

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 15, 2009

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry, at approximately 6:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Larry Corbin Maria Klemack Ted Berry Mike Uhrin Greg Grinch

The Chair recognized Mr. Uhrin, Chairman of Finance.

1. Mr. Uhrin commented that he has had discussions with the City Administrator and Finance Director about the City's finances and this budget. This meeting will give Council the opportunity to obtain additional clarification.

2. Mayor Stage commented that this Budget is a little different in that Employee salaries are "End to End" and includes the rate of pay, benefits a retirement. He explained that we are currently in Contract negotiations with the Police. He said they will not introduce an appropriation until the Contract is finalized, plus it does not give any indication as to where we are on salaries. He noted that this is Mr. Turner's second Budget with the City. He mentioned that our revenues are not where our ratios are normally but, we have reserves that are in excess of our target reserves to operate the City.

Mr. Uhrin asked about the difference in revenues from 2009 to 2010. Mr. Honsey said that surprisingly in this economy, we have stayed good on the payroll tax. However, most of the decrease or flattening in revenues is caused by the corporate income tax. It isn't surprising with what is happening in the global economy. He said he is pleased with how well we did do. Mr. Uhrin asked if the \$4 million deficit is for capital outlays. Mr. Honsey said yes and showed a list of the approved Capitol Projects this past year. Mayor Stage commented that if this were personnel costs we would be in trouble. However, these are one time shots that we can control. Mr. Turner noted that with respect to the I-71/665 project, we have the option in the future to borrow that money and reimburse our General Fund if we see the need.

3. Council and Administration reviewed Detailed Expenditures for the various Departments under the General Fund. The City Administrator, Finance Director and other Department Directors answered questions from Council.

Under General Government, Mr. Honsey explained the Worker's Compensation costs. Mr. Berry questioned the Christmas Luncheon line item. Mr. Turner said he added, as there needed to be an appropriation from the legislative authority to pay for it. He said he thinks the potluck works but the other side has some good arguments so he included it.

Mr. Berry moved to remove this item under 310 in General Government; seconded by Mr. Uhrin.

Mr. Corbin	No
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Grinch	No

Editor's NOTE: Mayor Stage left at 7:05 pm.

Mr. Berry questioned the amount for Strategic Consulting. He asked what this was used for this year and what they anticipate using it for next year. Mr. Tuner said he would get this information to him.

Since Capital Improvements shows in the General Government Fund, Council moved to page 49 to review these items. Mr. Berry questioned the amount for the Lumberyard. Mr. Honsey said it is more of a place marker.

Mr. Berry moved to remove 13-03 from the Capital Improvements and in General Government; seconded by Ms. Klemack-McGraw.

Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Grinch	No
Mr. Corbin	No

Under Development, Mr. Uhrin asked about the addition of a new employee. Mr. Chuck Boso explained that in the last two years we have had an internship with OSU. They would like to remove that internship and hire a full-time employee that has GIS abilities. The difference would be \$5,700.00 in our favor, and this person would bring skills that we currently outsource and provide an enhanced, more timely resource to the City. Mr. Berry commented in this economy, he believes we really need to justify this. Mr. Honsey said in Maintenance costs from EMH&T, we would save \$35,000.00. Mr. Hurley noted that the \$50,000.00 in his budget for GIS maintenance could also be reduced.

Mr. Berry moved to reduce the GIS Maintenance amount in the Information Systems Budget to \$15,000.00; seconded by Mr. Corbin.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Uhrin	Yes
Mr. Grinch	Yes
Mr. Corbin	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

Under the Street Dept., Mr. Uhrin asked about the Service Superintendent position. Mr. Honsey said this was added into the Code last year and if this position is filled, the person would not come on board until halfway through the year. Mr. Uhrin said this Fund is self-sufficient from tax dollars. Mr. Berry asked about the increase in Temporary salaries. Mr. Honsey said this comes from growth in the community and the special events we put on. It assists in keeping down full-time staff. Mr. Berry commented that it appears we need more workers and not another supervisor. While we won't put this up for a vote, he is opposed to filling the Supervisor position.

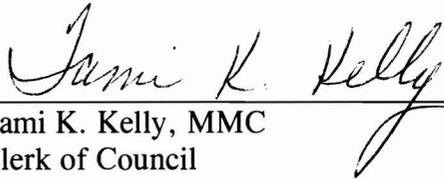
Under Community Improvements, Mr. Berry asked if the list of events is what Council is funding or if the money can be moved around. Mr. Turner said Council funds to a level higher than by each line item, so the money can be used for a different community event, but never beyond the amount appropriated. He said Council receives a monthly report that shows exactly what the

funds are being used for and track it against the overall budget. The list is pretty accurate and while they may be able to move the amounts around, they wouldn't spend in a way to jeopardize the trust of Council for future budgets.

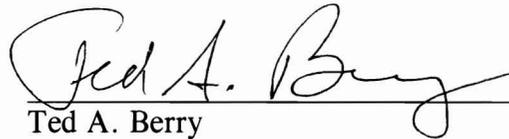
Mr. Berry asked how much the insurance costs are increasing. Mr. Honsey said 17% and 10% will be passed on to the employees. Mr. Berry asked how long it has been since the Department Heads have received a raise. Mr. Honsey said he didn't know, not being an employee then. It was thought that the last two years haven't been realized and this would be the third year in a row. He asked how much it would cost to include a 2% increase for those few employees. Mr. Turner said about \$14,000.00. Mr. Berry asked if the Administration would agree to a 2 - 3% increase for those employees that haven't received anything in the past few years, also given that their insurance is going up. Mr. Honsey said he will take that back to the Mayor and discuss it with him. Mr. Berry said that with all contract and non-exempt employees receiving an increase, he believes consideration needs to be given to this.

4. There being no additional questions or comments, President Berry adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President