

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 9, 2010

7:30 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Committee of the Whole

*Shane Ewald, Chair
Beryl D. Anderson
Thomas R. Kneeland
Brian Larick
John R. McAlister
Nancy McGregor
David L. Samuel*

Members Absent: Brian Larick

Members Present: Shane W. Ewald, John McAlister, Nancy R. McGregor, Beryl D. Anderson, Thomas R. Kneeland and David L. Samuel

Additional Attendees:

Mike Andrako, Terry Emery, Dottie Franey, Karl Wetherholt, General Williams, Angel Mumma, Jennifer Teal, Mayor Stinchcomb, Brandi Braun, Lt. Spence, Sadicka White, Donna Jernigan, Kristen Treadway; Bernice Cage from MORPC; Press.

PRESENTATION by MORPC:

Regional Plan - Goals of the Plan

Ewald called the meeting for Monday, August 9, 2010 to order. Bernice Cage who is the Regional Planning Public Information Manager for MORPC (Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission) provided a power point presentation; a copy is available online at <http://regionalplan.morpc.org>.

Questions:

Anderson asked of the 12 counties in the Region, which one has the most foreclosures. Cage said she will research that and provide the information.

McAlister said I may have misunderstood; you said 12,000 people did the survey; the slide says 6,600 people took the survey. Cage said 12,000 people logged on and touched the survey but 6,600 actually took it.

Kneeland said I would like to know more about what the focus groups were built from; how much information would have been included from Gahanna and other individual cities. Cage said these were mixed groups; some were civic and some government. Kneeland said how were they created. Cage said we asked all the groups; the list is online of all the places; we went into communities and visited county commissioners and senior centers; even students at schools; tried to get into each of the 12 counties but 2 wouldn't participate.

McAlister said you said this is not scientific; so why put forth the effort since it is not scientific at all; that undercuts its credibility. Cage said this is a first time effort and it is a large undertaking at 12 counties; we had to start somewhere; we hope to improve on it over the next 4 years, but this helps us establish a baseline; we have learned from the process what to do differently; we now use social media and send out news via Facebook and Twitter; additionally we had to look at funding; to do a household survey costs too much. McAlister said for an organization that manages millions to implement a plan that has no scientific evidence to it is penny wise and pound foolish I think; there is a lot of stuff detailed here and I hate to see MORPC spin its wheels when it is not credible; you ask the questions but the answer is a "so what"; they don't mean anything with no scientific evidence. Cage said it is our first effort and with 12 counties it was somewhat overwhelming; but our staff made an effort where they could and when the time comes to make decisions on priorities, we won't need to battle it out; we will have ideas as to what people want; we did identify that and we don't want to wait and make decisions in a rush; this way we have some idea of the direction to move toward.

Kneeland asked how much will this information affect the outcome for regional funding that you currently do. Cage said it will tell us if funding is in line with what we find your priorities to be; in the same way we can see those totally not in line and bring it up as it is a condition of funding; with all who come to us for federal funding, there is so much

we need to know; this is a tool we needed to help determine who gets the funding. Ewald thanked Cage for her presentation and discussion.

PENDING LEGISLATION

ORD-0140-2010

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE TO ESTABLISH A DEVELOPMENT FUND; TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$375,000

Kneeland said since we have a Council member gone for 2 weeks I would like this issue to return to Committee when Larick is back. White said several Council members have made appointments with me for this week to go over data and get questions answered so I would like to see it delayed also. Kneeland said so we will bring it back to Committee in 2 weeks for discussion and then postpone it until September 7 for the regular meeting.

Recommendation: Return to Finance Committee in 2 weeks; 2nd Reading, Regular Agenda on September 7.

This matter was Recommended for Postponement to a Date Certain

ORD-0142-2010

TO CREATE THE FULL-TIME UNCLASSIFIED POSITION OF SENIOR MANAGER OF TECHNOLOGY; TO ESTABLISH DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor said based on concerns raised by Council, we would like to amend the ordinance to change the job title to Senior Manager of Technology; we hope the change addresses the concerns and we will be glad to answer any additional questions.

Kneeland said I will acquiesce to it but I don't want to lose the job requirement of strategic thinking. Anderson said why would it be lost with that title change. Kneeland said with a Senior Technology Manager it would depend on how the job gets pitched and what candidates we can get with that title; the title itself is not important but it is how we put the job out there and how we recruit for it; all of our departments rely on technology and it can be life or death outcomes; they can't be just managerial; they have to be able to connect the dots; if we have 5 departments doing certain projects they are all interrelated and interdependent; we need someone to build on these interdependencies; whoever we hire will have to have that skill set. Anderson asked are you going to have input and be able to share concerns; can we incorporate your thinking into what we are doing. Kneeland said I understand the cost constraints of what we are doing but I also have to make it clear what happens if this is not done properly. Mayor said frankly we see this as a title change to Senior Manager of Technology only; I agree with everything you have said; this person will report to Braun and myself and we will work as a team to support all departments; we will give it a try; I would not get hung up on the title; we will pitch it as someone who has to be able to react to trends on the fly. Treadway said it is the same job description; it is only a title change which was sent to everyone; this person will still be paid at grade 39. McAlister said in dollars and cents what will they be paid. Treadway said the market rate would be \$76,534. Mayor said what is the range. Treadway said it starts at \$68,881 and caps out at \$95,668; it is the same salary we planned for the Deputy Director under our structure and it has the same job duties for the position at grade 39. Kneeland said so it is still a Deputy Director with Braun taking on the supervisor role. Ewald said I am fine with it; new title, same duties. Samuel said I am fine as well; I read the job duties and you can call it what you want. McGregor said is there any benefit to not deleting the director slot. Treadway said I think it is ok to leave it as it is; it is so difficult to remove so it is fine to leave it in and it shows this department does not have a director. Ewald said so the ordinance can not go through the way it is; it will have to be amended by substitution; and the Pay and Benefits ordinance as well; so both Ordinance-0142 and 0143 need to be amended. Ewald said do they keep the same ordinance numbers. Jernigan said yes.

Recommendation: Amend by Substitution, Consent Agenda.

Recommended for Substitution and Adoption

ORD-0143-2010

TO AMEND ORD-0002-2010, WHICH PROVIDES RATES OF PAY AND BENEFITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2010, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2010; TO ADD THE NEWLY CREATED POSITION SENIOR MANAGER OF TECHNOLOGY; TO TRANSFER FUNDS THEREFOR; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

See discussion under Ordinance-0142-2010.

Recommendation: Amend by Substitution, Consent Agenda.

Recommended for Substitution and Adoption

ISSUES - From Director of Finance:

2nd Quarter Financial Presentation

Mumma provided a 2nd quarter financial power point presentation; a copy is available in the Council office.

Questions:

Kneeland said can you talk more about the increases that are due to Clark Hall; how many accounts did RITA (Regional Income Tax Authority) find. Mumma said most were from electrical accounts. Mayor said you mean added for payroll. Mumma said we don't know how much information we will be giving out with specifics on taxpayers as we get new information from RITA; we do know we have added 5,008 new accounts and we are making a determination as to how to use those accounts as we find out more. Samuel said our income tax refunds are normal. Mumma said yes; Worthington had an article in the Columbus Dispatch about a significant refund from a major employer which was still only about half of ours; RITA does notify us of anything over \$10,000; we have had nothing out of the ordinary.

5 Year Budget Presentation

Mayor said as Mumma goes on to discuss the 5 year budget; I would remind everyone what a difficult undertaking it is to put together a plan going out 5 years; earlier this year I asked everyone to look at what it would take to run the city in a normal year with the kind of expectations we had before cost cutting; where we were spending half a million on streets and road repair and doing a new Detroit every year; what it takes to get back to what taxpayers are used to; so we did that for a 5 year projection; no one has a crystal ball so this is a moving, living plan that will continue to change; I wanted to make sure you knew we made certain estimates in places where necessary; and what is not in here is a wish list; a resident asked how come we don't have a recreation center like Westerville; is it on our wish list, yes; but is it ok to include in this plan, no; this is still primarily operations; we made the assumption we would have to bond the projects we did include; money issued to bond construction for any of the centers paid over time is not in the plan; this will be a rolling plan that we will update to include a year out so it is always looking out five years; that way we have some idea what it takes to properly manage new projects; you will also get a hard copy of the plan to review.

Mumma provided a power point presentation of the 5 Year Budget Plan; a copy is available in the Council office.

Questions:

McAlister asked if you have total health insurance costs by department and a total for the City. Mumma said we can get it for you; it is not in here as a total. Teal said we will pull that for you for each year and I will send it via email.

Kneeland said when we do the line-by-line budget reviews, we can have department heads go over their 5 year projections as well.

Ewald said thank you for the information and presentation.

Meeting Adjourned.

Della Brandenberger, Reporting