

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 19, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., with President Scott Kirchner presiding.

Call to Order

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Spicer, present; Stuckert, present; Wallace, present; Mead, present; Siebenaller, present; McKay, present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

President of Council asked cell phones to be set to silent mode.

President Kirchner pointed out that there is a boy scout in the audience.

Joe Keiter explained that he is working on Citizenship and Community Merit Badge and added that he wished to interview whoever is in charge of road maintenance and snow removal for his project.

President Kirchner welcomed new member Councilman Spicer.

President of Council

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Mead to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, December 5, as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

President Kirchner announced a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Division of Liquor control of a Transfer of Ownership from Loft by Samuel Walker LLC to The Loft at Samuel Walkers LLC. This will be in the mayor's office for review and available for comment until January 6.

President Kirchner opened the second public hearing on natural gas aggregation.

Tom Bellish – Buckeye Energy Brokers. Mr. Bellish presented an overview of the process of natural gas aggregation. After the hearings, the city can apply for certification to become a natural gas aggregation. After thirty days, the program can begin. Mr. Bellish provided a copy of the Plan of Operation. There will be no fees involved in getting in and out of the program. Billing processes will remain the same in terms of automatic deduction and budget billing. The natural gas aggregation simply provides lower prices and savings to the residents. After the hearing, Buckeye Energy will submit paperwork for the filing. The plan also includes the opt-out letter. The plan is kept up to date and current through additional mailings. Residents service is still provided by Vectren, but the supply portion of the bill will be through someone else. They are trying for an April start and will probably do an 18-month agreement the first time. This way, the renewal of the program would start in the fall, which is the more traditional time to start a gas program. After the initial 18-month term, the aggregation contract will be renewed every year or every two years. Percentage of Income customers are not eligible to opt-in to the natural gas aggregation program. Customers need to be current on their current bills in order to enroll in the program. Residents who have already signed on with another provider also will not receive notification, but may opt-in to the plan if they wish. The Plan of Operation includes all contact numbers, plus residents may call Tom Bellish directly with questions. When a customer changes residences, they must request to sign in to the plan again. If a person moves into the community, they will need to request to join the aggregation.

President Kirchner asked by what date someone would need to break their contract with their current supplier if they wished to receive notification of the aggregation program. Tom Bellish explained that the list will be developed in February. There will be a press release that notifies people of the upcoming aggregation program.

Paul Hunter asked if the city building would be part of the program as well. Tom Bellish answered that they would fall under the same rules as anyone else.

Paul Hunter asked if the pricing would be a percentage of market price or a flat rate. Tom Bellish replied that it could be either a flat rate or a fixed number of cents above the Mercantile Exchange price for the commodity. He went on to explain that if it is a fixed price, he would like to see that number be less than 50 cents.

Seeing there was no more discussion, President Kirchner closed the public hearing on natural gas aggregation.

Mayor - Mayor Riley presented recognition plaques to President Kirchner, Councilman Siebenaller and Councilman Wallace and thanked them for their time serving on council. He pointed out that Mike Wallace had served on Council for ten years.

Sherry Stuckert presented letters from Congressman Steve Stivers to each of the departing council members.

Mayor Riley announced the United Way fund drive. He added that he thought in the past 100% of council supporting United Way through payroll deductions.

President Kirchner said he believed council should lead by example and encouraged all members to support the United Way.

Mayor Riley spoke about the Wilmington Succeeds program. He explained the program was introduced to him by Jan Blohm from Wilmington College. It is a program designed to retain young people in the community. It is loosely based on a program Kalamazoo, Michigan that is underwritten through a huge grant from the UpJohn Company. If a student in Kalamazoo completes four years of high school, their college is paid for. The challenge here is we do not have a large corporation to underwrite a program, but we want to make it easier for young people to go to college locally and to retain them after their graduation from college. Wilmington Succeeds was brought about through a collaboration between Wilmington College, the City of Wilmington, Wilmington City Schools, and Southern State Community College. At one of the first meetings, Ron Sexton said that in his career, one of the saddest things he has ever seen is for a counselor or a teacher to be talking to a sixth grader and the sixth grader has already written off any possibility of college because they don't have the money to go. He introduced Jim Reynolds to talk about the Wilmington Succeeds program.

Jim Reynolds presented information on the Wilmington Succeeds program. I'm grateful for the partnerships we have developed through these discussions. I think the college wants to be an early important partner in this process. Probably just like all of you, I see that the growth of the city and the county is dependent upon a couple of different things. One is a business climate that is supportive of growth and expansion of new businesses. But the second thing that is probably the linchpin I think for growth in any community is a good school system. When I think about school systems and an opportunity for education, I think about pre-kindergarten all the way through grade 16 or graduation from College. We have a unique opportunity as a city and as a county because of the educational things that we have in place: a four-year college, a two-year community college, a technical vocational school, and a good city school system. All of these things work together, I think, to invite the opportunity for growth and expansion of the city and the county. The college is very happy to partner in this process. What we have offered to do is that for any students that spends a minimum of three years in the Wilmington High School, we would love for them to come to Wilmington College. They can enter in either their first year or their third year. At the third year, irrespective of when they enter, we will offer them up to \$15,000 for the two years in forgivable loans, so that when they graduate from college, we will forgive 75% of that loan. If they stay in the city for two years or more, we will forgive the other 25% as well. We want to work as closely as we can with the city and the county to continue to foster growth. Probably just like all of you, in our business, growth is vital and essential. We need to have the opportunity to recruit students of Wilmington College. We are excited about the partnerships that have

developed. We look forward to working with all of you and all of the city as we embark on this interesting program.

Mayor Riley – This is a multi-layered project. We don't have a big sponsor like Kalamazoo has, so we had to put our heads together to come up with parts and pieces that would make this work. It's been quite a challenge to come up with a program that would really entice a student to come here and commit to going to college. If a student goes to Southern State Community College and transfers to Wilmington in their third year, they are in the program. They have worked out a deal where almost everything is transferable now between Southern State and Wilmington College, which is phenomenal. Jim has stepped up to the table on this, as has Southern State. Wilmington City Schools is also huge player in this. They have the kids.

Bill Liermann, Wilmington City School Board – We are talking about the cornerstone of what makes a community strong. We are talking about future high school graduates. This lays the foundation and the groundwork. It will help keep graduates working in the community, living in the community, and being a future stakeholder in the community. We would like to echo our sentiments on behalf of the Wilmington Board of Education. It's a great collaborative agreement. When you think about it, education, homeownership, viable workforce, they all three work together and can hope to build a strong community. We appreciate it.

Mayor Riley – I appreciate the School Board's 100% support of the program. Chris Schock has been a large part of our meetings and discussions. Taylor is here this evening to present on behalf of the Regional Planning.

Taylor Stuckert – We're excited for the collaboration. This has been an ongoing effort for quite some time. Looking at this issue of young professionals, I actually began researching the topic last year when I was in grad school. I passed out information sheets to each of you. One of the things that stood out in my research was the level of educational attainment of the City of Wilmington over the past forty years. In 1970, Wilmington exceeded the state average in the percentage of population of the age of 25 that had at least a bachelor's degree. Over the next forty years, we have declined to a point that we are now 10 points below the state average. With the demand for bachelor's degree holders, as well as associate's degree holders, and all types of educational levels for workforce development, it is imperative that the City of Wilmington reverse that trend. I think it's a great statement for the City. Something that we hear on a regular basis from existing employers and potential employers is that demand for bachelor's degree holders and workforce development, so I think this will speak volumes towards the City's and the Colleges' effort to reverse that. I think it's important that we collaborate with all of these institutions. One thing that was interesting in the research as well is that in the past ten years, we have these four-year institution and we have a wonderful two-year institution as well. For the past ten years, Wilmington College has graduated over 2400 students with a Bachelor's Degree; 361 of them were from Clinton County. During that period, Wilmington has had a net gain of 16 bachelor's degrees from the census. We have these institutions in this community. We have these great educational assets. I think it speaks volumes that they're all getting together and understanding the issue and are serious about addressing it.

Councilman McKay – Taylor Stuckert is the RPC Assistant Director now.

Mayor Riley – We want these students to stay. I've worked with people my whole life who have student loans and it takes them into their 30's and 40's to get their loans paid off. With the help of Southern State, Wilmington College, and the educational programs here, we will be able to get them a college education at a low price. Within four or five years of graduating from college, they should be practically debt-free. The thing I am pushing for is that they be a resident of the City of Wilmington. There is a program that is state-sponsored called Grants for Grads that helps college graduates buy a house. I would like to see the City also help college graduates to buy a house. This part of the program is a work in progress. We are talking about giving the citizens of Wilmington a chance to help make sure that Wilmington College High School graduates, Wilmington college graduates succeed. Personally, I would be delighted to pay an extra 5-10 dollars

a month to make this happen. We send out almost 5000 billing statements a month. There has to be a way that we can encourage people to make donations to the city for this program. We are all committed that it is a great idea; we are all committed to making it happen.

Mayor Riley – We were talking earlier about economic development and bringing businesses here. When you have companies that are looking for a site to settle their business on, if all things are equal, they start looking at things like hospitals, colleges, YMCAs, the entrances and exits from the city, and the amenities. This is the type of thing that will bring business interests to this community.

Councilman Jaehnig – The basic story that you have now is now just for our residents. But as the jobs move into Wilmington, we want not just for the employer moving into Wilmington, we want their employees to decide to choose Wilmington as their place to live. So, here's the story you are going to be able to sell. You have a family that has to move for their job. They have kids in middle school. You have Wilmington City Schools already prepared to have a sit-down and say, "Whatever your family situation is, if you work hard and you get good grades, we will guarantee that you are going to be able to move on to college." Southern State has already said, "We're here and ready for you." The average Pell grant that their students qualify for is \$5500 a year. The cost to attend Southern State is a little over \$4000 a year. So, Southern State has \$1500 that they give back to the student for books and incidentals to help them get through the college year. They can complete two years at southern State debt free. Then they can move on and get their Bachelor's degree from Wilmington College. And Wilmington College says, "We would love to have you. We are going to take every credit that you've already earned at Southern State and we are going to apply it to a four-year degree here. And on top of that, we are going to give you \$15,000 of forgivable loans. If you graduate from Wilmington College, we're going to write off 75% of that off the bat. If you move into the community and you stay here for another two years, we're going to write off the other 25%." Then, to take it a step further, we're going to combine funds from the City non-profit fund, not taxpayer's dollars, with the Grants for Grads program with the state, and we're going to help you buy a house. That's a serious commitment to kids. That's a serious statement that we want you to move to our community and we're going to take care of you. We're going to make sure that there is not just a job for you but there is a future for your child. That is something you can really sell to a business. I can guarantee you that Kalamazoo is not hurting for the opportunity to have businesses move into their community. We can do the same thing.

Mayor Riley – We have been able to do this without going to the schools for an increase. As we roll out the program, one of the things I am committed to is going to some our businesses that really benefit from an educated workforce and talking to them about supporting this program – Like UpJohn has done in Kalamazoo. This is going to be good for the City of Wilmington.

Councilman McKay thanked the Mayor and Rob for their leadership in bringing this along.

Joe Keiter - It sounds like a really good, developed program, but once you give the student an education, they're smart now, and they've got a house in Wilmington, is there is going to be a program to get higher level jobs?

Mayor Riley – We have been working on that for the past couple of years. We have a commitment from ten different industries building their workforce. They have committed to a certain number to get job creation tax credits. Alkermes, for instance, has high level technical jobs. Praxair develops medical and industrial gasses. We have Clinton Memorial Hospital and Cape May has a new skilled nursing facility. We are working both sides of the equation.

[General discussion of Wilmington Succeeds]

Auditor – In the absence of Auditor David Hollingsworth, there was no report.

Ad Hoc – President Kirchner introduced legislation adopting the Natural Gas Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance.

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on An Ordinance Adopting the City of Wilmington Natural Gas Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance Pursuant to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, and Declaring an Emergency.

President asked for discussion.

Seeing none, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Siebenaller 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; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Wallace, yes; Mead, yes; Siebenaller, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Stuckert to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Wallace, yes; Mead, yes; Siebenaller, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5127 passed as read.

Asset, Acquisition and Use. - Chairperson Bob Mead had no report.

Finance Committee - Chairperson Mead introduced legislation making supplemental appropriations and read each one.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Stuckert to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Supplemental Appropriations.

President asked for discussion.

Seeing none, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Siebenaller to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Stuckert, yes; Wallace, yes; Mead, yes; Siebenaller, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Siebenaller to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Wallace, yes; Mead, yes; Siebenaller, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5128 passed as read.

Councilman Mead introduced legislation making miscellaneous transfers.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Siebenaller to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Miscellaneous Transfers.

President asked for discussion.

Seeing none, President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Siebenaller to suspend the rules and give the second and third reading on the ordinance by title only.

Roll call: Mead, yes; Siebenaller, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Wallace, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Siebenaller to pass the ordinance as read.

Roll call: Siebenaller, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes;

Wallace, yes; Mead, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5129 passed as read.

Councilman Mead – I think everyone is aware that the city is working on the budget for the upcoming year. I want to say before we vote on it, you can look at this on two ways: one way is half-full/half-empty. The other way, you can pass a budget that is higher than you need and work like heck during the year to get it down. Or you can pass a budget that concerns you because it is lower than what you need and work like heck during the year to make it happen, knowing that you have the money to pay for it if you don't. I know that everyone probably has their mind made up. However it is, vote the way you think it ought to be and let your conscience do the rest.

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Wilmington, Ohio, During Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2014.

President asked for discussion.

Councilman Stuckert – We probably all have our minds made up. I would like to give my logic behind how I would vote. The city has a history with its budgets and except for last year, it was the first time in a decade or more that we started with a budget that balanced revenue to spending. I continue to believe that is how we should start the year out each time. Under the old system, we've managed to work ourselves to a situation where we have streets that have not been repaved under a consistent repaving system, we have employees who have not had a raise in a number of years. Both of those have to be addressed. I think we have to work our way to the point where we can do that. I don't think appropriating more spending than we have estimated revenue helps us in that. Obviously, I think we have to do more than that. I think this is the beginning. I am convinced that we can find ways to make this happen. I want everyone to know that I'm perfectly willing to join with the mayor. I know he has worked hard. I don't vote this way because I think the administration has been frivolous, loose, or not restrained. I think they have struggled very hard, but I think we have to do more. I think that we are going to be able to find some ideas where we can meet this first target of balancing revenue to expenditures and actually maybe even go beyond that. It is in that spirit that I am going to insist that we do not resume kicking the can down the road but that remain where we were last year and try to improve on that this year with starting with a budget that balances revenue to expenditures.

Councilman Jaehnig – Personally, I think the budget that has been proposed is a very fair and very frugal budget. While, yes, it is spending some of our funds that are in our carryover, to cut an additional \$400,000-\$500,000 would be a disservice to our employees. The only way that we are going to find those types of cuts is by cutting additional employees. With the funds that we have and the direction that we're turning to and considering the fact that there are opportunities that we could pursue to help start to repair our revenue side of the ledger, I think it would be premature to go down that road. I think we have a commitment to the employees not to just give them a raise. I believe they all deserve it, but more importantly, to keep them employed. I think we have already cut as far as we can in our staffing and can't afford any others at this point. I think this administration has proven they can be trusted with our funds and are frugal in how they approach things. Our ending balance this year will be higher than our starting balance at the beginning of the year. I think that is a very good sign and a very good working relationship. The budget that has been proposed, I have no problem putting it forward as we continue to work hard on the revenue as well as the expenditure side.

Councilman McKay – I also support this budget. I feel very confident that the administration, supervisors have done their part and will continue to do their part. This budget is very well thought out. I will say again, I feel it is short-sighted to vote down this budget. I think it's more proactive to vote for it and work throughout the year in a positive way to increase revenues. This budget contains a 30% carryover, which is 5% more than what we normally require, so I definitely will support this.

Mayor Riley – We need a budget. As Mary Kay has pointed out many times, this is a balanced budget. We are not spending ourselves into any debt at all. In fact, a year and a half or so ago when Bob Mead made the recommendation that we set a goal for this

council and this administration that we have a 25% carryover, I supported that 100%. I have supported it ever since. That is just good management. Right now, we're going to have a carryover of approximately 30%, which gives us good wiggle room in case something unexpected does come up. A 30% carryover is fine. If we tried to balance this budget to revenue, we would be cutting jobs from the city. There is no way we can do that without making major cuts in services that our citizens deserve. If we cut \$500,000 out of the budget, instead of having a 25% carryover, we would end up with a 35 or 40% carryover. At what point does that become a little ludicrous? People pay their taxes to get service and service comes from employees and people who work for the city. We have a string of things that we have been working on the last couple of years. Some of it is coming to fruition. There is just no sense in making what I think are unnecessary cuts, that would cut so deeply that it would injure the services that we provide our citizens. Loren, you have mentioned about streets. We are still getting permissive tax. We have about \$120,000 this year designated for street repair. It's not as much as we used to get, but we are still keeping the streets drivable. Are some of them needing more repair? Yes. Let's work on that. Let's work on the revenue side of it. I think we are getting closer to getting the \$800,000 back. Let's work together to go forward and not take a step back by taking things away from our citizens. Another thing that bothers me, is "I've made up my mind before I came here." "I had my mind made up before I even came to this meeting." Then why have the meetings? We're here to discuss issues. We're here to talk about the future of the City of Wilmington, and to say you've made up your mind before you ever came to the meeting, I think that's wrong. We're here to discuss. We're here to talk to each other. We're here to do the very best that we can for the City of Wilmington. The budget is flexible. My goal as the administrator of the City is to make sure we provide the services that our citizens so dearly deserved and that they have paid for with their tax dollars. We can do this with this budget. If we cut \$500,000 out of this budget to balance it to revenue, we're not going to do that. I ask you, if you've had your mind made up, don't be afraid of doing what is right for the citizens of Wilmington. We can make this work. We've made it work for the past two years. This is a good budget. I strongly encourage city council to support it.

Councilman Mead – I have one thing to say. There was no inference at all that people had their mind made up before they came here. They sat through meetings. They discussed it. I would assume that at the time to vote, people have decided how they are going to vote.

Councilman Stuckert – If I come into the meeting with the mindset to support the administration, that really cuts both ways.

Mayor Riley – Absolutely.

Councilman Stuckert – I looked at the last decade or more of the city budget, the one thing I saw consistently in the last decade or so is not going into each year into a budget that balances revenue to spending. I think the problem with the streets paving and the employee compensation are both tied to this inability to have the discipline to balance revenue to spending. That's the basis of my thinking. There are places where we could find quite a bit of savings.

Mayor Riley – If we try to cut \$500,000 out of this budget to balance it to revenue, we are going to eviscerate the services that the city provides to the citizens. I asked everyone to just not base their vote on promises that they've made or things that they've heard. Base your vote on what is best for the citizens of the City of Wilmington.

Councilman Siebenaller – If we are at a deficit, how do we get to the point of being able to give the employees raises, pave the streets without raising taxes (which I think is irresponsible), or budgeting hope? I really feel that is the starting point to getting to what they deserve.

Mayor Riley – And we're working on that. When David was here for the earlier meeting, he noted that the carryover has increased from last year to this year, in spite of the fact that we appropriated more money and spent more money than what we initially budgeted. The carryover is still 5% higher. We are being diligent.

President Kirchner – I would offer one perspective on the budget. The additional carryover amounts to about the unexpected revenue from the inheritance tax that came in this year. Had we not gotten that unexpected money, you would not see that carryover going up to that level.

Councilman Wallace – Had we not gotten the unexpected money, we wouldn't have spent as much either. Because we did supplementals \$500,000 above and beyond what was passed last year. Call a spade a spade. We may not have had quite the carryover, but we would not have spent what we spent. If we do not do one supplemental next year, at least you know where you stand on what we appropriate on this budget.

President Kirchner – Perhaps if the mayor would be willing to say they won't come back for supplementals but instead will work within this budget, there would be the potential that council would feel more comfortable with it. I will say, with this being my final budget work with council, as I look at it, I continue myself to have a great deal of problem with anybody that says, the budget is balanced, when you spend more than you take in. Just because you have it in savings, in my mind, it is not balanced. I also think it is disingenuous to say we would have devastating cuts to city services in order to save a half million dollars, when you look at the fact that this council brought before this mayor legislation that he vetoed that would eliminate two administrative positions that would save half that amount. I think the savings can be there. The employees that are on the streets providing the services are the critical thing that we need to take care of, but a deficit budget flies directly in the face of providing an opportunity to get back to cost-of-living raises and supporting our employees who have sacrificed so much and do such a great job for our citizens.

Councilman Jaehnig – This is where I have an issue with Councilman Siebenaller. In our budget process, if we never talk about revenues, whether we feel a tax is appropriate or not, whether we want to pass permitting or not on skill games, or whatever. If we are never discussing the revenue side, then we're not having an appropriate budget discussion. We cannot cut ourselves into an increased budget. You cannot just cut expenditures. You cannot cut yourself to the point of healthiness. You have to have a balanced discussion on both sides. I am with you on I would not like to see any additional taxes for our citizens, but for us to not talk about it because we don't want to see it, may not be the appropriate thing. If the mayor has no luck regarding licensing fees for our streets department, then we would be irresponsible not to look at a property levy for streets. Do I like it? No. But it's the citizens choice to make. It is not our responsibility to make it for them. The one issue I have, and Bryan, you're the exception to the rule, but I hear we passed this balanced budget last year. Yes, a balanced budget was passed last year, against the advice of the president and with a "no" vote from Mr. Stuckert, Mr. Mead and Mr. Wells. That's fine. I have no problem with the vote. But, you can't then use that as your flag of why we need to get back to a zero budget for this upcoming year. It is a work in progress that has to be dealt with every time. I think council has dropped the ball on the revenue side. We have to look at the landfill. I think we may be at the point where the landfill can no longer be a part of this city. We own it, but we may have to lease it out. There are revenue opportunities for the city there. The discussion has to be had. Because I have a feeling our life is going to become much more difficult with the landfill, whether we like it or not. Skilled gaming, whether you agree with it or not, should come up for a vote. If it gets voted down, fine. But the fact that it never came up for a vote is not fair to the public. None of us as a single individual should be holding back legislation or the public's right to have a discussion on it. We have to bring these things forward and talk openly about it and not killing things in committee. I would prefer not to have any additional taxes or levies, but I think that is something we may have to look at it.

President Kirchner – As I see the beginning slide back to this concept of that landfill being some cash cow. I want to make a clear point. – if the Ohio EPA indicates that this city cannot run it, then simply leasing it out to someone when they will have the same difficulties will not solve the money problems of this town but it will turn it into to southwest Ohio's trash dump. I think that that is something that this council has to keep in mind. That is on our front lawn.

Councilman Jaehnig – The fact is the landfill is already approved to its maximum height. It's a myth that it can get any bigger. It can't go any higher than it is already approved for. Any expansion has to go away from the city. The second myth is we won't know what's going into that landfill. Well, I'm sorry to say, we don't know what's going in it now. The only time we know what is in it is when the EPA comes in and takes a look at it. You know what, that's the same people that are going to be taking a look at it when somebody else is running the landfill. We're looking at a \$23,000,000 expansion that we're going to have find funds for. If the EPA says, we're not going to let you expand, it's going to cost us \$2.6 million to close the landfill, and we have no revenues to cover that. Plus, \$150,000 a year in maintenance to do that. There is a reason why we're the only city left in the state that is running a landfill. There are others that can do it better that don't have the same restrictions held upon them that a government does. I think the discussion has to be had. I think we should listen to the citizens and talk to them about it. But we need to give them all of the facts. We can't make that decision for them.

President called for yea-nay vote on the first reading of the budget ordinance.

Law Director requested a roll call.

Roll call: McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, no; Stuckert, no; Wallace, yes; Mead, no; Siebenaller, no.

Motion to give the first reading failed.

President Kirchner – We apparently have more work to do on the legislation to get it presentable for reading. We will have to have another meeting and bring the legislation back in another or more discussed form.

Councilman McKay – How do we move forward with this?

President Kirchner – It would be a good idea to have a budget work session. It will be a special council meeting.

[Discussion of schedules and budget process]

A special council meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 23, at 6 p.m.

Law Director Shidaker pointed out if there were less than six people in favor of the issue, it will need to be read on three separate dates.

[Further discussion of schedules and the budget process]

A special council meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 19, at 6 p.m.

Councilman McKay suggested that if there are thoughts and ideas from the people who did not approve the budget, maybe they could share them ahead of time.

President Kirchner said the onus is on the administration to take a look at the budget and come back forward with some suggestions and improvements.

Councilman Jaehnig – If you have a problem with the budget, then I think you would have suggestions to fix it.

Mayor Riley – I think the administration has come up with a very good budget, with a 30% carryover. I've already stated, I don't see where we can cut \$500,000 out of this budget without doing serious damage to the citizens. If you have any ideas, look at your budget and let us know, but I don't see where any improvements to this thing can be made. We've looked at it; we've talked to every supervisor of the city. We've worked hard to bring this budget before you tonight. I am, quite frankly, very disappointed that it is not being supported. I don't know that we can do any better.

Councilman McKay – I know at least one person said they knew there were several places where we could cut the budget, so I would like to know what those thought are.

Water Committee - Chairperson Wallace had no report.

Streets Committee - Chairperson McKay had no report.

Solid Waste/Recycling – The Committee had no report.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Stuckert had no report.

Judiciary Committee - Chairperson Siebenaller had no report.

Safety Committee - The Committee had no report.

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Chairperson McKay had no report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairperson Jaehnig had no report.

Income and Levy Tax Committee – Chairperson Jaehnig had no report.

Service Director - Service Director Reinsmith had no report.

Safety Director – Safety Director Russ Burton had no report.

Reports

A motion was made by Stuckert and seconded by Wallace that the Auditor-Treasurer Report – November 2013, be accepted as presented.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Reports accepted as presented.

President Kirchner opened the meeting up to the general public and/or members of council to address council while in session.

Cindy Peterson – 640 Prairie Avenue. We're on item Number 21, and I want to go back up to item Number 6 [Natural Gas Aggregation]. I want to acknowledge Paul Hunter. I know that he did a lot of work behind the scenes and at the forefront and really brought the level of visibility and importance to the city.

Paul Hunter – 200 Randolph St. My timing is not very good with this. To quote William Shakespeare, "I have come to praise Kirchner, not to bury him." I want to thank him for his service in all these years. The partial list of his work as a public servant includes: Served on the Board of Zoning Appeals both as a member and the president; Original supporter and facilitator of our successful curbside recycling program; Leader in the effort to convert the city's outside tax levies from five-year ballot issues to continuous status, thus saving the city money and time involved. Scott was a key player in stopping the sewer main project planned to benefit a single developer, saving us thousands of dollars. He held the line on sewer rate increases that would have resulted in significant costs for residents and businesses. Scott was the most important official in the electric aggregation project that will save the residents and City budget millions of dollars. One of his last acts was to coordinate the gas aggregation program for the City that has the potential to save additional money. Although I haven't always agreed with Scott's methods, I have respect for his principles. Few in public office display the courage of their convictions that he has shown when dealing with the political establishment. He has sacrificed his political life in a successful effort to control the city's spending policies during a great difficult period. Thank you, Scott.

Jonathan McKay – 371 High Street. Councilman Wallace, I want to thank you for what you have done the past ten years. I remember you standing in the library at the high school in a gray flannel suit saying that you wanted to give back to this community – and that is what you've done. You've done an excellent job. As I said in an earlier report by the News Journal when I tried to become your predecessor, you have stuck to your convictions. You've come a long way since that first meeting when I came up here. I've called you on some occasions and you got back to me pretty quick, even though I had a

relative on the city council I could have called just as easy. I want to thank you for what you've done. You've been wonderful to this community and you have given back.

[Applause]

Bill Limbacher – 394 Darbyshire Dr. I would like to raise a more mundane but more long-term issue. On my street it is very crowded with cars, especially the side facing Fife Ave. In contrast to when I moved there in the 80s, there are many houses there that are no longer single family. It makes it difficult to not only walk down the street but to drive down the street. The street bends as it goes down and it has cars on both sides. If the council can at some point in time address that issue, the residents of that street would be grateful.

Councilman Mead – When you get older, you begin to appreciate young people who are intelligent and are ready to go get them and who are ready to step in and do a good job. Bryan Siebenaller has pleased me very much because he gets into it. He's got his own mind. He doesn't do what other people tell him to do. He does his homework and he's done a terrific job as the youngest guy on council. I want to congratulate you.

[Applause]

President Kirchner – I would like to say at my final regular meeting that it has been an honor working with all of you, even if at times we have disagreed. It is truly an honor to give back to this community through public service. Thank you for all of your hard work. I thank you for how easy you've made this job be. I appreciate each and every one of you for the individual that you are and the time that we spent together here. Thank you. It's been an honor.

President Kirchner asked if anyone else wished to address council while in session.

Seeing no one else who wished to speak, President Kirchner asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by McKay to adjourn.
President of Council declared the meeting adjourned.
Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk