**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Flaute called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Municipal Center Located at 1791 Harshman Road, Riverside, Ohio.

**ITEM 2: ROLL CALL:** Council attendance was as follows: Ms. Campbell, present; Mr. Denning, present; Mr. Fullenkamp, present; Mrs. Reynolds, present; Mr. Schock, present; Deputy Mayor Smith, present; and Mayor Flaute, present.

Staff present was as follows: Bryan Chodkowski, City Manager; Katie Knisley, Assistant City Manager; Mark Reiss, Police Department; Bob Turner, Fire Department; Bob Gillian, Finance Department; Bob Murray, Economic Development; and Mitch Miller, Service Department.

**ITEM 3: EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** There were no absent members.

**ITEM 4: ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:**  Mayor Flaute said there needed to be an addition made to Item 22, Executive Session, to include a discussion on pending litigation.

**ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Schock to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Schock, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

**ITEM 6: WORK SESSION ITEMS:**

1. Pee Wee Football – Community Park Improvements

Mr. Chodkowski said as was discussed late last year with the Parks & Recreation Commission and briefly at the Council level, the Mad River Pee Wee Football Organization has run out of useable room for a lot of its equipment storage and they are also looking at ways to improve the facilities for the use of their patrons. He said they have taken some time to do some preliminary planning and they have a sketch drawing of the proposal they have for the facility in the park which he distributed to Council members. He introduced Mr. Jim Hatton who is the current President of the Pee Wee Football Organization.

Mr. Hatton said he has been a member of the Mad River Pee Wee Football Association for 12 years; his son played there, his daughter was a cheerleader there, and he has served as their President for the last 8 years. He said during that time the restroom facility on the north end of the park has pretty much been unusable space. He said they have tried to use it a few times but due to its separation from their normal area, it was pretty hard to police. He said over the last couple years, they have done fundraisers to raise money to improve the space. He said over the last two years they have also brought in a couple of POD structures for storage and they are now at the point where they would like to do some construction and build on to the facility. He reviewed an aerial photo of the park. He said another thing they would like to get away from is every year they have brought in port-a-johns and for any of you that have dealt with that through the Parks & Recreation Commission, you know what a trial and tribulation those can be at times.

Mr. Hatton said we got together with a construction company and they did this preliminary sketch for us. He reviewed the sketch and said they were going to move their concession stand to the newly constructed part of the facility which will encompass the current facilities and make use of the existing restrooms. He said there will be a storage area and we will relocate and build a canopy on the west side of the structure which we can use to grill and wrap food. He said there will also be a covered area facing the baseball field which they can use during baseball season. He reviewed the area on the aerial photo. He said the proposal tonight is a first phase and at another time when we can save the funds, we hope to build a little larger structure on the south end of the field where the shed is now to house all our bigger equipment such as our mowers. He said we maintain the field area ourselves in season and out. He said we are trying to focus in areas that aren’t well used in the park so as to maintain as much usable area in the park as possible.

Ms. Campbell asked if the park is on a well field. Mr. Hatton said this is an old part of the Air Force Base and there’s an area on the south end of the field that is actually part of the old tarmac. Ms. Campbell asked if they could get a grant to build a new concession stand and restrooms. Mr. Chodkowski said we haven’t been asked to look in to it and Council hasn’t provided any specific direction. Mr. Hatton said throughout the history of the program, the parents and the membership of the board have worked to pay for all the facilities we use at Community Park and we pretty much have a working agreement with the city that we handle all the maintenance on the structures, the lights, and the field and the city pays the electricity for us. Ms. Campbell said she was talking about a building similar to Rohrer Park that would cover everything you need. Mr. Hatton said a structure that large may take up usable park space and he believed the cost of the structure at Rohrer was in the $300,000 range. He said the preliminary price on the proposed structure is around $50,000. Ms. Campbell asked if they were on the well field, wouldn’t that board pay half the cost. Mr. Chodkowski said not necessarily; you have to be mitigating a potential pollution situation and in this instance, they wouldn’t be doing that.

Mr. Denning asked if the building would be heated so we wouldn’t have to winterize the restrooms. Mr. Hatton said our first phase is to get the structure and the electric functional, and then we are going to work on doing that. He said there is a separate shut off to the building so we will probably go ahead and winterize that anyway just for our own protection. Mr. Denning asked if the restrooms will be open to the public. Mr. Hatton said the restrooms will be open during our time of use and if the city was going to have an event in the park we would have them open. He said the problems with those types of restrooms are the kids pack stuff in them and cause them to overflow. Mr. Denning said that was the issue to start with; he’s just trying to make sure people aren’t griping that they still have to use port-a-johns when there are restrooms there. Mr. Hatton said it’s very unfortunate you can’t have a function like that and leave the restrooms open; they were always open when he was a kid and it’s just that things get too much damage anymore. He said we’ve been very fortunate to not have very much vandalism in the time he’s been there. Mr. Denning said it’s an open park surrounded by houses and he thinks everyone keeps an eye on it.

Mr. Schock asked how long they planned on having the POD in the park. Mr. Hatton said once the structure is built we will be able to remove the POD. Mr. Schock said PODs are supposed to be temporary and they’ve ended up being permanent. Mr. Hatton said we met with the Parks & Recreation Commission and the City Manager to discuss the initial POD and we added a second one last year with the agreement that we are in the process of working on a project like this and that we remove the initial POD for a bigger one that we can store items in over the winter until we were ready to move forward with this. He said that was our agreement with the City Manager’s Office.

Mr. Denning asked what their time line was on this. Mr. Hatton said their goal is to have the facility functional for the Family Fun Night associated with TATTOO in July. He said the construction company says the outer building from the time we break ground will be about 3 to 4 weeks. Mr. Denning said essentially, you are putting up a pole barn around an existing building. Mr. Hatton said this will be a stick-built structure.

Mr. Fullenkamp said this will be about a 1,600 square foot structure; why not move all the storage into this building and save space. Mr. Hatton said the storage area in the facility is going to be roughly 12’ by 28’ and the only other storage once that’s done will be on the south end for our tractors. Mr. Fullenkamp asked how big that would be. Mr. Hatton said about the size of a 2-car garage. Mr. Fullenkamp asked why that wouldn’t be included in this structure. Mr. Hatton said cost is one and the other is we will be storing food in this building. He said storage of gasoline/equipment wouldn’t mix well with the storage of food. He said there won’t be much room once this is built.

Ms. Campbell asked what the middle of the park area was being used for. Mr. Hatton said we use that for practice. He said we discussed at one time moving the press box to this side of the field because the press box is not parallel to the playing area.

Mr. Denning said the park lights as well as the street lights are on a timer that’s part of that building. Mr. Hatton said he talked to an electrician on that and we will create an exterior subpanel for that so the city can access the controls.

Mr. Fullenkamp said so the primary driver on this is the existing sewer and electric. Mr. Hatton said yes; a savings of thousands of dollars. Mr. Fullenkamp asked about the area of the footprint. Mr. Hatton explained the footprint of the new building.

Deputy Mayor Smith asked if they decided to go with 2 x 4s. Mr. Hatton said it’s going to be stick-built with vinyl siding and a hip roof. Deputy Mayor Smith asked why they didn’t go with block. Mr. Hatton said the cost would double. He said also going with stick built there is a lot of it we can do ourselves. He said we have people in our organization that can do drywall and things like that to help us out on the cost. He said we also became a 501C3 charity and hopefully we’ll be able to use that to help us out some when we go to get building materials.

Mayor Flaute asked if it just going to be one story and Mr. Hatton said yes. Mayor Flaute asked how much additional space will be taken up. Mr. Hatton said the depth will be pretty much the same; we’ll come out another 10 feet and run the length of the structure. He said there will also be a 10’ by 20’ covered patio.

Deputy Mayor Smith asked what the square footage will be. Mr. Hatton said he hasn’t calculated it but it will 38’ by 35’ and we are encompassing the existing restrooms in the building. Deputy Mayor Smith said there is an inner hallway. Mr. Hatton said all the electric is there and we are keeping that for easier access to service it. Deputy Mayor Smith said if you were to put a block wall between the two storage areas, it might eliminate odors from the equipment and gasoline and allow you to store everything in the same building. Mr. Hatton said we currently use the PODs for the gas and equipment; we go through a lot of food on game days and need the storage. He said we wouldn’t want to risk the potential of having bread that tasted like gasoline.

Mr. Denning asked if they were going to de-commission the existing concessions stand. Mr. Hatton said the existing concession stand is also our press box but all the cabinetry we put in couple years ago will be moved over into the new area. Mr. Denning said temporarily you could use that for your off-season storage. Mr. Hatton said yes; once this building is constructed the PODs will be removed. He said the only time a POD would reappear is if we get permission to build a secondary building to the south, we would use a POD to store our equipment only during the construction period.

Mayor Flaute said we don’t want anymore buildings than are necessary. Mr. Hatton said if we build a secondary structure, we will reduce the size of the press box; there are several different options.

Mr. Schock said there is a building attached to the concession stand; what is in that. Mr. Hatton said that is where we sell souvenir tee shirts, sweaters, and stuff like that. Mr. Schock said it almost sounds like you are dominating our Community Park and in a nice way Mayor Flaute was telling you that you have too many buildings. He said we want to bring it back to a community park where it doesn’t look like Pee Wee Football is dominating it. Mr. Hatton said the land was donated for the purpose of Pee Wee Football and he has the initial information from the Base Commander. He said we are trying to minimize and build in areas that are not utilized. Mr. Schock said again, it was deeded to you guys to use for Pee Wee Football from WPAFB but when they gave the property to the Village of Riverside, you guys were out. He said you had to come in front of me, the Village Council, to actually come back in. He said he knows what the deed says because he has a copy of it; once again, it is a community park. Mr. Hatton said he understands that but he thought you could ask any of the Parks & Recreation Commission members or the city that we work with anyone and everyone as well as we possibly can. He said we opened our doors when they decided to move Relay For Life down there; we make the concession stand available for their use. Mr. Schock said that is our concession stand, Jack Dillon built it.

Mr. Hatton said he understood but when he took it over 8 years ago those properties were almost dilapidated. He said the Pee Wee Football Association paid to redo the concession stand and to vinyl side it because the city couldn’t afford it. He said the siding was rotted, the eaves were rotted, and there were birds going in the building and messing on the equipment; our organization completely refurbished it. He said we’ve had a working agreement with the last couple city managers where we try to maintain everything. He said when an area of the walking track needed moved, we paid for that. He said we’ve done everything we can on our end to eliminate costs for the city and make the area look nice all year long.

Mr. Schock said he commends them for what they do, don’t take him wrong on that, but it is a community park, it’s for everybody. He said the PODs are not setting a good example to the community, if you had those on your personal property you would be cited after 15 days. He said those are taking up parking spaces too. He said the park is used by the community when Pee Wee Football is not using it.

Mr. Hatton said we understand if we build something there it belongs to the city. He said that park is probably the most well used and completely used park in the city; that’s the biggest outreach to the children and their families in this community.

Mr. Schock agreed and said that is why your voice is so familiar; when he has his windows open, he can hear Mr. Hatton announcing the games. He said you are putting core values in today’s children and he loves this idea but he would like to see timelines of when things will be done and when things will be removed. Mr. Hatton said they can do that and as soon as he has the city’s approval, he will go back to his board and they will vote to approve the proposal they have from the construction company. He said the construction company is ready to go and is ready to get permits from Montgomery County. He said once the outer structure is complete, he has a certified electrician that volunteered to do the electrical work and drywall people as well. He said again, their goal is to have the structure functional by Family Fun Night which is in correlation with the TATTOO at the base on June 24th.

Mr. Schock said he would support the project but would like to have specific timelines submitted for a final approval. Mr. Hatton said he understood that and the reason they did a preliminary sketch was they didn’t want to waste over $1,000 for architectural drawings if they couldn’t get the approval from City Council. Mr. Schock said he understood that. Mr. Hatton said the POD will be gone as soon as the structure is built. Mr. Schock said the POD is a sore spot with him and it shouldn’t be there. Mr. Hatton said the only response he can offer is that he cleared everything through the city.

Mrs. Reynolds said Mr. Hatton just said something that concerned her a little; he said they have electricians coming into do the electrical work and since it’s a city building, it must be to code. Mr. Hatton said everything will have drawn permits and will require inspections. He said it is a licensed electrician who is volunteering his time. Mr. Chodkowski added the county will not issue permits until they have validation from us that we have approved it.

Mr. Denning said his concern would be that if 15 years from now a light doesn’t work, the city has the drawings to go to. He said he wants to make sure that’s not an issue. He said he did want to commend the Pee Wee Football Association for raising the money themselves and being willing to put the money out there knowing it’s going to become part of the community. He said they are spending $50,000 for the community if they can put up a building.

Mrs. Reynolds said she understood the Pee Wee Football Association has operated the concession stand for a long time but with the new building she would think we would enter into a formal agreement with them on how the building would be used and the maintenance of the building. She asked if we were prepared for that. Mr. Chodkowski said we have not had a formal discussion with the association but it is his opinion that this project is an opportunity to memorialize what we have come to understand what the agreement is. Mayor Flaute said similar to what Rohrer Park does. Mr. Chodkowski said basically the agreement would involve a couple of different sections; one would obviously be the ownership aspect, while Pee Wee Football does maintain the structures they understand that those are ultimately the property of the city. He said the contract would say they operate and maintain the structures and in the event their organization should ever become defunct, the structures become ours. He said the agreement would require them to maintain insurance with the city as a rider; it would address some minor service issues such as the restrooms and the concession stand – they would be the primary operator but in the event the city needs to use the structure, we would have access to it.

Mayor Flaute asked if there was any promotional dollars coming to the organization would those come to the city. Mr. Chodkowski said we would stay out of it; all we are is the physical owner of the property. Mayor Flaute said what if there is advertising we wouldn’t approve of. Mr. Chodkowski said any organizational signage has to be approved by the city and being a 501C3, they can’t post personal profit; any funds they would make would have to be reinvested in that organization. He said if that helps keep Riverside kids playing football and helps them raise money faster, he really didn’t think the city needed to get into their operational accounting.

Mayor Flaute asked if the electrical needed to be upgraded. Mr. Hatton said we aren’t sure and he thought that was something they would find out during the permitting process. Mayor Flaute said we have DPL Representative Mike McKinney here so be sure you get his card before you leave.

Mr. Hatton said one point he wanted to address, and they do understand it is a city structure, but the only thing they ask is that if someone does need to access or to use the structure for something they be notified so one of our people can be there. He said we do have thousands and thousands of dollars invested in our equipment.

Mayor Flaute asked if we had a lighting agreement with DPL now. Mr. Chodkowski said yes; that meter is billed to the city. Mayor Flaute said we have an agreement with Pee Wee Football on how that all works. Mr. Chodkowski said we do have a verbal agreement and as part of this project we will formalize that. He said the simple version of that is we pay the bill and they do the maintenance; typically it is a wash.

Ms. Campbell asked if they had insurance. Mr. Hatton said yes; he just dropped off the policy to Mrs. Knisley today. He said they have insurance on all the structures and the equipment as well as liability insurance.

A motion was made by Mr. Denning to approve the Pee Wee Football Association moving forward with their plan and that they will give us a timeline as soon as they can. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion.

Mayor Flaute asked if this would take legislation. Mr. Chodkowski said to approve the agreement will take legislation.

Mr. Hatton asked what exactly they were looking for in the timeline so he’s sure he brings them what they want. Deputy Mayor Smith said start to finish and Mr. Schock said what is being removed. Mr. Denning said he would like to see a date and what is going to happen followed by another date and what is going to happen, all the way through the process including dates you expect to pull permits and move equipment. He said just so we know what’s going on so we can answer questions when we are asked. Mayor Flaute said he thought the Parks & Recreation Commission should also see the timeline.

Mr. Fullenkamp asked if they could go with Riverside blue somewhere on the building. Mr. Hatton said the plan was gray to match the other buildings.

Mrs. Reynolds said she wanted to make sure everyone understood it will take a little time for our attorney to write up the agreement and for the Pee Wee Football Organization to review it. Mr. Hatton said from what he understands from Mr. Chodkowski the agreement is just going to be a memorialized version of what we are working under already and we are pretty comfortable with that.

With no further discussion, a roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Mr. Schock, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

1. Discussion: Budgetary Forecast

Mr. Chodkowski said in preparation for this and as was previously mentioned, the Mayor wanted to make sure time in the work session was utilized to discuss some broader and more complicated issues. He said one of those is the budget and we’ve forecasted for the last two years that mathematically at some point in time our ongoing expenses will exceed our ongoing revenues. He said part of that is Governor Kasich has stated he is going to balance the State budget which will reduce the Local Government Funds. He said they have projected a 50% reduction over a two-year period and that will mean a $260,000 loss of annual revenue for the city. He said in addition to that, it looks like Estate Tax is a hot topic and it looks like that will be repealed in 2013. He said we average about $64,000 per year from that.

Mr. Chodkowski said there is also the issue of property values and Karl Keith has already made an announcement in his last newsletter that they are anticipating a devaluation of 1% to 5% in existing property values which means revenues are going to go down from 1% to 5%. He said he is conservative in his calculations so on the high side that would be another $160,000 loss annually.

Mr. Chodkowski said we obviously have some operational matters that need to be resolved and one of those relates to staffing. He said we currently have several positions through attrition which are vacant and remain unfilled but at some time will need to be addressed. He said in addition to that there are capital needs throughout the city we are all aware of and there will be capital equipment needs cropping up shortly.

Mr. Chodkowski said being that he wants to make sure we are moving forward in the right direction; Council needs to think about what it foresees as our response to fiscal policy, so that he can make the appropriate decisions and recommendations to Council related to capital needs and capital infrastructure and so that he can make the appropriate decisions related to personnel. He said he doesn’t expect Council to make any decisions tonight but he definitely wanted to get the information in front of them to look at and make suggestions.

Ms. Campbell said when the budget was made it was based on a $4.0 Million bank balance. Mr. Chodkowski said when we prepared the budget in October we projected we would spend the money that you approved us to spend and we estimated starting 2011 with a fund balance of $6.5 Million. He said on January 1, 2011 the fund balance was $8.0 Million; we estimated it would be $6.0 M but it was $8.0 M. Ms. Campbell said first we were told it would be $4.0 M, then we were told it was $6.0 M, and now it’s $8.0 M. Mayor Flaute said he always thought it was $6.0 M. Mr. Chodkowski said at the time we were preparing the budget, that’s what the numbers were telling us it would be, but because we didn’t need to spend extra dollars to repair equipment that we thought could fail, the number came in higher.

Ms. Campbell said there’s no income tax growth forecasted from new businesses. Mr. Chodkowski said at this time we aren’t projecting any because the information we are getting is telling us the economy is not growing at a rate worth charting. Ms. Campbell said we aren’t going to have any new business in the Center of Flight. Mr. Chodkowski said that he can’t say but to the extent it would have any significant impact on our budget in the next 18 months the answer would be no. He said when forecasting, we try to maintain the self-sufficiency on what currently exists so when we see development in the Center of Flight or when we see growth in other areas, that money would become available to be proactive in addressing issues.

Ms. Campbell said there’s no money for Council projects such as street paving or storm water flooding issues. Mr. Chodkowski said we did not program dollars for that purpose this year, however, we did have some preliminary discussion in relation to his evaluation that when ISSUE II dollars came about, we would have that discussion and in the event Council would authorize an ISSUE II project there would be a budget amendment to proceed. He said when we discussed capital improvements in November, we estimated a mill and fill for Harshman from Meijer to Route 4 would cost roughly $1.4 M and we recommended that in order to get the grant, we would have to contribute more than the minimum 10%. He said we recommended just over 50%. He said since the time we prepared the budget fuel prices have increased 38% and since asphalt is petroleum based product, you can add 38% to the cost of the project; so the estimate we gave Council is no longer valid.

Deputy Mayor Smith said so the conversation we had last month in reference to stimulating growth in the city, we might want to pull back the idea because of the forecast on the funds. Mr. Chodkowski said Council has to set that priority and he has done his best to spend the front side and the back side of the dollar; unfortunately there’s no middle to spend. He said we are coming to the point where priorities are going to have to be established and they are going to have to be held to because that is going to significantly influence our forecasting. He said that is what he is asking Council to begin to consider. He said there is some money for capital improvements but there isn’t enough to do all the capital improvements we need. He said we are going to have to triage these and he needs direction from Council.

Ms. Campbell said we are always going to be told there is no money and there’s no indication of how our deficit will be in 2017. Mr. Chodkowski said the number he gave Council is based on current projections and on December 31, 2017 there will be $130,000 left in the bank and that is not enough to sustain operations beyond that day. He said idealistically we want to solve our revenue issue through growth but we have 25 other competitors wanting to do the same thing in Montgomery County. He said we are also competing with Greene County. He said while growing business is the best course of action, at this point a great deal of economic development is simply economic retention. He said that is what we need to focus on and understand it is the reality in the current economic situation. He said do we reduce expenses, but that will impact service; do we increase revenue, but that will require changes in the tax structure; or do we provide a combination of both.

Ms. Campbell said she thought we had already reduces expenses. Mayor Flaute said we did but the next budget is going to come up. Ms. Campbell said it was based on $4.0 M. Mayor Flaute said that is a decision we have to make; if we want to go into the $8.0 M. Ms. Campbell said if we are making it on $4.0 M, then we just stay on that level. Mayor Flaute said we would have to go without a Fire Chief and we would have to go without an Assistant City Manager. Ms. Campbell said we don’t have to have an assistant manager. Mr. Chodkowski said whatever you want to title the position, the position performs work, so at some point in time we are going to divide the work and manage it as best we can, but the functions have to be performed by someone. He said with Mrs. Knisley leaving, do we necessarily need an Assistant City Manager; maybe not which would be a savings to us in dollars, but the work still needs to be performed. He said she has functions related to Human Resources and functions related to communications so those all have to be picked up by someone.

Ms. Campbell said so what are we going to cut. She said we made a promise to the community. Mr. Chodkowski said regarding the Police Levy, one of the things we promised the community was that we would maintain 27 sworn personnel to enforce the law within the city. He said when we made that promise to the community the circumstances were significantly different than the circumstances that exist today. He said that promise and commitment to the community was made at the high cycle of the economy before the mortgage meltdown. He said immediately thereafter, projected revenues came in below estimate because people were simply not paying their taxes. He said now property values are going to decline. Ms. Campbell said was that indicated anywhere; the word was given, did we say “unless”. Mr. Chodkowski said no, we did not caveat the promise but he would like to believe that the citizens of this city would understand in the event that promise had to be broken. He said it’s not something we would want to do; it would be a last resort. He said we continue to maintain that promise; there are indeed 27 sworn personnel employed by the city.

Mayor Flaute said we asked the City Manager to give us a budget that was balanced but he probably can’t do that next year. Mrs. Reynolds said yes he can. Mayor Flaute said we would have to go into the $8.0 M and we have to make that decision. Ms. Campbell said she is not saying to go into the $8.0 M; what she said is if we maintain the budget that was based on $4.0 M we will stay ahead of the game. Mrs. Reynolds said she did base her figures on $4.0 M. Ms. Campbell said this is the first Council has heard about $8.0 M. Deputy Mayor said he thought it was $6.0 M. Ms. Campbell said exactly.

Mrs. Reynolds said she didn’t think they needed to start out any budget discussions saying they can’t balance the budget because they can. She said there is a cost to doing business everyday and the City Manager needs direction. She said he wants to know which way to go and how to get this city where the current leadership determines is the best place to be. She said that’s what we are looking at in this document; we pulled funds back because we need to assess where we want to be and we know we have capital items we need to purchase. She said we are at a point just like every other city where we are going to triage; put a Band-Aid on what we can and buy what we can buy. She said that’s her approach. She said she realized we need a Fire Chief and she understood Ms. Campbell’s concern with our promise to the community when we sought the levy the last time but she also understands that this community knows these are difficult times we have not faced in the past. She said we have maintained a safe community and she thought we would be able to maintain that even with 3 or 4 fewer employees on the street if we had to do that. She said as much as she appreciates everything Mrs. Knisley has done for this city in the past; everybody is going to have to pick up the slack because that is a savings of $70,000 with benefits. She said we have to look at those things and be willing to sacrifice. She said she doesn’t like having to do these things but when you see Local Government Funds being cut and real estate tax cuts, it ultimately goes back to personnel. She said we have to look at doing the best we can.

Mr. Fullenkamp asked what increment of revenue would make us healthy. Mr. Chodkowski said based on projections and forecasting we put together prior to Governor Kasich’s pledge and its impact, our estimate was $750,000 more annually would provide us a comfortable cushion to allow us to operate at a level we felt was appropriate with some additional dollars available. Mr. Fullenkamp asked if that would take care of some of the road issues and capital equipment needs. Mr. Chodkowski said that would cover all our operational issues and would make available some funds for capital. He said our plan was, as debt is paid off in the next two to three years, we would reassign those funds to cover equipment and infrastructure. He said there would be a capital fund built with about $100,000 to $120,000 per year. He said large scale capital items haven’t been discussed in depth; possibilities exist for more millage, there are assessment programs, and other different ways capital items can be addressed. He said since we hadn’t addressed operational needs, we did not spend extensive time on capital needs.

Mrs. Reynolds said if we looked at a levy piece of ½ mill just to address roads, how much would that generate. Mr. Chodkowski said 4.95 brings in $1.2; a ½ mill would bring in about $250,000.

Mr. Schock said we could look at increasing our income tax by .5% and taking 2 mills off the property tax. Mr. Chodkowski said that was an estimate staff prepared as part of the survey and that millage is related to the EMS/Fire Department millage that goes back to the 1970s and has never been renewed. He said it is pennies on the dollar. Mr. Schock said to him that sounds more feasible to get a dollar value out of; what the retired person would gain from a 2 mill decrease and put the .5% on the working stiff out there. He said to him it would generate more revenue and more millage will hurt the retirees. Mr. Chodkowski said in late 2007, we identified the fact that a .5% increase in income tax would provide sufficient revenue but we didn’t begin factoring in a potential reduction of millage until late 2009. He said there is a little room in there depending on how you want to lump them together. He said in relation to income tax, we have the lowest income tax of any community which levies that in Montgomery County. He said it is safe to say that if an income tax increase was recommended and was Council approved, it would probably affect 15% to 20 % of our total population because those folks are already working in communities that have a greater income tax than we already levy. Mr. Schock said he thought this was something Council should consider.

Mr. Denning asked Mr. Chodkowski to find out how much per year the city would get from a .5% increase in income tax. He also asked if we could levy a .5% sales tax and Mr. Chodkowski said no.

Mr. Schock said on House Bill 153; does anyone from here or First Tiers plan to go to Columbus to protest the severe cuts Governor Kasich is proposing. He said Governor Kasich is trying to balance the budget but in his opinion, Governor Kasich is being too harsh. He said there needs to be a long term program because the cities have been bottle-fed from the State and the Federal Government and if you cut off the milk real fast it will make us struggle.

Deputy Mayor Smith said lets not sugar-coat this; Governor Kasich is cutting back the money given to the cities and the townships in due respect to the frivolous spending the State has done over the years and we are the ones who are paying for it.

Mr. Chodkowski said whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, a Citizen, or a City Manager; this is a topic that can be discussed indefinitely but he wanted to make sure this information got before Council. He said there is some really good time coming up in May to discuss the information during a work session.

Mayor Flaute said is this something we want to continue to discuss. Council members agreed they need to discuss the information. Mr. Denning said they will probably start working on the next budget in August, so they will need direction from us soon. Mrs. Reynolds agreed and said let’s see our first projections in June.

Mayor Flaute said is it Council’s wish that when we have a half hour or so we discuss the budget. Mr. Schock said he thought once a month. Mr. Chodkowski said if it pleases Council, he would like to discuss what the priorities are as far as operational needs and personnel that we have to have. He said he thought Acting Chief Turner would say we have to have a Fire Chief sooner rather than later. He said we also need to identify what our personnel needs are because those needs are ongoing and will obviously impact what our deficit projections will be and how long we can sustain those operational deficits. He said he thought it would drive the discussion for Council as far as capital equipment and infrastructure. He said once those needs are determined that will tell us where we have to look for revenue or a combination thereof.

Mr. Denning said once we get the report from Forest City, it may tell us where we should focus, such as if we really want this to happen, we need to fix Harshman Road or you need to fix Springfield Street, etc. He said that may give us some direction. Mr. Chodkowski said there are several things coming up that could foster the discussion one way or the other.

**ITEM 7: RECESS:** The Council took a recess 7:34 p.m.

**ITEM 8: RECONVENE:** The meeting was reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

**ITEM 9: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Schock led all those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Flaute said on April 12, 2010 our Mayor Johnie Doan died in office; he asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Johnie.

**ITEM 10: MINUTES: Consider approval of the minutes of the March 17, 2011 Council meeting.** A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Mr. Schock, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

Mr. Schock left the meeting due to illness.

**ITEM 11: COMMUNICATIONS:** There were no communications.

**ITEM 12: PRESENTATIONS:**  Proclamation: Mad River Local Schools

Mayor Flaute asked Mr. Lou Cramer from the Mad River Schools to come forward.

Mr. Cramer said he was very happy to be here and appreciated Council’s invitation. He said we recently received some good news coming out for our report card which will be released in August; the State of Ohio considers all the data preliminary until it is publically released but due to a large number of requests, they released graduation rates. He said our graduation rate will eclipse 90% this year which means 9 out of 10 of our students will graduate on time in our district. He said that is the highest it has ever been and the first time we have met our graduation benchmark for the State. He said just 15 years ago the district was graduating just 6 out of 10 students so it really demonstrates a 15 year improvement trend. He said, as he communicated to Mayor Flaute, strong schools are a contributor to a strong community and it’s a reciprocal relationship. He said he wanted to share the information with Council and on behalf of the Superintendent and Board, we appreciate the recognition.

Mayor Flaute asked Mr. Cramer about the Mad River Education Advancement Program (MREAP). Mr. Cramer said the advancement program was a pilot program we started about 18 months ago for at-risk seniors and it started out small with just 13 students. He said the district had come very close to the 90% graduation rate for 2 years, just about 10 students shy; with the program we designed something flexible and incorporated some curricular software that allowed the students to work at a quicker pace to earn their credits. He said we started the program in January of last year and had students that wouldn’t have been able to graduate with their same age peers. He said the program was successful and we found the number of graduates involved in the pilot was what actually pushed us over the 90% benchmark.

Mr. Cramer said there were a lot of things that went into reaching the benchmark, absolutely things that happened at Stebbins, the advancement program that started and still continues; and our expansion is something we are proud of as well.

Mayor Flaute presented a proclamation in recognition and congratulations of Mad River Local School’s achievement – a 90% Graduation Rate.

**ITEM 13: ACCEPTANCE OF WRITTEN CITIZENS PETITIONS:** Mayor Flaute advised citizens to fill out a form if they wished to speak about agenda or non-agenda items.

**ITEM 14: PUBLIC HEARINGS:**  There were no public hearings.

**ITEM 15: CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:**

1. FYI Items
2. Council Request Sheets.
3. Council Agenda Calendar.
4. Weekly City Manager’s Report.
5. Minutes of the February 22, 2011 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.
6. Minutes of the January 25, 2011 Planning Commission meeting.
7. Minutes of the February 24, 2011 Health & Safety Commission meeting.

Mr. Chodkowski said you have my report and he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Fullenkamp said on Item 7 of the weekly report regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation, could Mr. Chodkowski discuss that a little further. Mr. Chodkowski said in the last two weeks he was approached by Dayton City Manager Tim Reardon and the Public Service Department was approached by their counterparts from Fairborn regarding ways in which we might be able to work together to facilitate improved service without generating costs. He said one of the things he and Mr. Reardon talked about were intergovernmental cooperation regarding infrastructure maintenance; there are several places where you leave Riverside, go into Dayton, then back into Riverside, and visa-versa. He said we already have an agreement in place regarding plowing snow. He said we also talked about working together on criminal investigations. He said previously we talked about AMARS – Automatic Mutual Aid, so when an accident might happen in Dayton, we might be the closest apparatus so rather than call Dayton and wait for Dayton to call us, dispatch would just call us. He said those are some of the things we talked about and whether that facilitates any further discussion, he didn’t know. He said most of the communities south of Dayton belong to the Miami Valley Communications Council and they successfully negotiated a DPL Energy Purchase Contract, so he and Mr. Reardon discussed getting together with some of our counterparts in the north to see if we could form a similar organization.

Mr. Chodkowski said with respect to the Public Service Department, Mr. Miller had discussions with Fairborn and they were talking about a cooperative sharing of equipment. He said we are going through our inventory of equipment; what we have and what they have. He said they don’t have a dura-patcher but they have a crack-sealer, so why can’t we send our guys to work there for a week and they send their guys to work here for a week. He said it would mutually address issues without adding cost for equipment we don’t use on a regular basis.

Mr. Chodkowski said although the discussions were preliminary, he thought the discussion with Mr. Reardon was something that would grow over the next several months as opposed to the discussion Mr. Miller had with his counterpart in Fairborn which he thought was something more obtainable in the short term.

Mayor Flaute said he would very much encourage that they keep up those discussions, especially with the road maintenance; there are so many things he thought could be done and he really supports that.

Mrs. Reynolds said going along with Mr. Fullenkamp’s question, would Mr. Chodkowski share with the public the reasoning behind a supposed bucket truck purchase to clarify the confusion. Mr. Chodkowski said Huber Heights has a bucket truck they recently declared surplus and was selling for around $5,000. He said the reasons he did not authorize its purchase were: first, we don’t frequently use that apparatus and it would have value to us maybe two weeks out of the year; secondly, because of our limited storage space it would have to be stored outside and maintenance on the hydraulics and electronics would be substantial based on previous experience with that type of equipment; and lastly, our financial condition – we would very much like to have that type of device but because of the infrequent use, it didn’t seem like a justifiable expense. He said we do have the ability to borrow a bucket truck from a counterpart or rent similar equipment if needed. Mrs. Reynolds said she appreciates that because there was some community talk and we needed to get that out. She said we are not putting anyone in jeopardy of being injured by not having that truck; correct. Mr. Chodkowski said correct.

Mrs. Reynolds said she is so appreciative of the work that is going on at Law’s Trailer Park; they have taken the front row almost completely out and it has given our community an idea of what it’s going to look like very soon. She said she knew Mr. Chodkowski had spoken with the contractor about doing that and she appreciates that very much; the community deserves that and needs to see that we are going to make it look good.

Mayor Flaute thanked Chief Turner for the EMS statistics. He said it was very interesting and asked Mrs. Reynolds if it was the information she was looking for. Mrs. Reynolds said yes; it looks at the age of our community and the services provided. She said just to know there are members of our community that are age 95+ was good information and we are servicing our community. She said it went along with information she requested for some of our elderly community that were concerned service might be interrupted to them by servicing the bike path. She said she was able to share the information and they appreciated knowing our seniors are very well taken care of. Mayor Flaute thanked Mrs. Reynolds and said the report was very informational.

**ITEM 16: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no public comments on agenda items.

**ITEM 17: UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**  There was no unfinished business.

**ITEM 18: NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **ORDINANCES**

# RESOLUTIONS

* + 1. **Resolution No. 11-R-1546 setting forth appointment of Francesca Hary to the Personnel Appeals Board for a three year term beginning April 7, 2011 through April 6, 2014.**

Mr. Chodkowski said this resolution is brought forth pursuant to Council’s request.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 11-R-1546. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

**b. Resolution No. 11-R-1547 authorizing the Riverside/WPAFB Relay For Life Committee to place temporary promotional and directional signs in the public right of way under certain terms and conditions.**

Mr. Chodkowski said this resolution is brought forth to authorize placement of signs in the right of way by the Riverside/WPAFB Relay For Life Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 11-R-1547. Mr. Fullenkamp seconded the motion.

Mayor Flaute said the placement of the signs just states they will be in the general areas of Woodman and Springfield. He asked if that was the way we have been wording it. Mr. Chodkowski said typically the signs are in the area of Airway and Harshman or Airway and Spinning or etc. He said it does not invalidate the legislation just because there are not specific locations listed.

With no further discussion, a roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

**c. Resolution No. 11-R-1548 by the Riverside City Council authorizing the assessment of delinquent charges for the cutting and removal of weeds, vegetation and/or grass to be placed on the Montgomery County Tax Duplicate.**

Mr. Chodkowski said this legislation is to authorize assessment of delinquent charges for nuisance abatement.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 11-R-1548. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

**d. Resolution No. 11-R-1549 by the Council of the City of Riverside, Ohio advancing $124,000 from the General Fund to the CDBG Fund.**

Mr. Chodkowski said this resolution is brought forth by the Finance Director to advance funds to the CDBG Fund until such time as those funds are reimbursed to the city.

A motion was made by Mrs. Reynolds to approve Resolution No. 11-R-1549. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. **The motion passed.**

**ITEM 19: REPORTS:**  There were no reports.

**ITEM 20: PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**  Mr. David Cole of 1278 Sanford said the Riverside Festival Committee had their first meeting the other night and we’ve decided to go ahead and try it again. He said with availability of money and sponsorship having the festival was up in the air until last night. He said the dates will be August 26, 27, and 28 and the location is Shellabarger Park. He said we will have a carnival, petting zoo, collectables, and stuff we had last year but we are always looking for something new.

Mr. Cole said we found some entertainment but we are always looking for something better; we tried wrestling last year, it was fun but they are asking for more money this year and we had to cut them. He said if anyone has any ideas get in touch with Brenda Long at 245-9478 or Georgette Doan at 258-8017. He said we are going to ask for some continued support from the city; blocking off streets, help from the Service Department, etc.

Mayor Flaute asked if they were still going to have the dog show. Mr. Cole said yes, and the Little Miss Riverside Pageant, a huge Car Show, a Corn-hole Tournament, and a Parade. Mayor Flaute said he thought Council should form a team and he thought this was exciting for the community. Mr. Cole said we are a small town and it’s barely affordable but we’re going to give it another shot. He said he looked forward to it and he is going to give it his best effort.

Mr. Cole said the second item he had was, he was reading through the minutes and there was a short discussion by Council about being on boards and commissions. He said it was a valid conversation but at some point it came up that maybe some of the commissions spent a little time zigzagging through a meeting and maybe the meetings weren’t as constructive as they could be. He said he was a little offended by that at first and he thought about it for another second and he absolutely agrees. He said look at what happened at the first half of the meeting here tonight; you get sidetracked and what should have taken 30 minutes takes an hour. He said he understands that and along that line he realized he had to do a better job.

Mr. Cole said he was going to ask Council to do the same; we have a million dollars worth of brains here and he expects them to do a better job. He said he would be here every week until he sees it. He said there is very little crime so the Police are doing their job; we have very few fires – it’s either prevention or we’re doing a really good job; the City Manager is doing a good job; the finances are working; he realizes how hard it is for economic development but we’re not doing any worse than anybody else. He said it’s a challenge and it wasn’t until someone brought to his attention that he wasn’t being as effective as he could be and when he thinks about a million dollars worth of brains, he expects more. He said you guys aren’t doing a bad job but he expects better.

Mr. Cole said maybe the commissions do need more direction because they don’t want to waste time chasing their tail on a subject Council isn’t interested in. He said there are more and more people in this room that are looking to the Council for guidance. He said the Parks and Recreation Commission spent 12 months building a list of priorities for the parks and nothing happens. He said you recently worked around the BZA regarding cemeteries and that’s the kind of stuff he doesn’t like. He said if the public knew about that they would be outraged. He said those are some of the things he will be looking at and he would ask for more transparency in the government.

Mr. Cole said he reads the finance reports and there has to be an easier way; a four paragraph single page that anyone can understand. He said it can be done unless there is a reason to make it so complicated. He said the prudent man theory is at a loss here; there is a disconnect here when you spend $300,000 on the Center of Flight and the 26,000 people in town aren’t going to benefit from it other than it will be a nice place to go to city hall. He said you are professional politicians, he bets not well paid, but it is a job and he thinks other people are serious about charging you to do a better job.

Ms. Campbell said if Mr. Cole had any suggestions, they would be happy to hear them. She said write the information down and let us know. She said we have a lot of ideas it’s just getting those done; it’s nobody’s fault. Mr. Cole said it’s been expressed by other members of the audience and as we sat here, Council went through the business meeting in 15 minutes; unless you’ve studied the agenda, you don’t stand a chance of keeping up with what you guys are talking about. He said you’ve made enormous strides; Mr. Fullenkamp and Mr. Denning were behind getting that stuff online – great idea and it makes a difference. He said if you don’t know what’s going on at the meeting it is a waste of time to come; this changes it for him and it’s what we are looking for.

Mr. Chodkowski said regarding the cemetery there were two pieces of legislation that had to move forward; it was possible for the Planning Commission to recommend the rezoning, that Council would act, and the property would be rezoned. He said the Planning Commission could then recommend the amended use and that would go to the BZA and the BZA could vote that down. He said the issue was the pact diverged on the project and that made the project cumbersome to manage. He said as a result of that there was a zoning amendment on the qualifications for a cemetery so the Planning Commission and the Council were touching both and it did not divert to the BZA. He said it wasn’t that they would but they could; it was Council’s desire to see that parcel developed and we wanted to make certain Council had the final decision.

Mr. Cole said he would rebut that by saying the BZA is the only judicial forum we have in the city; he thinks that is significant and he respects Mr. Childers. He said what is done is done but he doesn’t like to see that; it’s changing the rules to meet the standards.

**ITEM 21: COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:** Mr. Denning said he believes Glendean is finally clear of all the brush they could possibly take out of it. He thanked the Service Department for being out there and helping us get that finished up. He said we started that project four years ago with the Boy Scouts, we skipped a year, then the Jaycees worked on it last year and again this year. He said hopefully this year we will be able to get the grant and finish things up for people to enjoy. He thanked everyone who participated in the project. Mayor Flaute said please convey our thanks to the Jaycees and thank you for your leadership.

Deputy Mayor Smith thanked Sergeant Brodnick on the Police Department who is leaving us and said he really appreciated all the years of hard work Sergeant Brodnick has put in at the city. He said Sergeant Brodnick is going to be missed. He also thanked Katie Knisley who is moving on and he wished her much success. He said Mrs. Knisley is taking a lot of history with her. He thanked staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Fullenkamp thanked everyone. He said Page Manor is in demolition mode and maybe by Easter we will start seeing something coming out of the ground. He said it is a good sign to see that project moving forward.

Mrs. Reynolds thanked staff for every thing they do and she thanked the community for being here. She said Cory Frolik had a good article in the newspaper this morning about our schools and the breast cancer awareness program. She thanked Mr. McKinney from DPL for being at the meeting and said she appreciated that.

Mrs. Reynolds said she’s sorry she forgot to ask while they were doing legislation but how many of the properties on the delinquent grass mowing list are foreclosed properties. Mr. Chodkowski said we do have a list we can compare that to and we are in the process of updating our vacant list. Mrs. Reynolds said what’s she’s getting at is there are several lending institutions in our community that are notorious for not maintaining properties and at some point in time we need to invite them in for cookies and coffee. Mayor Flaute said it may not be the lending institutions, it may be the contractors and we have access to each one of them. He said if we have cookies it may have to be with the contractors. Mrs. Reynolds said we have to make the lending institutions aware that the contractors are not doing their job and it’s detrimental to our community.

Mr. Denning said that may be an intergovernmental type of issue; if we’re having the problem, he’s sure other jurisdictions are as well. He said maybe we should form some type of tag team. Mrs. Reynolds said spring is here, the grass is growing, and we need to have our community look as good as we can.

Mayor Flaute said we got a letter from the Department of Transportation informing us that the school travel plan for Beverly Gardens Elementary and Mad River Middle Schools has been selected for funding through the Safe Routes to School Program. He said that’s good news for our community.

Mayor Flaute said he has a Forest Murmurs publication if anyone wants to know what’s going on in Forest Ridge. He said the Fisher-Nightingale Fundraiser is the same night as our Volunteer Dinner and he will be attending our Volunteer Dinner. He said he’s really sorry he chose that night for the dinner but if anyone wants to go to the fundraiser we will tell the volunteers you had other duties to meet. Mr. Denning said we could purchase tickets in support of the fundraiser even if we don’t attend. Mrs. Reynolds said we can send staff to the fundraiser.

Mayor Flaute said the ROTC from Stebbins High School sent us an appreciation letter for our support of their drill team. Mrs. Reynolds said they are going to be at our meeting on April 21st.

Mayor Flaute said on April 15th is the Young Creative Summit at the Dayton Convention Center. He said everybody who is under 40 and is anything in the community goes to this and we are invited as leaders to be there. He said it is from 2:30 to 6:00 followed by an after party. He said it’s our youngest and our brightest; he attended last year and it’s a tremendous opportunity to meet our young people.

Mayor Flaute said he also got a thank you note from Judge Pierges thanking us for having him at our meeting. He said he has a report on drug abuse in Montgomery County from the Homeless Solutions Committee and he has a county health assessment from the Montgomery County Health Department. He said it includes some great statistics. He said he had information on the Service Line Warranty from the National League of Cities which he might bring up at a work session.

Mayor Flaute said he represented the city at the Central State Dean’s Honor Recognition program last night and he is on the Board of the College of Arts and Sciences. He said we have some very good students who are graduating from Central State, many from our community. He said they do a lot of good work out there.

Mayor Flaute said he went to see some third graders at Brantwood Elementary – one was Mrs. Reynolds’ Granddaughter who was his escort. He said they had a bunch of questions for me and they were a delightful group of kids – one of the fun things he gets to do as Mayor. He said he also got to read to the kindergarteners at Stevenson. He said he had 11 weddings.

Mayor Flaute said we had another train meeting and if anyone is interested, the second meeting will be on April 22nd; see him for more information.

**ITEM 22: EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made by Ms. Campbell to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate and pending litigation. Mr. Denning seconded the motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Ms. Campbell, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Fullenkamp, yes; Mrs. Reynolds, yes; Deputy Mayor Smith, yes; and Mayor Flaute, yes. The Council entered into executive session at 8:34 p.m.

**ITEM 23: ADJOURNMENT:** The Council came out of executive session at 9:55 p.m. and a motion was made by Mr. Denning to adjourn. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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William R. Flaute, Mayor Clerk of Council