

MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
January 25, 2010

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

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

The Invocation was given by Mr. Hills, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 11, 2010 were approved without objection.

President Hills: Approval of tonight's agenda. Chairman Deskins, is there an item you'd like to add to the agenda?

Mr. Deskins: Yes, President Hills. I'd like to add the Special Police Revenue Fund that we talked about in our meeting earlier.

Mr. Hills: Are there any other additions or deletions to the agenda? If not, we will add the ordinance that came out of the Special Finance Committee Meeting and we will number it as No. 10a.

That moves us to Community Comments and Requests. This is the time that we allow anyone to speak to Council on any subject that's not on the agenda, if they would like to. I don't have any speaker slips, but I would like to note that in the back left or my left, right of the Council Chambers is Troop 826. They're working on their Communications Merit Badge. There's two Scouts here for this, and we'll try to keep you entertained. Are there any other comments or anyone want to address Council on an issue not on the agenda? I don't see anybody running to the mike in a big hurry so we will move on to Communications. Mrs. Frazier, do we have any Communications?

Mrs. Frazier: None.

Mr. Hills: No Communications. Item No. 9 is Reports. I did receive a call today from Dick Harris the Auditor who wants to give a short report.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, President Hills, members of Council. Every, it seems like every year I get to come up and talk about something that's actually rather pleasant for us to talk about for an occasion. John Levitt from Mary Taylor's office, came in a week ago Friday and the City of Reynoldsburg has again been awarded from the Auditor of the State, Mary Taylor, "Making Your Tax Dollars Count" Award. This is the fourth one of these we've received from her and we also have some, one from Betty Montgomery and two going back to Jim Petro. So we've kind of gotten this thing a few times. I'll read what it says. It says "this is presented to the City of Reynoldsburg for excellence in Financial Reporting. You are a trustworthy guardian of taxpayer dollars and deserve the highest amount of recognition for your vigilance. The 2008 Comprehensive Financial Report demonstrates your commitment to careful spending, accurate fiscal recording and efficiency. You are truly a model for government entities throughout the

State of Ohio” - Mary Taylor, Auditor of State. This is an award of all the audits that the State of Ohio looks at and conducted by the State of Ohio, including things like State agencies, cities, counties, towns, villages, townships, fire districts, school districts and public libraries. Less than 5% are actually given this award, so this is actually something of some merit the city has won a number of times and I’d like to publicly thank my staff, albeit it small: Brenda Browning, who’s the Tax Administrator and who also has responsibilities within the Auditor’s Office; Joni Crawford, who is the Accounting Manager; Peggy Newland, who is the Deputy Auditor; and Sharon Michael, who’s officially listed as my Secretary, but is actually the Accounts Payable person - for all the hard work that they do during the year to make this possible, and I thank Council for their time.

Mrs. Kelly: Thank you and congratulations.

Mr. Hills: I have no other requests for reports. Does anybody want to give a report this evening? Mayor, you have anything?

Mayor McCloud: Nothing.

Mr. Hills: Therefore, we’ll move on to Legislation Requiring one Reading. Mrs. Frazier, could you read Item No. 10, please.

ORDINANCE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF SERVICES PERFORMED PRIOR TO THE AUDITOR’S CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (AT&T - Service Department)- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Deskins moved adoption. Mr. Cotner seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph “Yea”; Mr. Clemens “Yea”; Mr. Cotner “Yea”; Mr. Long “Yea”; Mr. Burd “Yea”; Mr. Deskins “Yea”; Mrs. Kelly “Yea”. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 3-2010 adopted.

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING UNENCUMBERED BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009 IN VARIOUS POLICE SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND PROVIDING THAT THE REVENUE FOR SAID FUNDS RECEIVED DURING 2010 BE ACCEPTED; AND DECLARED AN EMERGENCY - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the one required reading. Mr. Deskins moved adoption. Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph “Yea”; Mr. Clemens “Yea”; Mr. Cotner “Yea”; Mr. Long “Yea”; Mr. Burd “Yea”; Mr. Deskins “Yea”; Mrs. Kelly “Yea”. Motion passed; Ordinance No. 4-2010 adopted.

ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN APPLICATION FOR ANNEXATION OF .442+/- ACRES IN TRURO TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, STATE OF OHIO, TO THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO (John W. Wall and Elizabeth Hanna)- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item referred to Service Committee.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO: AMENDING SECTION 1187.06 “Special Provisions for AR-1, AR-2, and AR-3 Multiple Family Districts” OF CHAPTER 1187 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL USES; AND

AMENDING TABLE 1175.03 “Lot, Yard, Height Requirements for Dwellings” of CHAPTER 1175 DISTRICT REGULATIONS- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item referred to Service Committee.

Mr. Hills: I would, if I could, make a comment. We do have the minutes on that. Read those minutes closely. Apparently there was a potential amendment to that which was not addressed at the Planning Commission because I think they were concerned that they may take a higher vote total, but I guess they’re, and I don’t know if it was agreed upon, but I think the City Attorney had worked on the amendment and also Mr. Clemens; so there should be, as it goes back next week, there should be some discussion as to whether anything needs to be incorporated in. I’m just giving you a heads-up on that, but read it ahead of time if we could, but if there are nobody’s comments other than mine, this will stand as a second reading and return to Committee.

ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE “INVESTMENT POLICY - CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG” AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TREASURY INVESTMENT BOARD- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second reading. Item referred to Finance Committee.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE FOR CITY AUDITOR, HUMAN RESOURCES, AND WATER DEPARTMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second time.

Mr. Hills: Councilman Deskins, if I could, Auditor Harris has asked if he could speak for a minute on this. Would that be okay before we turn it over to you?

Mr. Deskins: That’s fine.

Mr. Hills: Auditor Harris.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, President Hills, members of Council. I just want to make a couple of points. I’d sent out a memo to Council over the weekend describing some things that had been on the Internet and had appeared in local newspapers that I wanted to clarify. Number one, this is not a system just for my department. This is a system for the entire city. My Department as you heard earlier, has four people working in it. This system right now is currently being used by fifty users. Obviously, that’s just a couple more than what works in my department. This is something for the whole city to use. First of all, 42% of the cost and use of this will be for the utilities and certainly that is part of the Administration. The HR section will allow people to get online and look at things within their, do time sheets, and look at things within their deductions such as how many they are claiming, money that’s going into different accounts, HSAs and other things. Eventually they’ll be able to get things online like their pay stubs, their W2s and those kind of things. So obviously everybody in the city at some point in time will have to have some familiarity with this system.

As to this not being competitively bid, it was bid through a process very similar to what we use for professional services. I know there’s been some talk this is \$475,000 and it was not competitively bid; however, we did the same thing the Engineering Department did with their bidding and we just recently paid over the last couple years, almost \$1,000,000 for their services on Rosehill

Road. That wasn't competitively bid through the State competitive bidding process either, but we used the same process they had.

As to other alternatives, we certainly started out considering we thought we'd just do the upgrade to CMI and the more we got involved with this and looked at the technology that they had available, it became very clear to us that we'd be spending about \$150,000 on a piece of goods that was basically ten years old at the end of its obsolescence. In fact, they've already announced since we made the decision, that they're going to upgrade their system which we, would cause us, if we got this system, within the next two or three years, we would have to do another bid, go out and do another conversion on that. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort and a lot of money to do these conversions and doing it twice is not good and \$150,000 for a band-aid is not particularly a good idea either and as far as us spending money recklessly as it's been looked at, I pulled the information today over the last ten years what all the departments in the city, who get money through the Council appropriation, how much they spent in 2000, how much they spent through 2009. So basically, we're looking at a ten-year period. The Auditor's Department spent \$324,000 in 2000, \$372,000 in 2009. That's a \$47,000 increase. All the General Fund Departments as a whole went from \$9,191,072 to \$12,983,346; \$3,792,000 and of that \$3,972,000, only ___% came from the Auditor's Department. Over that 10 year period, our percent increase is 14.65%. That's less than 1 1/2% a year in a time wages went up on an average of 3% a year and things like medical insurance went up 20, over 20% per year. Obviously, we have done a good job of controlling our finances and for those reasons, those we wanted to make sure were clear for Council and for the press as well. If there are any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

Mr. Long: President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Yes, Councilman Long.

Mr. Long: Dick, I just, I did have an opportunity to talk to a number of people from CMI over the last few days. First of all, I believe that you do need a new system. We have issues here in the building to where we have different departments all operating on their own little systems here and nobody has the ability of any transfer of any files or anything of that sort back and forth. I'm just curious, apparently the notification went out over three years ago that this date was coming, December 31st, 2010.

Mr. Harris: We got the, we, I made them promise that they would be three years. They did give us in December of 2007. That was also the time we lost Mike Turner. We had to spend six months replacing him and getting that person trained. The other thing about my department which you probably don't understand because you haven't been here very long is, the first six months of the year is almost totally devoted to doing the annual financial reports, to do the audit and to do Income Taxes. I don't really have any time to do anything other than that. After that period was over in 2007, we started a search for new computer software. The computer software search went through October 2009. It took us over a year because we didn't know anything about this. We didn't know what

kind of things were out there. Our original hope was and I thought was, we were going to just upgrade the CMI because it would be easier to do and the cost and everything of taking the data and changing it over would be the most easy to work with. Most of the people, especially in the Water Department have been there a long time and they're not particularly computer literate and they didn't really want to change anything because they've worked that system since 1982 and they know how to work it. So in order to get them involved because they're a major player in this, that was, that took a lot of time for us to do it. We actually turned this in, in the middle of last November. Former Councilman Stake did not see fit to put it on the agenda so therefore it got carried over to this year and that's why we're here at this time with what we did.

Mr. Long: Okay and I understand that part of your urgency in needing to go ahead and do this as quickly as possible is because the support contracts are going to be running out on some of the modules.

Mr. Harris: We've been told that the system itself will not be supported after the end of this year.

Mr. Long: Okay, the financing/payroll section, the support does terminate December 31st but yet the utility and the taxes will continue through....

Mr. Harris: We don't use the tax one.

Mr. Long: ...to, but I understand

Mr. Harris: Uh-huh.

Mr. Long:through your justification of what you provided to Council, is that you felt one of the most predicated factors upon this and moving quickly was the utility billing.

Mr. Harris: Well, the problem is the utilities and finance are all interconnected.

Mr. Long: Uh-huh.

Mr. Harris: So if we go away from that system, and they don't have that system, then I have to do hand transactions all the time in order to get that information over to my system. The whole idea with Mark and I deciding to do that, is we wanted to be totally integrated because we don't have the staff to go ahead every month and try to do all these.

Mr. Long: Okay. I'm curious as to why the information packet that was provided to us on Council of the three systems that it was boiled down to, why weren't we provided what the quote, unquote, bid prices were?

Mr. Harris: I'd be glad to give them to you. We've got them.

Mr. Long: Okay, that's, I've never seen it and in understanding.....

Mr. Harris: As a traditional thing, with things that have been bid, the only thing Council has gotten in the past is who the bidder was and what the bid price was.

Mr. Long: That's what's missing. That's what I was asking for.

Mr. Harris: No, just the, competitive.....

Mr. Long: (Inaudible).

Mr. Harris: any time a competitive bidding situation, any time a bidding situation is done, Council has never gotten all the bid books. All they've gotten is who the successful bidder was.

Mr. Long: Okay, all right. We do have two from New World Systems in our packet in the information we received.

Mr. Harris: Uh-huh.

Mr. Long: The initial one in September of '09 came across \$211,000 for the software licensing which came out to just about \$4,200 per user and then the last one that we got here just in January, came across at \$230,000 but yet they had bumped the total number of users to 75, dropping the price to 3, just about \$3,000.

Mr. Harris: Uh-huh.

Mr. Long: So there is wiggle room in their pricing. You don't think bringing it to public bid, that, that in and of itself could possibly in the economic environment today bring it down?

Mr. Harris: First of all, the reason they went to the lower price, was because we went from 50 to 75 users. We only have 50 users right now. If we're going to add any users, we're going to have to pay for it later on. If, to take that out to competitive bidding at this point, is going to be a process that's going to take probably four months or more because we would have to have plans and specifications done, which would be costing about \$20,000 or \$25,000. You're going to have to go out and there's going to have to be legal advertising done. There's going to have to be meetings set up for these people to come in and get these. You're going to have to go through a process. We're going to have to hire somebody to do that and then decide as part of their contract, what, who the successful bidder is. Not to mention the fact that, we're talking a lot of time on all this, I, this, if we started in the way I had it planned, by the end of February, we won't be done and ready to turn this on

'til probably August and then we're going to have to run concurrently for awhile to make sure everything works. You take four months out of that, if there's any kind of problem, I don't have any way to do business.

Mr. Long: I had a conversation with Tracy Rossi who is with New World today.

Mr. Harris: Uh-huh.

Mr. Long:and he felt that his bid department could have a bid spec together for you in two weeks.

Mr. Harris: Well, let me ask you this question. If they, if they're, you're going to let a manufacturer write the specifications, do you think that they can't write it, that they're not the only one can satisfy that bid?

Mr. Long: I believe.....

Mr. Harris: I did it for years with the paint company.

Mr. Long: That's what was provided to me when I asked for the additional backup.

Mr. Harris: Uh-huh.

Mr. Long: So, you would not be qualified to write this?

Mr. Harris: Absolutely not.

Mr. Long: Then you're not qualified to write this that I'm supposed to approve \$470,000 on?

Mr. Harris: If you don't want to vote for it, don't vote for it.

Mr. Long: Okay. I have no more questions, President Hills.

Mr. Hills: Councilman Deskins, I'll turn the ordinance over to you Sir.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you.

Mr. Harris: Thank you.

Mr. Deskins: I'll make a recommendation that we send this forward for approval as an emergency.

Mr. Hills: Councilman Deskins moves for approval; seconded by Mr. Clemens. Questions or comments?

Mrs. Frazier: I have one question.

Mr. Hills: Yes, Mrs. Frazier.

Mrs. Frazier: Mr. Harris, what's the header on this sheet you passed out? I don't see...the percentage of increase and the dollar increase, what was that for? I missed that part.

Mr. Harris: That's the actual money spent by departments between 2000 and 2009.

Mrs. Frazier: For what? I mean.....

Mr. Harris: Budget, through the budget process.

Mrs. Frazier: For computers?

Mr. Harris: No. The total, the total department, how much they spent. When you do the budget every year and they appropriate money, it goes through personnel services, it goes through services, it goes through things that they buy, everything that's in the operating budget. This is the money for the operating budget.

Mrs. Frazier: I was just having trouble putting that somewhere. Thank you.

Mr. Hills: Are we clear on that? So we do, we do have a motion, we do have a second. Motion to adopt as an emergency is seconded. Any other questions besides Mrs. Frazier's? If not, would you please call the roll.

With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Abstain"; Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 5-2010 adopted.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$475,000, FOR THE PAYING THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING AND INSTALLING COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- -Clerk read ordinance by title for the second time. **Mr. Deskins moved adoption. Mrs. Kelly seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Abstain"; Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 6-2010 adopted.**

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TRURO TOWNSHIP FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT 6305 EAST LIVINGSTON AVENUE- - --Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mrs. Kelly moved adoption. Mr. Joseph seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea"; Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 7-2010 adopted.

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE REIMBURSEMENT BY WATER AND SEWER FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 22-04 **AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**- - -Clerk read ordinance by title for the third reading. Mr. Deskins moved to amend the ordinance to the redraft date of 1-21-2010. Mr. Burd seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea"; Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea". Motion passed; ordinance amended. Mr. Deskins moved adoption. Mr. Cotner seconded. With the roll called, members voted: Mr. Joseph "Yea"; Mr. Clemens "Yea"; Mr. Cotner "Yea"; Mr. Long "Yea"; Mr. Burd "Yea"; Mr. Deskins "Yea"; Mrs. Kelly "Yea". Motion passed; Ordinance No. 8-2010 adopted.

Mr. Hills said one of the scouts present had a question. Yes, Sir.

Eric ____: I just want to know where is 6305 Livingston Avenue?

Mr. Hills: That is behind the new Fire Station on Livingston Avenue and there'll be plotting starting there in the Spring and it's a joint venture between the Fire Department, Parks and Rec in the City to have a Community Garden. I am correct in that Mayor? I didn't mean to.....

Mayor McCloud: Absolutely, yes that's it.

Eric ____: All right, thank you.

Mr. Hills: You're very welcome. With no other business to come before Council, we'll adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

William L. Hills, President of Council

Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council