

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL

June 6, 2011

Members of Community Development Committee present: Leslie Kelly, Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long, Nathan Burd.

Other members of Council present: Fred Deskins, Jr., Doug Joseph, Mel Clemens, Council President William L. Hills.

Mrs. Kelly: I'll call the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The first order of business is the approval of the agenda. Are there any changes or deletions? Hearing none, it will stand as written. The next order of the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting May 16, 2011. Are there any questions, changes, deletions? Seeing none, they will stand as written.

Item No. 4 - ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE "OLDE REYNOLDSBURG STRATEGIC PLAN" - - second reading 5-9-2011; *on 5-16-2011 item held* and I do know that there was a second Open House regarding the Olde Reynoldsburg Strategic Plan. Mr. Haire, Mr. Hansen, would you like to speak to that?

Development Director Haire: Thank you Chairwoman Kelly, Council members. We did hold a meeting, the second Open House Meeting that was held on June 1, 2011. We had seven residents that attended that meeting. We had a few folks that spoke out against the plan in terms of truck traffic, again with regards to Graham Road, and another resident that was concerned about truck traffic being moved onto Lancaster Avenue just South of Main Street. Then we had a few residents that spoke in favor of the plan as well. I think that you know what we've presented is, we've presented residents ample opportunity to comment on the plan and we didn't have many residents show up at the meeting. So with that, I would ask for Council's recommendation for approval at this point.

Mrs. Kelly: Does anybody have any questions? Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Chairman Kelly. Luke, President Hills has alluded to small items that need to be changed throughout the plan. Some things that are inconsistent, a couple of corrections to make. Is it possible for us to just put in this plan, specifically that there will be no truck traffic rerouted to Graham Road?

Mr. Haire: We could put that line of text in there, but this plan is a recommending document; there's nothing overruling any Council action on moving truck traffic to wherever they desire.

Mr. Long: I understand. I'm aware of that, but my point is, is that the majority of people who we have come over the last couple months to speak before us, that is the largest concern that they've had is that truck traffic ever being reverted back to Graham Road and their concern is that there is nothing

in that document that stipulates that. I understand it. It still wouldn't override Councilmatic action. Is it possible to put that in there?

Mr. Haire: Sure. There are a few other changes that Mr. Hills requested in terms of Jackson Avenue to Jackson Street, and we've made those corrections and you can get a copy of that.

Mr. Hills: Excuse me, if I could. Did you say you have made those changes?

Mr. Haire: We have.

Mr. Hills: But we just haven't seen them.

Mr. Haire: Right. Matt just made those last week. We had to correct some maps, which took a little more time.

Mr. Hills: We changed about the speed, from 35 mph to 25 mph, is that reference in there?

Mr. Haire: Yes.

Mr. Hills: There's been four or five things, it's been two weeks off, I may have forgotten some of them I brought up there. I'm sure the minutes will show that.

Mr. Haire: The only ones I recall is the speed limit, and the Jackson Street and the Jackson Avenue.

Mr. Hansen: Well, and yeah, we did revise the language on the 25 mph speed limit to include any conversation with ODOT.

Mr. Hills: It probably makes ODOT a little happier that you're not going to do their job for them, but we haven't seen them, but you say they are made?

Mr. Hansen: We can get you that, those copies.

Mr. Hills: I guess to be very candid, now would have been the nice time to have it. I realize what you're saying about this plan, that it's just a guideline, but for those of us that have been around for awhile, we had a _____ made once of what the park development was going to be and the recreational parks, Civic and Kennedy and these things and you know where they went as soon as we decided to develop them? Right back to those plans and they said, it became carved in stone to rock and that's what you were going to follow. Now I realize that isn't the intent of your writing, but I do think, where there's questions and factual statements within your document, you need to use that famous thing I was talking about, a waffle word. You can't put in there what you're going to do when you don't have the statutory authority to do it.

Mr. Hansen: Okay.

Mrs. Kelly: Any other questions?

Mr. Deskins: Yes, Council Lady Kelly. I think with all this discussion, all the things we've talked about and all the things we've agreed with should be in writing. They should be in front of us before we vote on anything, but that's my opinion.

Mrs. Kelly: Mel.

Mr. Clemens: I agree with Fred.

Mrs. Kelly: Any other questions? Okay, then I am going to hold this until our next Committee meeting and if we can get those changes, and then at that point in time we can look at moving it forward. That way we have time to look at all the changes, if anybody has any questions, rather than move it forward and then if there's a question about a change and pull from the agenda and all that on Mondays. We'll hold it until our next Committee Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Long. **All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response).** Okay.

Mr. Hills: Councilperson Kelly, did you have some speaker slips?

Mrs. Kelly: Oh, I did.

Mr. Hills: Even though it's going to be held, they're here and.....

Mrs. Kelly: I have one about this. I'm sorry, yes, thank you. Mr. Knapp. If you'd like to come forward.

Mr. Knapp: I yield my first turn to her (lady who speaks next) because she forgot to turn in her speaker slip. So let her speak and then I'll go after her, if you don't mind.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, no.

Mr. Knapp: She was at the meeting.

Mrs. Kelly: Just state your name. Go ahead. Just state your name and your address.

Mrs. DeBrock: Monica DeBrock, 7400 Bryden Road. I just, on the record would like to say that I would not like to see any demands in the plan. The strategic plan is purely to put out there so that we can move forward. It doesn't state where the truck traffic is or any movement through the city.

What I think it's stating is that there needs to be study of how we move traffic through Reynoldsburg, this is the entire city, so that we can best serve our residents and our businesses and I think that, you know, we need to have a long-term goal of how to move people through the city and I don't think this is the place to put restrictions. I'm not saying the truck traffic is going to go through Graham Road. It's probably not a feasible place, but I don't think we need to put that demand in there. I think we need to allow the next step to occur and have a study so that the best future practice of moving people through our city can move forward, whatever that is.

Mrs. Kelly: Any questions? Mr. Knapp.

Mr. Knapp: My name is Gary Knapp. I live at 1741 Graham Road. First off, I'd like to speak directly with what Matt and Luke did. I really appreciated the time and effort that they took. They're setting up the meeting. I know there was time away from their family and I appreciate that. Now, I mean, they didn't have to do it, but they did and I appreciate it. I know that, you know, special thanks to the Mayor because you know, he did attend and I would thank Mr. Cotner but he had to be there, no I'm just kidding, but with that being said, I kind of changed my view a little bit, somewhat, on the plan, because what they proposed for Main Street and what I consider Olde Reynoldsburg, you know, it really looked pretty good; and you know, I understand that helps them get Federal money and that kind of stuff and I'm in favor of that portion of the plan. Where I kind of veer off is and we discussed this that night, Olde Reynoldsburg ended at the "Y" and I mean the "Y" is Jackson and Rt. 256 cutoff where Silent Home Cemetery is and I don't like the fact that they're trying to put me into Olde Reynoldsburg on Graham Road and I still don't like it, you know and they, another issue that they talked about was the rezoning of the properties down through there. You know, that's just something that we'll deal with at the future when it comes up and I find it interesting that somebody that lives at 7400 Bryden Road is interested in changing the truck traffic to Graham Road, but I understand her point of view, but you know, my thing is, I agree with Councilman Long, put it in there and what Mr. Hills said, I remember, I worked for the city years and years ago and we did a plan, a master plan for Kennedy Park and several years went by and when they finally decided to do it, build it, it went exactly the way the master plan was drawn up several years before that and that's what I worry about this and like I said I worry south of the "Y", not north of the "Y" and once again, what they're doing Main Street, in that area, it's great. You know, really, they've got my support on that part of the plan and you know that's really all I have to say but Luke and Matt, I do appreciate all the work that they did. Thank you.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you very much. Are there any other questions or speaker slips? Anybody else want to come up? Okay, and with that I will close the Community Development Committee at 7:41 p.m.

Community Development Committee

-- Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

June 6, 2011

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
June 6, 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 7:42 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 will stand approved. The next item is the approval of the minutes of the Safety Committee meeting May 16, 2011. Are there any adjustments to the minutes? If not, they'll stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: Authorize contract for 2011 Street Program; and appropriation of funds. Mr. Miller.

Safety/Service Director Miller: Thank you Chairman Clemens, members of Council. This piece of legislation requests that the Mayor enter into contract with Strawser Paving for \$372,324.16 and appropriate \$412,324.16 for the 2011 Street Program and that number includes a \$40,000 contingency and with that, I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Clemens: This is our annual Street Program. As you can see, it's not funded like we would like to have it, it's as big as it can be, but it will be a good program. It's not like the \$1,000,000 we used to spend. We just don't have it, but Jim's come up with a pretty decent program. So are there any questions pertaining to the program? Members of Council and the Committee? Okay, the request is for the Mayor to enter into contract with Strawser Paving Company, 1595 Frank Road, Columbus, Ohio 43223 for 2011 Street Program for the total amount of \$372,324.16 and appropriate \$412,324.16, \$40,000 contingency, from the following funds - Unappropriated Street Fund, 260 to the Account Number 260.000.0132.5651 - \$178,324.16; **Unappropriated Storm Water Fund 740 to the Account Number 740.000.0132.5623 - \$34,000; in the Permissive Tax Fund 230 to the Account Number 230.000.0132.5651 - \$200,000.** Contract bid \$372,324.16 plus contingency

\$40,000 equals \$412,324.16 and I make the motion that we send this to Council as an emergency, you know it would be an emergency, you always bring in an emergency, what else would I expect; as an emergency and to the Finance Committee. Seconded by Mr. Long. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response) And thank you Jim, thank you.

Mr. Miller: Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Item No. 5 - Discussion: Backyard chickens (*Mr. Clemens adds this item at the request of Mrs. Kelly, for discussion only*) and Leslie, you can be the first speaker.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you. I put, I sent out in everybody's packet, our Council packet, some information regarding backyard poultry, as I think may be the official title, and through my research, you'll see in your packets that I sent to you is the ordinance by Bexley. They have a permitting system, which I liked, and I liked the idea of doing the backyard poultry through a permit. So I hope you had an opportunity to look at that. What it says in here in Section 1a is that no person shall own, keep or harbor any chickens without meeting the requirements set forth in the following subsections; that a one time permit be required and issued by the City of Bexley prior to acquiring chickens, and an inspection occur by the Bexley Animal Control Officer within sixty days of acquiring chickens; that the chickens shall be kept in a secure enclosure shielded from the street to which it fronts; that a chicken coop be provided, and kept clean and in good repair. So there is an example of a permit that allows that, not that our permit would have to be exactly like that, but it is an example of someplace that I would consider even more of city than Reynoldsburg, that is allowing that. Then there is a copy of a magazine called Backyard Poultry which actually has monthly volumes. So I thought that was pretty interesting and then there's just some articles about benefits about raising backyard chickens. There's actually quite a bit of literature out there on backyard chickens but in the back, the last page of the article is a release that was from Clermont County. They actually had a Community Program put on by the OSU Extension Office about backyard poultry and how to do it safely and what the benefits are. For beginners and there's a, there are meeting groups, there are clubs that get together to do this, to discuss it, it's a hobby for people. There are some great health benefits, economic benefits, so I would love for us to have the opportunity to move forward with this and have us be a part of our community for those who want to participate in that.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Leslie. Okay, I have two speakers on this. The first speaker, Dr. Richard Boone. Name and address.

Dr. Boone: Richard Boone, 197 Canterbury Lane SW. The city ordinance 505.33 (d) that apparently excludes backyard chickens by just simply not including that term was adopted in '96 and then amended in 2003. Mr. Hills and Mr. Clemens and some of you may remember John Vingle, part of the Safety Committee in those days. The City Clerk, Mrs. Frazier, gave me the 53 pages of notes from those Council meetings. In those 53 pages, there's not one mention of poultry, chickens or livestock. There's hundreds of references of vicious dogs. We have a permit system for vicious

dogs in Reynoldsburg, but apparently paragraph 505.33(d) excludes chickens. I spoke to the Police Officer who does the permit system in Bexley and it's more of a visit. When they say there's a permit system, the city ordinance, the only written code, she doesn't show up with any further paperwork, she shows up to inspect people that have already built a coop, an enclosure and to view the health and safety of the chickens. I spoke with the veterinarian who runs Franklin, or City of Columbus' system of permits and he deals with everything from crocodiles to large businesses to even horse and carriage operations. So they have a seventeen page permit system because they cover this vast ground of territory. I've got lots of copies of *Backyard Poultry* which I understand is in the top ten growing magazines in the United States, if anybody wants to see an entire magazine. I would encourage you to consider putting this on the agenda for making an ordinance.

Mr. Clemens: To revert back to the ordinance, I was here at that time. The reason it wasn't included was we didn't want it in there. So, I mean, I think you'll notice that's why the chicken wasn't included.

Dr. Boone: Then you would have said that.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah. Well it wasn't so. That's why it's not there, but anyhow, thank you. Next speaker is Jane Klein.

Mr. Burd: Chairman Clemens. Chairman Clemens. Do you mind if I ask a question?

Mr. Clemens: Yes, go ahead. I'm sorry.

Mr. Burd: I was looking at some of the other ordinances from around the area and the country and quite a few stipulate that chickens be kept a certain number of feet away from neighbors or businesses and I apologize if you were asked this already, I don't remember. Have you had any push back from your neighbors or from other people in your area about your desire to do this? I know you've seen us a few times, been in the paper a few times. Have you heard any negative feedback at all?

Dr. Boone: No, my immediate neighbors are looking forward to eggs.

Mr. Burd: Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you. The next speaker is Jane Klein. Yes.

Mrs. Klein: Good Evening. My name is Jane A. Klein and I live at 7053 Retton Road in Reynoldsburg, Huber Subdivision. First let me say, I've heard some of the Council members mention children. I have had children, I have grandchildren. One who wants to have a cell phone and "Mommy, Mommy can I have a cell phone?". Gerri has one and she lives over there. "No, you can't have a cell phone. Gerri lives over there. We live here. This is our place and you won't

have a cell phone this time.” It’s the same way with driving the car. You’ve all had children. You understand that. Ladies and Gentlemen, I was raised on a forty acre farm in upstate New York along Lake Ontario. My family raised sheep, pigs, chickens, rabbits and two or three beef cows. These animals were raised for food for our large family and all eight of us Scarlock children worked very hard to keep all of our animals clean, fed and happy and we lived in the country so that we could do that. Each Spring, we had to clean the chicken coop because the hens had been pretty much cooped inside most of the winter and now it was time to clean. Chicken poop stinks bad. Each year at least one of us girls got lice from cleaning the hen house. Chickens are very susceptible to lice and to other bugs too. The most chickens I remember having at one time was ten, and no rooster, and they were noisy - all the time pecking and clucking to say nothing of the chicken poop everywhere and when an egg was laid, there was always a loud announcement from Miss Hen. Reynoldsburg is a city, folks, and farm animals are farm animals, not city animals. Chickens and other poultry, such as ducks, are farm animals. We live in close quarters here and for my neighbor to have chickens along with a chicken coop, even though I have a privacy fence - with their smell, their noise, their bugs, to say nothing of resale value of my home going down the drain, I’m concerned; and I know many of my neighbors are too. Fortunately, I have found that the Huber Subdivision here in the City of Reynoldsburg has a restriction against any farm animals. We have two Huber residents here so I’m sure they know that too. I have made a copy of this document for you. I will read this aloud, just the two things that I have pinked out so others know and if you’ll follow along with me. Number 1 - these covenants and restrictions are for the benefit of all lot owners and are to run with the land, and shall be binding on all parties and all persons claiming under them until January 1, 1981, at which time said covenants shall be automatically extended for successive periods of ten years, unless by a majority vote of the then owners of the lots, it is agreed to change said covenants in whole or in part. And I will skip to Number 14 - no animals, livestock, or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred or kept on any lot, except that dogs, cats or other household pets may be kept provided that they are not kept, bred or maintained for any commercial purpose. With our closeness of homes in Huber, I hope these restrictions, which every property owner signs and is given a copy, will keep chickens and poultry out, knowing that these signed restrictions could cost the homeowner a lot of hay. If you decide to allow rewording of the code and allow chickens and other poultry to be raised here in the city, who is going to say how big a chicken coop can be and who’s going to check and make sure the size is to code? There are people three doors from me who have a side yard full of junk, and across the street, a camping trailer in the driveway and until just recently, a camper one block away being lived in for two years beside the house. That is finally gone, but it has been two long years. The yard on Haft Drive finally got mowed this week after the grass got to be somewhere between 12" and 15" high. My point here is the that the city cannot keep up with code violations that are blatantly out there now and if you allow farm poultry with chicken coops and all the other problems that chickens and poultry bring, the real city dwellers are not going to be happy; and I thank you for listening.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Mrs. Klein. Next speaker is Richard Harris.

City Auditor Harris: Thank you, Chairman Clemens, members of Council. We've heard a lot about this the last couple weeks, and I decided to check with the Licking County Commissioners because Township zoning in many places does allow for some farm animals on them. Generally in Licking County, in order to keep any farm animals at all on it, you need at least two acres and from talking with the County Commissioners, the lady that spoke before, talking about the insects and the flies especially, and the feces problems and the smells and the chatter that the chickens make, do make up a big part of the complaints that they get from residents where they do allow farm animals in more or less residential neighborhoods, but some of the other ones that they have which are kind of a little more time-worthy is, one of the problems, when you put chickens out, there are natural predators for chickens and the main ones they have are dogs, racoons, foxes and coyotes, all of which are in western Licking County. Dogs would be both wild dogs or neighborhood dogs. They have situations where a neighbor's dog goes and kills the other person's chickens and it causes them to, people want criminal charges filed, that they don't take care of their animals, they want restitution for the chickens. Some of these things even end up in court. The dog generally when it kills a chicken, gets wild and gamey from the taste of fresh blood and the dog generally has to be put down because it's no longer, the owner's no longer able to control it. Racoons, which we have here in the city, are generally carriers of rabies. They are nasty animals, they have bad dispositions and they like chickens also. Foxes, we have a few of. In fact I was awoken last summer at 2:00 a.m. with a terrible squeal outside the house. Went and looked out the front window and there was a fox out in the front yard with a rabbit in its mouth. These animals would also be ones that like chickens and I don't know how much you want to entice these kind of animals to be around, especially if you have young children. The last one's becoming a very serious problem for them and that's coyotes. There's a large group of coyotes in Licking County, especially in the western part of the county where you still have a lot of rural areas and they're pack animals and they like chickens and they will smell chickens out. They get a lot of calls for Animal Control to come out when they have these coyotes in their yard and that kind of stuff, to get rid of them. We don't have an Animal Control Officer any more so we've got really nobody to call but the county and the county's going to tell you that they're not coming out. The other problem, some of the other problems they had were, chickens tend to get loose on occasions as well, and they call and want help from the Police or Animal Control or somebody to help round up their chickens and again, we don't have anybody to come out and answer these calls and chickens out on the road causing accidents and that kind of stuff is not, maybe not something you want to look at either. One of the problems that they had too, that this seemed kind of strange, but people will get these animals, they end up, they're renting the house and they end up leaving the house and abandoning the chickens. So when you look at these things, there are some inherent problems with bringing poultry into the city, especially when you have natural predators to these animals already in the neighborhood and you would like to keep those and the rest of them from around your house and if you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer what I found out from the Licking County Commissioners.

Mrs. Kelly: Mel.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Dick.

Mrs. Kelly: I have a question.

Mr. Clemens: Mrs. Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: When you were talking with the Licking County Commissioners, did they mention similar problems with rabbits, because I know people can raise rabbits in rabbit hutches and they are _____ natural predators for coyotes and foxes and racoons and those things.

Mr. Harris: I did not ask them about other animals; and here again, they have in Township legislation, generally before you can keep any kind of animals, all your lots are two acre lots. We don't have any two acre lots here. So some of the problems with the smell and that kind of stuff is abated by the fact that you've got very large, you've got acreage involved. Some of them allow rabbits, some, these things are kind of strange, they don't, there's not any consistency to them. Some of them allow rabbits, some will allow llamas, some of them will allow one cow, but chickens they've had the most problems with of any of the animals that are allowed in these zonings.

Mrs. Kelly: Because I know in Reynoldsburg right now, you can raise rabbits.

Mr. Harris: Uh-huh.

Mrs. Kelly: You can have rabbit hutches and again, very similar natural predator to those.

Mr. Harris: But they don't smell.

Mrs. Kelly: And as far as with abandoning animals, I agree with you. There are times people buy animals and they move and they leave them, but most of the stories I know that I've heard on the news, have been abandoning rabbits, I'm sorry, cats and dogs. I don't think there's been a lot of stores about abandoning chickens.

Mr. Harris: They do have some. They do get calls, not a lot, but they'll get one or two a year where somebody has left the area and abandoned a chicken coop and it's full of chickens.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you Richard.

Mr. Long: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dick, you brought up a very good point. Reynoldsburg currently does not employ an Animal Control Officer.

Mr. Harris: That is true.

Mr. Long: So there's nobody to actively inspect the initial implementation of this type of a program and to go ahead, and then on a regular basis, followup to make sure that the owner is taking care of it, properly disposing of the feces and waste and so forth along those lines. So, thank you, Chairman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Councilman Long.

Mr. Harris: Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, I'd just like to say just one thing. When I was a Village Councilman, that's some fifty years ago, people here had pigs and they had chickens and they had cows. There was only 600 people then when I moved out here. Then the Village became a City and we grew as a city, and we are a city. You know, there is country, and country is for animals and I grew up on a farm. I had chickens, dogs, all that kind of stuff, but we're a city and I'm proud we're a city and people do have homes and we have to protect their homes and their property with what we do. There are chickens in Reynoldsburg, but they're on menus, and there's a lot of those in the restaurants, so you can't say they're not here, but I can't see jeopardizing people's properties. I know I don't want them next to me. I grew up with them. They stink, they've got bugs and you say you're going to keep them clean. It is a problem for your neighbors. I don't care how you put it, especially a City like Reynoldsburg, and I can't see any reason that, you know, any reason to jeopardize the health in the homes of people that live here and the residents and the people that have their homes up for sale. Our property values have gone down like 20% in these last four years. Chickens and chicken coops sure aren't going to bring up the property values and I do feel sorry for people's homes that are for sale. I think it's worth discussion, because I understand that certain people don't agree with me and some of the rest of us, and I know how Leslie feels, but to me, like I said, I would rather see the chickens on the menu than in somebody's back yard and that's the way I feel about it and I will continue to feel that way about it.

Mrs. Kelly: I have one more question.

Mr. Clemens: Yes Leslie.

Mrs. Kelly: Yes, and maybe Jim, you can answer this, under Safety and Service. I know we don't have an Animal Control Person right now and so I heard Mr. Long, what you said about, we really at this point don't have animal control. We wouldn't have somebody to come out and really inspect

that, because we don't have, who, if somebody calls in with a concern about a vicious dog or a loose dog, who addresses that now?

Mr. Miller: County.

Mrs. Kelly: So we call the County and the County goes and addresses that.

Mr. Miller: We direct. I have not received any such calls, yet as during my term as City.....

Mrs. Kelly: But we would address them.

Mr. Miller: We would direct them to the County.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, so we would have somebody.

Mr. Miller: Yes.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you Leslie.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you.

Mrs. Klein: Councilwoman Kelly, when I called.....

Mr. Clemens: Mrs. Klein.

Mrs. Klein: Sorry.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any other speakers, members of Council, President Hills?

Mr. Hills: Let me, I guess I missed part of the answer. If the response is on a vicious dog, not just an animal complaint, a vicious dog, I believe and the Chief is here, I believe that the Police would respond on a vicious dog complaint.

Chief Suci: That's right.

Mr. Hills: Now if it's just dogs running loose or something, an animal complaint, then it's normally referred to the Franklin County whatever division.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Hills: Okay, I just wanted to clarify that because I wouldn't want the public to think if you call in with a vicious animal and it's after somebody out on the streets, you're not going to see a Police Officer.

Mrs. Kelly: Or a vicious dog or a vicious, rabid racoon or something like that in your backyard.

Mr. Hills: I think any, they'll respond to what they can do. I mean, the city defines what a vicious dog is and whether you like the definition or not, a certain breed of dog in this city is vicious, period. Now that debate went on, I think Dr. Boone has seen, ad infinitum, but I don't want the press especially to pick up that there's vicious dogs going after kids in the city and we're not taking some action because the Police Department will take action. Correct Chief?

Chief Suci: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Mr. Hills.

Mr. Deskins: Councilman Clemens, I don't like this whole idea at all. I totally agree with what you said. If you want to raise chickens, I was raised on a farm and I agree with all the things you've said, buy you a house out in the country. This is a city, let's keep it that way and no offense against people who feel the other way; that's the way I feel. I don't think there's a place for them in the city.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Councilman Deskins. Are there any other members of Council? With that, I'll end the Safety Committee Meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Safety Committee

-- Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

June 6, 2011

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

**SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
June 6, 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., Leslie Kelly, Council President William L. Hills.

Mr. Joseph: I'll call the Service Committee to order at 8:09 p.m. The second Item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Are there any additions, deletions or changes to the Service Committee Agenda tonight? Seeing none, the agenda stands approved. Item No. 3 is approval of the minutes of the Service Committee meeting March 21, 2011. Any additions, deletions or changes to those minutes? Seeing none, those minutes stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: Authorize Watcon Engineering to prepare bid documents, etc. - Huber Subdivision Waterline Replacement Project; and appropriation of funds. Mr. Miller.

Safety/Service Director Miller: Thank you, Councilman Joseph. On May 2nd, I sent a memo to City Council identifying six locations in the city where we needed to replace water lines. These replacements were necessary due to the number of breaks that we have during the course of the year. The cost of repairs, the boil alerts, are starting to become excessive to the point where the lines need to be replaced and we put out an RFP for professional services to replace these water lines. The Selection Committee met and chose Watcon Engineering to obtain the necessary field data, prepare bid documents and estimates of construction costs, and to supply bid documents to advertise these projects for construction; and the engineering fee for this project is \$58,075 which we would like to pay for from the Unappropriated Water Fund.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, are there any questions by members of the Committee, Council? Okay. I don't have any questions either so I will make a motion that we send this to Council and to the Finance Committee as an emergency with recommendation for adoption. Seconded by Mr. Burd. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion carries; thank you.

Item No. 5 - Discussion: Authorize lease agreement with Mitel Leasing, Inc. (Telecommunication System). Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller: Thank you Chairman Joseph. This is the first of two pieces of legislation. We went through a process where we publically bid the purchase of a new phone system for the city. We looked at the costs of operating and maintaining our existing phone system and that cost was large enough where we investigated the cost of a new system and what we learned was that when we opened those bids that the costs were substantially less than operating and maintaining what we currently have and through the selection process, we selected lowest and best bidder which is the Mitel system and this first piece of legislation here, I'm sorry, let me back up just one second. After the selection was made, Mitel offered to us an option to lease the phone system in lieu of purchasing. The lease is for five years and there are several advantages to the lease compared to a purchase, first of which is that it's less money. Secondly, there are more services included in the maintenance contract with a lease than a purchase. So after an extensive review and careful consideration, we believe that a lease option with the Mitel Leasing, Inc. is the best option for this city. So I am asking with this piece of legislation that the Mayor is allowed to enter into a lease agreement with Mitel Leasing, Inc. and waive the competitive bidding for the financing of this particular phone system and with that, I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Miller, other than Mitel, did anyone else offer a leasing option?

Mr. Miller: Yes, there were other leases that were offered and one of the things about this lease that we considered to be far and above the others, is that this lease agreement is with Mitel, the same company that will be providing us the phones and the services. They were the only company that offered that. The others did offer lease programs; however, they were with third party financial institutions. So if we were ever in the situation where we were unhappy with the phones or unhappy with the service that we were getting, we were still going to be obligated to the financial institution for the payment of that system and we didn't have any control then over the quality of the services that we were going to be receiving from the standard lease agreement that the other vendors offered.

Mr. Joseph: Questions by members of the Committee, by Council? Okay and when, what's the plan as far as having this in place again? What's the, was there a date that you were having this in place by?

Mr. Miller: Well, we're behind the original schedule, but it is approximately a two-month process from the time the contracts are authorized and signed.

Mr. Joseph: Okay and it's not going to be a problem with our current system until then?

Mr. Miller: Currently, we're maintaining our current system on a time and material basis, so no.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. All right, I'll.....yes, go ahead Mr. President.

Mr. Hills: Just to clarify, the following ordinance is about the material part of the lease, both the equipment and the service is in the next ordinance, correct?

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills: So this ordinance has been prepared I gather, basically to authorize the Mayor to enter into the lease agreement and waive competitive bidding on the financing or the leasing portion of the agreement because they, I take it, we're into the lease agreement from Mitel, the company itself, correct?

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills: Okay, so this document, we wouldn't have heard or seen about before, this is just the way to allow us to agree to the city to go forward, we want to lease your equipment.

Mr. Miller: That is correct.

Mr. Hills: There is no dollar cost to this. This has been reviewed by everyone, City Attorney, the Auditor, everybody's okay with this? The Mayor's all right with this?

Mr. Miller: Yes.

Mr. Hills: It just says, I want to go lease a piece of equipment.

Mr. Miller: Yes.

Mr. Hills: The next one is how you're going to lease that equipment and what it's going to cost you to do it. I don't know if that simplifies anything, Doug, but there's a lot of words in here that I'm not sure where it's going other than to okay the city to enter into the agreement.

Mr. Miller: And I can explain too that this piece of legislation that we're looking at now, is with Mitel Leasing, Inc. The actual equipment and the services that we will be receiving from Mitel, come from Mitel Total Solutions. So there's actually, it's one company, but it's two separate divisions and that's why we have two separate pieces of legislation.

Mr. Joseph: If it had been one company, only one piece of legislation would have been necessary?

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, other questions? Okay, I'll make a motion to send this on to Council as an emergency.....oh, I'm sorry, go ahead, yes, Councilman.

Mrs. Kelly: I have a question. When I'm looking at, oh the sheet that we just got that says bid opening, telephone RFP, on the second page, and I did read through the document about Mitel. It looks total, the total five year cost, is that what that is, \$96,000?

Mr. Miller: Yes.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, can you help me, explain, because in the document that Brad had talked about the difference between Mitel and Keytel, this total cost being \$96,000, why are we choosing Mitel over something like Data Talk or TDS?

Mr. Miller: Several things. When the bids were opened, several of the vendors did not prepare their bids properly when they detailed out the five year cost for their systems. So when you look across that, those list of numbers, there's even one there I believe it was from Falcon, for \$4,500. Those numbers were kind of all over the place because so many of the vendors did not follow the bid instructions.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Miller: So that's to answer your first question. The second is, those numbers are based on a purchase, so to buy the system, that's what was the five year cost; and thirdly, Councilwoman Kelly, when we selected a vendor for our phone system, we selected a lowest and best. That doesn't always necessarily mean the lowest.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Other questions?

Mr. Deskins: I have a question on a, under Keytel, five year support system. You got \$0, what does that mean?

Mr. Miller: In Keytel's bid, the maintenance of the system was included in the cost of the phones. So they have \$0 in there because it was included with the purchase of the phones and Kris is here - (turned to Mr. Haley) if you want to add anything to that.

Mr. Haley: That's correct.

Mrs. Kelly: That's a \$15,000 difference.

Mr. Deskins: That makes it cheaper than the other ones but he answered that already; okay, thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Other questions? Okay, I will make a motion that we send this on to Council for adoption as an emergency with recommendation of adoption. Seconded by Mr. Burd. Any further questions or comments? **All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response).** Motion carries; thank you.

Item No. 6 - Discussion: Authorize contract with Mitel - service agreement.

Mr. Miller: Thank you. With this memo that I prepared with this legislation, there's a lot of numbers. If you'd like me to go through each and every one of them, I'd be happy to but for the sake of just introducing this to you, right now we pay to, or we paid before our contract expired, \$1,316 a month to Century Link to operate and maintain our existing phone system and we paid approximately \$1,400 to AT&T for the hard lines that came into the city buildings. With these new phones, we're going to be eliminating almost all of those hard lines from AT&T. They'll no longer be needed and we will be utilizing the new fiber optic line that has been installed into City Hall to, for the most part, operate this new phone system. The lease payment for these new phones which includes the software support and the hardware support, is \$1,441.74 a month which is just slightly over what we were paying for the maintenance contract to Century Link on our existing phone system,

not counting what we were paying for the hard line services from AT&T. So this is a much more cost effective option over the next five years for these phones. The five year cost savings is approximately \$75,000 with this new phone system and again, the memo here, there's a lot of numbers and there's a lot of explanation. So if you want to go into any of the details, I'd be happy to, but for now I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions by members of the Committee, Council? President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Just, Jim, just one clarifying question. To summarize what you've said, we currently pay \$2,700 a month for our phone service.

Mr. Miller: Approximately, yes.

Mr. Hills: Give or take \$.85, that's.....

Mr. Miller: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Hills:roughly, we're paying \$2,700 for the current phone system which consists of Century Link and AT&T. When this new system is installed, we're going to spend approximately \$1,441 or \$1,450 a month.

Mr. Miller: Approximately, yes. We will be keeping a couple of the hard lines for 911 phones at the remote offices, like the Water Plant and the Street Barn, but yes.....

Mr. Hills: Which are needed because of the remoteness of it.....

Mr. Miller: Yes.

Mr. Hills:but those are minimal costs...

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills:but for the ability to answer a phone, God! that would be nice around here, but the ability to answer the phones and to have service provided to keep that phone operative is going to be \$1,450 a month.

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills: Today, we are paying \$2,700 and at times, it's sort of hit or miss.

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills: Did you put this in last week?

Mr. Miller: I'm sorry, could I put this in last week? I would love to, but, no, I can't.

Mr. Hills: Okay, thank you Jim. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, other questions? Okay, I do not have any at this point either so I will make a motion that we send this on to Council with recommendation for adoption as an emergency. Seconded by Mr. Long. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Motion carries; thank you.

Mr. Miller: Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: And that was the last item on the Service Committee. We'll close the Service Committee at 8:24 p.m.

Service Committee

-- Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

June 6, 2011

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
June 6, 2011

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

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

President Hills: And prior to convening Finance, I've passed out to Council a letter from Councilman Deskins dated June 6, 2011. A very nice letter. The net of it says 'I'd like to give my resignation as Chairman of the Finance Committee effective June 6, 2011'. So Mr. Deskins is now, or Councilman Deskins is if you reviewed our rules, all Chairpersons appoint a Vice Chair to serve in the Chairman's, Chairperson's absence. Vice Chairman has been Doug Joseph and Doug will certainly perform his role in stepping in, in the absence of the Chairman and therefore, Vice Chairman, would you like to call your Finance Committee to order?

Vice Chairman Joseph: I will call to order the Finance Committee at 8:25 p.m. The second item on the agenda is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes, additions or deletions tonight? I have two changes. We need to add the 2011 Street Program for funding, that will be 6a; and Authorize Watcon Engineering - preparation of bid documents for the Huber Subdivision Waterline Replacement Project, that will be 6b. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). (At request of Mayor)- Yes, okay, that's right and thirdly we're going to hold Item No. 9, the IT position. We'll hold that two more weeks. All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response). Thanks.

Next is the approval of the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting for May 16, 2011. Any additions, deletions or changes on those minutes? Seeing none, those minutes will stand approved.

Item No. 4 - Discussion: 2012 Tax Budget. Mr. Harris.

City Auditor Harris: Thank you, Chairman Joseph, members of Council. Passed this out a couple of weeks ago. It's the Annual Tax Budget. I had a discussion on it at the Council meeting two weeks ago and you've had time to look at it. If there's any questions, I'll be glad to answer them. This is what we traditionally send to the counties as required by the Ohio Revised Code in order to start basically, the budget process. You will also find in there the, we have taken the proposed changes as, that have been brought up in the State budget and reduced the revenues accordingly based

on what our best estimate of what's going to happen this year are. So if there's any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions from members of the Finance Committee, members of Council?
President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Just for clarity, because if you could, Auditor Harris, because I know you referred to it before two weeks ago, three weeks ago now I guess. On the second page, second white page....

Mr. Harris: Page (1) listed at the bottom.

Mr. Hills: Page one, excuse me, you're right. Would like for everybody to note the revenues are down in 2011 and 2012 from, excuse me, in 2012 from estimate of 2011, but one of the key things, there's a transfer down here of the \$2,000,000 in order to balance to anticipated expenditures.

Mr. Harris: That is correct.

Mr. Hills: And that \$2,000,000 is the, in our last meeting you referenced the transfer from the C.I.P. in order to increase the revenues to match the expenditures.

Mr. Harris: That is correct.

Mr. Hills: Cover the expenditures.

Mr. Harris: That is correct Mr. Hills.

Mr. Hills: Okay and you just look at it, it says transfer \$2,000,000. So what does it really mean? Well, there's a whole lot of meaning to that number because this means the savings account dollars are now opening the doors.

Mr. Harris: That is correct. We will not be taking in enough new revenue to meet our current expenses and this is a stop gap measure in order to continue next year with essential city services that a.....

Mr. Hills: And you don't have another \$2,000,000 to pull from that account do you?

Mr. Harris: No, it's down, it's going to be down about \$1,250,000 I think.

Mr. Hills: All right, Vice Chairman Joseph, I just wanted to note that because there are some, the numbers, we get things and there's numbers on a page and you think, okay, why two lines so it must balance but there's an awful lot of things in these numbers that we need to consider and this tax budget

is what, and we're getting ready to go to the public, the governmental public downtown and say, this is where we are and it provides some information that isn't real pleasant.

Mr. Harris: And what we get from this every year is an estimated resources from the county that says, yes, we have the estimated resources to pay the anticipated expenditures that the city does have. We can, during the year, if things are better than projected, we can also, we can always change those estimated revenues if we were to get somebody else in the estate tax thing with \$350,000 that we got a few years ago. We can always make changes to that, but this is initially what our best estimate is on what we're looking at next year and it's not real pleasant.

Mr. Hills: Your job's to fix that Dr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: We will be having a meeting with that committee that was assigned tomorrow afternoon. So we will be starting to work on that.

Mr. Joseph: Any other questions by members of Council? Unless there's additional questions, I'll make a motion we send this to Council for first reading. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. **Again, any questions? All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response).** Motion carries, thank you.

Item No. 5 - Discussion: Mowing Assessments 2010 - Franklin County. Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. These pieces of legislation before you again, 2010 Mowing Assessments. Every year we send unpaid charges, which includes the cost of cutting grass plus \$75 administrative fee to the County Auditors to be added as liens on the individuals' properties. The liens go on tax bills in January, 2012. For 2010, we had \$24,750 dollars for Franklin County and \$10,920 in Licking County, nothing in Fairfield County. We collected \$6,525 from 53 property owners in Franklin County and \$2,160 from 17 property owners in Licking County. Those numbers therefore, were not included in these assessment values that you see going to the County Auditor's Office. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Mr. Joseph: One question. The \$125 amount, is that been pretty much the same for awhile or has that gone up?

Mr. Miller: It varies with how long it takes to mow the yard. Most yards take about an hour and there's \$50 per yard that the mowers assume to be one hour, which is the majority. Some yards that are bigger or have more obstacles will take longer and the charges are a little higher.

Mr. Joseph: Has gas prices affected it that much?

Mr. Miller: No.

Mr. Joseph: Any questions from members of the Finance Committee, Council? Okay, I'll make a motion we send this to Council for its first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Kelly. **All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response).** Motion carries, thank you.

Item No. 6 - Discussion: Mowing Assessments 2010 - Licking County. I think I already covered that. Anything additional?

Mr. Miller: Not unless there are any other questions.

Mr. Joseph: Questions from Finance Committee, Council? Okay, I'll make a motion we send this item to Council for first reading. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. **All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response).** Motion carries, thank you.

Item No 6a - 2011 Street Program. Any questions from Finance Committee or Council regarding this? It was discussed earlier in Safety Committee. Okay, if not, I'll make a motion we send this item on to Council 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 6b - Authorize Watcon Engineering to prepare bid documents for the Huber Subdivision Waterline Replacement Project. Any questions from Finance Committee on this item, from Council? I'll make a motion we send this item 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, thank you.

Item No. 7 - Discussion: Authorize appropriation of funds - document preparation, etc. - Huber Subdivision Waterline Replacement Project. Mr. Miller. This is the second one.

Mr. Miller: These funds were requested to make prints and copies and advertise, and we do have to appropriate some money for this.

Mr. Joseph: Fifteen hundred dollars.

Mr. Miller: Yes, to make prints and copies to pay for the advertisements and distribute to potential bidders.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, that was my understanding. Okay, any questions on that? Okay, I'll make a motion we send this item 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, thank you.

Item No. 8 - Discussion: Approval of salary for Chief Building Official. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor McCloud: Thank you, Chairman Joseph. The request before you is request to authorize the salary for a Chief Building Official. During the past budget process, we did contemplate filling that

position at some point this budget year. We are at that moment after a research process and an interview process and we are simply asking that you authorize the salary that is pending before you.

Mr. Joseph: The only question I have was brought up to me by a couple individuals prior to the beginning of the meeting, was we're bringing this person in at the very top end of the pay range and what's the rationale on being on the top end?

Mayor McCloud: There are, you are correct Chairman Joseph, there are a couple reasons for that. The extensive experience of this individual. Secondly, our salary schedule, that dictates the salary of 160 Employees has not been adjusted in several years, so the mid-range continues to stay whatever it was in 2005 or 2006.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Questions from members of the Finance Committee, Council? Yes, Mr. Deskins.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you Councilman Joseph for _____. Mayor, why is this an emergency? How long has this been sitting vacant?

Mayor McCloud: It's been sitting vacant, Mr. Deskins, we have not had a Chief Building Official since December 31, 2010. The contemplation during the budget process was that once construction season came and picked up, and code enforcement season came and picked up with the grass, that we would fill this position in the Spring.

Mr. Deskins: I still don't understand why it's an emergency if it's been sitting there unfilled all those months, but it's all right I guess, you're the Mayor. Thank you.

Mr. Joseph: I did notice Mayor in the memo that we had 643 residential permits and 966 commercial permits. Is that a big jump from the last couple years or is that pretty static?

Mr. Miller: That was last year.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, in 2010 and this year, it's up even more.

Mr. Miller: They're up this year.

Mr. Joseph: Okay.

Mrs. Kelly: By how much?

Mr. Joseph: You know by how, yeah, go ahead Councilman_____

Mayor McCloud: We'll get it to you. I don't exactly know what they are, but we will get you the specific numbers.

Mr. Joseph: Okay.

Mr. Hills: What was up, I'm sorry.

Mr. Joseph: The number of residential and commercial permits.

Mr. Hills: Building permits or, building permits, new construction?

Mr. Joseph: It doesn't specify in the memo which types of permits.

Mr. Clemens: It can't be building permits.

Development Director Haire: Overall, the permits are up over the point they were last year. I don't know. I haven't broken it down in terms of residential and commercial but overall the number of permits that have been issued by the Building Department this year are significantly higher than they were at this point last year.

Mrs. Kelly: Could we get a breakdown of how much and what's, like what they're for?

Mr. Haire: Sure.

Mr. Hills: But these would be additions, decks on residentials, add-ons....

Mr. Haire: Heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical, everything.

Mr. Hills: Same thing that we have year to year and it's.....

Mr. Haire: Okay.

Mr. Hills:because I think new building permits, we've got what, maybe five this year, at the most? Is that a stretch? Five's a stretch? Residential?

Mr. Haire: Three.

Mr. Hills: Three? I've tried to give you five.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Well, I know that we were sitting vacant for all that time. I'm a little bit like Fred too. I don't see the emergency jumping unless the guy wants to jump jobs and that's an emergency. I mean I can't see just jumping into, it's a bigger expense and I know the guy has the background for it; I have no problem with the background. We're not going to increase our employees so I mean, you know we haven't increased our employees and that's the only kind of thing that bothers me is that we're jumping to the top of the ladder plus the guy is leaving the job. What's he leaving, \$14,000 less than what's he's making now? I mean, that's kind of interesting too, coming from a city like Grove City to Reynoldsburg, but it's your appointment. I mean, if you think that's what's going, you know, if you think that's what you need. There are grass problems, there are some serious problems that need to be taken care of, some commercial properties, things like that and I've talked to you about this before and I know you feel that it's a necessity, but it would seem like no more than what's going on, the possibility that with the knowledge that this person has and the ability, that he could be handling two jobs, say, the Zoning Officer, that position. I know it's not open, but it could be open. So I mean, those are things to think about when we get into paying additional amount of money when we hire somebody at the top, to pick up more than just being Chief Building Inspector. We had hired a Chief Building inspector. He didn't last long. So I, I'll go along with it, but I mean I plan on watching it as far as increases and what goes on.

Mayor McCloud: And if I could respond Mr. Clemens. I would just like to remind that I have eliminated two full time positions in that department since I've been here. So I'm very cognizant of

Mr. Clemens: That's what I say, I understand we've eliminated positions. We've talked about that and we've talked about some I'd like to eliminate but a.....

Mr. Joseph: Currently Mayor, do we use like a vendor too, are we going to have any need for their services?

Mayor McCloud: Hopefully not.

Mr. Joseph: Okay.

Mr. Deskins: I'm just, back to what I was saying Brad. The whole thing and I've been in management a long time and if you bring somebody in at the top of the level and you have no opportunity to give them incentives to do better, what are you going to do? Are you going to come back and raise the pay scale for that job or ask Council to do that? That's what I'm getting at.

Mayor McCloud: We have a number of employees who are stepped out. They're at the top of their pay range. Rather than a percentage increase each year, they receive a lump percentage and that does not accumulate as a 3% raise would. It is what it is and obviously, I can't pay more without coming to Council and asking, so it's kind of where we are.

Mr. Joseph: Yes Councilman Clemens.

Mr Clemens: Just one more item and it's a minor item but he does live in Hilliard, am I correct?

Mr. Joseph: I think it's Grove City.

Mr. Clemens: I thought he lived in Hilliard and works in Grove City.

Mayor McCloud: No, he lives there too.

Mr. Joseph: The resume says he's from Grove City, yeah. Any other questions? Yes, Councilman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: I have a question. With the looming budget cuts from the State and us having had to make cuts recently, and having to make cuts not too long ago and consolidate and things like that, I'm a little bit concerned, I'm a lot concerned with bringing in somebody in that high with the budget cuts that were coming and just concerned if you bring somebody in that high, and then we get those budget cuts, are we going to potentially have to cut other positions more because we've brought somebody else in so high versus bringing somebody in maybe at the mid-range and then be able to maintain another employee.

Mayor McCloud: I think you're talking about at the mid-range, would be about \$60,000 so \$10,000. Without being flip, it's probably not a make or break in that scenario. You know we balanced the budget for this year. We'll balance next year's budget next year. This is what we have.

Mrs. Kelly: Is this number, is this salary included in the budget for this year that you've balanced?

Mayor McCloud: For the remainder of this year, we will have sufficient monies to pay that salary for the.....

Mrs. Kelly: That portion of the salary?

Mr. Clemens: You shouldn't have to.....you'll have enough money won't you.

Mayor McCloud: Yep.

Mrs. Kelly: But what happens next year though, with the budget cuts and this much of an addition to, I guess what I'm looking at is if we had to, this year, when we first looked at balancing the budget, put \$70,000 on top of that plus the benefits and everything we end up paying for that?

Mayor McCloud: I think I can see what you're asking. We budgeted for this position, just not twelve months of the position. We budgeted to start somewhere about March or April, we're obviously behind that so there was money set aside. I don't have that, I don't know if Mr. Harris has his budget with him, but I will get you that figure as far as what was specifically budgeted for this line item. Is that your question?

Mrs. Kelly: No, it's more, I'm thinking long-range planning because I know Dick's talked to us a couple of times about necessary cuts. We just talked about not having our costs outweighing what we're taking in and so it concerns me, we're already kind of headed in that direction. We're getting an Ad Hoc Committee together to look at our financial situation and we're bringing somebody in at the top range when we're going to be hit with some major budget constraints from the State. It just concerns me about kind of, it just seems out of place with the cuts that we're making and the budget cuts that are looming.....

Mayor McCloud: I understand.

Mrs. Kelly: It just seems out of place.

Mr. Joseph: Yeah, Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, I would think that it'd probably only be an increase in next year's budget of maybe \$10,000 because we were budgeted for a Building Inspector this year and we haven't had one all year but we were budgeted for it and by being at the top, it would probably maybe be an increase of the Building Department on that.

Mrs. Kelly: If you could find out for me what the line item is Dick, what was budgeted for that, that would be great.

Mr. Harris: The salary for the Chief Building Inspector was budgeted at \$44,602 just for salary and then there would have been insurance, PERS, all the other little goodies on top of that. So that's what was put in the 2011 Budget request.

Mrs. Kelly: Now was that put in, does it say for a six month period?

Mr. Harris: That was for nine months.

Mrs. Kelly: So can you do a quick math estimate in your head what that would look like if it was a twelve month?

Mr. Harris: We're going to pay him \$70,000. If he's getting family insurance, that's \$1,800, that's going to be about \$112,000 but that would be, the difference is going to be basically the difference between \$44,000 and \$70,000. So you're looking at \$26,000.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, President Hills.

Mr. Hills: You know, I didn't know we were going to get as much into the numbers. That was in 2011, was for nine months, I think.

Mr. Harris: That's right.

Mr. Hills: That was \$94,000.

Mrs. Kelly: That's what I was trying.....

Mr. Hills: A couple points need to be made. Number one, we don't have to have a Chief Building Official to still be a Certified Building Department within the State of Ohio. That is why I think we have the contract with who, Asebrook? I guess if everybody's going to ask for these numbers, what did we pay Asebrook this year?

Mrs. Kelly: That's a good question.

Mr. Harris: I'll have to, I don't have that with me, but I can get it for you though.

Mr. Hills: If we're all going to talk about numbers, maybe we ought to look at that. And I will also say, and if we are having a problem with Asebrook, what are we doing to address it? Is that why we now want the person rather than, we have employees for awhile and then we don't have employees and then we contract it out. We've had Asebrook for awhile. Is there an issue, and if there's an issue, I haven't heard about it. That doesn't mean I hear about all issues but, yes, Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Yes, there was \$20,000 put into the 2011 Budget to pay Asebrook versus in the miscellaneous contract services, versus \$6,500 in 2010 and so there's about \$13,000 there that was put in to pay them on a contractual basis.

Mr. Hills: But if we have paid them all \$20,000, nobody's come back and ask us for more money yet but, I mean, I guess if we're going to do this all on dollars, there's some real questions here. This is the top range. The top range and it's also less than what the man was making. That, I guess anybody can take any job that's offered but does it raise something that raises a question but I guess my question is, do we pay \$70,000 or do we get the same thing from Asebrook if it's only costing us \$20,000? I'm not saying there shouldn't be a person in that position but are we in the position to put a person in that position at \$70,000 if we're getting the service for \$20,000 or \$25,000 a year?

Mr. Miller: The services that Asebrook, a lot of the services that Asebrook provides are passed through costs that are paid for by applicants. Our Building Department, if you look at.....

Mr. Hills: Excuse me Jim. Before you take that too far, that's the same thing that's true right now, in the permitting process, right?

Mr. Miller: Correct. That \$20,000 that we use in miscellaneous contracts with Asebrook is for money that we will not recuperate from.....

Mr. Hills: The applicant's fees.

Mr. Miller:applicants. Those are things that we request from Asebrook, miscellaneous type things. A Building Official, a secretary and the Building Inspector that we have on staff right now with the fees that they collect, are nearly self-sufficient with the fee structure that we currently have in place. I heard a number thrown out a little bit ago that we budgeted a little over \$44,000 for a Building Official for 2011. We're halfway through 2011. Half of \$70,000 is \$35,000 and so the money is there this year to pay for the Building Official and when you look at the Building Official salary for next year and the projected number of permits being issued, which have gone up this year from last year, would be more fees collected by the Building Department and so a \$10,000 difference in a \$60,000 salary versus a \$70,000 salary will, you know again, I don't have a crystal ball but I can't see how that number wouldn't be more than or self sufficient by the end of 2012 and years beyond.

Mrs. Kelly: I have a question.

Mr. Deskins: I think Dick's trying to get in.

Mrs. Kelly: I know.

Mr. Joseph: You have anything additional?

Mr. Harris: Well, as far as being self-sufficient, that department hasn't been self-sufficient in the last five years.

Mr. Miller: And I'm not talking about the department as a whole. I'm talking about the Secretary, the Building Official and one Building Inspector. Those are the three employees we collect fees for.

Mr. Joseph: President Hills, you were next.

Mr. Hills: I've been meaning to change my train of thought but I don't want these things to sound bad but we're sitting here talking about this comparison, that comparison, \$70,000, \$44,000. The salary isn't one of the, the salary is a substantial cost that goes to the employee but I think in this city,

you're looking at 40% in addition to that salary is what it costs the city, with your medical benefits, Worker's Comp, all the other different types of things. So the numbers look fine. I guess my concern and Jim, I'm not going to play the nickel, dime with these three people are making a million, these two people are losing. The money that does come in that pays the Building Inspectors, the Secretaries, the Chief Building Officials, that is paid by the permitting process in some of the fees the person has to pay to do the, to come in and want to make those modifications and changes, it doesn't cover all of the costs. Whether you're looking at salary, the salary plus benefits, it doesn't cover all of it but I guess, and that's why I look, what is, who's providing the services today? An outside contractor, correct? Asebrook.

Mr. Miller: Yes, between Asebrook and the staff of the Building Department we have now.

Mr. Hills: Because the reason Asebrook does something is because it's something that the Chief Building Official would be required to do. Our Inspectors can't do, our Administrative Staff can't do and more of a management decision or a, some level of licensing or whatever that Asebrook carries that level. Now we don't pay for their medical benefits or anything. I just, everybody's asking for so many numbers, do we need to look at this differently? I mean, where is the least amount of out of pocket cost to the city to drive the benefit that the city needs? I don't know. It's like starting over but right now, we're saying let's pay this person the top of the range, and we'll say Asebrook, we don't need you anymore. Well my real question, if we use Asebrook to provide these services for what, the last eighteen months, off and on anyway, what was so bad about what they did then that we need to make a change or if there was something bad, why haven't we fixed it?

Mrs. Kelly: I have a question. Jim, just to help me understand. What services will the Chief Building Officer be able to provide that Asebrook does not?

Mr. Miller: And if I may answer that question in reverse and I'm going to ask Luke to correct me if I'm wrong.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Miller: But we will require Asebrook to do plan reviews. That review is required to be by an Architect or an Engineer.....

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Miller:for buildings.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Miller: We will be able to do more of our own inspections, we will be able to increase our level of service by not out-sourcing questions and then waiting for answers from a consultant to you know,

to provide the answers that the public needs to build their buildings or build their homes or make their improvements or whatever. We out-source again a lot of the inspections which adds time and so this is something where, and then when we collect a fee, we use that fee and we pay Asebrook with it. We can increase the level of service to the public by doing those inspections ourselves with our own Building Official and we are still collecting fees to do that work.

Mrs. Kelly: So let me clarify. Basically the services that a Chief Building Officer will be able to provide is that it will be in a more timely manner versus Asebrook but we are still going to have to use Asebrook because the Chief Building Officer is not an architect or engineer.

Mr. Miller: Correct, and the Building Official too will also administrate the services of somebody like Asebrook.

Mrs. Kelly: So we will still have to pay Asebrook as well something.

Mr. Miller: Asebrook will still be a plan review pass-through cost for applicants. Yes.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Joseph: Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Yeah, I think one of the confusing parts of this for you Councilwoman Kelly is, there are two buckets of money that are used to pay Asebrook. There's a plan review and a plot grade utility which we act as only a fiduciary on. Okay, those costs are directly paid to Asebrook from the funds that come in from people who say, we require them to produce plans and that kind of stuff. That money, Asebrook is still going to be doing that but that does not affect the General Fund because that money does not come out of the General Fund.

Mrs. Kelly: So that money is not part of the \$20,000 that's already been paid to Asebrook for.....

Mr. Harris: Correct.

Mrs. Kelly:acting as our Chief Building Officer.

Mr. Harris: That's correct.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay.

Mr. Harris: The only thing that the \$20,000 was put in for which are things that they were doing for the Building Department on inspections and those kind of things which.....does that help?

Mrs. Kelly: Yes, yes. That does, that clarifies that, thank you.

Mr. Hills: Just to clarify, plan reviews, I think as you said, they have to be done by an Engineer or an Architect.

Mr. Miller: Yes.

Mr. Hills: They aren't done here anyway, correct?

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills: They're out and that, when you pay your money to go do these things, part of that goes to that plan review.

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Hills: So hiring this person is not going to save the applicant or us any money, we're still going to pay somebody else to look at it.

Mr. Miller: For plan reviews, that's correct.

Mr. Hills: That's where this conversation started and then yeah, okay. He's not reducing those costs. The Architect/Engineering costs are still there and they are not performed in-house.

Mr. Miller: Correct.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, other questions. Anyway, I sense a lot of resistance on this at this point, considering there's still a lot of questions. We can obviously move it forward and you're asking for this to be as an emergency. I'll ask the Finance Committee, is there support to move forward on this at this point?

Mrs. Kelly: I'd like to see the numbers _____, the number of permits and things.

Mr. Clemens: I don't mind moving it forward but not as an emergency.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, what's your position on that Fred?

Mr. Deskins: I feel the same way as Councilman Clemens. Let's a.....

Mrs. Kelly: We can move it forward to look at it but not to _____

Mr. Deskins: As long as we get a look at it.

Mr. Joseph: Okay, all right then, I'll make a motion we send this forward for first reading. Seconded by Mr. Clemens. **All in favor vote "Aye". (All voted "Aye") Opposed. (No response).** Motion carries, thank you. That was our last item. We will close the Finance Committee at 9:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

-- Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council

June 6, 2011

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