

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2007

Tuesday

Members of Community Development Committee present: Preston Stearns, Donna Shirey, Antoinette Newman, Doug Joseph.

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

Mr. Stearns: I'll call the Community Development Committee to order at 7:37.

And the second thing on the agenda is approval of the agenda. Are there any corrections, deletions of the agenda tonight? (No response). If not, then we will carry on the way it's been printed.

The third item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the January 2, 2007 Community Development meeting. Were there any corrections that need to be brought forward at this time? (No response). If not, we will accept the minutes as they have been printed.

And item number 4 is Discussion, YMCA Facility in Reynoldsburg. You may have seen something in the paper recently concerning this. And I wanted to, the property committee is the Community Development. And on February 7, the Mayor, Mr. DeBolt, Mr. Paul Walsh, and Councilman Stake and I, took a visit to Gahanna to view a YMCA there. And we were met there by Mr. John Bickley who is the President and CEO of the YMCA. And we have him here tonight. And we would like for him to come forward and to explain to us about the YMCA and what it has to offer for the City of Reynoldsburg. Mr. Bickley.

Mr. Bickley: Thank you very much. I appreciate the opportunity. And I thought what I would do, and you all should have copies of the information we sent out. Is that correct? I've got some extras if you don't have those. I thought I'd take 10 minutes or so and just explain the partnerships that we have in 4 other suburban communities and how those transpired. And then talk a little bit about how it may, could happen here in Reynoldsburg, and then field your questions. A little bit about the organization, YMCA of Central Ohio is a not for profit 501C3. We've been in this community for 150 years. We celebrated our 150th anniversary last year. We are in, we serve 5 counties. We have 12 full facilities throughout Central Ohio, both in urban and suburban communities. And in rural communities, we're in Pickaway County and Madison County. We have 2 camps. One on the south side of Columbus on Royal Road, _____ Park. And then Wilson Outdoor Center, which is a 500 acre conference center and camping facility in Bellefontaine. Our governing body is a metropolitan board. Current Chair is Judge Guy Reese. It is a volunteer board, non-profit. They are the governing body of the organization and employ the staff to run the operation. We are about a 40 million-dollar operation. We employ 2,000 people in Central Ohio. And serve about 150,000 different people a year in a variety of

programs. We do all the traditional kinds of programs. And you have in your packet, some examples of the programs that we offer in communities. We do all the traditional kinds of things from swimming programs, to camping, to fitness and wellness. But we do a lot of non-traditional things. We have the largest provider of child care in Central Ohio. We have 80 sites serving over 3,000 kids a day in a variety of communities from full day child care to after school care. We run a day suspension and truancy program for 3 school districts. Whitehall, Southwestern City Schools, and Columbus Public Schools, where children that are suspended, or expelled, or picked up for truancy, sent to one of our 5 class rooms and we provide a case manager or teacher to work with the families with the purpose of getting the kids back in school. We do a lot of work with older adults. We do a lot of work with families and kids with disabilities through our early childhood and resource network. So that=s just a flavor of some of the things we do. Last year in our facilities and programs, we had about 2 2 million visits in Central Ohio. And one of the things that I think is important, is the Y is open to all. We don=t turn anybody away. If a family walks through the door, if a child walks through the door, they don=t have the financial where for all, we provide financial assistance for memberships, for camping, for child care. The past year, we provided about 4 million-dollars in financial assistance to about 42,000 different individuals. The projects that we have taken on in the last 10 years, have been partnerships in a number of communities both urban, central city communities, and suburban communities. Those communities that are probably most like Reynoldsburg would be Hilliard, Grove City, Gahanna, and Liberty Township Powell. And those were partnerships that involved the city. They involved the YMCA. They involved community parks and rec. And they involved a medical aspect, which in those cases happen to be the OSU Medical Center. We partnered in a variety of ways to raise the dollars to build the facility that is about a 55,000 square foot facility in the community. Those buildings cost about 8.2 million dollars. They were funded in a variety of ways. All were funded with partnerships. The YMCA brought a piece to the table. Depending on the community, the YMCA brought anywhere from 750,000 to a million dollars to the table as part of the partnership. The hospital partnership was about a million dollar piece. And then the city=s, depending on the city, they brought to the table anywhere from 2 million to 4 million dollars. And in some cases, the entire project was paid for by a levy that was placed on the ballot and passed in the community. The contract relationship with the communities and the Y, we have 5 different contracts. In Gahanna for instance, Gahanna owns the property. We own the building and operate the facility and incur all the operating costs and staffing costs. In Grove City, we have the same relationship. The city owns the property. We sit in the middle of 110 acre park in Grove City. And we own the building and operate the facility and take on operational costs. In Liberty Township and Powell, they own the building, they own the property, they lease it to us for a dollar a year lease for a 27 year lease which is the length of the bond. These projects could not have happened without that partnership and without the communities working together. We spent a fair amount of time beforehand working with the communities, talking to Parks and Rec, making sure that it was a good fit. We also have strong partnerships in each one of the communities with the school districts. Without exception, every single school, high school, uses the facilities for swimming lessons as well as swim team practices, and the home of their local swim meets for their particular high school teams. I have shared with the Mayor and the group that came out. I would strongly encourage them to talk to

the folks in those communities. Mayor Schonhardt, Mayor Stinchcomb, and Cheryl in Grove City, as well as the Parks and Rec folks, they all have, we have spent a lot of time developing this relationship and has worked well. The oldest facility that we have in that partnership is Liberty Township. In Powell, it's been open 5 years. The newest is Hilliard. It's been open 2 years. Without exception, all have been what we consider as successful. We have 11,000 plus members at each one of the facilities. Again, the piece that we bring to the table is the start up cost. We equip all of the facilities, which is a dollar figure of somewhere around 6 to \$700,000. And we incur the operating losses in the first several years of operations. And then also, once the building is open, we're responsible for any repairs, paying all the bills, staffing as part of that. In your packet, you have a floor plan of the prototype that we used for the facility. Again, it is a 55,000 square foot facility. That has a fair amount of multi-purpose space, fitness and wellness space, locker rooms, pool, gymnasium, aerobic space, and child care space. And then the wing on the far right is the OSU Medical Center rehab wing. And as I said, we have developed a relationship with OSU. It's not an exclusive relationship. We've had some conversations in this community with Mt. Carmel and their interest. Really haven't had any commitment from them in that respect. But we are having conversations with them. At that, I will stop and open it up for questions. Before I do that, I would say we've had an interest in Reynoldsburg, in the community for a long time. We, as the newspaper article indicated, we had a contact in Reynoldsburg that was originally one of our 5 suburban areas that we were targeting and wanted to be a part of. At that time, the City Council and city chose to move another direction which was great, and we moved on and actually brought Liberty Township and Powell into the fold as it related to that and committed the resources there. The other thing is, we're currently working with Sunbury. A similar project. They've got a levy on the ballot that's going to be on in May and we feel very good about that. The city has committed 51 acres as part of the whole sports complex, and we're also working with the City of Delaware. They've committed 15 acres. We're working with the National Guard there and a similar project to this, and the building in both cases is very similar looking to what you're seeing in front of you. I'll entertain any questions that you may have.

Mrs. Newman: So can we assume that this is what you would plan to build here in Reynoldsburg? Something similar to this?

Mr. Bickley: Something similar to that. There are some things that we would tweak. We use that as a prototype. We build all those facilities. Four of them, exactly like that. The first one was Liberty Township. The last one was Hilliard. The last one was our best model. We learned as we went along and we tweaked it. There are some things that we would add to this. We would probably add another 1,000 to 2500 multi-purpose square feet on for a drop in center for teens between the hours of 3:30 and 8 in the evening. We're seeing a tremendous demand in all the communities for that. And this space would also double for seniors activities during the day time. So there's some additional things that we would add and tweak. We would move some things around that we have found to work best. But for the most part, the design is working very well for us.

Mr. Stearns: Mr. Hills.

Mr. Hills: Thank you Mr. Bickley. I think I was probably the only one that was on Council the last time that you almost approached Council. And I read in the paper that you approached and we threw you out type of thing.

Mr. Bickley: No. You just chose to move in another direction.

Mr. Hills: A mis-statement. And I think, the Mayor I think, we'll give him credit, was probably mis-stated. So I'm going to try to do the other side of the story type thing. Because we were one of the first cities that the Y approached. However, a task force has been formed by Administration, some members of Council, none of which are here now, who had spent 15 months going through a planning project, and determination was made that they had a facility, they toured a number of others. It was a matter of whether they were going to ask Council to take this to the ballot. And the Y did come up as that was going on. And it was. You're right. It was a determination they've been this far down the line and it appeared that the majority of the task force, and the majority of the Administration wanted to follow that same course. And I would encourage anyone that has a question about, is this how it happened? Because you almost read there was a bad relationship between the Y and the city, and there was not.

Mr. Bickley: No. Absolutely not.

Mr. Hills: There had been a 15 month period of time of work that had gone into something.

Mr. Bickley: Absolutely.

Mr. Hills: And I would, I've asked Mrs. Frazier, if somebody has a question on that, please go pull the minutes. Because we did not, no one on this Council or in this city voted against the YMCA. Because it never got to discussion. They felt they were too far down the road at that time to have backed up to something else. Now, I will then add to you, just so we know, and I'm glad to see you come back here. I do appreciate that. Because that was defeated on the ballot 80/20. This city is not known for liking to spend more money for their own benefit at times. Whether it be police protection or recreational facilities. And so that's sort of the other side of the story so we'll all know where it is. And I know I'm not even sure if you and I met because I think you had some meetings with the task force of which I was not a member of at the time. And I'm not sure that any Council person up here including, I don't think you were there at the time this happened. So I guess I'm the only one with gray hair other than Mr. Clemens. And he was Safety Director when that happened.

Mr. Bickley: Well, I had hair at that time.

Mr. Hills: But again, I just wanted to sort of clarify. Because it bothers me when I see the paper say, well Council voted against it. And I'm not sure that the Mayor told the paper that way, or the paper gets a little twist, but Mr. Woods from The Dispatch, please come in. There's minutes

available that you can read and it didn't quite happen that way. There was no tainted relationship in any way, shape, or form. Just the Y came, once something else was already 80% down the path, that they attempted to complete.

Mr. Bickley: And that's exactly right. In fact, after the decision was made, I spent, I was involved in several meetings as it relates to the design of the facility and assisting with that. So there was a good relationship there. You're right. Levy's are not easy to pass in any community today. I think one of the reasons that we've been able to pass some levy's is simply the way we've structured and leveraged it. And the resources that we're to the table, if we're able to establish a hospital partnership, and put resources on the table. The other piece of it is operationally. And many communities fail their levy's because not only do they have to build the facility, they have to operate it. And what we're saying is, we're willing to make that commitment. It really is, the toughest nut for us to crack is the capital piece. We operate facilities. We have some facilities that lose money. We have some facilities that make money. (Tape Change).

Mr. Stearns: So I certainly hope that if we do move forward, we want to make sure that everything's done on the right track. Are there any other questions? Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Certainly. And I certainly think also it would be a great move for the City of Reynoldsburg. It's something we've needed for a long time. I have grandchildren that belong to the Y and swim for the Y in Lancaster, and in Pickerington, over in Canal Winchester and so forth. And it is good. I think it would be good for the community, and I'd like to see it worked out with the city. And I think this is something that if we do get into, and I hope we pursue it, that we take the time to educate the public on really what is going on, what it's going to cost expense wise, and how it's going to be operated and so forth. So far they've lost faith in about everything we've done as far as putting anything on the ballot. But I think that if it's handled right through the different departments, and also through the Chamber and different people that would help us, I think it would be a great move. And I think it's something that takes time. I don't think it's something you jump right into. But I do think it's a great idea. And I surely would support it if we could work out the details where it's beneficial to not only the city, but also to our citizens. Because if it would be a levy and it was passed, people still have to pay to belong to it. And some of them would think that's double taxation. We wouldn't want people to think they vote on something, they get in free. So there's things that, but there's other ways that could be approached I think with the city and the Y financially that would work out too. But I think this is something that would be good for the city. I think it's something we should pursue. I think they should be probably a committee appointed by the chairman or by the Mayor to work with it. Because all of us can't. There's just too much. But to pursue on how we would operate this and how we would pursue it, I think anything like this that we have a venture into, probably the City Auditor should be concerned and be on it and be at all the meetings. Because this really comes up his alley. But I would like to see us pursue it and see what we could do as far as moving it forward.

Mr. Bickley: Just a comment on your cost of the membership. One of the things that we've done in the other communities where they passed tax levy=s, and Liberty Township=s a good example when we passed the levy. The residents of Liberty Township actually get a reduced membership rate that pretty much covers the cost of the taxes. It doesn't cover the entire amount but it covers a piece of that. It=s about 10%. So it kind of levels the playing field. So that that person that is coming from outside of the city to join, is not paying the same as the person in the city. The individual that lives in the city actually pays less for a membership. And that was one of the ways that we were able to get the levy passed up there.

Mr. Clemens: And that=s another thing I want to bring up. Because I think people have to understand, even though it will be the Reynoldsburg Y, it=s open to anybody.

Mr. Bickley: Yes. Yes.

Mr. Clemens: That=s what I=m saying. If we did pass the levy I would want it adjusted. Because it is open to anybody from anywhere that could join the Y.

Mr. Bickley: And we understand that. Just to give an example, Hilliard, they have about 4,000 membership units which translates into about 12,000 members. And 85% of those units come from Hilliard, the City of Hilliard. So there=s a small percentage that come from the outside. The majority of the folks, 80% of the membership is within a 3 mile radius of the building. And we have demographics on one of our facilities that really pinpoint relationships. And one of our dilemmas is we have a facility in Pickerington with 600 units coming from Reynoldsburg. So we=d obviously lose some of those folks. But we think we=d also gain, just in terms of picking up new members in this community.

Mr. Stearns: Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you Chairman. And the questions that I=m going to direct, obviously this is a new project that is being started. And you=ve done this before with other communities. The time line from determining the method of funding, and then gaining approval from the public to going into construction and having it available, in your mind, what is that time frame?

Mr. Bickley: Just to give you a time frame on Liberty Township, what it took, we were, we had a levy on the ballot in Liberty Township in November of >99. The building opened in November of 2001. So it was a 2 year period. Now, we started before then. We probably started 8 months before then with exactly what you were saying Mr. Clemens, with committees, with the Township Trustees. We had a task force that basically worked on the design of the building, what the contract=s going to look like, interviewing, architects interviewing contractors. So from the beginning of discussions, it was probably closer to November, December of >98 with the levy on the ballot in >99. So you=re probably talking a 2 2, 3 year period to bring it. That=s if it=s done by a levy. That=s the quickest way you=re going to get it done and probably most feasible at this point.

Mr. Stearns: Mrs. Newman.

Mrs. Newman: Thank you Mr. Stearns. I'm concerned with the affect, for example, the outdoor swimming facilities, and the multi-purpose room being used for senior citizens activities. Because we already have those facilities here, and I would hate to see them rendered obsolete.

Mr. Bickley: We would not build an outdoor pool unless you said you wanted it. That=s up to you. And another example, Hilliard, when we built that facility said they had community outdoor pools. We didn=t build it. We built it and a year later they came back to us and said we need another outdoor pool, so we built it. As far as the seniors go, if it=s in the park, which is adjacent to the facility, you=re absolutely right, we would not be running programs that would conflict or compete with them. We=d want to sit down and say, what are you doing that you can do for us and what can we do for you in terms of working together?

Mrs. Newman: Alright.

Mr. Bickley: That=s part of the conversation that goes on beforehand.

Mr. Stearns: Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: Thank you Chairman Stearns. I also am very supportive of this project here. I think the Y would be a great asset to The City of Reynoldsburg. I just have a question for Mr. Bickley. What would you want from Council in order to proceed with this concept? Before we go to the ballot, obviously we need to know where this might be located, and a bunch of other things.

Mr. Bickley: First of all, an approval I=m assuming, needs to come from this group, and go to Council and we=d like some type of letter of understanding agreeing to work together. It=s not a commitment of any kind. Just saying we=re going to work together to move this thing forward. And then a task force be set up that=s made up of some folks from the community. And we=ll commit our development staff and marketing staff to this project. And I would strongly encourage you to talk to some of the other volunteer leadership in some of the other communities because we were involved every step of the way. We=re not going let anybody hang out there. We have a commitment to this and Reynoldsburg is a community we want to be in. The other piece that I didn=t share, there=s an economic piece to this also. Even though we=re a 501C3 and we don=t pay property tax, we do pay income tax. We=ll employ, a facility of this size will employ somewhere around 175 to 250 people. Probably 35 of those full time. We employ about 80% of the folks from this community. We pay income tax. And the budget size is, the budgets in Hilliard, Grove City, Gahanna, and Liberty are somewhere in the 2 2 to 3 million dollar range. We pay about 20, \$25,000 a year in income tax, as well as employ a lot of young folks and seniors in our facilities.

Mr. Stake: And serve a lot of seniors and young folks.

Mr. Bickley: Absolutely.

Mr. Stearns: Are there any other questions? Mr. Joseph.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you Mr. Chairman. If the levy was put on the ballot and was voted down, what recourse would the city have in the Y if we wanted to continue to proceed? What=s the history where you=ve had levy=s fail?

Mr. Bickley: We=ve come back later and tried it again. We have attempted to do fund raising campaigns in the community to raise the dollars. That=s difficult. The difficult part is the price tag on the buildings that we built 3 and 4 years ago was 8.2 million. The price tag on that same building today is 10 to 12 million. It=s not getting any cheaper. And so we would want to move this forward as expeditiously as possible with caution. If it fails, we=ll revisit it. We had one fail out in Madison Township, or in Madison County and we are going to be going back on the ballot out there in about a year and a half. And again, a lot of it=s education. We=ve learned some lessons along the way. And Mr. Clemens, what you said is absolutely right. You have to take your time and educate folks and show them what the benefit in the community. It=s a quality of life issue. And we have lots of studies coming out of our national office in Chicago that point to the fact that property values increase, house values increase, quality of life increases when you have these types of programs in a community.

Mr. Stearns: Thank you. Mr. Hills.

Mr. Hills: Just a clarification question if I could. From what I=m gathering, when you=re talking about forming the task force and other community leaders, and schools, and Chambers, and everyone getting involved in the planning process, I did want to clarify, the Y is involved from the first meeting on.

Mr. Bickley: Absolutely.

Mr. Hills: Because you=re the one that=s going to be building. And that I think is outstanding. I appreciate that because you have more experience in this than anybody else that=s out here dealing in the community. But I do gather from what you=re saying in a time frame, we=re looking at this being February >07. We probably aren=t looking at a ballot issue, assuming that the task force says, let=s try to put this altogether, until either May >08 or November >08 from your 15 to 18 months or 18 to 20 month timing frame.

Mr. Bickley: That=s correct.

Mr. Hills: So this isn=t something, I just wanted to make clear, this isn=t something we=re all of a sudden going to do this year. It=s just, we=re going to put this together in an appropriate manner and pull all the pieces together. And at that time, part of the task force would be

designing, where is the capital going to come from? Is it going to be from some campaign? Or is it going to be for something to the ballot? So it=s a planning _____ as much as anything else.

Mr. Bickley: Or a combination.

Mr. Hills: Or a combination.

Mr. Bickley: Right. That=s correct. And the other thing I would say is that we will provide staff leadership out of our Development Department. And once the levy has passed, that we will have from our staff, an on-site person that will oversee the construction. And that=s a commitment that we=ve made on all of these facilities. And the individual that we put on site has built 5 of these things. So essentially, he knows what we=re building.

Mr. Stearns: Are there any other questions? Mr. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Just one quick question. A minimal size acreage, what are we looking at?

Mr. Bickley: Twelve acres, we=d like to have. And I might add, it sounds all positive and it is. The end result is very positive but there are a lot of hurdles and we understand that. And there=s lots of challenges. And we just have to be patient and take our time, work through it.

Mr. Stearns: Mr. Joseph.

Mr. Joseph: Yes. One more question Mr. Chairman. Typically, what has been the size of the levy=s that have been run in the other cities?

Mr. Bickley: Liberty was a 1 mil levy. It was \$27 per 100,000. That amount has dropped now to less than \$12 per 100,000 just because of the growth in the community. We=ve got a levy on the ballot in Sunbury which is 1.2 mil=s and it=s approximately \$33 per \$100,000 value. Most homes are in excess of that so your, the average homeowner in Liberty Township right now is paying about \$25 a year for their piece of it. That=s a 27 year bond.

Mr. Stearns: Are there any other questions from committee? (No response). Council? (No response). I think we=ve had a good discussion this evening concerning this, initial discussion and all. And I think what we need to do is to move forward in some positive way. And I guess really I need some guidance on this. My thought now would be to talk to the Administration, the Mayor, and see if he could come up with someone to form this committee that we could get started and then move it on to Council in that manner. So do you have anything to express at this time?

Mayor McPherson: I hadn=t really thought about the issue as to how quickly it would move forward. I clearly think that Council has to be involved from the get go, and would assume that since this is a Community Development issue that you would be the point person on that. And I

don't know if anybody else would want to be appointed. I know Finance definitely would probably be involved. And I don't know who else. As far as the Administration goes, I've asked Paul Walsh as the Recreation Director to be the point from the Administration standpoint. And clearly, as you go through this, I think all the full time elected officials should be involved. So yeah, if you want you know, in the next week or so, just let's sit down and talk about it, maybe see what they've experienced with the task force in some of the other communities. Who's been involved in it. And yeah, we can get started on that and move forward.

Mr. Stearns: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you Chairman. And I believe I heard correctly that you were looking for a letter or a motion from Council stating there was interest to move forward with this.

Mr. Bickley: That, I would present to my Board for approval with a similar letter coming back to you.

Mr. Baxter: To be able to go forward and have your resources. So I would recommend that that would be one of the things you would work toward first, is try to bring together this motion to Council to show interest to see if we would move forward so your resources are well spent. Thank you Chairman.

Mr. Hills: What you may want to consider is in that this is a new issue, I'm sure that there are a number of samples and Mr. Bickley has what his Board is going to need and what kind of indication. If you could arrange a meeting with yourself and maybe the Finance Chair with Administration and the elected officials, hold this for a couple of weeks, and then we could have a better handle on what is it we're actually trying to get to and see it. It would just be a suggestion is the best way to do this. Because again, we are not talking about something this year. Let's start this right down the right path and not have wasted meetings. As I noticed earlier, mentioned earlier, the Y came in at a very, the task force had already been down the road and the determination was do it their own. I think this sounds like an outstanding opportunity, and I think that those key players as the Y and the other people in the community need to be involved right from step one and move forward. So I think that probably they can give us a wealth of knowledge as to what they're looking for should there be an agreement to begin our search and determination of are we going to be able to take this forward?

Mr. Bickley: We can provide some sample letters of what that draft might look like.

Mr. Hills: Hold it a couple of weeks and then maybe we'd have something we can go forward.

Mr. Stearns: Okay. That sounds fine. And in the meantime what we can do, we can ask that the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Harris, and we could get together and start the committee from there, and then hopefully we can have this letter in a couple of weeks. And so I'd like to hold this for a couple of weeks then and bring it back before the committee and

we=ll move from there then. I want to thank you for coming out and giving us the information. And we certainly will be calling upon you again for more information. Okay. Thank you very much.

If there=s nothing else coming before the Community Development Committee, then we will adjourn at 8:10.

Female: I=m sorry. I didn=t put in a speaking note. I had a quick question for you with the Y being discussed. Has the city ever considered, see how many more people I can make mad this evening, taking over, or purchasing the Reynoldsburg Swim Club and making it more of a community pool? For example, the Heath pool, or you know, other facilities. I know a lot of my friends and neighbors have gone to other communities because they have better facilities. And I just think it=s something Reynoldsburg could definitely benefit from if we had a more of a community atmosphere pool area.

Mr. Stearns: Okay. That=s a good question. And I=ll pass that on to the Mayor.

Mayor McPherson: The answer to your question is yes. We have been discussing the purchase of quite a bit of property. Not only the pool. There=s a real estate company that manages that property and is representative of the estate. And we have had ongoing conversations. We continue to have ongoing conversations about that.

Female: (Inaudible. Speaking off mike).

Mayor McPherson: Well, he=s not the owner. He leases it.

Community Development Committee
February 20, 2007
- - -Susie Lyday, Assistant Clerk of Council

(Transcribed - Susie Lyday)

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2007

Tuesday

Members of Safety Committee present: Brett Baxter, Ron Stake, Antoinette Newman, Donna Shirey.

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

Mr. Baxter: Thank you. And I'll go ahead and open the Safety Committee meeting at 8:11. First item is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda? (No response). Hearing none, they'll stand as submitted.

Approval of the minutes of February 5, 2007 special Safety Committee meeting. Are there any changes to those minutes? (No response). Hearing none, they'll stand as submitted.

Item 3b is approval of the minutes of the February 5, 2007 regular Safety Committee meeting. Are there any changes to those minutes as submitted? (No response). Hearing and seeing none, they'll stand as submitted.

Item 4 is Discussion on Waggoner Road Resurfacing. And I did have a conversation with Mr. DeBolt last Friday discussing this issue. And Mr. DeBolt, would you like to bring the rest of committee and Council to speed to what we spoke about please?

Mr. DeBolt: Yes Mr. Chairman. Thank you. As noted in your packets, the Franklin County Engineer's Office has indicated in the past that at some point they would consider paving Waggoner Road. And as you know, Waggoner Road is one of the rare streets that jets in and out of jurisdictions between the county, townships, and the city. Therefore, in order to make that project happen if we wanted to be part of it again, they were considering paving their part. And that would be just parts of the project. Well, it makes sense to pave a whole road between Main and Broad Street. Therefore, they extended us the opportunity to participate in the project. This is a project that we can use our Permissive Tax money for. And I listed the amounts of money that are available in that fund. And our share of the project would be approximately 108,000. And as I mentioned in the memo, that would be a good opportunity for us. Because if we wanted to do that on our own, we would have to add onto that amount engineering fees, and inspection fees, and it will be much more higher amount than that. So I'd like to recommend Council consider this. Actually the County Commissioners, it was on their agenda today as part of their overall project to go forth and pave their roads around the county. This was part of the package, at least doing their part. They just need to know, I think within a months time, if we're interested in participating. And we hope, I hope we do.

Mr. Baxter: Very good. And you did say that the funds were coming out of Permissive Tax?

Mr. DeBolt: Permissive Tax Funds. Correct.

Mr. Baxter: Correct. And that we have the funds in there to support this project?

Mr. DeBolt: We do.

Mr. Baxter: And it would not take away from any other project that=s presently being considered by the Mayor or any of the other Council?

Mr. DeBolt: It would not. We would still have sufficient funds to cover those projects.

Mr. Baxter: Very good. I see a hand raised here. Councilman Clemens. You=ve got this look on your face that=s rather interesting. Please go.

Mr. Clemens: No. Of course, every time I hear that dipping into my funds there, I had talked to the Auditor about, met with him about this. There are other funds this could come from. And I think he=s spoke to you about it. And I believe that=s probably the way it will be handled when it comes through at a further time. Dick couldn=t be here this evening. But there are funds that=s there to tap into. And so that could be handled that way too. So when we get to the heart of handling the funds part of it, maybe the Auditor will be here.

Mr. Baxter: Okay. So your recommendations....

Mr. Clemens: There is money available.

Mr. Baxter: Your recommendation is that we speak with the Auditor and look at additional opportunities for funding on this as well.

Mr. Clemens: I think we should. I think Steve has. He knows what I=m talking about. It=s not really something I want to discuss this evening.

Mr. Baxter: Okay. Great. We=ll just have that conversation.

Mr. Clemens: It=s something that should be done any how. The project should be done. Don=t get me wrong.

Mr. Baxter: Well, if you think about it, we=ve spoken about Graham Road and having it repaired and resurfaced. And I think I=ve heard numbers in the upper ranges of \$300,000. If you think about the size of Waggoner, and the size of Graham Road, and to recognize the cost the city has to put into that versus having the assistance that we do with the county to do Waggoner Road, it only makes good sense that we spend this money this way. So it=s good fiscal common sense to head this direction. Any other questions? I see Mrs. Newman raising her hand. Please.

Mrs. Newman: Thank you Mr. Baxter. Did you need an emergency on this? Because you said it had to be, we had to let them know in a month.

Mr. DeBolt: They basically would need a letter from us. They didn't indicate that it would have to be legislation like ODOT needed an ordinance at that time. So I think if we have a general letter from Council. So I would imagine at the time within the next month, maybe you suspend the rules. That would be sufficient.

Mr. Baxter: Certainly. And when we spoke about it, if it was needed to be an emergency, in essence, we just need to show interest. And that we have interest in doing so. Because that's why I've brought it up to the Council and to committee to see if we do have interest. President Hills, I see you raising your hand.

Mr. Hills: Just a question. Do we know if the county did vote to go forward? This was in their project. Do we know if they voted? Because they're going forward with or without us.

Mayor McPherson: On their portion.

Mr. Hills: On their portion. And that's one thing, and let me assure you, I would say less than 5% of the residents of Reynoldsburg could say which is which. So it's one of those, oh by the way, we're going to do this sometime. Oh, we just sent it forward. So it has now been voted on by them. I think this is one where I don't encourage emergencies. But we have discussed it. I think there will become a short time frame. If they have passed it, we need to be on board. I think they probably would like to start in, maybe Dave Parkinson would know, but what, May or June? They do their paving through the whole year. So as Dave's coming forward, it is just a thing that we really can't afford not to do it. There is Permissive Tax Funds available. There also are some dedicated Waggoner Road Funds. So it's just a matter of where is the most convenient place to, the funding is available without taking away from any other project currently being considered. Sorry David.

Mr. Parkinson: No. That's fine. The answer is, their current schedule is to open bids on March 27 or 28. I would expect them to have a contractor, no I said that wrong....

Mr. DeBolt: No. That's right.

Mr. Parkinson: That's right. I would expect them to have a contractor in April and ready to go April or May.

Mr. Hills: So this one may be one whereas it gets another week or so closer, there may be a good, assuming they passed it, that they plan to keep it enclosed in their plans, we need to be jumping on that band wagon. Because it just started down the road.

Mr. Baxter: Certainly. So then I'm going to recommend that we send this to Council with an emergency for financial needs of the city government. Not to have it passed at Council. To go for at least its first reading. But then that way, if we make that decision, we have that opportunity to do so. So I so move. Everybody, do I have a second on that? Second from Councilman Stake. Any questions and discussion?

Mr. Clemens: Just one question.

Mr. Baxter: Certainly. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: We're going to be in on their bid, correct?

Mr. DeBolt: Yes.

Mr. Baxter: Um hum. That was a yes, correct?

Mr. DeBolt: Correct. Yes.

Mr. Baxter: So there's a motion on the table and a second. All in favor? (All voted Aye@). Opposed? (No response). Motion carries.

A couple of quick points to that, I also want to remind that this is also part of the discussion we're having here with the Priestley, with Waggoner. And what I'd also like to do is remind the Council members that there was, in their packet, a resolution that was submitted to the county to reduce speed limits on Waggoner. I think this is a great time since we're looking at having repairs done to Waggoner and paving done to Waggoner, that we submit a resolution requesting the county to reduce the speed on Waggoner Road to 35 mile an hour. We have done it once in the past and it was denied. And so it was in your packets two weeks ago I believe. So if you'd look for that. If not, speak with Nancy and she'll make sure you get a copy of it. I know I have a copy of it in mine.

Mr. DeBolt: The old one. Yes.

Mr. Baxter: The old one, correct. Not the new one. The old one that we had submitted the last time back in '97 I think it was.

Mr. Hills: There was with the application.

Mr. Baxter: An application, correct.

Mr. Hills: Right. Usually that comes, the Administration says, let's do this, gets a resolution from Council, and then submits it to the county to sign off on.

Mr. Baxter: Right. And what I'm suggesting is, we do that again in the same time frame. But not attached to that particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Hills: You're not attaching it to what you're doing right now.

Mr. Baxter: I'm not attaching it. Correct. I'm just suggesting we do that inclusive.

Mr. Hills: Are we adding that to the agenda? Or are we just saying we're going to talk about that in a couple of weeks?

Mr. Baxter: In a couple of weeks. Correct.

Mr. Hills: Okay.

Mr. Baxter: I'm just reminding people it's in your packet. Don't lose it. We're going to talk about it.

Mr. Hills: I bet Nancy can get us another one too.

Mr. Baxter: I'm sure she can. Okay that said, I'm moving on to the next discussion item and that is a Discussion, Adoption of Franklin County Natural Hazard Migration Plan. Mr. DeBolt, I guess you're up again.

Mr. DeBolt: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baxter: I see you have a permanent seat up there for a reason.

Mr. DeBolt: Thank you Mr. Chairman. As noted on the legislation, it's the FEMA Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. And what this does is, they need a resolution from the Council in order to participate in their program. And what that does is allow us to, enable us to get grants that we might feel necessary to do projects in the mitigation field. It's already been beneficial for us in the past. I think the generator that was recently purchased through, for City Hall, was gotten through one of these grants. So it's a very good program. But for us to continue participation, they do need the resolution for us to participate. And they would need this via deadline. So a rule suspension would be requested on it.

Mr. Baxter: Very good. When we spoke about this in your office Mr. DeBolt, we spoke about a few things that you had in mind specifically that you wanted to get grants for and attempt to complete. There is a list attached to the documentation here of those items, action items, in which you were interested in going through. Would you bring the committee up to speed which ones specifically you were looking at going to complete?

Mr. DeBolt: Yes. Again, these are what was lined up by the Administration in the past. I did

check with the organization. And if we wanted to have some flexibility in changing these over a period of time, that would be fine with them. These are just the ones that we had put forth at that time. For instance, updating maps for Blacking Creek _____ with areas that are in the flood plain. That would be something that we could use that for. Evaluating streams that are draining from newly developed areas and adjoining municipalities affecting the city. Especially with the weather we're having this week with flooding and that. I think that's something of interest. Again, we've already gotten some funding for back up generators. That might be another need in the future. So it's already been beneficial to us. It's been brought to my attention that we've had numerous lightening strikes here at the building. And I guess you might be curious that they say lightening doesn't strike twice, but we're the exception here. And maybe we'd like to find out why. They can study that I guess. Funding for lightening detection warning for parks and such can also be included. And also for back up generators for evacuation route intersections. So those are just some....

Mr. Baxter: What I was thinking, is in our parks, having a location for, if there is lightening concerns, people have a place to go and be sheltered, and that they're protected by lightening. So the study on that would give us ability to know where we have risk and where we have opportunity.

Mr. DeBolt: Yes.

Mr. Baxter: Certainly. Okay with that said, you also suggested that we need to add a rule suspension to this for the purpose of meeting the date.

Mr. DeBolt: Yes. They need it in March is what they've told us. Again, this is one that came to us on their time frame, not on ours. So we submitted to Council within a week that we had it. So we're working under their time frames.

Mr. Baxter: Very good.

Mrs. Newman: Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Yes ma'am.

Mrs. Newman: I have a question.

Mr. Baxter: Councilman Newman.

Mrs. Newman: Yes. I see here on the action items, short term action item number 2, identify resources and strategies to remove the Blacklick log jam. And the jurisdiction affected, the only place is the Village of Groveport. Why wouldn't we be affected by that? Because as far as I can, what I remember hearing, we have had some serious problems with log jams on Blacklick Creek. Particularly on the bridge down there at Main Street one time.

Mr. DeBolt: Again, these were established at a time by each community=s desire and what they felt at the time. So we have some flexibility if we thought we would include it.

Mrs. Newman: Okay. So we just weren=t overlooked by somebody else. I mean, this is something we did ourselves.

Mr. DeBolt: What we put on it was our initiative, our priorities at the time. Those priorities could change. We could be included if Council thought that that=s something we should be involved in.

Mrs. Newman: Okay. Well, I just wondered why we had been left out of that knowing our history. Thanks.

Mr. Baxter: Any other questions? Mayor.

Mayor McPherson: Steve, just a quick question for you. On page 2 of the letter from them, they say that they want it back to them with a Resolution of adoption by Council by March 1.

Mr. DeBolt: Yes. I checked with that and she indicated that the middle of March date would be more appropriate.

Mayor McPherson: Okay. Any way you cut it, it=s not going to get there with a resolution or a, I=m sorry a rule suspension. It=s going to have to have an emergency. Even if it gets there by mid March. Because that=s only what, two more readings?

Mr. Baxter: And 30 day wait.

Mayor McPherson: And then a 30 day wait after that. I don=t know.

Mr. Hills: They=re after a resolution though, not an ordinance, right?

Mr. Baxter: Because if it=s a resolution it goes right through doesn=t it?

Mr. DeBolt: Yes.

Mr. Hills: A resolution, it can go with one reading if I=m correct.

Mrs. Frazier: Not this resolution. This resolution would carry a 30 day clause. And if they need it back and it=s passed, I think Steve was going to ask them if that was good enough if they didn=t need emergency language. As long as they had it by then. And a rule suspension would get you there.

Mr. Baxter: A rule suspension is fine then Nancy?

Mr. DeBolt: That would be fine by them as well.

Mr. Hills: They were acceptable?

Mr. DeBolt: Yes.

Mayor McPherson: Okay. Get that in writing, Steve. I'm learning.

Mr. Baxter: You have a sample resolution I think on page 3 or 4. Page 4 is a sample resolution. So I'll go ahead and move this forward as a first reading with rule suspension. I believe I need to modify that. I can do that at the time of reading, correct? Or do I have to do that now, President Hills?

Mr. Hills: I think you send it forward for first reading with recommendation for adoption with a rule suspension.

Mr. Baxter: Right. With recommendation adoption, rule suspension. I send it to Council for the first reading.

Mr. Hills: Well, first reading with recommendation for adoption and a rule suspension. You'll only have one reading. One reading to meet this time frame and it'll go into effect 30 days after signature.

Mr. Baxter: That should be correct then, correct Nancy?

Mrs. Frazier: If Mr. DeBolt says it's okay, you're alright.

Mr. DeBolt: Yes. I think so. Again, according to Amy Greene, that will be sufficient.

Mrs. Frazier: My question was, if you're adopting the plan, are those pages that are attached in there, is that considered the plan? Because it wasn't marked that way.

Mr. DeBolt: I would say it would have to be because that's what they're submitting with it.

Mr. Baxter: What it says is, "Does hereby adopt the Franklin County Natural Hazards Migration Plan". A resolution.

Mrs. Frazier: I understand that. Pages that are attached to that, they are not marked "The Plan". So if you would check that Mr. DeBolt, I'd appreciate it.

Mr. DeBolt: Okay. I will.

Mr. Hills: Mr. Baxter, could I also suggest we run this through the City Attorney=s Office?

Mr. Baxter: I was about to say, I see it also says >Sample Resolution=, which then determines to me that=s not the actual resolution. So I would request that we get this through our legal department. Then I=ll move this forward any ways for a first reading, and then we=ll go ahead and see if we need to make any changes to that at the time.

Mr. Hills: If there are any questions before we vote, then it could come back to committee if necessary.

Mr. Baxter: I think that=s fair. So to clarify, I=ll re-do the motion. The motion I have on the table is to submit this resolution to Council with a rule suspension, and a recommendation for adoption.

Mr. Hills: Contingent upon the attorney=s review and Steve=s ____.

Mr. Baxter: And with the contingency from our attorney, and changes from Mr. DeBolt. Do I have a second? Second from Councilman Stake. All in favor? (All voted AAye@). Opposed? (No response). The motion carries.

Item number 3 is the discussion of Code Enforcement. The item was added on 2-5 at the request of Councilwoman Newman. It was held on 2-5-07 for two weeks. Report to come from the Administration. I=m reading, I=m thinking, that seems odd. But okay. I do have two speaker slips Mrs. Newman also to discuss the issue. But I=ll go ahead and allow you to have any comments if you wish.

Mrs. Newman: Well, I was under the impression that the Mayor was going to make a presentation of some sort, or give us a report. So which do you want to do first?

Mr. Baxter: I have seen no report at this point. So I don=t know if I just didn=t recognize it.

Mayor McPherson: We=re doing a verbal report to you.

Mrs. Newman: Pardon?

Mayor McPherson: We=re doing a verbal report tonight.

Mrs. Newman: Alright. That=s fine.

Mr. Baxter: Okay. Then we=ll go that route.

Mr. Hopper: Thank you members of Council for giving me an opportunity to speak about code enforcement again. I don=t feel there=s a real need to do a presentation. I did a presentation back in November. It took about 40 minutes of your time. At the end of the presentation, there

were no questions. So I think that you know, if everybody got a copy of the presentation, you can look back and see what we are trying to do with code enforcement and what our Code Enforcement Officer=s are doing. I think that tonight, our time would be better spent, or my time would be better spent letting you know the challenges that are faced with the Code Enforcement Department, and the challenges that I face. Some of the things I=d like to throw out to you are some facts. First fact is, you know, the Code Compliance Department is a revolving door. We are currently on our fourth and fifth Code Enforcement Officer=s in a 5 year time frame. The reason that I think that we have this revolving door is, number one, it=s a part time position. And number two, it is the second least paying position within the city. So we have people that move up in other positions in the city because of increase in pay. We have people looking for other employment because the lack of pay that they get through this position. Our current Code Compliance Officer=s have an on the job experience of 4 months. Two Code Compliance Officer=s have less, or just now have 4 months experience with trying to enforce our current codes. Another fact, through this time period where we now have two new Code Enforcement Officer=s, there was a 5 month gap in having full staff in our Code Compliance Department. So we were short staffed and inexperienced for a 5 month period. So you know, currently we are in the training period. It takes time to have our Code Enforcement Officer=s read and understand the codes, read and understand the Property Maintenance Code along with the ordinances that they are charged with enforcing. Lack of Code Enforcement Officer=s created by our revolving door gives us peaks and valley=s. I know that at one time last year, I had a discussion with one of our Council members, and you know, he complimented on the good job we were doing with code compliance. Didn=t see a whole lot of code violations in existence up to the point that there wasn=t even a list being made. So at that point in time, we had two Code Enforcement Officer=s that had on the job experience that knew and understood the codes, and was out enforcing the codes. So when we go through a period of time where we have you know, good quality employees, and then we lose those, we have to go through that learning experience all over again. It just doesn=t happen over night. One of the things that concerns me is, you know, the concerns over these e-mails. You know, I myself, and I don=t think, I pretty much know that our Code Compliance Officer=s did not receive any phone calls or concerns from Council. And you know, I mean, it was brought up in this public forum. And you know, it would be nice if I=d get a phone call and say, hey, what=s going on? You know? These things could be explained with a phone call or we could sit down and meet and discuss you know, the concerns. So you know, just one of my concerns. You know, another thing I think that we=re overlooking in a community of roughly 36,000 people, you know, the e-mails that were received, and I=ve reviewed them and there=s probably only 2 or 3 concerns in those e-mails that really are a code compliance issue, we=re talking less than 1% of the people that are unhappy with what we=re trying to do. You know, like one of the e-mails says, you know, Rome wasn=t built in a day. Code Compliance can=t change a community over night. We adopted the Property Maintenance Code less than a year ago. You know, I did a presentation of the direction we would like to go. But as you hopefully can see, that as we have a turnover, we have to kind of slip back and re-train people, and then try to get back on the pace that we want to address. So it just takes time. That=s really all I have.

Mrs. Newman: Can I ask you a question Mr. Hopper? You've reviewed those e-mails, copies of which I had sent to you, have you contacted any of those people that sent e-mails?

Mr. Hopper: I don't have any contact information.

Mrs. Newman: Well, they're in the phone book I would think. You know, or you could have asked me. I could have given you a telephone number. But if you want to set up some sort of a dialogue, I would think, or if you need more explanation, you could have contacted them to find out really, specifically what their concerns are.

Mr. Hopper: One of the concerns I know, was addressing the litter and trash at the corner of Brice and Livingston Avenue. And before we even were contacted about that, we had written code violation notices and had addressed that personally with the property owners.

Mrs. Newman: Okay. Has it been reinspected and is the trash still there?

Mr. Hopper: I don't know. There's about 3 inches of snow on the ground. So I don't know that it's been cleaned up. I know that they had cleaned up a couple of times.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Hills, I see your hand raised.

Mr. Hills: Chet, I'm reading this as there's, you're taking the fact that this as being discussed as an attack in some way.

Mr. Hopper: No.

Mr. Hills: You've come before Council a number of times. And I know when you're comfortable and I know when you're not comfortable. You're not real comfortable. And I think that, I always try to look at the things of the whole picture. You've got some personnel issues. You always do. Everybody. The city does at times. But I think when you say, the learning curves and all these things, that Code Enforcement Officer's have been prior Police Officers. They know how to enforce codes. And prior Safety/Service Director. So they're familiar with code. So the learning curve on those individuals is not real good. But let's don't talk about just people. Because you have some Building Inspectors, we have people in the city that's always been a pet peeve of mine, every city employee who is seeing something that's out of line, ought to be contacting you as being in charge of the Code Enforcement Officer's. You've got building people out and about, they can make notes. Council members makes notes. The Mayor makes notes and gets things taken care of. Now what we have here is a list of e-mails which is part of which the discussions are trash in this area or that area. I think you're expressing a little frustration because it's got a thousand other things in there too. And I can appreciate what you're saying. Because I don't think you can fix those. All of those are. But I think that it is key, and I think the Mayor's encouraging to anyone who sees something that can be a code violation. Let's let the people know that it's a violation. Whether it be

something in the Police Office that needs to be done, or some of your people need to do. But I'm going to be very candid, as employees of the city, quit driving past it and not paying any attention to it. Get something done about it and get it reported. I think that=s the key thing and I think that=s what Mrs. Newman=s trying to point out. And others. And she=s had a lot of help from some people in the area that maybe not every paragraph has a meaning. But I hate to see you come up and feel like you=re being attacked because I don=t think that=s what it is. But I think we all need to work towards a common goal and not just protect our little niches of, there=s plenty of work to be done. You can=t pick up stuff in 3 or 4 feet of ice. There isn=t any doubt about it. And you can=t cite people for it. But I do think that this needs to be going in a productive way rather than being in a negative reading. Which I don=t think was intended by anybody that put this on committee. Thank you, Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Hills, I appreciate your comments. And I=ll also go a little bit farther than that, you=ve heard me say to you, I thought they=ve been doing a great job. I=ve seen less coming to me in my packet than what I would expect to have seen. And I thought, gee, that=s kind of odd. But then I=ve also been driving the city, and when I have issues, I=ll call them in. I think you hit a great point Mr. Hills. Everybody in this city should be paying attention to those. And I do know that you get calls from all different places. When they=re big issues, you really get the calls. So I know when I have an issue, it=s been resolved. So I appreciate that. I know that Mr. Clemens has had a couple of issues in the past. He feels specifically, they don=t want to listen to him. But okay. But I just want you to know, there=s no reason for you to feel uncomfortable. You=ve been doing a good job. And I just wanted to make sure that you realize it and your people have done a good job. I actually recognize the fact that you have had turnover in your area. And I would recommend that maybe you want to rethink about where that is and who that person should be. It might be something you might want to consider, that each member of that area, your area, your department, should be part of code enforcement. Not specifically a single person or a part time person, but each and every person. And everybody take part in that.

Mrs. Newman: Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes.

Mr. Baxter: I=m trying to give everybody an opportunity to speak and then I=ll get back with you.

Mr. Clemens: And I might as well speak. And I=ve probably been the biggest pain in the butt of anybody, and the Mayor will verify for that. And I=m not going to criticize you either Chet, because we=ve talked about this. And I know the problem you=re in as far as new hires and so forth. But I want to make clear of one thing because the statement was made last week, and I just wanted to bring everybody up to date. We have had a Building Inspector working on this for over a year. And I know that, you know that, because they=ve met with people and so forth.

And he=s worked Code Compliance.

Mr. Chet: He works part time on challenges. He=s spent the majority of the last 4 months working on a specific issue dealing with the White Birch Crescent Apartments doing the inspections, and the reports, and everything that needs to be done to get ready to get to court with on.

Mr. Clemens: Right. But we are doing this. But what I want to, the only thing that kind of bothers me on this, and I=m not bringing up any names, because you know, we=ve got enough problems on that, I was reading our last report we get like in January from an employee and it involved the first three weeks in January. And there were 19 contacts, 18 code violation warnings, 26 signs removed. And they were driven over 490 miles driving time. This just doesn=t add up to me. 490 miles is, I could go to Pittsburgh and back in that. So I mean, it just doesn=t, I can drive 2 blocks, 4 blocks and probably do that many. And I know the weather=s bad. That=s why I=m not going to get into criticizing what=s going on. It=s been bad for a few weeks and so forth. And what=s past is what=s past. We have passed the new laws that you brought forward and I helped prove through Mr. Baxter=s committee, which I think are good changes, and I think that there are things that the city needs. I know what the problem is in my Ward. I know what the people feel they=re being let down on. And I get criticized for it because they don=t feel that I take care of these things. And it is litter all over the vacant parking lots. In Sunoco like you were talking about. 3C Auto, Big Bear lot, K Marts. I mean, people have got to be made to clean these places up. After all, they=re businesses. Not just a violation, talk to them. It has to be done. (Tape Change). I expect these to be done. I=m laying off right now, but I=m telling you, what we expect in my district, we expect these minor things to be done. We expect the neighborhoods to look good in the spring. And I think it can be done. And I had a friend of mine, he=s sitting right out here, Tom Eller, I was talking to him the other night, and he told me something that was really interesting, and it really interested, and I thought about it for a few days when he told me. He told me about what Mayor Juliano did in New York City. And I didn=t know this. He was good on crime and building the city up. When he started out, his first deal was to start with the minor issues. They called it the >open window= policy. He started at the ground. He cleaned up the neighborhoods. He cleaned up the trash from these commercial areas. Then he started cleaning up in homes and so forth. And as he did this, people started respecting what he was doing. And the crime went down. And he=s known for that. And I think you can do it. I think your department can do it. And I think we can all do it. But you have to start at the bottom and work up. And I realize we have bigger issues in the City of Reynoldsburg. But not as far as the code compliance is concerned. That=s what these people are hired for. And like I said, I don=t expect it out of them now. They=re new people. But I do expect it in the spring. And I=ll be the first to gripe because I know what the people expect out of me. And maybe in some respects I=ve failed them by not coming down. I=ve talked to you. I thought there for a while, I thought that your department, when you had those people that had worked quite a while, I thought they were doing a good job.

Mr. Hopper: Exactly.

Mr. Clemens: I did speak to you about it. And I had turned in a bunch of issues before and they were taken care of. And I can do that again. I don't think that I have to do that every week. I don't think I have to drive my neighborhood and turn in 40, 50, 60 items. I can do it. Don't get me wrong. But I know you don't want to see it. And I know the Mayor doesn't want to see it. But I do respect your department and I do respect you and the people that work for you. I'm just telling you what I expect and what I expect to be done are....

Mr. Hopper: And I think we've shown that in the past. I think you just have to understand that you know, because we don't pay these people what they should be paid, you're going to have peaks and valleys. You're going to have people that aren't going to be around, you know. I mean again, a fact, there's been 5 Code Enforcement Officers in 5 years.

Mr. Clemens: I'm not sure if it's a full time job to be any different. Don't get me wrong. It's all in what a person has on the inside of him when he takes the job. If they want to do a job, they're going to do a job.

Mr. Hopper: We don't have that problem with the Building Inspectors because they're full time jobs. We have Building Inspectors that have a history.

Mr. Clemens: We're not that busy right now as far as the Building Department's concerned. Am I right or wrong?

Mr. Hopper: No, we're not that....

Mr. Clemens: Did we do as much each year? We've been going down. Am I correct, or am I not, as far as permits, as far as new homes, things like that?

Mr. Hopper: We haven't done hardly any homes, but we're doing a lot of commercial work.

Mr. Clemens: Well, that doesn't mean that we can't, and you did, and I'll give you credit for it, you put a Building Inspector out there. But I'm just telling you what I expect, or I'll be back in here. Because I know what a community can look like if it goes downhill. I know it. And the only way we're going to do it is enforce the code. They may be minor. And it may be minor to you. And it may be minor to the Police Department. And it may be minor to the Mayor. And maybe sometimes, minor to me. But they're not minor to the people that live there.

Mr. Hopper: I understand that.

Mr. Clemens: And that's all I expect. And I'm not criticizing you tonight or anything like that. Because I'm just telling you, as the weather breaks, I expect these things to be done.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you Councilman Clemens. I appreciate it.

Mr. DeBolt: Chairman, could I add one thing if I could? Quickly?

Mr. Baxter: And I certainly would like to, I'd like to try to keep this moving too. It's getting rather late here and I can feel, I don't want this turning into beat up on an apartment type of situation.

Mr. DeBolt: I just want to _____ if I could. This is a transition time for the department. I've known of Chet's work before I came to the city throughout the State of Ohio. I've worked with many Building Officials, and Chet is at the top of the list as far as I'm concerned. The top percentile Building Officials in the state. And that's why I felt very comfortable in working with him in the Building Department here because of the fact of his background. And I know specifically, the concerns that Councilman Clemens has, and I'm just asking that, I'd say within a year's time, you're going to see, those issues, less than a year's time, those issues addressed. But that stability makes it very difficult. Because I've seen this on another level that I've worked at when you don't have that stability. And I think just doing what we are doing with that instability, we're doing the best we can. But I think you'll see it getting better as we get the people more experienced.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. DeBolt, are we logging those complaints that are coming in from our citizens? And are we tracking the turnaround time for those complaints to be resolved? And if we're not, maybe we ought to be doing that? Because that way we would show our response, and this back to our citizens, and maybe it'll help us understand how we're moving with that.

Mr. DeBolt: I've talked to Mr. Hopper specifically about the follow up, how important that is. And that again, follow up within time frames, there are compliance dates given, and there are follow up expectations of each of those citations made.

Mr. Baxter: Great. Well I know we see the ones where they go out and they identify the issue themselves. I don't know if we ever are able to see those that are called into the city. I know I have a gentleman here tonight who wants to talk about code compliance issues in his area. And that, what I would like to try to do is not have to have him come to Council to have that conversation. They should be able to have that conversation with Chet or with you and be able to resolve the issue without having it come to Council. But if they are coming to Council, it's because they feel they're not getting the service that they need.

Mr. DeBolt: I'm interested in hearing it.

Mr. Baxter: So we need to make sure we have that opportunity to give them what they need to do. And I thank you. Unless there's, I thought I saw Councilman Newman's hand go up.

Mrs. Newman: Yes. I think Chet, you know quite well that I have the greatest amount of respect for you and the job you're doing and your professionalism. There's no doubt about that. But I get very frustrated when I get all these e-mails in one weekend. And I know for a fact that one of

our citizens today had to go meet with an attorney. She is a lady who had a problem with her neighbor redirecting a down spout onto her property. And she came in and discussed this a year or so ago. Maybe two years ago. Well now, her foundation has weakened. And it=s compromised. She=s got mold in her house. So she had to see an attorney to sue this man.

Mr. Hopper: Well, we looked into that. And there=s nothing, we couldn=t address that issue.

Mrs. Newman: Well, why not? He had changed the drainage on his property from the original approved plan. And that=s not supposed to be allowed without an engineer=s approval, without the City Engineer=s approval. And he had changed it from the original approved plan.

Mr. Hopper: I know that we looked into that issue. I was on that site myself and discussed it with the appropriate people.

Mrs. Newman: Did the City Engineer look at it? Or make a determination? Did you compare the situation today with that house as to what it was when it was originally approved and built?

Mr. Hopper: I don=t know about that. But I know that the Storm Water Maintenance gentlemen were out. And you know, we=ve all come to the same conclusion that you know, we can=t address that issue.

Mrs. Newman: Well, too often I=m afraid, that=s the answer that people have been talking to me, that=s what they hear. That it can=t be addressed. I=ve got pictures here. I=m sure you weren=t responsible for this, but taken across the street from a lady who habitually puts horrible signs like that for everybody across the street to see. And this lady, when she complained about it was told, well we can=t go on that property and take those signs down. That=s private property. Well, why not? Did she have a permit for those signs? I think not. So you probably weren=t responsible for that.

Mr. Hopper: I don=t even know what the signs are concerned.

Mrs. Newman: Well, and then there=s, this thing. I mean, I kind of got offended last week when the Mayor said, and I quote, AAnd the problem that we=re having with a lot of people, they=re not responsible enough to go pick it (the trash) out of their own front yards. They expect us to come and do it@. But people who are complaining to me are not the people who do not pick up the trash out of their own yards. They keep their own properties clean. It=s the properties of their neighbors that are driving them crazy. And they can=t very well trespass on somebody else=s property and go police their yard. So you know, these people, they=re offending neighbors, have to be written up, and reinspected and enforced to do the right thing.

Mr. Hopper: Did they call the Building Department?

Mrs. Newman: Pardon?

Mr. Hopper: Did they turn that in as a complaint?

Mrs. Newman: Well, I don=t know weather they have or not.

Mr. Hopper: I don=t either.

Mrs. Newman: But they=ve been sending this stuff.

Mr. Hopper: I=m not aware of any of those.

Mrs. Newman: And so perhaps they ought to, what should I tell them? To get in touch with you?

Mr. Hopper: There=s plenty of ways.

Mrs. Newman: You know, I can=t do anything about it except lean on you.

Mr. Hopper: We put cell phone numbers of our Code Compliance Officer=s on our business cards. So there=s access to them as much as we can possibly do.

Mrs. Newman: Okay. But I=m just upset because you know, people are really trying to maintain the quality of their lives, and their homes, and the value of their real estate. And they feel that they=re not getting any cooperation. And it=s not my job to do the job of that. We have people here who are supposed to do that.

Mr. Hopper: I understand.

Mr. DeBolt: But sometimes, the jurisdiction of what we can do conflicts with what they want us to do. And sometimes we have to tell them no. And that=s just the way it is in the building business.

Mrs. Newman: Well, I don=t think they=ve been unreasonable from what I>ve heard.

Mr. Baxter: Well, I thank you for your comments. I would recommend that we do keep track if we=re not, of all calls coming in with complaints. Because in this case here, you would know if it was something that had been addressed to your department and what the resolution was. If it is, we can=t help you, we should note that and why.

Mr. DeBolt: We=ve just started to develop a form that allows us to track them and make sure they are followed up as well.

Mr. Baxter: I appreciate that. Okay. Unless there=s any more questions for Chet. I have some speaker slips here. Robert Dollison. Dollison. Sorry. I always trash your name sir. I apologize. If you=d like to come up and address your issue, sir.

Mr. Dollison: Hello. My name is Robert Dollison. I'm at 8088 Goldsmith Drive. I do have some pictures. Unfortunately, I do not have enough for all of you. So if you wouldn't mind sharing.

Mr. Baxter: If you give those to Susie, she'll make sure that she gets them passed down for everyone to see. Thank you.

Mr. Dollison: Over on 8088 Goldsmith, I live in a duplex. Many of you may know where this is. It's right behind the football field where Reynoldsburg Youth Football plays. As you see here, these are pictures of a fence. Pretty damaged by wind, the ice storms that we had back in >04. A couple of the panels came off because kids were out there ripping them down. Whatever the case may be. Since I rent my facility, I have contacted my landlord on three different occasions, and they told me, it's not their fence. About a month ago I contacted the city and asked them who owns the property. The young lady I spoke to put me on hold for about 2 minutes and said that it's up to the landlord. Again I went back to the landlord and said, The City of Reynoldsburg said it's your property, you must fix it. They laughed at me and said no, we don't own that facility. It must have been built by the housing association when the houses were being built in that area. So my first question for you guys are, who built this fence and who's responsible for fixing it? I have no problem going out and getting nails, getting board, and fixing it myself. I have done that on a couple of occasions. But I don't think I need to fix, as you see in Exhibit A there, the section that's actually falling over. Trees have fell on this fence. The house that you see directly behind, I believe Exhibit P and N. The house there has a German Shepard. Because of these holes in the fence, the German Shepard keeps coming out of the yard. And as you know, with the code enforcement code, 505.03, I must ask for this dog to come onto my property and do its business. I do not ask for this dog to come into my yard. If the fence was fixed, then I wouldn't have that particular issue. I have complained to the resident, and the resident basically slammed the door in my face and laughed at me. Well according to this code, he's responsible for keeping that dog in his yard. If that means tying it up, whatever the case may be, then tie it up. I have a miniature Dachshund. It's always on a leash. We have other stray dogs that come into our area. They also live within our community. I have complained to my landlord. All they say is, tell me who the address is. We'll take care of it. I tell them the address, they don't take care of it. At least as far as I can tell because the dogs keep doing the same thing. In addition to the code enforcement policy, houses on 1930 and 1932 Carlyle, which is at the corner of Carlyle and Goldsmith, their backyards look like a junk yard. And if you have driven by that area, you see the house at 1932 Carlyle actually has a, some type of car jacked up. Trash is always going down Goldsmith. We have contacted the city. My wife has contacted the city, excuse me, on several occasions regarding trash cans being left out more than the 24 hour period. The city has come out, put notices on their sign. They cooperate for a few weeks then they go back doing the same thing. Right now, there's been a trash can at 8053 Goldsmith that's been sitting out there for 2 weeks. The house next to 8062, I apologize, I could not get the address, couldn't see it, still has their Christmas lights up. I don't know if there's a policy against that. There's furniture always being left out. And I think something needs to be done to actually clean up this

area. My wife and I go out at night, and we do, maybe it=s trespassing, I don=t know, but we go out and we clean up people=s yards. We=re tired of it. If nobody else wants to care about it, gosh darn it, I will.

Mr. Baxter: Well, I thank you for your comments. I would like to have you speak with Mr. DeBolt over here. I=m sure he will find out who owns the fence and insure that our Code Enforcement Officer=s are able to address the issue. Because as I think Council members here can see, that=s pretty bad shape. It=s falling over. It=s missing planks. And it=s certainly a hazard if anything, a safety hazard all the way through that area. And I thank you for bringing this to our attention. And I would like to hear further in a few weeks if you would, let me know what the result of this turns out to be. Thank you sir. The last speaker slip I have is Robert Kelley. Mr. Kelley you have a Property Maintenance Code concern you=d like to address Council with tonight?

Mr. Kelley: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baxter: We did receive a letter and it is with our packets. Or at least it was on the table I think.

Mr. Kelley: I=m Robert Kelley. I live in Reynoldsburg at 1782 Lucks Road. Honorable Mayor, Mr. President, members of the Council, Madam Clerk of the Council, Mr. DeBolt, and gracious audience. Greetings. First let me say I am not here to attack anyone. I don=t have anything personal against anyone. It takes more energy to be negative and feisty than it does to be positive and kind. And I really don=t like being here to say what I have to say tonight. Because we=re running short on time, I=m going to read to you what I prepared so it will go somewhat faster. I know all of you have a hard job to do. I respect each one of you and I know that each one of you is highly intelligent. So again, I=m not attacking anyone either in the Council or in the employ. Two years ago, the Eastside Messenger reported, I gave you a Valentine. During your Council meeting on 14 February, I presented to you a tall, clear, plastic bag of litter I had collected from my lawn.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Kelley, is this the document that we=re holding right here in our hands?

Mr. Kelley: Pardon me?

Mr. Baxter: Is this the document we=re holding here in our hands that you=re reading presently?

Mr. Kelley: Yes.

Mr. Hills: Mr. Baxter, if I could help, I think you=re the only one that has that document.

Mr. Baxter: Is that the case? Okay. Then I=ll allow you to continue to go on forward because I wasn=t aware if anybody else had had this document. It was just given to me with the speaker

slip. If you would like, I would guarantee that this goes to Clerk of Council and that each member has an opportunity to read this (See Attached). And that way it will be in the record as she has submitted to each of your Council members rather than taking this evening=s time to have you read through this entire document.

Mr. Kelley: Alright.

Mr. Baxter: If you would be okay with that, if you=d like to make a quick summary on that for the purpose of continuing to move this forward, I=d appreciate that.

Mr. Kelley: I do want to say Mr. Clemens, that I want to take credit for the comment you made about Mr. Juliano. I was the one who initiated that comment that he made. I moved here from New York, New York. He became Mayor after I left, but I still care enough about New York that I keep in very close touch as to what the present Mayor and the past Mayor have been doing to clean up the city. Thank you very much. All of you for giving me time and for allowing my voice to be heard.

Mr. Baxter: Mr. Kelley, you=re always welcome. Thank you so much.

With that, I would like to close the Safety Committee meeting at 9:01.

- - -Susie Lyday, Ass=t. Clerk of Council
(Transcribed - Susie Lyday)
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2007 Tuesday

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Brett Baxter, Preston Stearns.

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

Mr. Stake: With no Service Committee scheduled, I=ll call to order, the Finance Committee at 9:02.

Item number 2 is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda this evening? (No response).

Item number 3 is approval of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held February 5, 2007. Are there any changes to those minutes? (No response). None being heard, they=ll stand as submitted.

Item number 4 is Discussion, Authorize Personal Service Contract, Information Technology Assistance (Computers, Police Departments) and transfer of funds. I sat in a meeting a few weeks ago with the Mayor, and the Chief, and the Computer Director in regards to trying to get caught up on a backlog of computer issues, and I indicated at that point that I didn=t think we would be in a position to hire anybody, and asked that they look at getting somebody on a contract basis rather than hire another employee. And what you have in front of you here tonight is a legislative request to do a contract with OnTracNow Computer Solutions. And I believe the individual associated with this company has worked with the city over a long period of time. Has the correct security clearance. And being asked to waive competitive bidding. City Attorney believes it=s a proper, is a personal service contract due to the sensitive material in the Police Department, and the contract is security clearance. Money would be transferred, \$35,000 would be transferred in order to....

Mr. Anthony: It won=t be transferred. It=s just going to stay in the police.

Mr. Stake: Oh, that=s right. It would not be transferred. It would come out of the Miscellaneous Contract Services Fund 110.111.5375. Thank you Bart, for straightening me out. Come on up. And Mr. Anthony, maybe you want to give the rest of Council a little overview on why you think you need this person.

Mr. Anthony: I don=t know if all of you know, but the Police Department has just got so much technology now since we=ve moved into that new building. We=ve gone from 19 to 50 computers, 2 to 20 servers, 2 to 30 lap tops, and that=s significance there, and 3 to 12 network

printers. That building is just, we just got behind. We=ve gone, in 2003, there was 91 work orders. Last year there were 172. And things just got behind. So I=ve been working over there for the past month, 5 or 6 hours a day trying to catch things up. And now, things are getting behind in the Municipal Building because we=ve instituted work orders there too. And now I=ve got quite a few that I=m working on when I have time. And right now, spending 5 or 6 hours a day next door, does not give me much time for the Municipal Building. So that=s why we=re requesting some help. And this won=t come out of any non-appropriated funds.

Mr. Stake: Are there any questions from members of the Finance Committee? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes. I want to thank Bart. I talked to Bart, and that=s why I talked to the Chief about this. I had offered my assistance but Bart said you had to learn how to turn it on first. So that was out. But as long as they can, I=m not for putting on additional personnel if we have to put additional financing in, and I think they did it the right way. Nothing comes out of the General Fund and they=re moving money that they have to do it. I know that they need it, so I support them on this.

Mr. Stake: Yes. As you can see from the information in front of you, there has been a huge increase in computer needs that the city has. You=re probably looking at over 200 and something work orders this year, aren=t you?

Mr. Anthony: Right.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Are there any other questions or comments from the Finance Committee? Councilman Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Chairman Stake. And I also spoke and discussed this issue with our wonderful computer guy here. And I can see you have your hands full. Not just with the Police Department, but also with the Municipal Building and other locations. And your amount of work is absolutely increasing. I think the key here is we=re not looking to reach into any new funds. We=re not looking to reach into the General Fund and pull funds into this. This is existing contract services. So in essence, you=re going to be asking to spend funds that are already in the budget.

Mr. Anthony: Correct. It=s over \$10,000.

Mr. Baxter: So this is moot point. Most cases, if the Mayor and the Chief has already budgeted an item to be spent, then this is a contract no different than any other contract. It=s already been approved for budgeting. So I don=t see any reason why we can=t move forward with this.

Mr. Stake: Well, we can move forward. I just want to point out that competitive bidding would be waived on this. We are doing something a little bit different with this personal service

contract. But the City Attorney has reviewed this. I have lots of faith in the City Attorney. He says this would be proper. So I'm willing to move forward the way it is. Are there any other questions or comments from members of Council? (No response). You do want an emergency on this, correct?

Mr. Anthony: Yes.

Mr. Stake: And then we are, well we're behind a lot right now. So the sooner we get going on this, the sooner we can start making some progress.

Mr. Anthony: What's nice about it, is this guy already has the clearances. He's worked here on and off since '93. And last year, I used him for 80 hours last year.

Mr. Stake: And I believe he is, his price is pretty decent as well, correct?

Mr. Anthony: Right.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Councilman Stearns.

Mr. Stearns: Yes. Thank you Chairman Stake. I normally don't support much competitive bidding. But I see this is an issue that we need to move forward on right now. So I will support this. I just wanted to let you know, I will be in support of it.

Mr. Stake: Well, and part of the reason of doing it this way is, you really have somebody here who, number one, has a security clearance. But number two, knows the needs and what needs to be done and how to get it done here.

Mr. Anthony: Correct.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Joseph.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you Mr. Chairman. \$35,000, is this a band aid? Is this going to be something we're going to need every year? Is it going to increase? Are we going to eventually need to have some more permanent solution?

Mr. Anthony: Yes. I think we're going to have a permanent solution one of these days. We need to hire a, like a help desk person is what we really need. Which is a low cost person. We're talking mid 30's.

Mr. Joseph: And also you mentioned here that we're about 6 months behind. How quickly will we be up to speed at having everything caught up once this is approved and in place?

Mr. Anthony: I would say in a couple of months. A few months.

Mr. Joseph: Okay. Thanks.

Mr. Stake: And what we did, in our conversations, we did say, Mr. Anthony, to go ahead and come back to us. Let us know the progress that=s being made, and of course we can run this until the end of the year and evaluate that next year on whether we should do another contract or hire an employee.

Mr. Anthony: Correct. At budget time, I=d like to either propose an employee or another contract.

Mr. Stake: I would just suggest that you keep us informed then of your progress and what you think your needs are for next year. Councilman Baxter.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you Chairman. You mentioned that you thought we might need a full time help desk person. But this person isn=t coming in on this contract to be help desk person. He=s coming in to do the nuts and bolts, correct?

Mr. Anthony: Right.

Mr. Baxter: So in essence, you really don=t need a help desk person do you? You need somebody to come in and help you do nuts and bolts. And I just wanted to make sure that I didn=t understand when you said help desk.

Mr. Anthony: Well, help desk will be, the networking part of it gets real complicated. And so the Chief can confirm this, but a lot of people call for little things that can be fixed by somebody that doesn=t, is not as skilled. And currently, we have to do it all.

Mr. Baxter: Fair enough. I=d recommend now that you=re keeping track of that through work order systems, you rate those so that gives you some justification, what type of person you=d need in your budgeting for next year.

Mr. Anthony: Okay.

Mr. Baxter: Thank you sir. Thank you Chairman.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other questions or comments? (No response). None being heard, then I=ll make a motion that we send this forward, request an ordinance authorizing the Mayor into a personal service contract for information technology assistance with OnTrak Computer Solutions for not more than \$35,000 and waive competitive bidding and declare an emergency. And the monies would come from account number 110.111.5339. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Baxter. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted AYe). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes. Thank you.

Item number 5, Discussion, Broad Street Waterline Financing. There=s two topics in regards to that. I don=t believe Mr. Harris is here this evening. Is anybody from the Auditor=s Office here? (No response). I don=t think so. Just to let everybody know what=s going on with this, we are going to put another waterline in along Broad Street going to the water tower. I believe the City of Columbus is going to build another water tower over there. Estimated price would be approximately 1.530 million. The Auditor would like to finance this I guess in two parts. Part one would be a short term note payable one year from date of closing for approximately \$765,000. Reimbursement from Columbus. Columbus would be reimbursing us for this portion. Reimbursement from Columbus would be used to retire this debt. Part two would be a bond with a 5 to 10 year repayment schedule. It would be repaid from Water Fund number 710. Are there any questions or comments in regards to this from members of the committee? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: This is something that=s been in the planning stage for quite a few years. And I think we all knew it was coming about. It=s something that has to be done to keep our water supply up. We all know it also helps keep the Columbus water supply up. But it keeps our supply up so we can keep the pressure up all over the City of Reynoldsburg. And it=s important, the way the city has grown that we have the additional water there to compensate the pressure on that end of town. So I think it=s something that has to be done and something we have discussed.

Mr. Stake: I agree. And I think the way it works is, we=re kind of, we=re second on the water distribution there. So we want to make sure there=s enough left over for us.

Mr. Clemens: That=s correct.

Mr. Stake: And I believe Mr. Harris would like this to go for three readings. Although, there is emergency language he would like in order for it to go into effect as soon as it=s passed. So with that being said, are there any other questions or comments from members of the Finance Committee or members of Council? (No response). None being heard, then I=ll send this forward for its first reading. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Clemens. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted AAye@). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 6 is appointment to Charter Review Commission. This was held February 5, 2007. Even as of this evening, we had some more letters coming in. I would like to announce this evening, with approval from the committee, that I would like to close out at noon time on Friday the 23rd, receipt of any additional letters of anybody would be interested in serving on the Charter Review Commission. And these are folks who review the Charter every 5 years. The public would be able to come in and make proposals or testimony to the Charter Review Commission. And then they would bring to Council any proposed changes in the Charter for Council to either accept or deny, and would be put on the ballot in November. But the deadline would be Friday, the 23rd. And that would give everybody all the letters that we have to that date, the weekend, and the following week to review those letters, ask any questions of anybody

who=s submitted those letters. And hopefully, we will have Charter Review Commission that we can recommend at the next Finance Committee meeting. Any questions or comments from members of Council? (No response). Okay. Then none being heard, then I=ll make a motion that we hold this for two weeks with the deadline being the 23rd at noon time. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Stearns. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted AAYe@). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

Item number 7 is Discussion, Council appointment to the Income Tax Board of Review. And this was held on the 5th of February also. To date, we do not have anybody who=s indicated interest in the Income Tax Board of Review. No one has submitted any letters to City Council. So we=ll keep this open, at least until the next committee meeting. And if anybody does have any interest, I believe there are not many meetings. I guess if there is a discrepancy, somebody has an issue with their taxes, then that Board of Review would convene and review that. So are there any questions or comments from members of the Finance Committee? (No response). Members of Council? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: There=s really not much to it. I think the next time we have a speaker, we ought to appoint them. Because it=s tough getting somebody.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Next yellow slip that comes in.

Mr. Clemens: That=s true. Because there=s really nothing to do.

Mr. Baxter: I sure have quite a lot of opportunities here.

Mr. Hills: I think anybody that, if I could, if some Council people know of anyone, I know of an attorney who is an accountant also. And I wouldn=t think that would be a bad combination. I may make a phone call to see if he=d have an interest. I will have to say, this is probably more of a resume builder than it is a working job. So if somebody is looking for a title that will go on a resume.

Mr. Stake: Brandon Wright.

Mr. Wright: On the Tax Review Board, do you have to be an accountant or have a financial background? (Inaudible. Speaking off mike).

Mr. Stake: No. I believe anybody could serve in that position.

Mr. Wright: Could I nominate myself?

Mr. Stake: Write on your yellow slip you=re interested and pass it in and we=ll count that as your letter. We may be voting on you at the next committee meeting. Okay. Any other questions or comments from members of Council? (No response). I=ll make a motion that we

hold this item for two weeks. 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. Thank you.

And item number 8 is an ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 14-03 PASSED MARCH 10, 2003 AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, SECTION 3.08 Transfer, Subsection A. It had its first reading February 12. Are there any questions or comments from members of the Finance Committee? I know there were some concerns or questions previously. And I don't know if people had a chance to address those. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I had a chance to have mine addressed.

Mr. Stake: To your satisfaction I hope?

Mr. Clemens: Yes.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Good. Were there any other concerns or questions from members of the Finance Committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). Okay. Very good. Then I'll make a motion that we send this forward for its second reading. 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.

Item number 9 is ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH DUBLIN MANAGEMENT GROUP LIMITED FOR HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULTING SERVICES. This had its first reading on the 12th of February also. And I do know that there was some additional information requested from some Council members, and I believe that was submitted. And again, this is a personal service contract similar to what we discussed with the IT person for a little bit different reason. But the City Attorney seems to think that this is okay. Are there any questions or comments? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yes. This was an item that was in the Mayor's budget. So the money is there.

Mr. Stake: Yes. This has been budgeted for. I believe it will come out of account number 110.582.5339. Yes, Mayor.

Mayor McPherson: The only thing I'd like to request, of course we wanted to go through the three readings. But we wanted to add an emergency at the end so that it would go into effect immediately on my signature instead of waiting 30 days. And I think we originally sent it down requesting the emergency if you look on the request.

Mr. Stake: Yes, you did. But we could do the three readings and that would give plenty of time for any public comment, or Council comment along the way?

Mayor McPherson: Right.

Mr. Stake: Anybody have a problem with that? (No response). Okay. Then I will make a motion that we send this forward for its second reading. Do I have a second? Second by Councilman Baxter. Any further discussion? (No response). All in favor, please state aye. (All voted Aye). Opposed? (No response). Motion passes.

And item number 10 is a RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE REVISED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO FOR THE YEARS 2007 THROUGH 2011. This had its first reading on February 12 also. We did receive some new information from the Mayor this week. Some revisions. Graham Road being one. Just back to the mill and fill on that. And members have received the updated sheets in your packets and you could put those in your binders accordingly. And again, this would go the three reading route with no emergency on this at all. Are there any questions or comments in regards to this item from members of the Finance Committee? (No response). Members of Council? (No response). I will make a motion that we send this forward for its second reading. 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. Mrs. Frazier.

Mrs. Frazier: I might have missed this, but on the Broad Street Waterline, did you send two pieces of legislation out of there? One for the note and one for the bond?

Mr. Stake: I thought I did.

Mrs. Frazier: We will make it apply to both then.

Mr. Stake: Well I did read, I said it was two parts.

Mrs. Frazier: Okay. So we have two pieces. Alright. Thank you.

Mr. Stake: And I will adjourn the Finance Committee at 9:23.

- - -Susie Lyday, Ass=t. Clerk of Council
(Transcribed - Susie Lyday)