

Wilmington City Council met on December 3, 2009, with President Fred Ertel presiding.

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Wells, present; Peterson, present; Wallace, present; Popp, present; Mongold, absent; McKay, present.

Sgt. Ron Cravens was also present.

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Peterson to excuse the absent member. Motion passed.

Absent member excused.

A motion was made by Wells and seconded by McKay to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, November 19, as received.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as received.

President of Council – Fred Ertel: At this point, I would like to recognize Debbie Stamper, I believe, for the Clinton County Bicentennial Commission Presentation.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper thanked the Mayor for suggesting in October 2007 that a commission be formed to start talking about planning the Bicentennial Celebration. She said that there were two different ways that people could market items for the bicentennial – either by purchasing the rights to use the official bicentennial logo or by creating commemorative items on their own, which do not use the logo. She introduced Terry Thompson of The Pattery to discuss merchandising at their store.

Terry Thompson: Thompson discussed the items being presented at The Pattery for the bicentennial. He said that they have a potter who is making lamps and other items that have “Clinton County” or “Wilmington” on them. Some other items have “Clinton County, Established in 1810” on them. He said that these are handmade and will be created based upon demand. He said they also commissioned Verdin Bell out of Cincinnati to create bicentennial bells. These bells read “A Place Called Home, Clinton County, Ohio, Established 1810.” He said that Verdin Bell is the same bell that created bells for the Ohio Bicentennial and that they are known worldwide for their quality brass bells.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper expressed appreciation for all of the people who had worked so hard on the bicentennial thus far. She said that she was the spokesperson by default, but that actually others had done a great deal of hard work. She handed out a brochure and said that the theme for the bicentennial is “A Place Called Home.” They worked with Orange-Frazier Press and the Clinton County Foundation in order to get permission to use this phrase. She outlined the current committees established by the Bicentennial Commission. These included: Marketing – Kim Parks; Education – Chris Burns-Dibiasio and Mary Ann Raizk; Finance/Treasurer – Randy Riley; Special Event – Charlotte Fahrner; Downtown Decorating Person – Christine Krisa; Community Vision – Laura Curliss and Chris Schock; History and Legacy – Kay Fisher and Jennifer Hollon.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper went on to say that one project that had been going on in 2009 was the barn quilt project. She said that the first barn was revealed in July and was at the horse barn at the fairgrounds. Stamper said that the barn quilt project is happening throughout the state of Ohio and the nation. There is a National Barn Quilt Trail and she foresees that Clinton County could become part of that trail eventually. Stamper said that Diane Murphy and Carole Earhart have both been instrumental in this project. They have put in 2000 volunteer hours thus far. The project has used 120 pieces of plywood, 230 sticks of 2x4's, and 60 gallons of paint. She said that there have been numerous volunteers, including out-of-town youth groups. The barn project includes 46 barns at the present time and they will be ending the project through the end of 2009. They anticipate that there should be around 50 barns involved in the project. Stamper went on

to say that each barn costs \$400 to do, with a \$200 commitment from the barn owner and a \$200 commitment from a sponsor. This amount can be compared to Miami County where barn quilts were painted by a commissioned artist and cost \$6000 each. Sponsors are still needed for the barn quilts. Anyone interested should contact Diane Murphy.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper then talked about the Education Committee of the Bicentennial Commission. She said that they are currently coordinating with the third-grade classes at the schools on bicentennial learning modules. They plan to do time capsules and will have a travelling trunk that will focus on the history of toys. Students will also be writing essays based on historical photos on display. Stamper said that an educational symposium with Wilmington College and Southern State Community College is in the early planning phases.

Clerk Laura Curliss: Curliss said that the official Fourth of July Parade for the Bicentennial will be the Blanchester parade. She said that she hoped that the city would be able to build a float for display at that parade. In addition, Curliss said that the CMH Ball was also going to carry a bicentennial theme and re-enactors in period costumes (including Fred & Susan Ertel and Curliss herself) would be performing historical dances at the beginning of the ball.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper added the Curliss and Chris Schock would be reworking the Elmer Williams survey and that they would be holding an essay contest for children. The theme of the essay contest would be the child's vision of the future of Clinton County. Stamper introduced Kay Fisher from the History and Legacy Committee.

Kay Fisher: Fisher said that she had been working alongside Jennifer Hollon on the History and Legacy Committee. She said that representatives from the other three historical societies in the county, the Quaker Heritage Center, and representatives from all of the villages in the county have been invited to participate in the committee. Fisher outlined projects that her committee had been working on, including the Bicentennial Bits in the newspaper and regular bicentennial history programs that will be offered. In addition, Fisher said that May was going to be declared Clinton County History Month. Fisher added that they would be creating a Passport Program, where children and adults could visit historical places in the county and get their passport stamped. A completed passport gives eligibility for a grand prize. Fisher said the Clinton County Historical Society has been working on a bicentennial activities workbook aimed at third graders in the county. Jennifer Hollon is the artist on this book and a one-year supply will be provided to all teachers and students in the county. Fisher also mentioned bicentennial yardsticks, a perpetual calendar with historical events outlined on it, and a pictorial history book that will be published by Arcadia and will be available at large chain bookstores. In addition, Fisher said there was a collaboration between Jennifer Hollon and the Auxiliary to present a photographic program at the CMH Ball.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper said that in terms of marketing, there is a dedicated website for the bicentennial. It is www.clintoncountybicentennial.com. Stamper said that some special events for the bicentennial will include a haunted historic Wilmington tour, a sports day in August, an ice cream social, and three garden tours. In addition, Stamper said that bicentennial coins are being sold by both the county and the city in order to raise funds. Also in terms of fundraising, the group formerly known as the Optimist Club has agreed to do a fundraising effort for the bicentennial.

Clerk Laura Curliss: Curliss said that the official date for the bicentennial kickoff will be February 19 and will be held at the mezzanine at the Clinton County Courthouse. There will be a bell ringing, and period costumes are encouraged for the event.

Debbie Stamper: Stamper said that on March 6, 7, 8 there will be a music concert featuring historical pieces. This production will be a collaboration between Wilmington College and Larrick Productions. In addition, Stamper mentioned that Holidazzle plans to have a ball to celebrate the bicentennial as well.

[Applause]

President : Thank you. Okay. At this point, I would like to recognize Rob Jaehnig to talk about Holidazzle recognition.

Councilman Jaehnig: Thank you, Mr. President. In the audience today, we have some of the committee, as we just completed our third annual Holidazzle this past weekend. We're very pleased with the outcome, with the attendance (which was a record for us), and the parade participation (which was also a record for us). Considering the difficulties of the year, we thought it was a great showing of public spirit and support for the community as a whole. Coming together, we still have a great deal to celebrate and to be thankful for, and that was truly seen in spades this past weekend. We were very happy with the event. With us is Steve Brown, obviously of Main Street, which was very involved organizing the [event]. Connie Abirached, who ended up on triple duty by the time it was done and taking over entertainment and vendors partway through the year to work with that. My wife, Keri Jaehnig, who helped us with the social media and getting the word out and surveying. Many of you should have the emails in your mailbox with the Holidazzle survey. We would really greatly appreciate if you would take the time to fill that out. That really gives us feedback on how we are doing, what we are doing, what you would like to see, what you weren't happy with, you know, that type of thing. We truly are looking to grow and develop as we go. Tammy McKay, who was our secretary, did an excellent job at keeping me on track as I tend to wander through meetings as ideas pop into my head. So, thank you very much, Tammy. Missing tonight from the meeting, obviously, is the chair of the parade, Molly Dullea, who, for the third year now has done an absolutely fantastic job at getting them out on the street and getting the participation. We had some incredible floats this year. Also not here is Maria Butcher, who worked on our media this year and really came in from behind the eight ball and did a fantastic job on that. Deanna Liermann came in and helped with the parade this year. Then, of course, Eric Haag and the FFA, who, without them, there would be no Holidazzle parade. They put out about 60 students this year to help us put it on the street and help us organize it out of the high school and really do a fantastic job and they should be very, very proud of how much they give back to the community. I thank the committee for everything they have done. They have really done an amazing job. Considering how small the committee is and how much was completed, it is a wonderful thing. We are looking for additional people next year. Obviously, it is the bicentennial year. We are looking to add things. Some of the things we are talking about, while Debbie is a little ahead of me in regards to the Holidazzle Ball. It is something we are considering and we would like to see about doing it. We want to add to the actual event itself, up to and including, with the permission of the commissioners, blowing up the courthouse or millennium pyrotechnics off of the courthouse building, as the finale to our bicentennial year. I think we can get the funding to pull it off. That is something that Rozzi's assures us can be done at a reasonable rate and very safely. We have a lot of great ideas, but to be honest, there is only so much this small group can do and we need some additional people to help pull it off. Also, Holidazzle is on Facebook, so if you are a social media guru and you love Facebook and Twitter, please join us on Facebook. It is a great way to get your voice involved. In less than about 2 ½ weeks, we ended up with 255 fans, and they have been quite vocal. We had a lot of fun with it. Thank you all very much.

Unidentified female speaker: [Inaudible for transcription]

Councilman Jaehnig: Yes. Thank you very much. I did. Cindy Shivers was our treasurer this year from a Song and a Story and at the same time was running her own event that she was gracious enough to move and become a part of Holidazzle at the very beginning, and that is Merry Tuba Christmas. We greatly appreciate her efforts. Then, I don't know how I can forget Trevor Shoemaker. Without his help at the Murphy Theatre and everything the Murphy did for us... we definitely could not have had such a wonderful event without them. Obviously, Trevor also thankfully has electrical genius and is able to get our vendors up and running and provide electricity for all of our vendors out there. Thank you so much for reminding me. Anybody else I forgot, because I am sure there are others.

Unidentified female speaker: Well, there is one person that helped you with sound and so forth that you might want to mention.

Councilman Jaehnig: Well, Tom Ibaugh; he got paid.

Unidentified female speaker: [inaudible for transcription] for hopeful future support.

Councilman Jaehnig: Yes. In fact, Tom Ibaugh did such a nice job. We stepped out and we have a Holiday Parade DVD that we are actually going to be able to get out in time. So, if you had somebody that was in the parade, on a float, in the band, and you want a copy of the parade, we have it on DVD. We are going to be able to offer it up for sale as a fundraiser for next year's event. Yes, Tammy.

Unidentified female speaker: You also might remind everybody [inaudible for transcription].

Councilman Jaehnig: Obviously, Randy and Timothy are announcers extraordinaire. Timothy taking on the Holiday Street Spectacular this year, which we had some logistical issues with. There were many things we actually had planned to add to it, but we ran into logistical "can't get here from there" problems. We will get those added in next year. Then, of course, Randy [inaudible for transcription] has announced the parade. I'll tell you, I've never seen the parade...seeing it setup, and I have never seen Randy announce the parade, other than the very end when he announces Santa Claus. So, to watch it on DVD and hear him doing Randy's best, it was quite entertaining and quite funny. It is a great listen. Anybody else I've forgotten. Of course, my beautiful daughter. I thank the city for working with us...the Fire Department and the Police Department. You guys are great, as always, ladies too. You really did a good job of taking care of us. I guess that is it, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you so much. A round of applause for you and Holiday.

[Applause]

President Ertel: Very good. That concludes my portion of the agenda. Mr. Mayor?

Mayor – Mayor Raizk: I don't have a lot of official things to say, but I do want to say, I think the real test of this kind of event like Holiday is what people say about it afterwards. The first year, a few comments, the second year had a few more comments. This year, almost everybody that comes up to me, say "Hey...boy...that was a great parade. That was a great event." Unsolicited comments have been so positive from just folks that were able to participate. Folks that had nothing to do with it but just enjoyed having it in their community. Kudos to everybody. It was outstanding. It is amazing to me, with all of the trouble that we have gone through and are still going through, that we started out and it just got bigger, and this year it was even bigger and better yet, when it could have so easily not have been that way. To me, everybody, everybody is to be congratulated. It is so hopeful and so much bigger and next year it is going to be bigger and better. People are saying "Hey, we can't wait until it comes around again." I think that is so important. Thank you and a huge congratulations to all of you. You have these coins so you can see what the bicentennial coins look like. The ones that Laura passed out to you are not enameled on the back. There are actually coins that are enameled both ways, with the county logo on the back and the city logo on the front. These coins we had minted this way so they could be used as official...we can put them on plaques as our insignia and so forth. But, you have to give them back.

Clerk Laura Curliss: The public can buy them colorized on both sides for \$20 at the Auditor's office.

Mayor Raizk: These that are not colorized we are going to charge \$17.50. No, we're making that up.

[Laughter and Inaudible Banter]

Mayor Raizk: I do want to say...this logo is great. The more I see it, the more I think we have really struck upon a wonderful logo. We are also, at all of our entrances on our corporation signs where we have Wilmington, we are in the process of having this logo,

a round sign, that will be underneath that logo, the same size as our Wilmington sign, at least in inches, in the full color. Denny has been working on it, and we have already passed the proof on this. We will have an additional sign that says our 200th Anniversary, a strip sign. So, I think that is going to really make our corporation signs look sharp. I wanted to share that with you. I think that is all I have right now.

President Ertel: Very good. Thank you. Let's move into committee reports. Asset, Acquisition and Use?

Asset, Acquisition and Use – In the absence of Chairperson Sandy Mongold, Councilman Wallace: Sandy is not here this evening, so I have been designated speaker this evening. We do have one item to vote on. As you are aware, we are in the process of applying for a grant to get the property now where the Kautex plant is located. In that process, they issue out points. Of course, the more points we get, the better chance we have of getting a grant. We are in the process, also, of attempting to get the Carpenters' Union Hall, which is a separate deal here. What we want to do is add that into the strategic plan, which gives us a couple of more points for the grant application. If there are any other questions, you can direct them to someone who can better answer the questions than I.

Mayor Raizk: I would be glad to do that as our consultants have reviewed our application. We don't want to apply for a grant and just throw it out there, we want to make sure that we get it. We are looking to make sure that we point higher than anybody else as we can on this project. So, this has been to planning commission, which is the proper procedure to amend a strategic plan or a master plan, so we put that before planning commission. Now, it is coming back to you. We need your help in doing this. Is it strategically important to be part of the master plan necessarily, No, but it does give us more points, as you said, Mike. We really need your help on this so we can get this put together. We've taken it to planning commission. They have approved it and made their recommendation for council to adopt it.

Councilman Wallace: Thank you. Are there any other questions?

Paul Hunter: I have a question. We use that for the city garage, for example, that will become a salable property. We will sell those properties now. Like the motor pool. The Street Department. You're going to move that over there.

Mayor Raizk: It is possible. I think what you are asking, Paul, and let me see, is once this is mitigated and the city has the property with the free and clear title and the EPA taken care of, this property can be leased for a business incubator. There are other uses just than specific city use. Am I saying that correctly?

Clerk Laura Curliss: Yes.

Paul Hunter: Because what I read here, essentially, was that you might move the Street Department over there and then the Street Department then becomes excess property?

Mayor Raizk: Right. It could be. It could be. Also, this property...there is a building, for instance...should we not go that direction on part of this property where there is a large building, that building could be leased to commercial enterprises.

Paul Hunter: You would go into the leasing business [inaudible for transcription].

Mayor Raizk: We never have, but if somebody says, "Hey, I need 100,000 square foot of space and I need it tomorrow," you know, there...

Paul Hunter: There sure is enough space over there.

Mayor Raizk: There is. It is large. But to answer your question, yes, that would be correct. That would be excess property that then could be sold off.

Councilman Wallace: Are there any other questions?

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Peterson to give the first reading only on the ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of 1974 to Add a Strategic Plan for the Properties Located at 474 and 360 S. Nelson Avenue (The “Kautex-Textron” & “Carpenter’s Union Hall” Properties) in the City of Wilmington, Ohio.

Motion passed

President Ertel read ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; McKay, yes.

President Ertel read the ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4887 passed as read.

President Ertel: Thank you. Mr. Auditor?

Auditor – Auditor David Hollingsworth: The only thing I wanted to mention, is before the next finance committee meeting, which I believe is December 14, I will have revised schedules that we had during the work session to show the actual year-to-date information up to the end of November along with the budget for next year. So, I will have that available. Not only for finance committee members, but I will make sure that everybody else that is not on finance that is part of council gets a copy of that. That is all I have.

President Ertel: Thank you. Finance Committee?

Finance Committee – In the absence of Chairperson Sandy Mongold, Councilman McKay: In Councilwoman Mongold’s absence, I will do the finance committee report tonight. The first item is an ordinance making miscellaneous transfers. Are there any questions regarding that?

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

Motion passed

President Ertel read ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; McKay, yes.

President Ertel read the ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4888 passed as read.

Councilman McKay: The second item is an ordinance making supplemental appropriations. Are there any questions regarding this?

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Popp to give the first reading only on the ordinance Supplemental Appropriations.

Motion passed

President Ertel read ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; McKay, yes.

President Ertel read the ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Wells, yes; Peterson, yes; Wallace, yes; Popp, yes; McKay, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 4889 passed as read.

Councilman McKay: The last item is a first reading on our appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures for the City of Wilmington during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, better known as the budget for the city next year.

President Ertel: Don has a question.

Councilman Wells: May I say something? I would briefly like to explain why I will be voting “no” on this first reading tonight. After listening to what David said about our projected revenue for next year and realizing that this budget is 25% over that revenue, I just cannot vote for this. However, I realize that we trimmed it down and we need to do something, so I would like to see the City Council and the Mayor work together to come up with some kind of a plan. I believe we need to cut spending and try to reduce it as much as we can, because I’m afraid in the year coming after that we might be in worse shape and have to take more drastic measures, and that might jeopardize the safety of the city, its citizens in Wilmington, through layoffs or even increasing taxes. I think we need to do something more to reduce spending, and I just wanted to tell you why I am voting “no.”

Councilwoman Peterson: Could you give me just some perspective on what examples reductions that you would like to see?

Councilman Wells: No I cannot at this time, because I think that is something that we need to come together and talk about. You know, I am not on the Finance Committee. I know they had a meeting and I thought maybe at that time something might be addressed.

President Ertel: What would that something be?

Councilman Wells: What would it be? I don’t know; I’m not on the finance committee. But, I’m just saying...

President Ertel: It was open for everyone on council.

Councilwoman Peterson: We had the budget workshop.

Councilman Wells: Yes. I was at the budget workshop.

Councilman Jaehnig: And you did not mention that at that time.

Councilman Wells: And that’s exactly right. I have every right to vote “no” tonight, and I can say what I want. I don’t understand why you’re attacking me now for...

President Ertel: Oh, we’re not attacking you. We are asking you.

Councilman Wells (simultaneously): Finance committee meets at noon and I can’t be there at noon at every meeting. I try to make as many meetings as I can, but I can’t always be there.

President Ertel: We’re not attacking you. We are just asking you...you may have some insight that you could share with us.

Councilman Wells: Of what we can cut?

Councilwoman Peterson: Yes.

Councilman Wells: No. I don’t think that’s up to me right now to be telling you what I think we could cut. I think we need to come together – the Mayor, the Finance Committee, and I think we ought to talk about it.

President Ertel: Sure. And that was the whole purpose of having all of the meetings with the departmental heads and so on and so forth.

Councilman Wells: And that's exactly right. And at that time I listened to what you said. Am I not allowed to voice my opinion now?

President Ertel: You can voice your opinion now, but it would have been very helpful and fruitful to have voiced it...

Councilwoman Peterson: I agree, because I really am very interested in knowing...

Councilman Wells: What bothered me is 25% of the projected income is pretty large, and if we keep doing this year after year, I think we're going to get in trouble. I don't see anything improving in the next year. I know we have the carryover and we'll be using that up. I just think...I can't see anything wrong with having...

TRANSCRIPTION INTERRUPTED – END OF TAPE

Councilman Wallace: ...we're spending more than we're bringing in and that is really kind of what I think he is trying to say. That is what I am hearing. I don't think anybody...I'm the same way. I would like to say "no," except I sat in the meetings and I accepted the information. I thought our people did a good job in reducing what they did. Then you see the total numbers and you think, "Holy cow!" We're lucky that we've got an excess. I guess the thing that I want to propose is sort of what Don said, maybe kicking on what he said. I think it would be great for us to maybe come up with some kind of a task force committee. We all know that these are hard decisions, and we've got some extremely tough decisions in front of us in 2010 that we have to make. I think [inaudible for transcription] year to find that \$2 million that we can eliminate, so when we come together 12 months from now, we have a plan and we can say "This is going to work." That is the main thing that I want to say tonight. I've got to vote for what it is, because I've been accepting the numbers that have been thrown out me all the way through, and I've worked through that. I understand. I think our people have done an yeoman's job in trying to get us where it is at. We all really know some of the basis of the dollars that we're spending right now. These are the hard calls that we've got to come up and we've got to face this year. I think next 12 months, if we start now, I think it will be easier by the time we get to 12 months from now.

President Ertel: Good point.

Councilman McKay: I will speak for the finance committee and chairman Mongold. We have all talked about being very oversight-active this next year. We certainly want to come together every month and we probably want to come together quarterly and have some benchmark discussions and make serious decisions at those times. We certainly are ready, with the administrations help, to make the decisions we need. I think everyone involved in this process is ready to do that.

Mayor Raizk: I would just like to say, I appreciate everyone's comments. I want you all... and I think you do appreciate how hard we have worked over the last three months on this budget. We started this process really at the end of the summer trying to start putting things together. One of the things that needs to be realized is that we do not have an expense problem; we have a revenue problem. The reason why I say that... you say, "Well, you can push and you can cut and you can cut and you can cut." Well, we are at the point where really any further cuts is going to be elimination of what the public and what council and what many folks in the community consider to be essential services. We are a personnel-oriented business. It has been my goal, and with the cooperation of all of the employees of the city of Wilmington, who we owe a debt of gratitude to who have worked this last year without any increase and looking forward that is our plan as well for next year, which is what this is based on. If we go much farther than that, we are talking about elimination of personnel, because we have capped the wages of where we're at. I want people to understand that really is the next step. My goal has been, and I will defend it in any way I can, that we have enough people out on the street. I don't want to put anybody else out there as well. Plus, the fact, we are not an overstaffed organization. The entire city is not an overstaffed organization. We run lean, we run mean, and we are stretched pretty thin. But, that is okay; we have great people and they

do a terrific job. They can do that. I just want to be clear about, as you all look at places or at scenarios, I want to be clear about what those scenarios are really going to take, because any substantive decreases in this budget are going to have to come from personnel decisions. There really isn't – and those of you who have been through with your committees and everything understand that – there is just not really anything extra. There are a lot of zero-items on some of these line items. I want to make sure that everybody understands that. I also want to say historically that while the 25% sounds big, it is not unprecedented. We have never had a budget... and I've been associated with this organization for now 26 years... we have never had a budget that we haven't had carryover as part of the budget. Now, it has been lower sometimes and it has been higher sometimes, but it is part of the budget simply because of the way we receive our revenue. We have had some good times and some bad times – no question. But, the revenues that we have been receiving, while some have been higher others have been lower, and that really is what has kind of been getting us a little bit this time. My goal in working with all of the departments in preparing the budget was to minimize the impact on the carryover as much as we possibly can and to preserve enough to make sure that there would be an adequate carryover to do 2011. Because I'm not just thinking about 2010; I am thinking about 2011, because I agree that it is still going to be tough. It is not a rosy picture by any means. So, that has been the philosophy. That has been what we have tried to do with this budget. I think we have done it. I know there is a \$2 million dollar carryover. I think with some of the revenue projections that David is going to have and some of that, it is not going to look quite as bad as that when we get a little closer to the end of the year. It is going to be less than \$2 million. On my heart, I want to make it as less than \$2 million as we possibly can. I just want to be clear about the process, where we are, and if we go forward... Don's concerns are legitimate. I understand exactly what he is talking about. I want to be clear about where we are on that. It is not a matter of trimming here and trimming there; it is a matter of some substantive decisions if you're are going to try to reduce that budget, and that is going to affect a lot of people.

Councilwoman Peterson: I think reasonable people can look at the same information and disagree. Don, if you have some suggestions, you'll have my support. But, your comment was if we don't do something, we are going to have layoffs. Mine is... I'm looking at it just the opposite... if we cut more, there will be layoffs.

Councilman Wells: You can't overspend year after year after year and not have consequences. I don't see anything wrong with starting the process now of thinking about the future.

Councilman Jaehnig: I agree in regard to that particular statement. One of the things, coming from a business background, one of the things that has always got to be taken into consideration is that it is not just about the numbers on the piece of paper. It is about the effect in the marketability and the feasibility of the city. While, yes, we probably can go through and we probably can cut the \$2 million out of this particular budget, but long-term, if we do that, what type of damage are we doing to the marketability of the actual city? What we can do is bring in new jobs for our citizens by bringing in new businesses and getting back to that stabilization that we are working for. The city has carryover and that is put aside for these rainy day types of situations... these, for lack of a better term, end of the world type problems so that we can use that money to stabilize the situation and get back into a positive growth mode. The loss of DHL put us into that position. As a city councilman, I believe that part of my responsibility is not just to obviously spend money willy-nilly, but to make sure we are spending the money smartly, so that as we have opportunities come forward, we are able to take advantage of them and get these jobs back into the city as quickly as possible and re-solidify our tax base. I don't believe it is as simple as just looking "Okay, we have to have a balanced budget." If we use that simplicity, then I think we are jeopardizing our future. We have to balance the combination of the two. While I don't want to spend any more money than anybody else, I think that is something we always have to make sure we take into consideration. I don't believe we can just look at the numbers.

Councilwoman Peterson: I appreciate you bringing this up, Don. I think these discussions are very healthy.

Councilman Wells: Well I'm not saying that we have to balance the budget right now, I'm just saying I think we need to start the process to think about the future. I asked Geoffrey Phillips on Monday, "Geoffrey, what would we have to do to overcome this budget deficit on the projected revenue." Just real quick in his head, he said we would have to have those thousands of jobs that we lost, and I don't see that happening in 2010.

Councilman McKay: Geoffrey's solution was not to cut expenses; it was to increase revenue.

Councilman Wells: Right. Did I say anything wrong? I'm just saying we need to start a process and start working on this, because it is coming.

Councilman McKay: I appreciate everybody's comments, and I look forward to more creative and fruitful discussions on this topic. I think we will persevere. Thanks everyone. Don, thank you.

Paul Hunter: Don, you can do what the schools have done in the past, which is to have a board – a budget revenue monitoring board -- made up of council members and people of the civilian world to work kind of along council and the finance committee so the people out there know that everyone is working toward the same goal. Not just the inside the city – where we know it all and we want to do it all – bring in some outside people [inaudible for transcription] they know what's going on and any obstacles that are standing in the road. If we have to come to a tax increase, you really got to prepare the people slowly and intelligently, and it may come to that one of these days.

Councilwoman Popp: I just want to say from various budget meetings, I saw the department heads come in and they were so emotional about what they had to do. Some of them did not quite get to where they wanted to get to. They did their very best and they were very concerned that they couldn't cut everything that they wanted to get the numbers to go, but they cut everything they could. The department heads put their heart and soul into the budgets. I am sure that council will move forward and be good stewards of the monies. We will have the carryover and will be good stewards of that, and we will come up with a balanced budget in the future.

President Ertel: Thank you. Are there other comments?

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Popp to give the first reading only on the ordinance Making Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Wilmington, Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2010.

Don Wells voted "nay." All others votes "yea."

Motion passed

President Ertel read ordinance by title only.

McKay requested that the second reading be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman McKay: That is all I have.

President Ertel: Thank you. Water Committee please?

Water Committee – Chairperson Mike Wallace: I was just thinking about the dates. No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Streets Committee?

Streets Committee – Chairperson Peterson: No report.

President Ertel: Thank you. Solid Waste/Recycling?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee: Chairperson Don Wells: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Wastewater/Sewer?

Wastewater/Sewer Committee: Chairperson Mark McKay: No report.

President Ertel: Very good. Thank you. Judiciary Committee?

Judiciary Committee: Chairwoman Leilani Popp: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Safety Committee?

Safety Committee: Chairperson Councilman Jaehnig: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Downtown Revitalization Committee?

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Convener Leilani Popp – No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you. Parks & Recreation?

Parks and Recreation Committee - Convener Mike Wallace: No report.

President Ertel: Excellent. Thank you. Mr. Service Director?

Service Director: Service Director Larry Reinsmith: No report.

President Ertel: Okay. Thank you. Safety Director?

Safety Director – Nick Babb: No report, Mr. President.

President Ertel: Thank you.

Reports:

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to approve the Income Tax Report – November 2009, as received.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as received.

President Ertel: At this point, I would like to open the meeting up to the general public and/or members of council to address council while in session.

President Ertel again asked if anybody else from the public or the council wished to address council while in session.

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

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Jaehnig to adjourn.

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk