

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Flaute called the City of Riverside, Ohio special Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Center located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio.

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mr. Denning, City of Riverside Council Member lead all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL: Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Curp, present; Mr. Denning, Present; Mr. Fullenkamp, present; Mrs. Lommatzsch, present; Deputy Mayor Reynolds, present; Mr. Smith, present and Mayor Flaute, present.

Staff present was as follows: Bryan Chodkowski, City Manager; Emily Christian, Assistant City Manager; Mark Carpenter, Fire Department; Tom Garrett, Finance Department; Mitch Miller, Service Department; Bob Murray, Economic Development Director; Chief Frank Robinson, Police Department and Brock Taylor, Planning and Program Management Director.

ITEM 4: EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: All Council Members were present.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Reynolds to approve the agenda as written. Mrs. Lommatzsch seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a vote was taken. All were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion passed.**

ITEM 6: WORK SESSION ITEMS:

a) Discussion: 2016 Operating Budget

Mayor Flaute: Tonight we will we be discussing the 2016 operating budget. Just a note that we want to solve any problems and issues that we have versus putting blame on anything that may not have come out the way we wanted it to. So at this point I move the discussion over to the city manager. Mr. Manager.

Mr. Chodkowski: As you know staff has been working through the 2016 budget and there were several elements of discussion from Council's perspective with regards to elements that should or should not be included in the 2016 budget. With regard to that respect I know that members of Council had requested members of various boards and commissions who are interested be here tonight to talk about any initiatives that they were interested in undertaking and I know that there are some representatives here from the Parks and Recreation Commission tonight. I don't know whether or not Mr. Mayor, the Council would like to have any input from them before there is any further discussion from staff regarding the 2016 budget. But if not we can proceed.

Mayor Flaute: Is it okay with Council if we hear from them first? So welcome to our new space. It is very nice. Congratulations to all for the hard work in putting it together but I don't know where the speakers are supposed to come speak. I see our podium back there. Do we just want them to stand up?

Mr. Chodkowski: At this time we do. We do have a podium that will be arriving before the end of the month and that will be a microphone set up but at this point in time we don't have the ability to do that.

Mayor Flaute: Alright so we will move into that area. Ladies first.

Ms. Ramsey: I am Mary Ramsey, the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission. I know that Mr. Fullenkamp came to our meeting to give us a little bit of information

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so hopefully what I've gotten is what you guys are talking about. The only thing that I'm really aware of is the talk of possibly fixing and expanding the parking lot for \$130,000. That is what I'm going to speak on. Unfortunately we don't often reach a quorum at our meetings so we haven't officially voted on opinion so I am just telling you how I feel and then Mr. Tragesser can also jump in but we haven't voted on anything. But one thing we did talk about; there were three members that were there and Mr. Perry was also there. While we would love to see improvements in the parking lot; that is something we think is really good but after speaking with Mr. Keaton we think there are other improvements we could do with \$130,000 that would take precedent. We would like to see repairs in maybe the sidewalks so that handicapped, wheelchairs or strollers would have better access; there are some drainage issues; Mr. Keaton pointed out some safety concerns; the tennis courts and basketball repairs. We could easily do all of those things for the price of fixing the one parking lot. We also are hoping as a commission to get; even if it is \$1000 or \$2000; a small budget. We would really like to be more active. We actually want to start doing things and we are going to be in the Hometown Holidays this weekend. They waved our fee this year since the city was a sponsor but in the future if we want to do those kinds of events it will cost \$20 here or \$20 there and we are going to have little crafts for the kids. We would like some money to maybe have a movie in the park or events in the future and maybe have some popcorn and just get the city more involved with parks and to get some more interest. That is all that I have unless you have a specific question.

Mayor Flaute: Okay. Does anyone have any questions for Ms. Ramsey? Okay Mr. Tragesser is there anything you would like to add?

Mr. Tragesser: I think she summed it up pretty good.

Mayor Flaute: Okay very good. And Sir, you are with the parks?

Mr. Perry: Yes I am. James Perry.

Mayor Flaute: Okay Mr. Perry, nice to see you again and welcome to our new space.

Mr. Perry: This is nice.

Mayor Flaute: Ms. Ramsey just gave us an update on what you guys are thinking as far as the parks go. Is there anything you might want to add to the discussion?

Mr. Perry: I don't know what she said.

Ms. Ramsey: We discussed the \$130,000 and all of the things that Mr. Keaton said and that we wanted a budget of our own.

Mr. Perry: Yeah along with that, I have some things on my mind related to parks and also the Council. One thing is, somehow I know that we are not getting information from whoever "is in charge" on things have been done in the parks before they are done. I don't know if you are getting that information as well. I went to Drennen and I go over there every once in a while and check it out. I checked it out two weeks ago and the tennis court was gone and nobody knew anything about it. As far as I know you guys didn't know anything about it, we didn't know anything about it and it was gone. So I went down and talked to Mr. Keaton and he said that the city manager told him to take it out. So I'm trying to figure out why it is he took it out and nobody knew about it but him. So my problem right now is that a lot of things are going on that nobody knows about but the guy in charge. And if the guy in charge doesn't have to talk to anybody before he does things it seems like you all need to do something with Council. And if he is in charge of everything and you guys have no say so then

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somebody needs to be notifying you. Because if that's going on; if you are the Council and Mayor you should have some input on the things that are going on. The other thing is I went over to Rohrer and I come to find out that the baseball diamond has been removed. That has been taken out; we have one left and we had two over there; now we have one. Nobody knew anything about it. So I'm saying if we're going to have different committees that are associated with the city Council that seems like somebody should give somebody some information on what's going on before it happens. So that is really my main concern right now. Also, as far as rumors, I've heard you want to do away with Parks and Recreation. Well Parks and Rec. has no power like city Council has no power is what I say with things going on without you guys knowing about it. But all the power seems to be in one location. We don't have any power so we can't get anything done because of the fact that we have good people come that are on our committee and they leave because of the fact that they stay there for a while and finally figure out that we have nothing to contribute to anybody. We have no power, we have no budget and whenever we send something in; our new president is doing a heckuva job. And we send stuff in and then we come to find out that it never reached you guys. I said, well what's the reason? And other people are saying that as well, we don't have any power and nothing gets done and nobody knows anything but the person who is in charge and city Council can't vote on anything. So we are not voting on anything; but we can't vote on anything because nobody wants to come because we don't have any power and don't have a budget. So I got that off my chest.

Mayor Flaute: Okay, good points. Thank you. Does anyone want to respond to that?

Mr. Fullenkamp: All three of you, thanks for coming tonight. I hear Mr. Perry's concern. I think Parks and Rec. is there for a reason and I am not happy about things being done unilaterally without Parks and Rec. being involved in that decision-making process. I'm going to make one recommendation to Parks and Rec. and any committee out there that is working with the city to make our city a better place to live. So when you make a recommendation, you make sure Council gets that recommendation too. Make sure you pass it directly to us. There are seven of us, you have our email addresses and if you don't we will get them to you because I'm not happy about what has happened to Drennen, I'm not happy about what happened to Rohrer Park. I just learned about Rohrer Park a couple weeks ago and I got no notice. And I don't believe anybody else on Council got notice. But more importantly, you are out there bringing the opinion of the community for what we want to do with our parks. Staff, Council we can't do it ourselves so we need your input and the fact that you feel like; I won't say it is power, but you have no input into these decisions, that troubles me. And I don't think we ever build the kind of report required to build the sense of community if we don't allow the community to have a voice in these decisions. And you are representing our entire community. So I want to encourage you guys to suck it up; we are going to as a Council; I will speak for myself, we are going to try harder to make sure that we value your opinions, that you get an opportunity to have an impact on these decisions but we need to know what your input has been or will be in the future. So thanks, thanks for coming tonight. Yes Sir?

Mr. Tragesser: I have a question. What was the logic or the reason behind removing the tennis court and removing the baseball field? There had to be a logical decision made there as to why these things were done as an improvement. I'm assuming it was meant to be an improvement or was necessary and I was curious what that reason was. We had no clue this was going on.

Mayor Flaute: Mr. Manager would you like to respond to that?

Mr. Chodkowski: Sure. I can say to the matter with Drennen, the issue there was the deterioration in the state of the tennis courts and our ability to restore them with

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regards to their use. So effectively they had deteriorated to a greater degree than we thought was appropriate to repair and based on the fact that that park has had a history of issues with vandalism and damage to city property based on discussions with Mr. Keaton and Mr. Miller we thought it was in the best interest to just simply remove the tennis court because it was more of a detract for not appropriate behavior on tennis courts especially those that were failing. With regards to the baseball diamond in Rohrer, that was not the city's baseball diamond. That was built by materials as provided to RABA (Riverside Amateur Baseball Association) and RABA built those fields. It's no different than say the soccer association owns the goals in Rohrer Park, the city doesn't own those. So RABA has relocated their fields there behind Beverly Gardens and the base educational center off of Spinning Road. And then they are also in partnership to a limited degree with I think it is the Bricks Little League out of Huber Heights. So they didn't need the field anymore, they didn't want the field anymore so they called and said, hey we are going to take our stuff out and we said okay.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So I want to make sure about the baseball diamonds. So the city did not remove the fences or anything? RABA went out and removed all that themselves.

Mr. Chodkowski: Not that I'm aware of.

Mr. Fullenkamp: There was no city labor involved in removing that.

Mr. Chodkowski: To the best of my knowledge no.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller: The city did remove the baseball diamond.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Could you say that again Sir?

Mr. Miller: The city did take out all of the fencing and other infrastructure for the baseball field.

Mayor Flaute: From the direction of RABA; from what you just said.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Who directed that Sir?

Mr. Miller: The direction I received was from the city manager.

Mr. Chodkowski: That might have been so, I don't recall with specificity but I do know that RABA no longer needed the field and so that was the reason we had it removed.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: What did we do with all the items we removed Mr. Miller?

Mr. Miller: We sold it for scrap.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: We sold it for scrap? Mr. City Manager, I'm going to make a request that Parks and Recreation be involved in decisions that we are looking at for the parks in the future and that they be aware of that so that they can have some input. I think the purpose of that committee is for that very reason isn't it; for input from the community? So I think we are hampering them in the tasks that we have asked them to do when we don't inform them of the things that are going on. And I would like to see that they are informed of every decision that we make. Ms. Ramsey I am wondering if I may ask, you said there were some things that needed to be repaired that would be better spent for \$130,000. Do you know what parks those are in?

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Ms. Ramsey: We have a lot of suggestions but the basketball courts that are at Shellabarger and then Mr. Keaton talked about where the tennis courts are and there is a steep area where water rushes through.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: At the tennis courts?

Ms. Ramsey: Between the tennis courts and the parking lot.

Mr. Perry: At the back of the tennis courts at Shellabarger there is a drop off. They can't mow behind there or do anything because there is water that goes through there from Beavercreek and it comes down and goes to the back of that area. When we had that big meeting with the city and was talking about Lilly Creek; and so it runs behind Lilly Creek. From what I understand is they want to take the tennis courts out, resurface the basketball courts.

Ms. Ramsey: The main playground that is close to the road at Shellabarger; a big nice one, they have a drainage issue there and so it washes out that special mulch that we have to have at the bottom for safety reasons so if the kids fall on it they don't get hurt. Every time there is a lot of rain it washes the mulch out and he and his crew have to keep replacing that because they're worried if someone were to fall and the mulch has been washed away that the playground is not technically meeting the safety regulations and there could more easily be a lawsuit. And also the paved pathway at Shellabarger, I don't know if it is from the tree roots, but there are couple of areas that are damaged and makes it harder for someone in a wheelchair or anyone with a walking disability or strollers. Those were the main ones that he had mentioned. We don't think that improving a parking lot or extending a parking lot because of soccer; we are not saying that's not important. We just don't necessarily think that if we are finally going to make a change that that is going to make a difference especially when a lot of these issues are safety issues and not just convenience issues.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Mr. City Manager, are you aware of those conditions at Shellabarger?

Mr. Chodkowski: In a general sense, Ma'am but no I have not been specifically briefed about them by Mr. Miller.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Also Mr. City Manager, in informing or sharing information with the committee, once it has been presented to them can we have a sign-off from you all that you have seen it and your ideas on it? That would help us.

Mayor Flaute: And again, send us emails.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: I would like for you to come up with a form. Please just have them sign off on it.

Mr. Chodkowski: If I may, all of that information would be included in the minutes of their meeting which we have provided to Council. But as you heard the chairperson say, they have had a hard time getting a quorum.

Ms. Ramsey: Typically our meetings are casual or discretionary in nature. I think our last official meeting was in August that we have minutes for.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: I would just like to know that you are presenting things to them that should be presented to them. That is my request. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Ma'am.

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Mrs. Lommatzsch: I would be very interested in working with you in creating an event in the park this summer with a movie. We could get some corporate sponsorship and I happen to know somebody who has a popcorn machine.

Ms. Ramsey: We have been discussing that so that's what we're hoping will be able to do.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Mr. Tragesser knows how to get a hold of me easily so I would be real interested in seeing that happen. And we could lead up to whatever event might be happening. If we tied it up to the event being planned in August; is it going to be at Community?

Mayor Flaute: It is going to be in June.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Okay, the weather is going to be a little iffy so maybe we want to do something in August but I would like to see that happen and if we can get some corporate sponsorship because I think our freed up dollars are going to be very limited. So if we could work on corporate sponsorship we need to start on that this winter.

Ms. Ramsey: Absolutely.

Mr. Perry: Can I just say one thing about this quorum thing that is kind of eating at me? We have always had a quorum until recently, always. This is 15 years of quorums that we have had of meetings and stuff that we submitted to you guys. 15 years I've been here doing all of this work. We've had quorums. It ain't that we haven't had quorums and we haven't been voting on things. Until recently we haven't had one because of people feeling that they have been dismissed and that their opinions don't mean anything. I remember when Mr. Denning was chair; we had quorums all the time. When Mr. Fullenkamp was on our board we had quorums all the time; not that we don't have quorums, we have quorums. This is not nothing; this is stuff that we have voted on over the years so don't say that we don't have quorums is the reason you aren't getting any information. There is another reason why you're not getting any information.

Mayor Flaute: Thank you Sir. I guess my request might be; you know we have these monthly reports that come from our department heads and we never hear anything about an agenda or what's going on with the commissions that are under the department report. Maybe it would be kind of nice if it was Parks and Rec. and Mr. Miller had just a line item of what they are talking about at the next Parks and Rec. Commission; Health and Safety. If we could just have something in that report that tells us what you're going to be talking about so we can at least have an idea of what is going on with the commissions. I think that would be something that I would value very, very much. We had these reports and they are very informative but sometimes I think if we could get something from the various departments that have the commissions; just tell us what's going on so we would be able to know some of the things that we just heard tonight.

Mr. Denning: With Multimodal we had a member of Council that went to their meetings; that was assigned to their meetings and I see no problem with doing that for Parks and Rec. and with Health and Safety or any other committee that we have that way maybe they would feel that there is some give and take interest there and that would be their liaison if they need to get a budget or if they need to get help with the community to get a community project going or whatever. They have a member of the Council that champions that particular situation or at least there is more flow of information back and forth on what is going on directly. I know that that helped a lot with Multimodal. And when Mr. Fullenkamp and I were on Parks and Rec. it would've been nice to have that extra information.

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Deputy Mayor Reynolds: What is your meeting schedule Ms. Ramsey?

Ms. Ramsey: It is currently the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. however we anticipate there will soon be a vote to change that to a different night of the week and hope that that will increase attendance. I don't know what it will be except for December; we already agreed to change it to the second Tuesday due to conflicts.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That is the reason I suggested Council receive the agenda for BZA and the Planning Commission and I hope we are still receiving those packets before they have their meetings.

Mayor Flaute: I'm on Planning.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I believe the agendas from these other committees would help us.

Mayor Flaute: We just need an email.

Mr. Fullenkamp: No, no, no I want to see their agendas. And then I want to know what happened with the agenda. As far as I'm concerned minutes can be.

Mr. Denning: Fluffed.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Well they are and Parks and Rec. has such a short summer. I would like more complete minutes but I know that takes time and money but I don't think they need to be approved before we see them. I think if you have minutes that you are sitting on out there and haven't been approved by you guys you can say they are contingent or a draft or contingent upon being approved so we can kind of see what is happening. I like more flow of information from our committees and if you can help us and all of the other committees that we have.

Mayor Flaute: Yeah, just send us an agenda via email.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I think the clerk can help us with that.

Mayor Flaute: Okay, however that works. Mr. Denning made a suggestion.

Mr. Denning: I would like their input on that idea. Do you think that would be helpful or not to have a member of Council?

Ms. Ramsey: I don't think it would be hurtful. I mean it was nice when Mr. Fullenkamp came last week. There were some questions that I had and I didn't know what the answer would be so it was nice to have him there and say, yes or no or I don't know either but I can find out. But Ms. Christian comes to all of our meetings and she is the one that makes our agenda and our minutes. I find that very helpful when she comes and she answers at least all my questions. I am the newest on our commission; I don't have 15 years of knowledge like Mr. Perry but if you guys took Ms. Christian away that would be pretty bad but if you add to it; if someone wanted to come.

Mr. Perry: My whole thing is that Mr. Chodkowski used to come to our meetings back in the day, it was helpful. He was the city manager and he knew what our concerns were and the information was getting back to the Council and Mr. Keaton was coming with him and that was helpful. Ms. Christian comes and does minutes for us and everything but since Ms. Christian has been coming were not getting; and then Mr. Keaton stopped coming and everything kind of went kaput. We stop getting these kinds of things when Mr. Denning was on the committee we are trying like heck to get input. At one time we were fighting trying to help you guys out by getting somebody on the school board, which we did to be a liaison between the school board and the city Council. That's not working out the way I wanted it to work out but I'm still

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pushing. I've been fighting for 15 years trying to get playground equipment at Community Park. I finally got a swing in at Shellabarger; I got one swing in there. So I got the swing in there. I haven't been able to get any playground equipment. We have a little baby piece of equipment over at Community that a two-year-old can ride on. Nobody else can ride on it but a two-year-old. We finally got an adult swing set in there that they can use but we have no big equipment. They took out the bleachers saying that that was a hazard for the city but then again all the other cities around here have all got bleachers for their football. Then they finally said, okay we wanted to get the bathrooms in and they said, well the only way to get the bathroom fixed is you've got to have the people from the football field. So they decided they're going to do it and put the bathrooms in the park. So it keeps going from one extreme to the other and keeps going from here to there. All I want to do is to make sure we make this community a community situation. I've been fighting for 15 years trying to get a recreation community center in this town for people to communicate and to congregate. There is no place for kids to go anyplace after school. They can't use the school buildings; the school board wouldn't let them use it. They don't have anywhere to after 6 o'clock if they are not on a team. They've got no place to go. So they say go to somebody else's community. Why would I want to go to somebody else's community when I have my own community? I have my own community. I want to make my own community worthwhile. So why don't I have something where I can gather with other people and congregate and have fun with senior citizens and kids at one location. Why can't we have that?

Mayor Flaute: Okay, I think Council has heard the direction and I think at this point Council agrees that something need to be done. So I guess we need to direct the city manager to make these commissions more viable and you've heard some suggestions. Unless Mr. Denning wants to take ownership of asking the Council members which commission they want to go on; whichever direction we want to go.

Mr. Denning: I think it would be one of those things that we do in January where we would just elect someone to be on each of those and be their liaison. And there is nothing to stop Council from visiting these commissions.

Mayor Flaute: For sure. We are a lot of busy people.

Mr. Denning: I mean we are all busy. I could've been visiting their meetings but it is a double-edged sword.

Mr. Fullenkamp: When I came to the meeting the other night I was concerned about me playing too big a role and I didn't want to influence information. But it is a concern of mine that I don't want to be in the room and then impact what goes on in the room. That is the one concern that I have for somebody been dedicated to a commission. I probably will show up to Parks and Rec. for a few meetings because it interests me and it is something that I think we have not done very well in our community for; well I will speak for the last six or seven years. So I would like to see some upgrades and how we come up with the money, we will figure that out. That is our job. And if we can get corporate sponsorship for some of these things, that's all well and good too. And maybe we have to figure out a way to run the money through the system. But we can do that too. That is my concern about a dedicated individual being on a commission. I know we are all residents and we can just show up whenever we want and that's kind of what I did the other night and I'm comfortable with that. I hope I wasn't an imposition or impact the discussion improperly.

Mr. Denning: The other thing to think about is that there are other organizations in this community that would be more than willing to help you make your ideas happen. There is the Lions Club, there are 40 churches and there is the Jaycees and the VFW and all those other organizations that can be your manpower. All they really need is an

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idea of what you want to make happen and they can help you organize that and they may even be able to help you fund it.

Ms. Ramsey: I just have one comment. That's what everybody tells me. I will say that when we attempted to plan an event this year I did; well Ms. Christian printed them for me but I wrote and signed and sent out over 40 letters to the churches; and the Jaycees did agree to help and the Chamber of Commerce said they would make a monetary donation. But I did contact over 40 individuals and organizations and reached out to them to see if they wanted to get involved in this particular event. And I will say that other than the monetary donation from the Commerce and the Jaycees agreed to help but other than that no one did. It's not that we're not trying; we are. No one RSVP'd to our free event with free food that we would have paid for with the donation but we had to cancel it. But it's not that we haven't tried.

Mayor Flaute: There is a group now called Hope for Riverside. We just met yesterday. There are about 18 or 19 churches involved there so you might want to hook up with that group because not only would you maybe get some money and support you would also get the word out a whole lot quicker that this is going on. So Mr. Manager you kind of have an idea of what we are looking for?

Mr. Chodkowski: We will get with the Parks and Recreation Commission and work out with them what their expectation of information should or shouldn't be and how best we can get that information to them. And then once we work that out with the commission we will then bring it forward to Council whatever their desired informational format is. Whether or not it is more detailed minutes, whether or not it is in the instance of Health and Safety Commission, when they don't have a quorum I take notes in a format similar to but I don't typically pass that on to Council. But we do hold onto those for those commission members so they have some semblance of an idea of what was discussed last time a few of them were together. But obviously they are not official minutes and there is no official direction in those. So we will work to bridge the gap of the communication issue. Had we known that that gap existed earlier we would have done more earlier to address that. But we know about it now and we will move forward to make sure that that information is going back and forth.

Mr. Denning: Do we need to change the wording on what the commission is? Because most of them at least when we were on them says that they are just an advisory commission and basically we have no working committee; we have no budget; we have nothing. So do we need to put something into the ordinances or the way that we have those commissions in our existing ordinances so that they can be a working committee and have a budget or not?

Mr. Chodkowski: I don't know that that's a difference without distinction from the standpoint the Health and Safety Commission has exactly the same purview if you will which is to advise on policy and programs and implementation. Now you can make the argument that it is really the city that is executing that program for the bike helmets and the Health and Safety folks are just simply volunteers at that point. I mean you can make the same argument with regards to Parks and Rec. I don't know whether or not historically the Parks and Recreation Commission members wanted to do something but didn't ask and the Health and Safety members did or however that came about. But if you look historically; if you look in the budget, well sure the little commission tagline in the budget has been very small if anything at all but look at fund 140. Fund 140 has anywhere from \$40,000-\$150,000 in it every year and that is for the parks. So whether or not we should have done a better job and said, well hey this is what we have money for how do you want us to spend it or whether or not they are looking for direction from staff years ago and it never came.

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Mr. Denning: I will say this, when I started on parks it was before you got here. At least at the time I was given very specific instructions that we were not a working committee, we are only an advisory committee and we couldn't actually do anything. If we wanted to do anything we had to form a committee outside as a group of volunteers and do it as a separate entity. We couldn't do it as the Parks and Rec. Commission. Now that may have changed over the years; that thought process may have changed. But that was the marching orders that I was given when I became chair and that the chair before me was given and that was kind of very frustrating especially for those of us that have come from community service areas. It was very frustrating for me so I understand you all's frustration and Mr. Perry and I had these conversations. And so I would just like us to either tell them that they can do something and give them a reason for doing what they do because what we ended up doing was prioritizing what needed to get done in the parks every year and the other thing that we did was the football stuff with the adult football and things like that. So it was very frustrating for me and I would like to alleviate some of their frustrations and move forward. And if we need to change how it is worded or give them some information, I think we need to do that.

Mr. Chodkowski: Well we can do that. There are a series of proposed code changes that Mr. Taylor will be bringing forward here probably just after the beginning of the year mostly related to the UDO. But there will be a couple of other amendments and some other sections of the codified ordinances so we can just simply add some language to the Parks and Recreation in the Health and Safety chapters and just kind of dial that in with more specificity.

Mr. Denning: Thank you.

Mayor Flaute: I would like to see some agendas, we would like to see.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Mr. City Manager and Assistant City Manager, do you know of any grants that are available for community centers and community service also that we can maybe tap into?

Mr. Chodkowski: Of the top of my head Ma'am I would have to say no I am not. Not that there aren't any out there but I wasn't prepared to talk about that tonight so I am not aware of anything specifically. I don't know whether or not Ms. Christian is or not.

Ms. Christian: Nothing specific but I'm sure there's something we could look at; grants that are out there.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Okay thank you.

Mayor Flaute: Okay, good enough. Again thank you guys, thank you very, very much for coming tonight and for serving. We will try to make it better. You are welcome to stay we are going to get into budget stuff now. That's what we are moving into. I guess no one else is here from any of the other commissions.

Mr. Perry: I would like to say thank you to the Council for listening to us and thank Mr. Chodkowski and Ms. Christian for their help; they've been very helpful. But we just need to get something done.

Mayor Flaute: Ms. Ramsey you heard Mrs. Lommatzsch's offer. Make sure you take advantage of that.

Ms. Ramsey: Yes we will keep in touch.

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Mayor Flaute: And I'm sure that that popcorn machine is very much available. Okay back to you Mr. Manager.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes, the 2016 budget. I know when we sat down two weeks ago we were planning to talk about this packet of information and all the great things we could be doing and then you received this email from me that said, well maybe not. And I think probably the best way to go moving forward and utilizing the night to everyone's benefit is to exactly talk about what happened and why you received the email and what that looks like moving forward. So when Mr. Garrett and I prepared the budget and something that I have always done is take notes and write numbers down so when I was preparing the cover memo that came to you as part of the second draft I pulled the numbers from the spreadsheet and I wrote them down on a sheet of paper like this. And I pulled numbers out and I did some math and then I gave my math to Mr. Garrett and asked Mr. Garrett to check that math to make sure that my math was correct. And so Mr. Garrett looked at the numbers that I had written down on the piece of paper and said, yes your math is correct. So that is what went into the cover memo that you received as part of the second proposal. And at that time Mr. Garrett was still working to populate all of the fund balances; the savings accounts that exist for all of the various funds that we use. So what we have goes back from the time that we prepared this information and it goes into the packet and Council provides us some additional information and additional direction. So at that point in time we opened the spreadsheet back up and we start making adjustments to the budget based on Council comments from the previous meeting at which point in time we have now populated the fund balances and the fund balance pops up not as a \$300,000 deficit but I think it was something like a \$2 million deficit. And at that point in time I went back and started reviewing my math and effectively what happened was when I was pulling numbers from here and I wrote them on this sheet and I did not include writing down the \$1.8 million transfer from the general fund to the police fund. So there is not a mysterious hole that sucked up \$1.8 million; the math in the spreadsheet has been correct since actually the first draft that we gave you which included the initial transfer amounts. It was my writing those numbers down on this paper and using that paper as the basis for my memo which created the error. So I want everybody to know we didn't suddenly wind up missing \$1.8 million. That information was always here we just didn't catch that math mistake until that Monday.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So I have a packet and I have a spreadsheet dated October 29, 2015. When I look at the balance sheet I see the \$2 million deficit right there on the balance sheet on page one of one on the proposal. So my question is, when you guys are doing the budget do you watch that balance line at all?

Mr. Chodkowski: We do at a certain point and the reason that we do at a certain point is if you look at the balance sheet that is associated with that second proposal you will notice that there are several fund balances that are populated. And that is because we are working to figure out what the most appropriate amount to place in that balance is based on the information that we have. So to the extent that I can recall, that was in a point in time where Mr. Garrett or I was comfortable with what the fund balance was going to be as far as where money still had yet to be transferred or where money had yet to come back from.

Mr. Fullenkamp: But that didn't set off alarms?

Mr. Chodkowski: At that point in time no.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Why?

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Mr. Chodkowski: Well because I don't recall there being a point where we were fully confident that the numbers we had would be the final numbers. We are still talking that there is at least one more if not two or three more iterations of the budget amount.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So Mr. City Manager I want to look at the revenue page. For the general fund, again this is version 2 and we have a one time transfer of \$1.5 million in 2015.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Sir.

Mr. Fullenkamp: And we spent all that money or pretty close. I mean I don't know how much of a deficit or surplus we had for this year. So when you have; it seems to me and I'm not an accountant and I'm not a finance major, but when you have a one time transfer that should have gone into the plans for both 2015 and for this year. I'm not sure how staff thought they were going to overcome this one time transfer of \$1.5 million in 2015 rolling into 2016.

Mr. Chodkowski: I don't Mr. Fullenkamp think that is a correct assumption on behalf of staff. When we prepped Council on the 2015 budget one of the very first comments I made to Council was that we suspect at least a \$700,000 deficit and that was on the first proposal we made; the first draft that we made we said that that number could go as high as \$1 million once we populated the secondary funds or the enterprise funds based on what they needed from the general fund. So when we made our presentation to Council for the 2015 budget we did not take into account the \$1.5 million transfer that was coming back from the OPWC funds. And so we shared that information with Council right off the bat when we made the presentation and no members of Council were concerned by that comment or that financial position at either of those meetings in October or either of the meetings in November nor were any concerns brought forward when the final appropriation was presented to Council. So we did acknowledge the fact that we were in a negative position right off the bat excluding the transfer.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That's fine. So when I see a revenue drop from 7 million down to 5 million for 2016 that didn't set any alarms off?

Mr. Chodkowski: Mr. Fullenkamp I don't recall that I saw it. So I'll put it on the record that there are several opportunities that I can look back and recall that I should have caught this or perhaps that Mr. Garrett should caught this but we did not. And had we caught it you would have heard about a \$1.8 million deficit two weeks sooner than you did. That deficit still existed two weeks prior we just missed presenting it to you but ultimately we would be having the same discussion. We would have been having the discussion tonight two weeks ago.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Flaute: Okay so what are your plans?

Mr. Chodkowski: Okay, well we did put together some information tonight that would effectively be a third proposal.

Mr. Smith: Real quick, I'm kind of lost. You said that you forgot to add in the \$1.8 million from the police department.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Sir.

Mr. Smith: So are we still 1 million and some dollars short on the budget?

Mayor Flaute: We are going to talk about that right now.

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Mr. Chodkowski: I will cut to the simple of it. If you go to the very last page which is the 2016 estimated balance, it is the very last sheet. If you look at the far left column; 100, 201, 202 and 203, and then if you slide all the way down there is 406. You will see that there are some hefty fund balances that existed. There is some money in the savings account there. So what we are proposing to do at least in the short-term is to draw on those balances first before we draw against the general fund and you will see what that looks like in the very last column with regards to the impact. So effectively what you are looking at is almost a \$1 million shift of financial draw to those five or six accounts as opposed to it being an immediate draw on the general fund. So it goes from being; I think the last number we said was 1.94 or 1.97 or something like that. So now it is down to approximately \$800,000 is what the draw against the general fund would be. Now that is with by and large everything left in the budget that was presented in the first and second proposal. So whether or not Council wants to continue to have some of the expenses in the budget that are in the proposed budget it will obviously impact what happens in let's call it the fourth proposal; the proposal that will come out of tonight. So that's at least our first attempt at being able to address this issue based on the information that we have, based on the resources that we have and the amount of time that we were able to put information together for this Council to consider and discuss tonight.

Mayor Flaute: Alright, so for Center of Flight you are proposing that we have an estimated ending balance of \$46,600.

Mr. Chodkowski: That is correct.

Mayor Flaute: Assuming that nothing happens there which I hope something does is that enough money to?

Mr. Chodkowski: If something happens. So you will notice that right now on January 1 we believe there to be \$268,000 in the Center of Flight savings account. Mr. Murray has proposed needing \$380,000 to purchase property with regards to project Dismas. So \$250,000 of that \$380,000 will come from the Center of Flight savings account taking it from \$260,000 to 36 or whatever the number is and then the remainder of that would come out of the general fund so that's like another \$130,000 or \$150,000 I can't remember what the specific number is but that's where that balance would come from. So rather than taking \$380,000 from the general fund you are only drawing \$130,000 from the general fund in that one particular instance.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Our December 31, 2016 the estimated ending balance is \$7,314,000?

Mr. Chodkowski: Well that is all funds but keep in mind that all funds cannot be used for all expenses.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: I realize that Sir. We are looking at; you have January 1, 2016 estimated beginning balance; we started on the second proposal at \$4,970,000. We are estimating a beginning balance of \$9,241,000?

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Ma'am.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: And revenues at 25. Tell me what has changed, what has increased this by \$5 million in revenues?

Mr. Chodkowski: Keep in mind that the second proposal; while the fund balance sheet was automatically populated in some instances we were in a position to provide specific numbers we are comfortable with. So there are no Wright Point revenues in here in the second proposal. You will notice that there is no final balance from fire,

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there is no final balance from police, permissive tax, so those were numbers that we were still trying to qualify and quantify at the time we are putting together the second proposal.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: So you are off on your estimates by \$5 million? At some point; you started out and gave us a sheet with \$20 million; that was your estimated revenues, correct?

Mr. Chodkowski: One more time Ma'am.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: On the sheets that were received on October 29 the revenues for 2016 would be \$20,207,440 and expenses of \$22,317,720. The third proposal is now giving us revenue of \$25,865,040.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Ma'am.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Expenses of \$27,791,730. You said you had not brought everything forward on the 29th's budget. What have you brought forward now that you feel that this \$25 million in revenue is right?

Mr. Chodkowski: You will see the difference if you look at the balance sheet.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: I see the differences.

Mr. Chodkowski: So you're asking where did 5 million additional dollars in revenue come from?

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Right, yes Sir.

Mr. Chodkowski: You are looking at; there is a half million dollar fund balance in the permissive tax that was added. There are the revenues; I'm sorry I'm talking fund balance. Specific to revenue, the largest number there is with regards to Wright Point. So if you will look at.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Are you talking 406 as your total?

Mr. Chodkowski: So you're asking me on October 29 your total revenue number was \$20,227,000 and now you're saying in the third proposal the total revenue is now \$25 million.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Right.

Mr. Chodkowski: The big answer to that is the Wright Point fund. We didn't populate the Wright Point fund in the second proposal. And we had specifically stated in our cover memo that we would populate the Wright Point fund, the Brantwood fund and then there was another one that we referenced.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: But we are talking; you said 406. I am looking at 406 and Wright Point is 402.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Ma'am but you are citing total revenue of all funds were you not?

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Okay but Mr. City Manager the 268 that the Mayor just asked you about which he said was 406 and that's the Center of Flight.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Ma'am.

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Deputy Mayor Reynolds: So everything that we have in the Wright Point fund, the \$1,895,000, you want to take and pull from that?

Mr. Chodkowski: No Ma'am, no Ma'am. Take the October 29 balance sheet and just turn that over. Just turn that over and take a look at the balance sheet that I gave you tonight for the third proposal and you will see where you have these large negative numbers; gain or loss here on December 31. So we are going to take \$259,000 from the fire fund, we are going to take \$233,000 from the street fund, we are going to take \$330,000 from police, we are going to take \$221,000 in from Center of Flight. That's where we are taking \$1 million collectively between those funds; that is how we are going to reduce that \$1.9 million down to \$800,000. And that is right off the bat and then there is the issue of what items in the 2016 budget that Council wants to remain in or do you want to have come out.

Mr. Fullenkamp: When I look at the balance sheet for 2016 I am seeing \$1.926 million.

Mr. Chodkowski: Correct, you still have negative cash flow.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I understand so where is this \$800,000; you mentioned the number \$800,000 where's that?

Mr. Chodkowski: Well the \$100,000 is now the specific draw against the general fund. I'm not saying we are negating the \$1.9 million draw down.

Mr. Fullenkamp: The balance sheet hasn't changed much.

Mr. Chodkowski: The total balance sheet has not changed. That is correct Sir.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That is what I'm focusing on. So we are estimating a balance at the end of next year of \$7.3 million.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Sir. That is correct.

Mayor Flaute: Versus the \$9 million that we have now.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Sir.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Right, versus the \$2.8 million that was that was in the October 29 spreadsheet.

Mr. Chodkowski: Correct.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So we are in the red about \$2 million a year.

Mr. Chodkowski: As of now, yes.

Mr. Fullenkamp: According to this latest version we are estimating about a \$2 million deficit.

Mr. Denning: So I'm going to fast-forward to next year. So can we expect the same deficit next year approximately?

Mr. Chodkowski: A quick swag shows that if we cut every purchase, every non-personnel or non-operating expense excluding continuation of the police fleet rotation, \$50,000 for replacing some broken piece of equipment in public service and money every few years to continue the medic cycle it is about \$800,000.

Mr. Denning: We would be about \$800,000 in the red?

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Mr. Chodkowski: Correct and that would be assuming increases in payroll, that includes increases in health insurance but increases in no other aspect of operational expense or in revenue.

Mr. Denning: Okay, does that still keep us on track to complete the streets that we have committed to or is that not doing any of that?

Mr. Chodkowski: Other than those specific expenses that I just told you about, that is just money to patch potholes and by salt.

Mr. Denning: Okay so unless we get additional revenue in; we'll say one half a percent on income tax that we specifically earmark for, we'll call it street levy we won't have any way to fund the plans that we spent the last two years putting together, is that what you're telling me?

Mr. Chodkowski: What I'm saying is that yes the city does not have sufficient revenues to be able to operate and make significant capital improvements either on equipment or infrastructure.

Mr. Denning: Okay.

Mayor Flaute: So do you have suggestions tonight on what we can do for the 2016 budget without making this negative aspect as bad as it is?

Mr. Chodkowski: I think the best strategy to move forward is we have to address as a community the fact that we don't have sufficient revenues to both operate and make improvements to infrastructure and equipment. So what I would recommend is whether or not you do it today or whether or not you do it tomorrow but you are going to have to do it; at least that is my recommendation, would be to remove any further expense related to capital infrastructure improvements which would be the \$500,000 I think which is what we have in the budget this year for improving local roads. I would tell you that it is necessary to continue to maintain the rotation of the police fleet and the chief had shared with you the numbers; I think it was three meetings ago about how continuing to cycle that fleet keeps our maintenance cost down. And then that you continue to fund the necessary medic cycles and make sure that Mr. Miller has the basic equipment he needs to continue to function and other than that you remove all other expenses related to capital infrastructure and some of that would include expenses related to; I think we've got \$15,000 in there for computers. Obviously we need computers but do we need to cycle out that many this year? Probably not. Do we need upgrades to our website? Yes, but do we need a full comprehensive upgrade, no we don't. So we can cut those back at least in 2016 but those are still going to need to happen. And then in 2017 you don't to any of that. Now there is the issue of the storm water utility study that is \$100,000 that is in the general fund. I would recommend that you continue with that expenditure this year because it is going to produce valuable information that we are going to need in the future but at the end of the day you going to have to find; Council is going to have to set some kind of policy direction with regards to increasing revenue. How you go about doing that, that is a discussion for you to have and information for staff to provide but you've seen the number. You know the hurdle that we are going to have to get over.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So I think we've got to make some cuts and you may not like the cuts that I'm going to recommend. Council may not like them but I think they need to be considered. Some of them I have highlighted on here on the spreadsheet. One of them has to do with mowing cycles. I know that the state is going to mowing right-of-ways along the highways less often and I am referring to right-of-ways along Route 4 and State Route 35.

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Mr. Chodkowski: Yes Sir.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I don't know how much savings we can realize by changing that mowing cycle but I think we should consider it. I'm also curious about the right-of-way around the Base; whether that is really our responsibility or if that is really like my easement; my right-of-way, their responsibility. That doesn't need to be a long discussion but even with that perhaps a lot less frequent mowing cycle can save us some money and wear and tear on equipment. Mr. Taylor, your program on top of the list of \$50,000 a year for Springfield Street, I think we should consider maybe slowing that down. I'm not saying to stop it but maybe that needs to be rolled back a little bit. Project Dismas, that is a chunk of change and I don't know if there is anything we can do to spread that out over a couple of years or not if that would impact that project. I think it is something that should be considered. And there are some minor things; general abatement activities, I don't know what we are spending our money on for general abatement activities and whether that can be rolled back a little bit or be used more effectively. I don't know if that will impact what we are trying to accomplish. Rohrer Park basketball court, not this year.

Mr. Chodkowski: And I should point out; and I didn't mention them or review them but in the third proposal you will note several items that have been highlighted and I forgot to print the representative notes for the third proposal. It wasn't much of a haircut but we did trim back the Springfield Beautification to \$40,000 and we can trim that back a little but more. We did trim back abatement to \$55,000 so that's down another \$9000.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I haven't had a chance to look at the spreadsheet you just handed out.

Mr. Chodkowski: It is hot off the press.

Mr. Fullenkamp: The Woodman Welcome Sign project, \$45,000?

Mr. Chodkowski: As a term of the initial grant that sign needs to be in place for at least a 10 year period so we have to reconstruct that sign.

Mr. Fullenkamp: It has to be like and same? So we can't change that.

Mr. Chodkowski: To the extent that you were talking about reducing the expense; one of the things I have yet to have a conversation with Mr. Miller because we have yet to have our conversation, but one of the things that is included in that \$45,000 is a revamp of the existing signs and a rehash of the original vegetation plan. So we can go through and do the tall grass and the double knockout roses and just make those elements so that is a place we can cut we just haven't had time to drill down on those.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Those minor updates on the street signs along Woodman, that is not critical.

Mr. Chodkowski: Correct.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That can go away for a year or two. I don't know about the equipment for the service department; slope mower and hotbox. I sense a hotbox is a pretty critical sort of thing. I'm not so sure about a slope mower and that's the bigger item. Chief, this is concerning me, the body cam and the escalation of cost to the city. I know you went ahead and you order the body cameras without any discussion from Council about it. I'm all for body cams but I'm concerned about the escalating costs for the storage. I think that wasn't something that was discussed and may be vetted before we started so I'm not sure what we're going to do there. Maybe we can find a way to cut that cost way back.

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Chief Robinson: Well hopefully the Watch Guard will come up with; we are waiting for them to come through with us doing the downloading so hopefully that will be resolved with the software they provide.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So the cost will.

Chief Robinson: It could actually go completely away.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That's fine but that's something; when I look at \$35,000. As much as I like the idea of the body cams I think it is something; and maybe that is typical, maybe that is the true cost but that is something we should have kind of known about before we went ahead with it. That's all going to say about it. Your Interceptors, I'm not sure that we can stay on the same schedule but that is something Council can talk about. Now do we have the grant for the RTA shelters?

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That has been received?

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So four of them are grants?

Mr. Chodkowski: Correct.

Mr. Fullenkamp: And one of them is not?

Mr. Taylor: I believe all of them are part of the grant.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I'm reading from the 29th or the last meeting; replacing five existing shelters and construct two new shelters. The RTA grant is for replacing four shelters.

Mr. Taylor: That is correct, I'm sorry.

Mr. Fullenkamp: But we can scale that back just a tad; maybe we can't do the one that's not funded. That's a lot. I didn't add that up. I didn't know how far we could scale those things back but if we can make a dent in this estimated \$1.926 million deficit I think it is something worthy of at least looking at. I don't want to deny anybody the proper tools. And some of the schedules for mowing and such; I went out did a little reading about hot versus cold fill for paving and there seems to be a lot of advantages to hot mix versus cold mix unless you want to spend a lot of money for top-of-the-line cold mix. And I don't know how critical a slope mower is and only you can address that.

Mr. Miller: We can probably tweak another couple years out of the existing one.

Mr. Fullenkamp: That cost about \$60,000 or \$70,000?

Mr. Chodkowski: No, the one that's in there now was about \$120,000. Now they do have smaller size mowers and I have to asked Mr. Miller to find out exactly what those size reductions mean in-service capability. Mr. Miller has spoken numerous times before Council about that mower and that it is rather antiquated and it spends as much time being serviced as it does being in service. So if we can get a piece of equipment that is \$40,000 cheaper than that; sure maybe it just cuts the 2 inch calipers instead of the 4 inch calipers.

Mr. Fullenkamp: And those are the kind of considerations I think we might need to make. But I don't want that to escalate our labor costs. There has to be that balance.

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But some of these; I don't know how much savings we would get by cutting the number of mowings by 30% or half or whatever is reasonable. So if the state is doing it along their highways maybe we should consider it too. Alright, thank you. That's all I have. Oh and by the way I am withdrawing all my suggestions from two weeks ago.

Mr. Smith: I just want to comment on cutting back on the mowing schedule; I know when I slack on cutting grass, when I do go in the grass is high and it is harder on my equipment than it is if I stay on top of it every week to 10 days. So it is something to think about because it is more wear and tear on our equipment and possibly repair costs could escalate there. But I too did go through the paperwork and look at some areas that we could cut back on if I could share this with you. With that be all right?

Mayor Flaute: Yes Sir.

Mr. Smith: Okay. One of them was the beautification area there on Springfield Street. I know it is right out here in front of City Hall and stuff but I was looking at eliminating that. The relocation of the basketball court and paving; just eliminating that for Rohrer Park as well. Fire department, eliminate replacing car three. You said we have to keep the sign there on Woodman Drive. And I too was thinking of something smaller in the way of a slope mower. I understand we need the hotbox but I was thinking of something a little more affordable on that slope mower and to eliminate the purchase of the new police cars. That's kind of where I was. And again I haven't added those numbers up either but it is a start.

Mayor Flaute: Okay, thank you Sir. My question is, Airway Road grant and the Spaulding Road and the Springfield Street; those were hot items that we've been talking about for a while and all are in great need of work. So I know the grant for Airway Road will be coming and when?

Mr. Chodkowski: 2020 is when that will be here.

Mayor Flaute: 2020, so that is not going to affect this budget.

Mr. Chodkowski: Well we have to be conscientious of that project because we are already obligated; I think it is three and half million dollars for that project and the grant pays for just over 1 ½ million dollars. I think that's what it is I don't have the paper work in front of me. So the city still has the potential to almost be obligated to \$2 million that we have to have available in 2020. Now the Spaulding Road project, as I shared my email, it was the number one recommended project by the integration committee for funding. Mr. Miller, did that go through today? I know they voted today. So what we will recommend with regards to Spaulding Road is to schedule that project for 2017, not 2016 and there were two reasons for that. One is we are currently accepting request for proposals for engineering firms so in the event that we wind up moving to a different firm other than LJB I don't know that it is a reasonable expectation to have that project fully designed and ready to bid for a project to occur this year. The other issue with that is; lesson learned from Harshman/Burkhart. We tried to push those all on the same year in which funds were awarded and as we know that did not work out so well. So that would be the first thing that we would recommend. The second thing is the permissive tax fund. Those are the local dollars; those are not the county dollars that are in that fund balance so we can use those to pay for improvements in resurfacing on any local street. So since there are sufficient funds in that particular account we can cover the Spaulding Road project through the permissive tax fund as opposed to running that through the general fund or the street fund. So there is money available there but again keep in mind we still have the 2020 project of Airway and as I understand it our proposal for both Springfield East and Airway Rd. East have scored well or are looking to score well in the Map 21 projects so there could be additional sums needed in 2021.

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Mayor Flaute: So Springfield we don't know yet.

Mr. Chodkowski: So that is currently in the evaluation process. I think February is when they come out with their final rankings and the recommendations for funding.

Mr. Miller: Mr. City Manager may I say something also that I didn't realize? I talked with Stacy Valance with regards to permissive tax; she is the one I usually follow up with the reimbursement request and she stated that you actually can request more and as you develop the money they will pay you. So let say you have a \$300,000 invoice for permissive tax; you only have \$100,000 in the kitty right now; you can go ahead and do the project and then once that money accrues again it will be paid directly to you. I didn't realize that you could do that. I thought it was only based on current balance and it is not. Just food for thought.

Mr. Denning: So we'd take it from our own bank.

Mr. Chodkowski: Correct, but that piggy bank only brings in about 160 some thousand dollars a year so it is not an incredibly fat pig.

Mr. Denning: I could live off \$160,000 a year.

Mayor Flaute: Okay any other comments from members of Council? So you heard the recommendations from the city manager. The city manager has heard some of the recommendations from us. So we can continue a discussion on this or we can wait until tomorrow night to continue this discussion with the recommendations that the manager has talked about. Because it is my understanding that those recommendations are not in here.

Mr. Chodkowski: That is correct. The only change from the second proposal to the third proposal is withdrawing those funds from those various accounts and then there are some limited reductions and I did mention those. Now there were a few increases as well. They weren't significant. There was \$7000 that was increased in the police fund for the traffic speed counter and there was also an increase to Mr. Murray's fund by about \$5000 or \$6000 which is in relation to; we were just notified that Miami Conservancy District is putting together an advertising campaign for the Great Miami Recreation Corridor. So since we do have the Eintracht project we thought that that would be appropriate to participate in so there was an increase there but those are the only increases that were included in the budget. The rest were those reductions to the Springfield Beautification project, there was the reduction to nuisance abatement and then there was one other one that I can't recall but those with the reductions.

Mayor Flaute: So tomorrow night we are going to get a sheet that is going to show; it is going to be noted on there all the reductions that we are talking about and increases so we know what we are talking about and we are going to see instead of a deficit of \$2 million we are going to see a deficit of \$200,000.

Mr. Chodkowski: No, you still have a deficit of almost \$2 million but now it is spread out over a lot of funds instead of the general fund. The general fund still has a deficit of approximately \$700,000 even with all of these changes. So we as staff can facilitate additional discussion about what can or cannot; at least what we think should or should not come out of the budget. But at the end of the day it is Council's decision about what is funded and what is not as part of 2016. What I did not hear from any member of Council was any reduction with regards to the \$500,000 that is in there for local streets. So whether or not that is something you want that left in or you do not want that left in, that is direction we will need from you. We can sit and have a discussion with chief, okay look Chief Robinson if you move these vehicles to a four year rotation instead of a three year rotation what is that going to look like? I mean we

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can run some numbers and see what that means and here's how maintenance will increase and here is how your cars we will need to be replace, what frequency. We can do those types of things.

Mr. Fullenkamp: We don't expect to see anything tomorrow night; an upgrade on this.

Mr. Chodkowski: On the third proposal unless you are going to give specific direction to start deleting specific items or specific values, no. We don't have the ability to do that kind of crunching.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So when will staff be prepared to address some of the proposed cuts that some members of Council brought up tonight and the impact; like the mowing cycles. I don't expect them to know what they will save today but maybe I will expect them to know next week.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yeah, we can prepare that information and send that out to you in written form sometime next week probably.

Mr. Fullenkamp: So tomorrow night is a discussion about budget.

Mayor Flaute: What is that going to look like?

Mr. Chodkowski: I don't know Sir what this Council wants it to look like. Admittedly we would be having a much different discussion and it would have started much sooner so whether or not tomorrow's night's discussion is about what Council wants to do in the future to address this issue; but maybe that's too soon to have that discussion but that is going to have to be an item for Council to discuss and provide us with direction on.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I certainly hope that we have all learned something about balance sheets in the process; the budget setting process and how you set the priorities. I know I have and I know how I run my own budget. I'm not saying they are similar but yeah they are. When I write a bunch of checks I have to tally up; here's my number of checks and here's my balance that I know. And I know that is oversimplifying it and you had incomplete numbers and that made it more difficult but even with the incomplete numbers I don't see balance sheets change very much.

Mr. Chodkowski: And like I said, if it wasn't me being old school in how I prepared that number we would've had this discussion two weeks sooner.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Stop that.

Mr. Chodkowski: I will never make this mistake again.

Mayor Flaute: So did you have a proposed amount that these two buildings will bring in in 2016? Is that in here somewhere?

Mr. Chodkowski: We do, this third version does include a populated Wright Point fund.

Mayor Flaute: I see that okay.

Mr. Chodkowski: Based on how we operated in 2014 and 2015, Mr. Murray and Ms. Christian and I had a meeting early this week and there were certain changes that Mr. Murray would like to make that we will review with Council in detail; at least we are planning to at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. So if the thought is, while there is a lot of money there and we could transfer that to pay down or to defer operational deficiencies we are going to say, no that's not a very good idea. If that is

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Council's will we will do it but our advice would be no, do not raid that enterprise fund to prop up a revenue deficiency in the general fund.

Mayor Flaute: So what is the \$6 million number? That is what you estimate as; definitely not profit.

Mr. Chodkowski: So that includes all of the money that we'll make in rents plus the loan. So we get a loan every year, remember it is short-term financing so we have to include that four plus million dollars that we get every April.

Mayor Flaute: And that is included in this?

Mr. Chodkowski: That is correct. We had to check that on our sheet that yes we receive that revenue.

Mayor Flaute: What is the estimate for profit from these two buildings?

Mr. Chodkowski: \$200,000.

Mayor Flaute: Isn't that low?

Mr. Chodkowski: It is lower than what it has previously been but there are several different reasons for that; most notably we are planning on not having a tenant renew, GD IT and Mr. Murray again will talk about that at the next meeting when we review the budget.

Mayor Flaute: Okay. Well I don't see why. I guess we'll have to talk about this later but we need to include it as income and so we should spend it.

Mr. Chodkowski: Well we are going to talk about how we propose to spend it.

Mayor Flaute: We're going to talk about that.

Mr. Chodkowski: Yes, we will be in the best position to do that on December 3.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Well I am concerned that we are asking staff to spend time on issues that I am not sure there is a consensus in the Council for the recommended changes but we are asking them to spend time. So I think we need to come to some consensus of what you want them to spend time figuring out what the savings are.

Mayor Flaute: That's why I was hoping for a detailed sheet tomorrow night so we know what to cut.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: The people who made recommendations at this dais need to be; we need a consensus from this group before they know what their marching orders are.

Mayor Flaute: True.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Well I don't know that we've heard that.

Mayor Flaute: I've heard a lot of different things here.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: My point well made.

Mayor Flaute: I would like to see them in front of me. I would like to see the proposed cuts in front of me so that we can get a good decision. That's what I was trying to get to and I am not sure we are going to be able to get to that; definitely not tomorrow night from what I'm hearing. I want to see these cuts right on my paper and which ones we want to do.

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Mrs. Lommatzsch: What cuts you want to see for staff to spend their time figuring out what the dollars are? What cuts do you want them to spend their time on?

Mayor Flaute: Okay is there a proposal tonight to go through each one of the cuts that everyone talked about and then say yes or no?

Mrs. Lommatzsch: There needs to be a consensus from Council on what they should spend their time on. If there is not a consensus at this table to cut roads and paving then don't spend time talking about it or working up numbers. I had been told two years ago that we would be in this position by 2016 and 2017 and we are there. Because we as Council have not put the brakes on anything and we are there with a \$2 million shortfall. I was told by members of this Council two years ago that we would be here by 2016 and 2017.

Mayor Flaute: Okay.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: So I think before we ask them to spend more time; and it takes a lot of their time crunching numbers, then we need to know that is what we want to do. I don't think we need to spend time having them talk about how much it is going to cost to cut out part of our mowing program if everybody on Council isn't on board with that.

Mayor Flaute: Okay, so Council has heard Mrs. Lommatzsch's proposal to go through and speak about each item that was proposed tonight and come to a consensus with it. Is that what Council's pleasure is?

Mr. Fullenkamp: I don't know how you can make a decision unless you know the associated cost; the savings that might be gained. I don't know how you make an informed decision about whether you want to do this or not. No whether or not staff; staff did put the time in this budget without our guidance and now we are having the discussion right now about some of the possible cuts we can make. Until you know what the potential savings are I don't know how you can make a decision about whether you want to do it or not.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: But if this board is not in support of cutting out paving issues and the city asked the staff to spend time.

Mr. Fullenkamp: Well you know that number that is \$500,000. They don't have to spend any time on that.

Mayor Flaute: All we're asking staff to do is to put together; in my opinion the way I see this is we are asking staff to put down on a piece of paper what the recommendations were from the city manager and from the folks tonight and just a number about what that is going to save us. And then tomorrow night, maybe that's when we can do what you are asking to do; go through each one of those things and do we have support for them or not. That's the way I would prefer to do it. It's not going to take staff that long to do that.

Mr. Fullenkamp: It is not going to be tomorrow night. They are not going to get these numbers together in one day. Cut four is going to come in the first meeting in December.

Mayor Flaute: Okay, whenever it is. I agree with Mr. Fullenkamp, I can't sit here and make decisions like that without knowing how much it is going to cut or what we are going to do and maybe there are some other cuts that we can come up with. I would like to see a list and then say yes, no, yes, no, yes. Am I off on this?

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Mr. Curp: Are we saying that if the dollar amount isn't that great that we are not going to cut it?

Mayor Flaute: I know what we are saying is that the Council has to agree whether we are going to cut it or not. If you get 4 to 3 that is what we are going to agree on. I don't know what the complete thought process is going to be and Mrs. Lommatzsch is asking for a process or at least which ones do we want to have and which ones we not want to cut and I can't just sit here and do that tonight. As Mr. Fullenkamp says, I just want to see numbers. I don't want staff to spend a whole lot of time on it but give me a number so I know where we are going with this and we are doing it in a responsible way. Those are my thoughts.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Mr. City Manager, I looked at the numbers that you have given us tonight and we all need to go back and look at those again. I am uncomfortable with the Wright Point decision. I am real uncomfortable with that.

Mayor Flaute: What decision is that?

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: The 8 million and 895. I am just worried and I understand what you are doing. I understand that but I don't know that it is the way that I think is a good practice to get into. If we looked at; we know we have a problem and we have been doing some deficit spending and I think we all should've caught it but we didn't so we are at a point now. Going forward I think we all need to determine to do much differently; much differently, all of us. But if we look at a 10% cut across the board with everything can you give us an idea where that gets us? We all have our projects and we all know that each department has needs but I think at some point in time we have to understand that we are \$2 million in the red and it is going to grow. It is not going to get better next year, is not going to get better the next year so we have to do something now to start making it better and working towards that and we have to come up with a plan and we have to all work that plan and we have to all make some sacrifices. Everyone of us because there are 27,000 citizens out there that we are promising them roads, we are promised them everything and we can't do it.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: It might not be 10% it could be 12% or whatever.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: At some point in time we have to start somewhere. And I appreciate each Councilmember that has brought forth cuts. I've looked at those things and yeah I can say we can't do anything but we are the city and we have to do something. We have to be responsible so I don't know what is the best way. You can live without 10% in your budget; you can live without it we can live without it or whatever the number comes up to be that we start down the road to stability. If we don't do it now I don't know when we are going to do it. And we can sit and make; we can cut this, we can cut that just as we heard from the group tonight. They want to be involved; they want to have money to do something with. And here we are again. We all know why we are here. They knew why we were here. We couldn't sit here and tell them we could do a dog gone diddley at any park. That is my recommendation. We look at an overall reduction.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Everybody should have skin in the game.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: Everybody should; we should; every one of us should. We don't have to travel; we don't have to do things so that is my recommendation; that we see where that gets us.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: But at the same time when we do that we need to support the staff when people don't see things getting done. We can't go out and undermine when there is not money to do something and when we have to support the staff. We have to say

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the service department only has X number of dollars and this is what they can do with it and we can't be out promising things we can't deliver and we have a history of doing that.

Deputy Mayor Reynolds: You won't get into an argument with me on that. Who has a history of that?

Mrs. Lommatzsch: Promising things and then expecting these people to figure out how to pay for it.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I'm not sure what you're talking about.

Mayor Flaute: I'm not sure either. What did the Council.

Mrs. Lommatzsch: I don't want to reiterate what I have said before. But all I'm saying is I could support across the board; I think everyone should have skin in the game and I think that that is the only way you're going to make staff comfortable with what is going on and nobody's picking on them. The road patrol, if they've got skin in the game or the firemen have skin in the game they are not going to be out there; but once those things start happening and are visible in the city then we have to support the staff. We can't be going in promising things we can't deliver.

Mayor Flaute: Okay. So what does Council want to see for tomorrow night's meeting? What kind of discussion for the work session? Is there anything we want to ask?

Mr. Fullenkamp: Without version 4 and some estimates of some of these things we've talked about.

Mr. Denning: I would like to add one set of cuts that could go into these numbers and that would be cutting back on all Council and Mayor travel from \$2000-\$1000. There is \$7000 right there that we could put into the budget and I know that is minimal but it is a start and it puts some of our skin in the game; either that or just zero it out.

Mr. Smith: That is a 50% cut for Council and you are not going to do 50% on the others.

Mr. Chodkowski: Well you have to look at what the meaning of that is. 10% on \$1 million is way more than 50% of \$2000 so if everything is 10% across the board or everything should be equal in some kind of capacity in these kind of issues they are not going to be equal in that capacity.

Mr. Denning: Well we aren't going to be giving everyone a 10% pay cut.

Mr. Chodkowski: Based on my experience; just here in this community the last thing that we can afford to do knowing that we need to ask the constituents for additional revenue; the last thing we can do is affect personnel. Every one of us in this room as your staff have sat and listened to folks say, you know what when that fill in the blank employee from that fill in the blank department can do X something faster I will vote for your levy. If you're going to look at a percent cut in say planning and program management; I can already think about 40% I can cut from operations but if there was no operational money and it was just personnel; to unilaterally cut 10% in people who are what we need to sell our organization to other people it doesn't benefit us. At least that's my opinion and that would be my opinion if asked to do so as I have voluntarily done right now. So we can look at those things. We can start taking cuts first thing tomorrow morning. I can't guarantee you really robust looking numbers but we can come in and say, hey we've got another month and statement and based on what we've done with nuisance abatement maybe it doesn't need to be \$55,000 maybe it can be around \$35,000. We are looking at bringing forward adjustment to fees and

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there are going to be some additional fees associated with our schedule; it is minimal but it is something. We can add that. We haven't looked at an increase in revenue and we have explained why. Does half a percent in revenue increase matter? Is it \$30,000 or something like that but is it reasonable or is it something? So we can have some rough numbers in some areas tomorrow.

Mr. Fullenkamp: The elephant in the room is revenues. And the elephant in the room is how we going to raise revenues and we know that that is going to come in the form of assessments or taxes.

Mr. Chodkowski: Correct.

Mr. Fullenkamp: In any meaningful fashion. So we can recommend as many cuts as we want but until we have the intestinal fortitude to follow through and go asked the voters or to work on an assessment policy or something this problem is going to continue to exist. And it's easy for me to say right now I have just been elected for four more years but that is our reality.

Mr. Chodkowski: Put tied into that also is; and these are all things we plan to work on anyways in 2016 but obviously now with much more haste are things like; we had a discussion about sidewalk assessments and does it really take 18 months. Well maybe it doesn't maybe it doesn't but now it had better take longer because I guarantee if we set up a curb, gutter and sidewalk assessment program before we address the revenue issue there is no one here in this community that is going to vote for that revenue issue.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I understand.

Mr. Chodkowski: So we need to have discussions about all of the hidden fees, all of the hidden assessments and all of those other communities. And we've had discussions already; for the fourth-largest city where do we sit as a taxpayer; as an organization that utilizes assessments and fees on a regular basis? Where are we in relation to those communities that are both larger than us and smaller than us? That is all information we are going to need to communicate to the public regardless of what revenue solution we see. That is all information we are going to work together. Obviously it won't be tomorrow night or December 3 but I think it is also important to know that we as staff can go forward even if the budget reductions are not complete we can still go forward knowing that we have to find additional savings and address that as we move through 2016. We will continue to bring forward the most up-to-date information we can. We are always obligated to spend less in some capacity and that doesn't change now.

Mayor Flaute: Okay so tomorrow night's work session is canceled is that what I'm hearing? Okay.

Mr. Fullenkamp: I don't hear a need for it.

Mayor Flaute: Okay so we will see everyone here tomorrow night at 7 o'clock for our regular meeting. Is there anything else to be brought up?

Mrs. Lommatzsch: I want to thank staff for coming tonight I'm sure it was very enlightening. I know you're all tired and I think you've done a great job. I think the place is okay.

ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Denning to adjourn. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. With no further discussion a vote was taken. All were in favor; none were opposed. **Motion passed.**

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The meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.

William R. Flaute, Mayor

Clerk of Council