SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
July 18, 2011

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

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

Mr. Clemens: I'll call the Safety Committee meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Do I have any additions or deletions to tonight's agenda? If not, it'll stand approved. The next item is the approval of the minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of July 5, 2011. Are there any additions or deletions to the minutes? If not, they'll stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: Action for Liquor Permit Requests received during August recess of Council. This is a motion that would allow the Clerk of Council to send forward the request back to the State if it's been okayed by our Reynoldsburg Police Department. We did this before on our recesses. Are there any questions pertaining to this? Members of Council, members of Committee? If not I'd like to send this Motion to Council; seconded by Mr. Long. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Thank you. That ends the Safety Committee Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Safety Committee
- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council
July 18, 2011
(Transcribed - S. Cochran, Ass't. Clk. of Council)

SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
July 18, 2011

Members of Service Committee present: Doug Joseph, Nathan Burd, Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long.

Other members of Council present: Mel Clemens, Fred Deskins, Jr., Council President William L. Hills. Councilwoman Leslie Kelly was absent.

Mr. Joseph: I'll call the Service Committee to order at 7:32 p.m. The next Item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Are there any additions, deletions or changes to the agenda tonight? Seeing none, the agenda stands approved. Item No. 3 is approval of the minutes of the Service Committee meeting June 6, 2011. Any changes to those minutes? Seeing none, those minutes stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: Adoption of SWACO Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Miller.

Safety/Service Director Miller: Thank you Councilman Joseph, members of Council. This legislative request before you this evening is requesting that the City of Reynoldsburg adopt the SWACO Solid Waste Management Plan and to give you a brief description of what the plan is and why SWACO has one, I've asked that Mr. John Remy, the Director of Communications with SWACO tonight come before you and just give a brief presentation and then is available to answer any questions that you may or may not have on the plan itself. So with that, I'll turn the floor over to John.

Mr. Remy: Jim, thank you very much and good evening Council members. I am John Remy, Director of Communications for SWACO, and on behalf of all of us at SWACO, including our Board of Trustees, we bring greetings this evening. Our Solid Waste Management Plan, which will be up for your consideration next week, as well as through the Committee this evening, is required by State law every fifteen years; we have to have one. It's updated every five years, which is what we're here for this evening and next week is the five-year update. The update that we are proposing begins with 2008 as a base year. It describes the various programs and progress that we've achieved in terms in reaching Ohio's recycling mandates. Very happy to report to you that both of those mandates, our plan and everything that you in Reynoldsburg do and all the folks in Franklin County do, we've beaten both of them, and we've, the two goals that the State lays out when it comes to recycling, access to recycling by 90% of the residents in the area and the percentage goal in terms of amount recycled. Residential and commercial at a 27.1% rate and industrial recycling at a 77% rate. So we're doing good on both fronts. Of course, we can always do more. We also have to include in our plan, fifteen years of landfill capacity showing that we have someplace for the trash to go for the next fifteen years. We have demonstrated that as well in this plan and there are no major changes from the previous plan. Things have been going along well in terms of the various programs that we've offered and we are quite pleased with the progress in the community. In terms of financing the plan, it is financed by a $5/ton generation fee for districts and programs. We do not anticipate an increase in that fee. We have not increased that fee since SWACO went into existence back in 1989. That is the generation fee. What do you get for your money from that generation fee? Well, the recycling drop box program that you see all over Franklin County, the largest in the nation, two hundred and twenty-five locations last year brought in 16,000 tons of recyclables from residents, school assistance, landfill tours, yard waste diversion programs. All that yard waste is picked up at the curb. SWACO underwrites that. Community outreach special events. Grant support. Reynoldsburg has enjoyed a number of grants from SWACO, as well as Reynoldsburg City Schools. Our Emerald Awards. I remember a few years back that Reynoldsburg was honored for, I believe, the litter cleanup program. The twenty-minute program, the twenty-minute cleanup, I believe it was. Plus solid waste assessments, litter and illegal dumping programs, which of course, Reynoldsburg is welcome to take advantage of if you have illegal dumping problems, our environmental crimes task force is out there to help with that problem. A number of other items as well including the creation of community consortiums for negotiating trash recycling contracts to keep the prices down to residents. So that's a lot of what comes from this program and I will stop now and if you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

Mr. Joseph: Are there any questions from the Committee? Council? Okay. I only have one question for you Mr. Miller. In the material, it indicates that we either need to pass a resolution or an ordinance. Which are you asking for and why?

Mr. Miller: The, I didn't know I was asking for an ordinance; I thought that.........

Mr. Joseph: Well, no, it says that this must be approved or disapproved by either ordinance or resolution. I'm asking you which do you want and why are you choosing one over the other?

Mr. Miller: I'm asking that we adopt a resolution and the reason I'm asking for that is the material that SWACO provided to us as a sample is a resolution.

Mr. Joseph: Okay.

Mr. Miller: But really ....

Mr. Joseph: Okay, that answered the question.

Mr. Miller: All right?

Mr. Joseph: Just reading the material. It said it had to be one or the other and I just wanted to know the rationale on why you wanted to go the route of resolution. Again, is there any questions of the Committee or Council on this? All right, I'll make a motion we send this to Council with recommendation of adoption. Seconded by Mr. Long. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries. Thank you.

Mr. Remy: Council members, thank you very much. We look forward to continued good relations with the City of Reynoldsburg, with Jim as well, and if you need anything, please have Jim give us a yell, or also, I gave Nancy Frazier my phone number as well and if you need anything, please let us know. Thank you very much.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you very much, Sir; and that was our last item on the Service Committee agenda. We will adjourn the Service Committee at 7:37 p.m.

Service Committee

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

July 18, 2011

(Transcribed - S. Cochran, Ass't. Clk. of Council)

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
July 18, 2011

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

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

Mr. Joseph: Okay, I will open the Finance Committee at 7:38 p.m. Second item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Are there any additions, deletions or changes tonight? I have one change. We are going to hold item No. 7 which is the Approving of the salary for the new Chief Building Official, until the first Committee Meeting in September. All in favor vote “Aye”. (All voted “Aye”) Opposed. (No response) Motion carries; thank you.

Item No. 3 is approval of the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting for July 5, 2011. Are there any additions, deletions or changes to the Finance Committee Minutes? Seeing none, those minutes stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: RFP - Keytel (listed at direction of Vice Chairman Joseph). Mr. Mayor.

Mayor McCloud: Thank you, Chairman Joseph, members of Council. Last month the city sent out a Request for Proposal for services for an outside vendor to supplement the inhouse director that we now have. We received two responses. Of those two responses, one was responsive and I’m asking Council to authorize me to enter into a contract with Keytel.

Mr. Joseph: Are there questions of the Finance Committee? Council? Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. Mayor McCloud, the hourly charges for Keytel would only be utilized if and when the services were needed? We’re approving this amount of money on a contingency, correct?

Mayor McCloud: That is correct.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Joseph: Other questions? President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Mayor, I would like to thank you for including the other contract, because it was an all-inclusive contract, but it didn't supply some of the information it would have had to have had to see the bid, but it helps us when we see it. So I thank you for that.

Mr. Joseph: Any other questions, comments? And I see you have this down as an emergency, correct?

Mayor McCloud: Yes, please.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, I will make a motion we send this to Council next week as an emergency with recommendation for adoption. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) Motion carries; thank you.

Item No. 5 - Discussion: Appointment to fill vacancy on the Reynoldsburg Housing Council. I have a copy of an email indicating that Linda Winters, who had been appointed by Council for a term from March 22, 2010 to March 22, 2013, has moved out of the city and is living in North Carolina. We will need to make an appointment to the Housing Council. I would ask anyone that has an interest, to submit their name, address and any additional information about themselves to the Clerk of Council during the month of August and with the idea that we could have this back up for discussion on September 6th, the first meeting in September. So again, anyone interested, send that material to the Clerk of Council. So we'll hold this until that point.

Item No. 6 - ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: CHAPTER 160 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION, SECTION 160.02 "AUTHORIZED POSITIONS, PERSONNEL, CLASSIFICATION AND PAY GRADE" SUBSECTION (g) "SERVICE DEPARTMENT" (1) Service Department TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF RECEPTIONIST- - -first rdg 7-11-2011. Any questions by members of the Finance Committee on this item? By Council? Okay, I'll make a motion we send this on to Council for the second reading. Seconded by Mr. Deskins. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion carries, thank you. As earlier, we are holding Item No. 7.

Item No. 8 - Discussion: Income Tax Resolution of Necessity. In addition to discussing the Tax Resolution of Necessity, we're going to have a larger discussion of the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations as well, and I'll just start with some of my observations and then we'll go from there. First of all, I want to publically thank the individuals who served on the Ad Hoc Committee for taking the time out of their busy schedules to review the city's finances, to look at the numbers, and to debate, at length, the possible solutions to the city's financial issues. I think that the report they came up with had a lot of good ideas in it. Some of the ideas have been, I think, kicked around for a while. Other issues I think perhaps, may be something that we should take a look at, but we don't want to rush into right away.

On the expenditures, they recommended, you know, not specific cuts, but that we should take a look at things such as employee benefits, pension contributions, health care benefits, insurance, various employee compensation issues. I will note that while these are all issues that we should look at, we are governed by some union contracts, which make it not as flexible as we'd like to deal with some of this on a short-term basis. As we move forward and we negotiate future contracts, I think these are definitely things we can incorporate as we move forward, but on the short term, those are probably some issues that we won't be able to make significant modifications on.

On the revenue side, basically two different types of changes were suggested. One is fee increases. Suggested fee increases include the Building Department, Parks and Rec. I think these are all very appropriate areas to take a look at, particularly as it affects non-residents. I think those are very good suggestions and we should look at each and every fee, one by one, compare them to other communities and try to come up with a structure that's fair, but can bring additional dollars to the city.

On the income tax increase angle, probably the most controversial part of the report, it was suggested that the city increase the city income tax by 1% to mirror Columbus, and I think one or two other suburban communities in Franklin County. Well, this is, raising taxes has been suggested in the past. In 2006 we had two different votes in the city to raise it, both times it was rejected by 60% of the vote. I think that we probably, this is an issue that I think that a lot of debate needs to be made on. We need a lot of input by the community. I think putting it on the November ballot is premature. That's my opinion. I think that, to push it that quickly, which means we'd have to approve it next week, doesn't give the community enough time for input. It also doesn't give Council and the city enough time to look at other reforms such as cuts and fee increases to see exactly what we need to generate the dollars for the city. So I think that's a little premature and I will not be supporting an income tax increase for the November ballot.

I would now like to ask some of the other individuals that had a lot of input in the makeup of the committee to basically say what they liked about the report, what they didn't like about the report, and I'd like to go through first of all, the elected officials, the full time elected officials in the city; I'd like the Mayor, the Auditor, and the City Attorney, as they did sit in on some of the meetings and made suggestions; as far as some of the board members, what they thought of the report, what they liked, what they didn't like; and if they think we should move in the direction that was suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee. I will start with you Mayor, if you want to make a few comments about the report?

Mayor McCloud: It was a lot of work in a short amount of time by some very dedicated individuals to take that on. I think the conclusion they drew was not an easy one. I think there are some things that continue, need to continue to be explored. I'm not sure those things that need to be explored are any different than what we've talked about in the past. If you take a close look at your committee agenda, you will see that in 2008, my first year in office, I attempted to raise fees in the Building Department and it's still there in Other Legislation. So there are some things that were pointed out that we need to look at. We have a hard, cold financial reality imposed upon us by the Governor's recent budget, which didn't go into effect until April. So there are some difficult decisions to be made. I will most efficiently make use of the taxpayer dollars that we have. I think it is probably very unrealistic to think that we will not feel some of the services or the loss thereof in the very near future.

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Harris.

City Auditor Harris: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. I would also like to thank all the members of the committee I thought did an outstanding job in a very short period of time with some very complex issues. As we look at the history of what's happened with the revenue from the city, there was a division of the Limited that left town in 2001 and 2002 and took about $2,000,000 a year worth of annual revenue from the city and sent it to the city of New Albany. We have never recovered from that. We are taking in basically the same amount of revenue now that we did in 2000 - 2001. I think the committee did a very good job of also not only looking at the operating budget, but the capital needs of the city. We have a number of streets, large projects that are either postponed or are not going to be done. For example, we have tried to get OPWC money for Brice Road, which needs major improvements both in blacktop surfacing and underground. That's about a $3,000,000 project, $3,000,000 - $4,000,000 project. Lancaster Avenue, if you haven't driven on it recently is like about two years from being a gravel road. Taylor Road between Main and Broad is probably about two years behind that. Taylor Road between Rt. 256 and Old Taylor Road is also in need of major work. Between all those, you're looking at $7,000,000 or $8,000,000 worth of street repairs, and folks, we don't have the money. The city has done a lot over the last ten years with very little. When you look at cities the same size as we are, Grove City's annual General Fund expenditures are $22,000,000; Gahanna's is $21,000,000; Hilliard is $19,500,000; and we're at about $13,000,000. So I think when you look at that, you can tell that this city, over the last 20 years, has not been guilty of excessive expenditures. I agreed with many of the things that they put in the report on the expenditure side. I have long said to many people publically and privately, we do not charge enough for Parks and Rec fees and we do not charge enough for our Building Department. Most Building Departments in Franklin County are self-sufficient. We are not. The last time I did a, I looked this up two years ago, we were between $150,000 and $200,000 that we were supplementing the Building Department. We should be looking to eliminate or close that gap. Certainly on the Parks and Rec fees, we should be competitive with what other people in Central Ohio have. So I think there was a lot of good information in there for Council. I thought that the people did a very good job. They have all been business leaders, and Mr. Sprague has been involved with Government, Municipal Finance for 30 - 35 years, I don't know. He was the Budget Director for the City of Columbus for a number of years when Mayor Moody was there, so he is obviously very familiar with Municipal Finance and I think we should all be appreciative of the job they did. Obviously, Council is going to have some tough decisions to make with this and we will certainly do whatever we can do to aid Council in finding a solution that is workable for everybody.

Mr. Joseph: Did you agree with the Ad Hoc Committee's report, recommendation of a full 1% increase versus some partial increase?

Mr. Harris: I think there's other things you can do, but the bottom line is when we get done, it not only has to take care of the current shortage in the General Fund, but also the current shortage in the CIP fund, which we've been putting $200,000 a year in for 8 or 9 years and then in no way, shape or form is that enough money to do it. I'm not advocating an income tax increase or anything else. I'm advocating, we need to find a solution to the problem and the problem is not going to go away. We're not going to grow our way out of it either. In order to come up with this much money, you need a $250,000,000 payroll coming to this town. I don't see it.

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Hood, would you make some comments, please?

City Attorney Hood: Thank you, Mr. Joseph. The only thing I would say is I do appreciate the work the committee did. It was a lot of information in a short time. I was impressed by the collection of professionals that were assembled to make the opinion, Chairman Sprague especially with his professionalism, and I would say that I wholeheartedly agree with the Mayor and the Auditor that this problem cannot be pushed down the road any farther. We do need to address it one way or another and unfortunately, all the options that are presented to City Council, none of them are very good. So I understand that it needs to be debated. The problem is if we push it off too far, we'll just exacerbate the problem. So, thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you. I'm going to ask the Finance Committee now if they have any questions of either the Mayor, the Auditor, or the City Attorney, or just want to have any general comments or discussion. Go ahead, Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Well, you know, as I look at the report, you know, and I agree with the increase in the fees on Parks and Rec, and the Building Department, but that won't bring us the money we're speaking of. I mean, that's not money at all. As I look at my Ward and that's of course, that's my big interest in the whole city, but I look at my Ward and I look at the streets in Reynoldsburg and we should be doing $2,000,000; $1,500,000 to $2,000,000 a year in structural work, streets and curbs and gutters. We'll never catch up unless we start this. We're behind probably $8,000,000 over the last six years that we weren't able to spend the money to do. We used to spend $1,500,000 to $2,000,000 and do this work. If you look at Livingston Avenue, you look at Lancaster Avenue, just drive down them, and all you do is throw gravel on Lancaster Avenue. Livingston Avenue needs redone. Taylor Road's in that section right now where it's going to need to be redone. These are big projects, but if you look at our infrastructure within our community, the streets are falling apart. Now you keep fixing it up, I mean, you can fix the cracks, then they separate again and you thump as you drive. All you get is a thump, thump, thump. We have to do something about it and I know that increasing tax seems to be an issue that seems to bug people. It doesn't bug me. Maybe I'm getting too old to worry about it, but you know, what we're trying to do, what we want to do, is put this before the public. They have, I think that they have the right to be able to vote on this issue to either pass it so we have an increase in our community and our community moves forward, or they can defeat it and we go backwards. They have the right to do that. If they want to go forward then they'll pass, they want to go backwards which is going to happen, then they'll defeat it. They defeated it twice and we went a little bit downhill. And I think it's important to get it before the public. Whether it can be done now and enough things can be proposed and brought out to them to get it passed or to wait until May, I don't know, but eventually it has to be done. I know the votes aren't here to pass it. I'm not stupid. I mean, I've sat around this board here and other Councilmen and I can count the votes right now. I know what they are. You all get to vote on it. We'll make sure of that, but I know how the votes stand, but you know, and I think that's everybody's right to have a right to feel the way they want, but I do feel that you should take, I think you should take politics out of this and stop worrying about whether you're going to get re-elected and things like that and put the city ahead of everything for once. I'm serious. If we, you know, we need safety in my community and we're not going to get it until we get more Police. You know, anybody can sit here and look and stare and turn their heads and hope that we can, you know, help the safety issue by not bringing on more Police and that's fine, but I'll tell you, I'll put the city first. We've got to have more safety in my section of town, in my Ward and it's the same way, and it's drifting the same way towards Fred's Ward and then it's going to drift out towards the Wards in the eastern part of town. You have to look at Columbus over these years and watch how their safety program has moved our direction and you'll see what's happened the last twenty-five years. It's moving this direction. I don't know if we don't get something passed where the Administration can start really enforcing some of our laws, with more safety officers, I don't know what it's going to come to, to be honest with you and that's why that I would like to see this move forward if not in November, in May, and give the public a chance to realize the situation we're in. You get this thing out, and you hear it, and I've been here sixty years, you get it out now, and you know what people tell me, move to Reynoldsburg, it's cheap. You know why it's cheap? Because it doesn't cost anything. All you have to do is look at your taxes. You're not paying anything. The school gets all the money and I'm not afraid to say that. You know, I mean, I look at my tax bills. I know where the money goes. The Library gets more tax money than we do in property tax. So I think that, you know, we're not ready, 60 % of the people or 75% of the people pay this anyway and it doesn't bother the Senior citizens. We don't take it out of retirement. I think we ought to give them the opportunity to vote on it. I'd like to see the city grow again, become safe again. It's nice to see we're got pretty flowers up and down Main Street but boy, I tell you, you walk beyond Main Street in the middle of the night - those flowers don't do you any good. So that's my point. I would just, I would like to see this go before the public and have the opportunity to see whether they want to step ahead or they want to fall behind and that's how I feel about it; and thank you, Chairman.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you, Councilman Joseph.

Mr. Joseph: Go ahead.

Mr. Deskins: I totally agree with pretty much everything's been said here this evening. I appreciate the time that the Ad Hoc Committee took to give some good advice and most of the things in the report, I agree with. I have one problem, and Mel's covered it pretty well. I don't want to rush this tax issue to the ballot before the city has the opportunity to look at the budget totally and see if there's any areas they can cut some money out of and know where it's going. We don't have to rush, and again, if we don't explain to the public what's going on, we're just going to lose if we put it out there too soon and then don't explain it. So thanks for the opportunity to say that. I agree with most of the things that were said here this evening and I'd like to see it come to a vote too, but I'm thinking this soon would be too bad for the issue. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: President Hills.

Mr. Hills: I have a couple comments and I've already thanked the Ad Hoc Committee, and I apologize, I don't know what's wrong with our mike system, and the lights say they're on, but obviously they kick on and off. So I'm sure we'll check into that. I'll try to speak up. I attended all of the Ad Hoc Committees and I worked with the Mayor, City Attorney, and the Auditor on different numbers, and I think, I don't disagree about trying to inform the public on the need for a tax increase, but my hair's about as gray as Mel's and I was here in 2006, and I was here in 2002 when the monies went down the road and went to another city. I can relate very much to both of those. The decision was very clear in 2006 there was not going to be a tax increase. That city, this city by knowing that, has balanced its budget since 2006 by taking money out of the reserve accounts to put in the General Fund to pay to open and close the doors and to pay payroll and that has happened at varying amounts. I think the lowest was a little under $1,000,000; the most was probably $1,800,000. I'm sure the Auditor could come up with those numbers, and the Mayor could come up with those numbers. Bottom line is, every year for a number of years, this city has spent more money than they've received, and you can only do that for so long, the same as you can with your own account.

We are at the point, and the State certainly had something to do with it, but we're to the point where there's approximately $2,000,000 that can be transferred out of the Capital Improvement Funds to balance our anticipated deficiency in 2012 and that deficiency's $1,300,000. So do you have the money to cover the $1,300,000 - yes, but it's taking out of the left pocket and putting in the right pocket to meet payroll; and you can talk about increasing fees, you can talk about closing different departments, but the monies we have in the reserve accounts are falling down. You got one year shot. Now I appreciate everybody wanting to be sure people are informed. The Ad Hoc Committee talked about ½% increase on taxes and looked at the different items and where the funds have been pulled from for a number of years to balance, and felt, we don't think that's enough and that's why the 1%, to the best of my knowledge came forward because ½% was discussed, but if we, I, somebody's always tried to deal in real numbers, our expenses are anticipated to be about $13,000,000 for 2012. Our revenue's on $11,700,000. That leaves a deficiency of $1,300,000. Often we have to take money out of our General Fund and move over to meet our obligations on long-term debt. That can be as much as $400,000 but don't let, I'm not even going to put that one in the picture. It's out there but it complicates, it can make things complicated. One half percent brings in $2,800,000 and people say, you don't need any more money. If you get $1,300,000; $2,800,000; you've got everything covered. The reality of it is your City Engineer/Service Director and the Mayor, and as Mr. Clemens referenced, the anticipations of cost to maintain, to bring current our roads, you've got to remember, they haven't been as good over the last 5 - 6 years as they used to be; to bring them current and maintain other small capital projects is anticipated to be approximately $2,200,000 in the future, per year. Why if you've got $2,800,000 and you've got $1,300,000, you've got $1,500,000 left to meet that $2,200,000 obligation and what the Ad Hoc Committee said, if you'll read it, you can't take any more funds from your reserve accounts; you need to put money back into the reserve accounts. An example of that is this Capital Improvement Fund, we used to put 14% of our income tax dollars into the CIP. For the last 4 - 5 years, it's down to 2%. So and yet, we're taking what's left in there and using it to balance our day-to-day budget. I appreciate needing the information. I also appreciate the fact that I have harped, I'm sorry, I have stated for at least four years, that each year at budget time, each year we are exceeding, our expenses exceed our revenues. The Auditor has brought these points up. The City Attorney has, the Mayor has, we've all talked about it and we learned a lesson in 2006. Don't do anything, maybe it'll go away, and I admire the city, we have tried the best we can with the monies we have, but I'm letting you know right now, the money you've got to balance in 2012, you don't have anymore after that. There is no 2013. In my mind, I think the smartest thing to do is to have a tax levy of some sort on the ballot this November and then turn around and as the budgeting starts, you can budget that, that passed. You've got to budget cutting at least $1,300,000 out of that $13,000,000 in expenses. So you're going to see the cuts. Now maybe they all, wouldn't all go into effect in the budget, if it passed in November, but maybe they would. You've got to plan as a city and I think the Mayor knows, he's got to figure out whether to come forward to Council and say I'm going to make these cuts, they need to be made, and I do agree, fees can help, increasing in Parks and Rec, increasing in Building, all these things can help, but you're not going to find your $1,300,000 - $1,500,000 in those fees, but what you are going to see in order to pull that down, we have to prepare and the Mayor presents the budget to Council. Everybody's kind of looking and saying well, Council's going to have to do this. Well, the Mayor's going to have to bring the budget forward and if he doesn't, theoretically doesn't want to bring a budget forward and the expenses exceed revenues, then Council does have to get involved, but this is a team game. It's not one playing against the other. It's all taxpayer dollars, but use your taxpayer dollars to the best, and if we're this far deficient, it's not anything I'm real proud of and certainly the actions of the State brought it to brighter light, but I think the thing we have to look forward to is how do we best protect the public, and you best protect the public by getting a tax increase on the ballot as soon as possible. You start preparing for those cuts and you budget for those cuts and they'll be implemented, in 2012 if the money isn't there, but I don't know if that raises any other comments, but thank you very much, Councilman.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Other members of Council? Any questions or comments on the report? Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. I had the flexibility in my schedule to attend the Ad Hoc Committee meetings, and I appreciated their time that they gave, and the elements as far as volunteering to the city and the residents of the City of Reynoldsburg. I've read through the report and I agree not only with what they say in the element to the aspect of how it ought to be applied, but also what everybody else is saying here as well. What I have heartburn about is that over the last year and one half, we have debated other issues that best are trivial compared to this and it's importance and the meaning to the citizens of Reynoldsburg for months and here we are. They're asking us to shove this through in ten days. I don't know that I can support presenting something on the November ballot. I know that I would support it if it were presented to the public in May, and that's all I've got to say, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Any other comments or questions by anyone on Council? I'll just say that we're, we will plan on having a Special Finance Committee Meeting next week before Council where we'll have an opportunity to discuss this further, and I encourage anyone in the community who has an interest in this to come out that evening so they could have a chance to speak whether they are for it or against it. I know at that point the Finance Committee will make a decision on whether to proceed with moving it on to Council.

I'll just, in closing, make a few additional points. I agree with much of what was said here this evening on this issue, but a lot of it, a lot was made about the cuts that are coming from the State, losing the Local Government Fund, and the Estate Tax. Those are being phased out. We're not losing them overnight, so there's time to determine how we make up for those lost dollars.

Secondly, I'm not comfortable moving forward on a tax vote, not knowing that there's some type of backup plan. I think we should have some type of backup plan and debate that as well and be comfortable with that before, because there's no guarantee. The voters twice said no with 60%. That's not a close vote. That's a very large rejection of raising taxes. I think there needs to be discussion about what the backup plan is; and then lastly, something that was just briefly mentioned by one of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee the day they approved it, was something that I was really hoping to hear discussed by the committee, but didn't hear, and that's something that the State has encouraged, and that's consolidation of governmental services and I think that's something that we need to take a serious look at with Truro Township. We have approximately 90% overlap with Truro Township and that might be something where we could take a serious look at where there's redundancy in management and overhead and do some consolidation there and actually be eligible for State monies at the same time, and during the month of August, I'm actually going to be having a variety of legislative proposals drafted to deal with that so we can study that come September, but I think that's something, that's thinking outside the box, something that we need to go with. The State looks like they're going to shut off a couple spigots of money, but there's other dollars available if we're willing to move in a different direction on government reform. So again, I'll just ask, are there any additional questions or comments tonight on this item? Okay, then I'll, we'll hold this until the Special Finance Committee Meeting next week prior to Council Meeting, and I will close the Finance Committee at 8:13 p.m.

- - -Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

July 18, 2011

(Transcribed - S. Cochran, Ass't. Clk. of Council)