

**Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**January 11, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Members:** Ben Kessler, Chair, Richard Sharp, Rick Weber

**Roll Call:** All members present.

**Others Present:** Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Bruce Langner, Mark Masser, President McClelland, Jed Morison, Mike Price, Chief Rinehart, Kathy Rose, and Gary Qualmann.

**Review of Minutes:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 December 15, 2010- **Approved with changes.**

**Presentation and/or Special Guests:** None.

**Ordinances and Resolutions:**

**Third Readings.**

**Ordinance 50-10** to appropriate \$5,500 from the Mayor's Court Computer fund to pay for Mayor's Court software support for 2011, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on December 7, 2010).

Mr. Harvey explained this is not a request for additional monies. Mr. Hale said it is simply a transfer from accounts to make a payment. Mr. Kessler made a motion to adopt, motion seconded – **Vote 6-0 PASSED**

Mr. Kessler confirmed this is the same software the police use. Chief Rinehart said they have a meeting scheduled with the vendor because the police department is still having some issues with the software and need to get the "bugs" worked out. Mr. Harvey said it is the same software but is a different system.

**Second Readings.**

None.

**First Readings.**

None.

**New Business:** Mr. Kessler distributed the 2011 Goals and Timelines to the members. It included the revenue and expense review; 2012 budget including health insurance

options; FOP Contract negotiations; Columbus Fire Contract. These subjects were broken down by month for a proposed timeline.

Discussion was held concerning the proposed House Bill 3 which would eliminate the City of Bexley's revenue from estate taxes. Mr. Qualmann suggested contributions to the health insurance might need to be reviewed earlier than planned if this bill passes. Mr. Weber asked if there could be audit of the health insurance plan. Mr. Qualmann said he could do that and it would not be a significant cost. Mr. Sharp inquired about the addition of dependents under age 24 and how it would affect our current plan. Mr. Hale said it is a little vague as to what is actually defined as a "dependant".

Mr. Morison said we may have to consider a smaller work force if we don't examine the budget closely and make reductions ourselves. Mr. Weber said it would be beneficial to explore other options early rather than later. Mr. Masser said they may need to go to the residents for an increase in taxes. He said the schools receive 70% and the City only receives 10%. He said the residents need to be made aware of this prior to any increases being placed on the ballot. President McClelland reminded the members that they will have to do the best they can with what little the City receives. Mr. Masser said it will take long hours of conversation to help with this issue if House Bill 3 is approved. Mr. Kessler said they need to start discussing these topics as early as possible.

**Remarks from the Audience:** Mr. Jacob Garret inquired as to how House Bill 3 will affect the City if passed? Mr. Kessler explained the proposal to eliminate the estate tax and how the loss of it would be devastating to the City.

President McClelland distributed articles regarding the proposed House Bill. Mr. Morison said Council will have to look at alternatives and look at what they can really do.

**Old Business:** Mr. Harvey said Al Mathes had retired and there will be pay Ordinance to promote Andy Bashore to receive the same pay. Mr. Harvey will prepare the Ordinance. He explained there are three supervisory level people now; Andy Bashore has the responsibility of all three positions reporting to him.

**Executive Session:** Pursuant to 223.03(b) for the purchase of real estate.

**Adjourned**