

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2002

Immediately following Previous Committees or

8:30 PM

City Hall

Finance Committee

Debra A. Payne, Chair

Karen J. Angelou

L. Nicholas Hogan

Robert W. Kelley

John McAlister

David B. Thom

Michael O'Brien, ex officio

W. Jerome Isler, ex officio

Members Present: Debra A. Payne, L. Nicholas Hogan, Michael O'Brien, Karen J. Angelou, Robert W. Kelley, John McAlister and David B. Thom

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Weber, Isler, Komlanc, Lee, Wetherholt, White, Mitchell, Williams, Murphy; Press.

PENDING LEGISLATION:

ORD-0073-2002

TO AMEND SECTION 165.02, IMPOSITION OF TAX, OF CHAPTER 165, HOTEL MOTEL TAX; OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA; TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2002.

Angelou introduced visitors who serve on the Gahanna Convention and Visitors Bureau. Roger Madison, President of the CVB, said that the CVB met in 2001 and established a year strategy and marketing plan; working to properly promote Gahanna; currently do not have enough funding to do much; only do brochure; are proposing raising the bed tax by 2%; would take it to 6%. Currently they are sharing offices with the Development Department and Murdock is doing a wonderful job fielding communications; are hoping to have space in the Mill House when that is constructed; feel the increase in tax will allow them to effectively market. Angelou said that the 11 member board is all volunteers and is doing a wonderful job; bed tax doesn't cause any impact on the citizens of Gahanna; use funding as a way to attract people to Gahanna. Madison continued that marketing will also help Gahanna residents to know what Gahanna offers; its attributes; continue to attract people with Holiday Lights Parade and Creekside.

McAlister said he has lived in Gahanna for years and knows what is here; not see any reason to raise the bed tax; we are a bedroom community; not mecca for tourists; implies that people need a CVB to know about their own City; he has been talking to Hogan about eliminating the bed tax, and will be proposing legislation. Payne said a number of us were here and are on record as supporting the bed tax. Hogan said residents know about Holiday Lights and the 4th of July Parade; can pull information off the website; can pull calendar of events; every organization gears to their segment to inform; not need to duplicate; have problem taxing relatives when they come to town; Chamber of Commerce and other groups promote City. There was discussion about the City of Columbus collecting on the bed tax, and getting as much as possible for Gahanna; want money to stay here. O'Brien said he travels in Texas sometimes and information as proposed by the CVB is very useful; he doesn't know the area and marketing helps him to find things to do. Payne said since people are disagreeing will put this on the Regular Agenda. Members of Council thanked members of the CVB for their work and coming tonight.

Recommended for Adoption

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEES:

ISSUES:

G.I.S.

Komlanc gave presentation trying to address any questions and concerns that Council may have; reviewed selection process and how they came to make recommendation of

Malcolm Pirnie; Council requested the Administration further define the scope of the project; Komlanc and Lee did the work in house to further define the scope saving the City approximately \$150,000; needs assessment; better understanding of what each individual department needs came up with action plan, and came back to Council on March 22nd; used data from the original proposal plus what they collected. Komlanc continued that first, and most important, is the need for a GIS manager; have spoken with other municipalities and it seems very consistent having personnel dedicated to GIS; need additional hardware at approximately \$35,000, and a platform that could run as much as \$75,000 depending on which one we choose; reduced the \$226,000 to \$210,000; recommending that this all take place over a period of 4 to 6 years; do have the support of the Administration; total about \$1 million when we get all the data.

Komlanc said concerning GASB Isler has a consultant coming in with requirements; will have an inventory and associate cost; from that point forward GIS will allow us to look at information; updates are continuously required. Komlanc reiterated the many attributes of GIS. The City must have module done by 2003; list of fixed assets. Discussion on platforms and building applications. Lee said the GIS Manager can analyze and determine which application would be of benefit; background people in those positions. It was asked if we would be able to share information with Mifflin Township, and Komlanc said yes; information on hydrants, waterlines; link into standard GIS systems. There was discussion that somewhere down the road it would be necessary to determine which records would not be public so that information could not get into hands of terrorists; protect certain documents from use by the general public. Komlanc said he is discussing this with Gen. Williams, and the Communications Team is working on it.

Angelou said she has been doing her homework and has gone to several cities to obtain information on GIS; Hilliard and Westerville, and said that the only thing she is willing to support now is the GIS Manger; has seen the great need for that position; most important aspect. She addressed her concern for the \$11,100 Council presentation. Komlanc said that has been eliminated. Also, Malcolm Pirnie is a good engineering firm, but there are others that are good and were not included in the 6 that responded; questions whether everything in proposal from Malcolm Pirnie is not overpriced; shouldn't the GIS manager have a say in the platform to be chosen; can get base elements from the County Auditor.

Thom said if we bring the GIS Manager in right away it can help us save money with other consulting. There was discussion about bringing Mifflin Township in as well as the schools; and discussion about the salary range for the GIS Manager being too low; will probably only be for 7 months this year; and cost of initial engineering digitalization.

Angelou said she is still concerned about the cost, and this being only the pilot project. Komlanc said he is hearing that people can support the GIS Manager and would like to proceed with that; also would like to move forward with the \$35,000 for hardware; then can address the other parts of the proposal at a later date; get the base system up and running and at that point in time come back to Council; use information from county Auditor.

Weber said you can negotiate price and scope of service throughout the process. Committee agreed to go ahead and create the position of GIS Manager, and to fund it.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back to committee.

Committee also agreed to proceed with a supplemental appropriation for hardware in the amount of \$35,000.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back to committee.

MONITOR:

Radio Dispatchers:

Angelou said that Safety Committee is recommending that we proceed to fund the two additional Radio Dispatcher positions, and three part-time permanent positions; the three seasonal dispatcher positions will be eliminated and the three part-time will replace them.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back to committee.

James Road Bridge:

Hogan said that this was discussed in Service Committee. Wetherholt said that it does need to be improved and will come back with a proposal.

2001-0043

Monitor Items: