

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 5, 2009, with President Fred Ertel presiding.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: I would like to call the Thursday, January 15, 2009 meeting of Wilmington City Council to order, please.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

Assistant Chief Weyand was also present.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Jaehnig to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting as received.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as received.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: I would just like to mention here something from Nancy Ehas. During January-February, the library accepted non-perishable food on a sliding scale to pay overdue fines. This did not include lost or damaged materials. The purpose of this program is to clear up our patrons' accounts so they can check out library materials again while at the same time contributing to the community. We delivered 61 boxes of food collected at the main library for the food pantries in town. All food collected at the Clinton Massie branch went to the food pantry in Clarksville, which was 14 boxes. Several people brought more food than was needed to clear their account. Many brought food even though they had no fines. This is just a wonderful thing of how our community responds. It is a tremendous thing for the Wilmington Public Library also and all of the food pantries. I just wanted to mention that. At this point, I would like to introduce Ohio EPA Source Water Assessment and Protection Planning Process that's going to be presented very happily by Barb Lubberger and Linda Merchant-Masonbrink. I believe Linda is right here at the table ready to run the controls.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: I am really glad to be here tonight to share with you a few thoughts about the source of our protection planning process. My presentation is about seven to ten minutes long, so I am going to get right to it here. If there are questions, they'll probably be at the end of the presentation. So, you might ask, "What is source water protection?" That is what we are going to cover here briefly. What is the drinking water protection plan and what is the benefit of this plan to local drinking water source protection? Also, I will be mentioning to you something we'll be asking of you at the end. In the meantime, here are a couple of questions for you. First of all, are you aware of what the cost of treating contaminated water that comes to the intake? I have a couple of examples here. For instance, the Village of Monroeville – it had its exceedances of the MCL's (Maximum Contaminant Levels) for nitrate and atrazine from the Huron River. This was a regular occurrence -- something they had to deal with -- so they had to construct an up-ground reservoir in the year 2000 for \$2.6 million dollars. Maybe some of you could have heard about Walkerton, Ontario: 200,300 people became ill and there were seven fatalities because of E. coli that got into their drinking water system after a heavy rain, so they weren't prepared for this. Also, do you know what kind of potential contaminate sources are above your drinking water intake that could potentially affect your drinking water? Do you know what quantities of chemicals there are above your intake and the toxicity of those chemicals? Do you know if the people that handle those chemicals can respond quickly to a spill? Do you know that whether they would be knowledgeable enough to know if they even have a public water supply downstream of the spill and if they would even notify them? These are some questions that need to be asked because very severe consequences can occur. Do you know if the public water supply contingency plan deals with a water source that becomes unusable for multiple different reasons? Does the contingency plan address this? Has it been decided how the city will pay for these problems that arise in the drinking water?

For instance, in 1994 there was an ethylene dibromide spill on the Ohio River in

Belpre, and it took many weeks (they had emergency water delivery there and it was very expensive) – many weeks to get out of the emergency mode. This type of event was not in their contingency plan. It took them by surprise. It was very expensive to treat. Do you also know what the water supplier would do if they got infected by cryptosporidium? It is a very virulent type of organism. It causes very similar reactions such as E. coli. Everybody seems to know the major gastroenteritis that occurs with E. coli. Similarly with cryptosporidium, but cryptosporidium actually is very difficult to treat in your water supply; it's very difficult. The thing is that you want to be preventing that from actually getting to your intake in the first place. Also, taste and odor problems. Akron has a horrible problem with that. They had to spend a lot of money to deal with taste and odor problems that were resulting from algae blooms that were a direct result of organic material, nitrates and phosphorus, in their water supply. They had to spend money on a hundred tons of carbon to treat this problem (it's very expensive), when normally they only put 20 tons of carbon. So there is a huge big increase to treat water once it contaminated.

When the quality of your source water is impacted by up stream events, is there an effective communication network? Does your water supply communicate with other water supplies? Sometimes events can happen in very, very remote locations: such as the Ohio River, 600 miles upstream from Louisville, there was a spill on the Monongahela River. 700,000 gallons of diesel was spilled up there and they could detect it in the intake influent 600 miles away. Even remote impacts can affect your water quality.

There are different ways of addressing this. Some of things we talk about: source of protection planning and industrial water sheds are different things, such as putting up educational signage, using some overlay zoning, and also coordinating better communication. In agricultural watersheds, it is very expensive to treat nitrates and also it is difficult to monitor for pesticides. Sediment and algae clog filters, and algae and organic matter causes THM's (trihalomethanes), which are carcinogenic byproducts of chlorination of organic material that get into the water and that includes algae. So we want to prevent those types of algae blooms so we don't have to deal with that at the plant. I mentioned to you microorganisms such as cryptosporidium. They are expensive to treat.

So what we do through this process is we identify the threats to your source water. The Ohio EPA, in conjunction with your water supply, has identified pollutant sources that are in the watershed that drains to your intake. That work has been done. Then as part of the next phase, the planning phase, we talk about strategies to moderate these threats. We identify partners to work together to come up with a solution to deal with these kinds of issues before they become either major health problems for your community or a very expensive way to treat. So the SWAP Program (which is the same thing as the Source Water Protection Planning Program)...when we endorse the plan that is developed by the community in conjunction with their partners (which includes us), a planning document protecting your community's source of drinking water is produced, and the immediate watershed, including the waters of Caesars Creek and the city reservoir, are addressed.

Valuable information for other environmental planning programs is also produced from this process, and a tool for implementing these strategies, such as zoning, riparian area protection, and monitoring the possible contaminant site, is developed. The priority for infrastructure loans is actually improved if one of these plans is done.

So when you have an endorsed SWAP plan, which our agency would endorse, basically you have had this plan that can be used and passed down to the next public water supply operator or anybody else who works in the plant. It's all written down, they know what they are going to do in an emergency, they know how they are going to do their outreach, and so it is a very valuable piece of information that would stay at the plant and be used throughout the years. Also there would be improved grant eligibility. The savings to your water department by reducing the use of chemicals and other treatments if contaminants are successfully prevented from entering surface water would probably be a big interest of yours. Everybody is interested in saving money.

One might ask, “Is this a requirement? Is the state requiring you to do this?” This (the SWAP plan) is not a requirement for surface water systems, at this point. However, by 2010, a public water system using ground water will need to create or update their source water protection plan if they want to install a new well and for those wells that serve over 250 people. So it is already starting in the ground water as a regulatory requirement. It is not required right now for surface water, but it may be down the road. But we are offering is our partnership at this point in time to get these plans started right now, integrate them in with other processes, and then down the road it will be a lot easier.

Not only could it eventually save you some money in the long-run for minimizing treatment, but it is also safer for your city. So really, success is measured by the cost of failure. As I was mentioning to you before, there are a lot of opportunities for failure. We know those are very expensive, so the benefit here is trying to prevent those problems in the first place. You would be looking at the additional costs of treatment. Another cost is the cost of remediating a disaster, which although maybe fairly rare, if it does happen, it is hard to predict. It is very expensive, both in human lives and also for your economy.

But you might be surprised to know that this whole process actually doesn't have to be a very expensive process. In fact, most of this process can be very, very economical. Source water protection tends to be focused on education and coordination-type activities. The costs are mostly time spent by the planners and the implementers of the process. We really encourage people to bring in volunteers to help implement the process. The City of Wilmington has done a lot of this work already. Actually, Jerry Rowlands, thank you very much to Jerry for doing that, is attending the workshops that we are conducting here and he has worked with our agency in mapping these (you see the map points on the in the protection areas, all the businesses in this area) -- but this is just an example. Also, developing strategies doesn't have to add cost to city budget, I know that is important for you to hear.

Many of the strategies are funded by farm conservation practices such as you see on the slide here. Clean Ohio Funds, WRRSP and other funds and community partners, can also assist. Zoning and other strategies can also help the implementation process. While zoning is not expensive, but you have to invest in some time in it, but it can have a major impact on source water protection.

Your Fire Chief is already involved but you may need to involve other jurisdictions in developing a contingency plan for serious threats so you, the team that involves your public water supply operator and your planner will probably try to tie in some people from Greene County because what happens in Greene County is going to affect you here. The general timeline here...we're getting to the point here of what we are asking of you. We encourage all the teams that we are talking to across the state to talk to their city councils and ask them for a resolution of intent to support the Source Water Protection Planning Process. In your folders here...Laura, did you put that in the folder?... is an example of a resolution. If you look in your packet, there is an example of a Source Water Protection Policy, a resolution of council that will give you some idea of what can be done. That is really an important component of all this: to make sure that, first of all, council understands why this process is necessary, why it is important, and that is really isn't cost much to develop a partnership with the Ohio EPA. We are here to help you. We want to get it done so we can protect your population that's drinking the water down here as well as to minimize your cost. So, that will be the very first thing we ask that you do.

Then the team is formed with the public water supply and the planner that is going to be leading this process. It would be good have a member of council on that, and right now they're busy forming their team. Then they will be developing a plan and an outline and it will probably take one to two years to do this. Once we get it, it will probably take two months or so back and forth just to make sure we have it finalized before we endorse it.

So, the big picture here is basically water is going to be the oil of the 21st century. You may have heard that quote before, but you know it is true. It is coming. Water is an

important commodity and we need to be very careful how we manage that resource. So, hopefully, I stayed within my time restriction. Did you have any questions?

Director of Public Service-Larry Reinsmith: I've got a question. You know we have two water sources; however, we have a big water source that the EPA just issued a PTI and allowed contamination of our water source upstream. I think Caesars Creek...is that right?...

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Well, I'm aware.... I'm not involved with the permitting; however, I am aware of that particular project, and that project did get a permit with certain restrictions on it in order to protect the quality of that water.

Director of Public Service-Larry Reinsmith: I've been talking to Jerry and he tells me that (inaudible for transcription). This is going to cost us more money, at different times to treat – because of contaminants.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: If they are fighting contaminants that are reaching the intake that are a direct result of that particular facility, then our agency needs to know about it. Because you know, there would be changes to the permit to address it. But, from what I understand, when the application came through, the information presented in it that, after the review by our permit staff, they determined that the discharge would not degrade the use and that was why it was authorized. They were aware that there is a drinking water intake downstream. But, you know a stream, lake, has a certain amount of capacity to absorb contaminants. And that is what they do. They model this to determine how much actually can get into the water before there is a problem.

Director of Public Service - Larry Reinsmith: That's true. However, we have a lot of uncontrollable discharges that we have to fight. So we when have one here that we could control, why do we do these things?

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: You know it is controlled by permit. You know if we didn't have a permitting process, they would be discharging just whatever they wanted to, whatever concentration they wanted to. But the permit itself is the control. There are other types of sources are things that need to be other ways if they do not require permits.

Director of Public Service – Larry Reinsmith: Those are hard to do.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Yes, through this whole process we present different ideas of how to approach that. And that is one of the reasons why we feel this process is important: because it is not well understood in how these other things that seem like are impossible to control, the kinds of approaches that can be taken to minimize those impacts. So, that is part of the whole process.

Mayor Raizk: Linda, one of the problems that we have...you mentioned about zoning and using that... but we do not have the authority to zone where our water comes from because it is in another county. We're two counties actually. So, how do we approach that scenario? Does the EPA help us approach that scenario?

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Yes.

Mayor Raizk: We can control the zoning at our local, with the Cowan Creek, filling our old reservoirs, but in Caesars Creek (getting to what Larry was talking about and the riparian corridors around there), we don't really have any legislative or municipal authority.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: That's where the beauty of this team comes in. You know, we don't want to have one person develop this plan. We don't want the Ohio EPA to do it either because we are remote. You live here. You know who you can talk with...you know who you can work with. So that's why this process has to be initiated from you guys. Also, it means, as I mentioned earlier, that Greene County really ought to get involved with this. People from Greene County should be on the team and be in this whole process and to evaluate any other potential zoning from that county. Zoning may not be the best solution.

Mayor Raizk: No, and I don't know that it is, but I also know that if the EPA doesn't require folks from other counties to be part of this team, they are not going to join because somebody in Clinton County says, "We need your help." That doesn't happen.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: That is one reason why we need to have local people writing this because . . .

Mayor Raizk: Well, I understand that, but read my lips, "It does not happen." Everybody gets very parochial and we've been through that before in the county on the very water source we are talking about. Unless an agency that has multijurisdictional control, such as the EPA, requires those people to participate, we'll still be having this discussion two years from now.

I think what you are doing is very good. I think it is important and I think we need to pursue this with everything that we can. There are some political realities involved here. That they are not...If we ask Warren County and Greene County to become involved and to do certain things, that's just not going to really happen in that way without some kind of lever from the EPA to require that.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Well zoning is just one tool in the toolbox; it's not the only one. . .

Mayor Raizk: No but I'm saying...

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: It would be beneficial...but I'm saying the reality of the situation we would probably be shifting focus to something else that can be done locally. Now, education and outreach is something that could be initiated. It is very inexpensive...pretty cheap really...in fact, we have most of all the tools that could be taken off the website and used... just put in your hand. So, you know, maybe more of the focus would go on that kind of a thing instead of you thinking about...

Mayor Raizk: And I do want to touch back once more on what Service Director Reinsmith said about the issuance of the PTI upstream of our water supply. The City of Wilmington did object and issued their concerns about it. Other than doing that...it was never addressed to us anything other than that. I assume you are aware that we did issue that.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: I am aware of that, but since I'm not...

Mayor Raizk: I understand. I'm not asking you to talk about stuff you don't have a hand in and...

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: I know. I just want you to understand...

Mayor Raizk: But you understand our concerns. We're talking about source water protection, and we had a very specific issue that is really in the wheelhouse of source water protection. We are quite concerned about that.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: I do understand that. I understand why you are concerned, I do. It is better to have a permitted facility than an unpermitted facility that is discharging and there's no regulatory control. I think if we can focus on the things that we know can be controlled locally and that are permitted activities. Because those are (inaudible for transcription) That's where your power is. There are plenty of things that you can do and you have within your own control. That is where we want the team to focus on.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Can I ask a question?

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Sure.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: If we go through the effort of coming up with this plan, does this plan have any peak to it? Would it prevent the recent, what Larry talked about with the PTI upstream?

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Well, it depends what you want to prevent. Again, local zoning of it on this side...

President of Council – Fred Ertel: No, no, no, I'm talking about Caesars Creek, the PTI that was done that could jeopardize the quality of water at our intake. If we had this plan, will it be beneficial for us in going up against the people going for these PTI's that are not beneficial to Wilmington.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: That's kind of hard to answer because it is sort of hypothetical.

President Ertel: It's not hypothetical.

Councilman Jaehnig: I don't believe it is hypothetical at all. My concern is that if we go ahead and we do these things that we should do, yet the EPA is not holding our backs and approving things that are not strict enough to protect our own water, then what else are we supposed to do. I mean, you are our protection. That is, in part, one of the reasons for the EPA.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: I didn't really know why you thought that the restrictions placed on the permit would cause a problem with the intake.

Councilman Jaehnig: We didn't think the restrictions were strict enough.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Was there some specific reason why you thought that?

Clerk of Council – Laura Curliss: We asked for UV light treatment, it is a tertiary treatment, and they didn't put it in.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Well, I can't speak for why they didn't think that was necessary. It is possible that's a very expensive type of treatment and it is something they that felt wasn't necessary based on threat limits, but again, since I wasn't involved...

President of Council – Fred Ertel: But the issue is, even if it is expensive and it does jeopardize our intake...

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Well, they didn't think it did. That's the thing. Even without...

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Well, so then we should worry about it then.

(Individuals talking at the same time)

Councilman Jaehnig: (inaudible for transcription)..the EPA will go back and make this right?

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Well, that's right and that's why our agency is there...is that we are going to put limits on it that we think...once we've modeled this...that we don't think there's going to be a threat. There's no way we would have authorized it if we thought there was going to be anything like that. Based on the information that we had and the modeling that we did, they didn't think it was going to be (inaudible). If there is a problem with the intake, the water supply has to notify the agency right way because they, either the limits have to be changed or they have some kind of unauthorized discharge.

Mayor Raizk: Getting back to the plan...plans are time consuming. Plans are not always inexpensive. But, if you have a plan, much as you have a master plan, it is the document that you work from when you are assessing. I think what the council members are asking is that if we take the time to complete and do a Source Water Protection Plan, will that document be the document that will judge whether our source water is protected or not? In other words, if additional (and there will be additional PTI's in the future asked for that could potentially affect our source water at Caesars Creek), will that plan then be the

litmus test for whether a PTI is granted? That's what we are saying. There is no sense in putting our efforts into a plan if we say, "Hey, you know, Wilmington has a Source Water Protection Plan that's on file with the EPA" if no one is going to look at it, and no one is going to do anything about it. I think that was the President's comment: Once you do the plan, does it have enough teeth in it to say...if your application for a PTI or some kind of discharge is not in accordance with this plan, that should prevent that. Otherwise, why would we have gone through that exercise? I mean, we know how to treat water. We know how to do that. We don't need a plan for ourselves; we need a plan to protect us from the external forces. That is what we really need.

Councilmember Peterson: I think my concern to add to that is, what I think I heard you say, is that the planning people and the permit people don't always talk. Maybe I misunderstood.

Barb Lubberger: Linda, can I give it a shot?

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Yes.

Barb Lubberger: My name is Barb Lubberger. I'm the silent partner up there. One thing that having a protection plan can do for you is as time goes on we are trying to get a grant program in place. Let's say right now they come in for a PTI and because we can only do what our regulations say we can do, the people in surface water say "Okay, you can have this permit." But what if you could get money through a grant and say "Look, we can provide money to put in this ultraviolet treatment that we think you need." Then you've got some leverage there. Basically, when you want to get people to do something for you, you have to make them see it as something good for them, and it is usually about money. And the same with these people up in Greene County. Probably you are mostly concerned with the farmers up there. Ohio EPA doesn't have any control over those farmers, unfortunately, as you know probably. But the Farm Bill offers a lot of money to these farmers and if you are in a Source Water Protection Area, right now just for groundwater but eventually probably for surface water, then they get a higher priority. The farmer who is in a Source Water Protection Area has a higher priority to put that land into conservation and then take it out of production. You don't have the agricultural chemicals going into the riparian areas. So, right now we are trying to work through incentives because these are a little bit easier to put into place than regulations. But, your point is well taken. As time goes on, we're putting more and more stuff into existing regulations where they have to recognize source water protection areas.

We have that for landfills now that they cannot open a new landfill or expand an existing landfill in a Source Water Protection Area. Unfortunately, mostly groundwater right now, but as time goes on, it's going more and more. I think eventually we will have that also with the PTI's. You know, that if they're within a certain area of a surface water intake, they will be held to a higher restriction. Right now, all we are doing, all we were able to get into, was the rules. You have to realize the rules process takes forever. Yeah, it takes a long time and there is a lot of back and forth and public meetings and so on, so it is not fast, but

Mayor Raizk: Jay Carr. I had to testify this last week before...I went up there as a total neophyte and got beat up just because I serve on a board and we were trying to change a few rules.

Barb Lubberger: This is what some of our staff goes through a lot. Right now, what we do have is that the large/major wastewater releases are supposed to notify any public water systems downstream if they have like an unregulated release and so on. We got that in because the rule came up. We have a five-year rule review and that's when we try to jump in and fix rules. But sometimes you have to wait five years.

Mayor Raizk: And please don't get the idea...we are not trying to beat you guys up. We just want to share with you some of our concerns.

Barb Lubberger: Your frustrations. I understand.

Mayor Raizk: We're one of the major surface water treaters between here...the major water sources. The City of Cincinnati and City of Wilmington are two of the major

surface water treaters existing, and our sources obviously... We pay the Corp of Engineers and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources dearly for the water that we have to treat. We pay in blood and we get water back.

Barb Lubberger: It is excellent water.

Mayor Raizk: It is good water, but we pay a premium for it. God gives the City of Cincinnati their water, coming downstream through the river. But I'm saying we spend a lot and it is important, so we just want to share with you some of our concerns about our source water because as we go future I agree with you, water is the oil of the 21st Century.

Councilmember Peterson: Do everything you can to protect it.

Mayor Raizk: We're banking on it. That is why we pay for all that water, because one of these days somebody will come to our door and say, "You know, we have to buy water from you."

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: Your concerns are well taken. I think what would be good is if you could start this process, no one says you have to end it. But get started and just see what the options are, what can you do given the limitations of Ohio EPA regulations at this point.

Mayor Raizk: We certainly are not going to back away from the process.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: That's excellent.

Mayor Raizk: We want to make sure we do have protected source water coming in the future and may not be this year and it may not be next year and it may be four or five years down, but I think we're all looking at that

Barb Lubberger: It's something on your radar screen.

Mayor Raizk: It is on the radar screen.

Barb Lubberger: Knowing how valuable the resource is.

Paul Hunter: I have a question, if I may. HST's (Household Sewage Treatment system) they are all over this county, pumping their little... They are not maintained. Is that a part of your purview?

Councilmember McKay: What is an HST?

Paul Hunter: It is a Household Sewage Treatment. They're supposed to have (inaudible for transcription) Nobody does it in this county. The Health Department does not have the money to monitor it. Those things have a terrible record. Legislature reneged on a promise they made to put in a dome control system where the State Health Department controls local septic tank systems. The realtors scared them all off. Now we are back to the old rules, which means that stuff is just rolling on down the hill into the stream and then into our water supply. That is major stuff, when you take a subdivision with 200 HST's.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: That really adds up. That's a problem here. That's not necessarily a problem in other places that we've been talking to. Since it is a problem here, that would be part of the discussions that we have with the team...how we might address that.

Barb Lubberger: What are your options here? If your Health Department is not doing its job, then what else can be done? What we typically do in this case is try to get information out to the public, to the households. Of course, that that doesn't mean they are going to do it.

Paul Hunter: No. There is no enforcement. The guy down the road has a four or five-year inspection cycle. He hired two guys. That's all they do. They go around and

monitor and test and charge the HST owner if there are any repairs that need to be done. Clermont County does that.

Barb Lubberger: I heard Clermont is really, really good.

Paul Hunter: That is the only one I know of that does this.

Barb Lubberger: Part of the process would be to discuss – okay, we have a county where it's not working. What can we do? Obviously, I can't sit here and say I have the answers.

Paul Hunter: I read the paper on it here.

Barb Lubberger: Alright, you should be on the team then.

Paul Hunter: Not likely.

President of Council –Fred Ertel: Okay. Very good. Are there any other questions for the two young ladies here? Thank you so much for coming. We appreciate it.

Linda Merchant-Masonbrink: My card was passed around here so if you have any further questions, feel free to contact me.

President of Council-Fred Ertel: Okay. At this point in time, I would like to introduce Debbie Stamper from Clinton County Convention and Visitors Bureau with a Marketing Plan and Budget for 2009.

Debbie Stamper- Executive Director CCCVS: It's that time a year again for me to come and present my 2009 Marketing Plan and Budget. You've got it in front of you. I'm just going to summarize it tonight. You can take a look at it if you want at a later date at your leisure. Starting out looking at 2008, we actually had a pretty decent year. We had budgeted real, real conservatively in '08 because in '07 we had a lot of hotel ownership change and so the lodging tax – there was lodging tax not being paid and there was lodging tax coming in late. So, we decided in '08, we'll budget real conservatively and then as the year goes on, if more income comes in from lodging tax, then we will add some more advertising and other expenses.

So that is actually what we did. In fact, the lodging tax that we got in '08 was 13% higher than we have ever gotten in any single year. It was significantly higher. Just a few of the things that we did do, we had a marketing plan, of course. We do every year, and all of those objectives were met in '08. We continued with our Ambassador Program, which is educating our constituents in how to make the visitors' experience better. We actually have 41 people now that have gone through that. We gave \$6,000 in tourism grants. We held quarterly lodging meetings that were real beneficial. First of all, it brings those people together. Then also, as things were happening in our community it allowed us to talk and to address how we were going to face the future and what was going to happen.

We continued with our monthly e-newsletters. We actually have a database now of about 900 people that have requested that e-newsletter so we are continuing to send those out. Our press release that we send out (we used to do all those snail mail), we actually have a database of over 1,000 media – newspaper, magazine, and radio – so we can do a whole lot of that by e-mail. It saves us a tremendous amount of money in postage. We did start an initiative, and actually, that was through those lodging meetings, to start talking about bringing in sporting events to the county. I'll talk a little bit more about that in a minute. We received an economic impact study from the state. It actually compared...it was looking at '07...and from '06 to '07 we did see an increase of 12% in the amount of our visitors were spending here in the city and in the county. The state as a whole only had 6% gross, so we doubled what the state had done, their percentage.

Our free press continued to grow. We realized about \$400,000 in free publicity through our press release campaigns and talking to writers and that type of thing. In looking forward, we're no different than anybody else. We know it is going to be a tough year. That doesn't change the fact, though, that we also realize that the designated destination

marketing organization for the county. We take that very seriously. We believe we are about economic development, and we continue to want to have a seat at the table as new businesses come in and talking to people about what can help our community grow.

There are four different focuses that we are going to have in '09. I am just going to talk real briefly about those. The first one is investing in what matters most. With less money this year, we know we've actually cut the budget by a third, so there is a significant amount of decrease. So we will probably be getting back to the grassroots – selling. I will actually be a true salesperson, going to the event planners, going to these different organizations and associations and trying to get them to come in. We are going to have to cut back on the actual dollars spending. It is a little more manpower, a little less of the other resources. The major focus will be the sporting events. Just to give you a real brief synopsis of what has already happened with that. We've already been having meeting with all of the sporting venues in the county. We have had three meetings so far with about 30 venues that have been coming. All of the villages pretty much have been represented, the college, and all the school districts. There is a gymnastic facility in Blanchester that is Olympic-certified. The list kind of goes on and on and on. We are now talking to a consultant that would come in and do this extensive... Actually, Mike has been part of that. We have had two or three meetings. But, we are talking to this consultant now. He's actually the Director of the National Association of Sports Commissions. He would actually come in and do this extensive inventory and take photos. He would actually tell us what we should go after. He would give us a plan, basically. Also, he would get us in touch with these sporting event planners, so we already have the contacts and we know who to go to. Because in looking at what we have, it may appropriate that we just go after youth sports versus college level sports. We have to look at all that.

So it is kind of an exciting venture, something new, and it is a real growing niche market. You know, they say even in tough times parents still will put their kids in sports. They still will travel to watch their kids play sports, so we hope that kind of work for us. It is not going to happen overnight, but we are going to start and try to get it off the ground as soon as we can.

The internet. You know, people are planning their travel plans more and more on the internet. We are going to continue to enhance that site. Our numbers keep going up on the visitors to the site. When you see our marketing and our ads, we are really going to start selling experiences versus geography. Yes, our geography is important, but people want... They tell you to sell the rapids, don't sell the river. People don't want to go to a place they want to go to "something to do" basically.

The second focus area is increase collaboration and that gets back to, you know, we are all going to have to work together to get the things done. One of the things again is the sporting event endeavor that we will be working with countywide. Also, we will be working pretty extensively with the Roberts Centre to try to bring more associations and groups in for meetings. We're even going to try and focus our own population here locally to see if we can get referrals that way with some incentives.

The third area is identifying effective solutions. That is really my involvement with state and national associations. I'm on several boards. I hear first the trends and things that are going on. We're just going to watch and try to take advantage of being the forefront of knowing that information.

(End of Tape)

You know we are going to be challenged there is no doubt about it. But, we are up for it, and it ought to be a good year.

The next page is the actual budget line by line and I'm going to... Pretty much, when you cut your budget by a third, there is not anything significant in it because everything is lower than it was before. Like I said before, we are projecting the income to be down a third for county and city. In our advertising, we're still going to hit all the markets but we did allocate them all a little less, and we are allocating some monies for that sports marketing.

Our grant program, we are going to have it this year. We gave away \$6,000 last year. We had budgeted \$2,000 and the board had actually met a couple of weeks ago and increased that to \$3,000 so that is what we will be giving. We will be announcing those recipients at our upcoming open house whenever we can have that and it doesn't snow or ice or anything like that. I think there was one more thing I wanted to mention. That is pretty much it. Everything else is just based on '08 and cut back. We are just going to have to really watch.

Mayor Raizk: Debbie, one thing you surprised me with was that you did have the increased revenue in '08, which is good. Do you have a sense yet... and I guess I'm thinking in terms of actual room percentage usage based on hotel...as layoffs have occurred and contributions have shrunk, is it still too early to get a handle on?

Debbie Stamper: Until I get four quarters tax (and Mary Kay and I were talking about it). I should be getting them in the next couple of weeks.

Mayor Raizk: It would just be kind of interesting to see how that component shrinks. I mean, we've seen a lot of different components of that.

Debbie Stamper: They're all telling me that in the fourth quarter it really dropped off. They saw a significant drop. We were kind of helped out by the fact that the pipeline people are in town and there has been some other construction and things. Luckily, they are all really pleased that we've got those things that are kind of filling the rooms. They are real concerned. Real concerned. Any other questions or comments. Thanks. I appreciate you all letting me come in.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Thank you. Okay, that completes my portion of the agenda. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Raizk: Just a few things, Mr. President, and I'll be brief. Just to let you know that we have been working day and night about the Economic Stimulus Package. All the legislators have been. I participated just this evening before I got here on a conference call with all the mayors of Ohio. All of the mayors in Ohio were invited to participate with Senator Sherrod Brown. He was in between votes, and he said, "I'm going to duck into a coat closet," and he took this conference call. It kind of illuminated at least what the plan would mean for Ohio. It is very complex and I just can't start chipping things out. I will say to you, though, the only city that he actually talked about specifically was Wilmington, Ohio. That felt pretty good because we've tried to make sure that we are uppermost on a lot of these folks' minds and we've been working real hard. That stimulus package appears to be now north of \$900 billion. He believes that it will probably pass either pass tonight or tomorrow. We have been working very diligently. There are projects that we are talking about trying to get done. One of the criteria has been this "shovel-ready," as it were, (that is a term that is being used all the time) in approximately 120 days. In other words, people want something that happens right now. It's not about a project for three to five years from now. It's about right now. It's about those kinds of things. He is trying to get some special assistance money for our community, especially to help displaced workers. What form that is going to take, I do not know, but he did speak to that specifically, which is kind of different. A lot of the stimulus is more on the infrastructure-type projects. You've seen a lot of discussion about that. I think we are working very hard to make sure that we try to get our share, as is everybody else in the country, and there are a lot of concerns.

This money will appear to be funneled through many existing agencies, simply because the fact is, they want to do things quickly. They want this to get into the economy quickly, so they don't want to set up new agencies with new rules. They will shove it out through existing resources: block grants to the state, CDBG, EDA, some of the existing things we've already been working with, but there will be the extra money coming through. I just wanted to bring you a little bit up to date on that call. I know, you hear a lot about it, and you wonder what we're doing. We've been working real hard on this to try and make sure that we do that. It was really interesting...as we walked in here, just almost after 7:00 p.m., Laura got an e-mail from the Governor telling communities to reach out to their legislators, the senators and congressmen, to make sure that they heard their voice on this stimulus package. I said, "Oh, good. We got the letter after we had already reached out." That was one good thing.

I did get a response...we wrote to... and some of you may have heard...there was a Cincinnati-area initiative called "Save the Dream of Homeownership" asking for a six-month moratorium on foreclosures. We wrote and responded to that that we thought that was a great idea, especially for the Wilmington area. I got a response back from our State Senator John Carey who said he understood that and he was going to keep our views in mind when they get... This legislation has not been introduced yet, I do not believe, but they are expecting some kind of legislation in the upcoming session to be talked about. We wanted to get on there, and we think it is very important, especially for our citizens here with the double whammy that they get of our job losses plus the economy as a whole. I think it's important that we try to participate in that.

Did everybody see the sheet on the hits of the website? After the "60 Minutes" piece, Pauline and Laura have been working overtime. On Wednesday, the Wednesday after, we still had 77 e-mails that had not been answered yet from the Monday after the show and that night. There are a lot of crackpots out there, I will say that.

Councilperson Peterson: I didn't send one.

Mayor Raizk: She's already blocked. But, this was amazing. It does point out something that I just want to just briefly talk about. We have been working since the end of last year (and we're almost ready to go live) on revamping our website. We are going to switch website providers to a provider that does exclusively government websites. The quality, the ability to make changes, the flexibility, the things we are going to be able to do on this website are just 100-fold from what we can do now. We are very excited about it. Dave Allen has been working very hard, along with Laura. We're going to have some great pictures. There are going to be a lot of neat things we can do that we're not able to do now, frankly, at a cost that's even better than what we've been doing. We're very excited about this. My goal is that when we're ready to go live, one night we can bring it to council and do a little dog and pony show and kind of go through how it can be done. Just like with Debbie, we're going to be so integrated that all of these sites are going to be able link together, whether it's the Chamber, whether it's Debbie at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, because these are the marketing tools of the 21st century, and if we have ever needed to market City of Wilmington, it is now! It's interesting that we started that even before hand, but we are now trying to pick up steam. I'm very excited about it, and we want to bring it out and do a demonstration of it when we are about ready to go.

Clerk of Council – Laura Curliss: To that end, what Dave and I would like to do is to get a photographer to come here prior to your next council meeting and take your photographs. That means you have to dress up – or not – it's up to you. But we would have the photographer set up their gear and stuff, say in the Mayor's conference room, and then take your photographs so that we can put your picture on the website. The backgrounds would all be uniform and that makes it look professional. Look at the City of Dublin and Blue Ash, look at any of them, and you will see how council looks. It's all because they have professional photographs.

Mayor Raizk: And the other thing about it is, we are going to have a lot more pictures of our parks and our departments and all these kinds of things on there, that really show what kind of the City of Wilmington is. If you would do that, we will do that. Is everybody going to be here at next meeting? The 19th. That would be a good time to do it then, if everybody is going to be here.

Clerk of Council – Laura Curliss: We will get that set up.

Mayor Raizk: That would be great if you all could do that. It won't take very long. We will do it. We could start it at 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Go take your picture and then come on over...something like that. Is that okay with you, Laura?

Clerk of Council – Laura Curliss: Yes.

Mayor Raizk: This just brought to mind the work that is being done on the website, so I just wanted to talk about that. I think that is all I have.

Councilmember Wells: David, can I ask one question...somewhat on a different matter? How is our search going for the financing mechanism that we talked about before a couple of meetings ago?

Mayor Raizk: I can address that a little bit. Mary Kay and I were on a conference call with our investment banker this week. Basically, what we are talking about is a financing pool with a bank and getting into this capital market. We're into the process of being approved by that pool. So, he thought about the middle of March. It is not something that "Oh, we said," and then we're not doing; it's a daily thing. To that end, Mary Kay and I participated (sorry no more trips to New York or Chicago anymore) on a conference call to Moody's about our rating. We have not been rated since 2003. We had a very productive conference call with the rating services. Obviously, they've heard some things in Chicago and elsewhere, but they wanted to get the real story. I think we did kind of an excellent job of portraying what is really happening in the community: the way we prepared the budget for this year; the cuts the people took, including the employees, and how we addressed that. Frankly, they were very impressed with the way we've been trying to manage being fiscally responsible. We explained how our revenues were with the airpark and what we were trying to do with that going forward. I thought we had a good call, didn't you Mary Kay?

Deputy Auditor – Mary Kay Vance: Yes.

Mayor Raizk: We feel comfortable that we will come out of that with a good rating... continue to have a good rating. Our investment bankers thought so too. We answered all their questions and even more than answered their questions. That is all part of this process, but I think Scott said somewhere, Don, towards the middle of March.

Deputy Auditor – Mary Kay Vance: For the pool. They are still going through the approval process.

Mayor Raizk: This approval process and so forth. We should know a little bit more maybe at the end of this month and then we can go forward. As soon as we know that we will be able to put the money in place, we will need to be doing the legislation. We can do side by side with rate-reduction legislation. We will need to have that approval first so we know what we can do. I hope I answered your question.

Councilmember Wells: Yes, very good. Thank you.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Thank you. Let's get into Committee Reports. Asset, Acquisition and Use?

Asset, Acquisition and Use-Chairperson Mongold: No report, Mr. President.

President of Council-Fred Ertel. Thank you. No Auditor. I assume everything is good.

Auditor-David Hollingsworth: Absent –No report.

Finance Committee-Chairperson Mongold: We do have several items and the first item is a resolution authorizing a request for advance payment for settlement from the county. This is a resolution we do every year to obtain our funds from the county.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Peterson to give the first reading only on the resolution Authorizing A Request For Advance Payment For Settlement From the County.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read the 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 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 Resolution No. 2116 passed as read.

Committee Chair – Mongold: The second item tonight is a resolution authorizing payment of expenses incurred in prior fiscal year. This is what we call “then and now.” I do have the list. Are there any questions?

Deputy Auditor – Mary Kay Vance: The only reason this is such long list is that every year the state when they audit us the rules change for these. Many of the items on here... The most obvious one that I can give you to give you as an example of why we have to do this is the second item that says Property Casualty. This is \$134,000, which is the money we pay to Miami Valley Risk Management Association for our liability insurance. It is the 2009 bill. It is due to them by January 15, but they send it to us on December 15. It is dated 2008, but we’re paying for it with 2009 dollars in appropriations. We have to notify you, City Council, that we paid an invoice that was dated in 2008 with 2009 dollars. Even though it is our 2009 obligation, it is a bill for 2009, it is driven by those dates for when the event happened. Many institutions send us bills dated December 31 for the ensuing year for your next year, but because their dated that way we have to do this. It makes it a little messy. Your DP&L bill: You got it on January 15 but it’s for your usage from December 15 to January 15. Because it was used partially in the previous year, the state sees that as dollars from the previous year used in the current year. It looks messy, it’s housekeeping. It has to do with accruals and all of the things that they like to see. That’s the messy answer also as to why we do this.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on the 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 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 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 Resolution No. 2117 passed as read.

Committee Chair-Mongold: The third item tonight is an ordinance making supplemental appropriations. I spoke with several of you today. The large amount is our first payment that we are making to Union Township for the annexation. It is due in March, but we went ahead and put it on the agenda in case we don’t have any more, so won’t have to publicize it again.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Popp to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Supplemental Appropriations.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read ordinance 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 ordinance by title only.

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

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold 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 Ordinance No. 4820 passed as read.

Committee Chair-Mongold: That’s all we have, Mr. President.

President of Council - Fred Ertel: Very good. Thank you. Water Committee?

Water Committee-Committee Chair Wallace: Mr. President, being one who always has unique timeliness involved, we need to have a resolution to purchase some chemicals for our water department. Actually, this is something that we do on an annual basis, if you can remember back to the past years. We need give our people proper authorization to do the bid process. Are there any questions concerning this?

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Peterson 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 McKay 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 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 Ordinance No. 4821 passed as read.

Water Committee-Committee Chair Wallace: That's all I have, Mr. President.

[General banter]

Streets Committee-Committee Chair Peterson – I have several items. The first item is the second reading to revise the downtown parking map.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mongold to give the second reading only on the ordinance Amending the Traffic Control Map and the Traffic Control File to Adopt a Revised Downtown Parking Plan.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

Committee Chair Peterson requested that third reading only be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Streets Committee – Committee Chair Peterson: The second is to provide a no parking zone on the north side of Hawley Avenue

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Jaehnig to give the second reading only on the ordinance Amending the Traffic Control Map and the Traffic Control File to Provide for a “No Parking” Zone on the North Side of Hawley Avenue.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

Committee Chair Peterson requested that third reading only be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Streets Committee – Committee Chair Peterson: The third item is to provide for a no right turn on red at the corner of Main and South Street.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mongold to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance Amending the Traffic Control Map and the Traffic Control File to Prohibit a Right Turn on Red From Main to South Street.

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

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Wallace 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 Ordinance No. 4822 passed as read.

Streets Committee – Committee Chair Peterson: The final item is renaming the old 22 & 3 “Rombach Avenue.”

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Wells to give the second reading only on the ordinance Naming that Section of S.R. 22/3 that Extends for 2600 Linear Feet, More or Less, Westward from the Current Municipal Corporation Line on S.R. 22/3 “Rombach Avenue.”

Motion passed

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

Committee Chair Peterson requested that the third reading only be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Streets Committee – Committee Chair Peterson: Just a reminder we do have a committee meeting February 11 at 5:30 p.m.

President of Council-Fred Ertel: Solid Waste/Recycling Committee?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee-Committee Chair Wells - Mr. President, I have no items on the agenda tonight, however, I would like to thank the workers who picked up our trash and our recyclables at the curb during the bad weather. I think they did an outstanding job and I just commend them for their efforts. That’s all I have, thank you.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Thank you. I know what you are talking about. Last night I heard the truck, as I always do, at about 4:00 am in the morning. I can only imagine how cold it was.

Councilperson Wells: They did a good job.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Thanks, Don. Wastewater /Sewer Committee?

Wastewater/Sewer Committee- Committee Chair McKay : No report Mr. President.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Thank you, Judiciary Committee?

Judiciary Committee-Committee Chair Popp: We have one item.

A motion was made by Popp and seconded by Peterson to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading only on the ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 4794 Establishing Classification and Salary Ranges for Certain City Employees, Repealing Ordinances and Part of Ordinances in Conflict Herewith and Declaring an Emergency. Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Popp and seconded by Peterson 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 Ordinance No. 4823 passed as read.

Judiciary Committee-Committee Chair Popp: We have nothing else at this time.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Thank you. Safety Committee?

Safety Committee – Committee Chair Jaehnig: No report, Mr. President.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Committee Chair Popp: Yes, we have one item this evening, Mr. President. It is a housekeeping matter. This happens every five years. It is a renewal of our agreement with the City of Wilmington and Downtown Wilmington Community Improvement Corporation within the Central Business District. Are there any questions?

A motion was made by Popp and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on the ordinance Approving The Continued Agency Agreement Between The City of

Wilmington and The Downtown Wilmington Community Improvement Corporation
Within the Central Business District.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Popp and seconded by Mongold 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 ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Popp 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 Ordinance No. 4824 passed as read.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Parks and Recreation Committee?

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

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Service Director, any good news? How much salt do we have left?

Service Director – Larry Reinsmith: Well we just got 200 ton in last week.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: What did we have to pay for a ton?

Service Director – Larry Reinsmith: \$100.20 a ton.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: So we are still under the contract. Good, excellent

Service Director – Larry Reinsmith: I think there are 42 days until spring.

Councilmember Jaehnig: You're getting your warm up, Larry. We're good for a week at least.

Service Director – Larry Reinsmith: Well, yes. We still have a lot of ice on some of the side streets that got packed in there. Once you get it packed that hard, the blades won't work anymore. Salt won't work either. We did a lot of salting this last time. We could use a good week of 50-degree weather.

Councilmember Peterson: I think you're going to get it.

Mayor Raizk: The rain will help more than anything.

Councilmember Wallace: There was a day last week when it seemed like there was a lot of salt and slush around. I was wondering why we weren't out trying to push it around and get it out of the street. I don't know what day it was...

Service Director – Larry Reinsmith: It was Sunday. They were out in certain areas. They were really responding to complaints more than doing a systematic thing. I know they were in Southridge. They did a lot in Southridge. They had a lot of complaints out there.

Councilmember Wallace: I know we don't have enough trucks to handle every street, you know, but when (inaudible for transcription).

President of Council-Fred Ertel: Safety Director?

Safety Director – Nick Babb: No report.

President of Council-Fred Ertel: Okay, you have two reports in front of you tonight. What's your pleasure?

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Peterson to accept the Report of Operation of the Clinton County Municipal Court for the Year 2008 and the Income Tax Report – January 2009, as presented.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as presented.

President of Council- Fred Ertel: At this time, I would like to open the meeting to the general public and/or council to address council while in session. If you would, please come to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

Councilmember Jaehnig: Sorry. I have one item that I need to get on quickly because I'm going to need help in order to complete this. Some of you are already aware that after the "60 Minutes" piece we were contacted by the Feed the Children Network. They are going to be arriving in town Sunday evening and they will be here for the next 10 days filming with a crew, talking to families and school officials and city officials and so forth to tell the story of what is going on here. The benefit, in regards to us going through this again, is that on the February 19, eleven semi's of food are going to arrive in our city to be passed out to families of need and that will be the culminating event. The final item, or the most important item, is that Our Father's Kitchen Sugartree Ministries will be added as a permanent fixture then to their network. Between now and then, though, we have this crew that we need help in escorting them around the city and the county. While, yes, I am unemployed still, I can't give up ten days of my life every day and every night to take them around, so I will be looking for volunteer ambassadors to take some of that time up while they are here and help them get to where they need to get to their story told. That is all I have. Thank you.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: That's a wonderful thing -- being in the network now. That is excellent. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Raizk: I just wanted to say one other thing and I don't think I addressed it. We talked about all the e-mails and letters that came. What I didn't tell you was that you really get your faith in humanity restored. We have received a sizeable amount of checks just from individual Americans from all over the country. Just made out to the People of Wilmington, some made out to the Mayor, some made out to whatever, just Wilmington. What we've done is we've just kind of divvied them up. Some have been \$10, some have been \$100 or \$20 just whatever anybody could spare. We have spread them around, given them to Sugartree Ministries or those churches that have food banks that they operate. We have kind of divvied them around. Some of the larger amounts we have given to the foundation for the DHL Wilmington fund, so we've kind of spread that around. The reason why we did it that way is that we didn't want to go through this process of where we have to take it into our books and then the process of accepting a gift. It would just be a nightmare. So, literally, I have just endorsed it over on the back to that organization and sent it on to them with a letter so that everything is documented and given to those folks. It is amazing and it will choke you up when you see that. It is amazing.

Councilmember Mongold: It would be nice if the News-Journal would re-cap those letters and donations in a flyer or something. I think that would be very interesting for the people.

Unidentified female speaker: I have a question. About how much have you seen in donations like that come in?

Clerk of Council-Laura Curliss: It's hard to say because a lot of people will send us an e-mail and say we sent it to Sugartree Ministries or tell me what that soup kitchen's address is, or Rotarians wanted to connect with Rotarians here to send checks to organizations. Not all of it has come through us.

Treasurer – Geoffrey Phillips: How much came into the city?

Clerk of Council – Laura Curliss: Oh, honestly, not that much through the city.

Mayor Raizk: Maybe a couple of dollars worth. Would you say that's...?

Clerk of Council – Laura Curliss: It is more like “Help us connect to other people and other charities here.”

Mayor Raizk: They weren’t necessarily made out to the City of Wilmington, or Wilmington. They were made out to like the people of Wilmington or at your discretion. So we just tried to pass them out to the other organizations that could use them. We have had a lot of people that would call and we’ve tried to give them the list of the contact information. We have a list prepared that has those people that have food banks, those churches that have food banks, and let them pick and chose from that list and let them go ahead. We don’t know how many people have actually done it, but I think a sizeable amount. When you think about somebody in Wisconsin or California or Georgia that took the time to pick up the phone or go to the website or... Handwritten letters...talk about a lost art...we have had many handwritten letters. Somebody had to take the time to do that. They had to be committed enough to do that. You talk about a real outpouring of faith of humanity for people whose situation may be (and we don’t know that their situation is any better than what ours is), but they at least took the time. I really need to publicly thank them for that.

Unidentified Female Speaker: Do you think 60 Minutes would extend our appreciation?

Mayor Raizk: We’re going to prepare a letter and talk about some of that and hopefully... I want them to do a follow up piece if they will sometime in the future. We told about our plight, I want to tell about... We have told them about the other things, but we are hopeful that they have enough material to actually create, you know, what else is going on. That’s all I have.

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

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk