

Wilmington City Council met on Thursday, June 3, 2010, with President Fred Ertel presiding.

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Wells, present; Peterson, present; Wallace, absent; Mead, 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 Wells and seconded by Peterson to excuse the absent member.
Motion passed.
Absent member excused.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Jaehnig to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, May 20, as received.
Motion passed.
Minutes approved as received.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Don, you have guests.

Councilman Wells: Yes. In the audience tonight, we have a Boy Scout by the name of Dylan Andrews, and we welcome him to our council meeting tonight. Thank you for coming.

[Applause]

President Ertel: Dylan, if you have any questions about how this thing is run, just put your hand up, and we will be glad to... You don't have to shake your head now.

[Laughter]

President Ertel: We'll be glad to answer those questions for you. Maybe after our meeting, then. Moving into the Mayor's report. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor – Mayor Raizk: Thank you, Mr. President. We have some bad news this week. Sheila Sites, who is a lab technician at the water plant, passed away this morning. She had just been recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She was only 45 years old. She leaves behind a husband, Jeff, and two daughters, Chelsea, 19, and Megan, 16. I think from all of the city and from everyone here, our thoughts and our prayers go out to the Sites family. We will carry them in our prayers, because this is truly a tragic thing. She was an excellent worker and she will be really missed, but certainly more missed by her family. I just wanted to let everyone know about that.

Mayor Raizk: Secondly, yesterday was a very good day for us for the city and the entire region. I appreciate council's support coming yesterday. We did at least spare these chambers the ugliness and the wretchedness of "Lips Riley" kissing me on top of my head. We were able to do that in another venue, so this building was not desecrated.

[Laughter]

President Ertel: You might want to explain for the rest of us...

Mayor Raizk: I will explain. A lot of you may or may not know...back when our troubles first began and we were working very diligently back in 2008, I had always had a goal – the lynch pin of our redevelopment strategy has always been to get control of the airpark. So, Randy, Commissioner Riley, has always said, "Davey, if you do that...if you can get that done...then I will kiss you on your bald head at a City Council meeting." I wouldn't let him forget it, and he never forgot it. So, that is what has happened. It has been about a year and a half coming, but we did get it accomplished.

We are very excited about it. He joyfully fulfilled his promise. The reason why we didn't wait until a City Council meeting is we had a heck of a lot more media there yesterday, so we thought we would take advantage of the opportunity. Since the president deemed that we did have a quorum present, we convened and hastily convened a special meeting. That allowed him to do that in front of all of the TV cameras, which was much more embarrassing for him. So, that was the story behind it. Anyway, it was a great day, and we have much to look forward to. It is kind of like be careful of what you wish for because now the real work begins. We have to dig in hard and work harder to try to create jobs and create opportunities for our citizens. But, this is the first step. We have turned the corner and we are moving forward. Again, thanks everybody for all of your help and support.

[Applause]

Mayor Raizk: That is all I have, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We appreciate it. Committee reports. Asset, Acquisition and Use?

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

President Ertel: Thank you.

Auditor – In the absence of Auditor David Hollingsworth, there was no report.

President Ertel: Finance Committee? Sandy?

Finance Committee – Chairperson Sandy Mongold: Before you this evening we have the first item. This is an ordinance making miscellaneous transfers. Are there any questions?

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Miscellaneous Transfers.

Motion passed

In the absence of the Director of Law, President Ertel 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; Mead, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

President Ertel read the 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; Mead, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4915 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: The second item tonight is an ordinance making supplemental appropriations.

Councilwoman Peterson: I have a question.

Councilwoman Mongold: Yes.

Councilwoman Peterson: Item B. I was under the impression that we were not going to have that consultant any longer.

Councilwoman Mongold: Well, this is for electrical inspections.

Councilman Jaehnig: This was the contract that was discontinued as a year-long contract, so we have to bring him in on occasion. Instead of contracting for the entire year, we are doing it by the job.

Councilwoman Peterson: Oh. Okay.

Councilwoman Mongold: We will pay small amounts, but nothing near to what we were paying.

Councilwoman Peterson: Got it.

Councilwoman Mongold: We have a building inspector, but they are not certified to do electrical.

Councilwoman Peterson: Thank you.

Councilwoman Mongold: Are there any other questions?

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

Motion passed

President Ertel read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Peterson 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; Mead, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

President Ertel read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Jaehnig to pass the ordinance as read.

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4916 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: The third item tonight is a resolution authorizing payment of expenses incurred in a prior fiscal year. It is the then and now.

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

Motion passed

President Ertel 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; Mead, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

President Ertel read the resolution by title only.

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

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2200 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: You have received copies of the financials in your packet. We received this yesterday. Finance Committee did review them in their meeting. I would ask that you review the numbers. If you have any questions, you are welcome to call the Auditor or bring them to the next meeting. Hopefully, he will be here. Also, Finance will be meeting again and we will be discussing them. We will let you know when we schedule that meeting. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you. Water Committee?

Water Committee – In the absence of Chairperson Mike Wallace, there was no report.

President Ertel: Streets Committee?

Streets Committee – Chairperson Peterson: We have no report.

President Ertel: Thank you. Solid Waste/Recycling?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee: Chairperson Don Wells: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Wastewater/Sewer?

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

President Ertel: Very good. Thank you. Judiciary Committee?

Judiciary Committee: Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: We have three items tonight, Mr. President. The first item, in regards to the Safe Routes to School, we did have a Judiciary Committee meeting last night, and at the completion of the Judiciary meeting, the plan was sent back to the Planning Commission because the map we were currently looking at had not been through Planning Commission. They had approved a different map, so we are not able to just pull up that map and replace it. We are sending it back to the appropriate body for review. So, at this time, I would like to postpone this reading for two meetings. So, the first meeting in July is when I would like to postpone this to.

Mayor Raizk: Planning Commission will meet on the fourth Tuesday in June at 7:00 here.

President Ertel: So noted.

Councilman Jaehnig: The second item is the second and third reading on rescinding Chapter 701 of the Codified Ordinances. This was in regard to permitting to have auctions and the permit fee. It was a \$5 fee. We have not been collecting it. We have not been doing it for years, so we are just cleaning up the books at this particular point.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Peterson to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance Rescinding Chapter 701 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wilmington, Ohio, by title only.

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

President Ertel read the ordinance by title only.

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

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4917 passed as read.

Councilman Jaehnig: The last item under Judiciary is the second reading for the CDBG grant. In the packets, you should have received the budgetary information in regards to the CDBG grant. At our next meeting, Whitaker Wright will be here to do a public hearing and will be available to answer any additional questions on this particular grant.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Peterson to give the second reading only on the resolution Authorizing the Submittal of an Application for the FY 2010 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Formula Program and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion passed

President Ertel read resolution by title only.

Jaehnig requested that the third reading be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Jaehnig: That is all we have today, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you so much. Safety Committee, please?

Safety Committee: Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Downtown Revitalization Committee?

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Convener Mark McKay – We have no legislation tonight, Mr. President. We would like to recognize that we have a lot of folks in our audience tonight that are interested in our downtown revitalization, and we look forward to hearing from you all a little later.

President Ertel: Thank you. Parks & Recreation Committee?

Parks and Recreation Committee – In the absence of Convener Mike Wallace, Councilwoman Peterson: We have no report.

President Ertel: Excellent. Thank you. Mr. Service Director?

Service Director- Service Director Larry Reinsmith: No report.

President Ertel: None? Okay. Safety Director?

Safety Director – Safety Director Nick Babb: Just the one item, Mr. President. Council, about a month or so ago, passed the legislation to authorize us to use GovDeals.com for our auction. I would like to let you know how we did on our first auction. We had two city cab vans. The first cab van, we had 41 bids. The high bid was \$7,825. This is a 2003 Chevy Express Van. The second was a similar vehicle. We had 19 bids. The high bid was \$5,925. The third item was a police camera system, a Canon. We had 11 bids for \$155. It totaled \$13,905. Those are more bids than we ever got in an annual city auction, and this is just one of probably many auctions we will have on the internet.

Councilman Jaehnig: Those vehicles in the past, we have only been given \$1000 or \$1500 for.

Mayor Raizk: I think \$2500 is the most we have ever gotten for....

Safety Director Nick Babb: So, it is working well. Thank you for passing that legislation. Our fees were about \$1000 on that roughly, so we made over \$12,000.

Paul Hunter: Does that money go back to the cabs or does it go into the general fund?

Deputy Auditor Mary Kay Vance: It is like the regular auction that we had. It will go back to the specific funds that they paid out of originally.

President Ertel: Thanks, Nick. We appreciate that.

Reports:

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Peterson to approve the Income Tax Report – May 2010, 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.

John Schum: I reside at 906 South Nelson, Apartment 13, here in the City of Wilmington. Thank you ladies and gentleman of our council, Mr. Mayor, and Miss Curliss, for the opportunity to speak with you this evening. People of the community also. I have been asked by some of the business people of our community to speak with you regarding an issue that is very near and dear to us. That is our businesses. The small business community, in spite of all of the counsel and commentary, decided to go into small business anyhow. We are finding that in these difficult times, we are having a tremendous degree of difficulty in maintaining viability of our small businesses. We respectfully request that we be able to convey with you some of our concerns, if I may. I received a letter from one of our members, and I would like to be allowed to read portions of it if I may.

President Ertel: Certainly.

John Schum: It starts...

Like far too many in Wilmington, we are struggling to keep our small business afloat in a city already depressed by the closing of DHL and the departure of thousands of people from the area. Respected economists and intellectuals cannot fully explain or predict the vicissitudes of finance. Nor, it seems can their theories and solutions fully tame the beast; what chance have we to do so?

Focusing on our tiny corner of the much discussed Main Street, however, I will venture the thought that blocking access to a business through the actual physical impediment and the projection of a discouraging atmosphere is equivalent to storming the store, boarding the windows, and padlocking the doors. At least the latter method is quick. The former unfortunately allows the business owner to watch the blood, sweat and tears leak slowly out – drop by drop.

No doubt, the city had very good reason to re-do the curbs and sidewalks. It was sorely needed, and thank you. Perhaps it is only the execution that is the problem. The problem is there is nowhere to park and nowhere to walk. This is from one's perspective, as I am sure you are aware. Despite the plea of our friends at the Buy Local, people are not shopping in our stores. It is way too inconvenient, if not dangerous, at times.

John Schum: This particular person says she has no customers. Since the first “DO NOT PARK –BY ORDER OF POLICE” signs were put up on the 3rd of April of this year until now, her business has grossed a total of \$150.00. She can't pay her utility bills or her mortgage.

John Schum: It goes on to an impassioned plea for assistance on some measure. Ladies and gentlemen, as a group of business owners, we would like to first express our sincere appreciation, again, for the improvements to our streets and sidewalks. Again, to reiterate, that this massive amount of construction is really hard on us and the daily operations of our businesses. Recent economic studies done for Wilmington have shown that our businesses help to generate approximately \$30,000,000 in sales for the local economy. Therefore, we are a fairly large business in our community as a group. For many of us, we are losing 50% to nearly 100% of our portion of those sales on a weekly basis. In an effort to better understand the situation and more effectively weather the storm, we would ask the city council to consider the following suggestions and questions, if I may:

John Schum: Open communications lines by appointing a liaison, an advocate if you will, from the City to have direct contact with a representative from the construction firm. I believe it is the Jurgensen Company, who can relay accurate and timely information to us on an ongoing basis, weekly if not daily. As a member of the business community having worked with construction firms in rebuilding and running larger factories in my prior business life, I am familiar that somewhere, somehow there is an individual whose fanny is going to be in a sling if a production schedule is not met. He has to answer to someone daily for what happened with respect to what was scheduled versus what actually happened. Now, we realize that there are things that loom before these poor people trying to fix our city – like hidden gas lines that nobody knew were there. They'll try to take up a piece of sidewalk and something else will break. There is always something unforeseen to keep them from meeting their production schedules. But, ladies and gentlemen, we can't run our businesses without some information about what they would like to do, what they plan to do, and when they plan to do it.

John Schum: For example, this information that we need to do our jobs has to do with scheduling of our employees – those of us who have them – to be at work at times when... For example, if they are working in front of our businesses that day and they will require lots of room and heavy equipment to do whatever they really need to do, it is foolhardy for us to be open and try to encourage people to come into our stores on those

occasions. Could we please, perhaps, have some way of knowing when that would be so that we could schedule our businesses to be open perhaps in the evenings or at another time? We could save money on employees, on lighting, on other associated things. Expenditures for advertising – those of us who advertise – if we are going to have an event and we find out that we can't because there is an obstruction to easy access, certainly those monies were wasted, and we really don't have a lot of that to go around. Is it possible to have an advocate from the city or to speak with the construction company to give us this information in a timely fashion so that we can do our jobs and better take care of our customers and our clientele? Other points of interest at the meeting we had have to do with the usual frustration with an entire lane of traffic being marked off and there doesn't appear to be anybody in that particular lane doing anything that day. Now, we know that things happen to keep people from doing what they would like to do in a space they would like to do it. But could they please take the barrels back down so folks could get through town? I know, myself, that coming back from the outer Rombach areas where Wal-Mart and the other stores are, I bail out and go through the college to keep from coming through town. For heaven's sake, folks, I work in this town. I love it here. I moved to Wilmington and I have never regretted it a day in my life. This is a great community. You guys are doing a wonderful job of running the town. It is just that at times it is a little difficult. Not being really used to doing small business this way, it is very difficult on good days to make the right decision. During these difficult times, if we could have a little help with respect to information about when things are happening and how they are happening, we could be better stewards of the money that we have left. Again, we are asking if there is some way for some of us to have deferment on perhaps... We fully intend to pay all of our utilities, our water, and our DP&L. Is there some way that we can speak with someone to make arrangements to pay the utilities later – maybe over time a certain reduced amount per week rather than \$300-\$400 or a \$1000 or \$5000 or whatever the size of our business and that load is all at once? Maybe to stretch it out after the sidewalks and the traffic improves. Is there some way for that? That is the consensus and that is the request.

John Schum: Again, I would like to reiterate that we are genuinely and honestly thankful that you have taken the time and effort to make our city a beautiful place for people to come to and to spend their time and their money. Sincerely. If there is anything you could do to help us, we would really appreciate it. Thank you very much. Do you have any questions for me?

Mayor Raizk: Go ahead, Bob.

Councilman Mead: The chamber of commerce is supposed to be your advocate, especially in the uptown area. Aren't they able to do these things of which you are speaking?

John Schum: There seem to be several bodies at times at odds with each other. I know that they attempt and most times work very well together. The Main Street Wilmington Association, for example, there are a great many of us who are members of this very good and worthwhile association. There are those of us who are members of the chamber also, sir. We really are not getting a great deal of information to run our businesses from those bodies, so this is why we have asked to speak with you this evening, so that we may more directly find out who we may see about this. Yesterday morning, in an attempt to try to find out another avenue of approach, I went by Our Father's Kitchen where the construction company had a crew working. I know from my business past that sooner or later the foreman will be around. Sure enough, there came a pickup truck and these fellows that were working turned and came over to this truck. They appeared to get direction and engage in a conversation with this fellow. So, when they were finished, I went over to speak with him. I introduced myself and I asked him... Well, right off the bat, he folded his arms and was somewhat defensive and apprehensive. I tried to convey with him that I wasn't interested in really getting him in a jam or hollering at him. I wasn't mad or any of this stuff. I was just trying to find out if there was someone in his organization who knew what the production schedule was so that we may be able to contact him to get an update. His initial response was that "Well, you know, this is not like a factory. Things don't just happen one, two three. There are the weather considerations. There are labor considerations. There are hidden gas mains and water

lines and other things happen.” I assured him that I was aware of that, but I also knew that sooner or later somewhere in every organization somebody, again, was going to get their fanny in a sling if the production schedule wasn’t met. I knew that there was someone in his organization who had that job. If he could please just steer me in the right direction. He graciously wrote down a name and a phone number, which I gave to Mr. Brown as a point of contact, trying to resolve this situation from another avenue. Because several of our other business people in town are very frustrated in that they are not able to do what they would love to do – which is run their businesses efficiently and effectively – due to a lack of information on things.

Councilwoman Peterson: Before we started this project six months ago, we identified that communication was going to be key and developing a communication plan. I guess I am confused about where the wheels fell off.

Mayor Raizk: Well, the wheels didn’t fall off on anybody’s end. Let’s be perfectly honest. The problem is we are not the inspectors and we are not... It’s an ODOT project, so we don’t have as much say about the production schedule as we would like. But the answer to your question, “Can you have an advocate?” The answer is yes. That is easy, and we will do that. We are as frustrated as you are, because we have asked for information, and the information that we get is not always what gets followed. This has been several weeks ago, but when the work was first started downtown, for instance, we said “Let’s start downtown and move backwards.” Originally, it was going to start at the railroad tracks and work backwards. And they said, “No, let’s do it the other way.” And we said, “Okay, that’s a good thing and we’ll do that first.” Then, all of a sudden, we start, and then they skip. Then, all of a sudden, we’re skipping around. So what happens is you’ve got this part done and... Please, understand, our frustration level is as high as yours. There are three things that you identified that I think we can do and we’re going to try to do something about. Number one is some way or another to get you an advocate. If you want it can be Steve or whoever you want from your side. We’re not on sides, we’re all in the same pot, so let’s not call it sides, but we will get someone from there. We’re going to try to find a person on the other side who will get us accurate information. We will continue to use the city website like we did before. That was part of our communication plan that we rolled out in the beginning. It is better now than it was, but that is because we’re getting a little more information. In the beginning, our information was a little sketchy.

Mayor Raizk: The other thing that is of frustration to us as well as you is what happens when there is no activity present and there is not a safety hazard, like the pavement is not milled yet so there is a gap between the curb and gutter. But if it is in and the sidewalk is in and they’re not working there, then we don’t need the barrels there. We agree with that. Understand, a lot of the reason why they do it that the safety is their baby until they’re done with it – the liabilities. We will try to get together with them within the next couple of days. I am going to ask that the Service Director and Safety Director and I meet with the principals of the project and tell them what we need to have done and try to get some accurate scheduling information.

John Schum: Thank you very much.

Mayor Raizk: We have been frustrated with the level of information. Then we get it and we put it out there, and then it is not what occurs and we feel like idiots because we said, “Okay, you’re going to be working on the sidewalk here this week.” Fine, okay. I think everybody realizes that we would all like to go to bed at night and somebody wave a magic wand and it would be perfectly done. The second thing is, we want it done right – those are things that we want done. But they need to work with us a little bit more than they have been. I will also check into the deferment of utility issues. We will talk about it, and I think maybe we could do something. I don’t think that is something we can ignore. We could do it. It is affecting everybody. I can no longer pull in carriers to unload our merchandise in front of our business. Whether you’re downtown or out on West Main Street, we’ve got the same situation.

Councilman McKay: May I say something.

Mayor Raizk: Yes.

Councilman McKay: John, I know we all appreciate your presentation tonight. It was non-confrontational. I don't know if other folks would like to speak, which would be fine. I know you guys have been through a process to develop what you want to do. I know we all feel this as deeply as you do on the surface, but we don't have a business downtown. That's a problem.

John Schum: Well, some of you do.

Councilman McKay: Well, some of us...that is correct. I've worked with Steve and I've worked with Ernie. Initially, I tried to be that person that you needed, and I found it very difficult. It is kind of a case of "Is the cure going to kill the patient?" We certainly hope that that does not happen, because our downtown is our jewel.

John Schum: One of our committee in an exasperated state commented that we might have the most beautiful empty downtown in Ohio. I assured them that this was not likely to happen. But, this is the level of emotion that we are working through. We honestly, genuinely appreciate the opportunity to speak with you.

President Ertel: I think we have three persons from the contracting firm in the back. Would any of you like to speak to the issues?

Chris Rutkai: Sure.

President Ertel: So, now we will get to hear another side. Thanks, John. We appreciate it.

[Applause]

Mayor Raizk: While you're walking up...John, in terms of the advocate, is it the group's decision that Steve would be the contact person for you?

John Schum: We're not volunteering Steve for an additional job, but if he would agree to step up...

Mayor Raizk: So we don't leave here tonight without that.

Chris Rutkai: J.R. Jurgensen Company. I live in Springboro. I agree that communication is the most important thing in life. We've tried to work with Ernie Blankenship. He's very busy; we're very busy. I think it is a great idea to appoint somebody that can be in contact with people such as yourself. I will talk to you every day and tell you what we're going to try to do.

[Applause]

Mayor Raizk: One thing I would like...if you would...is there some way that you could meet with Larry and me and the Safety Director ...like Monday or Tuesday? One of the things that we would like to do – one of our ways of doing this is to take that schedule, if you can give us something reasonably close. We understand that there are rainstorms and the gas lines. But, what we would like to do is have that schedule, if you know what that is, then we can put it on the website. We need to work together in terms of that schedule and what else our city crews are doing that could help in your wake, so to speak. If we could get together a meeting (before you leave tonight, pick a time) so we can get all of that done...that would be great.

Chris Rutkai: That's no problem.

Mayor Raizk: Okay.

Chris Rutkai: Whenever it is convenient for you, I'll be here.

Mayor Raizk: Okay.

Chris Rutkai: Just to speak to some of the points we talked about, it has been extremely difficult. I would love to just lay out a schedule and say “We’re going to be one week down this side...,” you know. Just last night we got a call from ODOT at about 5:00 to cease operations on Locust Street where we were digging because the pavement was about 17 inches thick and it is supposed to be 8 on the plans. It has been...I won’t say a nightmare...but it has been difficult. Everything on the plans...you could basically throw the plans away. They are very inaccurate as to what is out there. Every day, we are dealing with utilities. The city has been very helpful. They have done a tremendous amount of work in front of us and behind us, just fixing downspouts and all kinds of stuff that we have run into. In fact, there is a stretch through downtown that has been opened up for a while, which maybe you’re speaking about, on the east end. We had to abandon that spot because there is all kinds of work the city had to do there – repair work to the drainage systems and whatnot. Believe me, we would have had it poured back by now. We are not trying to just haphazardly tear up everything. We try to have a plan and go through it. We get stopped here because of the gas lines... I mean, it has been a very difficult process. Aaron has been under so much pressure and stress and we’ve got people yelling at him all day long. I apologize if he was curt to you.

John Schum: He was very helpful. Very nice. Very professional. Very helpful.

Chris Rutkai: Well, I can give you my business cards. You can call me at any time. I’ll talk to you or Steve daily, if you like. You can call me anytime. I will try to tell you what we have planned out on a daily basis or a weekly basis – as far as we can look ahead – so you can keep everybody else abreast. We will do a better job of communicating. We have a set of plans that tell you to tear up all of the sidewalk and replace it. Unfortunately, sidewalk removal takes a lot longer than the placement of sidewalks, so you have to tear out a bunch to get ready for them, and then you run into all of these problems and so it extends everything out, so... So, all we can do is communicate.

Mayor Raizk: Can I tell you one thing on the positive side? What you have done so far...it looks great. It looks good.

[Applause]

Mayor Raizk: Once it gets all done and the streets are milled and we get good asphalt down there, it is going to look like a million bucks. Do you want someone from ODOT at that meeting, and if so, who would you like?

Chris Rutkai: Yes. Scott Nicely is with ODOT. He is the project manager for ODOT.

Mayor Raizk: Scott. Okay. I didn’t see you back there.

Scott Nicely: I’m a little short.

[Laughter]

Mayor Raizk: Okay. Before you guys leave, we will pick a time for meeting and we’ll get that done. That way we can get good information to funnel and that way and it will work out.

Councilman Jaehnig: If I can make just one last suggestion. I couldn’t do the work that these guys are doing, especially in the heat at this time of year. I mean, it is far too hot too early this year. But, at the end of the day, we had a situation with a piece of equipment parked directly in the entrance of a business for two days. They couldn’t even get into their business.

Chris Rutkai: That shouldn’t happen.

Councilman Jaehnig: Could we make sure that things are put back? I notice you open the lanes up every night and I appreciate that greatly. Some of the things if we could remember to remove them. I know at the end of the day they’re happy, it’s the end of the

day, let's go get something to eat and sit down and take the weight off. It is those little things that sometimes that are such a distraction, unfortunately, to the customers that become very fickle and then run out to Wal-Mart.

Chris Rutkai: I can appreciate that. I will definitely talk to the guys tomorrow about being more sensitive to businesses. They have a lot of work to do and it is very stressful and sometimes they probably don't think about certain...

Councilman Jaehnig: Well, I can understand that...but any help we could get would be greatly appreciated.

Chris Rutaki: Right.

Councilwoman Peterson: And also while they are here in town, please encourage them to visit the businesses.

[Laughter]

[Applause and general comments of thanks]

Mayor Raizk: We really appreciate you taking the time to come this evening. That is great. That says a lot.

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

Councilwoman Mongold: I had a conversation with Phil Floyd last month. He is the Director of our Taxi Cab System. He is very interested in partnering with the businesses to provide transportation downtown. We talked about maybe even coming up with a voucher system where if the taxi provides the transportation downtown and they shop in your store and spend money or spend a certain amount of money, perhaps you could give them a voucher that would help pay maybe a dollar off of their ride or something to get them downtown. They know where to go and how to maneuver around the traffic downtown to pick them up. If any business is interested in partnering with our taxi system, please call Phil Floyd out at our taxi department because he is very anxious to work with you.

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

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

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Wells to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk