

MINUTES
WORK SESSION
WESTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL

October 24, 2006, immediately following Regular Meeting, City Council Chambers

Council met in Work Session on October 24, 2006 with Council Members, Anne Gonzales, Craig Treneff, Damon Wetterauer, Jr., Kathy Cocuzzi, Michael Heyeck, Diane Fosselman, City Manager G. David Lindimore and Staff and Director of Law Bruce E. Bailey present. William Highfield was excused.

2007 – 2011 BUDGET HEARING

Fire Division

Jack Winkel, Finance Director, reviewed the Fire Levy and the Fire Operating Special Revenue Fund Overview with City Council. Mr. Lindimore stated it was highly likely the city will be able to extend the Fire Levy through 2009.

Terry Smith, Deputy Fire Chief, reviewed the variances to the original budget with a software purchase being the largest expenditure. Mr. Smith stated the division is also requesting the replacement of the Fire Chief's vehicle.

Chairman Wetterauer stated he would like to know how successful Columbus is collecting EMS runs and if might be necessary in Westerville. Chairman Wetterauer stated he has curious if Columbus experienced problems with the implementation and collection of this revenue. Chairman Wetterauer questioned if Columbus was billing for any runs Westerville makes in Columbus. Mr. Smith stated the Fire Division will provide the information to Council.

Mr. Heyeck stated the city should watch as the contract for the Third Party gets renewed to see how much profit they collect. Mr. Heyeck expressed his concerns with mutual aid and felt mutual aid should be equal.

Parks and Recreation Department

Mr. Winkel reviewed the Income Tax Allocation Special Revenue Fund Overview and Replacement and Reserve Fund with City Council.

Jody Stowers, Parks and Recreation Director, discussed the expenditures from the Special Revenue Fund. Ms. Stowers reviewed the initiatives the Department currently has and the continuance of these programs. Ms. Stowers stated the variances to the budget are minimal. Ms. Stowers discussed the proposed capital improvement projects slated in 2007.

Discussion was held on Community Center fees and breakdown of fees and programs. Ms. Stowers stated she would provide an analysis on facility usage and programming. Ms. Stowers discussed the outsourcing of services and is looking at ways to leverage expertise of the wetlands, mowing services and landscaping of facilities.

Ms. Stowers also discussed the maintenance of athletic field and the reservation methods used for athletic fields. Chairman Wetterauer asked Ms. Stowers and Mr. Bailey to research an Ordinance for use of athletic fields and report back to City Council. Ms. Stowers reviewed the parking situation at athletic fields and using turf parking as a way to elevate parking problems.

Ms. Stowers discussed the trends in Parks and Recreation Departments and projecting the needs for future trends. Ms. Stowers stated the biggest trend is providing senior activities in the department. Ms. Stowers stated her biggest concern is fulfilling the needs of persons with disabilities.

Ms. Stowers explained the plan and replacement of the Emerald Ash trees that have been or could be infected.

Mayor Fosselman suggested information on the ash trees be placed on the city's website.

Mr. Heyeck stated it is dangerous for residents to retain Bradford Pear trees and felt it was important to educate residents when cracks appear in the trees.

Ms. Stowers stated it is important to integrate the activities for seniors between the Community Center and Senior Center.

Mr. Lindimore reviewed the Swimming Pool Enterprise Fund. Ms. Stowers stated they have not put any capital outlay into the budget for Highlands Pool improvements. Ms. Stowers said the biggest issue is the filtration system at Highlands Pool. Discussion was held on the future of the pool and the support by residents versus non-residents.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Lindimore reviewed the Cable TV Special Revenue Fund Overview.

Jeff Demas of WOCC-TV3 stated they are requesting movement towards digital operations for taping and recording of meetings.

Chairman Wetterauer stated he is uncomfortable with the fund and the proposed expenditures for 2007. Chairman Wetterauer suggested Mayor Fosselman, Mr. Lindimore and Otterbein College meet to discuss this fund and proposed expenditures.

Mr. Heyeck expressed his concerns with the purpose of this fund and stated the Cable Fund should focus on the high schools and not just Otterbein College.

Mrs. Cocuzzi stated she would like Channel 3 available for emergency broadcasting.

Mr. Treneff stated it is hard for the viewing public to hear the meetings and therefore would not watch the meetings.

Mr. Lindimore suggested City Council consider funding for cable operations until after the consultation with Otterbein College.

Mr. Lindimore reviewed the Hotel Tax Overview with Council Members. Mayor Fosselman asked staff to review the additional amount added to the fund above 100% next year.

Mr. Heyeck commended staff for a clean and understandable budget.

The Work Session adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mary J. Johnston, MMC
Clerk of Council

Damon E. Wetterauer, Jr.
Chair of Council