

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
April 11, 2011

President of Council William L. Hills called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members of Council present: Barth R. Cotner, Chris Long, Nathan Burd, Fred Deskins, Jr, Leslie Kelly, Doug Joseph, Mel Clemens.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Cotner. Mr. Hills led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held March 28, 2011 were approved without objection.

Mr. Joseph moved to amend the agenda by removing Item 12 at the request of the applicant, Mr. Bates; Mr. Long seconded. The amended agenda was approved with all voting "Aye".

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: CHAPTER 160 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION SECTION 160.02 "AUTHORIZED POSITIONS, PERSONNEL, CLASSIFICATION AND PAY GRADE" SUBSECTION (e) "PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT"; and SECTION 160.03 "SALARY SCHEDULE" SUBSECTION (d)(1); and APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading.

Parks and Recreation Director Shamblin: Good Evening. I hope you all have had a chance, I sent down a memo today just to give a brief update on where we are. We do have 64 interested participants in the program, so that's sort of where we're standing as far as interest. To clarify the break-even point for the program would be at 65, the average of 65 enrollees per week. So all of those 64 probably wouldn't be interested in attending every week. I would say the majority of them as we've talked to them would be, but we can't determine that until we actually take registrations. We're waiting for approval to be able to do that, so...

Mrs. Kelly: Are there any questions?

Mr. Deskins: Yeah, I do Council Lady Kelly. Jason, when we talked in the beginning with this, you said that we needed, I think we were talking 70 at that time, but we all pretty much agreed, if you didn't have that many, that we weren't going to let it go forward, because we didn't have the money. I don't see us approving the money until we know that you're going to have 70 participants signed on the dotted line, because we might approve the money, and then come back and you've got 30 or so. What, I guess, I've been gone a week or so, but tell me what's transpired in the.....

Mr. Shamblin: I don't know if a lot has transpired. I was gone last week myself so I don't know if a lot has transpired in the time. We're at about 64, but just to make sure everybody's on the same page, that's not actually, we haven't, see Council hasn't approved us revising those fees, so I

can't take the registrations.

Mr. Deskins: But 64 or 65 they're talking about and half of those are interested in maybe going every week. That's just, that's not guaranteed. I mean, I don't know how you could take that to the bank and work on it with a....

Mr. Shamblin: Right, I wouldn't say that they're guaranteed, no.

Mr. Deskins: See, that's what....

Mrs. Kelly: Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah and just to bring it up, but what Fred had said, the way I read it, you've got 64 interested, you don't have 64 black and white, you know, and that's what bothers me on the whole thing and like you say, half of them may not be for all the weeks and that's going to control really what happens to the money. I'd be more interested if you had it in black and white. Now the point is, there's nothing wrong with signing up people, if you don't get it then we won't have it, you know, it's that simple. If they sign up for it, that's fine. Being interested doesn't interest me really, to be honest with you. I'd like to know what we're getting into before we do it and then I'll go along with it, but this interest in something doesn't get it because they can back out any minute, plus you don't know how many weeks they're going to go. I mean, that's.....

Mr. Shamblin: Right, I understand, that's why I tried to clarify that in the...

Mr. Clemens: ...that means a lot as far as what the money's concerned, how much we bring in, so....

Mrs. Kelly: Jason, but you, what I'm hearing you say is that you can't take official sign-ups until fees are approved, so that you can, you know what's approved, what you can charge people to get to the point of black and white.

Mr. Shamblin: Traditionally, we have not accepted registrations unless we had payment. We have never accepted registrations unless we had the payment at that time.

Mrs. Kelly: Absolutely.

Mr. Shamblin: That's always been the way we worked with the Auditor's office on that, so.

Mrs. Kelly: Would it be possible for us to set a minimum enrollment? I know a lot of times, for different camps and things like that, that I've had my own children involved in, if, it will say 'this is contingent upon having 30, you know, people participate, or such, and so forth. Could we add something like that, that would allow us to have people sign up, but also have that contingency that if we don't hit that amount to break even, that we don't move forward with it?

Mr. Shamblin: I think we could. I think we would want to make the decision before it got too late. We wouldn't want to wait up until the last minute and

Mrs. Kelly: Right.

Mr. Shamblin:people have made plans on that so.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay. President Hills.

Mr. Hills: You know, this is going back to Committee. I would think by next Monday in Committee, all those questions will need answers, addressed, and discussed, before going forward out of Committee. That's where making more modifications would be, in Committee; this will just stand for Second Reading and go back. You bring up a good point. I mean, I don't want to sit here and pick on a memo, but it's talking about 64 and it says oh, by the way, if we get 70, then we'll make \$3,000 net revenue for the entire program. I think we're looking at a cost of what, \$140,000 and we're going to turn \$3,000? I hope we've got better profits in other areas of this government than that.

Mr. Shamblin: That would be a net revenue after our expenses.

Mr. Hills: I realize that, but if you put \$140,000 or whatever your last number was, \$128,000 or something, \$127, 400 and you generate \$3,000 profit - let's hope we don't make any mistakes or we won't have any net profit.

Mr. Kelly: Again though, I think that the challenge is going to be, for Jason to be able to get anything in black and white without having the fees, because we can have people just sign up, but you kind of go back to the same thing, I can sign up and if I haven't had to put any money into it, I can, it's easier for me to back out and say no, I'm not interested.

Mr. Joseph: Yes, thank you, Mrs. Kelly. Jason, one of the things that we talked about back when you first were talking about this to myself and Councilman Deskins was that if we didn't reach that target we wouldn't move forward and I still don't see the problem here. If we don't reach that target, it just simply doesn't go forward. We can approve everything and if we don't hit the target, it doesn't go forward. Anyone that's registered, simply gets their money back. Is there a problem with doing it that way, because that's what we initially talked about; and you, early on, you said that was not a problem, that we sign, we can approve it, if we don't reach the target, anyone who's registered for it and we say, we didn't reach our target, we're 10 or 20 short or whatever it was, people simply get their money back. Is there a problem doing that rather than this guess work of, you know, putting the cart before the horse, or the, you know, catch 22. Are we going to have the registrations before it's approved or are we going to approve before we get the registrations. If you put that cut-off point in there, and we don't reach it, people simply get their money back. Can we do that?

Mr. Shamblin: Yes.

Mr. Joseph: That might be the easy way to do it.

Mrs. Kelly: Then set a date, by this date, and that way we can let people know, because you're right, you know, for a parent who's counting on this for Summer and then to be told a week before,

that would be tough. Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Thank you, Chairwoman Kelly. Councilman Joseph, I see the issue behind that is working if we wind up day one with 70 full time, we then know what our number is going to be as far as a break-even, or whether or not we're making that profit, but as Councilman Clemens _____ up, we could have half of those, you know, going this week, and then the other half going two weeks later, it could be two, maybe half, maybe three-quarters through the season before we determine that, hey, we're not going to make it, we're behind the fence then, and we can't terminate the program. We won't know until the end of the program if it actually paid for itself, unless we walk in day one with 70 full time kids.

Mr. Hills: For all weeks.

Mr. Long: For all weeks. If we don't have 70 full time kids, for all weeks, for the entire program on day one, we will not know if that program is going to pay for itself until the end of the program.

Mr. Joseph: We're not going to know that today or next week.

Mr. Long: I agree with that.

Mr. Joseph: At some point, you have to put the, say, we're going to move forward and then if we don't reach it....

Mrs. Kelly: At some point in time, you're got to try. There's a program right now that's at Blacklick, or I don't know if it's one of our programs.

Mr. Shamblin: We ran our Playground Program there last year....

Mrs. Kelly: That's what I thought.

Mr. Shamblin: And then the Franklin County Metro Parks does a rotating day camp, so they will host a day camp at different parks throughout Central Ohio. We actually partnered with them last year to host one, but yes, they have a multitude of programs.

Mr. Kelly: And how popular are our playground programs?

Mr. Shamblin: I think one of the reasons we looked at an all day Day Camp, in the past five years we've seen a continuous decline in the registrations. I think more so, because it's very difficult when you have two working parents to be able to, the program only runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., so it becomes a challenge to get children there.

Mrs. Kelly: Uh-huh. Good. _____any other questions?

Mr. Deskins: I just, another comment, but I think it's going against it; but I think it's a great idea, don't get me wrong; I'm all in favor if we get the numbers, but \$1,820 for a 13-week program is pretty hefty. I don't know what kind of statistics you got to show that it's not, but I think most

parents would have a tough time paying that kind of money.

Mr. Shamblin: I think we're more than an average child care; I don't think we're excessively more, but I know we're probably more than an average child care.

Mr. Deskins: Okay, thank you.

Mrs. Kelly: I can tell you as a parent that gets child care, they're not excessively more, they're just maybe a hair, and that would depend on where you take them. Okay, if there are no more questions, then I'd like to have this, thank you, Mr. Shamblin.

Mr. Shamblin: Thank you.

Mrs. Kelly: I'd like to have this stand for its second reading and return to Committee.

Mr. Hills: And I'll probably do my part, and say, if there are no more questions, this will stand as the Second Reading and return to Committee.

Mrs. Kelly: Okay, thank you.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 95-09 PASSED DECEMBER 14, 2009 THAT AMENDED THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO, SECTION 971.08 "Program and Facility Fees And Charges" OF CHAPTER 971 MUNICIPAL PARKS- - Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item returned to **Community Development Committee**.

Executive Session requested by City Attorney for pending, and imminent litigation.--Mr. Clemens moved to recess for Executive Session; Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea"; Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea"; Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea". Motion passed. Mr. Hills said those attending would be all elected officials and Clerk of Council. Council recessed for Executive Session at 7:51 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:02 p.m. With the roll called, members responding were: Mr. Cotner "Present"; Mr. Long "Present"; Mr. Burd "Present"; Mr. Deskins "Present"; Mrs. Kelly "Present"; Mr. Joseph "Present"; Mr. Clemens "Present".

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

William L. Hills, President of Council

Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council