

Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting

MINUTES

January 25, 2011

6:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: All present.

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

Review of Minutes: January 11th, 2011 - **Approved**

Presentation and/or Special Guests: None.

Ordinances & Resolutions –

Third Readings.

None.

Second Readings.

None.

First Readings.

Ordinance 01-11 to increase the salary for the Service Superintendent position to \$70,200 per annum beginning January 1, 2011, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on January 25, 2011). **No Action**

Mr. Kessler said he would like to wait and discuss this Ordinance when Mr. Harvey is present.

Resolution 01-11 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county Auditor, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on January 25, 2011). **No Action**

Mr. Qualmann stated this Resolution now includes the levy revenues. Mr. Hale said they had passed one previously for the older amount but this is the updated figures since the passage of the levy.

Resolution 03-11 requesting the Auditor of Franklin County, Ohio, to make advance payment to the City of Bexley of monies held for its account in the County Treasurer, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on January 25, 2011) **No Action**

New Business: Discussion of Proposed House Bill No. 3

Mr. Kessler said as an update to the proposed House Bill No. 3, he did meet with Nancy Garland. He said he and Mayor Brennan will be meeting with Senator Kevin Bacon on January 26th at 2:45 p.m. at the State House. Any Council member who is available is also welcome to attend. Senator Bacon's office is located on the first floor on the right in the State House. Upper Arlington, Shaker Heights and other comparable communities are forming a consortium. They will be hiring a public relations firm and sharing resources. He would like to encourage all Council members to write to all representatives.

Mr. Masser asked what the potential time line is on House Bill No. 3. Mayor Brennan said in approximately three weeks (February 17th) it will be presented and it is expected to go through the House quickly. It will then go on to the Senate level where our chances probably better. Mr. Morison said this bill would be a huge reduction and with the large deficit the State currently has, it could be a concern for them. The deadline for the Governor to present his budget is March 15th. Mr. Kessler said by March, it may already be through the House even though all members are not in favor. Mr. Morison said the amount equates to approximately \$300,000 million so it would be \$40 or \$50 million that the State would not be collecting. He said because it is such a significant amount, it affects a lot of cities. His suggestion is to start considering what we could do to replace those funds in the event of passage.

President McClelland there is particular cities such as Powell, Grandview, Shaker Heights, and Oakwood that would be considered the first ring of communities. Mr. Morison said it was excellent to hear that Mr. Kessler and Mayor Brennan already have a scheduled meeting with Senator Bacon. Mr. Kessler said individual letters to all of the representatives would be more favorable than one group letter signed by Council. Mayor Brennan said the cost of having a lobbyist or firm to help represent us would be approximately \$1,000.00.

President McClelland said there are also townships involved in this process as well. Mayor Brennan said this will not impact New Albany as much because it would equate to \$7,600 less in funds and they have a very young community. Mr. Morison said he is hopeful they will keep ideas open for the potential amendments and possibly reach a compromise. Mr. Sharp said if you can't provide other options then hopefully there will at least be a delay in passage. Mr. Kessler said it is tied to the estate court for months anyway so it would have to be a phase in process. President McClelland said estates from 2011 and it would be retroactive to 2009. Mr. Morison said an example would be a personal tangible tax of a fixed amount of 1/7 per year starting in July. In favor of compromise because he can see where families with farms for years are forced to sell the farm. Mayor Brennan said he commends President McClelland's analysis. It will force smaller communities to raise the tax for residents and it will affect the quality of life.

Discussion of Health Insurance Dependant Audit by Mr. Qualmann and Mr. Hale.

Mr. Qualmann said he checked into the possible audit for the health insurance coverage for dependants. He said the cost would be approximately \$2,800.00 because we have 70 employees @ \$40.00 per person. McGohan and Brabender would be handling the audit. They would determine what would be required for proof of eligibility. Council members asked to see the proposal and confirmed they would receive a copy of the overall findings. Mr. Qualmann said he would provide them with copies of the proposal.

Old Business: None

Executive Session: Motion was made to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Section 223.03(a) to discuss employee compensation packages and additional injury leave. Motion was seconded.

Adjourned 7:00