

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

October 28, 2014

Mayor Tinnerman called the meeting to order.

Present were: Mayor Tinnerman; *Councilmembers:* Sarah Copp, Fred Francis (*came into the meeting at 8:58 p.m.*), Susan Willis, Scott Fogle, Don Dohrman, and Anthony Miller. *Also present were:* Manager Kline, Ben Herron, and Clerk Cantrell. *Absent:* None.

Dated: October 28, 2014

Signed: Linda L. Cantrell CAP-OM
Clerk of Council

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Don Martin of West Milton stated he and a lot of the citizens in town are upset because the dam is being taken out. He stated Council needs to start doing for the public. Mr. Martin stated Council should not have allowed beer in the park for the Fall Fling. Mayor Tinnerman stated he was at the Fall Fling and he did not see anything wrong. Mayor Tinnerman stated the Police Department stated it was an uneventful event.

Mr. Martin stated the Police Department should monitor the big trucks that come down his street. He asked Council to look into it. Manager Kline stated he would have the Police Chief check on the big trucks.

MANAGER KLINE

Manager Kline stated there will be a change to the rezoning *Ordinance CM-14-19, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE "OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF WEST MILTON" AS ADOPTED BY CHAPTER 150.006 OF THE WEST MILTON CODE OF ORDINANCES.* He stated the lot number was formerly known as Lot No. 1703 now known as Lot No. 1724 and Lot No. 1725.

Manager Kline stated the Municipality received a thank you note from Brukner Nature Center for the donation that was made on behalf of Chuck Sell.

Manager Kline stated the next Council Meeting falls on November 11, 2014, Veterans Day. He stated Fred Francis suggested doing the regular meeting

and the workshop meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. It was the consensus of Council to change the meeting as suggested.

JOINT RECREATIONAL DISTRICT

Manager Kline and Scott Fogle went to a meeting and doubled the offer to purchase the land at the old school. He stated he heard back from Ginny Rammel that the School Board is apprehensive right now and rejected the offer. Manager Kline stated he does not want to maintain the property if it is not owned by the Municipality. He thinks Council should send the School Board a letter giving them a ninety (90) day notice to get out of the lease. Manager Kline stated it costs the Municipality approximately two thousand (\$2,000) dollars a year to maintain this property.

Manager Kline would like to establish a Joint Recreational District. This would include Laura, Ludlow Falls, Potsdam, and Union Township. He stated the Municipality cannot apply for a grant as it stands. Manager Kline stated the only other option is for the state law to be changed.

Scott Fogle would like to see one (1) person serve on the Joint Recreational District from Laura, one (1) from Ludlow Falls, one (1) from Potsdam, and two (2) from West Milton. He would like to be a little aggressive getting this set up. Mr. Fogle would like to work on this as soon as possible.

Don Dohrman stated he likes the idea; but would like to see more details on this.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION (CIC)

Manager Kline stated he is looking for individuals to serve on the CIC. He would like someone from each of the following organizations: MIM, Rotary, and one of the Banks. Manager Kline stated he is on the CIC. He stated Mayor Tinnerman and Fred Francis are also on the CIC. Manager Kline stated the appointments to the CIC need to be made at the next Council Meeting.

JUNK MOTOR VEHICLE ORDINANCE

Mayor Tinnerman stated Troy's Junk Motor Vehicle Ordinance overall had a lot of nice things in it. He stated he would like for Council to come up with something they think is a junk vehicle and then have Law Director Brosh write the Ordinance. Scott Fogle asked what is not enforceable with our Ordinance.

It was suggested the vehicle needs to have a Fair Market Value of at least five hundred (\$500) dollars. Susan Willis stated it needs to have a motor. It was

determined by Council that a vehicle is not junk if it is insured; licensed; can be started and driven down the street; a classic car or a project car; and if someone can explain why it is sitting there and not being driven. These vehicles need to be in a permanent structure.

Mayor Tinnerman stated the main goal is to get rid of vehicles that have set around for years. He asked everyone to come back to the next Workshop Meeting with their ideas of what needs to be put in the Ordinance.

Don Dohrman asked how the Municipality can get its Ordinances into a searchable format. Manager Kline stated you can go to the American Legal Publishing website and click on a community and do a word search. Susan Willis suggested the Municipality's website have a link to the American Legal Publishing website.

Scott Fogle stated the current Ordinance was passed in 1989 and updated in 1996.

2015 BUDGET

Manager Kline stated the General Fund is a concern. He gave each Councilmember a copy of a letter from Fred Francis dated October 28, 2014, regarding the 2015 Annual Budget for their review. Manager Kline stated the Police Department is the number one expense to the General Fund.

Fred Francis came into the meeting at this time.

Fred Francis stated the Municipality does not have a spending problem it has an income problem. He stated during the last few years the Municipality has seen normal expenses rise; staff was cut where it could be cut; moved expensed from one to another; and interest income, state funds, and county funds disappeared almost entirely. Mr. Francis stated while other communities addressed these problems by raising taxes and fees, we took the position of cutting costs where possible.

Mr. Francis stated it is the recommendation of the Budget Committee that the ½% (.5) income tax for police and fire be addressed. He stated it is their recommendation to ensure the long term sustainability of the Municipality that the issue be put on the ballot as soon as possible to go from a five (5) year renewable income tax to a permanent income tax.

Mr. Francis stated the Budget Committee's second recommendation is to look at the one percent (1%) income tax credit which is currently authorized by

Council (*as per the ORC*) for taxes paid to other jurisdictions. He gave each Councilmember a copy of what other cities in the South Western Ohio Region do as far as tax credits for their review. He stated a lot of the cities are doing away with the match. Mr. Francis stated Council needs to seriously look at reducing this credit. He stated it is the Committee's recommendation to reduce this credit by fifty percent (50%) or half of what we currently credit for the year starting January 1, 2015, and then re-exam the figures this time next year to determine if the remaining fifty percent (50%) should be removed also.

Fred Francis stated the Budget Committee's third recommendation would be to leave the water usage rate per thousand gallons where it is for the next year. He stated this would give the Municipality another year of data with the new meters to be able to determine where we should be moving forward. Mr. Francis reminded Council an increase in fees will be starting January 1, 2015, for the water operational cost.

Mr. Francis stated the fourth recommendation the Budget Committee had was put on hold at this time. He stated it was in regard to the employee health insurance. Mr. Francis stated since the employees changed their plan this year and increased their deductible and lowered our cost this is being tabled for the upcoming year. He stated this would be addressed next year when the renewal time comes up.

Mr. Francis stated COLA is in for next year at 1.7%. He stated as per Council's guidance a two percent (2%) pay increase was left in the budget for all Municipal employees.

Mr. Francis stated the overall Budget plan is as follows:

- Make the .5% Fire and Police Income Tax permanent.
- Reduce the credit by 50% on the 1% Income Tax for the 2015 calendar year.
- Maintain the current water usage rates (*no increase*).
- Maintain the Police Department at eight (8) employees (*down from the normal nine*); but monitor for the overtime costs, tipping points of costs, and burnout of the officers and address as needed.
- Work with the CIC to find employers who want to bring jobs to West Milton and make it their home.
- Apply for grants to begin the I&I project.
- Apply for low cost loans for the water tower and other projects.

Manager Kline stated a lady from Sinclair College gets grant to help cities and municipalities to run more efficiently. He stated he had her come for a

meeting and asked her many questions. Manager Kline stated she stated she does not know if there is anything they can do to help the Municipality do anything better.

Scott Fogle stated it needs to be put in the Ordinance that Council is committed to revisit this each year. He stated when this is communicated to the community we need to lay everything on the table why we are doing what we are doing. Susan Willis stated it needs to be explained on a level that people can understand. Manager Kline stated the Budget Committee will put together a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions.

MAY BALLOT ISSUES

Manager Kline stated the .5% tax levy needs to be put on the May ballot as well as the proposed Charter changes and one other item. A lengthy discussion took place regarding how the local tax credit works.

OTHER

Don Dohrman asked if a thank you letter could be sent to the forty-five (45) accounts we have that collect taxes.

Susan Willis stated she has been through the Budget process many times. She stated this time it was so much nicer.

Manager Kline stated there would be four (4) Ordinances at the November 18, 2014, Council Meeting. He stated one (1) of the Ordinances would have a public hearing and the other three (3) would be first readings. The Ordinances are for the 2015 Budget; the Income Tax Budget; and the Organizational Structure. Manager Kline stated there would be a junk vehicle discussion at the Council Workshop Meeting after the regular Council Meeting on November 18, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Anthony Miller made a motion, seconded by Susan Willis to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Linda L. Cantrell CAP-OM
Clerk of Council

Jason Tinnerman
Mayor