

A Special Meeting of the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio, was held on Saturday, February 19, 2011, at the City Service Center, 2100 Lagonda Avenue.

Roll Call was answered by Mmes. Chilton, Duncan, Messrs. Martin, O'Neill, and President Copeland.

RETREAT

43-11 The City Commission resumed its two-day retreat.

Finance Director Beckdahl updated the City Commission on the City's current financial condition, stating that his outlook was neutral with some positive aspects. The auditor's results have not been finalized. The City finished 2010 very strong; December was stronger than anticipated. General Fund revenues were \$37 million. The year ended with a surplus of \$800,000 due in large part to the receipt of the electric aggregation payment. January, 2011, shows a \$300,000 increase in income tax revenue over January 2010. Unemployment exceeds 10 percent in the immediate area. It should stabilize and improve as the year progresses. This area does tend to lag behind the national economy.

The City will be challenged in 2011 to fund its initiatives, i.e., road programs. Ohio cities are unsure of the outcome of the Local Government Funds. It would be devastating to have the estate tax eliminated, which would represent a \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 loss. Another challenge is the Permanent Improvement Fund. The largest part of this fund is being absorbed by debt service. After 2012, debt service will drop off significantly. After 2016, it will be eliminated completely. Road salt should not be a concern for the balance of the winter. Decision will need to be made in the fall.

Mr. Beckdahl noted that City income tax returns for individuals can now be filed online.

In response to Mr. Copeland's question concerning the City of New Carlisle's protest of the current Local Government Fund formula, Mr. Beckdahl stated that it is too late to revise the 2011 formula. When the agreement involving the current formula comes up for renewal, New Carlisle's protest will be heard.

Ms. Peggy Howe, a representative of Black and Veatch, stated that the key drivers in stormwater management are that it facilitates regulatory management, supports rehabilitation of aging infrastructure, provides a stable revenue source, helps establish a sustainable program, and establishes equitable and fair cost recovery. A stormwater utility should be created to focus on stormwater management, to implement an independent funding source, and to be sustained through policies, procedures, and ordinances. The funding source for this utility needs to be adequate, stable, and dedicated through an enterprise fund. There should be a fair and equitable relationship between the service provided and the fee assessed. All customers who receive the service should pay, not just wastewater customers. Credits will be made available for customers who manage their runoff. A funding source is needed to address the annual operating costs and necessary capital improvements.

No objections were heard from the City Commission with regard to proceeding with the establishment of a stormwater utility.

2011-2012 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Discussion continued on the goals and objectives of the City Commission for 2011-2012. The following were recommended changes. A final draft would be presented for approval to the City Commission at a later date.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- A. Continue working on extension of services into the CEDA and JEDD areas (e.g., utilities, safety services, land use planning, maintenance, etc.). Consider development of a utility master plan and system development fees. **SAME FOR 2011.**
- B. Continue efforts aimed at redeveloping downtown Springfield, concentrating on **office, medical, and parking** facilities in coordination with the Chamber of Commerce, Center City Association, Wittenberg University, and other stakeholders. **Work to further enhance recreational and cultural amenities along Buck Creek such as bike trails, the whitewater venue, Veterans Park and amphitheater, and the Art Museum.**
- C. Work to develop new industrial sites within the city, including the Lagonda and Sheridan-Kenton areas. **SAME FOR 2011.**
- D. Continue efforts to enhance the image of all major corridors, including the South Limestone Corridor Project, Route 40 East entering the corporation limits, and the area immediately west of the hospital complex. **SAME FOR 2011.**
- E. Continue efforts in developing and marketing the Nextedge technology park; assist in the development of additional industrial park sites; and develop Phase II of AirparkOhio, all in coordination with our community economic development partners. **SAME FOR 2011.**
- F. Create a development strategy for transitional areas in our city, such as vacant hospital sites and South High School (in partnership with school board members) and plan for future redevelopment of these areas. **SAME FOR 2011.**

