

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2004

Members of Safety Committee present: Mel Clemens, Ron Stake, Preston Stearns, Brett Baxter, Eric Gilbert, Lane J. Beougher, Antoinette Newman.

Other member of Council present: Council President William L. Hills.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Clemens: The first item on the agenda, approval of the minutes of November 1, 2004 regular Safety Committee meeting. Do I hear any additions or deletions? (No response). If not, they'll stand approved.

The next item is the approval of the agenda. I do have a speaker slip and I'll add that as 3a. Are there any other additions or deletions? (No response). If not, it'll stand approved.

Item 3a, I have a speaker. Norbert Smithberger. Norbert, would you go to the mike please and give your name and address?

Mr. Smithberger: Thank you, Mr. Clemens. I just noticed for the second week in a row, that City Hall is setting a bad example safety wise. Your safety lights are out both on this door and at that door. And I think it needs to be brought to somebody's attention. Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Norbert. I'm sure the Administration will take care of it.

The next item, Discussion, Liquor Permit Request - Transfer - from Catfish Charleys LLC dba Catfish Charleys Pizza, bsmt. & patio to Slims Italian & American Cuisine LLC, dba Catfish Charleys Pizza, bsmt. & patio, 7679 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Chief.

Chief Miller: Thank you, Mr. Clemens. We've conducted an investigation into this liquor license transfer. The new owners are saying that they have no current plans to change anything around the restaurant at this point in time, and they expect to continue to run the business with the same atmosphere that it was prior to this. And we find no reason to appeal this request.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Chief. Are there any questions for Chief Miller? (No response). If not, we'll just let this stand as it is.

The next item, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT TO CHARITY NEWSIES TO SOLICIT DONATIONS ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004. It had its first reading 11-8-04. Is there any discussion on this, any questions? (No response). If not, I'd like to send this as an emergency because we won't have the 30 days to have the Mayor sign it. So I'd like to send it to Council as an emergency to be passed Monday night. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Stake. All in favor? (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Thank you.

Next item, ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: CHAPTER 909 SIDEWALKS, SECTION 909.01 "Sidewalk Construction Permit And Fee", Subsection (d); CHAPTER 1301 DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION, SECTION 1301.01 "DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED; DUTIES OF

INSPECTOR”, Subsection (b); VARIOUS SECTIONS AND SUBSECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1305 PERMITS AND FEES; CHAPTER 1325 1999 OHIO RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR 1, 2, AND 3 FAMILY DWELLINGS, SECTION 1325.03 “Definitions”; AND CHAPTER 1363 SWIMMING POOLS, SECTION 1363.06 “Permits: Fees”. It had its first reading 11-8-04. We have our Chief Building Inspector here. Stephen. Council or committee members have any questions for Stephen at this time? It looks like you did a good job Stephen, since there’s no questions at this time.

Mr. Hills: Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes, Bill.

Mr. Hills: If I could say one thing. I want to thank you, and I haven’t talked to any other Council members but I do thank you for putting this in the presentation order that is much easily understandable now. And certainly you’re to be commended for that. And I do probably want to thank Susie for her 45 additional changes that she made on there.

Mr. Moore: Yes. She helped us catch our grammar mistakes. So we appreciate that.

Mr. Hills: So, thanks for putting it in an order that can be read. And Susie, Assistant Clerk of Council, thank you for your efforts and editing an ordinance.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Mr. Hills. And thank you and Chet for coming this evening.

Mr. Moore: Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: That ends the Safety Committee meeting at 7:37.

Mrs. Frazier: Are you going to send that on?

Mr. Clemens: Yeah. Let’s send that on to the second reading. That would be nice. I’d like to make a motion to send that to Council for its second reading. Mr. Baxter seconded. All in favor, say aye. (All voted “Aye”). Opposed? (No response). Thank you.

Safety Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

(Transcribed - Susie Smith)

November 15, 2004

SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2004

Members of Service Committee present: Eric Gilbert, Lane J. Beougher, Ron Stake, Preston Stearns, Brett Baxter, Mel Clemens, Antoinette Newman.
Other member of Council present: Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Gilbert: I'll call the Service Committee meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

The second item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the November 1, 2004 meeting. Are there any additions or deletions to those minutes? (No response). None being heard, they will stand.

Item number 3 is the approval of the agenda. I just have two items to be held. Item number 6 (Discussion, Commercial Corridor Revitalization Project/Phase II Utilities; authorization of attorney services and appropriation of funds), item number 7 (ORDINANCE TO ENACT A COMPREHENSIVE RIGHT OF WAY MANAGEMENT POLICY (Chapter 907)). Any additional changes to the agenda this evening? (No response). None being heard, I'll make a motion that we hold items 6 and 7. Do I have a second? Mr. Baxter with the second. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 4, Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg, Section 1175.06, "Front Setbacks for Buildings". Mr. Beougher, this is your brainstorm.

Mr. Beougher: Thank you, Mr. Gilbert. The reason for bringing this forward is, we initiated a change in the zoning code in 1999 which included this language, whereas, a corner lot would have the same setback. What happens is, on a major residential street, and Slate Ridge Boulevard is the example I've been using, if you go down Slate Ridge Boulevard through the Slate Ridge subdivision until you get to the next phase, which was I believe begun by Phil Key, all the houses to that point are in line with the side street houses. All the front of the houses line up. When you reach the Key development, all the houses are set 10 foot back. And obviously, people are building large houses and it would be nice to have a little more space in the back yard. And no one can tell me a good reason why this was implemented. No one can give me the explanation. So we sent this, I initiated this legislation. It's been to the Planning Commission. I attended the meeting where it was passed. It took two minutes. It was the only item on the agenda. There was no discussion there. I guess there was some discussion at a meeting before, but there was not a quorum. So this does come back to us with a recommendation for adoption from the Planning Commission.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you, Mr. Beougher. Any questions or comments on this item from members of Service? (No response). None being heard, this item did have its second reading on November 8. With no other comment, I'll make a motion that we forward this to Council for its third reading with recommendation for adoption. Do I have a second? Mr. Beougher with the second. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 5 is an Ordinance Authorizing Engineering Services Regarding Specifications, Cost Estimates, and Advertising for Bids for the Bartlett Road Relief Storm Sewer and Changes to the Previously Prepared Plans for the Broadwyn Drive Relief Storm Sewer. This item did have its second reading on November 8. Any questions or comments from members of

Service at this time? Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Not a question on this particular ordinance, Councilman Gilbert. But rather to the question of, have we received any other complaints, and/or requests to correct sewer issues in other neighborhoods, and if so, are we looking to having additional legislation to involve those, or engineering, or try to maintain this as one?

Mr. Gilbert: We have received other inquiries as to problems around the city and I believe we're in the process of trying to put together some type of approach to prioritize those. My understanding is, they are not specifically included in this legislation.

Mr. Baxter: We will continue looking?

Mr. Gilbert: Sure.

Mr. Baxter: And if you could add these to other storm related projects.

Mr. Gilbert: Correct.

Mr. Baxter: Very good. Thank you.

Mr. Gilbert: Any comment or information from the Administration at this point that you'd care to add at this time? (No response). None being heard, I'll make a motion that we forward this to Council. It will need to go to Finance first for appropriation. I'll make a recommendation that we forward this to Council with recommendation for adoption, and be forwarded to Finance. Do I have a second? Mr. Clemens with the second. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

And I'll adjourn Service at 7:42.

Service Committee
- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council
(Transcribed - Susie Smith)
November 15, 2004

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 15, 2004

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Eric Gilbert, Lane J. Beougher.

Other members of Council present: Antoinette Newman, Preston Stearns, Brett Baxter, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Stake: I would like to call the November 15 Finance Committee to order at 7:43.

The second item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held November 1, 2004. Any changes to those minutes? (No response). None being heard, they'll stand as submitted.

Item number 3 is approval of the agenda. I would like to add as 3a, the Ordinance Authorizing Engineering Service, Including the Preparation of Plans, and Appropriating the Money for the Bartlett Road Relief Storm Sewer, and Changes to the Previously Prepared Plans for the Broadwyn Drive Relief Storm Sewer. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Gilbert. Any discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

3a is the Appropriation. I believe Mr. Gilbert, that is \$46,825 for engineering services for this project?

Mr. Gilbert: Correct. And let me just note, I'm assuming with no comment from the Administration that there's no alternative or other type of recommendation that's going to be coming forward at a later date. Because I know we had a meeting a couple of weeks ago where that was going to be looked into. I'm assuming, since we haven't heard anything this evening that we're on board with this proposal. So that's the dollar amount and the scope of services.

Mr. Stake: Okay. And that would be coming from the Storm Water Utility Fund. Correct?

Mr. Gilbert: Correct.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any questions or comments from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Anybody else? (No response). Then I will make a recommendation that we do send this on for its third reading. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Gilbert. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 4 is Amend 160.02 to Add One Full Time Assistant City Attorney. Mr. Underwood.

Mr. Underwood: Thank you. I put in a request and added a packet of materials to that request. The packet was designed to give you an idea of the variety of daily requests of things that we do. As you see, or you hear it Monday night, you have no idea what goes on, on a daily basis. The court, police things, requests for information, request for assistance. And that was a smattering. I wanted to give you an idea of the daily, day-to-day activities, and I'm not sure that I covered everything, but I wanted to give you that to kind of, not really educate, but to maybe enlighten you. To handle the day-to-day activities takes a lot of time and doesn't leave much time for anything else. And I would like to have some time for some other activities other than the thing we're working on now with John Brandt and The Limited, Victoria's Secret, other requests. If I miss a day or two because of illness or something else, there's nobody to do those daily activities and I've got to scurry to make them up. But that's the request for that person. I have a young lady that I

spent a year with as an intern; she just passed the bar; is a resident of the city. I also gave the job description to our Human Resources Consultant to evaluate. I put the tentative rating on there the same as the prosecutors because she will be doing some of the things that they will be doing as well as other civil activities. I expect it would be about a year and a half before she got a raise, or an increase, before she would be eligible. By starting in January, which she would not be eligible until May, so it would be about a year and a half before she was eligible for an increase. And that would be also to keep up with what our zoning lady makes. She's a level 19. So she would be compatible with the Zoning Officer. And I thought as an attorney, she is deserving of that ranking and that salary. And I did not, as we answered on Saturday morning, I did not put that in the budget because it was not approved. It was for consideration before your body.

Mr. Stake: Have you heard back from the HR consultant whether that 19 is appropriate or not?

Mr. Underwood: No, I have not.

Mr. Stake: Okay. And I guess what you would be doing is, you would delete two, part time intern positions?

Mr. Underwood: Right. We've never used two. We made it two at one time because we couldn't get one with the adequate number of hours. We were searching for a second one. But we've never really filled two. It was based on our total budget amount of \$13,000.

Mr. Stake: How about the special prosecutors? You still would require those?

Mr. Underwood: The prosecutors handle the court cases in Franklin County Municipal Court. We have one dedicated to domestic violence and that's worked out quite well. We've seen a decline in domestic violence which ran wild for several years in a row, and we've got that pretty well under control and the other two handle the general cases, with the domestic violence prosecutor filling in when they need help.

Mr. Stake: Okay. And I guess that 19 is a salary range from \$46,636 to \$67,258. So it would be in that area.

Mr. Underwood: Correct. Bottom line.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any questions from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you, Mr. Stake. A quick question I have is, I went through the information you've given us to give us an idea of how much workload you have. That smattering you gave us, what does that represent from a daily basis of workload? I looked at that. I didn't know if it was a week's worth of work or just at the types of work that you do.

Mr. Underwood: Types. It's really types of requests. It's not a, the workload, probably like many departments, can't be on a daily basis, or a monthly, or weekly. It would be nice if you had

a steady flow, but it doesn't work that way. And it's like an EMS unit or police. It seems like everything happens at once. It's got peaks and valleys. There's just no, you probably experience that in your work. There's no way to even it out. I wish there was.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you, Mr. Stake. Mr. Underwood, are you eliminating the two part time personnel? And what would this do as far as bringing this person on full time as far as the amount that's paid to the two? Would that just exceed the amount of those two receiving now?

Mr. Underwood: Yes.

Mr. Stearns: By how much starting out?

Mr. Underwood: The fringes and benefits. The full time would be right at 65,000. And so you're deleting 13, and with some benefits, you're probably deleting 15 and replacing with 65. About \$50,000 difference.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: President Hills.

Mr. Underwood: And there may be some other savings in there Mr. Stearns, but I can't really quantify them. It would be like saying, well we're going to create 10 jobs. I don't really know if that's going to be true. And I don't want to lead you astray and say, yes it is.

Mr. Hills: Bill, the rate 19, you say that our HR consultant hasn't signed off on that yet. Is that correct?

Mr. Underwood: That's correct.

Mr. Hills: What is, if you remember, and my side of the government down town is very poorly paid so I won't even bring it up, but what's the starting rate of a Franklin County Prosecutor? Is it up near 46?

Mr. Underwood: No, it's not. It's less than that.

Mr. Hills: And most starting prosecutors are coming out of law school.

Mr. Underwood: Or usually less than that.

Mr. Hills: If that's the candidate here, is it just because this is the Assistant Law Director that the position is worth another 12, 14,000 a year?

Mr. Underwood: No. You can do what you're doing down town and hire somebody at a lesser

rate and expect to lose them in a year or two. I would like to see whoever we hire, stay. And once you train them, you have a valued employee. I don't want to be training somebody for a year and have them leave.

Mr. Hills: Do we pay 46,000 to train?

Mr. Underwood: No. I think that, I've spent a year training already. And she is a good candidate and a good person and you can talk about value, and you can argue all the people down town, maybe you're paid too low. And we have a Zoning Administrator that's paid at that level and I think it's as valuable as that. And we have probably Clerks, secretaries that are paid at that level and she is as valuable as that.

Mr. Hills: I didn't ask you about the attorneys that work for me. That's why I asked about the Franklin County Prosecutors.

Mr. Underwood: I answered that. I said we have people that are paid at that level, that much, and I think the value's there. And that was my opinion and that's why I asked HR to put an evaluation on it through the number evaluation they do. They may come back and tell me I'm all wet and value it less. So be it.

Mr. Stake: Are there any other questions from members of Council? Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Stake, I have one question. The two positions that will be eliminated, were they in your budget from last year?

Mr. Underwood: Yes.

Mr. Baxter: And you didn't fill those last year?

Mr. Underwood: Yes. One.

Mr. Baxter: You filled one. You actually have a surplus left over from last year then?

Mr. Underwood: No. We had two in there and we could not get one person to work enough hours. And we have one person now working enough hours.

Mr. Hills: You had two part times but that actually went to one part time person's pay.

Mr. Underwood: Yes.

Mr. Hills: Two slots but you had one person...

Mr. Underwood: We had two slots but we could only get two people to work 10 hours each and we have one person working about 20. We don't need the two.

Mr. Baxter: So I think what I'm looking for, is like \$30,000 in the budget from last year from those two positions that will be reduced, and then adding 46 to the budget. So we're actually, your net would be 16,000 added to the budget.

Mr. Stake: I think it was 13.

Mr. Underwood: It is 13.

Mr. Baxter: 13. That's what I was looking for. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes. I have no idea what the value of an Assistant Prosecutor would be or the value compared to what other positions we have here in the city. It's nothing we've ever tried to discuss on how we gauge people in the different positions. I would be interested in, this is how we did our studies on, I would be interested on how the other cities handle the assistant to the attorney. I'm sure other cities have Assistant Prosecutors, not a prosecutor, but an Assistant Law Director or City Attorney, whatever you want to call it. And I'm interested in what the cost of them was. As the County Prosecutor, what their assessments are. I just don't think we can judge by starting somebody much higher than some place else because you say, well I'm doing it because I want to keep her. I don't think that's the position we should follow. I think we've tried to judge all of our other positions by what other communities pay for that position that equals out. I have no problem with the position, don't get me wrong. It's budget time and it's time to look at these things. And maybe you're too low. I don't know.

Mr. Underwood: I don't think it's too low.

Mr. Clemens: I would like to see, compare to what other cities pay. This is something we could move on and we don't have to pass it tonight or anything like that. We'll get back with what the HR Director that we have hired until the first of the year, when he comes back and his feeling. Plus we can get some feeling about what the other communities do if that's alright.

Mr. Underwood: Sure. That's very acceptable. That's why I sent it to our HR consultant, to get his feedback on it.

Mr. Stake: My preference would be to hold this until we've got information back from the HR consultant, and also survey some other communities. We'll hold that for two weeks, if that's okay.

Mrs. Newman: Mr. Stake, could I ask a question?

Mr. Stake: Yes.

Mrs. Newman: One thing, this position really wouldn't be comparable to a County Prosecutor, would it? Since this attorney, Assistant City Attorney would have to handle things other than just

prosecuting say, criminal cases or what have you. I mean, wouldn't their knowledge of the law and their capabilities have to be much broader than a County Prosecutor or Assistant County Prosecutor?

Mr. Underwood: Correct. You really can't draw an analogy. Even with the City of Columbus you could not draw an analogy because they have a complete civil division with a lot of attorneys. And they have a complete criminal division. County has a complete civil division, complete criminal division, and within their divisions they break it out into specialties.

Mrs. Newman: So our Assistant City Attorney would have to be more of a generalist in law rather than a specialist.

Mr. Underwood: Yes. So you really can't. Upper Arlington, I think there's four assistants. I could get some information there from _____. But the trouble is, no two cities really operate the same and it's hard to compare apples to apples because nobody really operates the same.

Mrs. Newman: Well I was just thinking a smaller city as opposed to something like Columbus. This person would have far more responsibility.

Mr. Underwood: Well, even at that...

Mrs. Newman: You know, a larger variety of problems.

Mr. Underwood: More variety. But I don't know about responsibility.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Mr. Clemens, do you have something else?

Mr. Clemens: Like I say, we're not the only city of 35,000 around that has a Law Director or City Attorney, and I'm sure they have assistants. I'm not saying go by what Columbus does. We're talking about hiring an attorney, and I'm sure that, you can correct me if I'm wrong, most attorneys that come out in this field have the same qualifications when they come out, when they graduate in this field, and we're starting somebody at a certain rate. All I'm wondering is, are we paying too much or are we paying enough? I don't know.

Mr. Underwood: That's exactly why I went to HR for the information.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Stake, thanks for calling again. Just one quick question. Do we have a problem if we don't bring this person on and left it as a part timer as she is today, or is she looking to go full time, or leave if not get it? Is this one of the reasons it's coming up as a full time position?

Mr. Underwood: Well she is, passed the bar, been sworn in, and she is searching for a full time position. And I did not want to start somebody during the holiday period. And I didn't want to

put anything in prior to passing the bar and being sworn in and put a curse on it.

Mr. Baxter: So we might lose her if we don't offer her a full time position.

Mr. Underwood: Yeah. If you do, you do. That's not the primary importance. Because there's other people out there, but it is a consideration.

Mr. Baxter: If I may follow up just real quickly. What I'm trying to gauge here is the difference between the single full time position or having two part time positions and how that workload is going to be handled. And that's why I'm asking the question. To determine if we should go to a full time position and eliminate two part time.

Mr. Underwood: Part times are interns. Interns are good, but you also have to make sure you review every piece of work and sign off on it. They can't sign off on anything themselves. They can't put anything out themselves. In your absence they can't do it. Interns can do things, but you better make sure that it's got your stamp on it and you've reviewed it when it goes out.

Mr. Baxter: Okay. I see. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other questions? (No response). Okay. Then if it's alright, we'll hold this for two weeks. I'll make a motion that we hold this for two weeks. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 5 is Discussion, Consent to Extension by Licking County Commissioners of an Enterprise Zone to Include a Certain Area Within the City of Reynoldsburg. I believe Mr. Brandt would like to begin with this.

Mr. Brandt: Thank you, Mr. Stake, President Hills, members of Council. The issue before us this evening is merely as it's detailed in the legislation to consent to the establishment by the Board of County Commissioners of Licking County, an Enterprise Zone within the boundaries of the City of Reynoldsburg that was detailed I believe, in the maps that you received early on. You also I hope, received a brief overview of the project that we're working on and as it goes forward, there will be more legislation required. But this is the first step, one of many which will enable us to bring this project to fruition.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brandt. Are there any questions or comments from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? President Hills.

Mr. Hills: If I could, just one thing. On the draft as of 11-9-04 the one that was included in our packet with the strike outs and the modifications, that is exactly as we want it to read? Is that correct?

Mr. Brandt: That's it.

Mr. Hills: That was all. I just wanted to be sure we were all looking at the same.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Stake, I've noticed there is a time line on this. What's the time line to the passage of the legislation?

Mr. Brandt: Our goal would be to ask the Council to pass this at the next meeting on the 22nd which merely gives us the authority to go forward to Licking County for them to pass their action, which then goes back to the State of Ohio. It's a rather complex process.

Mr. Baxter: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Does this need emergency language, Mrs. Frazier? Or is this just, in order to do that? It probably would.

Mrs. Frazier: It has it on there.

Mr. Stake: It has it in there? Okay. Any other questions, comments? (No response). If there are no further questions or comments, then I will make a motion that we send this on with a recommendation from the Finance Committee, recommendation for adoption as an emergency from the Finance Committee. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Beougher. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Mr. Brandt: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Item number 6 is Discussion, Creation of Chapter 175, Sale of City Personal Property. This was held at the last committee meeting for some questions and comments to be directed towards the City Attorney. And in talking with him earlier, I believe there might have been a couple of questions and comments. Has everybody had a chance to get those questions and comments in? Okay. Do we have any questions or comments here at the table for members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you. One question I have on it is the ability for employees to purchase items from the city. And at this point, it's written such that any person can purchase on it. Do we have any limitations we want to put on for the city to say employees aren't to purchase them or those type of things? Would we consider doing that?

Mr. Stake: Are you recommending that we do that?

Mr. Baxter: I know in business where I've been, there has been recommendations made that employees aren't able to purchase items that are leaving the company.

Mr. Stake: They are or aren't?

Mr. Baxter: Are not.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Underwood, do you have any comment on that?

Mr. Underwood: If you're doing an auction, I don't think it hurts to allow employees to bid on it. Because it's open, and they're just competing with everybody else. But certainly you can put that on there. That's why I put this forward for any restrictions you want. So far, other than Brett's thing, the only comment I had was from Mark Kipp about doing it on a depreciated basis. So if anybody's got any other suggestions or you want anything, we're happy to consider it and put it in there. And if you want to prohibit employees, I think we've had a few auctions where employees are the only ones that showed up.

Mr. Stake: So if they weren't there, it wouldn't have been sold.

Mr. Underwood: That's true.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I handled all the auctions, and I personally don't see any problem with the employees bidding on items. Like Bill said, they bought most of them. And it's an open auction. If it wasn't, if it was just something that they could come in and buy without anybody else having a chance to, it would be a different story. But at an auction, I wouldn't think it would be any problem.

Mr. Stake: Yeah. I don't have a problem with employees bidding on it as well, as long as it's open to everybody else and there's plenty of public notice about it.

Mr. Hills: By having an auction, what we've said I believe, I think the city has to do that if I'm right Bill, by having the auction, we can't sell to the individual. We have to sell to anyone. And if an employee happens to be there, I don't think there's any restrictions on that. But isn't that correct? We can't as a city, sell an item off to John Smith, employee in the attorney's office.

Mr. Underwood: Correct. If it's an open bid auction and the employee is on his own time, if he wants to outbid everybody, most of the things that I've seen are fairly worthless any way.

Mr. Clemens: How many sewer covers do people want? Things like that. It's difficult.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other further questions or comments? (No response). Okay. None being heard, then I will make a motion that we send this on to Council for its first reading. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion?

Mr. Underwood: Ron, one thing. Before you get to the third reading, we ought to have a delay of maybe a week to incorporate any changes. If you want to incorporate the one that Mark made about doing the depreciated value, we put in there the \$1,000, anything on the Capital, that's got

the Capital tag on it. If you want to do the depreciated, say you buy it at \$40,000 and it's got a tag, well it's been depreciated down to whatever value, or if you buy it for \$5,000 and it's depreciated down to \$300 or I don't know what the depreciated amount it would depreciate down to. Do you know, Mike?

Mr. Turner: (Inaudible. Speaking off mike).

Mr. Underwood: You may need some consideration.

Mr. Stake: If you could get us some language on that to consider, I'd appreciate it. Mr. Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Mr. Stake, a question about a list of items to be auctioned. Is that available, to see that in advance, or what?

Mr. Underwood: In the past it's been advertised. It's normally advertised. The whole list. It's not secret.

Mr. Stake: So we would be well aware of what's going to be available at the auction. So I believe there's a motion on the floor and a second. Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Motion passes.

Item number 7 is Discussion, 2005 Appropriation. We had an appropriation presentation made by the Mayor to Council at a special meeting which was held on Saturday, November 6. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor McPherson: Well first of all, I just want to thank everybody for taking Saturday morning to come out and listen to the budget. I think hopefully, it helped some of the newer Council members to understand how much of the budget really is discretionary and how much of it is really committed. So again, thank you for that. I haven't received any phone calls. I've only talked to Mr. Stake about the budget since last Saturday. I think in the past, we entertained any questions. We ask that they kind of be put in writing and funneled through the Finance Chair so that everybody's not asking the same questions. But if you have any questions and you get them to Mr. Stake, then at the next committee meeting, I'll be more than happy to read down through the list and answer those questions. And also, you'll have a hard copy of the answer. You know, one Councilman may have one question and another one a different one, and we'll summarize those and put all the answers into one form for you.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor McPherson: And I'd be glad to answer any general questions tonight.

Mr. Stake: I have one question at this time. Are you pretty confident with the revenue figures that you provided to us?

Mayor McPherson: Yes. As a matter of fact, when we talked about the revenue figures, we

actually were very, very conservative on what we estimate the revenue figures to be. We don't want to get caught short. So we did estimate those relatively conservatively.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: You know me Bob, I'm not much for writing memos or anything like that. And this has nothing, I thought the budget was, I thought it was a good budget, and I want to thank you for it. This has nothing to do with really the cost. It has to do with the way something's handled. And I know we've talked about it before and I'd like you to look into it and see what you think. Going over this, I see computer supplies and maintenance cost and I know we have that for all departments. It's over \$67,000. I've always felt, and we've discussed this before and I'd like you to look into it, we do have a Computer Department. And this is what it was set up for, to handle all these kinds of things. And I know we don't, but I still wonder why this is set in different departments. To me it should be handled by our Computer Department. That's why we have a Street Department to handle the streets. We have a Police Department to handle police. We have a Computer Department, computer specialist, and I've always thought they should handle anything that has to do with computers. Buying the supplies, ordering the supplies, ordering the computers, and handling everything and possibly getting everything a better cost if it's handled through one department than everybody having their own say. And that's just something I'd like you to look into and maybe give me an answer back. Maybe I'm dead wrong on it and it shouldn't be that way, but it just seems to me that's why we have the department and I'd like you to look into it.

Mayor McPherson: That's fine.

Mr. Stake: President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Bob, along with those comments that you're going to respond in writing to anything you receive in writing, I do believe there is a document that's going to be sent to you by Mrs. Frazier which is not just Mrs. Frazier's questions I don't believe. I think some other Councilmen have had some discussions. Can we anticipate getting a written response from those?

Mayor McPherson: If you'd like one to those, we'd be more than happy to. I noticed several things in there that weren't very accurate, but we'll respond to them. Sure.

Mr. Hills: If you want things in writing, I mean this is what came in writing.

Mayor McPherson: No. If that's the questions you want to ask, that's fine. We'll answer those questions.

Mr. Clemens: And I think that's something that we had asked about.

Mayor McPherson: Let me just kind of answer what you were talking about there, Mel. That was a decision that was made several years ago I think back as far as when maybe Mr. Bressler was here, to put the computer purchases, the supplies and all, into the individual departments so that

each individual department could keep track of what they were spending. To the best of my knowledge, we have never purchased all of our computer stuff through the IT Department. Now I will tell you, before anybody buys anything, they go through the IT Department and make sure they're getting the best buy on it. Bart does research it, tells them, makes recommendations on what to buy and what would be the best deal. So that would continue. But I'll respond to that because I did notice that was one of Mrs. Frazier's questions.

Mr. Clemens: That was one of mine. And as you know, I never always did agree with Mr. Bressler to start with.

Mayor McPherson: No. But as long as the Finance Chair wants that broken out and the Auditor says it's okay, we have no problem with where it goes. That's just an internal thing.

Mr. Clemens: It just seems logical, and I know that's the way most big companies handle everything. That's why they have a purchasing agent. It just seemed logical that that department could buy everything and possibly get everything at a cheaper price because they know exactly what they need and so forth. If it's not, then it's not. That's just something to look into.

Mayor McPherson: And again, we can talk to Mr. Stake about that and if he'd like to put that into one account, that's fine with us. We don't care where it goes.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: I have two questions but since Bill has one, I'll only take one. The vehicle maintenance is the same idea, that we have individual accounts going to cross _____ departments that have vehicle maintenance. I'd also like to see if we could try to pull that together in the same manner and see what we could do about saving some monies in that area.

Mayor McPherson: I see what you're saying, but I don't know that just because we put it into one account would mean we'd have any less maintenance in all the individual accounts.

Mr. Baxter: Okay.

Mr. Stake: That's something we can talk about. Both of those things. President Hills.

Mr. Hills: One question. Last year this came up and you were off for a while and I became Acting Mayor; if memory serves me right, there was a study going to be done on the cell phones. Not the one we paid for. Not the utility _____. When we were going through these types of questions last year, we had cell phones leased from \$7 a month to \$74 a month. We were going to review all of those and find out what was appropriate and get them consolidated. Has that been done yet?

Mayor McPherson: Is that finished up? I know Sharon, you met on it just what, Friday or Thursday?

Mrs. Reichard: (Inaudible. Speaking off mike).

Mayor McPherson: Yeah. That study is in process. Should be done any time now. You need to understand, one of the reasons for the study is that with the new in-car computer terminals, our air time becomes massive. And so the recommendation that the consultant is doing is also recommending where we go with how we buy our air time as well as how much we pay for a phone.

Mr. Hills: When you say consultant, what are we referring to then?

Mayor McPherson: The guy who came in to tell us where he could save money, where we could get credits back. Audit My Bills.

Mr. Hills: So they're doing the study. We didn't do it? You didn't do it as administration?

Mayor McPherson: Oh, no. We're having an outside agency do it. Yeah. Audit My Bills is doing the study.

Mr. Stake: They're doing the cell phones also?

Mayor McPherson: Um hum.

Mr. Stake: Are they?

Mayor McPherson: It's all part of it.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Mr. Baxter, you had another question?

Mr. Baxter: Just one last question. I was considering the thoughts of a purchaser for the city as one of the ways that we could have some cost savings. I would be interested in what your thoughts were on having a purchasing agent here whose sole responsibility is to open up purchase orders for the intent, track the costs coming in, and close them as they need be. And what type of value that would be for the city? From your perspective, what would you think of that type of person?

Mayor McPherson: Okay. We'll look at it. I hadn't really given it any thought. So with our hiring freeze, we haven't looked at any new hires. But we'll look at it and see what the costs and benefits would be.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments from members? (No response). Okay. Well, this will have three readings, I believe. So I will make a recommendation to, make a motion that we send this on to Council for its first reading. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes. Thank you, Mayor.

Item number 8 is 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. It had its second reading 11-8-04. This has been modified to just include next year in that rate change. Are there any questions or comments from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Okay. I will note that it will need to be amended at the table to the redraft date of 11-2-04 to reflect the changes of the amended section. I will make a motion that we send this on to Council for its third reading. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted “Aye”). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes. (Tape Change)

Item number 9 is an 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. It had its second reading on 11-8-04. This is the other piece. Again, this was amended, this would be amended to the redraft date of 11-2 to reflect the changes which would just include one year of setting the rate. Any questions or comments from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Okay. Then I would make a motion to send this on for its third reading with recommendation for adoption. Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Beougher. Any further discussion? Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I know most Council members have, the public probably has too but, there’s been a lot in the newspapers about Columbus and their water and sewer rates have been increased.

Mr. Stake: I will note that both of these are reflections of the increases that Columbus is passing on to us. And we really need to change our rates in order that we keep up with those increases. So we have a motion and a second by Mr. Beougher. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted “Aye”). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 10 is the Commercial Corridor Revitalization Project/Phase II Utilities. This would be to authorize attorney services and appropriate funds for such. Mr. Underwood has a request that we appropriate some additional monies for attorney services for this. It’s been around for a while. And I thought that we would send this back to Service, I guess if we could appropriate some funds for Mr. Underwood here on this project. Do you have anything to say, Mr. Underwood?

Mr. Underwood: Yeah. This is for the right-of-way ordinance. And it would get us going. And you can decide whether or not you want to do the right-of-way ordinance at some future time. See if we can negotiate with the utilities, satisfactory resolution, and you could make the ultimate decision. I see it as nothing but positive for the city, but back in June I gave you a written I think, a three page memo on it. It’s been around for five months now. So we either kill it or go forward.

Mr. Stake: Well, I think we’re comfortable with appropriating \$5,000 at this time. Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: And I have no problem, but I thought this item is still sitting in Service Committee.

Mr. Stake: It was referred to Finance I believe for the...

Mr. Gilbert: This is a separate item for the funding so we can get some of our, Mr. Underwood's indicating that some of the questions Council had sent back to the City Attorney need to be answered by Mr. Bentine which is why it's been held in Service.

Mr. Underwood: The utilities responded. Last summer we filed with the PUCO. They responded. I don't have any questions from Council. We did request the funding to go ahead and negotiate with the utilities last summer, and this has been around since then. I don't have any questions from Council on it other than are we going forward? And I've indicated it's going to take some funding for the expert in the utility law to negotiate with them. So we can start out with 5,000. I don't know how far it'll take us, but we can start there and go as far as we can go. If we get lucky, it might be enough. Probably not.

Mr. Stake: Well, we did receive some letters from AEP and I think SBC...

Mr. Underwood: Right.

Mr. Stake: ...and I guess, questioning this, and that raised some questions that we had on whether we would be able to proceed with this. So I guess what we'd like you to do is to find out from Mr. Bentine, some answers to these letters that were submitted.

Mr. Underwood: The process is, they submit the letters, but we negotiate with the utilities on those letters. Our ordinance goes a little further than anybody else because we want to put the burden on the utilities to bury the utilities down through there at no cost to the city. Now that may not be completely acceptable because the utilities say that if it's for a beautification project, they don't have to do it. And we're saying it's not a beautification project, it's a Commercial Corridor Revitalization Project. So that's what we're going to do, is negotiate with the utilities to see how far we can go. They can't be answered unilaterally.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I understand all that, but the ordinance hasn't been passed to go ahead to do this. So even though you're appropriating money, Bill just explained, I thought the way you explained it was that...

Mr. Underwood: The ordinance hasn't been passed. It's still on the agenda.

Mr. Clemens: So I mean if the ordinance isn't passed, then the \$5,000 would be of no value because we haven't given authorization to negotiation. Am I correct? We need to pass the ordinance.

Mr. Underwood: No. We have the ordinance before Council. We've given the notice to PUCO. The utilities picked up on that notice, filed with the city their objections or their concerns. Now

it's upon us to negotiate with them or talk to them about their concerns. And that's the point we're at. We have not done that.

Mr. Clemens: And you're doing negotiations with the \$5,000? See how it comes out, and then it comes back to us to pass the ordinance?

Mr. Underwood: Yes. And that's what we requested 15 for. And you're saying 5. I'm saying we'll take it as far as we can with 5.

Mr. Clemens: That's fine.

Mr. Stake: Everybody comfortable with 5? (No response). Okay. Then I will make a motion that we make a supplemental appropriation of \$5,000 to, Mrs. Frazier, where would this go? Special Counsel Account?

Mrs. Frazier: Yes.

Mr. Stake: City Attorney Special Counsel Account? Do I have a second? Second by Mr. Gilbert. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, state aye. (All voted "Aye"). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

I will adjourn Finance at 8:30.

Finance Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

(Transcribed - Susie Smith)

November 15, 2004