

Wilmington City Council met on Thursday, June 17, 2010, with President Pro Tem Sandra Mongold presiding.

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

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to excuse the absent members. Motion passed.  
Absent members excused.

Sgt. Ron Cravens was also present.

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

President Pro Tem – Sandy Mongold: Well, we're very thin tonight.

[Laughter and banter]

President Pro Tem Mongold: We thank you all for coming, and we welcome our guests.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Mead to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, June 3, 2010, as received.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as received.

President Pro Tem Mongold opened the public hearing on the FY 2010 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant.

Whitaker Wright: Thank you, Madame President. Good evening. My name is Whitaker Wright. I'm with CDC of Ohio. This is the second public hearing for Wilmington's 2010 Formula Grant. This is the City's annual infrastructure grant application. This year, the application is a little different than in years past, owing in part to the city's current fiscal situation with the departure of DHL. We have had two projects in process in the last couple of years: one is the rehabilitation of the Little Giant Restaurant's building and one was the repair of a collapsing sidewalk at Mulberry and Main Street by the General Denver Hotel. Due to the current fiscal constraints in the City, the City does not have the funds it had initially pledged to these projects. The City consulted with the Ohio Department of Development and asked if it would be possible to extend those two projects and use 2010 money to complete them. It is an unusual request and it is not one that the Department of Development entertains very often. However, ODOD is well aware of the fiscal situation here in Wilmington with DHL's departure. In talking with the Assistant Chief of the Office, she felt that that was a very reasonable request and a good use of the funds. Consequently, what we will be doing this year with the 2010 funds is we will be spending \$17,200 to add to the original \$40,000 budget, and we will work to complete the Little Giant project. That project was bid twice and came well over the original \$40,000-odd dollar estimate. So, in working with several contractors who had bid on the job, Laura and Larry were able to determine that the additional \$17,200 should be able to complete that project at current prices. In addition, the City had committed \$20,000 to the sidewalk project last year. This year, we will be committing \$25,500 to the original \$40,900 budget. The issue and concern that the City has with the Main and Mulberry project is that no one is entirely certain why the sidewalk is collapsing. One concern is that it may impact the basement of the General Denver. One concern is that there may be a serious drainage problem underneath. The City has consulted with an engineer and got an approximate price for engineering services for the project of about \$10,000. So, the total for the sidewalk improvement project this year will be \$66,400, with the \$25,500 in 2010 funds. In addition, this year the State of Ohio is requiring all CDBG communities to complete the analysis of impediments to Fair Housing. It is a planning document that the State requires communities to write every ten years. Afterwards, it is normally just an update as it is part of the general Fair Housing services. We consulted with ODOD again and asked what would be a reasonable fee that

firms would charge to write an analysis of impediments. We were given a range of costs between \$5000 and \$10,000, and we selected the figure of \$5,000. The City has had, as a part of procurement, its bidder for the standard Fair Housing program, and they have agreed to write it for \$5,000. In addition, we will be using the \$2,500 for the standard Fair Housing program, which is an outreach and marketing for Fair Housing, and then we will be expending \$88,000 on general administration, which covers writing the application, the environmental review and preparing all of the bid documents.

Councilman Jaehnig: Whitaker, I think you just misspoke there. \$88,000 doesn't sound quite right.

Whitaker Wright: Oh, \$8,800. I'm sorry. Anyway, the total budget is \$59,000. I open the floor for questions.

Paul Hunter: The General Denver...has it been determined that it is the General Denver's responsibility? Did they apply for this money or are we doing it arbitrarily?

Whitaker Wright: The City evaluated the project last year and determined that the public right-of-way appears to be collapsing.

Paul Hunter: The street.

Whitaker Wright: No, the curb and the sidewalk between the street and the General Denver is cracking and heaving.

Paul Hunter: But at my home, that would be my responsibility. What is the difference? I'm not saying it isn't, I just want to know why.

Whitaker Wright: My understanding is that when Dave Allen and the Service Department evaluated it, they were concerned about drainage impacting that whole intersection. I am not an engineer, so...

Paul Hunter: Nor am I. It is just not clear in my head why this sidewalk is different than another sidewalk where they have problems with sinking and cracking or whatever it may be. I mean, the hotel has a bunch of nice people; we want it to stay healthy.

Whitaker Wright: Part of the question may be whether or not the substructure of the General Denver – how far that extends out and does it extend under the sidewalk.

Paul Hunter: And when we go in there, which we will have to do before we know [Inaudible for Transcription] it is the property owner's problem, we tell them we determine that from the money that we spend, can we stop spending the money?

Larry Reinsmith: Paul, that first...what was it, the engineering...?

Paul Hunter: The \$10,000.

Larry Reinsmith: We met with CDS and they are going to come in and do some preliminary borings to try to get a better picture of what is down below that surface there. I think that was the problem all along, we didn't want to try to bid it out to a contractor and he not know what is underneath there.

Paul Hunter: So, we are just going for the engineering at this point?

Larry Reinsmith: Well, no, I think it is for the whole project.

Whitaker Wright: It is for the whole project.

Paul Hunter: Oh, the ten million is for the whole thing?

Larry Reinsmith: No, \$10,000 is for the engineering...

Whitaker Wright: Just for the engineering.

Larry Reinsmith: ...and put the specs together and bid the thing out.

Paul Hunter: Why don't you go ahead and tear it down.

Councilman Jaehnig: Part of the problem that we are in at this particular point of the game is that the funds that were appropriated last year for these particular projects. If we don't finish the funds and finish these projects now, the City is going to have to come up with those funds and pay them back to the State.

Paul Hunter: That is for the Little Giant – is that is all it is?

Councilman Jaehnig: No, it is also for this other project. So, we're kind of at the position now, it's like, okay, the state has given us the opportunity to finish without spending City money or to not finish it and pay them back. So, the reasoning on why and what we should be doing seem very clear in regards to what...

Paul Hunter: I served in the Defense Department for many years and the idea was low-ball the project and then congress buys in and says "Oh, it's going to cost twice that much." But we have this much in it, we might as well go ahead with the project.

Larry Reinsmith: The problem is we don't have that pot of gold beyond that. We don't have the additional money.

Paul Hunter: I'm just trying to nose around. If you say we're short on money, is that a good application of it? That's all.

Councilman Jaehnig: Well, we have to give the money back if we don't use it for that particular project. It's not like we can take the money and use it for something else or put it back in the bank. It is not an option. We either give it back to the state or we take the rest of this money and finish the project. Those are the only two options we have.

Scott Kirchner: Whitaker, is that correct? There are no other projects that this money can go to?

Whitaker Wright: Well, if the City does not take the 2010 money, it would have to pay back the 08 and 09. At this point, we did a calculation, and that comes out to... the city would have to return \$14,800 in City funds to the State.

Scott Kirchner: We have already drawn that money.

Whitaker Wright: Yes. Those were funds drawn for Fair Housing, the bidding work, the application, and the environmental reviews on both grants.

Scott Kirchner: So, the sidewalk project specifically has to be completed with these funds or the city has to pay back the \$14,000 they have already poured into the project.

Larry Reinsmith: But those funds didn't go into the project. They went into other things.

Whitaker Wright: Well, they went into preparing for the projects for both Little Giant and for the...

Paul Hunter: The money is just sitting there, right? We haven't expended it.

Whitaker Wright: No. The only funds that the City would have to pay back are what was drawn and that comes out to \$8100 for the 2008 grant and \$6700 for the 2009.

Scott Kirchner: I would say that in support of Mr. Hunter's point, and I believe it was 1995 my 92-year-old neighbor received a letter from the City clearly stating to her that her sidewalks were her responsibility and they all had to be torn out and replaced. I do have curiosity how this sidewalk changes, because property owners are responsible for

their sidewalks, “How did we get down this path?” would be my question to council. The City had no problem sending my elderly fixed-income neighbor a note telling her to step up with her checkbook. Perhaps you could speak to that thought.

Councilman McKay: I would concur with you Scott, except for the fact that we are spending a whole lot of other people’s money to repair a whole lot of sidewalks other than that area and this year, to me, seems a little different because of that.

Paul Hunter: We should have asked the question last year. I understand it is moot now.

Councilman Jaehnig: Well, if you go with that same logic, then we should have turned away the ODOT money for all of the sidewalks that are being put uptown now.

Scott Kirchner: I believe that is a complete mischaracterization of the question on the table here, Councilman Jaehnig. You have a private property owner who is not receiving an investment benefit that was dictated by a state level project, federal level funding. This is a different issue, so I don’t think you can tie the two together. I agree that with the opportunity to replace curbs and sidewalks with federal stimulus money, we were right to accept it. I don’t look at those citizens and say, “They should have to pay.” That money was put out for a purpose. This project, however, is a completely different issue, and the question and concern is going back to the origination of getting into this project and the fact that we will issue to private citizens their responsibility on the sidewalk, and then why not here, because we’re to a point of, “Okay, well we’ve spent so much; now we’re going to have to spend more.” [Inaudible for Transcription] point.

Councilman Jaehnig: And if we were asking the citizens of Wilmington to use their tax money to do that, I would agree with you to a certain point. We are not asking to do that; we’re using grant money. It is not costing the citizens of Wilmington a dime for the particular project.

Councilman McKay: And it is also not residential property.

Scott Kirchner: It is a private business for profit and I would ask, Councilman Jaehnig, “Where do you think those grant funds come from?” They are from the tax dollars paid by the citizens of this city.

Councilman Jaehnig: Right, and the same as the stimulus money. They come from our taxes also. We’re at a point now. We are already in this particular situation, so do we go ahead with the project, which we truly do not know what the problem may be? The problem may actually be a city problem. We are not aware. We are not sure what the issue is and what is causing it. So, do we make the decision to move forward and make the repairs since we have the opportunity to do so, or do we sit there, wait for it cave in, and say, “Sorry, General Denver, it is your responsibility.”

Scott Kirchner: That seemed to be the approach on the sidewalks in my neighborhood. That is why I am asking, what makes the General Denver owners different than the 92-year-old neighbor I had.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Thank you, Scott. Are there any other individuals that have comments.

Dick Unger: I would kind of like an answer...if it is the General Denver’s problem, are they going to fix it or is the city going to fix it?

Councilman McKay: We’ll find out when we vote tonight.

Dick Unger: Pardon?

President Pro Tem Mongold: I don’t think we know whose problem it is yet, do we?

Councilman McKay: No.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Until we do the engineering?

Councilman McKay: All we can do is find out by applying at least a portion of this money.

President Pro Tem Mongold: It could be a city project.

Scott Kirchner: If, in fact, we get to the point where we spend this money and find out it is the General Denver's problem, will the City have to pay back the originally spent money and the money we are about to spend? That would be my question.

Councilman Jaehnig: If we decided to stop the project. Correct?

Whitaker Wright: That is correct.

Scott Kirchner: So it could be that on top of the \$14,000 that we have to pay back, we would also have to pay this money back from the city if it is determined it is the General Denver's problem?

Councilman Jaehnig: If we decided to stop the project.

Councilman McKay: Now.

Councilman Jaehnig: Or in the future. If at any point we decide that we want to stop the project, we can stop the project, but we are going to have to pay back all of the money that we've spent that we have appropriated from the grant or drew from the grant.

President Pro Tem Mongold: In its entirety; is that correct, Whitaker?

Whitaker Wright: Yes.

Paul Hunter: So it must be fixed. Is that what you are saying?

President Pro Tem Mongold: We can't stop it once we find out the problem.

Paul Hunter: If the repair exceeds the amount that is allocated...we don't know, right, the final bill...if it exceeds what money is in the bond, what do you do?

Scott Kirchner: Is there drainage under there?

Councilman McKay: That is what we are trying to find out.

Larry Reinsmith: There might be a storm line. We have two or three storm lines that run like under the Murphy and all of the way through. There could be one over in that corner. We don't know.

Councilman Jaehnig: Unfortunately, one of the things we discovered, Larry, was when we were doing the sidewalks, you know, the surprises we found downtown were astronomical. And that was one of the problems that things got so delayed in replacing the sidewalks downtown, was every time we turned around, we had another surprise.

Larry Reinsmith: We had one pop up today we had at the Pocket Park. You know, we put a hydrant in there a couple of years ago when we did that...

Paul Hunter: So there is a risk that...

President Pro Tem Mongold: Excuse me. Larry, would you like to finish what you were saying.

Larry Reinsmith: ...So, I was going to tell you, we put a hydrant in there, a little water fountain, so that they could water the flowers in there and then that property owner started getting water in the basement and they kept saying it was our water, and so they

wanted the hydrant removed. We kept testing the water and it wasn't chlorinated; it wasn't our water, but we took it out anyway. Today we dug that sidewalk up and they have a big drain coming out of their downspouts and it goes under the sidewalk and it stops right there. So, that water comes down, it flows under the sidewalk, and then it saturates it and it starts backing up into their basement. It was their water. We tore the whole corner out.

Paul Hunter: So, in the final analysis, if the amount to fix it exceeds the amount of the grant, who is going to pick that up? Us? Are we committed to that to complete the project regardless? These are just questions. I want to understand it.

Councilwoman Mongold: It's a good question.

Whitaker Wright: It is a good question. I think at this point, we don't know. As Larry and the councilmen have said, we don't know what the problem is.

Paul Hunter: But, let me ask this again. If we do find out and the repair exceeds the amount of the grant, where does that next batch of money come from?

Larry Reinsmith: The only place there is any money is in the General Fund.

Paul Hunter: Pardon me?

Larry Reinsmith: The only money would be in the General Fund because none of those departments...

Paul Hunter: So we would complete it regardless. If it cost another three or four or five thousand, we would do it, we would be committed to do it.

Larry Reinsmith: If they authorize it.

Paul Hunter: Gotcha. Thanks.

President Pro Tem Mongold: We would have to authorize that at the time, correct?

Scott Kirchner: Is there risk, Whitaker, if this is found to be not a city problem but the property owner's problem, that this all will have to be paid back at the end of that.

Whitaker Wright: The City would have to make that determination. That is a legal question that I can't answer.

Councilman Jaehnig: I think what Scott is asking, is there something in the grant that determines if it wasn't a public property issue, then...

Clerk Laura Curliss: It is in the public right-of-way. You can decide whether you want to fix it or not.

Paul Hunter: It has been a very spirited discussion for a change. Usually, it is a bang the gavel down and away we go. Thanks.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Are there any other comments?

President Pro Tem Mongold closed the public hearing on the FY 2010 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant.

Mayor – In the absence of Mayor Raizk, there was no report.

Asset, Acquisition and Use – President Pro Tem Mongold: We have no report. Auditor?

Auditor – Auditor David Hollingsworth: I have nothing.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Finance Committee – I have asked Councilman McKay to read that since I am acting as President of Council tonight.

Finance Committee – Councilman McKay: Thank you, Madame Chairman. Our first item is a reading on an ordinance making miscellaneous transfers. Are there questions?

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

Motion passed

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

President Pro Tem Mongold requested that the second and third reading be on the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2010, at 7:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

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

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

Motion passed

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

President Pro Tem Mongold requested that the second and third readings be on the Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2010, at 7:30 a.m.

Councilman McKay: That is all I have.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Thank you. Water Committee?

Water Committee – In the absence of Chairperson Mike Wallace, Rob Jaehnig: There is no report.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Streets Committee?

Clerk Laura Curliss: That's Cindy. She may want to announce that meeting.

President Pro Tem Mongold: There is a Streets Committee meeting on July 8 at 4 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. Solid Waste Recycling Committee?

Solid Waste/Recycling Committee: In the absence of Chairperson Don Wells, Councilman Mead: No report.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Wastewater/Sewer Committee?

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

President Pro Tem Mongold: Judiciary Committee?

Judiciary Committee: Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: We actually show two items tonight, Madame Chairman. The first item has been postponed until the July 1 meeting and that is in regards to the Safe Routes to School. The map has been moved onto Planning Commission for their review. So, we look forward to their response in regards to that. It is not on this list, but I believe there will be a Judiciary Committee also next week on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll get that information out. The second item is a third reading on a resolution for the CDBG grant on the public meeting that we just finished.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to give the third reading only on the resolution Authorizing the Submittal of an Application for the FY 2010 Small Cities Community Development block Grant (CDBG) Formula Program and Declaring an Emergency, by title only.

Motion passed

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to pass the resolution as read. Motion passed.

President Pro Tem of Council declared Res. No. 2201 passed as read.

Councilman Jaehnig: That is all we have, Madame Chairman.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Thank you. Safety Committee?

Safety Committee- Chairperson Rob Jaehnig: No report.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Downtown Revitalization Committee?

Downtown Revitalization Committee - Convener Mark McKay – After our spirited discussion last meeting, I think we have seen some improvement in communication. I have been receiving things from Steve Brown and hopefully, even though they may not like the result, all of the merchants do have a better idea of where the construction is supposed to be on a certain day. I think that part of it is going better. That is all I have.

President Pro Tem Mongold: There is a concert tomorrow night, too.

Councilman McKay: Absolutely. Thank you.

President Pro Tem Mongold: In the mural lot.

Councilman McKay: The Third Friday concert. I believe it is Red, White and Bluegrass. I hope everybody can attend. It will be a bluegrass blast.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Parks & Recreation.

Councilman Jaehnig: We have nobody from the committee.

Parks and Recreation Committee – In the absence of Convener Mike Wallace, there was no report.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Service Director?

Service Director- Service Director Larry Reinsmith: Well, I guess I could just reiterate. We have all of the main drags torn up. They have a lot of people working in a lot of different places. I think it is progressing really well now. All of these crews are doing the flat work. We're flying with all of these concrete walks and we're pouring curb on South Street and Xenia Avenue. We're pouring on West Main. It is a little slow on Nelson Road, but they are just about done with all of the curb out on Nelson. We'll be paving that pretty soon – probably in the next couple three weeks.

Councilman Jaehnig: I see that now they are working on the sidewalks downtown again. Are they going to tear them out and immediately start laying downtown?

Larry Reinsmith: I can't tell you that.

Councilman Jaehnig: We need to put pressure on them. It seems to me that it is simple logic. You tear out one side and then you tear out the other and then they come out and tear up downtown so that they can start to place sidewalks right back downtown again. If the continual thought process that you start from one end and you tear all of the way through until you get down to the other end, while that may be the simplest, it is not the most expedient for repairing the downtown or keeping it open for business for the longest period. I would hate to think that they are going to come through, tear up all those sidewalks downtown like they did on the north side and then just leave that area for two to three weeks again before they start pouring sidewalk.

Larry Reinsmith: The one thing on the other side there where the Murphy is, they're not going to tear a lot of the sidewalk out, you know...



Councilman Jaehnig: Correct.

Larry Reinsmith: ...because the basement is so long, they're only going to come in 18 inches. It will be passable. The corners are all coming out and they'll be redoing those. But, they have been told that we want them done faster. The courthouse is not being ripped out because it was just replaced not too long ago. So that whole block there will be unscathed. I think that side is going to go a lot faster and a lot better.

Councilman Jaehnig: Thank you.

Councilman McKay: I haven't seen a lot of the "No Parking" police signs. I haven't seen a lot of barrels. I really think they took...

Larry Reinsmith: They're moving them around a lot. It takes manpower to move them in and out and have the acceleration lanes and all that planned out, but I think they are conscientious of our...

Councilman McKay: They heard what we said.

Larry Reinsmith: ...and they are good. These are two different projects. The South Street Project, they are flying on that project.

Councilman Jaehnig: Yes, they do seem to be moving very fast.

Larry Reinsmith: I mean, they were pouring curb on one side and they were digging out on the other side. They were passing each other.

Councilman McKay: I had a question from a merchant today who asked about working at night. I know they had not planned on doing any of the sidewalk work or any of that type of thing at night. But have they not planned to do the blacktopping work at night?

Larry Reinsmith: Yes. We met with them. The mayor and a couple of other guys met with the ODOT people and a contractor last Monday, I think. Yes, they are going to do the milling and the paving at night – 7 to 7. They said it does bother people. All of those trucks have the warning signals on them, you know, the "beep, beep, beep," but that's not a real bad nuisance. You only hear it for a little while. Probably, they'll do the full-depth repair during the day. They have some bad areas that they will be digging. The concrete work, they just really couldn't do it...you know, you've got to be able to see what you're doing and get the support from the concrete plant. They don't own that. They do own the asphalt plant, but...

Councilman McKay: They can get asphalt?

Larry Reinsmith: Sure. They would love to be working out there in, what is it, 90 degrees out there? Concrete sets up pretty fast, though. That's the good thing about it.

Councilman Jaehnig: That's good news.

Larry Reinsmith: I think in another month, a lot of it is going to be wrapped up.

Councilman Jaehnig: Thank you.

Councilman McKay: I agree with Rob, that we need to reiterate, if there is any way possible, they need to get in and get out of the downtown. And I know they tried to do that last time.

Larry Reinsmith: I mean, they just find so many things when you get under there. We've got current street light wiring below the sidewalk, abandoned street light wiring...they don't what...they start digging in there and get this and get that. They have a lot of roof leaders coming out of there, water lines, gas lines, sewer lines, and lines they don't know what they are.

President Pro Tem Mongold: It sure looks nice what they've finished. Safety Director?

Safety Director – Safety Director Nick Babb: We have a Safety Committee meeting the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30, I believe. Union Township Fire Contract is the only item I know right now that is on the agenda. Am I right on that, Laura?

Clerk Laura Curliss: Yes, Sir.

Nick Babb: That is all I have.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Thank you.

Reports:

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Jaehnig to approve the Auditor-Treasurer's Report – May 2010, as received.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as received.

President Pro Tem Mongold: Do any councilmen or does any member of the audience have anything to say. Please step to the podium and state your name and address.

Paul Hunter: I prepared a magnificent speech for tonight, but with the paucity of audience, I feel that I will save it for a more opportune time. I would like to point out that there are some grievance people, people who have been robbed of their property value in the audience tonight. If they would, hold up their hands. They would like to talk to any councilmen who are interested after the meeting. I don't want to have to bring them back here again. I was approached by another couple that back in 2008 came before council with the same general complaints on Bernice Avenue. I ran into them the other day and the condition is worse than it was in 2008. They gave up. They have given up contacting anybody because nothing is happening.

Councilman McKay: Paul, do these folks all live in the same area.

Paul Hunter: These folks are in Lytle Place that I mentioned the last time I was here.

Councilman McKay: I drove by there the other day.

Paul Hunter: You can talk to them afterward. They don't want to...

Councilman McKay: Thank you for coming and feel free to attend our next Judiciary Committee

[Inaudible for Transcription because of cellular phone noise]

Councilman Jaehnig: ... I'm sorry I don't have it in front of me.

Clerk Laura Curliss: It is the 24<sup>th</sup>. I will tell you after this meeting, Dick, because I don't have my calendar.

Scott Kirchner: 245 S. Mulberry. I wanted to come tonight first and foremost to say very publically that I appreciate very much the fire services that we have in this city. I always have and continue to, as well as the police force. But, this week, I was visited with the opportunity at one of my rental properties where a child with a lighter managed to ignite the property. Fortunately, all individuals got out of the home safe. 9-1-1 was called. The Fire Department, of course, arrived as quickly as they could and did an excellent job of extinguishing the fire, making sure all was safe, and communicated to me, on scene, calling me, when the lieutenant gave my number on my cell phone, to update me on the exact situation. I can't say enough about the risk and the harm that they can put themselves into in these situations and how much I appreciate their service to the city. So, I want to come and say a public thank you for the service that they give, because it

made a difference – a huge difference – to that structure and to the lives that were involved. So, it was appreciated.

Scott Kirchner: It also brings me to another point, and I don't want to diminish that service with this point. I want to be clear that this is a separate point. When the 9-1-1 call went in, I had the good fortune, and all involved had the good fortune, that those firefighters were not on another call, because had they been on another call, the structure was only moments from it getting into the attic and being a complete engulfed building and a complete loss. I bring that up because I know that we have as a city decided to try and balance our budget with the removal of all of our flexible force intermittent firefighters and with the removal of four firefighters from full-time duty. I would ask, Councilman Jaehnig, as the Safety Committee chair, have we had any review of the implementation of that policy and its potential effect to the ability to serve the safety needs of the citizens since its implementation? What is our plan going forward to monitor that? Because one car accident would have meant the loss of a structure here and potentially lost life. So, are we monitoring that risk on an ongoing basis to determine if that method of balancing the budget or attempting to get toward balancing the budget was effective?

Councilman Jaehnig: Correct me if I am wrong, Nick, but my understanding, number one it was an administrative decision, it wasn't an action that council had taken, but our current staffing can handle more than one call at a time. Am I incorrect about that?

Safety Director: Well, it depends on what the call is. Yes, we have five full-time firemen. Scott, we actually lost one full-time fireman per shift, okay? Now, we lost 11 intermittents, not really at the city's choosing. We had, by union contract...we asked the union to forego that so that we could leave the 11 intermittents on staffing and they refused.

Scott Kirchner: I understand. By the way, for clarification, I said we as a city made the choice. I didn't say council did. If you would like to push it to the mayor as a responsibility, that is fine. This council...

Councilman Jaehnig: No, you used the term policy and that is all...

Scott Kirchner: ...This council and this administration as a whole is the representation of the leadership of this city, so that policy stands here as far as I understand. To my knowledge, the Safety Committee has not introduced a move to get those firefighters back on. I do understand the point...a car accident with a fire would have drawn out that force, correct?

Nick Babb: Probably.

Scott Kirchner: And our flexibility, with additional resources to back them up lost in the intermittent firefighters and the four additional full-time firefighters, would not have been there. That is my concern. Last fall, I came before council with ideas on ways to cut administrative positions that had been expanded under this mayor and avoid affecting safety services, and I continue to have that concern. I also know that with those four firefighters and the intermittent force, the entire intermittent force, to my knowledge with still have a very large budget hole. If I am reading this correctly, and Geoffrey, please let me know if I am wrong, in this past month we have seen the General Fund drop by a half million dollars.

Geoffrey Phillips: Correct.

Scott Kirchner: I am very concerned because we are still in deficit spending and don't have jobs returning. How many more safety services will be cut and how much risk do we have to take upon the citizens with those cuts? That would be what I would leave. I realize that council has a lot to deal with in their budgetary issues, but I would be a strong advocate that safety services is by no means the place to initiate the cutting when we have so much administrative overhead. Thank you.

Paul Hunter: I have a question related – does that affect our insurance ranking or rating?

Safety Director: No. That goes by facility and equipment and we have an excellent rating on that.

President Pro Tem Mongold asked if anybody else from the public or the council wished to address council while in session.

Bob Mead: I have a question. Is there anything happening with our house on Main Street that is caving in?

Councilman Jaehnig: Yes.

Clerk Laura Curliss: It's coming down.

President Pro Tem Mongold: It is in your packet. There is a list of what is going to be taken care of this month.

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

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

Motion passed.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk