

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Council at Large Matt Miller	Present
Ward 1: Duane R. Fishpaw	Present
Ward 2: Robert M. Valentine	Present
Ward 3: Ruth G. Detrow	Present
Ward 4: Sandra Tunnell	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the minutes of the **Regular Session** of City Council held Tuesday, February 2, 2016 be accepted as submitted.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

LEGISLATION

Ordinances:

Ordinance No. 9-16

Item a)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR WAGES AND DETERMINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL FOR AREAS NOT INCLUDED IN ANOTHER WAGE OR SALARY ORDINANCE IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Human Resource Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mr. Burgess stated this pay ordinance is pretty much the same language as 2010 with minor changes that occur from year to year.

Mr. Burgess stated the convention is if it has a line through it then we are removing it and if it is all up-percase then that is the language we are adding.

Mr. Burgess stated they are making a few minor changes with one being a 2% raise which is similar to what they are doing with the unions.

Mr. Burgess stated this is the standard language.

Mr. Paxton stated late this afternoon he and Mr. Burgess were trying to figure out how to implement these.

Mr. Paxton stated January 1st was not the beginning of the pay period, December 27th was.

Mr. Paxton stated this will not happen in the next two weeks.

Mr. Paxton suggested we make it retroactive to December 27th 2015 because that is the beginning of a pay period.

Mr. Paxton stated this will make it so easier to implement and calculate once this is all taken care of.

Mr. Paxton stated he apologized for the lateness of this and he just realized today that there would be 6 days in one pay period and 4 in another.

Mrs. Tunnell asked what we did for fire.

Mr. Burgess stated we settled early so we did December 27th 2015 for fire.

Mrs. Detrow stated does someone want to make a motion that we amend the ordinance retroactive to December 27, 2015.

Mr. Fishpaw asked if we could just make one motion for all the ordinances.

Mr. Bush stated he thinks so.

There were no additional comments.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to amend the ordinance to be retroactive to December 27, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Ordinance No.10-16

Item b.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND OTHER COMPENSATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES (Senior Leadership Team), EXEMPTED FROM THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT, OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Human Resource Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mr. Burgess stated he is here to present minor language changes.

Mr. Burgess stated he will clarify the wage ranges are adjusted every year to accommodate our senior people that have a lot of seniority.

Mr. Burgess stated they just keep bumping it up.

There were no additional comments.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to amend the ordinance to be retroactive to December 27, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Ordinance No. 11-16

Item c.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR WAGES AND DETERMINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF ALL OTHER PERSONNEL FOR AREAS NOT INCLUDED IN ANOTHER WAGE OR SALARY ORDINANCE IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Human Resource Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mrs. Tunnell asked about the parks and recreation and there are several upper ranges to accommodate.

Mr. Burgess stated it is to accommodate people.

There were no further questions.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to amend the ordinance to be retroactive to December 27, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Ordinance No. 12-16

Item d.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR WAGES AND DETERMINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF (SALARY) TO DIVISION DIRECTORS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Human Resource Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mr. Burgess stated the same as he stated before.

There were no further comments.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to amend the ordinance to be retroactive to December 27, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mr. Fishpaw that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Ordinance No. 13-16

Item e.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIMITS FOR WAGES AND DETERMINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF (WAGES) TO DIVISION DIRECTORS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Human Resources Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mr. Burgess stated same as before.

There were no further comments.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell to amend the ordinance to be retroactive to December 27, 2015.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Mr. Burgess stated now that those 5 ordinances are passed, we may to change them later on due to the Department of Labor making some changes.

Mr. Burgess stated that when the U.S. Department of Labor changes its Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 definitions, it could affect about 20 city employees.

Mr. Burgess stated we may see some of these again in September.

Ordinance No. 14-16

Item f.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMAN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (SERGEANT AND LIEUTENANTS); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Human Resources Director, Mark Burgess, provided testimony.

Mr. Burgess stated they have concluded their negotiations with sergeants and lieutenants and have a tentative agreement similar to what the firefighters have.

Mr. Burgess stated there were a 2% raise and some minor language changes.

Mr. Burgess stated they meet with the patrolmen on Friday and next Tuesday or Wednesday is with the clerks.

Mr. Miller stated it seems like the negotiations went very smoothly.

Mr. Burgess stated very smoothly.

Mr. Burgess stated it was due to the ongoing of building relationships with the union.

Mr. Burgess stated it was great teamwork.

Mr. Miller stated we really appreciate the cooperation of the union and feels the terms are fair.

There were no further questions.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.
Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Moved by Mr. Valentine and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Ordinance No. 15-16

Item g.

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR DISPATCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ASHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE FOR THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Finance Director, Larry Paxton, provided testimony.

Mr. Paxton stated before you are two invoices, one for dispatching and one for the dispatching expenditures with the Ashland County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Detrow asked if this was the one with a change.

Mr. Paxton stated there was some discussion about the amount of clothing allowance for the dispatchers.

Mr. Paxton stated for the clothing allowance for dispatchers he does not see that built in there.

Mr. Paxton stated he did try to reach out to the Sheriff's Office this afternoon about that.

Mr. Paxton stated once he finds out about this clothing allowance he will make the right adjustments.

Mr. Valentine stated it seems like we are heading towards the end of our relationship with them and our bills are going higher and higher every month.

Mr. Valentine stated this was just an observation.

Mrs. Tunnell asked if we pass this you will you still follow up with the sheriff.

Mrs. Tunnell asked if the amount we pass it for may change once you find out from them.

Mr. Paxton stated yes concerning the clothing allowance.

There were no further questions.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Mr. David Yanchunas, a resident of the city, asked how much the invoice was for.

Mr. Paxton stated it is for \$34,485.06

Mayor Stewart stated that is half of the cost, the sheriff does half and we do half.

Mr. Yanchunas asked if this was our half.

Mayor Stewart stated yes.

Ordinance No. 16-16

Item h.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OF A “THEN AND NOW” CERTIFICATE FOR THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED EXPENDITURE FOR THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Finance Director, Larry Paxton, Provided testimony.

Mr. Paxton stated there are a couple of examples where the invoice is received before we create the purchase orders.

Mr. Paxton stated getting back into business at the beginning of the year can be kind of hectic.

Mr. Paxton stated they have issued over 700 purchase orders as of today.

Mr. Paxton stated these were expenses incurred by the city and anticipated in our budget but got out of sync a little bit.

There were no further comments.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mrs. Tunnell that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw.

Ordinance No. 17-16

Item i.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ADVANCE FUNDS FROM THE (405) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO THE (206) PERMISSIVE TAX FUND, THE (208) CITY PERMISSIVE TAX FUND, AND THE (231) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FUNDS ARE RECEIVED IN ORDER TO RE-PAY THE SAID 405 FUND; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Mr. Valentine and seconded by Mr. Miller to invoke Section 113.01 of the Codified Ordinances as the distribution of the Ordinance has satisfied the requirements of said Section and that a further reading be dispensed with at this time.

Ayes: Mrs. Detrow, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine.

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell

Finance Director, Larry Paxton, provided testimony.

Mr. Paxton stated the purpose of this ordinance is the three funds we are discussing are all grant funds.

Mr. Paxton stated correction, the 231 is a grant fund and the others are permissive tax funds.

Mr. Paxton stated to participate in the 250 East Paving Project, we used the permissive funds but unfortunately there was not enough money in the fund to cover it.

Mr. Paxton stated the 206 and 208 funds rely on the County Commissioners to approve that and forward the money to us.

Mr. Paxton stated once the money has been advanced from 405, loaning to these funds, the money will go back in to 405 after we are paid.

With regard to the Rehab Project we did try to find funding for that but we came up a little short so we were not able to secure funding for that project.

Mr. Paxton stated so we will be advancing funds from 405 as needed but not right away.

Mr. Paxton stated this will come and go throughout the year as the project progresses.

Mr. Paxton stated it is borrowing from ourselves to put in that fund temporarily.

Mrs. Tunnell stated there will a lot of activity coming out of these funds.

Mrs. Tunnell asked Mr. Paxton if he will let us know when it is at the threshold.

Mr. Paxton stated he has to write a memo as a paper trail advancing the money from one fund and returning it to another fund.

Mr. Paxton stated he will forward a copy for us to see when that happens.

There were no further questions.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell.

Moved by Mrs. Detrow and seconded by Mr. Valentine that the rules requiring the reading on three separate days be suspended and that the Ordinance be passed on the second and third readings.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow.

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell.

Moved by Mr. Fishpaw and seconded by Mrs. Detrow that the Ordinance be passed.

Ayes: Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mr. Miller.

Abstain: Mrs. Tunnell.

RESOLUTIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Paxton stated he apologizes for the inconvenience of amending those 5 pay ordinances.

Mr. Paxton stated the Auditors have arrived this week to begin 2015 audit.

Mr. Paxton stated everything is moving smoothly so far.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mr. Miller stated he would like to remind everyone to attend tomorrow night's Senior Citizen's Center for a community discussion starting at 7:00 p.m., dinner starts at 6 p.m.

Mr. Miller stated we will be listening to what our folks have to say all over the City.

Mr. Miller stated he extends the invitation to Departments Heads as well as City Officials.

Mr. Miller stated this is an opportunity to listen to what the people in Ashland have to say, and will not be about solving the issues.

Mr. Valentine stated he would like to thank the Mayor, Brian and Jerry Mack for putting the article in the paper about the trees.

Mr. Valentine stated he thinks it looks nice down there and he doesn't want any trees falling on any kids.

Mayor Stewart agreed with Mr. Valentine that Brian is a tree hugger but it is nice to have one on our side.

Mrs. Detrow stated it was a good article.

Mrs. Tunnell stated good job Kristi for writing the article.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Stewart stated he would like to start the budget review with Council Members as soon as possible.

Mayor Stewart stated the committees will be invited to come in with the Department Heads.

Mayor Stewart stated if anyone wants to see what is going to be reviewed then he can put it on the screen downstairs in a matter of minutes.

Mayor Stewart stated there is going to be some major cuts again.

Mayor Stewart stated he told all the Department Heads if you don't ask for it then you won't get it.

Mayor Stewart stated but asking for it doesn't necessarily mean you are going to get it.

Mayor Stewart stated we have some very difficult decisions to make, especially in the safety forces.

Mayor Stewart stated we spend 80% of our time on general fund.

Mayor Stewart stated here we are in the middle of February and there is no budget to present yet.

Mayor Stewart stated he thought by now there would be a budget to present.

Mayor Stewart all this has to go back to Mr. Paxton and we have used his format with his assistance.

Mayor Stewart stated it is very important for Department Heads to be there.

Mayor Stewart stated he would like to get some times for his calendar of when folks can meet.

Mayor Stewart he would like to have both committee members present if possible.

Mayor Stewart stated we have very limited dollars in repairing the roads and it will be patching.

Mayor Stewart stated this is due to our community not seeing the need to pass an income tax levy last November.

Mayor Stewart stated Council needs to make a decision to either increase income tax or create revenue in another manner.

Mayor Stewart stated this won't happen for this summer; our summer was last fall.

Mayor Stewart stated if we want to do something for next summer then he suggests it starts real quick

Mayor Stewart stated whatever Council as a whole decides to do then we need to support it.

Mayor Stewart stated after the meeting anyone is welcome to join him downstairs and he will show the format that is going to be used to discuss the budget process.

Mayor Stewart stated again he needs to get the budget to Mr. Paxton sooner rather than later.

Mr. Miller asked about the reductions and is the cuts to their request.

Mr. Miller asked if they he anticipates the departments getting less money for 2016 or are we just talking about cuts.

Mayor Stewart stated that is a possibility because at the front end there is a 2% wage increase which takes them away from where they were last year.

Mayor Stewart stated we are not expecting as much income tax either for 2016 as we had in 2015.

Mayor Stewart stated asked Mr. Paxton if that was being said correctly.

Mr. Paxton agreed.

Mayor Stewart stated income tax is the lifeline of the general fund and again it is projected to be down this upcoming year.

Mayor Stewart stated the income tax projection is down half a million from what we actually collected.

Mayor Stewart stated we cannot appropriate in the red.

Mayor Stewart stated this is a bad, bad situation.

Mayor Stewart stated that income tax increase would have amounted to a million two.

Mayor Stewart stated it would have made a huge difference in the paving and several other areas.

Mayor Stewart stated our safety forces are in need of more money.

Mrs. Detrow stated that was a very serious speech.

Mayor Stewart stated he hopes everyone takes it that way because it is very serious.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mrs. Pam Mowry introduced herself and gave her contact information.

Mrs. Mowry is running for Ashland County Commissioner.

Mr. David Yanchunas, a resident of the City, stated he thinks trying to pass an income tax levy isn't the answer.

Mr. Yanchunas stated he feels maybe trying a bond issue would work.

Mayor Stewart stated a bond has to be repaid.

Mr. Yanchunas asked if you pass a levy to pay for the roads.

Mayor Stewart stated that is correct.

Mr. Yanchunas stated you could put it on the ballot and see if it goes.

Mr. Yanchunas stated he feels Council should try this.

Mr. Yanchunas stated to advertise this by putting it in the paper and see who shows up.

Mr. Yanchunas stated not to put it in as an emergency ordinance.

Mr. Yanchunas stated if our legislatures in Ohio would tax gasoline by one or two cents that would help too because it is for the roads.

Mr. Valentine stated we could also do an extra \$5 on license plates.

Mr. Valentine stated we talked about this before.

Mr. Paxton stated if it went to \$10 then we see an extra one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. Valentine stated that would patch a bunch of holes.

Mr. Paxton stated that would be a start.

Mr. Valentine agreed because we are not getting anything done when the levy goes down.

Mr. Valentine stated the past couple of winters have killed our roads.

Mr. Valentine stated our Street Department has done a great job of patching the holes with what little funding they have.

Mr. Kremser stated this is not only happening in Ashland.

Mr. Kremser stated he encourages anyone to go online to the American Society Civil Engineers website and go to the report card.

Mr. Kremser stated this is happening everywhere so we should go the website and click on infrastructure.

Mrs. Mowry asked if we do receive some license fees.

Mr. Paxton stated a hundred thousand comes from the County and approximately another one hundred thousand comes from the State of Ohio.

Mr. Paxton stated we also get gasoline tax for the Street Department for things like salt.

Mr. Paxton stated gasoline tax and license fees both help fund those activities.

Mayor Stewart stated 5,000 tons at \$58.00 a ton for salt and that's only up \$20 from a year ago.

Mrs. Mowry stated the entire townships struggle with this as well.

Mr. Miller stated he is familiar with the Sunshine Law and wonders how all this comes about.

Mr. Miller asked if we set up a work session to get feedback from people.

Mayor Stewart stated if you set up a work session you have to advertise it and you can't take action on it.

Mayor Stewart stated if you have a Special Session then Council can take action on it.

Mrs. Detrow asked if Council members would like to have a work session.

Mayor Stewart stated he would encourage Council to have a work session to figure out what they want to talk about because there is nothing on the table right now.

Mr. Miller suggested maybe after we go over the budget then we can meet to discuss cuts and how tight the budget is.

Mayor Stewart stated we only have 5 and half weeks to get it done and it's a challenge.

Mr. Paxton stated the budget has to be passed by the end of March.

Mr. Miller stated that is not long.

Mr. Miller asked if it was a good idea to wait and meet after the budget is done.

Mrs. Tunnell stated it is important that everyone know they are welcome to come and talk about it.

Mrs. Tunnell stated to let people know to come to think outside the box and it doesn't have to be after the budget is done.

Mr. Kremser stated in another community he used to live in that they passed a property tax.

Mr. Kremser stated it took 5 times and wasn't popular but it was used for road paving.

Mr. Valentine stated the last time they did this and had meetings, no one came.

Mayor Stewart stated that is correct that they talk to themselves.

Mr. Valentine stated they had Department Heads there to answer questions and we were lucky to only get 2 or 3 people from the City.

Mr. Valentine stated none gives a crap or they would show up.

Mr. Yanchanus stated you can't do it as an emergency ordinance.

Mrs. Tunnell stated if you are reading the paper this week then tell your councilman your ideas.

Mr. Yanchunas stated it is easier for people to vote no.

Mrs. Detrow stated let's set a public meeting that is a work session.

Mayor Stewart stated he hopes to have met with the different committee's by next Tuesday.

Mr. Miller suggested they meet before the next Council Meeting to have the public work session.

Mrs. Tunnell stated she liked the idea of meeting before the next Council Meeting on March 1st.

Mayor Stewart and all Council Members agreed to have a public work session on Tuesday, March 1, 2015 at 5 p.m. in conference room on the first floor.

Mrs. Detrow stated we want your ideas.

Mrs. Tunnell stated Kristi can do a whole story on it.

Mrs. Detrow again stated we want people to come and give us their ideas.

Mayor Stewart stated there is a group going from here to Burger King after the meeting to look at the situation with the crosswalk.

Mayor Stewart stated they want to see what the crosswalk looks like in the dark.

Mayor Stewart stated they have Mr. Ewing here from the University to go with us.

Mr. Yanchunas stated he comes through there every day at 5:45 p.m. and when he is driving towards King Road you can't see the people.

Mrs. Tunnell stated Broad Street also needs more lighting, where the fraternity houses are.

Mrs. Tunnell stated it is pitch black in there.

Mr. Ewing stated he knows on Broad Street there are a couple of lights out that Ohio Edison needs to come out and fix.

Mr. Ewing stated they have made Ohio Edison aware of it so they can come out and fix them.

ADOURNMENT FROM REGULAR SESSSION: 8:07 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Tunnell and seconded by Mr. Valentine to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fishpaw, Mr. Valentine, Mrs. Detrow, Mrs. Tunnell.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jody Toms, Clerk of Council

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