

Brookville City Council
Special Meeting
January 18, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Seagraves at 6:30 p.m. on January 18, 2017 in the Brookville Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Apgar, Cantrell, Duncan, Henry, Kirklin and Letner; City Manager Burkholder, Police Chief Jerome, Finance Director Keaton, Law Director Stephan, Clerk Wheeler were present. Public Service Director Williamson and Fire Chief Fletcher were absent.

Roll Call by Clerk Wheeler.

Mayor Seagraves stated this is a Council Session, during this time he would like to ask citizens to remain quiet and if anyone needs to talk amongst each other then please leave and go outside. Council will be engaged with Staff in discussion. He stated there will be a time tonight for public comments at the end of the Meeting.

Motion by Duncan, second by Kirklin to approve the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

In Old Business,

Motion by Kirklin, second by Apgar to read proposed Ordinance No. 2017-01. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Duncan, second by Kirklin to approve the third reading and adopt Ordinance No. 2017-01 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR ELECTION ON AN ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION IN CITY OF BROOKVILLE, OHIO." All yeas, motion carried.

In New Business,

Motion by Kirklin, second by Apgar to read proposed Ordinance No. 2017-03. All yeas, motion carried.

Law Director Stephan informed Council approved passed and Ordinance in November 2016 to establish Community Reinvestment Area #2, it is back before Council for approval because a few minor changes have been made to the boundaries to add additional housing on Salem Street. He informed two parcels are being added on the west side of Market Street, north of Salem Street that will be available for commercial development. Everything else is the same on the area as presented before to Council. He reported he is trying to move forward at this time to finish the exemption area and to try to move forward with the redevelopment of the former BP site. The City was contacted by Giant Dayton yesterday and they are moving forward with redevelopment of the site so we are trying to get this in place to get this done. Law Director Stephan requested Council re-approve with minor changes to the boundaries.

Member Letner asked if the two parcels are on the west?

Law Director Stephan advised on the west side of Market Street essentially where Dr. Thomas's old medical building and the carwash used to be.

Motion by Apgar, second by Kirklin to accept the first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 2017-03 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA #2 IN THE CITY OF BROOKVILLE, DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE

PROGRAM, AND CREATING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL.” All yeas, motion carried.

Member Cantrell stated she would like to make a statement for inclusion in the record of this meeting tonight. She stated we have now passed a measure to submit a question of a 1% municipal income tax credit rollback to the electors of the City of Brookville on the May 2017 ballot. For the past year we have heard from our City Manager, Finance Director and the Police and Fire Chiefs about the need for an increased revenue stream. To this end those of us on Council have been briefed repeatedly about the financial picture of the City in light of reduced revenues as a result of state cuts, unexpected infrastructure repairs, employer departures from the City and the like. She informed it appears that Council as a group agrees with the financial picture as identified by our Finance Director over the past year and it appears the residents as a whole understand the financial picture as well. She stated on May 3 per the Council meeting minutes, Council member Letner stated “we asked voters for the increase last year by going through the front door and he does not want to go through the back door this time.” Additionally at the same May 3 meeting, Member Duncan stated he “blames Council for not asking for more than the .25% increase on the last ballot.”

Member Cantrell informed in the May 17 Council minutes, resident, Mr. Zimmerman stated if a tax increase is needed it should go before the citizens for a vote and not be just decided upon by City Council Members.”

Member Cantrell informed on June 7, in the Meeting Minutes, “Mr. Crane stated in questioning the method, most people support the fire station and future capital improvements and love living in Brookville.” She stated that in the same meeting, Council Member Duncan stated by passing this Ordinance as an emergency all it is doing is taking away the rights from the people of Brookville.” Additionally in the same meeting minutes, “Council Member Letner stated by doing the .25% tax increase by a vote on the ballot was a method of “going through the front door” and by passing this legislation without a vote should be considered “sneaking through the back door.”

Member Cantrell stated in the July 19 Meeting Minutes, “Member Duncan stated he knows we are a small community and may have a smaller Police Department compared to larger cities, but with everything that is happening in our world today, he wanted to thank Police Chief Jerome for all the hard work and dedication in making our town safe. Member Duncan stated he really respects and honors their work and thanks them for putting their lives on the line for our town.” And, finally in the December 20 Council Meeting Minutes Council Member Letner stated he understands that we need money, but it was the approach taken, the back door approach that he does not agree with, He states there is another way to go about this, lower amount, the right way would be to put it out before the people for their vote.”

Member Cantrell stated on January 17, last night, we as a Council were presented with the opportunity to do just as the citizens and Council Members Duncan and Letner have asked on numerous occasions. We have heard “put it before the voters”, “do not back door”, “we value our Police”, “we understand the need for funding”, all of which I have just quoted verbatim. Our Finance Director presented evidence expressing the economic benefits of a levy being included on the May 2017 ballot.

Member Cantrell stated she would like to close her statement with a serious thought then what questions the motivation of those Council Members who on January 17, last night, voted NO to put the tax levy to fund our Police and infrastructure roadway and street improvements before the electors of Brookville. She asked what indeed is the motivating factor that would allow for a no vote from these Council Members on presenting this levy to the citizens of Brookville when it was what they have been repeatedly asking for? This is a serious thought that deserves mindful consideration by all. What purpose will their and others continuing efforts to impede the financial well being of Brookville accomplish and what could be the repercussions of this in the future. She asked everyone to consider this thoughtfully.

Member Cantrell stated that we, the City Staff and my fellow Council Members look forward to the citizen's support of these levies given their expressed belief in the need for funding and the desire to have the voters participate in the process.

Member Duncan stated there are a lot of things in Member Cantrell's statement that are true and a lot that are misconstrued. He stated one of the reasons he voted no on the tax levies at the last meeting was it hasn't been determined what will be done with the money if all three items on the ballot pass. He asked what will happen if all three pass and has never received an answer. He stated it is also like going back against the voters. He stated we promised them and sold the issue on the income tax increase that if they vote for it we won't need to come back and take anymore, but right of way after it passes, two months later we are back with the 1% tax credit. Member Duncan stated the credibility of the Council is in question and he thinks a lot of citizens would agree.

Mayor Seagraves asked him what happened to make the loss that drove us to make the decisions we have?

Member Duncan stated the loss of two businesses.

Mayor Seagraves stated the money we counted on having is not there.

Member Duncan stated all of Council has thought we should have asked for .50% tax increase instead of the .25%. He stated that idea was kicked around and kicked around prior to putting the issue on the ballot.

Mayor Seagraves stated Council took the conservative route when asking for the tax increase.

Member Cantrell stated her comments are not to criticize or question why we need the money, but to simply state that all this time, Members Duncan and Letner have asked for the issue to be put before the voters and we are now doing that and it would have been nice to have unanimous support since Members Duncan and Letner have been asking from the beginning to put it before the voters.

Member Duncan stated there are three issues on the ballot and what will we do if they all pass, collect the money from all three?

Mayor Seagraves stated yes, if they all pass then yes we will collect. We are putting it before the citizens to decide, it's pretty cut and dry. The citizens will make this decision not Council just like they have asked for all along.

Member Letner stated on January 1 of 2017 the 1% tax credit took affect. The initiative coming before the voters in May, which is their decision, but the citizens are still on the hook for that money between now and if it gets repealed in May. He asked if that money will still be coming to the City?

Mayor Seagraves stated yes.

Member Letner stated those numbers were not considered in the City Manager's Report at the last Regular Council Meeting.

Member Cantrell stated the City Manager's Report was based on 2016 not 2017 numbers.

Manager Burkholder stated his numbers were for 2016 not 2017.

Member Letner stated he also took figures from 2016 that weren't complete, some of those numbers were as of December 31, 2016 but as noted those figures aren't complete probably until the middle of 2017.

Member Cantrell stated that Finance Director Keaton estimated what those additional numbers would be.

Member Letner stated the numbers were estimated to a point but until the tax season is over with and everybody has filed their taxes, he thinks that number will change. Will it be significantly, he does not know, but he hopes so. He informed if you look back further, he said back in March that he hopes the citizens are going to their HR Departments to have the extra .25% taken out of their checks but he does not think everyone has done them. Member Letner stated somebody didn't go back that far they just kind of pick and chose some of the comments that were made.

Member Cantrell stated again her comments were only in light of the fact that Member Letner has asked for it to not be back doored or slid in and now he doesn't want that way done either.

Member Letner stated they are looking at things differently. He stated that we as a Council put on for the 1% rollback, which is now in effect. He informed the citizens have decided that they do not want it, and if it will be repealed in May he does not know the answer to that, but if November's election is any indication than the voters have set a mandate. He can understand wanting to have a back up plan with the levies, but instead of Council discussing it in a Public Meeting or behind closed doors, Council has never done that. He has never been involved in a meeting like that.

Member Cantrell stated it was discussed at a Council Meeting.

Member Duncan stated it was just dropped on Council, it just showed up on the Agenda for one Meeting.

Member Cantrell stated all of Council had the same opportunity to review and discuss.

Member Duncan stated how many conversations were had at meetings over the .25% tax increase, a lot of discussion was had over the .25% tax increase. He stated there were no discussions on this prior to being voted on.

Member Cantrell stated the point is we are putting it before the voters which is what they asked for.

Member Letner stated that is true, but now we are making it a little confusing and overwhelming for the voters. He stated why should voters have to choose on three different things because they were forced into one and a citizen's group is trying to repeal it and now we are putting another two issues ahead of them. He stated that pretty much says to him and probably them that we know the Initiative is going pass and therefore we have to have a back up plan.

Member Cantrell stated she does not think it is being communicated like that and the levies are not a back up plan. She informed we are in a financial situation where we cannot wait a few more years, we need money now. This cannot wait until 2018, what happens when some of the expenses the Police Chief has identified happen, or if we have another Wastewater Treatment Plant issue? She asked how are we suppose to pay for the problems at the Industrial Park, who is going to pay for these things and how much longer can we postpone what has already been postponed for a number of years?

Member Letner stated he understands we have had engineers and consultants do evaluations but he is still not sold on some things. He is buying into the water issues, he has seen the letters but he still believes there is something still a miss out there.

Mayor Seagraves stated if we do not use an engineering firm than what direction do we go, we have to have somebody with expertise. He stated previous management did not have a clue or we wouldn't have this problem.

Member Letner asked if the Mayor is saying Choice One who was the previous engineer missed something and dropped the ball?

Member Letner stated what is the difference between one engineering firm and another.

Mayor Seagraves stated one firm could not get the fact of these calculated numbers that the Fire Chief has done twenty or thirty tests and not come anywhere near and repeatedly for three or four years we signed off on stuff on a number that wasn't even there.

Member Letner stated he would agree, he has read the memos and agrees that there is something a miss out there. His concern is we do a modification on Arlington Road and Upper Lewisburg where we are gathering an additional 800 gallons of water but yet it isn't showing up at Payless. He stated he understands that through friction and the travel that you will lose some of that but you can't lose 800 gallons.

Member Kirklin asked if Member Letner is stating the engineer's reports we have received are wrong and if so, what is his recommendation?

Member Letner stated the first thing is the engineering firm is the one that said to eliminate the valve and put a T in and we would gain more but that didn't happen even though we did as they suggested.

Manager Burkholder explained we gained 800 gallons but not at Payless. He stated we never made it to the minimum of 2,500 gallons. The question is why we aren't getting the same number at Payless. He informed he is open if anyone has any suggestions or know of a better idea of what to do. We have talked with former personnel, including former Service Director Ron Brandt, the City of Dayton and have gone to the City of Dayton Water building.

Manager Burkholder stated he thinks from day one the flows were off and the flows were below 2,500. He and the Fire Chief have been reviewing the problems. He hired the engineering firm to do the Water Modeling Study which was a necessity. He reported Fire Chief Fletcher has interviewed former Fire Chiefs and the former Service Director, all who were very helpful, in trying to solve this puzzle. He stated the fact of the matter is water loss over time, and we just do not have adequate pressure, he welcomes everyone's input even former employees, citizens or anyone who knows the history. He informed he met with the Service Department today on other topics and asked if anyone there had any ideas or anything anyone could think of that maybe he hasn't. He stated to say we do not believe the engineers is not a solution and doesn't get us where we need to be. He stated we are under the gun with a February 1 deadline and we may have to go to February 7. He informed there are electrical challenges out there and we have to create a box for the booster pump to be stored in.

Member Letner stated there are also location problems.

Manager Burkholder stated there are two locations. He informed these are some of the challenges we are facing. He stated we didn't find any of this out until June 2016 and his question is why wasn't this issue addressed in 2007.

Member Kirklin stated that information is helpful but what she is trying to find out is if Member Letner has any ideas on how to correct the problem instead of criticizing the City Manager or the engineers. She asked Member Letner what he feels is being missed? She stated she knows he has a level of expertise in this area.

Member Letner stated he does not have all of the perimeters. He asked if Choice One was the engineer involved and signed off on the project?

Member Kirklin stated who did the engineering in 2007 is not our problem at this minute, the problem is the flow issues.

Manager Burkholder stated Choice One may not have been the only engineer on the project or in that time frame.

Member Kirklin asked if Choice One is doing the current Water Model Study?

Manager Burkholder stated no.

Member Letner stated an engineering firm is an engineering firm whether it be a good one or a bad one.

Member Kirklin stated Manager Burkholder could gather that information if he really wanted to review the documents.

Member Kirklin suggested Member Letner could look at the data today on the Water Modeling Study to see if maybe he could provide some insight based upon his expertise.

Member Letner stated we do not have time for that, we are on a major time crunch. He asked Manager Burkholder if Poggemeyer has instructed us as to where the pump needs to be placed?

Manager Burkholder stated yes, based upon the Water Modeling Study, Poggemeyer has given us a location.

Member Letner asked where that would be?

Manager Burkholder stated as of right now, we are looking at the south side of Collective Way because we want to be on the main run off of Campus Boulevard so that it is a straight shot. He stated the location was discussed earlier today because the calculations and the placement is so sensitive. If placed on Collective Way we could possibly lose 150 gallons per minute. The other important factor in this is the ability get the service to it, we have to coordinate with Dayton Power and Light (DP&L). He informed it has to be above ground and has to be heated. There is an awful lot of detail that has to be done on a project like this. He stated Staff has had numerous meetings and discussions with Poggemeyer on the exact location and details because at the end of the day, once it gets up there, there will be a little bit of friction loss once it goes into the fire pumps because they have back flow preventers. He informed all of that has been investigated and researched, we do not believe their back flow preventers are a problem and they are within specifications. He informed we get 2,500 gallons at the hydrant across from the facility but you have to get more than that in order to meet the minimum requirement of 2,500 gallons. He stated they would love to be able to get 3,700 gallons. He reported he is working on uploading a final copy of the Water Modeling Study once finalized to Drop Box so that everyone can review it.

Manager Burkholder informed they have suggested where to have the booster and are finalizing details. They will confirm tomorrow with DP&L to insure power can run to it then will confirm final details with Poggemeyer. He stated the parts have been ordered for the piping and the Service Department is ready to start digging. Crews are ready to do test holes to make certain we are in the right area. The goal is to put the piping in this Saturday but obviously we want it in the spot that will be most advantageous for when the pump comes in, which will come in a container and we will have to have a crane to set it. He stated he is not trying to over dramatize the project but this is not a small project. As previously mentioned it will cost approximately \$75,000 and can be a lease or purchase. If purchased, it will be a \$75,000 solution. He informed he has requested help from Payless in paying for the pump and it has been sent to management but we have received no response back. He stated this project has to be done right. He brought this to Council because it is a big decision and a lot of money to spend. He went to Council to keep them informed even though he had the authorization to do so, but he had to get this project

moving as quickly as possible due to the February deadline of the business out there that could experience increased insurance premiums.

Member Letner asked if the location has been OUPS'd yet?

Manager Burkholder stated there was an OUPS report that came in today. He stated Public Service Director Williamson submitted it and he actually saw it today and Deputy Clerk Kim Duncan who received it, had asked him about it. He stated we have to know obviously where we are going to dig that we don't hit any utilities.

Member Letner asked if this is to be done this coming weekend?

Manager Burkholder stated that is the plan. He hopes it does not get delayed for any reason, we are pushing as hard as we can. It's one of those things we want to get done and done quickly, but it has to be done correctly.

Member Letner stated to get back to Member Cantrell's original question, he voted no on the tax levies because it is overwhelming to add them to the May ballot. He asked why not have it on the November ballot? He stated whether it is on the May or November ballot it wouldn't go into effect until 2018. He agrees we need the money and he understands the situation but the timing is not correct. He stated it won't change anything if we put it on the May ballot or the November ballot. He was willing to stand by and wait until November, he doesn't know, but he has a suspicion how the vote will go.

Mayor Seagraves stated that is where they differ, he thinks we will give the citizens an opportunity to make a decision but if all three fail in May then immediately swift action will have to be taken and drastic cuts will have to be made. He stated that will then have an impact on what we decide will need to be done for November. He informed for people to just continue with wishful thinking that we are just talking and not going to make any issues, they are sadly mistaken. We will make drastic cuts, we won't have a choice, we can't keep this up.

Member Letner stated threatening does not help.

Member Henry stated it is not being threatening, just being honest.

Mayor Seagraves stated he is just stating the facts and it is no different than a school placing a levy on the ballot and saying things will be cut if it doesn't pass.

Member Duncan stated we need to prioritize. He thinks the water issue at the Industrial Park should be more important than the Market Street extension.

Mayor Seagraves stated we have prioritized, the water need is number one. It is being addressed this week in order to meet the deadline.

Member Duncan stated that isn't what it looks like.

Mayor Seagraves stated he doesn't know how much clearer Manager Burkholder can be.

Manager Burkholder reported we will have the temporary booster pump installed which is a temporary fix to get the sufficient water flow to the Industrial Park. He informed that is just the sufficient flow, we could still not do any additional Economic Development beyond February 1st because we do not have a long term solution yet. He has presented Council with the engineering and the estimates. He stated all of these projects, the water at the Industrial Park, the firehouse, the Market Street Extension are all priorities, and are all moving forward. He informed Staff is doing the research, presenting it to Council and presenting costs for the projects to Council.

Member Duncan stated it seems we should save the money for the Market Street Extension until we know the cost of the water issues at the Industrial Park.

Manager Burkholder stated we do know the cost.

Member Cantrell asked if Member Duncan only wants to do one project at a time?

Member Duncan stated the water is the most important thing right now.

Member Cantrell stated that is in his opinion, she doesn't agree. She thinks they are all important.

Mayor Seagraves stated they are all important.

Member Duncan stated if we can't get anymore businesses at the Industrial Park because we don't have enough water then shouldn't that be a priority.

Member Cantrell stated if we bring a new business into town because we have sufficient water flow at the Industrial Park but we have an old gravel roadway that leads to our brand new fire station then we will look silly if we can't have an actual road that leads to our new firehouse. Why would a company want to spend millions of dollars to bring their business to Brookville if Brookville can't even build a road to their brand new fire station.

Member Kirklin stated if we can't properly protect their assets and their buildings in the event of a fire because we don't have the proper place to put the apparatus needed to do so, that is equally important.

Member Duncan stated we have a place for the apparatus, we are building the firehouse, he is talking about the extension of Market Street.

Member Kirklin asked but which is more important? We have to have the firehouse to put the ladder truck in it. She stated we have to do both, they are both a priority. We do not have the luxury of just sitting back and saying we are only doing one project at a time.

Member Apgar stated the firehouse should have been done ten years ago.

Member Letner asked if he answered Member Cantrell's question?

Member Cantrell stated yes, but at some point all of Council needs to be unified because we all have the City's best interest at heart but we are trying to catch up which requires more money. She stated all of Council knows there are things that need to be done, money that needs to be spent on the Police, the fire, the roads and that we want to maintain the roads in Terrace Park for families who want to move into Brookville with young children that can't afford a \$200,000 home. We have tried to prioritize, but the problem is we are also trying to catch up which requires more money. She stated she does not like the idea of having to write out a check for more money out of her monthly budget either, but what she doesn't like even more than that, is that Council can't cooperate as a group. They have been asked to put these issues before the voters and then now we will have the Initiative and the levies before the voters. She stated whatever Council's personal opinions are or however Members decide to vote, that does not matter to her, no one needs to share that information, but she thinks Council needs to support the City as a group, as elected representatives.

Member Henry stated she does not think placing the levies on the ballot will confuse the voters, it will demonstrate how much of a great need we really have. She stated once we tell everybody and have the entire story told, people will understand.

Member Kirklin stated Member Henry makes a good point. She has heard everyone say there is need so there is an understanding in the community of the need. She stated maybe everyone doesn't understand how critical of a need there really is. She stated she agreed with Member Henry one hundred percent that the levies will not confuse the voters, our voters are very intelligent and care for our City and those that really care will do their research and look at all of the information to make an educated decision about the future of our City.

Member Apgar stated one area of confusion is which citizens are affected by each of the three items on the ballot.

Mayor Seagraves stated it will be very important to educate the citizens properly and explain how seniors may be impacted differently than a working homeowner.

Member Apgar stated the 1% only affects those that aren't paying any Brookville city taxes now. He stated the two levies are property taxes that affects everyone. He informed that may be a point of confusion that we really should work on clarifying.

Mayor Seagraves stated it is Council's role to educate the citizens.

Member Cantrell stated that is why Council needs to be more unified and come together. She isn't sure exactly how to do it because everyone may not agree on how we got here, but the fact is we are here and we need to identify how to increase the revenue and move forward.

Mayor Seagraves stated he wanted to be clear on the consulting firms. He works for an engineering firm and has for many years. He informed there are many different firms and he does not want Choice One to get hit with a black eye. They are a good engineering firm that provides general engineering services. A general services engineering firm can do work on roadways or water lines and the basic fundamentals of City engineering.

Member Cantrell stated like a general practitioner.

Mayor Seagraves stated that Manager Burkholder went to a specialty engineering firm, Poggemer Design Group. They specialize in water engineering and Water Modeling Studies. He had no affiliation with them but we needed expert help and needed to go to somebody that could help us get to the bottom line. Mayor Seagraves informed the firm that he works for is a general engineering firm, that has done a ton of municipal engineering, but to call on his company and ask if they could do a Water Modeling Study they could probably do it, but really you need someone that does it day in and day out and specializes in Water Modeling Studies. He stated the reason Poggemeyer was selected was because they specialize in water and had nothing to do with Choice One or to say they couldn't get the job done it was just we were in a pinch and to a point where a critical decision had to be made and made quickly.

Manager Burkholder stated he does not even think Choice One was the firm that did the 2007 work. He stated if you read back through the records it is not even clear that Choice One was the firm that signed off on the original project.

Member Cantrell stated when the project was developed at Payless it was a quick project and done very quickly and no one was thinking of planning for future development.

Mayor Seagraves stated in defense of the former City Manager and Staff, they were under the gun when the deal was negotiated with Payless. He informed we were given mandates that we had to meet and had decisions that had to be made in the moment.

Member Cantrell agreed and stated the former Staff did nothing wrong, it was just the fact that no attention was given to the big picture and now we have to deal with it. She stated that maybe if the fairgrounds would have come in then we wouldn't have noticed the issue and maybe we wouldn't be in the current situation.

Member Kirklin stated we probably would still be in the same situation. She stated there probably would have been enough of a drain from Payless water that we would still be having this problem or worse.

Member Cantrell stated now we have to address the issue if we want to see the Economic Development occur out there as it was envisioned.

Member Kirklin stated you can see how much Council's approach, strategic planning and visioning has changed since 2014. We have begun to look at things from a broader perspective because we have to, otherwise we will never find ourselves outside of the situation we are living in right now. She reminded that Council made a commitment back in 2014 to look at things differently, to start looking at a five-year capital improvement plan, and to start looking at things from a strategic planning standpoint. She stated Council did not just start some of these things this year but actually began in 2014. She stated we aren't putting band-aids on sucking chest wounds anymore, we are looking at our City from a holistic standpoint and our challenges that sit within it and the opportunities within and understanding what we need to do to move things forward while still trying to play catchup.

Mayor Seagraves stated he asked Vectren why his gas meter was being replaced? He stated it works fine. He was told the meter is 25 years old and they are looking ahead at the next forty years not just today and tomorrow. Mayor Seagraves stated that is what Council didn't do, they never had that initiative. He stated the bulk of people in this room are all homeowners and the last thing he wants is to see an investment that people have spent their lives trying to preserve go down the drain, which is why to sit and say status quo is acceptable is not right and we should have our butts kicked for not trying to take an aggressive approach to getting things done in this community. Mayor Seagraves stated we cannot put our heads in the sand, that is not the answer. He informed we have tried to spell it out very clearly that the money raised from the Police Levy will go directly to the Police Department and then that will free up money in the General Fund so that we can address some of these issues.

Member Kirklin stated not to mention we have risks without having a diversified revenue stream to support our Law Enforcement.

Mayor Seagraves stated Moody's Financial said we were not diversified, we rely solely on our income tax and consequently that is a scary thought because you jeopardize the risk of Police and Fire and they are at the mercy of income tax. He stated we may have gotten away with that for years, but cannot any longer. He stated to say that nothing will ever change, we would be stupid. What if we loose another business, then what? How do we sit down with the Police Chief and tell him he has to make cuts when he is already short staffed. Mayor Seagraves stated it just doesn't make sense and we need help. He reminded our books are always open, they are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone to look at and if anyone thinks there has been wrongful spending they can always look at the books.

Member Cantrell stated Council cannot get together and talk about this stuff due to the Sunshine Law, so the only time they can all have a conversation is out in the open in front of everyone. She stated she feels Council has had some good conversations tonight.

Mayor Seagraves welcomed the audience members and informed if anyone would like to speak, to please identify themselves and they have five minutes to speak.

Jo Wilder, of 64 Urban Lane, stated she moved to Brookville about four years ago and she loves Brookville. She informed she has helped on the citizen committee because she feels the tax credit was a back door attempt and should have been brought before the people for a chance to vote. She feels a lot of people agree with her.

Mayor Seagraves stated that is why we did a third reading tonight.

Ms. Wilder stated she understands that, but it's a little too late. She stated it should have gone before the voters first instead of being voted on through an emergency and now the money is already being taken out. She stated that is what people are upset about.

Mayor Seagraves thanked her for her opinion. He informed he feels that is also why voters elect officials to represent them, to help make decisions. He stated that is why people are appointed to a Council, to represent their citizens, and it is Council's responsibility to take charge and make moves. He stated Council has done that and is now catching fault and are now trying to do what they can. Council has heard what the voters have said and they will have a chance to vote again.

Member Kirklin stated most of the people Council have been seeing and hearing from on a regular basis over the last several months were not seen before this. She stated she feels there are some folks that do not understand the financial struggle of the City. Member Kirklin asked Ms. Wilder if since she has been coming to Council Meetings recently and on more of a regular basis, if her understanding of the City's financial needs are any better compared to a year ago?

Ms. Wilder stated yes.

Member Kirklin stated Council did not pass this in emergency format to be deceitful or back door anyone, it was truly out of the critical and financial need of our City. She said she can only speak only for herself but she even said at the Public Hearings that she pleaded with everyone that if anyone has another way to address the specific critical needs that will generate the revenue in the same amount of time to please say something. She stated that pulling back and doing what they have done and putting this on the ballot has already created emergency situations that will cost our City more in the long run. Member Kirklin stated she personally voted the way she did for a reason and not an attempt to be deceptive or to do anything but to take very seriously the fiduciary responsibility that Council has in ensuring the critical needs of our City are met. She is very grateful for the people who have been attending Council Meetings and who want to have a broader understanding. She stated for people to be against the 1% credit without having a full broad understanding of the criticality of what the financial needs are, are a little out of balance. She understands how on the outside looking in it could feel like "hey wait a minute", but hopefully some of the people who have now been attending meetings regularly are getting a better understanding of the critical financial need here and maybe some greater understanding for everyone.

Member Duncan stated when Council passed it was not put on the ballot but passed in emergency format just so we could take it away from the citizens. He stated that was done last April and we are still fighting it, we could have just waited and put it on the ballot and then collected. He stated we could have went through the three readings and given the citizens a chance for a referendum. We had emergency on the mind since it came back from the fairgrounds and now the citizens have come back with passing nothing tax or zoning related as an emergency. He stated that should have told us something right there.

Mayor Seagraves stated which is why we are doing what the citizens asked and placing things on the ballot

Ms. Wilder stated there has to be a better way to communicate things to the public, not everyone is online. She asked where are things posted at in the City?

Ms. Wilder asked how can a 3% raise be justified. She stated Dayton Mayor, Nan Whaley has not taken a raise in three years and how can we justify a 3% raise if our City is really in such dire straights.

Member Henry asked Ms. Wilder if she was at the Regular Council Meeting last night and heard both the Fire and Police Chiefs speak about in order to maintain our people or draw new people in, we have to be at a competitive wage.

Ms. Wilder stated yes she heard the Chiefs speak and she understands what they said. She asked how can Council justify receiving a 3% raise?

Mayor Seagraves stated Council did not receive any raise whatsoever and it has been years since Council has taken any sort of pay increase.

Member Kirklin stated no one is on Council for financial gain. They do not get paid per hour for all of the hours they put in on research and preparing for Meetings.

Member Cantrell informed each member on Council is paid \$75.00 per Meeting and Council meets twice a month.

Member Kirklin stated a raise was brought up a few years ago but Council decided at that time to not do it.

Mayor Seagraves stated he appreciates Ms. Wilder coming to Council Meetings and standing up to speak. He stated the other subject she brought up was communication and he agrees with her that is very important. He informed Council meets the first and third Tuesday of every month. We have a few citizens that are Regulars that we can count on to be at every Council Meeting and whether they agree or disagree with Council at least they have the common courtesy to come and listen. He stated he does know how we can get information out to every single person. He suggested maybe we contact Time Warner Cable and look into televising our Council Meetings. He advised when you start sending out a lot of bulk mailings it gets very expensive, we have looked into that before.

Ms. Wilder asked if Hyper Reach could call citizens to remind them of Council Meetings?

Member Apgar asked if Ms. Wilder receives the Brookville Star?

Ms. Wilder stated no.

Member Henry stated all Council Meetings are listed in the Community Calendar sent out to all of the residents at the beginning of each year.

Ms. Wilder stated people are busy and it would be nice if like at a doctor's office the City could call everyone the night before to say there is a Council Meeting.

Mayor Seagraves stated we have to be careful using the Hyper Reach system for just anything because it is intended to be used for emergency type warnings and we don't want it to become like the boy who cried wolf where people don't take it seriously because it calls all of the time.

Police Chief Jerome informed the Police Department struggles also with communicating with people. He stated for 21 years he has been trying to get people to lock their car doors. He has placed it in every police article and newsletter he has written. He understands there are generational gaps in communication, some people are not on Twitter or Facebook. He informed as a Department Head sometimes he feels frustrated having to write articles all of the time for a newsletter or calendar etc but Finance Director Keaton has been very conscious about trying to notify people in anyway we can. He stated all of the City Staff wants to communicate the best way possible with the residents but we can only do so much. Sometimes we have to encourage the community to educate themselves. He stated the Staff tries the best way they can to alert of events and important information coming up. He informed sometimes a flood of recorded phone calls people do ignore, they become immune and let it go to voicemail. He stated having the Hyper Reach System alerts residents on a water main break, that is the type of alert we want it for.

Mayor Seagraves stated another thing that has happened is at no fault of anyone but there used to be time when every household got the Brookville Star and maybe we took that for granted but unfortunately, that is no longer true. We assumed the newspaper would be an everlasting adequate service but through the change of the economy the paper is no longer received by every citizen and free of charge. He informed now the paper is back to a subscription which affects their overall headcount and can only reach a captive audience. He stated the Brookville Star does the best job they can but we need to find another way to push communications.

Member Duncan asked if things are still posted at the Post Office?

Member Kirklin stated if you compare the number of residents that physically visit the Post Office today compared to ten years ago that number is dramatically different.

Law Director Stephan advised Ordinances and Resolutions are posted at the Library, Post Office and the City Office. He informed Staff is currently working on a new website and when that goes online it will add additional areas to list all sorts of information for residents to view.

Clerk Wheeler stated the goal is for the new website to be up and running early February.

Mayor Seagraves stated as Ms. Wilder mentioned she is not on the computer much and there are a lot of people who are not.

Ms. Wilder stated she does not access the computer much. She stated obviously she wants the Fire Department to come to her home if needed but she didn't realized until she started coming to Council Meetings that there a lot of areas that need improved. She stated she feels there are probably a lot of others that are lacking the information. She has not found any information when looking online as to why she should vote for the levies. She stated she can't imagine why the Council Meetings are not standing room only.

Mayor Seagraves stated this Spring there will probably be one or two additional Meetings to help spread information on how and why the money will be spent. He stated he doesn't know how else to spread the word. We have two public Meetings every month and citizens can come and speak. To our fault, we didn't have Wifi or Facebook or an updated and easy to manage website until recently.

Member Kirklin informed there are some opportunities that we are capitalizing on to increase the amount of information that we can get out. She stated the Police Chief brings up a good point that it has to go both ways though and if citizens really want to know something then they need to be able to research for themselves and find the answers. She stated running a City isn't a simple process, it takes engagement to understand, just like Ms. Wilder has vested time to come and learn what the needs are, and what the City's plans are. She stated it takes time, communication and physically being here and not just coming once or twice a year.

Member Cantrell stated our meetings used to last 22 minutes.

Member Letner asked why Ms. Wilder moved to Brookville?

Ms. Wilder stated she moved here for her grandchildren. She had lived in Troy where she had built a new house but she was spending so much time here and she really liked the area, so they started looking for a new home. She informed she searched for a year before finding something and she really loves living in Brookville.

Mayor Seagraves stated Council is glad Ms. Wilder is here and really appreciate her comments and concerns.

Ms. Wilder stated she doesn't think the citizens want to tie Council's hands on the everyday issues, like a water main break, but on issues where taxes are involved she thinks it should be put on the ballot and people are upset because it wasn't put before a vote.

Member Cantrell informed Council can see that, hindsight is 20/20. However, in defense of the City's decision there was miscommunication and to the people it is a tax but to the City it is a credit. The City has a 2% tax on everyone who lives here but per the State's regulations a City can decide 1% or 2% can be credited. She informed a City can decide if they need the money to take back the credit and it can be done without a vote on the ballot. She informed that in the State's determination, the City is not taxing the citizens and do not have to have voter approval. That is why most cities are not asking the voters, they are just taking back their credit, we aren't the first City to do this. If it had been a real income tax increase, like the .25% rate increase we wouldn't be having this conversation because elected officials nor City Staff by State Law go out and add a tax. She stated maybe that is a good example of how better communication could have helped.


Ms. Wilder stated it comes down to trust.

Member Kirklin stated unfortunately no one has a time machine. She stated hopefully everyone has learned something from this and we will see growth as a result. She would like to see everyone move away from who is right and who is wrong and which one is more important. We need to have the vested interest of the City as a priority and at some point we have to move away from what has happened in the past and understand the need, which has been a common denominator in a lot of public comments. We need to agree there is a need and move forward.

Motion by Apgar, second by Kirklin to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.



Meghan Wheeler, Clerk



David E. Seagraves, Mayor