

**Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**May 10th, 2011**

**6:00 p.m.**

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

**Roll Call:** Chair Ben Kessler and Rick Weber.

**Others Present:** Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Bruce Langner, Mark Masser, President McClelland, Jed Morison and Chief Rinehart.

**Review of Minutes:** April 26th, 2011- **Approved**

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

Mr. Kessler said he would like to schedule a special meeting for Council on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to finalize budget discussions. The meeting for June 7<sup>th</sup> for a Special Council meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be to follow up on Charter Review issues.

**Ordinances & Resolutions –  
Third 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)

**Approved for recommendation to Council for passage – Vote 2-0**

**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) **\*Previously approved.**

**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)

Mr. Kessler said during the last discussion of this Ordinance, the question regarding funds collected arose. Mr. Chodosh said he did check and the City of Bexley does not receive any of the funds collected or fined in Franklin County.

**Approved for recommendation to Council. Vote 2-0**

## **Second 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)

Mr. Langner said the Tax Incentive Review Committee (TIRC) recommended reducing the payroll commitment versus sending them a fine for not meeting the payroll goals. The top two floors are empty and Hummel Title's payroll is not applied toward Gateway's goal. Hummel Title is considered "retention" since they moved from another office space within Bexley. The amount of space they have available toward this goal is restricted to the first floor retail.

Mr. Kessler asked if the benchmarks were originally set too high and who is on the committee from Bexley. Mr. Langner said he, Gary Qualmann and Dr. Johnson were in attendance. Mr. Kessler asked if anyone objected to the reduction amount. Mr. Langner said there were no objections and it was suggested by a member of the TIRC.

President McClelland asked what alternative was available if they did not approve the reduction amount. Mr. Langner said it would result in a reduction percentage of the tax abatement or the total elimination of the abatement. Mr. Langner stated the next TIRC meeting will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **First Readings.**

**Ordinance 17-11** to amend the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bexley, Ohio, by adding Chapter 223.06 to the Administrative Code, creating an Electronic Records Policy, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on May 10, 2011)

Mr. Kessler said he proposed this Ordinance in response to somewhat "spotty record keeping" for minutes of Committees and Commissions on the web site. He thinks it would be helpful for the administration to have a code for guidelines. He said the Mayor could appointment someone to be the point person who would then be responsible for ensuring the agendas and minutes will be posted on the web site within a reasonable time. He added we are currently doing this for City Council, but there is concern with the other commissions. He said the Tree Committee, as an example, does not have any minutes posted on the web site. He said the wording was deliberately left vague. The language reads, "within a reasonable time frame". Mr. Weber asked Mr. Kessler about the status of the Technology Commission. Mr. Kessler said the Commission needs five (5) voting members and they are still looking for individuals who are willing to commit.

**Ordinance 18-11** to transfer \$5,000 from the General Fund account to the Mansion Structural Repairs account (01-540-51331) and to declare an emergency, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on May 10, 2011)

Mr. Price said an area on the retaining wall at the Mansion (outside of the maintenance garage) was in need of repair. He said it was a safety issue with the cement block wall and the service department did not feel comfortable handling the repairs. He said he received an estimate for \$5,000 and then received one for \$2,500. Mr. Price said the area is currently taped and blocked off in an attempt to keep children away from the area. The length of the repair is approximately 20 feet and curves up the wall. Mr. Price said he has asked for two more bids, but will be able to enter into a contract once the funding is approved. Mr. Kessler said he would feel more comfortable with an appropriation of \$3,000 versus \$5,000.00.

Mr. Masser said he had concerns about asking for "new" money. He recommended the funds to be taken from another already appropriated account. It was decided to take the funding from the Service Department account with the assurance if the Service Department needs the funds, they will authorize them. After the discussion, it was decided there was no need to introduce the Ordinance.

**New Business:** Power Point Presentation by Chair, Ben Kessler. Mr. Kessler presented the information he will use for the public meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the budget. He distributed hard copies of the power point. The presentation showed the income increasing for the City with the exception of the past two years. The operating expenses are above and beyond the income received. He showed a graph which demonstrated where the residents' tax dollars are distributed. He said 75 – 95% of Bexley residents work outside of the city. He also showed a breakdown of scenarios that may take place in order to budget the deficit. These scenarios included, i.e. possible reductions in the number of employees; elimination of some employee benefits; possible reduction in pay; a possible freeze on pay increases for a three year time period.

Everyone agreed Mr. Kessler did a wonderful job on the presentation. Mr. Kessler asked for suggestions. Mr. Morison requested an additional scenario be presented which would represent no employee cuts with the same level of service being offered. Mr. Morison said the state budget has a section with a 50 mil incentive for shared services. He said the city needs to look into that possibility and take advantage of the opportunity. Mr. Harvey said the city is currently looking into that possibility and we could receive some type of credit. Mr. Weber suggested a slide to show the relevant impact on what needs to be reduced. Perhaps more detail as far as the percentage of cuts in administration, show what actual services will be cut. Mr. Morison said perhaps an alternative slide to show the perspective from the property tax point. Mr. Masser suggested a slide to show the historical basis of when we asked for an increase for actual "new" money in 1996.

Mr. Kessler said he tried to keep the presentation "generic" without it having too many specifics since it does pertain to personnel issues. President McClelland said we need to

emphasize to the residents that we are not trying to promote or sell anything. We are simply providing information and asking for some feedback at this meeting. Mr. Masser said he thinks it will be good to have residents review this information and hopefully get some good revenue ideas as well. He thanked Mr. Kessler and said he did a good job on the presentation. President McClelland said he will be working with Mr. Kessler to finalize the program.

**Old Business:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President McClelland made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 223.03 (b). Mr. Weber seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn into executive session.

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