

Wilmington City Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 4, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. with President Cindy Peterson presiding.

Call to Order

Roll Call: Jaehnig, present; Spicer, present; Stuckert, present; Mead, present; Miller, present; Milburn, absent (arrived at 7:33 p.m.); McKay, present.

Chief Weyand was also present.

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Miller to excuse the absent member (Milburn).

Motions passed.

Absent member excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Moment of silence observed

President of Council

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by McKay to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, December 4, as presented.

Motion passed.

Minutes approved as presented.

President Peterson presented a Notice to Legislative from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a New Permit from GCI Inc. dba Quick Stop Drive Thru, 520 W. Truesdell Street, Wilmington, OH. More information is in the mayor's office. Comments should be directed to the State of Ohio.

Councilwoman Milburn joined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Debbie Stamper presented the 2015 Marketing Plan & Budget for the Clinton County Convention and Visitors Bureau and gave an overview of the economic impact of racing at the Air Park.

Mayor - Mayor Riley - Mary Lou Holdren on Randolph Street puts up an amazing Christmas Disney display. It is ready for visitors. The Murphy Theatre Christmas show will be next weekend. Councilwoman Milburn participates in that. We had an economic development workgroup meeting today. There is good positive news on the economic development horizon, with three very possible expansions that could mean several hundred jobs for the city. DP&L was there to talk about their economic development fund and grants.

Auditor - Auditor David Hollingsworth had no report.

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

Water Committee - Chairperson McKay had no report.

Streets Committee - Chairperson McKay had no report.

Solid Waste/Recycling - Chairperson Jaehnig explained that Council recently approved purchase of a TEREEX dump truck for the landfill to replace a broken truck. He presented legislation authorizing selling the existing truck on GovDeals online auction site.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to give the first reading only on a resolution Declaring Surplus Property, To Wit: Sanitation Department Vehicle Valued

at more than \$1000, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Vehicle, and Declaring an Emergency.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

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

Roll call: Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes.

Director of Law read the resolution by title only.

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

Roll call: Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Res. No. 2390 passed as read.

Wastewater/Sewer Committee - Chairperson Milburn had no report.

Judiciary Committee - Chairperson Jaehnig presented the second reading to authorize an agreement with Ahresty for an enterprise zone tax abatement agreement.

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by McKay to give the second reading only on a resolution Authorizing an Agreement with the Ahresty Wilmington Corporation Providing for a Project and Tax Exemption Pursuant to the State Enterprise Zone Program, and Making Determinations in Connection Therewith; Repealing All Prior Conflicting Ordinances, and Declaring an Emergency.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read resolution by title only.

Jaehnig requested that the third reading be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Safety Committee - Chairperson Spicer had no report.

Finance Committee - Chairperson Miller presented legislation for miscellaneous transfers.

Councilwoman Milburn explained that money was being transferred by the Wastewater Department to pay for the roof repair. Instead of a flat rubber roof, it will be a gabled roof and will have a 30-year warranty.

Clerk Brenda Woods explained that the other transfers were for a variable speed drive and gearbox, operations software and the Ohio EPA annual permit fee.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Milburn to give the first reading only on the ordinance Miscellaneous Transfers.

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Mead, yes; Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5195 passed as read.

Councilwoman Miller introduced legislation for a supplemental appropriation for indigent burials.

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

President called for vote.

Motion passed. All yeas.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Miller, yes; Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes.

Director of Law read the ordinance by title only.

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

Roll call: Milburn, yes; McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, yes; Mead, yes; Miller, yes.

Motion passed.

President of Council declared Ord. No. 5196 passed as read.

Councilwoman Miller announced that the final item was the first reading on the budget. She asked if people wanted to hold discussion prior to voting. Law Director Shidaker instructed that the usual course was to make a motion and then open it up for discussion before voting.

Clerk Brenda Woods explained the minor changes that had been made in the budget document since the last version. There were no changes in the total numbers, just minor internal changes.

A motion was made by Miller 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, 2015.

President Peterson – After our last meeting, I was thinking about the budget process. It seems like we have two separate ways of looking at the budget process. One is making sure that everything is balanced at this point. The other one is more of an evolutionary process as we go through the year and understand where we are to the budget and our revenues and making adjustments. So, what do you do when you're trying to reconcile something? You go to Google. I googled balanced budget, and the answer is, both are valid. There are two ways, and we know this from our home or business budgets. You set a budget and then, as your personal or business revenues go up or down, you make adjustments during that process. I would encourage that we continue to talk balanced budget, not just during this point to achieve that objective, but during the year as we look at supplemental appropriations, let's continue to use that term. I think it is important to consider whether we will finish next year balanced.

Councilman McKay – I think we need not get so hung up on semantics and think about the people that have put this budget together – people who have years and years of experience in doing this and so far have been pretty successful. I am not an expert at this, but I will certainly take their word for this and I will be voting yes for this budget.

Councilwoman Miller – I do agree with you, Mark. They can talk numbers in circles around me and I trust their expertise. I also am holding on to the optimism that the mayor has. I do believe that we are on the cusp for increased revenue. It doesn't really reconcile my opinion on my version of a balanced budget. Mary Kay and I talked and she helped me better understand how it is a balanced budget based on the legislation outlined by Ohio law. I get that. Some of my expectations are not taking away but adding to it, which you are allowed to do. I don't want to get caught up in the semantics of it, but I still don't feel it's my perception or my understanding of a balanced budget. As much as I respect the expertise and experience, I am still likely voting no. I haven't felt the push that tipped me over the edge yet. I'm just trying to be transparent.

Councilman Stuckert – I haven't been involved in a lot of this. I used the notes from the last council meetings extensively to prepare what I want to say. In terms of the balanced

budget semantics, I definitely believe that our objective should be to match our revenue with spending. We already established a minimum target to maintain at least 25 percent. Last week during the comments, it was noted that we never have really had a council vote on what we think about making the requirement that a balanced budget means revenue equals spending. I think we should have that vote as soon as possible. I make that suggestion to Madam Chair of Finance.

Councilman Stuckert – You target your revenue and spending. If you’re having a lot of financial success, you are going to build more than a 25-percent carryover. We experienced that this year. I’m not saying you never spend carryover. If your carryover gets larger and larger, you would think in terms of what the maximum should be. Then you take a look at some of the priorities that were put off. The people aren’t giving us the tax revenues to build up a massive carryover – a 50-percent carryover would be excessive. I would be open to have those discussions if you have a large enough carryover. In the time I’ve been on council that has never been our problem.

Councilman Stuckert - I would like put on the record my sentiments that a balanced budget objective first and foremost is revenue matches spending. This particular budget, to be honest with you, scares the living daylights out of me for several reasons. There was a lot of discussion last week and over the course of the budgetary year about a bare-bones budget. In my opinion, there have not been many real attempts to cut to the bone because I believe that involves more radical changes such as responsibilities consolidated, positions eliminated, etc. The closest example of this in our administration was the reorganization of the Parks Department, which resulted in the removal of General Fund monies from the Parks budget. That came very early and it has been very successful. Normally, I would mention Lori Williams because she has been spearheading that, but there is a Parks Board involved. There were a tremendous number of people in the community who understood what we were saying and who have stepped forward on a voluntary basis to provide all kinds of labor free and actually donate funds to make a lot of things happen. The efforts and success that they’ve had getting grant money is astounding. It fits within what I would call a radical change. It’s cutting part of the budget to the bone.

Councilman Stuckert - We have four priorities that we assign to the General Fund. They are all number one. We have a responsibility to provide for parks. We have a responsibility to provide for the maintenance of our infrastructure, our streets. We have a responsibility to do the same for police and fire. It has been a long, long time since we have properly attended to our responsibility to maintain our streets – having a schedule for repaving streets. This is dangerous and it is going to cause a problem. This year we have allocated \$900,000 to the Streets Department, and we don’t have any of that money going to repaving the streets. I am assuming we took money from our carryover and we did some repaving. I was very grateful for that. The streets that have been repaved are really great. Coupled with the railroad crossing, it is all very close to where I live. We cannot, nor should we, leave streets out of the equation. I understand that dropping of the responsibility for maintaining streets did not begin with our current administration. We have found other ways to do repairs. But, we spend \$900,000 in the Streets budget and we don’t produce any maintenance of the streets. We have also taken on 2.5 miles of responsibility for airport roads, and we don’t have the money for it. I think it’s like owning the Dairy Queen and putting all of your money into the equipment, the personnel, the benefits, the maintenance of the equipment and not producing any ice cream. I think it is wrong. I think it puts a gaping hole in our notion that we are not doing too bad of a job. We have literally 50 percent of the obligations of the General Fund that are no longer being paid for out of the General Fund. We are spending all of our money and we are exceeding the revenue.

[Discussion of budget numbers]

Councilman Stuckert – Based on what was on paper, there was about \$800,000 difference between spending and revenue and leaving our carryover to about \$2 million. That is about one and half budgets away from not having a carryover. I know that things are looking up and I’m happy about that, but we have to prepare for the worst. We celebrate when we don’t end up with the worst. The only way to be budget responsibly is

you have to cover your contingencies. I am concerned that we are going to be adding a responsibility with the cemetery. I know the objective is for it to not be out of the General Fund, but the cold hard facts are if there is not revenue in the cemetery sources of revenue, ultimately when push comes to shove, the money will have to come from the General Fund. We are in a precarious position. I don't feel comfortable with it at all. I understand that the budget is a moving target...but it's moving straight to a financial crisis.

Councilman Stuckert – There was a sentiment that people who feel we need to make changes need to step up and make real suggestions as to what needs to be changed and there is a lack of that. My own personal experience on council has shown that suggestions don't get received very well. Often times they are received with hostility. There are too many times I have heard terms such as “misguided,” “ill-informed,” “they cost more than they save,” etc. I still have the visions of 2012 when council went radical and tried to work our HR costs. That was very, very traumatic to anyone on council. Recently, we had the performance audit. We spent week after week reviewing that and it was all negative. I don't remember how many suggestions were made, and there wasn't a single suggestion that merited any further attention from us. We all signed a letter to that extent and sent it off to the Auditor saying that we didn't think we should have to pay for it. That's the tone that I perceive of what happens to suggestions. I went through the performance audit again and I found some interesting information in some of the charts. Our biggest cost and problem is in compensation. We don't have everyone in the city making too much money, but I do believe we have a problem in the very top – the top ten percent or something like that. Positions, where some of them are serving at the pleasure of the mayor. I saw an administrative salary comparison – I highlighted three of them. This used Municipal League survey and peer cities. One makes 43 percent more than the Municipal League survey and 60 percent more than the peer cities. Another one was 35.5 percent more than Municipal League 39 percent more than peer cities. The other 12.7 and 11.2. This ought to raise a flag for us. We are going to have to do some radical things.

Councilman Stuckert - There was another thing in the audit that I could not get out of my head. That was the suggestion that we seriously consider holding our current step system prior to the labor agreement and making certain adjustments to offset what the performance audit viewed to be a potential for a very undesirable outcome of having people get back on and go to the steps that they would have been on if we had never had a freeze. That, I believe, has actually come home to roost. I appreciate the trouble that the administration went to to give us every single position and the budget salary and the 2015 salary. That was remarkable and had to have taken a lot of effort. I was concerned because we had individuals that had a 51 percent increase by having what I consider to be a faulty step situation with our old step system.

Councilwoman Miller – Not to cut you off, I feel you have a very valid point, but without going into the numbers, let's just assume the numbers are correct. If we take that as fact, what do we do next with it? We are in the middle of a budget and with that information, how are you wanting to move forward and how does it affect the budget as is right now.

Councilman Stuckert – I think it is serious enough that we stop the process and look at it. I don't know where that puts everyone else, but we are talking about at least 12 people that range from 51 percent to 11 percent. The overall across the board increase for all employees was 8.9 percent. I don't know any place, least of all Wilmington Ohio, where you could justify 8.9 percent over a five-year period, let alone in one year.

Councilwoman Miller – So, before you want the budget passed, you would be more comfortable with going back and doing all the step realignment before we even pass this year's budget?

Councilman Stuckert – No. I don't think that is possible.

Councilwoman Miller – I guess my point is, while I feel it needs to be reviewed and I would acknowledge that I am open to that, tonight is 2015's budget.

Councilman Jaehnig- Legally, for employees who are already employed by the city of Wilmington, we can't change the game after they're employed. We can only realign for employees that are hired after the date of the realignment. So, we can't fix what we already have. Even if the audit had suggested that we realign the steps, it would affect none of the employees that we currently have, so it would have zero effect on this budget.

Councilwoman Miller – That is kind of the point that I'm trying to make. Even if all of this was assessed, it wouldn't change the numbers right now that we are discussing. I value your opinion and I'm not saying that it doesn't need to be done. I'm saying how is this conversation applicable to this budget as of right now?

Councilman Stuckert – In my view, it is an emergency. In my view, you put the brakes on because, if we were sitting here with no carryover and we had this exact same situation, we would have no choice. We would not be able to appropriate that extra million dollars.

Councilwoman Miller – Even if I realign the entire steps, it still doesn't apply to our existing employees. It only applies to if we hired a new dispatcher tomorrow. It's not applicable to the numbers that I'm working with right now.

Councilman Stuckert – I see.

Councilwoman Miller – To use that as a roadblock for not moving forward with this budget, it's more like playing a card than actually being applicable to what we are trying to do.

Councilman Stuckert – So, what would you do then, Marian, if we had no carryover?

Councilwoman Miller - I would lay people off. But we're not there.

Mayor Riley – Just three or four years ago, that is where we were. There was minimal carryover...very little carryover. I disagree with you, Loren, when you say that we don't take your suggestions seriously or that they are not well-received. A couple of years ago, Councilman Mead, when he was in charge of the Finance Committee stated that he wanted to see a 25-percent carryover. I took that extremely seriously. In fact, I made that a goal in the budget process, that we maintain a 25-percent carryover. The city budget is not like your home budget or your home finances. Cities need to budget in a cyclical manner because some more money comes in and some less comes in. You try to build a carryover. Twenty-five percent is a couple of million dollars. You try to build that carryover so that when the bad times hit you can get along without shutting down or laying off people. You might carve into the carryover. Right now, the carryover is a little more than 2 million dollars with the budget you have before you. You have approximately 8.6 million in expenses. The carryover is about 2.1 million dollars – a 25.18-percent carryover. The total resources that we have available are 10.8 million dollars. To look at it as just driven by revenue is wrong. In fact, if you look up things about the budget. Even David Yost, our State Auditor, has a very interesting PowerPoint on his website about the budgetary process. In there, he doesn't talk about revenues, he talks about estimated resources. We have to completed a certificate of estimated resources, and that is about 10.8 million. Of that, 25 percent is in carryover. If we cut a million dollars out of this budget, where does it go? It stays in the carryover. That would give us a 41.6-percent carryover, and we would have to drastically slash the services that we are providing. We have been able to continue providing excellent services to the citizens of the City of Wilmington, giving them value on their tax dollars, and still go to 25 percent carryover. That is our goal. If we do have a crisis, we might have to dig into it, but that is what it is there for. To build a 40 percent carryover, would not be using our tax dollars at all. If you look into the taxpayer bill of rights, which was adopted by several states, they are so strict they don't allow a carryover. The certificate of estimated resources is made up of the estimated provided by our Tax Commissioner and looking at projections on property value sources of revenue. All of that is included plus our carryover. My goal next year is to have a 25 percent carryover. Three companies are

looking into expansions. I'm looking at a better year next year. To cut departments – to eviscerate the services that we are allowed to offer – it can't be allowed. You talk about the \$900,000 for the Streets Department. The Streets Department is about a whole lot more than just paving streets. About \$100,000 is spent on salt. When they are not mowing, they are moving snow and fixing potholes. They are in charge of all of the city maintenance. Every little thing that needs to be done, Denny and his crew are all over the city doing it.

Councilman Stuckert – I was not suggesting a 50-percent carryover. I was saying the opposite. We would not allow that to happen. You would have a cap as well as a bottom.

Mayor Riley – You mentioned a couple of times, Loren that we are in a fiscal emergency. We are not.

Councilwoman Miller – Can I take the politician hat off and speak completely frankly. I don't feel like there are sides. We have a whole another year where we have to get along. We can rip each other's eyes out and we can tear each other down, or we can just be "Hey, it is what it is." Being frank and forthcoming, I feel like there is one side and there is another side. I'll vote no. Loren's made it clear that he is a no. I'm making some assumptions. We present a budget, we don't have enough votes, in theory, to override a veto, so we just Ping-Pong back and forth and rip each other apart for the next month. Or we say, "I don't know what the next step is." That is what I see happening with where we are right now, and I don't want to see that.

Councilman Stuckert – I understand that. I want to use this for a purpose. We are going into labor negotiations. I'm telling you, we cannot continue to do that the way we have been doing it. You have mentioned the possibility of passing levies for police and fire. Levies aren't going to maintain because they will be outdated in no time. This is not a one-time deal. This is all going to be spent next year plus the additional ones. It won't be this great, but it's going to be bigger next year than it is this year.

Mayor Riley – What is going to be bigger?

Councilman Stuckert – The salaries.

President Peterson – Unless there is a change, we're married to that.

Councilman Stuckert – Sooner or later, if, if, we reach no carryover, then it's right where I'm talking about right now.

Councilman Jaehnig – I don't disagree with you in the fact that there needs to be radical change, but I think the problem that we are facing, that Marian eloquently put, really is the fact that there is a certain number of us that are willing to look at radical change in one direction and another group of us that is willing to look at radical change in the complete opposite direction. The reality of the situation is what the mayor has been saying the whole time. It's got to be both and it's got to be worked on on a regular basis. There is a simple way to fix it from an extreme on both sides. We could fix the budget by removing a million dollars and slashing services. Boom. It's done. We can fix it by adding a new levy or income tax. Boom. It's done. Those are the two extreme ends. I think the mayor has been fair in saying I don't want to do either extreme. This is what I'm offering as the middle of the road. While we have talked about the fact of there being no carryover and that someday we're going to run out, this is my seventh year on council. Unfortunately, six of my seven years have been after the DHL announcement. I have heard the exact same thing, that we are two years away from being broke, for six years. Now, whether we agree with the way that Davey did things. Whether we agree with the way Randy has done things, the simple reality is that the money people for the City of Wilmington have made it work. Are there things we need to fix? Absolutely. Are there places that we might be able to do a little bit better?

Councilman Stuckert – What are the things that we need to fix?

Councilman Jaehnig – I agree with you in regards with the fact that we need to find more money for streets and paving. I don't disagree with that. I think we need to look at how we can do that. I personally would like to see us do a little more budgeting forecasting on "what are our job numbers?" What could we be seeing in regards to revenues? What does a single job mean to our tax base? We go through the budget process. We get it passed and usually have alienated each other by the time we've done that. By the time we start the new year, we're all tired and worn out. The fire in actually starting to address or pursue some of these things is out of system.

Councilwoman Miller – You're too busy licking your wounds from.

Councilman Stuckert – I'm not licking wounds. I have no ill feelings toward anybody that disagrees with me whatsoever.

Councilman Jaehnig – But you just spent ten minutes talking about it.

Councilman Stuckert – Because I'm making my case. I'm arguing my view, which is what I want you to do.

Mayor Riley – I am very proud that we have fixed the budget. The budget has been fixed through some really hard work by the Auditor's office, the administration and all of the superintendents. We now have a budget that provides services. We were able to give an 8.9-percent increase to our employees who have gotten nothing for the last six years. In the last six years, the consumer price index has gone up over 12 percent. We gave them 8.9 percent. They are still not caught up to where they should be if they were just keeping up to the consumer price index. So, I'm very proud of the fact. I think it averages out to be about a 1.5-percent increase per year, which is much less than what the economy has been doing. I am proud of the fact that we were able to get all of our employees a raise, plus it is in next year's budget, with a 25-percent carryover. I am proud of that. I am proud of the work that Mary Kay, Brenda and David have done putting budget together because it is fixed for next year. My request to all of council, if I can take off my politician hat, is "Pass the damn thing, because it's fixed." This is a good budget for next year. It includes the resources that we have. It includes giving the employees the raise that we have, and it's taking care of the city and the citizens. It's taking care of our number one asset, which is our employees. We are taking good care of the employees who actually do all the work to make this a very, very livable city. I am proud of the budget and I ask you to pass it.

President Peterson – I think we need to go ahead and vote.

Councilman Spicer – This budget, the way that it is presented right now, if everybody votes yes, we still have the 25-percent carryover even with the \$800,000 deficit that we're looking at? We still have the carryover that we want to have.

Mayor Riley – This is not a deficit budget. We cannot have a deficit budget. We cannot spend more than what our resources are. Right now, we have a 25-percent carryover.

Councilman Spicer – We're hearing this \$800,000 that we are over.

Councilman Jaehnig – We are currently at 34-percent carryover. We're spending the 34 percent down to 25 percent.

Mayor Riley – Our goal is to present you a budget that has 25-percent carryover at the end of next year. If you look at the information in your folder, right now, from tax receipts, compared to last year, we are up 10.4 percent over our collections from last year, which is 4.04 thousand dollars. There has been an increase in our revenues. We are continuing to do well. The budget is a very fluid document. As long as we continue to provide excellent services and excellent value to the citizens for the tax dollars that they are paying, I have no problem building the carryover.

Councilman Spicer – I was concerned that we were maintaining the 25-percent carryover and paying the bills. Some of the numbers are not jiving like we would like, but we are

not losing our carryover. I was under the impression we were going to knock the 25 percent down to 20 percent or 18 percent and then next year again, and then two or three years from now we would not have the carryover.

Mayor Riley – We could actually spend another million dollars and still have a 12.17% carryover.

Councilman Spicer – From my perspective, our goal is 25-percent carryover. For me, at this point, if we are meeting our goal and we are paying our bills, that's where we want to be. I still think that we really need to look at how things are done throughout the year.

President called for roll call vote.

Roll call: McKay, yes; Jaehnig, yes; Spicer, yes; Stuckert, no; Mead, no; Miller, no; Milburn, yes.

Motion passed.

Director of Law read ordinance by title only.

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

President Peterson – We will need a special council meeting at the end of the year. This is usually in the early morning. Please let the Clerk of Council know when you are available.

Downtown Revitalization Committee – Convener McKay – We had a very, very successful downtown Holidayz again.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Convener Stuckert – Randi and I both ended up going to the Parks Board Meeting. They are planning for next year already: Easter Egg Hunt next to the library and The Heating It Up Tournament. They are still needing somebody to step up for the July 4 fireworks. They also now have their event forms online. The basketball courts are done, they are working on the benches and they should be done by the end of 2015. They finished with their ODNr grant where they replaced a lot of the fish. They are looking at promoting fishing at the park, so they are coming up with some ideas, especially focusing on women and fishing. The dog park is nearing completion.

Mayor Riley – There is an organization that has stepped up for the July 4th fireworks. They have asked me to not mention their name publicly.

President Peterson asked Councilman Mead if he would like the Cemetery Committee included in committee reports moving forward. Councilman Mead agreed. Mayor Riley said a meeting had been scheduled for Monday with the Cemetery Board.

Service Director - Service Director Reinsmith had no report.

Safety Director – Safety Director Russ Burton had no report.

Reports

A motion was made by Jaehnig and seconded by Stuckert that the Income Tax Report, November 2014, be accepted as presented.

Motion passed.

Reports accepted as presented.

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

Councilman Jaehnig – Thanks to Denny and the Streets Department for the support during Holidayz. I rode the very end of the parade this year. As I rode through town and came upon each intersection and I saw an officer standing at the intersection. Every single officer looked fantastic. Not a one of them was busy watching the parade. Every single one of them was watching for potential safety issues – cars getting ready to try to

breakout and kids running out after things that were dropped in the road. Their attention to detail and focus got my attention.

Councilwoman Miller – I was there with my daughter and that was one of the things that I noticed too. I felt incredibly safe and attended to.

Councilman Jaehnig – Even the police pickup had a Christmas tree in the back of it this year. A fire truck came nicely lighted. We did not burn down any streetlights. We could not have pulled it off without all of the help from the city departments.

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

Dr. Rhoda Zion Alale – Former resident and owner of 1282 Ridge Road. Dr. Alale asked council to make an investigation into recent actions by the Wilmington Police Department SWAT team. She outlined allegations of mistreatment from the Wilmington Police Department SWAT team during recent drug trafficking ring arrests, including entering her home without just cause and without a warrant.

Upon Dr. Alale’s request, Clerk Brenda Woods stated she would receive and date stamp the complaint after the council meeting was completed.

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

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

A motion was made by McKay and seconded by Miller to adjourn.

President Peterson declared the meeting adjourned.

Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

President of Council

Clerk