

Wilmington City Council met on Thursday, April 21, 2011, with President Fred Ertel presiding.

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

Assistant Chief Duane Weyand was also present.

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: Glad to see the good turnout tonight.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, April 7, as received.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as received.

President Ertel: We have a couple on the docket for tonight, the first one being the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission. Chris Schock would like to give us a little update on that and our annual report.

Chris Schock: Thanks for everyone coming out for this big event. I know that is why our crowd is larger than usual...so it is much appreciated.

[Laughter]

Chris Schock: I wanted to submit, just for your information, our annual report, which I hope was in your packets. There are additional copies. The Planning Commission is supported by the City, the villages and the county. As you can see, on the front page we have highlighted our goal, which is the physical, social and economic development of the county. We try to look at the development process through those lenses. We focus on economic development, as many of you know. We focus on land regulation and planning as well. We have various different programs we feel affect and improve the community, including Buy Local and many other programs. I hope this report gives you a good summary of those. This is our 40th year, which is a milestone, obviously. It is not ironic that it was in the late 1970s that the Planning Commission was created – just after changes at the Air Park for the first time. We do not consider it too coincidental that in that moment in time the county, city and village leaders came together and said, “It is an important time for us to share financial and political responsibilities and create a regional commission that can hopefully look at things with a broader perspective.” We have tried to do that for 40 years. Obviously it is an seminal year as we are also kicking off the master plan for the Air Park. That will be running this year. It is kind of freaky, I guess, but an interesting turn events that we are back to from whence we came. I would like to acknowledge Mark, our Vice-Chair of the planning Commission, and Rob, who is a member as well and is much appreciated. Fred has also been a member and represented the Port, which is appreciated. I want to take a moment. We don’t have much overhead or staff per se, but we have a great team of consultants who work on various projects. Two of them are here: Mark Rembert and Taylor Stuckert, who many of you know, work directly for us. We are the largest supporter of the Energize Clinton County initiative and your support makes that possible and makes those efforts possible as well. You will see in the back of the report that we also provided a summary regarding Buy Local from last year, of which we are especially proud and which continues to be an important initiative for many of the local businesses. It has garnered a lot of attention from diverse media sources in the past year. Projects we affected directly include Safe Routes to School (which we worked very closely with you on), the EECBG project (on which we have worked very closely with Laura, who has been a wonderful partner on that process). Those are tangible projects that will be coming to the city this year with some of our assistance. I would like to leave it open for some questions if you would like to ask anything.

[Silence]

Chris Schock: Don't let me off that easily. That was a multi-page document I had to draft.

[Laughter and banter]

Chris Schock: I think our greatest pride is you will see the breadth of things that we touch with in the community. That has been our goal – to view the development process through many different facets. We have tried to do that over the years, especially this past year with the challenges that the city, the county and the villages face. We have really tried to look at that through many angles. We have done community planning in villages. We have helped with grants. We have sought out new programs. We have dreamt up new ideas and implemented them, and we've done all of that in the context of a very small budget, of which the city is a big contributor and I'm very grateful for that. I don't mean to bash any other city or county department, but bang for buck I am quite confident that we have a significant impact, if not the most impact, on the perception and the spirit of the city and the county going forward, and we hope to continue that. I appreciate all of the recognition and help that you have given us. If you have any questions or if you are ever concerned about issues, I hope that you will always contact me and let me know so that we can more proactive in addressing them.

Councilman Wallace: Chris, let me just say, I appreciate the breadth that you have taken with the Regional Planning Commission. I sat on this commission about 15 years ago, and there was a little bit more narrow focus at that time. I appreciate how you have really scoped it out and have included the City of Wilmington in more projects as well. We really do appreciate it.

Chris Shock: Thank you, Mike, for your kind words.

Councilman McKay: I would like to say, also, I was on the team that helped hire Chris, so I am proud of that. I really appreciate, as Mike does, where his leadership has taken the commission and the ability that he has to bring diverging groups together to the same table and to reach a solution.

Chris Schock: It is certainly not me, but I think the vision of having a commission with that functionality is very important and I hope will remain an important function in the city and the county for the years to come.

Mayor Raizk: Sometimes Chris is a little modest, but I can't tell you over the last couple of years what an important role he has played. When prospects have come to town, sometimes he has been the point of contact. Not only that, but when I or somebody from the administration or somebody from the county couldn't meet with somebody, Chris took on that role. It has been an outstanding partnership in terms meeting prospects and talking to them and showing them and giving them tours. He is the best tour guide we have. Chris, thank you. Without you, we couldn't have done some of the things we have done and covered some of the people that we have. My hat is off to you.

Chris Schock: Thanks. It is much appreciated. I also left at your places a flyer for the Wilmington Community Arts Collaborative: one of the projects that came from our fellows program last year that we are continuing to support. Sam Newman serves as the director currently. You will see information in there. There will be another gallery opening on May 28 at the South Street Gallery, which have been somewhat popular and have garnered attention. Also, we are in the process of hiring fellows for the summer again, so you will be meeting them soon. We are excited about that process. Lori Williams will be running that program for us again this year. We are very excited about that. You will see some announcements soon and we will be sure to bring them and introduce them to you as they work this summer for our benefit.

Councilman McKay: You all might not know that Chris and his lovely wife have also moved into the downtown and have a lovely loft apartment not far from where we sit.

Chris Schock: That is correct, and you are all welcome.

Paul Hunter: I would like to thank Chris for bringing Glenn Beck to our City.

[Laughter]

Chris Schock: You are welcome, Paul. I know that you most of all were excited...

[Laughter]

President Ertel: Chris, thanks for your hard work and your vision.

[Applause]

President Ertel: Now I would like to recognize Mark Rembert, Green Enterprise Zone Development Council Utility Bill Project.

Mark Rembert: Well, it's a tough job following your boss, I guess.

[Laughter]

Mark Rembert: I want to talk about a new program today. I want to go a little in-depth with the presentation because I want you all by the end to all be advocates for this program. It is something that we are very excited about, and I want to make sure we give you all the details. I want to first start out with a couple of questions. Does everybody know what their car's miles per gallon is? Raise your hand if you are confident that you know your car's miles per gallon. The next question is...can everybody identify which of these cars has the higher mile per gallon. Question number 3: What is your house's energy usage per square foot? Raise your hand if you are confident you know that. Nobody? Okay, how about this. Can you identify which of these houses has a lower energy usage per square foot? It's very difficult, right? Obviously, many people know their miles per gallons in their car and know their car is either a Hummer or a Prius. They make decisions in buying their car based on energy usage because knowing your energy usage is very important when it comes to driving. Knowing energy usage is very important in managing your waste. Obviously, right now, that is very important to many people. As gas prices rise, people actually change their behaviors because they know that their car gets x-number of miles per gallon and gas costs nearly \$4 a gallon, so they need to eliminate some of their driving to save money on their gas. It is a way for people to make good economic decisions and reduce their waste. Unfortunately, we don't really have the same approach with our homes. Most people don't have access to the equivalent information when it comes to heating and cooling their homes. As a result, it makes it very difficult for homeowners to manage the waste of their homes. While perhaps not as significant as gas prices right now, for many people, heating and cooling their homes is a major expense and it is an expense that will continue to rise in the future. It is very important information to have.

Mark Rembert: All of you have been here for most of our time in Wilmington, so you know that two years ago we were up here talking to you about energy efficiency and the forms of energy efficiency. We have been working very hard at that for a long time, and finding the right model to make really make it work has been a challenge. We're here today to talk about what we think is really one of the cutting edge models for doing energy efficiency on a community scale, which is really what our goal is. It is great when people individually make improvements, but from our perspective, we want to see economic development and we want to see energy reductions on a community scale, because there is a huge impact to be had for the household and for the community. So, we're issuing an energy savings challenge. We are doing this in partnership with the University of Dayton.

Mark Rembert: First, why is it a challenge? It is a challenge because when we think of the money that is wasted on energy, we think of every dollar that is leaving our community that could be spent at a local business that could be donated to a local church or to a local nonprofit. Running the Buy Local campaign, we are very sensitive to these

issues. There is a lot of money and a lot of wealth that our community wasted through energy that could be kept in our community and reinvested. We want to reframe the question of energy efficiency and get people to think about it based not just on how it impacts their home and their family, but on how it impacts the whole community. Our goal is to reverse this flow of money out of community through wasted energy by helping 1000 households in Clinton County manage their energy waste by providing them with education and very detailed information about their home's energy usage. We want 1000 households to know exactly what that number is for the energy usage per square foot of their home and to be as well-equipped to manage that number as they are the miles per gallon of their car.

Mark Rembert: A little bit about why this is a substantial opportunity for our community. As I said, we are doing this in partnership with the University of Dayton. For years The University of Dayton has been a leader in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana in helping large industrial users reduce their energy consumption. They have a Building Energy Assessment Center that for three decades has been going into industrial settings in some of the most complicated and extreme environments helping them save collectively billions of dollars per year on energy usage. So, the last two years, they have been taking that expertise and retooling it for smaller scale commercial customers and also households. So, they are currently doing an initiative in Yellow Springs, which is kind of a baseline that we are using to shape our effort in Clinton County. This is an example of one of the charts that they look at. This is the annual heating cost intensity per square foot for just over 1000 homes that they have analyzed in Yellow Springs. What this chart is showing is the distribution of homes based on this annual heat cost per square foot. This yellow line is typical. What they've found is that a huge number...all of the homes above that line represent an above-average home in usage. So, the approach that UD has taken is not necessarily to address all homeowners and get them all to be more energy efficient. Their approach has been to target the homes that fall above this typical line and get them down to average. Which, from this sort of commonplace understanding of energy efficiency isn't really that efficient. It is pretty much where we would expect people to be normally, but, as you can see, there are a huge number of people that lie above that line. From this study of about 1000 homes in Yellow Springs, they found some pretty interesting numbers. A thousand homes analyzed resulted in a million dollars in annual savings for that community, just to move the homes that are above typical to typical. What is important about that group is that most of those improvements are either behavioral or very low cost, and for most of those homes, the payback in the improvement is in less than two years. So we are talking about relatively low-cost improvements that have very quick return on investment. The way that they have done it is they have compiled this pretty elaborate database of information. Their real expertise is in the statistical analysis of energy data. They have compiled a major database of information. They have worked with the Clinton County Auditor to get all of the information from the building office about square footage of buildings, the number of floors, the types of construction, all of that data that the county Auditor keeps. They have collected actual historic weather data and they've collected research on typical weather data for different points of the year. Then, they combine that with actual electrical utility data for the homes that they have information for to combine them into this major database that they can then use to create customizable energy models for each home. They can basically create a virtual representation of your home with this data, make some changes to it based on Department of Energy recommendations for a typical household, and then from that calculate what improvements need to be made, how much they are going to cost and what the payback is going to be. They do all of that from their lab at UD. What they produce, and what we want to provide to a thousand households in Clinton County, is an energy report card for the house. The energy report card...this is one for a home in Yellow Springs. The amazing information is this rating. What it does is rate the home on a scale from zero to hundred, based on percentile. So this home with a 20% rating is in the 20th percentile for the most efficient home in Yellow Springs. They have actually switched the scoring system so they are rewarding people for being bad, because obviously that is where you have the greatest opportunity to save. So a hundred is least efficient (greatest opportunity to save); zero is most efficient (fewer opportunities to save). They did break it out to help the homeowner understand where they stand on different criteria. This is the typical cooling cost for a home in Yellow Springs; this is this home's annual cooling cost. This

is the typical heating cost; this is this home's annual heating cost. Typical baseline electric costs; their annual baseline electric costs. They can see, based on different components of their home, where they are good and where they are bad, compared with other homes in their community. Finally, they provide a summary of these results and some basic recommendations for improvements that can be made. The key to all of this and the way that we want to structure this, is this is kind of the first stage...what we call the learning stage for homeowners...where homeowners are able to see where they stack up on that scale. For those who are in the higher end...close to 100...that will provide an opportunity for us to help them take the next step toward becoming more energy efficient. For a lot of those homes, it will be an actual in-house intensive energy audit, which comes with a cost, but knowing there is a great opportunity for payback will provide a good incentive to take that cost upfront, because it will be more than paid back from the future savings. So, to participate, we have a very simple form and I will pass it out to everybody. All we need for a homeowner to participate is 12 months of data for their home for both gas and electricity. All of that information is found on a DP&L or Vectren bill. Then we need some basic information about the house that we can check with the databases that we have ... so square footage, number of occupants, floors, things like that. We will begin distributing this form within the next couple of weeks. It will also be available online. The key thing though, is this program has a huge amount of potential to really have a positive impact on the community, both in helping homeowners in Clinton County be more sustainable and keep more of their income, but also to help the local economy as a whole and to generate work for contractors. So, really, at this point, because of the support we are getting from UD, we are only limited by our ability to reach homeowners and get them signed up for the program. We would really appreciate any support the city can give. I know next month we are going to be including this sign-up form in the water bills that the city will be sending out, so every homeowner in the city will receive one. What we really would like as well is for all of you to help us advocate for this program to your friends and families and the constituents that you meet. I think this is still new stuff to a lot of people. As the survey showed early on, most people in the room are not very familiar with this information or how you can go about getting it. I think it is really going to take building on relationships that we have with people in the community to get them comfortable and to get them excited and interested in this program. If you would like, we are happy to provide as many copies of this to you as you would like to distribute to your friends and family to make sure we get every home that we can involved in this program. A thousand is our goal, but we can go well beyond that.

Councilman Jaehnig: I got the online version already and sat down and filled it out, being part of the Green Enterprise Zone Board, I thought it was responsible to make sure that I participated. Once I had my bills in hand...literally, I timed myself because I wanted to know "How long is this going to take people to do?"...I was able to do it in a little over three minutes. It was really that simple to do. I can't wait to see. I think I have a semi-efficient house, but I am really excited to see what kind of feedback I get.

Councilwoman Peterson: Is this limited to City residents only or the county?

Mark Rembert: No, we're going to extend it to the whole county.

Mayor Raizk: Where can people get the form if they are not getting them online? Do want to leave some in the Mayor's office?

Mark Rembert: We will put some in the mayor's office; that would be great.

Mayor Raizk: Put it on the website that they are available.

Mark Rembert: What we will also do is provide a link to the on-line form if you want to put it on the website. Honestly, the online form is better for us because then we can just provide the data to UD in digital form, which we will be doing anyway. We are happy to enter the data ourselves if you want to fill out a paper copy, but the online version is better for us.

Mayor Raizk: One other question...does it matter if the information you get from a 1000 homes are homes that were built since 1980 or older homes too...is there a matrix or a tipping point...do you want an assortment of everything.

Mark Rembert: We want an assortment of everything. There are a lot of great things that will come from this. One is it will provide us with a lot really valuable information to study the energy usage of the community as a whole. It is interesting, Dr. Kevin Hallinan, who we have worked with at UD, through his work and doing these kinds of efforts, has compiled one of the most extensive databases of home energy data in the country. The Department of Energy is tripping over itself to work with him because he has this rich data set. It is amazing that this data just does not exist in the country, which is one of the reasons why energy efficiency has been so slow to move forward, because to make it work, it has to be data driven and the data just has not been available. By getting this, we will actually be able to then see on a neighborhood level where neighborhoods in the city are particularly efficient or particularly inefficient, but age isn't necessarily a totally determining factor. A lot of it has to do with how the home was engineered and constructed. If it wasn't engineered and constructed for efficiency, it doesn't matter if it was built five years ago or fifty years ago...it's not going to be efficient. Also, you can build a building to be totally efficient, but if the people living in it do not live in it efficiently, then it is not going to be efficient. So, part of their analysis, especially for the in-home audits, is to really look at behavioral changes and make recommendations for free things that people can do to save money just by changing their behavior a little bit, but helping them see the monetary impact of that. Because I think if people don't see it, it is hard for them to feel inspired to make that change. What we are really trying to do is give them the information that will help them make good economic decisions about their energy usage. Again, I'll thank our partners on this. University of Dayton has been invaluable. It is amazing what they are giving to us in terms of their expertise. Of course, the City of Wilmington, the Green Enterprise Development Council, the action of the City to adopt that legislation almost two years ago has been instrumental in helping us keep this movement going. Like I said, two years ago we thought this was a good idea but we weren't quite sure how to pull the pieces together. It has taken us that long to really make the connections work. The fact that the City supported this from early on to help us keep this going has really been important to making sure we reached this point. Of course, the Regional Planning Commission has kept the Energize Clinton County initiative alive and along with our new partner, the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce, are both instrumental in making sure that we are able to continue our work. We appreciate all of our partners and all of the support we have received.

President Ertel: Thank you so much. Are there any other questions? Thank you for your presentation.

[Applause]

President Ertel: Now I would like to call Whitaker Wright to talk about the CDBG/Home/HUD program.

Whitaker Wright: Good evening. Thank you Mr. Ertel. Tonight is the annual first Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant program in the State of Ohio. This year, as many of you know, the federal budget has been cut. The Community Development Block Grant received a cut of approximately 16% for 2011 and the federal Home Program received a cut of approximately 12%. At this point in time, the State of Ohio has pushed back the City's formula program application until July 29 instead of June. The state does not know what its allocations will be and the communities will be notified at the end of June what their approximate allocations will be. Last year, the city received \$59,000. If it is cut a straight 16%, it would be \$49,500. I wanted to cover that first. The Department of Development offers a variety of human development programs. It has four housing programs: the Community Housing Improvement Program...that is the grant the city applied for and received last year...and then it has three programs through the Community Action Agency: the Housing Assistance Program, the Housing Development Assistance Program, and the Operating Program. There are two shelter and support programs. Clinton County participates. It receives the Homeless Assistance

Grant. That application is on an annual basis in July. DOD also funds the Housing for People with AIDS. That is only to designated nonprofits. Clinton County and Wilmington are not one of them. In addition to the Formula Program I mentioned a moment ago, the State also has a Water and Sewer Program that is awarded annually on an open cycle of \$600,000. It has several Community Development programs. One uncertainty is whether or not these will remain in the state's repertoire this year. The microenterprise loan program is probably going to be closed for the time being due the budget. The comprehensive downtown program is a question mark at this time. Fortunately, Wilmington received one last year...so they're good. There is also an economic development program and there is some uncertainty as to what will become of those funds. The state also has a discretionary program. Again, some of that may be trimmed back this year owing to the budget cuts. Annually, the city solicits project proposals from residents for the Community Development Block Grant program. Their form is available in the mayor's office. Traditionally, the city has requested the forms by the end of May of each year. Projects can be used for infrastructure, community redevelopment, community facilities, sidewalks, water and sewer. They can assist limited clientele, senior citizens, the homeless, the handicapped, be used for battered children and persons. They may also be used to address slum and blight. The city has used funds in the past to improve the downtown, assist the Clinton County Homeless Shelter and to assist the Rainbow Village Child Care Center. Traditionally, there are several ways to meet the national objective. Households must be considered low and moderate income. The 2011 Section 8 limits are actually the same as 2011. HUD did not change them. They are on the back page of the handout. I open the floor for questions.

President Ertel: Any questions?

Whitaker Wright: I read as fast as I could.

President Ertel: Yes. That was quick. Thank you so much.

[Applause]

President Ertel: Very good. Just a little housekeeping item that was announced in the last council meeting. Certainly we are very glad to have Lee Hendee here with us from Web Entertainment. His first meeting was last meeting. This meeting he continues on. He has a little different setup and a little different positioning. We suspect the results will be even better than last time. We welcome him. Along with that...since we are being televised, we want to have any public comment at the end of the meeting to basically be limited to five minutes so we can get the maximum number of people up who want to speak. If you want to speak about a specific item from the agenda, again, please contact Laura and we will get you on the Agenda, as the groups have just done. Finally, if anybody wishes to make spontaneous comments while we are in session, if you would, we have trouble hearing that on a regular taping system. If you would, come to the podium and state your name and address so that we can have that recorded. Plus, the camera is right over there, so we will have a very good opportunity to see it on the web. I think this provides so much better coverage from the side view. We welcome Lee. I think it is a great thing. Let's move forward. That completes my portion. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor – Mayor Raizk: Thank you, Mr. President. No report.

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

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

President Ertel: Mr. Auditor? Glad to have you back.

Auditor –Auditor David Hollingsworth: Thank you. Glad to be back. Nothing, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Finance Committee?

Finance Committee – Chairperson Sandy Mongold: We have three items this evening. The first item is an ordinance establishing a new fund...the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant.

A motion was made by Mongold and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on the ordinance Establishing a New Fund.

Motion passed

In the absence of Director of Law, Jason Besser read ordinance by title only.

Councilwoman Peterson: I have a question on that. Is that an emergency? Can we defer it?

Councilwoman Mongold: I believe it needs to be passed.

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; 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; Wallace, yes; Mead, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4964 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: The second item tonight is an ordinance making supplemental appropriations that we have from the EECBG Fund to project expenses the sum of \$356,000.

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4965 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: Now we have a resolution authorizing payment of expenses incurred in a prior fiscal year – the then and now notification.

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

Motion passed

Jason Besser 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; Mead, yes; Mongold, yes; McKay, yes.

Jason Besser read the resolution by title only.

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

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

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2238 passed as read.

Councilwoman Mongold: We do have a Finance Meeting on Monday, April 25, at 11:30 a.m. That is all. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you very much. Water Committee?

Water Committee – Chairperson Mike Wallace: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Streets Committee?

Streets Committee – Chairperson Peterson: We have one piece of legislation. It is to add five parking spaces on Lincoln Street in the area in front of Sugartree Ministries. It is between Sugartree Street and Main Street. Are there any questions on this?

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Wallace to give the first reading only on the ordinance Amending the Traffic Control Map and the Traffic Control File.

Motion passed

Jason Besser read ordinance by title only.

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

Councilwoman Peterson: That is all. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you. Solid Waste/Recycling?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee: Chairperson Don Wells: Mr. President, I have nothing on the Agenda tonight. However, I would like to say that this morning I was watching Good Morning America and there was a segment on there about plastic bottles. This gentleman was talking about how many bottles are in the Pacific Ocean and all of the oceans in the world. It is a huge amount of plastic bottles. Plastic is forever. It does not go away. I just want to encourage the citizens...if they use plastic bottles for water, would you please recycle these bottles and do not put them in the landfill. They do not go away. When they get tossed in places and when they get into areas where they can be washed away, it is just a horrible thing for the environment. I just want to encourage the citizens to please recycle. That is all I have, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you very much. Wastewater/Sewer?

Wastewater/Sewer Committee: Chairperson Mark McKay: No report.

President Ertel: Thank you. Judiciary Committee?

Judiciary Committee: Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: No report.

President Ertel: Thank you. Safety Committee?

Safety Committee: Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: No report, also.

President Ertel: Thank you. Downtown Revitalization Committee?

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Convener Mark McKay – I have no report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Parks & Recreation?

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

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

Service Director- Service Director Larry Reinsmith: Just a couple of quick items. Our paving project on West Locust Street that we are doing with ODOT is going to start approximately May 9. They say it should take 4-5 days. They will build the whole thing out – pave it out – and they are going to do most of the work late evening and night, so

we will avoid most of the daytime traffic. Secondly, as a little reminder, they are having a recycling Roundup out at the County Engineer's office. That is going to be Saturday April 30, 9:00 to 12:00. You can bring tires, household hazardous waste, motor oil. It comes at a good time. Jason headed up a crew that cleaned up Lytle Creek the other day and they picked up 40 tires. So, this is a little better place to dump your tires – out at the County Engineer's office. Jeff has agreed to take the 40 tires. We've got them loaded up. Plus we found an additional 22 tires out at the landfill that we're going to be taking out. We ask if you have gallons of paint, you need to open those up and kind of let that dry out and let the water leave the paints.

Councilman Jaehnig: Do we know if they are going to, and if so, when, the computer recycling – the electronics recycling that they've been doing the past few years.

Service Director Reinsmith: That question came up. I think Goodwill...is that what they said, Paul?

Paul Hunter: The electronics. They are not going to China.

[Laughter]

Service Director Reinsmith: I think there is a little bit of gold in each piece of equipment and they know how to salvage that out. Goodwill will be the collection point on that. That is all.

Councilman Wells: I have a question. I had a citizen ask me about the Prairie Avenue project and where that stands.

Service Director Reinsmith: We're just about ready to bid it out.

Councilman Wells: We are just ready to bid it out?

Service Director Reinsmith: We couldn't do anything. In fact, the asphalt plant still is not open. It will open up, we think, next week. It has been so wet. I know when they get cranked up, the first thing they are going to do, they are going to be making a lot of asphalt for the bypass. That is a different mix altogether.

Councilman Wells: All right. Pretty soon, then.

Service Director Reinsmith: Yes.

President Ertel: Very good. Safety Director?

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

Reports:

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by Peterson to approve the Auditor-Treasurer's Report – March 2011, 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.

Scott Kirchner: Scott Kirchner. 245 S. Mulberry Street. I want to stop today and talk a little bit about...I attended the Water Committee meeting this evening and got the recent rate survey where Wilmington's water and sewer rates, combined, are compared across a total of 63 different municipalities providing water and sewer in southwest Ohio. Wilmington ranks at the ninth spot according...

[TRANSCRIPTION INTERRUPTED – END OF TAPE]

Scott Kirchner: ...I know that tonight we talked in the Water Committee that we have fallen below the standard 1.1 coverage ratio that our bonds generally require. I know that the mayor has been working with the trustee to try to see if it is okay for us to fall below that. I also know that in this past budgetary cycle, council moved \$136,000 of administrative expenses into the water, sewer and trash funds. I have concern about the fact that moving those administrative costs from the General Fund into those funds can drive rate increases. I also know that this evening there was talk about creating a minimum charge in the water department to help cover that. I am very concern about its potential to affect senior citizens in this community. So, I will encourage the Water Committee to be very cautious with the idea of that approach. One of the things that I did notice in looking at the pro forma financials on the sewer system, in 2005, Councilman McKay as chair of the sewer committee brought forward a rate increase plan and a strategic plan for our sewer system. That strategic plan had us doing a number of bonded large projects. As I recall, somewhere around \$4.1 across the two projects, one of them being bathtub, as the mayor was fond of calling it, at Galvin Park, and the other being a very expensive southern lateral to what used to be Parkside South. We set in motion a series of rate increases from 2005 that were supposed to be five years long. The first jump was approximately 40%, and the first three rate increases have been put into work. You can see that when you look at your revenues. From 2005 to 2010, revenues have increased 48%. Understand that is just a straight comparison. They were even higher in previous years, with more people and more utilization out in the Air Park. From 2005 to 2010, revenues grew 48%. From 2005 to 2010, amazingly, total operating expenses for the sewer system grew 47%. My concern being that the very reasons we said we needed the money, which was to cover debt service on those bonded projects, never occurred. Currently there should be debt coverage service of somewhere around \$850,000 and we have never bonded a single project through there. We have been on a cash spending spree with that money since it began coming in. I am very concerned because next year and the year after, the final two McKay rate increases are scheduled to take place. I have asked council multiple times to eliminate those increases. If you look at your bond coverage, you are at 1.75. We have the ability. I will ask council to act responsibly to remove those last two increases and to reduce rates back down, as well as operating expenses. Thank you.

President Ertel: Thank you, Scott. Any comments or questions?

Councilman McKay: I would just say we consider that every year. We have no plans to enact those rate increases at this time, and Mr. Kirchner knows that. It certainly was not my rate increase plan as he characterized it. It was council's rate increase plan. We will consider it this year. But, I appreciate your concern.

Scott Kirchner: You will consider what?

Councilman McKay: The rate increase situation.

Scott Kirchner: You already have legislation in place that will increase rates January 1, 2011.

President Ertel: Scott...if you could, would you please come to the podium?

Scott Kirchner: Sorry, with the five-minute time, I thought I was out of the penalty box. You already have legislation on that creates a rate increase on January 1, 2012, and another one January 1, 2013. In 2005, when you brought this plan forward, I as the single "no" vote because...

President Ertel: Scott. You've already presented your case. I think this can be handled in a separate meeting.

Scott Kirchner: Councilman McKay brought up the issue. I'm just trying to answer his indication. Specifically, are you going to get rid of...eliminate the legislation that will implement the final two increases because we have never done the projects that we said we would that caused all of this rate increase to begin with.

Councilman McKay: The project of the reservoir as you characterized it is still on the table. We will certainly consider the projects at the appropriate time.

Scott Kirchner: That project was supposed to be bonded back in 2007. That is why I am asking. We've already put in the rate increases.

President Ertel: I think the question has been answered. Thank you, though.

Scott Kirchner: So you will be removing the final two rate increases.

President Ertel: He has already answered you.

Scott Kirchner: So, you will not be removing the final two rate increases.

Councilman McKay: Scott, I said we will be considering the situation.

President Ertel: Thank you.

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

Councilman Jaehnig: Mr. President. The Wilmington Tree Commission, which will be coming at the next meeting to present their annual report, does have an event coming up this upcoming weekend...not Easter weekend, but the following weekend...in which they will be starting planting of some memorial trees. They are starting a process in which you will have the ability to have a tree added to a memorial area. This area will be along the trail across from Denver Park over by the college farm. We hope to, over time, build a nice wooded area through the trail with trees that are in remembrance of those we love. Again, not this weekend but the following, I believe on Saturday.

Clerk Laura Curliss: I believe it is April 29 at noon – Friday.

Councilman Jaehnig: It is an excellent opportunity for those who are a big believer in trees in our community yet want to honor a loved one.

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 Peterson and seconded by Jaehnig to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk