

**Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**April 26th, 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:** April 6th, 2011 - **Approved**

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

Mr. Kessler said he would like to go straight to the new business section.

**Ordinances & Resolutions –  
Third Readings.**  
None.

**Second Readings.**

**Ordinance 09-11** to appropriate \$5,000 from the Main Street Public Improvement Tax Increment Equivalent (TIF) Fund for the purpose of paying Property Tax collection fees for 2011, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on April 12, 2011) **No Action**

**Ordinance 10-11** to appropriate \$7,525.41 from the unencumbered General Fund for the purpose of sharing payroll tax revenue from 2010, derived from the Bexley Gateway project, with the Bexley City School District in accordance with Section 5709.82 of the Ohio Revised Code, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on April 12, 2011) **No Action**

**Ordinance 11-11** to appropriate \$1,712.00 from the General Fund for the purpose of paying for the City's usage of the Franklin County Municipal Court, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on April 12, 2011) **No Action**

**First Readings.**

**Ordinance 15-11** an Ordinance to amend the Main Street Re/Development Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with Bexley Gateway Plaza Ltd. to reduce the payroll commitment for the project from \$2,215,200 to \$1,200,000, introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced on April 26, 2011) **No Action**

**New Business:**

Mr. Kessler distributed an updated "Proposed Revenue and Expense Review Timeline" to Council members. He discussed the budget shortfalls and said he has received some vague revenue suggestions. He said after further evaluation, it does not seem possible to cut the city budget without it having an impact on city services to the residents. The city is run on a very bare, boned budget already. He said the Bexley budget is much less than similar areas such as Grandview, Upper Arlington and Dublin. These areas have double the budget in their general funds, based on per capita, then Bexley.

Mr. Kessler said the city has a reduced payroll tax base because most residents work outside the city. The majority of funds received from the residents are paid to the school system, not the city, yet residents like the services the city provides. He proposed to hold a public meeting to discuss possible tax increases or cuts from where we are today. These cuts would result in less recreation programs, less snow plowing, etc.

The public meeting will be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss finances of the city. We will try to hold the meeting at the public library in Bexley but will confirm the location once it has been arranged. Mr. Kessler said the June 7<sup>th</sup>; Special Council meeting will still be scheduled in the event they need further discussion on the budget issues. President McClelland suggested preparing the language ahead of time and using blanks for the exact amounts to be prepared in the event they decide to take this issue to the ballot. Mr. Masser said we need to have the information available to provide to the residents prior to the meeting. Mr. Kessler said he will prepare a Power Point presentation to post online for the residents to review. Mr. Masser agreed that would be very helpful. The residents will need to discuss the facts prior to coming to the meeting. Mayor Brennan said the 8<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> will have to be the drop end date. Mr. Morison said the County Auditor has to certify any amounts that may be proposed on the ballot, if that is the avenue we decide to take.

Council decided to cancel the May 17<sup>th</sup> public meeting with the School Board members to discuss school safety. Mayor Brennan felt it would be more beneficial to hold the meeting after the Piada has been opened for business. Mr. Masser said he agreed the budget currently takes priority over the other issues and he will cancel the meeting until a later date.

Mr. Masser said the public seems to think we have already made a decision on increasing taxes. He has received several phone calls regarding this issue and has emphasized to them that Council is still considering all avenues. Mr. Kessler said he has also received phone calls from concerned residents. He said a lot of misinformation is distributed to the residents. Most residents think the city is receiving more funding than we actually do receive. President McClelland thinks the public meeting will be a good opportunity to further educate the residents on the facts.

Mr. Qualmann reminded Council of the substantial amount of conversations that have taken place concerning the budget. He said without a tax increase, draconian cuts will likely be taking place. He is in favor of a tax increase being placed on the ballot.

Mr. Masser said there are different levels or "hybrids" between now and an eventual tax increase. Mr. Kessler said the concept of "hybrid" cuts would include the vast majority of personnel.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Kessler made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel issues based on Section 223.03(a). Motion was seconded by Mr. Sharp. Roll call was taken by Council members.

**Old Business:** None

**Adjourned 7:00 p.m.**