

**Rittman City Council Met in
A REGULAR MEETING
on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Steve Johnson, Glen Russell, Darrell Carey and Rick Hanlon

Members Absent: Richard Lapehn and Lynn Beaumont

Presiding: Mayor William Robertson

Invocation was given by Barbara Brooks, clerk followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Richard Lapehn arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2012

Lapehn moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Workshop

a. Discussion of the Purchase of a New Police Cruiser

City Manager Boggs advised Police Chief Burg was available to answer any questions Council might have regarding the vehicles and the chief provided a supplement to their packets regarding the current cars in the police department. He advised they have gone from buying one new police cruiser each year to about one every other year. Boggs advised this is the year (designated) for such a purchase and they budgeted for it. He advised for many years they have purchased the Ford Crown Victoria and they have now gone out of service and have to either go with a smaller Ford or different make of police vehicle.

Council Member Lynn Beaumont arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Boggs advised no matter what they choose they were going to have to purchase new interior equipment such as the console, the shotgun mounts and the cages to protect the officer from the prisoner in the backseat indicating the equipment in the current vehicles don't fit the newer models. He advised those additional purchases take them over the bid amount although it is a state purchase agreement and they could buy it with a bid, but he wanted to bring it to Council's attention to see if there were any objections or issues with going forward with the police cruiser purchase.

Russell inquired as to which vehicle would be taken out of service.

Police Chief Burg advised it would be the oldest one in service. He advised he believed it was #34 which is a 2004 and has 121,000 miles on it.

Robertson inquired if he (Burg) started to run into a lot of repairs with the older cars.

Burg advised it was starting to pick up a bit, yes.

Hanlon advised his biggest concern was that this purchase was going to cost the city upwards of \$29,000 and take a 2004 out of service that is eight years old and he didn't know what it cost at the time, but probably \$4,000 a year they would be spending on this \$29,000 vehicle once equipped. He advised he wasn't sure the taxpayers were getting enough bang for their buck when he believed they could repair a lot of things on a vehicle for \$4,000 a year excluding the maintenance. Hanlon advised he believed they could replace an engine and certainly a transmission for \$4,000. He advised his concern was whether the taxpayers were getting their money's worth. Hanlon advised things were tight right now as everyone well knows.

Lapehn inquired how much of the money was from the capital fund for this cruiser.

Rissland advised probably most of it would be.

Lapehn advised approximately \$25,000.

Rissland advised we had (budgeted) \$25,000 in capital for the cruiser.

Lapehn inquired as to what capital money could be spent on.

Rissland advised only capital purchases for our streets and sidewalks, police equipment, admin equipment i.e. the computers, parks and rec and other large purchases.

Lapehn advised it couldn't be transferred back into the General Fund. He inquired if we would take \$4,000 out of the General Fund to pay for the cruiser.

Rissland advised she would probably suggest appropriating any balance that was in the capital projects fund for that cruiser instead of taking it out of General Fund. She advised they were doing everything they could to try to save General Fund money. Rissland advised if there is any unappropriated balance left in the capital.

Boggs advised if Barb (Rissland) would let him, he propose they take it out of the DUI fines as well as drug monies that are returned back to the city, although he wasn't sure how much was in

that account and it would probably have to be appropriated. He advised if there was enough money in that fund, he would just as soon take care of it that way.

Lapehn advised money from DUI fines sounded reasonable for a cruiser purchase.

Rissland advised there was \$2,500 in that fund right now and she would need to check to see if that would be a legal purchase. She advised it was designated for enforcement and she doesn't know if they would consider purchasing a cruiser (the same) as enforcement or if it would be considered more of an operational use, but she could find that out.

Lapehn inquired as to how much money was in the sidewalk fund.

Rissland advised there was no separate sidewalk fund in the Capital Improvements budget. She advised she was putting in \$50,000 every year for the sidewalks.

Lapehn inquired if the repayment from the sidewalks comes back into the Capital Fund.

Rissland advised yes it does. She advised to date they have collected around \$25,000 and the bills were just going out for the sidewalks that were done last year.

Lapehn advised so you add \$25,000 to the \$25,000 and you have the \$50,000 again.

Rissland advised they continue to use that money to supplement what is already designated from income tax dollars.

Lapehn inquired about the capital fund comes out of what portion of the taxes.

Rissland advised twenty-five percent of the income tax.

Lapehn inquired if that was by ordinance.

Rissland advised it was authorized by the voters when the income tax was levied and a portion of it was designated for capital improvements.

Lapehn advised and that was a while ago.

Rissland advised yes, she couldn't remember the year, but she looked it up, but she didn't have it in front of her.

Lapehn clarified that 25% had to be set aside for capital projects.

Rissland advised yes and 10% of that 25% had to be used for parks and recreation.

Lapehn advised they had no trouble finding a need for 10%.

Rissland agreed.

Hanlon advised that capital money that they had earmarked, he inquired if the repairs at the recreation center could use those Capital Funds or did they have to come from the General Fund.

Rissland advised actually she had that discussion with Garrick and purchasing a separate piece of equipment and the cost and the estimated use of its life. She advised she used the capital improvements fund since it was a \$20,000 improvement with a life of probably 8-10 years.

Boggs advised he would like Council to give him direction because they have to make a decision by April 23rd.

Robertson advised his concern was getting too much out of sync with purchasing new vehicles and then we would have a really old fleet and would then be looking at buying a couple of cars. He advised it was budgeted in the capital fund and it seemed reasonable to move forward. The Mayor advised they could take a vote on it in New Business.

b. Discussion of the Phase II Sidewalk Improvement Program

Boggs advised as Council is aware there is a procedure they must follow and this will be the start of Phase II of the sidewalk program. He advised it was to the south (southwest) side of the city. Boggs advised Grandview was the cutoff (in this phase) from going any further (east) and also included Greenwood, Pinewood, S. Hickin, Crismore, and other streets in that area. He advised he needed Council to approve by motion the streets for this phase, which would then allow them to send out letters to the (property owners affected) that this phase has begun. Boggs advised he and the Service Supervisor marked sidewalk sections in those areas they felt needed to be replaced to give them an idea (of the quantity involved). He advised there were quite a bit of areas that do not have sidewalks and there were going to be some very difficult sections to look at to see how we were going to proceed. Boggs advised regarding the Grandview park property that last year when the city administration decided to install it along the curb some on Council and some residents didn't like it and those sidewalks were never installed and he was asking for some guidelines in that area and those near it (where the terrain is difficult). He advised he didn't know if Council has had a chance to look at these areas yet or if they had any input for him as to how to proceed. Boggs advised this could be the most difficult section of the city.

Lapehn advised he needed numbers before he could make a recommendation such as the amount of dirt that is going to be. He inquired as to what was the distance between the sidewalk and the street usually. Lapehn advised they would be moving tons of dirt.

Boggs inquired as to what area he was talking about.

Lapehn advised on either side of the park. He advised on the east and or west side of the park. Lapehn advised that could end up making the cost five times what it would normally be to pour a sidewalk. He advised in that case, he would suggest no and just keep the one on the north side of the park.

Russell advised he believed at the beginning of the sidewalk phase program we talked about there would be no grandfathers and no exceptions. He advised he knew Grandview was probably a sticky spot, but he didn't see any reason why they couldn't put the sidewalk next to the curb on the

park (property) and all the way down to (Sterling Ave.). Russell advised he knew they would have to determine what to do with the telephone pole there. He advised he felt they could do the same thing beginning with where Mr. Gillman (Hawthorne) lives (toward Grandview) as he didn't really see where there would be that much dirt removed. Russell advised he saw last week in Akron (there was an area) where both sides of the street have the sidewalk next to the curb. He advised he didn't see any reason why they couldn't continue to put those sidewalks in since they forced other people to put their sidewalks in and we have the program going so, he didn't think they should start making exceptions. Russell advised they might be making an exception by putting the sidewalk a little closer to the curb because of cost, but he didn't believe putting a sidewalk closer to the curb was not going to be any more expensive than with any other resident as far as he was concerned.

Robertson advised they got a lot of feedback last time when they dug up Grandview Park when it was prepared.

Russell advised he thought the feedback was because they were going to have to move a lot of that dirt and because of the steep bank in front of Jack's (Rice property on Grandview). He advised he felt they could put it (sidewalk) at the curb would be sufficient and at least we would have the sidewalk and the kids can get off the street.

Robertson advised he believed there was also concern about snowplows pushing the snow off the street and covering the sidewalk.

Russell advised he felt they would have to address that when it happens, but at least we would have a sidewalk.

Robertson advised he wasn't taking a side one way or the other he was just remembering the discussion from the last time.

Russell advised he believed the sidewalk should be on both sides of Grandview and be fair to everybody and leave it at that.

Beaumont advised Larry (Boggs, City Manager) was asking for guidance and he felt it maybe between now and the next meeting each of them (Council Members) could peruse those streets and come up with some ideas and independently email them to him and let him know our feelings about it and come up with a plan. He advised they were being asked for their feedback. Beaumont advised he believed they all said last time that they didn't think it was a good idea to put the sidewalk next to the curb. He advised if they move it away from the curb in that one area then, they were going to have to build a retaining wall and that is a lot of money although he didn't know if they had any quotes. Beaumont advised maybe they could look at the whole picture and see what really was the best way to accomplish the goal of the project is and that was to get sidewalks for the kids to walk to school.

Russell advised that was why he suggested putting it close to the curb so they didn't have to move all that dirt.

Beaumont advised they would still have to move dirt.

Russell advised they were going to have to move some, yes, but we ran into difficulty last year when one of the residents was told there was a tree that had to be removed and a fire (hydrant) had to be removed and it cost the city additional and that was one of the things we had to look at.

Boggs advised he would get some numbers as to how many sections and a rough estimate on the cement work.

Robertson advised the route would be to go from Sterling Ave. up Grandview looking at both sides of the street at the terrain and the issues.

Boggs advised Grandview, Hawthorne and there were some steep banks on Crismore were the three main areas (with unusual terrain). He advised there is actually more areas in phase II than he thought that doesn't have sidewalks.

Russell advised Fairmont has trees roots.

Boggs agreed and advised Fairmont was terrible (as far as needing sidewalk repairs) as there were some sections that stick up a foot and a half. He advised they were getting complaints and they were going to have to go after those for sure.

Hanlon inquired if we know where the property pins are on Grandview. He inquired if normally they were approximately 11 or 12' off the curb.

Boggs advised he wasn't sure as far as property pins go. He inquired if he was talking about the easement for the street.

Hanlon advised typically the sidewalk would go on the street side of the survey pins within a few inches. He advised that was what determines the location of the sidewalk and not where the street is in relation to the trees and telephone poles.

Boggs advised he couldn't answer his question off the top of his head, but he knew what he was talking about.

Citizens Forum

Rich Barnett of Sheldon St advised he was present to talk about the ordinance Council was considering changing the tax for people who work in outside of the city. He advised currently we get 1.5% credit for tax paid to another city. Barnett advised he read the minutes online and inquired if Council was looking to change the ordinance or was it to be on the next ballot for the citizens (to decide).

Mayor Robertson advised that change can be enacted through Council action. He advised the way he understood it was that it was not Council's plan at this time to put it on the ballot.

Barnett advised the reason he asked was the exemption in the chapter was put into place by the voters and not Council. He advised to him it seemed fair that voters should decide on a change.

Law Director Bower advised he wasn't so sure that was correct.

Barnett advised he wasn't saying that was the way it should be, but he was just asking if that should be the case. He advised if the voters initially said we get a 1.5% credit then shouldn't voters also have the chance to say no we are only going to give ourselves 1%.

Bower advised he didn't believe the voters had a say in giving the 1.5% credit, but rather it was in the tax code which was enacted by Council.

Barnett advised online in section 191.07 it says approved by the voters 11-8-88.

Bower advised at the 1.5% tax rate.

Barnett advised no, the city residents who pay tax in other municipalities.

Bower advised he may be right, but he was just shooting from the hip.

Barnett advised some of the other ones were passed by ordinance that he assumed were done by Council, but this one specifically says it was approved by the voters.

Bower advised his recollection was that the people voted to increase the tax rate to 1.5% and passed by the voters, but the credit was a Council action.

Barnett inquired if he could check that because what he pulled out of the city code was that it was approved by the voters in 1988.

Boggs inquired as to what year Tony Christian referendum and advised he believed that was why it reads that way.

Bower advised that sounded about right, but he couldn't swear to it.

Boggs advised he received the email from Mr. Barnett and he forwarded it to Kevin, but he was out of the office and didn't have a chance to respond to it.

Barnett advised he wasn't expecting a response that quick, but he did want to come here and bring it up as well. He advised his question would be how many taxpayers are able to secure employment in Rittman. Barnett advised he has lived here since 1974 and he has worked outside of Rittman the entire time. He advised it seemed like a fair question to him.

Bower advised the tax rate definitely required a vote.

Barnett advised this change would definitely affect his tax rate from his perspective. He advised now, legally whether it does or not he could tell them. He advised for him it was going to up his income tax by ½ percent. Barnett advised he felt it was fair that the voters should have some input.

Curtis Russell of Greenwood Ave. inquired if Council knew the percentage of unemployment in the city or how many jobs were available.

Robertson advised they didn't have those numbers in front of them.

C. Russell advised they (Council) were making a decision and yet they didn't have those types of answers. He advised also they are talking about the sidewalk issue of making people put sidewalks in and now they were voting not to do it. Russell advised he didn't know what the budget was for the city, but you were making people do it whose budget might be \$15,000-\$20,000 in comparison to (the city) and yet you (the city) were making them (resident) put sidewalks in. He advised "he couldn't see not doing Grandview because of that". Russell also asked for clarification on the leaf and brush pickup (fees) and inquired if that was a \$15 charge per month for everyone.

Robertson advised there was no additional charge.

C. Russell advised he saw something in the paper leaf and brush pickup.

Rissland advised they (city) are going to use some of the money they are currently paying for trash and recycling to include leaf and brush pickup, but there is no increase over the \$16.25 at this time.

Glen Russell advised he agreed with (Barnett) that the voters should vote on any changes as to whether it was raised or decreased and that was his opinion.

Old Business

a. Ord. No. 7701 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 981.08 Billing; Delinquent Accounts and Repealing Section 981.09 Rubbish Collection Rates of the Codified Ordinances. Third Reading. Ord. No. 7701 was read on third reading. Carey moved to adopt, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

b. Ord. No. 7702 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Amending Section 191.07 (a) City Resident Subject to Income Tax in Other Municipality of the Codified Ordinances. Second Reading as Amended. Ord. No. 7702 was read on second reading as amended.

Carey advised he felt Kevin (Bower, Law Director) should find out for sure about whether a reduction in credit had to be passed by the voters before we adopt this (legislation).

Bower advised Council has the power to do this and it does not have to go before the voters. He advised it might be as Larry (Boggs, City Manager) stated that it was because a referendum was filed.

Beaumont advised he knew Norton did this (reduced the credit for taxes paid in another municipality) although he did not know how they went about doing it.

Johnson advised their (Norton) Council did it.

Bower advised the 1988 legislation may have been the referendum, he didn't know off the top of his head.

Russell advised he didn't see any reason why they shouldn't put it before the voters. He advised he didn't know what they had to be afraid of, if it was put before the voters and they "put it in" that was fine, but if we "ram it down their throats" most likely it was going to be repealed. Russell advised it might save a little bit of hard feelings as far as the residents were concerned.

Lapehn advised he hears words like "ram it down your throat" as a very emotionally charged description and he spoke at the last meeting about this issue. He advised after looking over the budget for the past six months at least they have considered getting rid of the police department and having the Sheriff's office take over our police as one option. Lapehn advised they have looked at getting rid of some workers in the city building and getting rid of more water and sewer workers who were skeletal crews, which is a generous description of what we have in town. He advised we have a bare bones minimum that we have right now and people seem to appreciate what we have and the only way, as he understands it, that it can continue as is...is to raise income (revenue) from existing working (residents). Lapehn advised over 90% of those who live in Rittman and are employed, are employed outside of the city. He advised both he and his wife will each incur an extra ½ percent increase in their tax because they are both employed outside of the city, which is adding a 1% tax to his family's income by voting in favor of this (legislation) was not "sticking it" to anybody let alone himself. Lapehn advised because he doesn't see a means of keeping things as they are that they seem to be working well in the city and very efficiently and a very lean operation without raising some income for the city.

Beaumont advised he couldn't agree more and their job here was to do what was best for the city and he really takes offense to that kind of language.

Russell advised that was why he made that statement because everything he says you (Beaumont) take offense to.

Beaumont advised well that was just the way it was. He advised they were not trying to cram anything down anybody's throat. Beaumont advised he felt they have analyzed this and analyzed it and analyzed it and we have cut and cut and cut. He advised he was probably the most conservative person on this entire Council and he absolutely abhors taxes. Beaumont advised we have done everything we can except cost a lot of really good long term employees of this city their job. He advised we have done everything. Beaumont advised he defies him (Russell) to tell him something they have not already done in this city to try to save some money. He advised we have done everything we can do and he has gone through the budget over and over and over again. Beaumont advised he has not been on Council as long as (Russell) and he would have a greater historical perspective of what the city has gone through over the years. He advised we (city) need to have more money, we do. Beaumont advised we have cut and cut and cut. He advised the whole thing about taxes was fairness and he (Russell) knew as well as him that there are people who (live) in the town who pay no tax to the city (Rittman), but they receive the same benefits as we all do. Beaumont advised he realizes they are a small town and don't have jobs here for a lot of engineers, physicists and nurses. He advised they don't have half those jobs, but people choose to live here because it is a great place to live. Beaumont advised it was a small, clean, well-managed low crime town and people choose to live here. He advised what they were trying to do here is keep things the same as it has always been and we are having as tough a time as any city in this state. Beaumont advised all they were trying to do was be fair to everybody and he believes they don't have any choice. He advised we have told the public that we don't have any choice. Beaumont advised we were elected to handle the business of the city. He advised if the people say that Council was doing a terrible job and they were going to take this and put it on the ballot, they have the right to do that.

Russell advised that was right.

Beaumont advised and lets us do our job because that was exactly what he was going to do. He advised and he knows he (Russell) doesn't like it, but you (Russell) tell him how they were going to satisfy a \$300,000 deficit because that's what we have. Beaumont advised he feels this is a fair way of approaching it and he didn't know any other way. He advised he wasn't the smartest guy in the world, but he has gone over the numbers and gone over the numbers and talked to a lot of people. Beaumont advised he thinks this is a fair way to do it and he thinks it is fair to everybody. He advised our city was based upon the good services provided to everyone. Beaumont advised we have great services. He advised he has not received one complaint in two terms as a Council person for services saying the city wasn't doing this or that as far as services. Beaumont advised we have to have this to keep the same level of services, which the people in the town deserve and the reason why he believes it is fair to do this.

Russell advised number one he didn't really see where they have done any cutting of anything. He advised they have raised the water bill, they have raised the sewer and we have raised

trash. Russell advised there were things that we probably could do if we had the initiative to do it, but if I suggested it, it would be the same response you just now gave that you don't have any respect. He advised so he was not going to tell you what it is, "I am not going to tell you what it is" because you would vote it down and argue about it so, he wasn't even going to suggest it to him. Russell advised he could have done that a long time ago, but with his attitude it was impossible to work with him. He agreed we have good service and advised he was not complaining about any of the services we have as he feels we have excellent service.

Lapehn advised he for one was always willing to listen to any suggestions that anyone might have about cutting expenses here in the city so, if they have any his email was on the city website (www.rittman.com) and his phone number was in the phonebook. He advised anyone to please give him a call.

Russell advised anything he had to say he would say it to their face. He advised he didn't have to go behind their back.

Lapehn advised he was talking to all citizens.

Russell advised he might be talking to all of us, but "if I have anything to say to you, I'll say it to your face and that goes for you too, Lynn". He advised he would appreciate if they would do the same for him instead of writing him a letter.

Beaumont advised he didn't know if he (Russell) wanted to open up that can of worms.

Russell advised he "just now did" and he didn't appreciate it one bit. He advised if he (Beaumont) wanted to say anything to him, he should say it to him (Russell) instead of writing behind a letter because he (Beaumont) wasn't the law director as he believes Mr. Bower was the law director so, he didn't want to hear about that anymore.

Carey inquired if it was possible if they could continue with what they were supposed to be here to do instead of slinging mud. He advised he would like to point out that the sewer and water fund have nothing to do with the General Fund. Carey advised those increases were to keep the sewer and the water service.

Rissland agreed and advised those were enterprise funds.

Carey advised those (water, sewer) funds couldn't be used for what they needed (for the General Fund shortfall).

Robertson advised the cuts that have been made in personnel that have not been replaced as well as experienced people leaving employment and not being replaced and working with a fewer head count, those are considered cuts and a savings to the budget. He advised it was the \$300,000 cut from the Local Government Fund (LGF) at the state level that has put us in this bind. Robertson advised he didn't believe it was poor fiscal management here on the local level. He advised it was a trickle down (effect) and they had to figure out a way to deal with it if they want to remain an independent city. Robertson advised he didn't know where they go from here if they don't generate the income. He advised they might end up becoming part of another town, he didn't know what other options were out there.

Lapehn moved to place on third, upon roll call; Carey-Yes, Hanlon-Yes, Russell-No, Johnson-Yes, Lapehn-Yes, Beaumont-Yes and **motion carried**.

c. Ord. No. 7703 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Ohio, Authorizing the Municipal Manger to Accept the Best Rates for Errors and Omissions Coverage, for All Members of the Fire Department, Property and Casualty, Auto, General Liability, Ambulance Malpractice Insurance, Law Enforcement Liability and Public Officials Insurance for a Period of One (1) Year Commencing June 1, 2012, and Declaring an Emergency. Second Reading. Ord. No. 7703 was read on second reading. Lapehn moved to place on third, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

New Business

a. Res. No. 7705 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Authorizing the Finance Director to Create a Solid Waste Management Fund. First Reading. Res. No. 7705 was read on first reading.

Russell advised he would like to know how this was going to be setup.

Rissland advised for the purpose of as describe in chapter 981and it would be your rubbish pickup, your curbside recycling, your leaf pickup and your solid waste for the city itself. She advised those funds would be collected into a fund and could not be used for anything other than the purposes that are described in that chapter, which will now include leaf pickup and brush chipping and those costs will be paid out of those monies.

Russell inquired if Waste Management was going to pick this up or are we going to pick it up ourselves.

Rissland advised we will continue to have a contract with Waste Management for she believed a three-year contract.

Boggs inquired if Russell was asking about the leaf and brush pickup.

Russell advised yes.

Boggs advised leaf (and brush) pickup are handled by the city crews.

Russell advised it would be setup by a different fund.

Rissland advised yes.

Russell inquired as to the cost of that (leaf and brush w/trash pickup). He inquired if it would be added to the water bill.

Rissland advised it was not changing the current amount (being charged for refuse pickup). She advised the charge that is showing up on the monthly utilities bill is not going to change.

Carey moved to place on second, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried**.

b. Ord. No. 7706 An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Rittman, Wayne and Medina Counties and State of Ohio, Creating Chapter 333.11, Golf Carts, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rittman and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Ord. No. 7706 was read on first reading.

Hanlon advised he thought there was going to be language that the State of Ohio had to issue some type of registration sticker or something and this ordinance states the City of Rittman would provide such. He advised he would like to see some clarification on that issue.

Beaumont advised he felt we (Rittman) just do the inspection and they have to comply with the state rules.

Hanlon advised his understanding was that the state would issue some sort of a license plate whether it was a metal plate or a sticker.

Chris Schmeltzer advised it has to be inspected by the Chief of Police stating it meets all the requirements of a street legal vehicle.

Hanlon advised that was stated in exhibit "A" an inspection of golf carts by the Chief of Police or his designee shall issue the owner or operator a certificate of compliance entitling the owner or operator to operate the golf cart on the streets within the city. He advised it seemed that part of that paragraph indicates that we're going to issue our City of Rittman license plates to empower them to ride on the city streets. Hanlon advised he was under the impression we (Rittman) were going to inspect them by the chief or his designee and they then would apply to the state to get that through the DMV.

Bower advised golf carts are not titled vehicles so it was pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, which precludes them. He advised the owner of the golf cart will have to get a title for that golf cart and to get a title for the golf cart the Sheriff's office has to inspect. Bower advised this is all in Ohio Revised Code therefore it was not necessary to be put in our ordinance. He advised the person gets the inspection slip and goes to the title office to get a title and then take the title to the Deputy Registrar and get their license plates just like a car. Bower advised then they'll come to Rittman and see the chief and give him \$25 and he (chief) would double check to make sure it has a horn, windshield, seatbelts and everything just like a car. He advised furthermore, each person will show proof to him (chief) that they have basic liability insurance just like on a car. Bower inquired if that answers (Hanlon's) question.

Hanlon advised it does. He inquired if that was what they were basically stating in the exhibit A.

Bower advised yes. He advised the former about the inspections was implicit in the definition (a) the motor vehicle stuff.

Lapehn advised his concern was the east/west roads in town. He advised if you go Eastern Road or any of the main roads coming down from the schools (west end) into the downtown and inquired if all three of those roads were 35 mph.

Bower advised yes, Eastern, Ohio and Sunset.

Lapehn advised and this vehicle (golf cart) would not be allowed to travel on any of those three roads.

Bower advised that was correct.

Lapehn inquired as to how they would get from the high school to Morton Salt or the ball fields.

Bower advised back roads. He advised you could cross those streets. Bower advised they could come down North Street and Clover Street, down Sheldon Street to Main Street, which was 25 mph. Bower advised they could do south on Main Street to Salt Street and come in the back way to Morton Salt.

Lapehn advised so it could be done.

Beaumont facetiously added you could put your bicycle on the back of your golf cart and take it down Hickin Avenue and over to the trail and park your cart and get on your bike and ride to Morton Salt. He advised he has put some thought into this (issue).

Lapehn laughed and advised he would want the golf cart going back up the hill.

Russell advised he guessed he would be the oddball out here by stating that he doesn't feel that golf carts on the city streets are safe. He advised he didn't want to be responsible for someone getting killed because some car or truck could run over one of those golf carts and he didn't want to see that happen. Russell advised that was one reason he couldn't vote for it.

Hanlon moved to place on second, upon roll call; Johnson-Yes, Hanlon-Yes, Beaumont-Yes, Carey-Yes, Russell-No, Lapehn-Yes and **motion carried**.

c. Motion to Approve a Conditional Sign Permit for a Temporary Banner for BG's Main Event of 124 S. Main Street.

Lapehn inquired if the city was going to hang the banner.

Boggs advised no.

Lapehn inquired if BG's was going to hang the banner and maintain the cord, etc.

Boggs inquired of Fire Chief Sweigert if he has been contacted by BG's to hang the banner for a donation.

Sweigert advised no.

Boggs advised they (city/fire dept.) do hang the banners for the Sleepwalker Festival.

Lapehn advised he has seen banners in other communities and banners were great, but he certainly doesn't want a drooping banner.

Boggs agreed and advised they (BG's) were told to keep it at a certain level or it would get ripped down.

Lapehn advised some windy weather could cause it to fly all over the place if it came loose.

Hanlon inquired if there was an approximate location of the banner.

Boggs advised he (Mr. Gibson) said right in front of his business (S. Main St.).

Hanlon advised he was wondering if it would be closer to the square or not.

Beaumont moved to approve, upon roll call; Lapehn-Yes, Beaumont-Yes, Carey-Yes, Hanlon-Yes, Russell-Abstain, Johnson-Yes and **motion carried.**

d. Motion to Approve Matthew Atsma of Hawk Ridge to Probationary Status on the Rittman Fire Department Carey inquired if someone could remind him why these (candidates) need to be approved (by Council).

Lapehn advised he believed Council, at one time, felt they wanted to have a say.

Robertson advised it was only for the fire department.

Lapehn advised the composition of Council at the time determined it was for Council to approve.

Hanlon advised he would make a motion to do away with that (approval by Council necessary).

Robertson inquired if they would need a separate motion.

Bower advised a separate motion when done with approving the current requests on the agenda.

Lapehn so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

e. Motion to Approve Karri Atsma of Hawk Ridge to Probationary Status on the Rittman Fire Department Russell so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

f. Motion to Approve Joshua Evans of North Street to Probationary Status on the Rittman Fire Department Carey so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

g. Motion to Allow the Fire Chief to Decide Who He Puts on Probationary Status in His Department Subject to Approval by the City Manager Hanlon so moved, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

h. Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Pursue the Purchase of a Police Cruiser Carey advised he would like to see the funds over and above what was allotted come from somewhere other than the General Fund if possible. He advised he liked the idea of using the funds collected from DUI fees.

Lapehn inquired if they didn't give approval tonight they could not make this purchase this year.

Boggs advised that was correct.

Lapehn advised he was all in favor of it because if you are going to have a department, you have to have good equipment. He advised if there is an emergency in town he would want a police officer to be able to get there. Lapehn advised that was what the capital improvement fund was for.

Carey so moved, upon roll call; Russell-Yes, Beaumont-Yes, Carey-Yes, Johnson-Yes, Lapehn-Yes, Hanlon-No and **motion carried.**

City Manager's Remarks

City Manager Larry Boggs complimented the police department and advised last week they had a very busy week when a meth lab was discovered at a house on one of our residential streets. He advised it would be testing our new clandestine lab ordinance passed. Boggs advised he just got some of the quotes in from the fire department that was on standby for the search warrant as well as for the police department as well as extra personnel called out for cleanup. He advised they were looking at approximately \$1500-\$1600 just in our own city departments for their services and vehicles. Boggs advised there was an additional \$1,000 for the disposing of the chemicals. He advised this would be a good test case for our new ordinance and he certainly intended to pursue it to its fullest. Boggs

advised this is a rental property and was many of the neighbors tried to warn the property owner several times (of suspicious activity) so, we plan to go after recouping our costs.

Boggs advised the carwash (N. Main St.) was broken into recently and Chief Burg just informed him that due to an intensive investigation they also received a search warrant and recovered quite a bit of the (stolen) property from the search warrant issued and as a result they do have an arrest warrant for the suspect. He advised on the meth lab it wasn't strictly Medway as they turned in quite a bit of intelligence reports to Medway as well as assisting Medway in getting that search warrant. He advised the (police department) had a very busy week and did a fantastic job.

Finance Director's Remarks

Finance Director Barbara Rissland advised she was wondering in an effort to save money how Council would feel about receiving email versions of the financial statements or having them available online. She inquired if that would be something Council would like her to look into and perhaps do.

Carey advised she would have to call and remind him they were there (in his email).

Russell advised he doesn't have a computer.

The other Council Members were amenable to the idea.

Rissland advised it would save paper, toner etc., as it was probably 30 or so pages a month. She advised they would give it a shot. Rissland advised they could try it a couple different ways; one by putting it on the website and she has to find out how difficult that would be or she could just email it and they could just pull it up, as that was what she started do that with some of the department heads with their monthly reports and they seemed to like it so, she thought she would give it a try.

a. Approval of Financial Report for March

Carey moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Council Remarks

Council Member Glen Russell thanked everyone for being here tonight and invited them to come back. He congratulated Barb (Brooks, Clerk of Council) for the additional work she does for Council and advised he feels she does an excellent job. He inquired (of Boggs) concerning the home maintenance program if anything was being done about the house on Liberty Street and the one on Sunset Drive.

Boggs advised Liberty Street was the one he discussed earlier with the search warrant so, yes. He advised he hasn't received any updates from the Health Department or Animal Control.

Russell inquired if there was any way they could push the envelope since they have the property maintenance code.

Boggs advised they were working on it.

Council Member Steve Johnson had no remarks

Council Member Richard Lapehn advised he wanted to mention the Silver Sneakers program as it looked as if there has been some income from this program.

DiSalvo advised currently there were 186 registered Silver Sneaker members and there were 139 of them that used the facility during the month of February. He advised every time one of them visits the recreation center they scan their membership card and we (the center) get \$3. every time they scan their card. DiSalvo advised last month we brought in \$2700 off that program alone, which is outstanding. He advised Tom Leatherman's strength training class has tripled in size. DiSalvo advised they have gone from averaging 16-20 to 45-50 seniors. He advised they were talking about moving out of the community room into the gym because the class was getting so large. DiSalvo advised Tom Leatherman was also being trained in the Silver Splash program and the senior water aerobics program will fall under that as well. He advised so, we'll be able to offer the water aerobics program to our Silver Sneaker members. DiSalvo advised the staff was doing a great job with signing everyone up and 186 Silver Sneaker members were awesome for our recreation center.

Lapehn advised he wanted to compliment him (DiSalvo) because the place was always clean and beautiful and very presentable to guests and those coming into town and it looks terrific. He thanked him (DiSalvo) for all his good work.

Robertson advised to clarify Silver Sneakers was subsidized by health insurance coverage.

DiSalvo advised that was correct and indicated it was for those 65 and older with coverage from one of the participating insurance companies.

Robertson advised it was true income for the recreation center.

DiSalvo agreed.

Council Member Lynn Beaumont advised he would like to echo what Richard (Lapehn) said as he (Beaumont) has always stated the recreation center was the crown jewel of the recreation center. He advised and now that the new school was built he believed all anyone had to do was ask the realtors who have property they want to sell in Rittman as to where they go first. Beaumont advised Garrick (DiSalvo) deserved a lot of credit because the recreation looks really nice.

Council Member Darrell Carey thanked everyone for coming. He advised when he goes out of town a lot of people have commented to him that they can't believe (Rittman) has such a good facility (recreation center) in a town this small. Carey advised it (rec ctr) has all the (amenities) that

you need for a center in a small town. He advised a lot of centers either don't have a gym or they don't have a pool. He agreed it was a crown jewel.

Council Member Rick Hanlon thanked everyone for coming. He advised regarding the tax credit that (reducing) it will affect most of the Council people as well as many of the citizens in Rittman as Glen (Russell) indicated. Hanlon advised he believed they have looked at everything they could possibly look at he was going to support this tax credit being lowered to 1% because he looks at it as a preventative measure. He advised right now we have Orrville and Wooster whose (tax rate) is 1% and if they raise their income tax rate, they (Rittman) would be losing the revenue currently being received from those residents. He advised we would not just be looking at a \$300,000 deficit, but it could be substantially more. Hanlon advised he was looking at lowering the tax credit as a preventative measure. He advised if anyone has any idea on how to raise \$300,000 for the City of Rittman then he was all ears.

Mayor William Robertson advised there is a coalition in town called the S.A.L.T. Coalition (Stopping Addictions to Live Triumphantly) trying to help deal with drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention. He advised this Thursday, April 12th they were meeting again at the recreation center to come up with strategies to try to deal with drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and preventing our kids from getting hooked up with those things. Robertson advised he also would invite everybody to attend the community meeting sponsored by the S.A.L.T. Coalition to be held on April 19th at 6:30 at the Board of Education building (100 Saurer St.). He advised there was a guest speaking coming to let us know the things we can do to try to help our children to grow up in a safe and healthy environment away from drugs. Robertson advised Paul Locher will be speaking at the Methodist church and the Historical Society was kicking off Wayne County's 200th birthday this year. He advised there would be a variety of things going on around the county. He advised Locher was very knowledgeable about the history of the county and a very good speaker. Robertson advised the chamber reverse raffle and casino night would be held on Saturday, April 21st. He advised \$50 for both events or \$25 for just casino night and either included a nice meal and check with the chamber office to purchase tickets.

a. **Approval of Vouchers 56813 thru 56892 and Memo Expense #'s 120301 thru 120314 w/Then and Now Certificates** Carey moved to approve, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Adjourn: 8:12 p.m.

Carey moved to adjourn, all Yeas on roll call and **motion carried.**

Mayor

Clerk of Council