

COUNCIL

February 7, 2008

Wilmington City Council met on Thursday, February 7, 2008, with President Fred Ertel presiding.

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Wells, present; Peterson, present; Wallace, present; Popp, present; Mongold, present; McKay, present.

Assistant Chief Weyand was also present.

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, January 17, 2008, as received.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as received.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: I would like to announce a public meeting for March 20 at 7:30 p.m. for a rezoning request from Dennis and Cynthia Whitfield for 0.357 acres located at 564 Prairie Avenue from I1 Industrial to R1 single-family residential. Again, that will be March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Peterson: Mr. President, may I ask a question? Obviously, we want to go through the process on this, but is it possible that we need to have one reading and have two...

President Ertel: Well, let's see.

Councilwoman Peterson: I'm just trying....this family is in the process of relocating.

Mayor Raizk: Could I answer that?

President Ertel: Sure.

Mayor Raizk: It has been the policy of the council that we have the public hearing and one reading at the first meeting. Then, with a letter to the President stating some reasons for wanting to advance that, we have had second and third readings at the next meeting. That has usually been the procedure. That way, you serve the three readings, but...

Councilwoman Peterson: I have been in the process, but I wanted to see how we could do it.

Mayor Raizk: ...but there are time constraints that have to be dealt with.

Councilwoman Peterson: Yes. They are in the process of trying to relocate. That is assuming that there are not any objections from...

Mayor Raizk: Right.

President Ertel: Sure.

Councilwoman Peterson: Okay, great. Thank you.

President Ertel: Would it possible to possibly move that public hearing forward?

Law Director Kathryn Hapner: We have to have the certain time period.

President Ertel: Okay. Very good.

Mayor Raizk: It is statutory.

Councilwoman Peterson: Thank you.

President Ertel: Very true. I just wanted to make sure. Thank you very much. At this time I would like to recognize Debbie Stamper please, the Executive Director of the Clinton County Convention and Visitor Bureau. You have some literature before you, and I am sure she is willing and ready to explain it.

Debbie Stamper: I am. Thank you. It is good to be here tonight. This is actually the ninth time, the ninth year, that I have come at the first of the year. As some of you all know and some of you don't, our resolution that was made when the Bureau started actually requires that I come once a year and present the budget and marketing plan. I will try to make this brief because I saw I wasn't on the agenda so I imagine I have to be short. You have a couple of things (and I kind of followed the format that I always do...it's just kind of simple), but you have a marketing plan and budget. Then also, I didn't know if you had all seen our new Visitor's Guide (and I am going to briefly talk about that in just a second), but we went back to a booklet form, and we have incorporated the Restaurant Guide and the 2008 Calendar of Events. Also, in the back of it, Laura and I worked together for a long time coming up with a map of the recreational trails. So that is actually part of our piece now. We try to make this an all-comprehensive marketing piece so that we would not have to do a lot of individual pieces this year.

Anyway, just very briefly, in looking at 2007, we kind of had a surprise, as 2006 was a record year in terms of occupancy in our hotels. We really were geared up and thought we would see the same thing in '07, but a couple of things happened that negatively impacted that. One of the things was, of course, rising gas prices. We all have lived through that. The second thing was the contract that DHL had with their employees and their pilots. They had said that for one year they would pay for those employees to stay in Wilmington in a hotel during the week while they worked and then they would go home on the weekends. Anyway, that one-year contract expired, so all of a sudden there was just a drastic decline in business travelers through the week at our hotels. We were way under budget from where we had budgeted. In spite of that, we were able to complete all of our goals for 2007, thankfully.

The major things that we did in '07, as I would say all of you are aware, we went through a branding strategy. We came up with a new logo and all of the things that go along with that. In conjunction with that, we debuted our Ambassador Program, which is designed primarily for businesses that serve our visitors. It is a training program to teach business owners out to establish a service culture at their business as well as for customer service front-line people. We did extensive customer service training. We talked about tourism and why it is important. We also gave them a resource book to use at their business – the whole reason behind that being that if we get people here our new brand says it is an open invitation. The only way it can be an open invitation is if everyone buys into this idea, so how they treat the visitor when they come in is extremely important. I can't be everywhere every day. Anyway, the year was good. We kind of raised the bar on all of our advertising. We were in print media, television, did some radio, and just across the board, we had a great year as far as that. In looking at industry projections, they are projecting for this year that things are going to be just a little bit of an increase but pretty flat. We as well, in meeting with the hoteliers, kind of expect that to be the situation too since we have lost that business travel. What is going to have to happen this year is we can cut back on our budget. We are kind of keeping in line with what we actually collected in 2007. That means that we have to be smart about how we spend our dollars and try to look for avenues to consolidate expenses. The Visitor's Guide was kind of the first step in that direction. Also we are going to have to definitely address the fact that we have lost this business travel and what kind of market can we go after that we can replace that business. So I am going to be working with the hoteliers and getting input and looking at research.

Mayor Raizk: How much are they off, Debbie?

Debbie Stamper: Dollar-wise, which is all I have to gauge it on, we were off about \$50,000 from where we should have been. In 2006, they had record years. Most of them were all at 70% occupancy for the whole year.

Mayor Raizk: Or greater, yeah.

Debbie Stamper: Or greater. This past year they were around 63%, which is quite a bit for them, you know. Anyway, we are going to have to try to find a niche market that can replace that. The other thing that we are going to be doing this year is integrating our new brand. We have this new brand and we don't even have it on our windows yet. In fact, Steve Holland called me today and they are supposed to be up in about three days. You know, we're getting that into all of our marketing material and all of the different resources that we have. We are going also to continue with our Ambassador Program. We had 33 people go through it last year and we hope that we can have that many this year. As travel trends emerge, we will just be responding to those as needed.

Just a few real quick comments about the budget itself, and then you can look at that at your leisure. What you will find is the line item budget and then following it is a line-by-line explanation of the logic behind how we came up with that figure. You will see the money and income that we budgeted for. A couple of things: on advertising, we kind of cut back on that and pulled back. We are not going to leave any of the markets that we have always promoted and advertised to, but we are just going to try to be a little smarter about it and look for quality versus quantity and look at pieces that have a longer shelf life. So let's say you have a magazine that comes out once a quarter; that means we have a shelf life of three months, so we will be looking at those kinds of things. Then as we start getting the income this year, we were very conservative, so if we see that we are getting more income than what we anticipate, then I will be discussing with the board some other projects that we could possibly buy into as the year goes on.

We are still doing the grants this year. In fact, we announced those at our open house. I think this is kind of interesting, so I'll mention it – I found out through one of the state associations that I belong to that there is an insurance for catastrophic loss of income for bureaus. What that means is, let's say a hotel got hit by a tornado and half of their rooms were out of service for whatever length of time, then whatever that estimated income would have been that we should have received, the insurance would cover that. It is really important to us because if we didn't have that then we would be in dire straits, so we did actually get that new policy this year.

One of the other things is every two years, as some of you know, we are mandated for a state audit and this is the year, so we will be having a state audit this year. Also, we did contract with the State's Division of Travel and Tourism. They are going to be doing an economic impact study this year. They did not do one for '06. Last year, they decided to skip a year, so they will be doing one this year for '07. As soon as I get those figures, which will be this summer, I will share that with you all and let you know where we stand. Really, there is nothing else. Most of our expenses are just tied to what it was last year. We are going through a whole new overhaul again of our web site, with some new features and with our new look and everything. Any questions? That was pretty fast.

Councilman Wallace: I've got a question. It is kind of off the beat from your heading here, but when I pick up a travel magazine, like the travel section of the Enquirer, they have like one-day trips. If you go, you go here and this is what you can see there. How do they get all of those planned out? Is there an organization that does that stuff?

Debbie Stamper: Well, is it an ad that you are seeing?

Councilman Wallace: It's not really an ad, it is a section that is there every week. It is not advertised. It is like a one-day trip from Cincinnati. They might head into Kentucky...

Debbie Stamper: What you do, I mean, we're all doing the same thing. We're all trying to work with all of the media to try to...we send press releases. Unfortunately, Cincinnati does not really recognize Wilmington.

Councilman Wallace: No, I was thinking Cleveland and Toledo. I wasn't...

Debbie Stamper: Oh yeah, definitely. I mean, we send them every time we have an event or we send up these itinerary ideas of what people could come here and do. Unless you have something that really stands out they might run it. If you don't, then the only

way you're going to be able to be sure you get it in there is if you pay for ad space. As you all know, the advertising is very expensive.

Councilman Wallace: The way that this is laid out it looks like it is put out by one person who puts it in there, you know...

Debbie Stamper: Well, like daily, I get requests to go into advertising travel sections, but you just have to have the money to do all of those. For example, I just did a press release on all of the new teahouses that are in the county and had networked with a gentleman who has a web site called ohiotraveler.com. He sent it out for me because he is really well known. That same day we got hits from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They were running it in a travel section of a newspaper up there. There were several that were not local but within the state, so you just never know. It is hard to get people to understand that. You know, there are no guarantees. We just keep doing it. Cindy?

Councilwoman Peterson: One comment I will make on that article about the teahouses: I heard a few comments out in the community that they didn't even know they existed...

Debbie Stamper: Oh, really?

Councilwoman Peterson: ...until that article ran.

Debbie Stamper: So, we run them local and we also run them out and about. But we want our people to know about it too. Don't?

Councilman Wells: The Ambassador Program, is this primarily for businesses and business employees?

Debbie Stamper: It really was designed for front-line employees like receptionists at say a front desk at a hotel or at a restaurant. What happened, though, is that probably three-fourths of the people that attended were business owners, small business owners, which shocked me. So after I had developed the program, I had to go back and totally revamp it because I was talking to a different market. I didn't want to preach to the choir. You know. as we get more mature, we feel like we know all about customer service. You know, we did some highlights, but then that is why we started talking about the service culture and how you grow that in your business. Really, it has been kind of a mixed bag. We don't turn anyone down. We have even had county people that volunteer on boards and things like that, so it has just been across the board. Rob?

Councilman Jaehnig: It's an excellent program. My wife went through it and she talked about it for three weeks. The amount of material that she brought home finished off filling up our guest room and now we have had to move on.

Debbie Stamper: I always like people to go home with something.

Councilwoman Peterson: That is all in the language of the mission, which is an open initiation. People want to feel welcome and tell their friends about it, and if they don't feel welcome they are probably going to tell their friends about that as well.

Debbie Stamper: Probably so.

Councilwoman Peterson: All of the marketing in the world doesn't help us if they go into the business and don't feel welcome.

Debbie Stamper: That's absolutely correct.

Councilman Jaehnig: It's a state of mind, definitely. It is a state of mind.

Councilwoman Mongold: Are we too late to get the schedule of our downtown events in your web site?

Debbie Stamper: Oh, no. We can do that the same day that you give it to us. The only thing is all of the magazines, like the state magazine that has all of the events in it; we are working nine months out. But if it is our web site, no, absolutely not.

Councilwoman Mongold: I'll get that to you.

Debbie Stamper: Okay, great. Okay. Thank you very much.

President Ertel: Thank you, Debbie. Great work. Okay, at this point in time [loud buzzing noise over amplification system] I'll ask Laura to turn that down. Thank you, Laura.

Councilman Wells: Oh, I thought that was a drum roll.

[Laughter]

Councilman Wells: I thought something big was going to happen.

President Ertel: I can guarantee you that is never going to happen. Very good. At this point, I would like to turn it over to the Mayor. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Raizk: That is about as much drum roll as I am going to get. I don't really have a report tonight, but I would like to say that I know there have been a lot of negative scenarios in the press all over (I'm not picking on Gary). Gary is trying to follow a story line that has been started in Bonn and working its way West. I would like to say, so folks don't think... While the city and myself particularly have not commented a great deal in the paper, there is a reason for that, because there has not been a lot to comment on. I think we have had one article that has been dissected four or five times by other media and it gets kind of rehashed over and over again like they just discovered it yesterday. In reference to DHL and how that could impact Wilmington, there are a lot of things out there. I have been in contact with senior management, and we are agreeing to stay in good touch with each other about things. As folks understand in these trying economic times, though, there are some things that need to get turned around. It is also not a very good economic climate to do that in, and that affects a lot of peoples' businesses. Those of us up here, I think we represent a whole bunch of different types of businesses, and we are all facing a difficult economic... the last 18 months have been difficult and the next 18 look like they are going to be difficult. That being said, we are in contact. I have also been in contact with the Governor's office and we have those lines of communication open. We are all working together. The Wall Street Journal article, for those of you who have the chance to read that and Gary did provide it to me, in talking with the senior management at DHL, it was a very evenhanded and fair article. There were four key elements in there and all of them point to their continued presence in the US market is critical to their business. Their international business does not function if they do not have a sizable presence in the US market, and the international business has been their mainstay. So they will have a significant presence and will continue to do that and continue to evaluate how they are going to do that, but when they are talking the US business, they are also talking about Wilmington. They have a considerable investment here. They are continuing to work to see how best to do that and working with their partners to make things as good as they can be and see where they are going. I guess I'm almost going to give the "Only thing we have to fear is fear itself" speech in that everybody is talking and we are working on it. Let's don't panic too early in the stage because I think things are going along and there are a lot of folks here that this is their livelihood and we want to support those folks and ensure that that continues on. We will do whatever it takes to make sure that that happens. I just want to kind of give you...I took three or five minutes there to say nothing...but I think I said a lot...I hope I did. We are in communication, we are working together, and we will continue to do that. That is really the main thing I had. I didn't really have a report other than that. Other than to say, I did attend a function this morning that I thought was very good. The Chamber of Commerce had their (and some of you, several of you were there, many of you were there) first networking meeting. I was asked to be the speaker. I gave kind of a....Laura did a great job for me, probably at 3:00 in the morning, but she did a great job for me of putting together kind of a little short...what do you call it?

Clerk Laura Curliss: PowerPoint slide show.

Mayor Raizk: PowerPoint. Okay. I'm a MacIntosh user.

Clerk Laura Curliss: Slide show to you.

Mayor Raizk: There you go. That's good. I like slide show. Anyway, it was kind of highlights of the State of the City and it was well received. It was a great group. I think there had to be about 70 people there at least. Anyway, I think everybody is looking to work together and pull together, and it was just a good feeling and a good time came out of that group, and I just felt very positive about it. That is all I have. I'll turn it back over to the President.

President Ertel: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. I would like to move into the committee reports please. Asset, Acquisition and Use please?

Asset, Acquisition and Use –Chairperson Sandy Mongold: Oh, yes. I'm not use to that. No report.

Auditor – President Ertel: Seeing as there is no Auditor, there is no report. Finance Committee? Sandy?

Finance Committee – Chairperson Sandy Mongold: Yes. We do have two items tonight. The first item is a resolution Authorizing a Request for Advance Payment for Settlement from the County. This is just standard procedure. Every year this is what we need to do to get our money.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on A Resolution Authorizing a Request for Advance Payment for Settlement from the County.

Motion passed

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to pass the resolution as read.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2062 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: The second item tonight is a resolution authorizing payment of expenses incurred in the prior fiscal year. This is what we call the "then and now." This is for expenses that were incurred in 2007 but not paid until 2008, so we need to appropriate the funds that were not appropriated.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on A Resolution Authorizing Payment of Expenses Incurred in Prior Fiscal Year.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Popp to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to pass the resolution as read.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2063 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: I apologize that I missed the finance meeting last Monday. At that meeting, they scheduled the next finance meeting for February 19. We have changed that date to February 15 at 12:00 noon. That is a Friday. That is all. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you. Water Committee?

Water Committee – Chairperson Mike Wallace: Yes, Mr. President. We have a couple of items we need to address this evening. Periodically we need to buy some chemicals to treat our water, so we need to give our people authorization to advertise for bids since we need some of this stuff purchased. Are there any questions?

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on the ordinance Authorizing the Advertising for Bids and Purchase of Chemicals for the Water Department.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Jaehnig to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by McKay to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4744 passed as read.

Councilman Wallace: The second item is along with this we have some lime sludge that we have collected and we need to get that hauled out of there, so we need some action to be able to get that out and get that taken care of.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Peterson to give the first reading only on the ordinance Authorizing Advertisement and Contract for Hauling of Lime Sludge from Water Treatment Plant.

Motion passed

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Popp to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by McKay to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4745 passed as read.

Councilman Wallace: That is all I have, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Why, thank you much. Streets Committee?

Street Committee – Chairperson Peterson: Well, we have an ordinance that I am going to ask that we postpone this once again. I think most of you were at the Streets Committee meeting. The background on this is we had a public meeting about a month ago and asked for input from downtown residents, business, and property owners. Overwhelmingly, they stated that didn't want to enforce parking. They wanted to give a shot and try for more passive enforcement. Personally, I give great weight to the people that are on the ground and closest to the situation. So we brought forth at the last meeting a plan that basically was passive enforcement, asking business and property owners and residents not to park in the prime spaces. Upon reflection, it appears most of the downtown business and property owners and merchants really determined that that wasn't over. I think they looked out on the streets and thought, "You know what, I don't see the cars moving without enforcement." So the good news is, we have taken a giant

leap forward because it is better that we identify these problems now than sit... There is nothing that we are doing that we cannot undo, but it is certainly a lot easier to get off on the right foot. So we have a Streets Committee meeting scheduled for February 14. It is at 6:00 and it will adjourn promptly at 7:00. It is Valentine's evening, and that was our deal. We will adjourn. Most of you have participated in my meetings and I am big into adjourning on time, especially when I haven't had dinner. So we have several agenda items. We will spend the first few minutes asking for citizen input on the existing parking plan, the one that is on the books today, asking for their input. Like I said, we will spend 10-15 minutes on that and then we have several other agenda items. It is in your packet. Those agenda items include legislation regarding semi-tractor parking off-street in residential areas, some citizen complaints that we have had at Locust and Nelson, and then just a brief discussion with regard to long-term planning and financing of future street paving projects.

Councilman Wallace: Can we also take a look at the current existing downtown parking map that we have? That came up, and we have to do something about that.

Councilwoman Peterson: Is that in the packets?

Councilwoman Peterson: I believe Larry can probably get you one after the meeting.

Councilman Wallace: Sorry, Geoff. I said we need also to address the current map because that is always coming up in this conversation.

Geoffrey Phillips: Is that what you're...?

Councilwoman Mongold: We're doing that.

Councilwoman Peterson: Yes. I apologize. The enforcement officer...my understanding is that I compared...

Service Director Larry Reinsmith: Are you talking about the map as it exists today? He came and got 40 copies and passed those out, and then he came back yesterday and got more. So he has been passing them out to all of the area merchants and residents.

Councilwoman Peterson: Do you have some that you can give to those of us on council? I found mine at home, but if we could get those so that people on council can take a look at it.

Councilman Wallace: I may have the parking map. I would still...

Councilwoman Peterson: I found one in my council packet.

Clerk Laura Curliss: I didn't have enough. They all went. I have like three left.

Service Director Larry Reinsmith: And everybody didn't get one?

Clerk Laura Curliss: No.

Service Director Larry Reinsmith: We thought you were going to get some....

Councilwoman Peterson: I found mine.

President Ertel: Let's make sure that the council persons get them, though. It is excellent.

Councilwoman Peterson: We appreciate the fact that he is passing those out. That way citizens can come in and have input and already have a map in front of them.

Clerk Laura Curliss: What you are getting is the map of the parking as it exists today. It is an old map, really. It is nothing changed, right?

Councilwoman Peterson: It is what is currently enforced, though.

Mayor Raizk: Yes. It is the map that exists. It is the map by which if Kathryn had to go into the court it would be the one that she would have to act on.

Law Director Kathryn Hapner: Here it is.

Mayor Raizk: That's it. Isn't that right?

Councilwoman Peterson: Great. So, we are going to postpone this, and we will revisit it at a future meeting.

Mayor Raizk: Can I ask a quick question, and I may have been lost in the start. The Streets Committee meeting on February 14 is not dealing with this?

Councilwoman Peterson: Actually, we have several agenda items, and that is one of them.

Mayor Raizk: I mean is that going to be a big public meeting?

Councilwoman Peterson: There will probably be quite a few attending. I don't know, but...

Clerk Laura Curliss: It will be in the Community Room.

Mayor Raizk: My question is that if you are going to have an hour meeting, I don't think we can talk about our 2008, 2009, and 2010 projections, and there was something else you...

Councilwoman Peterson: Actually, Larry and I had discussed that a little bit. It would just be probably five minutes where we just at least expose the committee and the rest of council to the long-term plan. We are not going to have a detail, but we want to get...those who will be attending that are on Finance Committee, we want to make sure we start to get this out in front of them because we are going to be appearing at your committee. We're just giving you a warning. The other two agenda items should not take that long.

Mayor Raizk: Okay, I just wanted to make sure that...

Councilwoman Peterson: I appreciate that, but those have been hanging out there for a while and I don't want them...

Mayor Raizk: Yes, and they are significant.

Councilwoman Peterson: They are. Thank you for bringing that up.

President Ertel: Thank you. Solid Waste/Recycling?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee: Chairperson Don Wells: I have no report this evening; however, Donnie Maher has included in our packets a curbside recycling report for the first 12 weeks. Did you all get to see it? We are currently at 6%. I think we probably should try to organize a committee meeting so we can have some discussion about increasing the usage and our future plans. We could try to get together and have another committee meeting.

Councilman Jaehnig: Don, do we know in relationship to these new numbers compared to when the cards went out?

Clerk Laura Curliss: The cards hit about January 9th, 10th or 11th.

Councilman Jaehnig: That is one of the interesting factors I noticed. I am sure that this breaks down by neighborhood. The Tuesday trash pickup went from an average to 6.5% to 12.5% and I am proud to say that is fourth ward and is the Lakewood subdivision trash pickup day.

Service Director Larry Reinsmith: No, that's Denver Place.

Clerk Laura Curliss: That's Denver.

Councilman Jaehnig: That's Denver's. Oh, I'm sorry, we put it out Tuesday night and it is picked up Wednesday morning.

Councilwoman Peterson: So, you see you're still...

Councilman Jaehnig: I'm second.

Councilman Wallace: We hereby challenge you to catch up with us.

Councilwoman Mongold: Fourth Ward is on Friday.

Councilman Wallace: We're the blue bag neighborhood.

[General Banter]

Mayor Raizk: I have just seen the vision of the next round of advertising needs to be that ward councilman challenge everybody and maybe give out pizzas or something to do that.

Councilman Jaehnig: I'll take that challenge.

Mayor Raizk: What did the Monday trash pickup do?

Councilman Jaehnig: 4.5%. It was the Friday trash pickup that needs work at 2.75%.

Councilwoman Peterson: That's mine. That's mine.

Kathryn: Hey, I have a recycling bag now and it is full. I'm putting it out tonight.

Service Director Reinsmith: You've had it for four months, though, Kathryn.

[Laughter]

Councilman Wells: Okay, that is all I have Mr. President.

Councilman Wallace: Well, that really degenerated.

President Ertel: Okay, Wastewater/Sewer Committee, please.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee: Chairperson Mark McKay: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Judiciary Committee?

Judiciary Committee: Chairman Mark McKay: No report.

President Ertel: Thank you. Safety Committee?

Safety Committee- Chairperson Don Wells: Yes, Mr. President. I have a couple of items on the agenda tonight. The first item is three readings on a resolution accepting a gift of \$1000 from Wal-Mart for the Police K-9 Unit. Is there any discussion or questions?

Councilwoman Peterson: Is this cash or is it dog food or...?

Councilman Wells: I have no idea.

Clerk Laura Curliss: It came in the form of a check.

Councilwoman Peterson: I just wanted to know.

Mayor Raizk: It is a check.

Councilwoman Peterson: Thank you.

Mayor Raizk: Wal-Mart is very good. They distribute it different; they have a department that actually does that. When requests are made, they give checks out to all different kinds of charities.

Councilwoman Peterson: That's great.

Councilman Jaehnig: This is not a matching fund like Wal-Mart does, this is a flat out gift?

Mayor Raizk: Yes.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Jaehnig to give the first reading only on A Resolution Accepting Gift from Wal-Mart for the Wilmington Police Department K-9 Unit.

Motion passed

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Peterson to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution by title only.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Jaehnig to pass the resolution as read.

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2064 passed as read.

Councilman Wells: I would like to thank Wal-Mart. Okay, for the second item, I would like to have the first reading on an ordinance amending ordinance No. 4654 and a section of Chapter 123 of the Codified Ordinances. Are there any questions or discussion?

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Mongold to give the first reading only on the ordinance An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 4654 and a Section of Chapter 123 of the Codified Ordinances.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

Councilman Wells requested that the second reading be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Wells: That is all we have this evening.

President Ertel: Thank you very much. Downtown Revitalization Committee?

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Convener Sandy Mongold: As I mentioned to Debbie as she was giving her report, we have identified a schedule of events for 2008 for downtown and it going to be quite exciting. We are going to bring back the Brown Bag Lunches. We are going to have two concerts at some location in downtown. That should be coming out in the newspaper. I apologize. I was going to bring you that schedule tonight and I forgot it, but I will promise to bring it to the next meeting. That is all.

President Ertel: Thank you.

Councilman Jaehnig: I'm sorry. Sandy, would that include the Holidazzle event?

Councilwoman Mongold: Yes it does.

Councilman Jaehnig: Thank you.

Councilwoman Peterson: I just want to make a comment. We went to the Hannaford House last night, and I noticed a trophy on one of the mantels. I went up and it was the window trophy from this year. I understand that is a very competitive thing with the downtown merchants.

Councilwoman Mongold: Yes. It is growing every year.

Councilwoman Peterson: They are grieving that they have to sit out a year, but I think that's great.

Councilwoman Mongold: Yes, and I don't know; we may have to discuss that.

Councilwoman Peterson: I'm not suggesting that you change the rules.

Councilwoman Mongold: Well, there really aren't any rules. Say thank you and I'm glad to them.

Councilman McKay: Mr. President. If you go to the General Denver Hotel, there is also a trophy on the back bar that signifies the parade winning float, the Holiday Hunks.

Councilwoman Peterson: I am so sorry I opened the door for that.

Mayor Raizk: You just couldn't leave well enough alone.

Councilwoman Peterson: I apologize.

Councilman McKay: There is a coconut that is properly inscribed, and you can draw your own conclusions.

President Ertel: Very good. Excellent. Parks & Recreation Committee?

Parks and Recreation Committee - Convener Mike Wallace – No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you very much. At this time I would like to call in the Service Director. Do you have any words of wisdom, sir?

Service Director- Service Director Larry Reinsmith: No snow, no report, but I do have one little item that I want to mention. We had recently passed an ordinance changing the traffic control map, and we have added stop signs over on Florence Avenue to help with some of the traffic and speeding, and they're not stopping. I have followed several cars and watched them go straight through it. We have flags on the signs, so maybe...

Geoffrey Phillips: The assistant chief has stopped quite a few in the last two weeks.

Councilwoman Peterson: Really?

Service Director: I was hoping that the newspaper might put a little reminder and maybe go out.... It's a good photo-op Gary. Take a picture of that sign with a little headline, "Does This Mean Stop?"

Councilwoman Peterson: A picture of the sign...

Geoffrey Phillip: The Assistant Chief stopping the Service Director.

Service Director: Whatever.

Mayor Raizk: If I had known that, we would moved the ground hog picture out to the stop sign. [inaudible for transcription].

Service Director: A little headline, Gary, you know? "It's not just a good idea, it's the law" type thing.

[Discussion]

Service Director Reinsmith: Thank you, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you very much. Safety Director?

Safety Director – Nick Babb: First, I would like to say just as John Q Citizen I hope we hang in there with recycling. We just started it and we are enjoying it. I think it is going to be a long haul.

Mayor Raizk: Are you on the....

Safety Director Babb: I'm a member of the Denver Place.

Mayor Raizk: Are you on the Tuesday pickup route then?

Councilman Jaehnig: He is.

Mayor Raizk: So that's what is pumping up the 12.5%.

Safety Director Babb: You've got it.

Councilman Jaehnig: It's the 12 bags a weekend that he is putting out.

Clerk Laura Curliss: Beer cans?

[Banter]

Safety Director Babb: I just wanted to bring it to the council's attention. We are testing for police officers. We are required by local civil service rules to have an active test every year, actually. We can request an extension, but that is why you saw it in the paper and you haven't passed the ordinance yet, but that is why we are testing. Are there any questions for me? Thank you.

President Ertel: Very good. Thank you.

Councilwoman Peterson: I just wanted to make a comment. Earlier this evening I met with the assistant chief. I was not able to attend the last Safety Committee meeting and I appreciate the fact that he took the time to give me a special presentation on it.

President Ertel: Okay. Very good. Before you are the reports: the Income Tax Receipt Summary for January 2008 and also a report of Operation of the Clinton County Municipal Court for the year 2007.

Reports:

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by McKay to approve the Income Tax Report – August 2008, and the Report of Operation of the Clinton County Municipal Court – 2007, as received.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as received.

President Ertel: At this point, I would like to open the meeting up to the general public and/or members of council to address council while in session.

Jeff Linkous: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm Jeff Linkous. I'm at 63 Todds Ridge, Wilmington, Ohio. Thank you. Under threat of what Fred told me was after about five minutes he throws the gavel, I will try to keep it short. As you may or may not know, I'm a candidate for County Engineer, and I wanted to come today and talk a little bit about two things: how we cooperate with the city, the County Engineer's office on things, and also to talk a little bit about myself. I will try to keep it short.

First of all, as far as cooperating with the city and over the years, the County Engineer's office does do the permissive tax money each year to provide for the cities, villages and townships. Over the last 20 years, the other opportunity the city has participated in with the county and sometimes jointly is what is called Ohio Public Works money. It was

called Issue II money and now it is Issue I money. It still comes under the Ohio Public Works Committee. The County Engineer's Office, city representatives, and some township representatives all work on the committee in District 10 to obtain public works money for both city and county projects. We do a lot of township projects as well. We would like to continue that. We feel like that is a very good cooperation between city and county. We want to continue that cooperation with the city in the future and continue to try to get money back here in the county. We did use some of that money on Davids Drive. We have used it in other projects, even with the townships and the county engineer cooperating.

A little bit more about myself – as I said, I am running for County Engineer. March 4 is the primary date. There is not a lot of time ahead of us. It seems like it is coming fast. I have been at the County Engineer's office for 27 years. I came directly here from college to serve as the Deputy County Engineer under Jim Nims and currently under Bill Temple, who is retiring. He will be here until the end of the year. His term will be at the end of the year, so this election then starts next January. What I have done out there over the years from when I started – I feel like I have done just about everything out at the County Engineer's office. I worked a lot when I first came here with our crews. I am very proud of what we do out there. Our office, our highway people – I think we do a great job out there. We would like to continue to do that job. We have cooperated as well with the city on some things, even through our highway crews, and we will continue to do that. Being out there for 27 years, I feel like I have not only done a lot of things, I feel like I know what the office does out there. I feel like I know how to run the office. I am very confident that that experience makes me qualified to be the next County Engineer. Not only that, I think out there at the County Engineer's office, we have been great stewards of our money. We try to stretch our money. We try to use our money. As the city knows, we only have so much. We have so many roads. We do roads and bridges. We do a lot with our crews. We've probably replaced 200 bridges in the last 20 years, trying to get all of our bridges in shape. We've done a lot with our roads. Our focus on the future is probably going to be more safety. As you have seen traffic increase in the city, we have seen traffic increase out there in the county too. A lot of the roads that got very little traffic and may have only been very little buildup of road. We have to increase the safety on those roads, the width of those roads. We also have to look at future safety improvements like intersections and site distances and things like that. We've already started to do that. We do accident maps over the years. We do a lot of that now, but as I said, as the county is growing and the population grows as well as the amount of traffic, there will be more and more focus toward those safety items and continuing to improve our roads.

Real quick, not only have I been involved in the County Engineer's Office, I have been involved in our community. I have lived here for 27 years. I have done a lot in this community. I love being here in Clinton County. I love doing what I'm doing out at the County Engineer's Office, and that is why I want to keep doing it. I'll pass these pamphlets out if that is all right. I didn't know if that was okay or not.

President Ertel: Certainly.

Jeff Linkous: It says a little bit about me, but one of the important things is what I have given back to my community. I hope that I have done that in a lot of projects, not only in the city but in the county: everything from Rails to Trails, to helping coach, to do some Safe Routes to School planning. I'm also a board member of the Public Library, Downtown Wilmington Community Improvement Corporation, a consultant for the County Community Improvement Corporation. I feel like I have also given back to my community and feel like this is where I want to be. Like I said, I can't say it enough, you get me talking. I'm not good at political speeches, but I love what I'm doing and I want to keep doing that, and that is why I want to be County Engineer. I appreciate you letting me speak tonight, and if I didn't have enough flyers I'll get some out to everyone.

President Ertel: Okay. Thank you.

[applause]

Paul Hunter: Can I ask a question? You're getting a few hundred thousand dollars a year from Municipal Court 2006-2007. You understand that windfall has come down from the weight stations. Do you think that is going to continue to come your way or is it going to go back to the general fund?

Jeff Linkous: I think that comes by code to us. Is that is what you are talking about?

Paul Hunter: Well, it is in contention. I was just wondering if you were counting on that year after year.

Jeff Linkous: Well, we would like to have it year after year because we put it right back into our roads.

Paul Hunter: What it boils down to is the citizens of Wilmington are in effect paying twice for the highways because we are paying the Municipal Court and they are sending our moneys out to the county highways. You might look into that.

Kathryn Hapner: It's not our money. It's set by statute where that money goes.

Paul Hunter: You and I have already been through this. We have no more comments on it.

Jeff Linkous: Yes. Anything we get from that, we give back into the improvement of our roads. Hopefully that helps not just the citizens of Clinton County, but Wilmington residents as well.

Councilwoman Peterson: Thanks a lot.

Mayor Raizk: Thanks, Jeff.

President Ertel: Thank you very much, Jeff. We appreciate it.

President Ertel again asked if anybody else from the public or the council wished to address council while in session.

Clerk Laura Curliss: I think Fred wants to say something.

President Ertel: Come up please and state your name and address, would that be okay?

Fred Anliot: I'm Fred Anliot, Director of the Arboretum at Wilmington College.

President Ertel: There we go...we'll do it right there. Do you want to go up to the podium and state your name and address?

Clerk Laura Curliss: No. Fred, he does not have to.

Mayor Raizk: Fred, if you would feel more comfortable sitting there, that would be fine.

Fred Anliot: That would be all right. I am going to take it easy.

President Ertel: Okay.

Fred Anliot. I know most of the people here and most of you know me. For those that don't, I'm Fred Anliot, Director of the Frank O. Hazard Arboretum at Wilmington College. Otherwise, I am a retired professor at the school in the Biology Department. This fall a group of us planted over 16 young trees, eight of which are dead, cut down to the bases. Why? Can I do anything? Now, these were not just planted, they were tagged with strips of an old pair of pants this time (I have used undershirts in the past) and sprayed with anti-taste for rabbits and deer. Now, how many people have deer problems in Wilmington? Now especially since we have a park that has a paved trail that runs through a good deal of woods. About two-thirds of it runs through woods and farmland, from Nelson Road to Fife. Of course, it ends at the park, but it is going to continue on past that shortly, but right now it is done. That means that there is a continuous road that

is inaccessible to vehicles other than bikes and people on foot and maybe golf carts. But there hasn't been one time I have been down there walking along that trail, I haven't seen large game animals. What do you mean by large game animals? Well, I'm pointing out deer specifically, but these would also include black bear (when we had a black bear running around town not too long ago that was deported back to West Virginia), cougar, turkey (I almost stepped on some eggs with Bob Thobaben the other day). It was close, but they were there on the ground. So turkey are back. This was over near a new extension of the new park system that is going up in Culberson Woods. This is a state park, just south of Cowan Lake. It takes in part of the Austin Woods area. I'm looking around to see if I get a nod, and I'm getting none, if you don't know what I'm talking about. If you're lost, raise your hand—I'll fill you in. What other game animals are we talking about? Cougar, mountain lions...

President Ertel: Fred, what are you suggesting? Control of those animals?

Fred Anliot: Well, we wanted them back. We got the deer back. We have the coyotes, which we never had before, [inaudible for transcription], because there are enough deer being killed along the highways. See, they can't bring down (and I've watched them), they cannot bring down an active deer. The deer has to be hurt or dying or dead in order for the coyote to work, and it often works by itself or in a small group. This is a dog-sized animal, not quite as big as a wolf and not quite as big as a German Shepherd, but I would say pretty close. You can tell if you look at the tail – the domestic dog has a curled tail or straight up usually whereas the coyote does not nor does the wolf. The color is a little different, but sometimes you don't get a chance to get that close. You should be able to see the tails, though. Now, what I am saying is that the deer are going to be and are a problem in Wilmington. How or should we do anything about it?

Mayor Raizk: Fred, along with that, I have noted that some communities, I have read, have instituted urban hunting programs or at least talked about it. I don't know anything about it, but do you have an experience with that? This is all bow hunting as I understand it.

Fred Anliot: Yes, I have done a lot of talking with people and shared my other ideas with others with not only Wilmington residents, but people from Clinton County and elsewhere: in Fort Thomas, for example. Boy, they are saying we opened a can of worms when we allowed bow hunting in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Mayor Raizk: That is what I was wondering.

Fred Anliot: It is just across the river from Cincinnati, across the river on the top of a hill. Personally, I don't want to see firearms being discharged in Wilmington of any sort.

Mayor Raizk: By law they can't be, so....

Fred Anliot: Yes, by law they can't be, and I'm all for it. I don't want to see an open hunting season taking place like they did in Fort Thomas, but we're faced with these kinds of... They made a choice and said, "Well, let's do it." The can of worms was that they also got in people who said, "Well, the deer have rights too."

President Ertel: Well, I'm certainly glad that you brought this to our attention. I think possibly we could take a look at it in one of our committees to see if that is something that perhaps we would need to do here in Wilmington. I agree with you – we do have a lot of wildlife that we have not had in the past, and it does create problems.

Fred Anliot: How do we get rid of them in the first place? We were trying to starve the poor Indians to death. That's how we got rid of the large game animals around here. Tell the Right-to-Life people that and they don't like it. Boy, they get sore. But why did we eliminate deer and turkey? Well puma we can understand, and black bear perhaps. It worked with the Iroquois because they routinely over-hunted and moved, but it did not work with the Shawnee who had treaties with the Cherokee to keep Kentucky and [inaudible for transcription] and had public hunting grounds for both tribes – one Southern and one Ohio. The Shawnee had [inaudible for transcription] and the Cherokee [inaudible for transcription]

President Ertel: Okay. Very good. We will take a look at this in committee and we will make sure you get the report back on it.

Fred Anliot: Are there any comments?

Larry Reinsmith: Maybe you need to start feeding them so they won't eat the trees.

Fred Anliot: You want me to what?

Larry Reinsmith: I do my share. I feed them and then they don't bother my plants.

Fred Anliot: Well, the problem is they don't know that they've done damage until they've done damage.

President Ertel: Okay. Very good. We'll make sure you get in the loop on any actions we do in the City.

Fred Anliot: That is why I brought it up here in the first place. I've tried to put windbreaks around the arboretum and I can't do it because the deer won't let me. I tag everything and I spray everything, and then I don't notice until the damage is done.

President Ertel: Okay.

Fred Ertel: All right. Very good. Thank you very much. We appreciate it, Fred.

Seeing no one else who wished to speak, President Ertel asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mongold to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk