SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
September 19, 2011

Members of Safety Committee present: Mel Clemens, Chris Long, Nathan Burd, Fred Deskins, Jr.

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

Mr. Clemens: I'll call the Safety Committee meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The first item on the agenda is approval of the agenda. Do I have any additions, deletions to tonight's agenda? If not, it'll stand approved.

Next item is the approval of the Safety Committee meeting held September 6, 2011. Are there any changes to the minutes of the meeting? If not, they'll stand approved.

Item No. 4 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING SECTION 513.01 "Definitions"; and SECTION 513.03 "Drug Abuse; Controlled Substance Possession or Use" OF CHAPTER 513 DRUG ABUSE CONTROL; and AMENDING SECTION 545.05 "Petty Theft" OF CHAPTER 545 THEFT AND FRAUD- - -first rdg 9-12-2011. Matt, you're representing the City Attorney?

Assistant City Attorney Matt Roth: Yes.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any questions for our Assistant City Attorney on these items before Council? Members of the Committee? Members of Council? If not, I'd like to move these on for second reading. Seconded by Mr Long. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Thank you and that ends the Safety Committee meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Safety Committee
- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council
September 19, 2011
(Transcribed - S. Cochran, Ass't. Clk. of Council)

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
September 19, 2011

Members of Finance Committee present: Doug Joseph, Leslie Kelly, Mel Clemens, Fred Deskins, Jr.

Other members of Council present: Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long, Nathan Burd, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, I will call the Finance Committee to order at 7:31 p.m. Item No. 2 is approval of the agenda. Any additions, deletions or changes to the agenda tonight? Seeing none, the agenda will stand approved.

Item No. 3 is approval of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of September 6, 2011. Any additions, deletions or changes to those minutes? Seeing none, the minutes stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: Freezing of salaries for elected officials- - -*added to 9-6-2011 agenda at time of approval of agenda, and held for two weeks.* I'll go ahead and open up for the Committee members - any discussion we might have on that tonight? Council?

Mr. Clemens: I think what this does is bring them in compliance with what we did with the other elected officials two years ago, and I think it's a necessity, that in the straits that we are in as far as our financial situation, that we do pass this ordinance.

Mrs. Kelly: I concur.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Council, comments? Okay. I'll make a motion then. We'll send this on to the Council for its first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Item No. 5 - Discussion: Elimination of health care benefits for part time elected officials- - -*added to 9-6-2011 agenda at time of approval of agenda, and held for two weeks*; and I'll open up for the Committee for discussion. Any comments or questions? Yes, Councilwoman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: I think with, I think I said this last week, I think with the state that we're in and we don't offer benefits to any other part time employees, that it makes sense for us to eliminate the health care benefits for the part time elected officials.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I agree with Councilwoman Kelly. When this was brought up, and this doesn't affect me, because if I lose mine, I pick mine up on State Retirement, but this was not brought up and I wouldn't have brought this up to hinder anybody that's on Council that doesn't have it that really needs it, but possibly them or somebody in their family is already in need of it through, you know, a serious illness. I hate to be a part of, you know, taking away that insurance and costing somebody a lot of money that you know they've had for years. Although I don't know how and I've been thinking for the last week or so, how you make exceptions to it and so forth. Mine is tied into a situation with the State of Ohio that I, if it's offered I have to take it, now, so I have no problem and I don't know how we could word it, you know, so that I would still lose mine and I'd have to pick up the State, which would be fine, but like I said, I'm not here to push somebody if they're in that situation. I'm for withholding the health pay for part time elected officials because we don't pay our part time employees health benefits. So in that part, it makes, you know, kind of a bad situation, but also at the same time, you know, I don't want to put anybody in the situation that has been on our health care for a time, that would be a big expense to them. So I, that's something I've been thinking about, trying to think about, trying to work into it, and I haven't really come up with a big solution yet, but in the time, you know, as we move this on, I would hope everybody would kind of think about that and think if there's, you know, a way something like this works, because I think if somebody's been here and ran on this principle and they've got it, then it was a benefit and it's a benefit you knew you were running for and whether that's right, wrong or indifferent, it doesn't make any difference. The point is, it was there and to just up and remove it and put somebody out, that would cost a tremendous amount of money to pick up an insurance that would pay for something like that. So I think it's something to think about and something I would like to think about too and try to figure out some way to handle that. So anyhow that's my thought.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Any other questions or comments of Committee, Council? Okay. I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council for first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. **All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.**

Item No. 6 - Discussion: Potential reduction of expenditures to meet revenues - 2012 (1.3 million dollar reduction)- - - -*topic was included in Mr. Hills' memo, along with topics contained in agenda items 4. and 5. (Topic listed at direction of Mr. Joseph).* President Hills, do you have any comments on that before Mr. Harris has his presentation?

Mr. Hills: No, I think between Mr. Harris and the Mayor, because the reductions are going to be coming in, out of the Administration; I believe Mr. Harris has worked with the Mayor in coming up with these, and this is just, you know, I would, the only thing I would say, is this, what will be the final thing that is passed, you know, going into 2012 I can't say that, but this certainly shows that they have done their work and due diligence and have gone into the budget projecting where the $1,300,000 needs to be cut. This is where those cuts may likely fall and it certainly starts and lets the public become aware of where we're going to see some substantial cuts next year in the budget.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, very good. Mr. Harris, go ahead.

City Auditor Harris: Thank you, Chairman Joseph, members of Committee, members of Council. As Mr. Hills said, the Mayor and I have gone through the 2011 budget amount, even though what you got passed out says 2012 and 2013, and we tried to look for the things we thought would effect the fewest number of people, both working for the city and for the citizenry at large. Obviously, these are uncomfortable times and these are uncomfortable things that we're talking about and nobody wants to see them come to fruition. However, the city's situation right now with the amount of money coming in versus the amount of money that's being expended, something has to be done and these are things we came out and are presenting to Council as possible things that could be eliminated, cut back or whatever, to make expenditures and revenues more compatible, shall we say, and I'll mention a few things and I'll let the Mayor talk about maybe some of the personnel moves within the Administration that would be necessary, but I would like to note a couple of things in particular.

First of all, there's a reduction of basically $100,000 in capital purchases out of the operating budget. It was in the 2011 appropriation budget. A large part of that was in cruisers, but there were other things as well. Computerization needs and those kind of things. One of the things that was mentioned in the Ad Hoc Committee and mentioned very strenuously was over the last ten years the city, because of financial reasons, has not kept up with capital purchases like we should have. The cuts that we're talking about here tonight will not make that particular situation any better. There are still streets like Lancaster Avenue and Brice Road that are in dire need of some improvements that will not happen in 2012 because we basically do not have the money and we will further be delaying purchases of things like police cruisers, city vehicles and other capital equipment. We did leave a little bit of money there for some computers that are extremely old that are going to have to be replaced before they blow up. There's also and the Mayor can talk about the cuts in the Rec programs, and the Police Officers. Hopefully, these cuts will not become necessary, but there is a list of them here, and certainly he and I would like to hear Council's thoughts on it, because the Mayor has to, by Charter, submit a budget to Council, but the final appropriation is a Councilmatic action and you can certainly take whatever you want to and change whatever the Mayor will be, as he always has done, will be
submitting a budget and I'll let him talk a little bit about the changes that are in there and how they're going to affect certain parties.

Mayor McCloud: Thank you, Richard, and thank you for your assistance in working with this. I don't have a whole lot more to add other than to say that what you have before you is a reflection of the changes that I mentioned would probably be necessary at some point in the future given our current financial circumstances. So is this hard and fast and etched in stone? No, but these are the kinds of things I alluded to earlier and these are the kinds of things that I think realistically we have to be looking at.

Mr. Joseph: Mayor, what's the timetable for you to get us the first version of what you'd like to see us pass, as far as budget-wise. Are we looking at weeks, months, do you know?

Mayor McCloud: Well, I think unless there's a drastic change between now and the end of the year, what you're probably looking at is last year's budget with these kinds of changes.

Mr. Joseph: Okay.

Mayor McCloud: It's not going to be a large change other than last year's budget minus this.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Questions of the, yes, Councilwoman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: Brad, when you talk about discontinue rec programs, is that all rec programs?
Mr. Harris: Basically, it's, there are some rec programs that are basically pass-through rec programs, like Karate and some of those. As far as city-sponsored ones, this would eliminate basically all of the city-sponsored rec programs. Included in that, you would think it might be more, but they also take in a certain amount of money. Obviously, if the expenditure goes away, the revenue goes away. There are also things in there that will reflect in other parts of the budget for the HR, for the Recs Department including casual labor, which obviously you won't be getting fields ready to play so they won't be needing people to do that and supplies to do that. The total cost, the savings is going to be around $200,000 from eliminating the rec programs.

Mrs. Kelly: That makes me so sad to think about and then the.....

Mr. Harris: This is not a happy event for any of us.

Mrs. Kelly: No it's not. That just, that would be absolutely horrible for the community and then when you talk about discontinue the payroll at the Senior Center - would that basically eliminate activities at the Senior Center?

Mr. Harris: I would assume.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you.

Mr. Harris: One of the other things that to realize on this as well is where you have the Human Resources Director and the Development Director, especially with the HR Director, because laws change and we will not actually have an HR person. There may need to be at some point in time some kind of contractual agreement entered into with somebody to come in to update policies, procedures, those kind of things.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, Councilwoman Kelly. You had one........

Mrs. Kelly: I have a quick question, and actually, Chief, the question is for you, and I know you can't give me a hard and fast detail right now, but if you had to lose four Police Officers, what type of impact do you foresee that having on your department?

Chief Suciu: Well obviously, it's going to impact us across the board. Honestly, I haven't really been consulted with regard to losing four officers, so I haven't put much thought into what we would do as far as what services would be cut.

Mrs. Kelly: Do you see it though having a drastic impact on how you'll be able to provide services to the city?

Chief Suciu: I don't know how it couldn't, to lose four officers; we're already shorthanded.

Mrs. Kelly: Right, that's what I was thinking.

Mr. Joseph: Councilman Clemens.
Mrs. Kelly: Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: You know, having a district that's basically in dire need of safety, my ward is completely and I understand that, but I do understand the reduction as far as the Police Department is concerned because you know, you take the $432,601 and then you take the non-payroll, the $69,775, that's you know, that's $500,000. The Police Department's 65% of our budget. I mean that's where the money's at and that's where the cuts have to be. The thing I, the thing that bothers me and I think about it and Leslie brought it up of course is recreations programs. Although I understand with that I do know that there's programs in communities around us and private ones in other communities that you can join. You have to pay for it of course but to get back to the Senior Citizens Center, now you're getting close to my age when we talk about that. That is, I think that's a big thing for the community. I would hope that could be cut in half and we could keep at least a staff member to operate and see how much money they could collect to help through the Senior Center, but I agree that the HR Director is a very important situation in the city and if you know, although we haven't had one here for the past year I suppose but it is an important thing. I was wondering if, you know, if we were going to, you know, possibly farm it out for health, if we need it, because I think that's one of the important positions of the city that, you know, that we have to be careful with. Other than that, I can, I know we have to cut the $1,300,000. So it has to come from somewhere, I understand that.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Also, I'd like to know, I think this is the original project of where the $1,300,000 is going to be cut. This is where it certainly could come from. In order to do that, are there going to be adjustments? Probably so. I certainly, some things we need to know. Like there's three people, Human Resources, Code Enforcement, and Development Director, is almost $200,000 just in places we are not going to fill that are vacant or will shortly be vacant. How wise is it for a city to continue without code enforcement and HR people and Development? It's not very wise but it's also less wise to go hire people, professionals, into a situation you have no money to pay them. So none of this looks pretty on paper and people have got to see it on paper to see what it is. The rec programs are extremely significant. Right now, it's my understanding we're getting ready to send out for Winter and Spring ball and I think there's probably going to have to be a disclaimer. There's a good possibility this isn't going to happen, but I'm not sure that the parents that would like to have everybody in will know about it unless we tell them and they certainly, it's not appropriate to say you're going to be there and not tell them there is the possible problem that it will not happen because bottom line, it comes down, it's the difference between $13,000,000 in expenditures and $11,700,000 in revenues. There's an overrun of $1,300,000. Where's it going to come from? Doug, I appreciate you addressing this on the agenda and I certainly appreciate the Mayor and the Auditor coming together for the first ones because I think when you ask 'when are we going to see this', this could be in the detail sheets and probably will start being prepared in the detail sheets to come out in the next couple weeks to a month anyway, because this is what's here or some modification close to this is what we're going to be looking at in the budget to approve and the only thing that's going to change that if for some reason there is a tax increase passed, some of these things would be modified. All of them, I don't know, but certainly without it, you're looking at this much money in cuts from same or similar type positions you're seeing on this outline. So I do thank Administration and the Auditor's office for coming forward and taking the tough part and putting it in print because it's easy to talk about it. It's tougher to read when the press is going to see it and everybody else can start understanding these cuts because these are real. These are real cuts. The health care benefits, the change in HSA contributions. There's $160,000 in that in savings. Part of the savings is the employees, not the $4,000, it's down to $3,500. So everybody's going to participate in some way, shape, or form, and I don't know how else you do it.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, Councilwoman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: I think it's important for us to make sure we get this information out there so that people can really understand how these things will affect them, because a lot of these are what I would put under the category of quality of life. One of the things that I think makes Reynoldsburg so special is their Parks and Rec programs and their Senior Center and you have a community that has a Police Department that really gets out there and works with the schools and works with the community, and decreasing all of those things and discontinuing some of those are really going to affect the community and what is our community and what we know our community to be. So I think it's important that we make sure that everybody gets this information out there and talks to people. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Other questions of the Finance Committee, Council? Councilman Burd.

Mr. Burd: Thanks, Dick. I appreciate this information and I'm certainly agreeable to most of these, especially the ones that effect all of us personally. I just, I'm interested in understanding. I've only been through one budget, so you can possibly help me. What happened to the money we were going to transfer?

Mr. Harris: It's still there. It's still available to be transferred.

Mr. Burd: But it's not being factored into our plans at all.

Mr. Harris: Right. This is strictly a budget based on living within your means. I mean, what we've been doing for the last ten years, we've moved about $6,000,000 between accounts in order to continue to support this budget and at some point in time the money's beginning to run out.

Mr. Burd: I would understand that. I would just suggest for Finance Committee, which I'm not a part of, that we do a hybrid before we cut cops and Senior Center and Rec. We would take that money out of the CIP, transfer it and make the additional cuts. I don't think we're at the point where we need to do the last three things on this list just yet. That's my particular comment.

Mr. Joseph: Other questions? Council? Okay.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Joseph, if I could just say one other thing.

Mr. Joseph: Sure.

Mr. Harris: As far as the Parks and Recs programs, just to show you the scope of how many Parks and Recs programs are used, right now, soccer, Fall soccer is ending and there's around 600 kids in Fall soccer and that's a pretty big number.

Mr. Joseph: All right. We'll hold this two weeks and we'll have additional discussion on this at that time.

Item No. 7 - Discussion: Transfer of funds from Human Resources Department to Safety/Service Department to pay Receptionist. Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Chairman Joseph, members of the Committee. This is being brought, the Receptionist's position was not funded in the 2011 Appropriation Budget; however, when it came time to eliminate the position, there were some concerns from a number of employees of the city about safety on the first floor without somebody in that position to watch people as they came in and alert departments if there were problems. Back in March, the Service Director came and asked that some work be done down there so a secretary could be moved down there for that position. When that became available, the receptionist was eliminated; however, it was not in the 2011 budget. We knew we had the money from the HR Director who was not going to be replaced, that we could move that down without asking for an additional appropriation and this legislative request is asking that you approve the transfer of funds from the HR Department to the Safety/Service Department in order to pay the salary of the receptionist for the year 2011.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, questions from the Finance Committee, Council? Okay. I'll make a motion that we send this item to Council next week with an emergency, with a recommendation for adoption.

Seconded by Mr. Clemens. All in favor vote “Aye”. (All voted “Aye”) Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Item No. 8 - Discussion: Transfer of funds within Building Department to pay vendors for work being done.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. This is on similar situation. There was money put into the 2011 Appropriation Budget to hire, starting in March, a Chief Building Official. The qualified applicant did not emerge from their search. They are currently having this work done by Asebrook, and some other outside vendors. We need to move the money that was going to be paid to the Chief Building Official down to the line later on in the budget in the 300 accounts in order to pay for the Miscellaneous Contract services on work that is being done that the Chief Building Official would have done, had we had one.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Any questions of the Finance Committee, Council? Okay, I’ll make a motion we send this to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. All in favor vote “Aye”. (All voted “Aye”) Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Item No. 9 - Discussion: Transfer of funds to cover 2011 Debt Service (Brice Main Streetscape Fund).

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. The last few years, we had additional money in the Brice Main Streetscape. There was extra money for whatever reason that was borrowed at the time. It was bonded at the time when the project was done. I was not here at the time but there was extra money. By law, the only thing that money can be used for is payment of debt service. We’ve been moving it over, little by little. This is the end of that particular fund of money that will be, that we have used up to this point. So I would ask that money be transferred to Account No. 310.991.5414. This will give me enough money to pay the 2011 debt service for the city.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, any questions for the Auditor from the Finance Committee, Council? I’ll make a motion we send this to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. All in favor vote “Aye”. (All voted “Aye”) Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Item No. 10 - Discussion: Amend Ordinance No. 118-10 (Ordinance to Make a Final Appropriation for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Reynoldsburg, State of Ohio, during the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2011 and Declaring an Emergency) to reflect changes in TIEF payments. Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Thank you. When we did the 2011 Appropriation Ordinance, there’s been a couple of changes. Number one, there was more money came in on the Taylor Square TIEF than was originally planned. The County evidently had a new piece of property that was built over there. I think one of the restaurants actually came online, so we have to write another check to the schools for about another $6,000 in order to make that account here. That does not effect the General Fund in any way. It's in the TIEF Account, but I do need the appropriation changed from $603,793 to $609,743 so it allows me to make the payment to the schools for all that money.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, is there any questions for the Auditor from the Finance Committee?

Mr. Harris: Oh, there's one other, let me, also on that.

Mr. Joseph: Sure.

Mr. Harris: This was the last year of the TIEF agreement on the Brice Road TIEF with Home Depot and Walgreens, so we have to spend the rest of the money in that fund and there's $110,000 in there that has to be put over and paid on the debt service this year in order to comply with the TIEF agreement.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, questions of the....yes, President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Questions on, just for clarification. Things are misunderstood. We are transferring some money around from accounts that have a balance, because of contracting costs not costing what we thought, or certain financial arrangements, but when we make these transfers from these accounts, they can only be used for debt service. We can't transfer that for payroll...

Mr. Harris: No.

Mr. Hills: ...to keep Parks and Rec or Police Officers and that's a key thing when the public's hearing this, it's because money is in those accounts for capital type projects or TIEF agreements and they can only be used to pay off the debt incurred in those programs and the fact that from the time we bonded some money on Main and Brice versus the time we used it, it was an attractive bidding situation whenever there was a balance left that has been used in future years to meet debt service and it's just when the public hears us talk about transferring money here and there just to pay things, I appreciate your bringing it up. I just, Chairman, I just thought I would note that. Those monies you hear being transferred are only for the payment of obligation and services, not for operating expenses for the city.

Mr. Harris: Correct. There is no other legal use for that money other than the payment of debt service.

Mr. Joseph: Any other comments or questions, of Committee or Council? Okay. I'll make a motion we send this item to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Mr. Harris: Two more to go.

Mr. Joseph: Okay.

Item No. - 11. Discussion: Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor (Franklin County).

Mr. Harris: Thank you. This is an administrative function that Council is asked to do every year by the Franklin County, and by Licking County. When you passed a tax budget back in July, we send that over, it goes through the budget commission just like it has since this whole thing's started in the early 1900's. These things haven't changed since the 1930's, but you still have to pass the resolution that they sent back and send it back to them.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Questions of the Finance Committee? Council? I make a motion we send this to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Item No. - 12. Discussion: Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor (Licking County).

Mr. Harris: This is the same, basically the same ordinance except it's for Licking County.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions from Finance Committee or Council? I'll make a motion we send this item to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries.

Thank you. We will close the Finance Committee at 8:00 p.m.

Finance Committee- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council 9-19-2011(Transcribed - S. Cochran, Ass't. Clk. of Council)