

Wilmington City Council met on Thursday, December 16, 2010, with President Fred Ertel presiding.

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

Chief Hatten was also present.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Jaehnig to excuse the absent member. Motion passed.
Absent member excused.

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Jaehnig to approve the minutes of the November 18 meeting and the last regular meeting, December 2, as received. Motion passed.
Minutes approved as received.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: I would like to make mention of a Notice of Legislative Authority of a Liquor Agency Contract Application for Kroger Limited Partnership, LLC, at 1230 Rombach Avenue, Wilmington, OH 45177. This application will be on file at the office of the Clerk if anyone would like to review that. That concludes my portion of the meeting. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor – Mayor Raizk: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't have any official agenda items. I would just like to say a big "thank you" to everyone involved. It was a great day in Wilmington yesterday. There was a tremendous turnout. I know the businesses thank Mr. Beck for bringing that to town. Mainly, I would like to thank our people that did extraordinary work to make this a safe and happy and fun event for everybody. All of our police and fire, emergency ambulance and street crews worked. I know that Rob and all of the members of council had much to do with it. Thank you all. There are too many people to thank, I know, from Main Street and the Murphy Theatre. I would also like to note, Laura did some great work working very closely with the producers in trying to make sure that their questions were answered and having things lined up before. Sometimes she helped make the plan for them because she knew what would go smoothly and what wouldn't. She did a fabulous job. Laura, thank you very much. I'm sure I'm leaving people out. All of the city employees really pitched in, and I want to thank them for their efforts. I also would like to say our thoughts for good recovery are with Councilman Coach Wallace tonight. He is recovering from surgery. This was scheduled surgery, and that is why he is not here. We are thinking about him healing, especially during holiday times. One other thing I would like to say...our thoughts and our prayers are, especially at this holiday time, with Zach Hollingsworth who is deployed in Afghanistan and all of our service people overseas. This is an especially tough time for families (and for them as well) being away at the holidays. I would just like to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. You know, 2011 is going to be a much better year than 2010. We are, indeed, a city that runs on hope. I think our hope will be rewarded in 2011. Thanks to everybody, one and all, and I hope you have a safe and happy holiday. That is all I have.

Councilman McKay: I'll second that.

President Ertel: Thank you. I certainly will echo the mayor's thoughts about the event last night. That was tremendous and our city just really put out the red carpet and did a wonderful job of putting the right foot forward. So many people came from out of town. In fact, the people who sat next to us were from out of town and in front of us. They were just very, very impressed. One, with the town, and secondly, with the Murphy Theatre. They thought that was just a wonderful venue. I believe the president of the Murphy Theatre is here to join us this evening in the back of the room. Thank you so much for all of your hard work. Also, I would be remiss without bringing this up.

Everyone has at their place a *Roberts Rules of Order*. It is newly revised in brief. As we go through the meeting, if anyone has anything to bring up, if you would, just state the page that you are referring to, we can all go to it and act accordingly.

[Banter]

President Ertel: Let's move into Asset, Acquisition and Use.

Asset, Acquisition and Use –Chairperson Sandy Mongold: Tonight we have an ordinance declaring 22 acres, more or less, of real property owned by The City, more commonly known as the “Fairground Parking” area, to be surplus property, authorizing the mayor to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the said fairground parking with the Board of County Commissioners. If the mayor would like to say a few words about that, because we really would like to get this passed in three readings tonight, because both the City and the County would like to close on this deal before year end.

Mayor Raizk: Thank you, Sandy. We just had the survey completed and the legal description is being prepared. We should have it within a day or two. You will see, under Exhibit A, that is where the legal description will go. Finally, the County gets to own the parking for the fairground. As you remember, when we entered into the process of putting together the Clean Ohio Grant for the acquisition of the Textron property, we discussed this with the County early on. They have been on board with this. Now it is time, since we have closed on that property and are in the process of remediation, to get this put together with them, so they can have that property. They would like to go by the end of the year and obviously, we would as well. We can go to closing just as soon as we get the legal description. The price is \$200,000 for this acreage. We are within plus or minus one acre of what we estimated it to be...just in the beginning, Larry's good faith estimate...the survey revealed that it was just almost exactly what we thought it would be. We would like your consideration on that. If possible, we would like to have three readings on it this evening.

Councilman McKay: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Raizk: Yes?

Councilman McKay: The proceeds will go...?

Mayor Raizk: Yes. They go to the Wastewater Department, as demanded. Technically, the Wastewater Department owns the property. I mean, the city owns the property, but it really belongs to the Wastewater Department. So, all proceeds from any future activities will need to go back to the Wastewater Department to make them whole for what they advanced to make all of this happen. I think that is the easiest way to say it. Thank you.

Councilwoman Mongold: Thank you.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Peterson to give the first reading only on the ordinance Declaring Twenty-One Acres, More or Less, of Real Property Owned by the City, More Commonly Known as the “Fairground Parking” Area, to be Surplus Property, Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Said Fairground Parking with the Board of County Commissioners, Clinton County, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion passed

In the absence of the Law Director, Jason Besser 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.

Jason Besser 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. 4944 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: That is all, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Mr. Auditor?

Auditor – Auditor David Hollingsworth: Just one item. Before you get to item C on Finance, the second reading on the budget, we became aware subsequent to our Finance Committee meeting on Monday of the CHIP grant monies that we will be receiving. So, that has been added to the budget. It is a half a million dollars, so it is not money that we are spending out of the General Fund, but it will be coming from a grant, but we went ahead and added that to the budget.

Councilwoman Mongold: Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you. Finance Committee?

Finance Committee – Chairperson Sandy Mongold: The first item we have tonight is an ordinance making supplemental appropriations.

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

Motion passed

Jason Besser 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.

Jason Besser read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Peterson 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. 4945 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: The second item tonight is an ordinance making miscellaneous transfers.

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

Motion passed

Jason Besser read ordinance by title only.

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

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

Jason Besser 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. 4946 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: The third item tonight, is the ordinance making appropriations. I am going to ask for the second reading.

Councilwoman Peterson: Can I make a comment?

President Ertel: Go ahead.

Councilwoman Peterson: I don't like this budget. I don't know of anyone who does. None of us like this budget, but I'm voting for it. I really struggled with this because I don't like it, but I'm not willing right now to make the decisions that we have to make to bring in additional revenue. I don't think we have an expense problem. We don't. We have a revenue problem. Any expenses that we could possibly cut have already been cut. There is not going to be anything substantive that really is going to alter the bottom line. But, we can't do this again next year. I think we're all in agreement. We really need to look at selling assets. We have assets. We need to look at that next year. We need to look at that as an option.

Councilwoman Mongold: That would be part of hoping that we will have more revenues next year.

Councilwoman Peterson: Absolutely. I'm just not there yet. I am hoping. Families make those decisions every day. They determine when the best time is to make those decisions, and I just don't think we're there yet.

Councilman McKay: I would second Cindy. And when she says we've made all of the cuts we make. We haven't made all of the cuts we can make, but it starts to get very, very serious when we make additional cuts.

Councilwoman Peterson: I agree. It's not that we can't make more, I'm just not willing to go that way.

Councilman McKay: I will also be voting for it because I don't feel it is appropriate to stop the budget process at this point.

Councilwoman Peterson: But, I do think we need to look at it next year.

Councilman McKay: If necessary.

Councilwoman Peterson: If necessary. I don't think I'm going to have that conversation.

Councilwoman Mongold: We will monitor the budget very closely next year.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by Peterson to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Wilmington, Ohio During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2011, as Amended.

Wells and Mead voted nay. All others voted yea.

Motion passed

Jason Besser read ordinance by title only.

Councilwoman Mongold: We have a special meeting scheduled for December 29 at 7:30. I ask that the third reading and passage be put on that agenda. It will be at 7:30 a.m. and it will be very important that all councilmen be here for that meeting. And I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and have a nice holiday. I too think that the Glenn Beck event was just a huge shot in the arm for all of us. I think it provided excitement, it provided hope, and it was a lot of fun. I heard so many good comments about Wilmington. People loved our city. I was very proud of Wilmington yesterday. Very proud.

President Ertel: Thank you. Water Committee?

Water Committee – Councilman Wells: In Mike's absence, we have no report.

President Ertel: Thank you. Streets Committee?

Streets Committee – Chairperson Peterson: We have no legislation, but we do need to have a Streets Committee meeting. There are at least two agenda item. One is, the street by Your Father's Kitchen is currently painted yellow. We really need to look at removing that, so I would like that to be on the Agenda. Also, let's dive into Safe Routes

to School through Denver Edition. If anyone else on council has any other Streets Committee items, let me know.

[Banter]

Mayor Raizk: Mr. President, may I ask.

President Ertel: Yes.

Mayor Raizk: I would tentatively request an AAU meeting at 7:00 on the morning of our 7:30 Special Council Meeting. Hopefully, we will need that meeting.

Councilwoman Mongold: 7:00 a.m. on the 29th of December.

Mayor Raizk: It would have to be prior to council.

President Ertel: Thank you. Solid Waste/Recycling?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee: Chairperson Don Wells: Mr. President, I have no report on the Agenda, but I would like to wish the citizens of Wilmington Merry Christmas.

President Ertel: Okay. Wastewater/Sewer.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee: Chairperson Mark McKay: We have one item on the Agenda tonight. Before we move forward on this, I would just like to say, contrary to the way it was reported or implied in the paper, this legislation was never imminent. We have never discussed enacting it this year. We will look long and hard at ever enacting it until it would be appropriate. There will be plenty of forward thinking before we do that. With that in mind...

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Mongold to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance Authorizing the Continued Deferral of the Sewage System Rate Increase Scheduled for January 1, 2011, for a Period of One Year, and Declaring an Emergency.

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

Jason Besser read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Mongold 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. 4947 passed as read.

Councilman McKay: That is all I have. Thank you.

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

Judiciary Committee: Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: We have no report today, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Safety Committee?

Safety Committee- Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: We have one item. That would be for the second and third readings on a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with GovDeals to continue our auction on-line.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with GovDeals, Inc. to Sell City Surplus Items to the Public Through an On-Line Auction Service and Declaring an Emergency, by title only.

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

Jason Besser read the resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Peterson 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. 2222 passed as read.

Councilman Jaehnig: I would also like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas. I would also like to personally thank Councilman Wells and Donnie Maher for my Christmas present of the nice blue bin on my lawn. It is nice to have the recycling bins and to get rid of the bags. That was a nice little present for me. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you. Downtown Revitalization Committee?

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Convener Mark McKay: I think we have done a pretty good job with that this week. I just want to reiterate what the mayor said. There were a lot of people responsible for this project going very well. I think we will probably reap the benefits well into the future. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and prosperous New Year. That is all I have.

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: Very good. Thank you. Mr. Service Director?

Service Director- Service Director Larry Reinsmith: I just want to remind people that we are having a lot of snow events right now. Our procedure is that we clear the main thoroughfares first. We salt the main intersections. We don't salt all of the highways. Then we hit the secondary streets. We will also hit any icy or unsafe condition wherever it is. If someone would come upon something like that and we don't know about it, please call in, and we'll hit it with some salt. Contrary to some unpopular beliefs, it is not a rule that we salt the intersection at 50 feet back. That was passed on along to some citizens.

Councilwoman Peterson: You mean like an urban legend or something?

Service Director Reinsmith: Yes. It is more of a myth. We will hit on them and do the best we can.

Paul Hunter: Are we going to do that re-lining this year or not. It seems awful late.

Service Director Reinsmith: We've been doing some. We've been doing some on Locust. You haven't seen them?

Paul Hunter: Nobody has told me.

[General discussion of where re-lining is being done]

Paul Hunter: How about the northeast quadrant, the big trouble area.

Service Director Reinsmith: It's not that big of a trouble area. We've fixed a lot of it. They have been doing quite a bit here lately.

Mayor Raizk: Part of that money has already been encumbered while that is ongoing. They have been working all month of November and December.

Service Director Reinsmith: They were down there at Wood Street.

Paul Hunter: They can do that in the cold.

Service Director Reinsmith: Oh, yeah, it was one below and they were doing it.

Mayor Raizk: They were down there at Wood Street. They can do it. They have the right stuff to do it with it. I think they heat the pipe first and then, like the way you solder, let it run.

President Ertel: It still is a nice balmy 55 degrees probably in the sewer system.

President Ertel: Okay. Anything else, Larry? Safety Director?

Safety Director – Mayor Raizk: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you.

Reports:

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mongold to approve the Auditor-Treasurer's Report – November 2010, as received.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as received.

President Ertel: Before we open the meeting up to public, I would like to thank all of the councilpersons for their quick response on coming up with the committee-ships and appointments for 2011. I think it is going to be a wonderful year. Everybody is slotted just basically as they were in 2010, except for Councilman Mead. He is going to be picking up the Parks and Recreation for Mike Wallace and Mike will then, in turn, be a member of that committee. We expect, certainly, a lot of great things at Parks and Recreation. We can talk about our golf course, ski slope, all of those events. Thank you so much. We look forward to that in 2011. 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.

Councilman Mead: Mr. President. I would like to make a couple of comments.

President Ertel: Certainly.

Councilman Mead: Number one, you know I was riding around town with all of this going on, just to see how many people were here, because they didn't come down there. I want to compliment the police department...the local police officers...they were bundled up and I couldn't really tell who they were...but they were standing in the middle of the muck and slush and trying to keep the traffic moving. It was a job, and they were cold and it was freezing out there. I just want to compliment them for doing that. That is a worse job than they usually have to do, I would imagine, physically. The other thing is the snow. You know, every year we have the same problem. I think the city has done a good job with their snow removal. Even people who work for me say, "I can't come to work. Look at the snow. We have snow out there." I keep telling them, "It's December in Ohio. What are you going to do? It snows every year." They'll plow it sooner or later, but it is still snowing out there. I think it is fine. I don't mind driving through the snow. I just love it. I just want to say the city is doing a good job. They get there as quick as they can. I'm sure if anybody has a really problem, they will call Larry and he will try to take care of it.

President Ertel: Very good. Thanks, Bob.

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

Paul Hunter: I hate to end the year with a moan and groan. I'm tired of talking about 640 Lytle Place. I know you are tired of hearing about it, but it is still there. Ten years and counting. Mrs. Andrews, who is one of the neighbors, is ill and couldn't be here tonight to back me up. But I am speaking for her and the other neighbors. For ten years we have

tried, without success to stop the continued theft of thousands of dollars in property value from these neighbors.

Councilwoman Peterson: Is this the...?

Paul Hunter: The Plancks. We might as well put it out there. I was encouraged recently when the Code Enforcement Official and the Law Director took it to court. All right, we're going to solve that problem, finally. What happens? That hope turned to dismay when the court, through normal practice, issued a warrant for the accused when the violator did not show up for the court date. I have been informed that the warrant was issued, but if he keeps his nose clean, he will never be served. On a misdemeanor charge, as I understand it, the police don't go out and hand warrants to misdemeanor miscreants. So, he could go on, in theory, if he keeps his nose clean, for who knows how long before he ever receives that warrant. That is, in effect, all of our work is for nothing. There are two options, though, that we have. I have spoken to the Law Director about one of them. The most doable and practical move would be to plead with the court to issue a warrant block. It is a simple procedure. They use it in other cities. The court issues a warrant block to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. That individual with that outstanding warrant cannot get his new driver's license or re-register his vehicles. That would bring this time period down to a year because if he can't get a vehicle registered, that is going to get his attention.

Councilwoman Peterson: The Law Director isn't here tonight, but maybe you talked to her. Is there a reason that wasn't on the...

Paul Hunter: I don't know. I suggested it in advance of that. I had read about it in a Dayton paper. Huber Heights does this regularly. It is an easier, cleaner way of doing that. Failing that, both the enforcement officer and the court have deemed that at least one of these three charged constitutes a public nuisance. According to city ordinance, the Chief of Police can determine if a nuisance exists, and it grants him the power to abate the violation...tow away the cars, clean up the junk...and charge the property owner for that work. It is my understanding that police have been instructed by the City Administration to refer such matters to the Code Official, who does not have the power to abate that. He cannot go out and send people out to clean up that mess. The Chief of Police can under our ordinances. I don't know if it has ever been tested or not. I don't think we probably have ever done that. The Chief of Police can make that determination. I have asked him and he told me, the Assistant Chief said that they want to handle that upstairs, which meant Ernie, I assume that. It is much easier to do this with a warrant block than to go through all of that. However, that is an option if we can't get that done. Thank you for your time.

President Ertel: Thanks, Paul.

Councilman Wells: Mr. President.

President Ertel: Yes, sir.

Councilman Wells: I would also like to agree with Paul. I have spoke with people who live right in that vicinity. It is time that we get something done. They have suffered a long time, and we need to do something.

Paul Hunter: I wouldn't buy a house for the advertised value if I lived right next to that.

Mayor Raizk: Did the Director of Law mention why this warrant block wasn't done. That is under the Director's purview.

Paul Hunter: No. I went to the prosecutor. I went to Lynn and asked Lynn, "Have we ever done that?" Her answer was, "No."

Mayor Raizk: Did you also... You know, you made a comment at a meeting prior to this...I mean, I don't like this any better than anybody else does...but you made a comment at the meeting prior, thanking Mr. Wells and the Law Director for pushing this.

The thing you didn't refer to, was this case has been laying at the Law Director's office for two years.

Paul Hunter: Well, I can't control that.

Mayor Raizk: I can't either. But, that is where it has been. Just so you know.

Paul Hunter: Wait a minute, let me create the scenario. The code enforcement had to go, just before the day of the hearing before the court. They had to do a lot of groundwork, which hadn't been done prior to...

Mayor Raizk: That's not true. That has been done over and over and over again.

Paul Hunter: [Inaudible for Transcription]

Mayor Raizk: They do have to update it, Paul. You're right. But once you actually do file it, then you have to go out and do again, because your date may be six months old. There is a possibility that they could have abated the problem in between the filing and when you actually end up in court.

Service Director Reinsmith: I don't know why you eventually bring it back to Ernie, though. I mean, Ernie has had it, it has gone to court, and then you...

Paul Hunter: Well, this wasn't about Ernie.

Service Director Reinsmith: I know. I just don't know why the procedure takes us back to Ernie.

Paul Hunter: Well, I'm not. I'm saying that is where it is. It is in the court. These are the things we can do at the court or with the Chief of Police. Those old ordinances that I'm speaking of with the Chief of Police, we don't consider them active, probably. But they are in the book. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thanks, Paul. Yes?

Councilman Wells: Mr. President. Regarding this budget discussion, I have an idea that may help us reduce the budget and I would like to ask the Finance Committee if we could have another meeting before we take the final vote and I could present that to you. I am not ready at this time to present it, but I will be if we can have another meeting and discuss it. I am just asking if we can do that.

Councilwoman Mongold: Sure.

Councilwoman Peterson: I would like to hear any ideas. I'm not on Finance Committee, but...

President Ertel: Can you give us...?

Councilman McKay: What percentage reduction would it be...?

Councilman Wells: Well, I'm not prepared at this time to answer that fully, but I would like to talk about it.

President Ertel: Sounds good. Sandy, would you like to take a look at that and notify us through Laura when that potentially could be done.

[Discussion regarding scheduling of Finance Committee meeting]

Councilwoman Mongold: The Finance Committee will be Monday, December 20, at 11:30 a.m.

President Ertel: Is it possible, also, Don, possibly in advance of the meeting to be able to unveil and let us know what you are thinking of so that we can come with opinions already and researched. Is that possible?

Councilman Wells: I'll see what I can do.

Clerk Laura Curliss: I need it by about tomorrow afternoon at 3:00 to get it out to them for the weekend.

President Ertel: Anything you could do to get it to us a little early so that we can run through it.

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

Jonathan McKay: 371 High Street. I received an email today from Denmark. A foreign exchange student emailed me that I knew in high school. She said, "I see Wilmington was in the news yesterday." I said, "Yes." I emailed her back and explained everything. She got on the News Journal website and read about it. What happened yesterday was a wonderful thing for Wilmington, Ohio. We were not only the epicenter of Fox News, we were the epicenter of the world yesterday. Everybody in the world could have found out what was going on, and some did. I heard from one person who saw what was going on yesterday. I was so impressed by the town and by what each and every one of you did yesterday to contribute to what had happened. That shows that this community is fully aware of how we can one, help the citizens, two, put on a major event, and three, work not a miracle, but work together in making things right. It is going to take not a major corporation, but it is going to take small individuals that can offer 10-12 jobs here, 15 jobs there, to bring back what we once had. I think yesterday we saw that. It is going to take time, but we are going to get there. I wanted to thank the City for what they did. For a young person, it was very inspiring. I am proud to be a citizen of Wilmington. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you. Very, very good. Sandy, just a comment. It sounds like we are going to be having a lot of people coming to the finance meeting on next Monday. Do you want to have it here or where?

Clerk Laura Curliss: The court will have this room, most likely, so we will have to have it maybe in the Service Director's conference room.

President Ertel: That will be fine.

Clerk Laura Curliss: But we'll start with the Mayor's conference room and see what happens.

Councilwoman Mongold: I want to tell you just real quick a couple of things that happened yesterday when all of the people were here from out of town. Maybe I have already told a lot of you. I had a lot of people come in from states all around the United States. I tried to keep track. They were there from California and Texas, all over. Most of them did not even have tickets to the show. They just wanted to come to Wilmington. They loved it. Well, we had individuals come in and want to know how to get down to My Father's Kitchen because they wanted to help and make contributions. Two different people on two different days came in and just handed me money. They just were handing out money, which we did pass on Allen Willoughby's wife to go down to the kitchen. One guy came in and gave me a \$20 bill and said, "I want to pay forward. So, the next person who comes in that has a bill of under \$20, I want you to pay for their bill." Well, we did that, and it kept growing, because that person then would say, "Well, here's \$10 more I'll give back to you." It just kept growing. I'll bet you we paid five or six different peoples' bill with that same \$20 bill. It was just amazing. I mean, I've never seen anything like this before. There are so many giving people out there. I just have to share that little story with you.

President Ertel: That's wonderful. What a great time to do it, coinciding with Christmas and the holiday season. Yes, Don.

Councilman Wells: I would like to add, too, that a friend of mine that was selling yesterday, a gentleman bought something for \$9 and gave him a \$50 and told him to keep the change. And then two other times he sold something for \$3 and they were given \$20 and told to keep the change. There were a lot of people that were really helping out the organizations.

Councilman McKay: Some of us old-timers remember how downtown Wilmington was on Friday nights and Saturdays. This just brought it back.

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

President Ertel: Before we adjourn, I get to be the last person saying have a Merry Christmas to you all, and with all that, have a good evening.

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

Adjournment by consensus.
Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk