

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2007

Members of Safety Committee present: Doug Joseph, Ron Stake, Antoinette Newman, Donna Shirey.

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Joseph: The second item for tonight is the approval of the agenda. Are there any changes, or additions, or deletions? (No response). If not, it=ll stand as written.

Item number 3, approval of the minutes for the July 2, 2007 Safety Committee Meeting. Are there any changes or corrections? (No response). If not, they=ll stand as submitted.

Item number 4, Discussion, Resolution of Support (DARE) and authorization to apply.

Sergeant McComb: Good evening. I=m Sergeant McComb with the Reynoldsburg Police Department. We=re requesting approval of this particular item on the agenda. We=ve had the DARE Program in Reynoldsburg since its inception. Late 1982, early 1983. We are attempting to renew our grant with the State of Ohio which provides part of the funding for the officer that teaches the program in the schools.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions from members of the committee? Yes, Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. Can you tell us how much funding this grant would provide?

Sergeant McComb: I believe it=s 50% of the salary of the officer for the hours that he works. I don=t have the figures with me. I=m sorry.

Mr. Stake: Okay.

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes. This is a grant that like she said, we=ve approved many times. And it=s something that=s for the good of the city and I would hope that we approve it again.

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. I=m strongly in favor of the DARE Program. I try and

attend all of the DARE graduations I can and it=s very exciting to see those kids get their DARE Certificate. I think DARE=s a great program and it=s a proactive program. So I=m happy to support it and I will support it.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Other questions by Council? Mr. Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Yes, Chairman Joseph. I=m also in agreement with the DARE Program. And I like Mr. Stake, have attended many of the graduations and I think it=s a great program and I think we should continue it.

Mr. Joseph: Mrs. Newman.

Mrs. Newman: I=m also in favor. But I notice that this application has to be in by Friday, August 24. Are we going to have to have an emergency on this or what?

Mr. Joseph: Yes. It=s an emergency item and we=ll pass it on tonight and it=ll go to Council next week.

Mrs. Newman: Okay. Oh, I see that=s marked there.

Mayor McPherson: Mr. Joseph, this is a 50/50 grant. And if you notice on the request for legislation, we did include an emergency on it because of the time frame.

Mr. Joseph: Is it typical Mayor, that we get this as late as we did?

Mayor McPherson: Almost always.

Mr. Joseph: Always in July?

Mayor McPherson: Yeah.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Other questions from Council? Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you, Chairman. And as a parent who=s watched his kids grow up with the DARE Program, and hearing at home, the comments that they learn while they=re in school, I don=t know how anybody could not be opponent of this legislation. It shows in this resolution as well, it shows that the police are doing a great job in our schools and the youth of our city are learning very quickly about drugs, and violence, and gangs and those things. So I=m definitely in support of this.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you, Mr. Baxter. Any other questions? (No response). Okay. I=ll make a motion then we move this on to Council. Is there a second?

Mr. Hills: You=ll want an emergency on that.

Mr. Joseph: As an emergency item. Second by Mrs.....

Mrs. Lyday: Excuse me.

Mr. Joseph: Yes.

Mrs. Lyday: This will be a motion, so it will just be read next week and passed.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. So we=ll have this read next week at Council. Second by Mrs. Shirey. All in favor, please say aye. (All voted AAYe@). Opposed? (No response). Motion carries.

And since there is no other business on the Safety Committee agenda tonight, I=ll close at 7:35.

Safety Committee

July 16, 2007

- - -Susie Lyday, Assistant Clerk of Council

(Transcribed - Susie Lyday)

SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2007

Members of Service Committee present: Mel Clemens, Antoinette Newman, Brett Baxter, Donna Shirey.

Other members of Council present: Ron Stake, Preston Stearns, Doug Joseph, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Clemens: I'd like to call the Service Committee meeting to order at 7:36.

The first item is approval of the agenda. Do I have any additions to the agenda, or any deletions? (No response). If not, it'll stand approved.

The next item is approval of the minutes of the July 2, 2007 Service Committee meeting. Are there any changes to this? Any additions or deletions? (No response). If not, it'll stand approved.

Item number 4 is a discussion. It's a request authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Metropolitan Environmental Services, Inc., 5055 Nike Drive, Hilliard, Ohio 43026 for the 2007 Sanitary Sewer Television and Inspection Contract. Contract amount is \$25,917.70, and that includes the Force included. The inspection fees are 5,000. So the request is that \$30,917.70 be appropriated to account number 720.736.5365 from the unappropriated Waste/Water Fund. I did talk to Mark about this today and he's quite happy with the contract. And the reason it's on as an emergency, he would like to get it started as soon as possible. Steve, do you have anything to say about it?

Mr. DeBolt: Just that again, this is an annual contract that we do. The bid was very favorable. \$5,000 less than the estimate. And we start talking about again, always ways to save money. And we're going to look into possibly a multi-year contract since it's something we do every year to see if it's possible to save some money doing that. So we just started discussing it. So we're going to look at that for next year and future years.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Steve. Are there any questions from members of the committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Yes, Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Chairman Clemens. I just have one question. Has this been already budgeted for? Is this in our annual budget appropriation?

Mr. Clemens: Yes. Yes, it has. I will refer this to Finance Committee. Yes. This is something he does annually.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any other questions for Mr. DeBolt pertaining to this subject? (No response). If not, I'd like to send this to Council as an emergency, and also to the Finance Committee. Do I have a second? Second by Mrs. Shirey. All in favor, say aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response). Thank you.

The next item is Discussion, Multi-occupancy of residences - listed at request of Chairman Clemens. We've had this on here and I keep holding it, and I will keep holding it because we're working on it. The City Engineer, myself, and different ones have received information from other cities. And we will be working on a new ordinance. I would like everybody to look at the ordinances that you've received over the month of August, and I'd like to come up with something the first of September. At least some form of an ordinance that we can begin discussion on. Jed, would you have anything else to say on this? I know you're in discussion about this and I know that there's nothing new that's came up.

Mr. Hood: I think that what you just said is a good plan of action. Mr. Hills, President Hills indicated we need to form an Ad Hoc Committee made up of both administrative and legislative folks to have a discussion on some other ordinances. I know that you reviewed some ordinances outside of our city. I've done that. I think right now, it's a time to get a committee formed and have a discussion, and hopefully we can have some discussion at the legislative table by September and remedy this situation.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Jed. Thank you, Bill. And I know that Mr. Hills is appointing a committee to handle this. Mrs. Newman.

Mrs. Newman: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Clemens. Mr. Hood, I didn't get a copy of the one for Columbus of the legislation they passed. So I'd like to have a copy of that.

Mr. Hood: Mrs. Newman, I've been doing research in my office. I haven't forwarded everything that I've read to Council at this point. I'd be more than happy to. And I'll do that this week.

Mrs. Newman: Alright. Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Jed. Are there any other questions pertaining to this subject? (No response). If not, I'd like to have it held until the next Service Committee meeting. This is something that I think that's important, this subject that we're discussing. And we'd like to get something in the works so that it doesn't happen to us again. And maybe we can correct the issue that's there now.

The next item on the agenda, the discussion, Acceptance of annexation of 3.78+/- acres in Jefferson Twp.; (Thomas M. and Trulee Barnett); adopted by Franklin County Commissioners on April 24, 2007; rec'd by Clerk of Council 5-15-07; can go to committee to begin the acceptance process on 7-16-07 which is tonight. What I'd like to do with this, and I have not spoke to the people and I don't know whether if they are here tonight or not. If not, since it's not being represented, I'd like to move this on to Council for the first reading and have it sent back to committee. Do I have a second on this? Second by Mr. Baxter. All in favor, say aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response).

With that, that ends the Service Committee meeting at 7:41.

Service Committee
July 16, 2007

- - -Susie Lyday, Assistant Clerk of Council
(Transcribed - Susie Lyday)

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES July 16, 2007

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Doug Joseph, Preston Stearns.

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

Mr. Stake: And I will call the Finance Committee to order at 7:42.

Item number 2 is approval of the agenda. I would like to add the appropriation for the 2007 Sanitary Sewer Televising and Inspection Contract. All in favor, please state aye. (All voted AAYe@). That will be 3a.

Item number 3 is approval of minutes of Finance Committee meeting held July 2, 2007. I just would like to point out for the record that in the minutes of July 2, 2007, we were discussing appropriation for mechanics to fix some vehicles, it was stated by Councilman Baxter that the salt truck had not been traded in. And that in fact is incorrect. It has been traded in. So I did not want to leave the wrong impression in our records here. So to correct the record, that salt truck was traded in.

Mr. Baxter: I appreciate that. Thank you. I did get that cleared up after the meeting.

Mr. Stake: You're welcome. No problem. Item number 3a, the sanitary sewer financing. This comes from the Service Committee. And Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes. This is the appropriation of \$30,917.70 to do the sanitary sewer televising and inspection contract.

Mr. Stake: Okay. And that request would be appropriated to account number 720.736.5365 from the unappropriated Waste Water Fund. And are there any questions or comments in regards to that appropriation from members of the Finance Committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Then I'll make a motion that we also send this forward to appropriate \$30,917.70, appropriated to account number 720.736.5365 from the unappropriated Waste Water Fund to Council for recommendation as adoption as an emergency. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 4 is Discussion: ODOT Final Resolution - 2008 Urban Paving Project - listed at request of Service Director and also at the direction of myself. Mr. DeBolt.

Mr. DeBolt: Yes, Mr. Chairman, members of Council, Mr. Mayor. As you know, since last fall when ODOT contacted us about paving Main Street from the bridge out towards the Kroger when the proposition was similar to what the county did with us in doing Waggoner Road where

we=d pay a smaller percentage of it. They basically do the engineering and do the job. It=s a good deal for the city all the way around. I think everybody agreed on that. However, and again, I=d like to point out that that work is on schedule to be done starting in September. The curb and ramp work is being done here in July, completing in July. There might be a little buffer time in between there. I=m letting ODOT know, feel free to start earlier if you like. But that=s basically on their schedule and it won=t be done in September. But the point is, about a week ago, just over a week ago, we were notified by ODOT, they had brought our contracts back, that not only did they need the Preliminary Legislation as we had passed as desired, that they also need what they consider a Final Resolution that has language in it that=s more acceptable to their attorney at ODOT than what we had originally provided. Again, that was something new to us based on our prior conversations as you might remember. I think just two weeks ago at a meeting when the Council members inquired about the 256 project, is a Preliminary Legislation adequate? I said I=d check and I did. And basically they said just so the appropriate language is in there as we provided. So we moved forward. And then this came up and I went back and asked the same person and I guess again, they=ve had some personnel changes with the administration change potentially. Therefore, their explanation is that on the other project, maybe we will have to have a Final Resolution down the line again. So it=s not exactly as I heard when I asked just two weeks ago. But the bottom line is, they are doing a service for us by paving this project at a very reasonable cost and we need to get them more concise point of view for their attorney. I think that=s a small price to pay. Fortunately it was done when we have the Council meetings in order to do it. And none of us like surprises, so I made a point for the 256 Project upcoming, to make sure that we=re going to run everything by them ahead of time. So whatever we pass, they are on the same page as we are. So with that, I=d like to ask that Council go ahead and adopt the legislation with the language that our attorney Mr. Hood and the attorney for ODOT have put together.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Mr. DeBolt. And we certainly do want to be included in this project, don=t we?

Mr. DeBolt: Most definitely. Yes.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Are there any questions or comments from members of the Finance Committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). As Mr. DeBolt pointed out, this resolution was worked on with our City Attorney and ODOT=s attorney. So hopefully we=re okay now. And I=m confident that we are. And we would want to send this on. We=re having a Special Council Meeting scheduled after Committee Meetings tonight to deal with this legislation. So I=ll make a motion that we send this on to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency to the Special Council Meeting to follow this Committee Meeting. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Joseph. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted Aye@). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Items 5 through 11 will be, there will be a Finance Committee of the Whole. So everybody here at the Council table will be participating in this meeting and we=ll be voting on

which if any of these we send forward to Council for next Monday night. But we=ll deal with these one at a time.

Item number 5 is AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.02(b) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This had its first reading on 7-9-07 and this is numbered 0-2-07. And this one I believe, deals with the Ward Boundaries. And we have two on here, items 5 and 6 dealing with Ward Boundaries. Are there any questions or comments from members of the Finance Committee or members of Council? (No response). I just would like to point out that item 5 has a little bit less in it than item 6. And if we=re going to send something on to Council, my recommendation would be item 6 because it is a little bit more complete. President Hills.

Mr. Hills: I think to clarify, as you said, item 6, which the number is 0-6-07 on the agenda, does include 100% of item 5 which is numbered 0-2-07. So the inclusive ordinance is 0-6-07 or item 6 on the agenda. And it is doing the same thing that 5 is doing with another add on part of a sentence. So for further clarification.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you, President Hills. Any other questions or comments from members of Council? (No response). I guess if we=re not going to deal with these Mr. President, we would table them indefinitely? The ones that we wouldn=t want to send on?

Mr. Hills: You could vote to table those. You could vote to table, say item number 5 and take a vote on that. Or you could vote to send it forward and then vote against it. But voting to table is for clarity. What we have is, as you pointed out, 5 and 6 are two items dealing with the same issue. So certainly a vote to table, I would suggest taking a roll call vote on it. But to table would eliminate number 5 and then number 6 you=d vote on independently the same way.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Does everybody understand that? Are there any questions or comments from members? (No response). Then I=ll make a motion that we table item number 5 indefinitely. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Stearns. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed; item tabled.

Item 6, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.02(b) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It had its first reading on 7-9-07. And this one is numbered 0-6-07. And in this proposed amendment, line one would say, AThere is hereby created a Ward Boundary Commission consisting of five electors of the city to serve overlapping.@ And line five would be in addition to our previous amendment to say, AAt appointment no more than two members shall be adherents of the same political party.@ And the rest of the sentence there would be omitted. Are there any questions or comments from members in regards to that one? (No response). Okay then, none being heard, I=ll make a

motion that we send on to Council for its second reading with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.02(b) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. And this is number 0-6-07. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Joseph. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted AYea@). Oh, I=m sorry. I guess we should have got a roll call vote on that.

Mr. Hills: If you=re comfortable with it. I don=t think there=s any doubt.

Mr. Stake: I don=t think there are. Anybody opposed? (No response).

Mr. Stearns: We did the other one as a roll call. Why would it be inconsistent to do that?

Mr. Stake: We can call the roll. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed.

Okay. Next we have item number 7, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6.01(b) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This had its first reading on 7-9-07. And this one is numbered 0-3-07. This one deals with the City Attorney. And on line two in Section 6.01(b), AThe City Attorney shall not hold any other public office during a term except@, and omit the words Aor public employment.@ And I guess the reasoning here on the sheet I have said as it now reads, Ais in conflict with Section 6.01(h). The change would allow the two sections to be in conformity.@ Any questions or comments from members of Council? (No response). Is the City Attorney interested in commenting on this at all?

Mr. Hood: I=d be happy to entertain any questions. But I did provide the memo to Council and I think I explained. There is a conflict in between the two sections. One was enacted at the original Charter inception and the Subsection (h) was enacted subsequently. So this proposed amendment will remedy that situation.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you. Did that raise any questions or comments from members of Council? (No response). Okay then. None being heard, I will make a motion that we send on to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6.01(b) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. And this again, is item number 0-3-07. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Clemens. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed.

Item number 8 is AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.05(c) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It had its first reading on 7-9-07. And this one is numbered 0-4-07. And this has to do with President Pro Tempore of Council. And I believe one of our Councilmen proposed this amendment and I=ll let him describe it.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you, Chairman Stake. I proposed this amendment because the way the current code is, the Charter is currently stated that in the event that the Mayor or the President of Council, who serving as Acting, can be serving as Acting Mayor, either one of those individuals are unable to serve during a period, the President Pro Tempore serves as Acting Mayor, he cannot sign or veto any measures that will be passed by Council. And my feeling was, that in the event of emergency, it could put the city at a very great disadvantage. And the citizens, if we needed to pass some type of emergency ordinance to deal with an emergency, we should at least allow the Acting Mayor, again, who would be the President Pro Tempore, to be able to sign or veto those measures. It was actually modified by the Charter Review Commission to just include emergency legislation. Which my intent was just to focus on things that we really don=t have the time to wait 10 days or so for it to take effect if it was an emergency issue. So it came out a unanimous vote from the commission. And so that was my intent there is that we just allow, most likely this will never happen, but in the event of emergency, it would be nice to have that in place so the city can continue operating very smoothly.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Thank you, Councilman Joseph. Are there any other questions or comments in regards to this item from members of Council? Councilman Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you, Chairman. The only comment I think we need to make here is the reason that these are emergencies, and the fact that we need to be able to get them to the ballot on time. Is that not the reason why we have them as emergencies?

Mr. Stake: Correct. They will need to be passed at the next Council meeting next Monday night. Because we will be recessing for the month of August and there=s no Council meeting the following Monday.

Mr. Baxter: I just thought that was important that we recognize it. Not just this one but on each one of them, the emergency legislation has been there for that purpose so we can make that time frame.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Councilman Baxter. Any other comments or questions? (No response). Then I=ll make a motion that we send item number 8, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3.05(c) OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Send this to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Do I have a second?

Second by Councilman Stearns. Any further discussion? (No response). With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed.

Okay. Items 9, 10, and 11 deal with, basically deal with partisan primaries. And a Charter amendment to provide for non-partisan primaries. There were three of these amendments voted out of Charter Review Commission, I believe 3 to 2. Correct me if I'm wrong. And I guess the reason we have three is because Charter Review Commission wanted us to decide on which one we liked the best. Just to summarize a little bit, items 9 and 11 are not as complete as item number 10. Item number 10 has in it, additional verbiage that if there are no contested primary races we would not hold an election. Correct? Anybody feel free to correct me if I'm wrong but that's the way I read it. So if we are going to send any of them on to Council, I think item number 10 would be the one to send on since it is more complete. I do have two speaker slips. And before we get into these, I'll call our speakers up. First speaker is Tom Drabick and he'd like to speak on non-partisan primaries. And I'll point out that Mr. Drabick was one of our Charter Review members, and we appreciate his serving the city in that capacity.

Mr. Drabick: Thank you, Chairman Stake. And this is my first opportunity to speak before Council. So I would like to publicly thank President Hills and the members of Council for my appointment and for the opportunity to serve our residents of the city in this capacity. I rise tonight to speak in support of the amendment 0-7-07 which Mr. Chairman, as you have indicated, I think the more complete of the three that you have before you. This amendment would establish a non-partisan primary for nomination of candidates for elected office in the city. The number of candidates nominated at the non-partisan primary would be twice the number of members of the office for which the election would be conducted. And in paragraph b, it provides for avoiding a primary if there are no candidates who file for the office. Or if the number of candidates who do file nominating petitions is less than or equal to, twice the number of the members of the office. As an initial matter, I would just like to say that in all of Franklin County there are only two municipalities who currently have partisan primary elections. That would be Hilliard and Reynoldsburg. So I think in a way, this amendment is an amendment who's time has come. It certainly would be the consensus of other municipalities in the county. Secondly, and speaking just for myself, it has been my opinion that the effectiveness of partisan politics at this level of government, of the municipal level, is not what really is important. What's important is the ability for elected officials to come together to get things done for the community, to build relationships, and to be committed to public service. And I think that if the focus is on non-partisan elections, there is a better likelihood and a better climate for that to occur. One of the things that we talked about at length in the commission was what affect, going to a non-partisan primary would have on the electorate. And I think for myself, and for Mr. Brusk who is here to speak as well, we felt that a non-partisan primary would be more of an incentive for more residents, more registered voters of the city to participate in the nominating process. And I think that that is instinctively our position given that if there is a particularly challenging or highly publicized contest in one party as opposed to the other. People who are not

registered voters in the other party are not as likely to come out and vote. Whereas, if you have maybe two Republicans and two Democrats who have filed nominating petitions, if every registered voter in the city has the opportunity to vote for two of those four, there would be a greater participation and a freer access to the nominating process. That is in substance, I think the reason why you have the amendments before you that you do. I know that there was some question as to why there are, there=s the one amendment that is more complete than the other two. With regard to 0-8-07, which only provides for the non-partisan primary and does not address the issue of avoiding the primary, kind of like Council is here, the commission was getting to the point of a time crunch and we needed to act. So we introduced both not knowing that if both (a) and (b) was in one amendment, whether it would pass out or not. Ultimately, it did. And as you correctly indicate, we=re giving Council the opportunity to decide which one best, would be best for the citizens to vote on. So I thank you for your attention. I thank you for the opportunity to serve. And unless there are any questions, I=m going to take my seat.

Mr. Stake: Are there any questions for Mr. Drabick from members of Council? (No response). Thank you. And next we have Mr. Norm Brusk who would like to speak on the same subject.

Mr. Brusk: Thank you, Chairman Stake, President Hills, and Council. I just wanted to say that again, I was very pleased with the commission. I thought we did, were able to work together very well. It shows that you can do things without partisanism being adversarial to a degree of being uncivil. We were very civil. We enjoyed working, and we enjoyed the opportunity to do it. Mr. Drabick did a wonderful job of reviewing what we did and why this particular amendment was, that he favored it. I also favor going to the non-partisan. I think the basic reason is that the way the current system works, oftentimes voters are just not able to do, to vote in the key part of an election for a particular office. It=s when one party is stronger than another, or the two best candidates, or the two most, the two candidates that are most likely to fight it out for the office, are in there if they=re not of that party. Although, you can change your party affiliation for that election temporarily and still one year that you have to declare yourself in the opposite party or as a Non-Independent if that=s what you were. This is a fairly high hurdle to have to go over. Even though it=s relatively easy to do, it=s still a strong hurdle because of your own feelings and your own beliefs. The other thing is that you may be on a commission, or you may be on a committee, where you have declared yourself to be a Democrat or an Independent. And you cannot switch without losing the ability to be on that particular committee. So I just wanted to say that was probably the basic reason.

Mr. Stake: You have first hand experience with that one, don=t you?

Mr. Brusk: Yes, I do. Thank you. And other than that, is there any questions?

Mr. Stake: Are there any questions for Mr. Brusk from members of Council? President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Mr. Brusk, I did want to, just clarify, as you said, it=s easy to be what you want to be when you walk in at a primary election. If you want to be a Republican, you can be a

Republican. If you want to be a Democrat, you can be a Democrat. If you want to be an Independent, you can be an Independent.

Mr. Brusk: Yes, that=s true.

Mr. Hills: In the next primary, you can be something else if you choose to be that, correct?

Mr. Brusk: Right.

Mr. Hills: I=m glad you clarified that.

Mr. Brusk: Yes. I had gone through it and I guess I was given incorrect advice and incorrect statement. Because when I....

Mr. Hills: You=re one of the few people that were able to change parties off of a permanent document any way. So it=s amazing. I=m just saying, people who go in to vote, have in a primary, they have the opportunity on who they want to vote for. They just need to be sure they ask for the appropriate ballot.

Mr. Brusk: Right. That=s the easy part. The hard part is your philosophy and philosophical bent that you have to kind of give up on. And also on your ethical consideration. For instance, I=m a strong....

Mr. Hills: We=re getting into a lot of theory here. If you want to vote at a primary, you have the opportunity to do that.

Mr. Brusk: Yes. And also the other situation may come up similar, is that you do want to vote in a party primary for one office that=s in your party, and the other race is in the other party. So you can=t do both.

Mr. Hills: You just have to decide which one you want the most.

Mr. Brusk: That=s what you have to do. But again, it sort of keeps you from making that....

Mr. Hills: I just wanted to help clarify that. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Brusk: Certainly.

Mr. Stake: Any questions over here from anybody? Councilman Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you, Chairman. The only question that I have about these changes, it came from a question from a Ward resident who called me this last weekend. She said, well how do I know if they=re Republican or Democrat when I go vote? If I feel like I want to vote for

Republican, how do I know that? And how do we address that in this change?

Mr. Brusk: That is, I assume _____ for the party. Mr. Clemens?

Mrs. Newman: You won't know.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: It's easy to answer. Columbus is a real good example of a non-partisan city which is a farce. It's a Republican and Democratic city. You'll know exactly who's a Democrat and you'll know exactly who the Republican is. It's that simple.

Mr. Stake: Yeah. You're not going to take partisanship out of politics with this.

Mr. Clemens: Absolutely not.

Mr. Stake: So I don't buy that argument.

Mr. Brusk: I think it reduces it though. I think it reduces it in a lot of....

Mr. Stake: People are going to, political parties are going to support their candidates. Their favorite candidates. And people who run for office, if they're Republicans or Democrats, they're going to say so. Councilman Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Yes, Chairman Stake. First of all, I would like to express my congratulations and thank you to the members of the commission that served. In fact, _____ Mr. Drabick and Mr. Brusk. And the thing that I would say is, when you go into the primary elections to vote, you go in there without any labels attached. You don't go in there, you don't have to say whether you're a Republican, or you're a Democrat, or an Independent. You go in there to vote for the person that you feel is going to do the best job for you. And I'm sure that when one goes to vote, they're going to vote for the one that they have studied, they have listened to what they have to say, and they are in agreement with the things that they believe in and the things that they support. And this gives, a non-partisan election gives those people the opportunity to say, I want a Democrat, I can vote for a Democrat. If I want a Republic, I can vote for a Democrat. But one of the things that has happened in the past with this procedure of partisanship is that those people that want, or claim to be Independents, they can be Independents and go in there and express their rights to vote to whomever they choose so. And so basically, that's one of the things, one of the reasons why I submitted an amendment to it. And I'm glad to know that Mr. Drabick came up with something in a little more detail than what I had to do. My whole purpose was to try to make the city more inclusive. This gives that opportunity for people to be inclusive in the way that they vote, the way that they live, and all the things that they feel that they would like to do in the City of Reynoldsburg. So that's basically my reason for doing my amendment.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other questions for Mr. Brusk since he's still up here? Councilman

Joseph.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you, Chairman. Mr. Brusk, we've heard a lot about how it's going to bring people together to go non-partisan, and how it gives people a chance to vote for this candidate over here, and this candidate over there that might be of opposite parties. If this is such a great idea, why don't we see the State of Ohio, and the United States Congress, and all these other kinds of offices adopting non-partisan mentality if it's going to take politics out of it and make everybody happier that they can select candidates on a wider range? I guess I don't understand. If the system works well at the national and the state levels, people should be able to run as Republicans or Democrats right now.

Mr. Brusk: Well, in the city itself, we just don't have issues that you would say are strictly a partisan type issue. There's virtually none. Most of the issues are issues about how we run the city. What's best for the city. There's no reason to worry about, are we going to have a coalition here that'll vote here? And vote on this, and then help and wash your hands and vote on that next issue. We don't have it or need it. We're a small city.

Mr. Joseph: I might have to point out Mr. Brusk, at the state level, most of the votes that occur are unanimous votes, or you might have one or two dissensions, but most of the time you have unanimous votes in the state legislature. So I don't see how it's really much different there. You've got people that work together across the aisle. You have Republicans, Democrats co-sponsoring the same legislation. I just think it takes away from the people the right to know who's what. And that's really important to a lot of people I've talked to.

Mr. Brusk: I think in the city, (a) you can tell who's who by just reading the newspapers, the articles attending the sessions. If you're just voting for Republican or you're just voting for Democrat, you're not doing anything for the city itself when you're voting. The person you want in the office is the one that's going to best help the city. We're a small city. You can't compare apples and oranges. What you're trying to do is to get me to say, oh, because it's at the upper levels, we should have it at the lower levels. That's not the case. It never has been.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes. First, it has nothing to do with apples and oranges because I think yours is all bananas. There's not a person sitting up here on this board that doesn't vote the way they feel, and honestly vote the way they feel. If a political issue comes up, then they would vote political issue. As far as the way these people vote up here, I respect every decision they make. And they make it for the honesty of the city, period.

Mr. Brusk: I've never had objection to that.

Mr. Clemens: And I think that's what the people have to elect, is the people that do the job. Everybody has the right to run in the City of Reynoldsburg, to run for office, period. Whether

they run in a primary, or whether they run in the general election. You know that. You're doing it. The people have the right to vote for anybody they care for in the general election, period. The primary election, a political primary election is for the Republicans and the Democrats to pick a candidate party. An Independent or unaffiliated voter can run in the general election. He has a right to. He doesn't have to go through a primary and go through a general election, period. I've got a Ward of over 3,000 registered voters. I haven't had a call. That shows you how interested they are in something like this. The people in my Ward are interested in safety for the city. The codes and things like that. I respect what your committee's done. But I don't want to sit up here and listen to a bunch of bull about non-partisan and all this. Because I know of non-partisan cities. And Columbus is the biggest example of a non-partisan election there is. There's no such thing as a non-partisan election in the City of Columbus, period. They run as Republicans and they run as Democrats. All you have to do is read the newspaper. All you have to do is listen to the radio and that's all you'll hear. That's the way I feel about it.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Councilwoman Newman.

Mrs. Newman: I'd just like to express the way I feel about it. If people know whether you're a Republican, or a Democrat, or an Independent, whatever, they basically have some idea of what your philosophy of government is. So that tells them a little something about you. It's informative. And if you're not going to have partisan politics, why not just have everybody who wants to run go in November and have a free for all.

Mr. Stake: You do need to have some kind of process where you don't have the free for all going on. I mean, you need to weed them out a little bit before hand. Councilman Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you again, Chairman Stake. And I think the debate is very interesting. One of the things that I'd like to say is, we are, the Charter says that the commission will, their due process will be to make the amendments to Council. And now we have those issues before us. And when the issues come from the commission, it is coming from the citizens themselves. And the citizens are saying, the commission of the citizens are saying, these are the things that recommend to the Council to send on to the people to vote. So right now, we are at that position to say, we have the option to say, yes or no. But from my own personal feelings, I think once the commission has made a recommendation, why should a group of seven, block the citizens of Reynoldsburg from having the opportunity to vote on the issues that we have. Let them decide whether or not this is the way it's going to be. If it's something on safety, something on policy, whatever the case may be, the citizens of Reynoldsburg should have that decision to decide. So to deny that (tape change), I think is an injustice to the citizens not to be able to vote upon these issues that haven't been discussed. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Thank you, Councilman Stearns. Any other comments? President Hills.

Mr. Hills: One other question. Because I did try to find out, I've talked to Norm and Tom and a number of others on how the turnout would be greater, looking at our 2007 election that we've

just gone through, Hilliard did not have a primary. Reynoldsburg being a partisan city, did. Gahanna and Whitehall, both being non-partisan cities also had primaries. They had runoff=s or whatever you want to call them. I was shocked to see that Reynoldsburg had 11.58% voter turnout. However, Gahanna had 6.5 and Whitehall had 9.6. So I think we all ought to look here and say, folks, why don=t you get out and try voting in the primary? Because not many of your registered voters are doing that. And I don=t know. If this is the way to spur their interest, I question it. Because here, non-partisan cities, a partisan city had a greater percentage turnout of registered voters than two non-partisan cities. So I think there=s a lot of things. There=s a lot of debate. There=s a lot of good points. But everybody kind of has to be soul searching. I heard a reference and I just wanted to clarify tonight, of the 5 votes for the emergency. And I read in the paper where that=s the only reason they had to have 5 votes, was for an emergency. And I did want to clarify that as we have our discussion. The Charter says, Upon 2/3 votes of Council, amendments shall be submitted to the voters in a manner provided by the Constitution and the laws of the city.@ That says 5 there. The 5 as an emergency has no meaning. It has to have 5 votes to even go, the right to go to the ballot. So I wanted to clarify that because I get this little, I heard this, I read this, and I said, uh oh. So they=re saying you=ve got to have 5 votes. The only reason you have to have 5 rather than 4 is to make it an emergency. And that=s absolutely not. It=s complying with your own Charter. Just so we can clarify that.

Mr. Brusk: That=s correct. You=re absolutely correct.

Mr. Hills: But I do thank you, Mr. Stake. I thank you for the discussions. I think these always draw feelings and statements, and as well they should.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other comments or questions? (No response). And I=m just going to, I=m going to make a suggestion here, since item number 10 is the more complete amendment, that we vote that up or down here. But I would, on item number 9, I think we should table that one. And item number 11, we should table. Okay? So then I=m going to make a motion, since these are all really the same subject, I=m going to make a motion that we table item number 9, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 9.01 OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This was read on 7-9-07 and this is numbered 0-8-07. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed.

And again, item number 10, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 9.01 OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It had its first reading on 7-9-07 and this one is numbered 0-7-07. And this also calls for non-partisan primaries and has the additional language that if there=s no need for a primary, there will not be a requirement to hold a primary. Any questions or comments from members of Council on this one? (No

response). Then I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Baxter. Any further discussion? (No response). With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph ANay@; Mr. Clemens ANay@; Mrs. Newman ANay@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@.

I don't believe we'll be putting this on the ballot. This does not pass. Or does it? Well, 4 votes. We don't need the 5 for this? Or do we? It's 4/4.

Mr. Hills: It goes to Council as 4/3. 4/3 for the amendment. It does go to Council. It will be voted on next week on the acceptance of the ordinance. It does pass on to Council because it did have 4. A majority voted to send it to Council.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Well, then this will go on to Council for next week.

And then item number 11, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 9.01 OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CHARTER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It had its first reading on 7-9-07. This is numbered 0-1-07. And I'm going to make a motion that we table this item indefinitely. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Stearns. Any further discussion? (No response). With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Baxter AYea@; Mr. Joseph AYea@; Mr. Clemens AYea@; Mrs. Newman AYea@; Mrs. Shirey AYea@; Mr. Stake AYea@; Mr. Stearns AYea@. Motion passed.

Items 12 through 15 will be considered by the Finance Committee members only.

Item number 12 is A RESOLUTION INDICATING THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO INTENDS TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MATCH FUNDS THAT MAY BE GRANTED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE APPLICATIONS WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED AGENCY; AND REPEALING MOTION PASSED BY REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 14, 2007. This had its second reading on July 9, 2007. And I believe Councilman Stearns, you're sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Stearns: Yes, Chairman Stake. This is the third reading for this resolution to go forward. And this is a grant as has been stated. If there is any other discussion, I think that we need to send it on. We did have a public meeting concerning this and we were asking for input from the citizens of Reynoldsburg and they did show up and we had good discussions and good questions and answers. And I think that if no one else has any questions, then I move that we move it on to Council for its third reading.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Councilman Stearns makes a motion that we move this on to Council for its

third reading with recommendation for adoption. Is there a second? Second by Councilman Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 13 is RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OPWC FOR FUNDING OF VARIOUS CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AND REPEALING MOTION PASSED BY REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 14, 2007. Had its second reading on 7-9-07. And this is also Councilman Stearns= legislation.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you again, Chairman Stake. This again, is the authorization to use funds to take care of the Rosehill Road and other issues pertaining to that grant. So we've had a discussion on that in the last two readings and I offer a motion that we move it on to Council for its third reading.

Mr. Stake: Okay. There's a motion on the floor from Councilman Stearns to move it on for its third reading with recommendation adoption. Is there a second? Second by Councilman Joseph. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes. This will go on for its third reading.

Item number 14 is AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REVISED LIST OF FINAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO BE LEVIED AND COLLECTED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAY APPROACHES IN THE PHASE IV AREA OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO. It had its second reading on July 9, 2007. Are there any questions or comments in regards to this legislation from members of Council or Finance Committee? (No response). Then I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council for its third reading with recommendation for adoption. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Stearns. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

And item number 15, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE REVISED LIST OF FINAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO BE LEVIED AND COLLECTED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAY APPROACHES IN THE PHASE V AREA OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO. This also had its second reading on July 9, 2007. Are there any questions or comments in regards to item number 15 from members of Council? (No response). I'll make a motion that we send this on to Council with recommendation for adoption. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

And I will adjourn the Finance Committee at 8:29.

Finance Committee

July 16, 2007

- - -Susie Lyday, Assistant Clerk of Council
(Transcribed - Susie Lyday)