

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL

October 27, 2010

Be it remembered that the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, Indiana met in the Council Chambers of the Mishawaka City Hall on Wednesday October 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. for a Special Meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Emmons, and all were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Block's roll call showed the following;

Dale "Woody" Emmons 1st District Councilman – (President) Present

Mike Bellovich 2nd District Councilman – Absent

Ross Deal 3rd District Councilman - Present

Marsha McClure 4th District Councilman - Present

Michael Compton 5th District Councilman - Present

Ronald Banicki 6th District Councilman – Present

John Gleissner, Councilman At Large – (Vice President) Present

Gregg Hixenbaugh, Councilman At Large – Present

John J. Roggeman, Councilman at Large – Absent

A quorum was obtained.

Others present; Deborah S. Block, City Clerk; Mary Ellen Hazen Chief Deputy I, and Linda Dotson, Chief Deputy II, and Council Attorney Mike Trippel.

Clerk Block stated the public hearing for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-32** has already been held this would be a Council discussion and vote.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-32

CIVIL CITY BUDGET FOR 2011

(Assigned to Budget and Finance Committee)

Mr. Hixenbaugh made a motion to amend **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-32**: reducing the General Fund by \$145,231.00. He said this would have the effect of reducing the Services Personal Proponent of the budget from the original amount of \$23,917,337.00 to \$23,772,106.00, with a second by Mr. Banicki the motion carried.

Mr. Compton said when the Budget was proposed it did not have a solid number for a financial increase for the Policeman and Fireman; that was due to the fact that they were in negotiations. He said they have completed negotiations and have approved a 3% increase for Police and Fire who have gone 24 months without a raise and they feel it was a well deserved raise. Mr. Compton said the budget proposed 31 Master Firefighters which would be an increase of two from the previous budget; they would be leaving that in there. He said also in negotiations they discussed a third ambulance and the possibility of changes in the platoons which was yet to be determined, these were all left in the budget to give the Fire Department and the Mayor's Administration some flexibility to move in that area. Mr. Compton said the last item that he wanted to make a point on was the amount they were approving

compared to the amounts that were proposed, there was a significant amount of difference. Mr. Compton said they would like to see the rest of the city employees benefit from the same 3% increase, whether it be union or non-union employees, and there is enough money in that difference, as they understand it, to easily fund that.

Mr. Hixenbaugh asked for second vote on this amendment in light of the discussion that has taken place thus far.

Question was called for at 7:18 p.m. on the first amendment of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-32** with the vote being 7 to 0.

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he had a second amendment and made a motion to further amend **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-32** by reducing the line items in the Budget which are related to the CEDIT portion of the Budget, in fact his motion was to reduce it from \$1,996,000.00 to \$1,874,000.00 with a second by Mr. Deal the motion carried.

Mr. Hixenbaugh went on to say this amendment would allow the Council to engage in conversation with the administration with respect to the two specific items proposed as part of the CEDIT Plan and Budget the first was the expenditure of \$22,000.00 with regard to Project Future, the second would be the proposed expenditure of \$100,000.00 for a Splash Pad at Mary Gibbard Park.

Mrs. McClure said she wanted to clarify the fact that this money would be removed from the ordinance completely or would it still be available after discussion. Mr. Emmons said it is still in the budget but at this time unaccounted for until more discussion. Mr. Hixenbaugh said he feels it was up to the Council to continue to look at the best possible outcome and it was not his intent to close the door on these two expenditures but to allow for further review of them prior to the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Gleissner stated while listening to the ads on TV he heard the Chamber of Commerce Ad, whom he has a difficult time separating from Project Future, spewing numbers like 75 million dollars and the number of candidates they were supporting and party they belong to. He said he has been told that Project Future was definitely in favor of Mishawaka and not swaying everything to South Bend and they have a data basis that was extremely helpful to Mishawaka in guiding people to Mishawaka. Mr. Gleissner said he would like to talk to someone in the Mishawaka Administration that could give him some black and white proof as to what Project Future does for Mishawaka, and if it was actually worth \$22,000.00 of tax payer's money. He said he was anxious to find money that would bring all city employees raises up to the same level, and he does not want to pay the salaries of the people at Project Future until our people are treated fairly. Mr. Gleissner said Mishawaka employees have gone a long time without a pay raise and there have been a lot of people who have lost their jobs. He said he just wants proof that what Project Future does for the city is worth it.

Mr. Compton said he appreciated the work gone into this Budget and thanked Ms. Milligan City Controller for all she has done.

Mr. Hixenbaugh said he would like to echo Mr. Compton's comments; he has always been proud of the way Mishawaka finances have been handled and feels the Council has done an excellent job of being very conservative in spending tax dollars in an appropriate way. He said he also wanted to

acknowledge the work that has been done by the Council’s Negotiation Team with respect to the public safety components of the budget, Mr. Emmons and Mr. Compton baring the vast majority of the burden of that process, deserving credit for the time and efforts put into those negotiations.

Mr. Hixenbaugh said with regards to all of the employees he was hopeful they would be able to continue to have discussion and dialogue with regard to how it would be possible for all of the employees to have a 3% raise for this year based upon the financial flexibility which he believes they do have in this budget to be able to afford that. He also wanted to acknowledge the work of the Park Board and Mr. Faulkner with regard to the Mary Gibbard Pool proposal.

Mr. Emmons Concurs with Mr. Hixenbaugh’s remarks.

Question was called for at 7:25 p.m. on the second amendment of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-32** with the vote being 7 to 0.

Clerk Block read **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-33** opening it for public hearing.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-33

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 5233
APPROVING THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA
COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCOME TAX
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
(Amending 2010-2011 CEDIT Capital Improvement Plan)**

Mr. Hixenbaugh said in light of the earlier amendments that were approved he made a motion to continue **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2010-33** indefinitely, with a second by Mr. Compton the motion carried.

At this time no other business can come before the Council according to Council Rules, Section 3 – Special Meetings.

There being no further business to come before the Council, President Emmons adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Deborah S. Block /s/

Dale “Woody” Emmons /s/

Deborah S. Block, City Clerk

Dale “Woody” Emmons, President Presiding Officer