

Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting

MINUTES

October 25th, 2011

5:30 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, Matt Lampke, Bruce Langner, Mark Masser, President McClelland, Jed Morison, Mike Price, Chief Rinehart, Kathy Rose and Gary Qualmann.

President McClelland said they all wanted to welcome back Major Lampke.

Review of Minutes: October 11th, 2011- **Approved with changes.**

Presentation and/or Special Guests: None

Ordinances & Resolutions –

Third Readings.

Ordinance 37-11 to revise the Codified Ordinances by adopting current replacement pages and declaring an emergency, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on September 27, 2011)

Committee is in favor – vote 3-0.

Ordinance 39-11 to appropriate \$20,000.00 from the Tax Increment Financing Fund (36-170-51320) for the purpose of paying for MSI Design to develop the Main Street Guidelines, Part II, which includes a plan for spending TIF funds in the Main Street District, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on September 27, 2011)

Mr. Kessler said there was a meeting and MSI is moving forward with this and will be paid for out of the TIF funds. Mr. Kessler said the plan includes safer crosswalks, use of brick, signage, trash cans, bike racks. He said they will be looking to set a unified standard for these items. An example of the need to have this established would be the different tree guards for each area. Mr. Kessler said this will reduce the 2011 budget expense and thereby reducing appropriations by using TIF Funds. Mr. Hale said they probably could create a TIF department budget work sheet. Mr. Sharp confirmed these expenses are not from the debt fund as far as accounting. He said that could possibly artificially inflate the budget so accounting will need a process to clarify the account.

Mr. Kessler as an example, we could purchase a flashing light for the school on Main Street. Mr. Harvey wanted to make sure every realized that once we spend the TIF funds, it becomes a City expense to maintain – not TIF funds.

Mr. Weber asked about the improvements made by One Dawson and Gateway to their fronts. He asked if the City had to maintain those additions. Mr. Harvey answered yes. Mr. Sharp said One Dawson and Gateway both have added improvements to the front. We may have to keep those up as well.

Committee is in favor – vote 3-0.

Resolution 19-11 to adopt the Mayor's Proposal for Expense Reductions, introduced by Mr. Kessler, (Introduced on September 27, 2011)

Committee is in favor, vote 3-0.

Second Readings.

None

First Readings.

Ordinance 45-11 to appropriate \$1,500 from the unencumbered General Fund for the purpose of utilizing donated funds for Parks and Forestry and other purposes as determined by the Mayor from time to time, Introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced October 25, 2011).

Resolution 22-11 authorizing the Mayor to file an application for Community Development Block Grant funding with the Franklin County Commissioners on behalf of the Friends of the Drexel, Inc. so that the Drexel Theatre may undertake renovations to the building which will cure code violations and remove spot blight in downtown Bexley, Introduced by Mr. Kessler (Introduced October 24, 2011).

Richard Stauff, 2374 Bexley Park – Mr. Stauff wanted to take the opportunity on behalf of the Chairman of "Friends of Bexley" to talk about this application. This will be an application for a \$275,000 grant. He said the members have authorized the City to submit on our behalf. It will be used for capital improvements. We have a very dedicated Board and with this grant and CAPA's assistance, it would allow renovation and restoration to the Drexel Theater. He said the original structure opened on Christmas Day, 1937. If we

receive this grant, it would be used for the purchase of new carpet, new seating, restrooms, and HVAC system, new electrical and structure changes. In addition, we would work on the marquee; upgrade the sound system and projector screens. He said this work will have to be done one step at a time. Mr. Stauff said they will also be working on each project individually. He said they also have plans to place some art deco jewelry for purchase in the theater.

He also wanted to thank HUD and Council's support for the Drexel and is hoping with the changes, it will remain a premier theater for the community.

President McClelland asked if there would be competition for this grant. Mr. Langner said yes it is a very competitive grant. Mr. Langner said the application must be filed now and the funds would be received in 2012. He is hoping the funds will be received by the first quarter and the work to begin as early as April or May.

Mr. Morison said the work the Friends of Drexel has done is certainly from excellent leadership. Mr. Langner said he needs to have this Ordinance suspended and adopted this evening. Mr. Chodosh said this Ordinance needs to be read as an emergency. He is certainly in favor of suspending and adopting this evening. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

Mr. Kessler said since they had some extra time this evening he would like to continue to discuss any other issues.

Mr. Harvey said the private donated funds which paid for Mr. Moore's trip was approximately \$750.00 in expenses. It leaves a balance of approximately \$750.00. Mr. Hale said this would be listed as a line item for the Mayor's office. Mr. Kessler asked what the \$750.00 would be appropriate for what purpose. Mr. Hale said the Mayor would be able to use the funds for special circumstances. There was extensive discussion regarding the appropriation of the remaining balance. Mr. Masser said he is just very happy that someone donated the funds. Mr. Hale said he would take care of the appropriations and find the proper line item. **Committee was in favor.**

Mr. Qualmann distributed the financial report for the General Fund as of September 2011 which reflects the budget versus actual amounts. President McClelland asked if Franklin County was holding any funds that we are aware of as far as future distributions for the rest of this year. Mr. Hale said he has been checking and unfortunately, there are none.

Mr. Qualmann said after you review this report, you will see why it is so imperative that Issue 24 pass. The expenditures continue to exceed the revenue and we are desperate for Issue 24 to pass. Mr. Qualmann said the State Auditors liked the fact that the General Fund information is distributed to City

Council members on a monthly basis. They did add that they would also like us to start including the non-general funds as well. We did that on this report, so please let us know if you have any questions. We will be issuing this report each month. Mr. Hale said in the far right hand column, it should always be a positive. Mr. Kessler thanked Mr. Qualmann for his information. Mr. Morison suggested that perhaps the non-general funds could be included in the report on a quarterly basis versus a monthly basis.

Old Business: None

Mr. Kessler made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Motion was seconded by Mr. Weber. Motion was to go into Executive Session pursuant to 223.03(a). Roll call of members – 6:50 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:00 p.m.