Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting
MINUTES
February 8, 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, Bill Harvey, Bruce Langner, Mark Masser, President McClelland, Jed Morison, Mike Price, Chief Rinehart and Gary Qualmann.

Review of Minutes: January 25th, 2011- **Approved**

Presentation and/or Special Guests: None.

Ordinances & Resolutions –

Third Readings.
None.

Second 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).

Mr. Harvey explained the salary has already been approved. The funds are in the budget, he just wanted to make it clear the new person in this position will be making the same amount as the person previously in the position. This pay will also be retro-active to January 1, 2011.

Mr. Hale explained the procedure is set up for the Administration to replace anyone at level 6 or below. This salary is a level 7, so it requires Council's approval. Mr. Harvey explained that he has eliminated two positions (approximately total savings of $150,000). The key is the reduction of supervisors from a total of 4 down to 2. Mr. Weber asked how many people this person supervises. Mr. Harvey said in all "technically" 17 or 18 individuals.

Mr. Sharp suggested that since the salary itself had already been approved, perhaps the language should be amended to read "to affirm" versus "to increase". Mr. Chodosh agreed.

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve as amended. Mr. Sharp seconded the motion.

The vote was 3-0 to recommend for passage to City Council.

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).

Mr. Kessler said this is a formality due to the change after the levy passed. Mr. Kessler said he was in favor of recommending to Council for passage. Vote was **3-0 – Approved**

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).

Mr. Kessler said he was in favor of recommending this Resolution to Council for passage. **Vote was 3-0 Approved.**

First Readings.

Ordinance 04-11 to appropriate $645,266 from the ARRA Project Fund for the purpose of recording expenses of the ARRA Project for 2011, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on February 8, 2011)

Mr. Hale said the project was not completed and there were expenditures to be carried over. He said this is regarding the stimulus funds for the handicap work on the street lights and sidewalks.
Vote was 3-0 to recommend to Council for passage.

Ordinance 05-11 to certify special assessments for the various sites where the work was not done by the owner after being ordered by the City in accordance with Bexley Code Section 1490.15(b) (4) or Bexley Code Section 1492.04(b) (1), and it was necessary for the City to do the work and assess the owner, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on February 8, 2011)

Mr. Sharp asked if it would be possible to speed up the process that it appears to be taking to collect these funds from the residents. Based on the dates, we should be getting these processed in a timelier manner.
Vote was 3-0 to recommend to Council for passage.

New Business: Discussion of House Bill No. 3 – Mr. Kessler said the vote on the House Bill No. 3 has been postponed until the budget is decided. He and the Mayor met with Senator Bacon last week. The budget is due March 15th although it may be completed earlier. Mr. Morison said the stand alone price of administrative costs may be folded into the budget. It would then go to the Senate and be considered together. The impact is 50 mil for the State but locally is 250 mil. Mr. Sharp asked if being "folded" together, makes it easier to pass. He said it would seem as if it were a separate issue, it would get more attention. Mr. Kessler said critics are trying to fold it in to show its impact. Mr. Sharp said if the State tax revenue increases they could pass the House Bill #3 and cut

other items. Mr. Morison said the budget must be approved by July 1st which is supposed to be a balanced budget. After that step is complete, they decide when to implement the cuts. There is discussion also about pension/retirement benefits as well. President McClelland asked if extensions may occur since they are submitting an approved budget. Mr. Morison answered no; it is not a normal event. Mr. Kessler said they will know everything they need to know by July 1st. The context for 2011 (even prior to House Bill #3) is to spend the first quarter of the year taking a look at what is the best for the City. Should we look at a ballot initiative?

President McClelland said we need to continue talks regarding cuts and budgets but not ignore House Bill #3. He said the City has a two tier revenue need. Mr. Morison said it would be more beneficial mid-year. The local government fund will have a better picture and we have until August 10th to get something on the ballot. Mr. Kessler agreed but wants to make sure we have adequate opportunity. Mr. Morison said there will be an early primary in 2012 and we need to be conscience of that as well regarding timing.

Mr. Qualmann said looking over the next year or two with the reduced debt services and magnitude of 2 mil deficit in operating - it is not a matter if we need to go to the ballot but rather, how much we need.

Mr. Kessler said the expense cuts in the Bexley budget we had originally hoped for of 10% were not palpable options. President McClelland thinks a theoretical budget would be a good idea, it might become a reality. Mr. Kessler said it is important to understand where we will be going from here.

Mr. Sharp said the random checks on rental property versus the tax records of income are needed on residential property. The City of Whitehall requires the landowners to advise who the renters are and their information. Mr. Hale said the utility hook-ups are sent to R.I.T.A. so we do have access to this information.

Mr. Kessler said in regards to a balanced budget, Mayor Brennan stated the staffing is down 3 to 5 people. There is not much "fat" in the budget to cut. Mr. Masser said Council members need to remember the projections are decreasing. We have to do something.

Adjourned 6:55 p.m.