Mr. Clemens: I know, I don't want to put you into the position to vote for a tax, if this is what you're worrying about.

Mr. Stake: I think it's going to put everybody in a position to vote for a tax. I'm not sure there's enough votes there to do this if there's a tax increase.

Mr. Clemens: We've went through what would bring to the city and the financial needs of the city and reason and that's why I'd like to make a motion that we change it to 6%.

Mr. Stake: Okay, and that's fine, and again, by running a separate ordinance along with this, it would make it separate, everybody can vote up or down the tax increase. It would not have to be part of funding REDI and I got to say I'm pretty disappointed, but that, okay, not the first time I've been disappointed sitting at this table.

Mr. Hills: I believe he put a motion on the table.

Mr. Stake: Yes he did. Yes he did. Is there a second? Not hearing a second, motion fails. Thank you. I think we need some more discussion on the tax increase and as I said, I'd like to run this concurrently with that so that we'll have a vote the same night on both of those. So I'm going to, unless there's any other questions or comments from members of Finance Committee or members of Council, I'm going to go ahead and make a motion that we hold this item for two more weeks. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. Any further discussion. All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Item 16 - ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES IN VARIOUS SPECIAL FUNDS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNTING PER STATE AUDITOR- - -second reading 11-9-09. Any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee or members of Council? This has been discussed for a few weeks. Something that is necessary to do. Do we need a, Mr. Harris, do we need an emergency on this or?

Mr. Harris: Yeah, this has to be in by the end of the year. I have to have this approved and it has to be in force by the end of the year.

Mr. Stake: Okay, if there are no more questions or comments, then I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Item 17 - ORDINANCE LIMITING BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER AMOUNTS PER STATE AUDITOR- - -second reading 11-9-09. I imagine you need an emergency on this also?

Mr. Harris: No, it doesn't make any difference whether this is, this has nothing to do with the financials, so I don't need it until, it can go the regular route.

Mr. Stake: Okay, I'll make a motion we send this item on to Council with recommendation for adoption. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. Any further discussion? All those in favor say "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion passes. Thank you. I"ll adjourn the Finance Committee at 8:49 p.m.

Finance Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

November 16, 2009

(Transcribed/S. Cochran, Ass't. Clerk of Council)