

Village Council Meeting As
A Committee of the Whole
February 8, 2022
6:30 PM

At 6:30 PM, President of Council Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Richard Bingham, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer, Mindy Curry, Bob Keogh, Dennis Recker and Louann Artiaga. Also present were the following: Mayor Don Atkinson, Administrator Jordan Daugherty, Director of Public Services Steve Pilcher, Police Chief Mark McDonough, Fire Chief Joshua Hartbarger, Deputy Police Chief Alan Baer, Clerk Susan Miller, and Karen Gerhardinger,

Motion by Richard Bingham, seconded by Dennis Recker to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting. 6 ayes

President of Council, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer asked for Citizen Comments pertaining to Agenda items.

Finance

The first order of business was to continue discussion on Revenue Sources.

- Cut or generate funds
- Most expenses are payroll, not in support of laying off, no one is for cutting staff, looking at needing more staff, voters should have a say
- Income tax A - Capital Projects, Income tax B - General fund, income tax revenue used to be split 50/50 between A and B, it is now split 70/30,
- The Village has done what it has been able to in order to extend not needing to raise revenue, this has been coming, Adjusting the split between Income tax A and B, the JEDD and the JEDZ
- \$2.5 Million budget, 10% \$250,000, when waiting to do capital projects the cost goes up
- Tax was 1% in 1965, went to 1.5% in 1975 and has remained there since, 1.5% is one of the lowest tax rates around us
- The .75% tax credit given to those working outside of the Village is \$588,000
- Sustainability, \$400,000 - \$500,000 needed to stabilize - not to move forward
- School, park, TARTA, Council can raise the millage as long as it all stays under 10 mills, over 10 goes to the voters
- Looking at a package that does what is within Council's power first and then go to the people if more is required
- Whitehouse charges less than surrounding communities, quality of life for residents, removing the tax credit is not equitable as it puts the burden on a portion of the residents and not all
- Potential actions list: How much is 6-8 mills, .75% tax credit, people working outside of Whitehouse still get the services living in Whitehouse, a tax credit is difficult for Bedroom Communities, many more people working from home even though the business is located elsewhere, \$100,000 - .75% credit = \$750
- Maumee, Sylvania, and Perrysburg is 1.5% with a .5% tax credit, they have substantial Commercial bases, Waterville is 2% with a .25% credit

- Timeframe, when could this go on the ballot? When could the Village collect?
- Property tax, Whitehouse gets 6%, 6-8 mill increase would go to Whitehouse only and not be split with other entities, fixed income residents
- Don't wait and dig a hole, plan for the future, more revenue is needed, revenue producing resources, do we want to stabilize or get us where we want to go, long term solution
- The Village has slowed recreation plans and not added to the number of staff
- Tangibly show what money is spent on
- People moving into the Village that never paid into the Village, age demographics from the Census, people on fixed incomes don't vote to raise taxes, Fire Levy was the only levy in Whitehouse
- Municipalities rarely do a general fund levy because they don't pass, People don't vote to raise a general fund, they usually target a specific service
- 57% of residents are under 50 years old, 2.3 are under the age of 60 years, 41 is the median age
- Town hall meetings, providing more information to the public
- Equity was a big topic in the water rate discussions
- More information on these topics:
- Adjust/Eliminate Income Tax Credit
- When will revenues be available
- Increase Income Tax
- Property levy - Police, Maintenance Staff
- Wage study
- Do what is best for the Village, residents and departments, Council has always acted fairly with residents as a whole in mind, transparent and responsible, the Village has done more with less - tune ti beed more, raised the carryover, 2 audits at 99%, every penny has been scrutinized by an army of people, have made wise choices, our roads are the best, the Village looks beautiful, The Village has one of the best teams, they have done an excellent job, and worked to stave this off, it should have happened 12-15 years ago if not for actions of the Mayor, Staff, Council and the Administration
- The Village has done so well, it is the belief they can continue doing more with less, it is time to need more
- 1,800 households

President of Council, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer asked for Citizen comments. There were none.

Other items discussed:

- Sink hole on Cemetery Road from plowing, utility trench filled in with stone
- Amazing job snow plowing, streets were better than other communities

Motion by Bob Keogh, seconded by Mindy Curry to adjourn at 7:53 PM. 6 ayes

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Miller
Clerk of Council