

building continues to deteriorate. Some block and brick fell off of it a month ago and Mr. Massey called about it. That is another issue. It has federal liens on it.

The Montgomery Ward building owner said at a ZDA meeting the quote he received to tear down the Elk's building was \$170,000.

These problems are not going to go away. We are going to have to continue to address them. Somehow we have to get creative to do that. We are fortunate there are a number of people who are interested in developing the downtown area. Shawn Glaub has plans for the Montgomery Ward building. I have no doubt he will follow through with that. Mark Manbevers is looking for a building downtown. I tried to get him to look at the Elk's building, but again his assessment was it was too far gone. He wants to open up an antique shop. We are looking for something for him in the downtown area.

Did the property on 7<sup>th</sup> Street across from the tire shop sell? It used to be a telephone gear company. Tim Smith was pretty sure it did sell. A photographer used to have it, Larry Marshall.

Mr. Vincent: Thank you. We kept you longer than we anticipated, but there were a lot of questions and a lot of valuable information provided. We appreciate that and we appreciate your work. We are glad Rhonda was able to work it out to get some additional money to tear down properties.

Mr. Smith: Don't hesitate to call me if you want to ask questions along the lines of what we talked about. I am not a wealth of information, but I can give you as much information as I have.

Mr. Vincent: Thank you, sir.

Several others thanked Mr. Smith.

Public Safety Director Keane Toney: I will be very brief as I know some of you including myself have somewhere to go after this.

I am not going to touch on the Police Department just to say the city is very fortunate to have people like Tim, Craig, Tony, Jeff Bell, the Mayor and Rhonda. These folks, I don't know if everyone knows what they do and how much time they put in and all of you as well. Seeing the service they provide makes my job easier because I am wearing a path between Rhonda's office and the Mayor's office. They have been very gracious with their help and I find along with that is service. My big thing as some of you know is we work very hard to coordinate our services between the different departments: from the police department to the building department, code, to work together more and more. I kind of pushed them a little bit to get that working because when you get the calls about property all of you take the heat. We take very little of it in comparison. We are working very hard to take care of some of your neighborhood problems. That is why it is so important to get an additional person as the Mayor and I have discussed in code to take care of the litter problem; well, not take care of it but manage it, address it, and respond to the complaints that all of you get. We are working on that.

I will give you a quick few number on the Fire Department. Last year they had 3,502 calls for service. They went up 85 runs. That is not with EMS. The EMS had 2,521 runs last year on top of that. So you see those increasing always. People are calling for services more and more. In response to that we did hire 3 fire fighters last year in 2018. Jeff and I met again today and we are going to start the preparation to hire three more this year as soon as the process will allow. Just to help bring the manpower up to where you graciously allowed us to have our staffing levels to fulfill those three vacancies because we can use them. We found the combat medics as Jeff said we are working to get them outfitted and included into the structure for the SRT of the police department. They are responding out already. They had been before I got here and now to get them equipped more and more. We are not going to buy a bullet proof vest for every combat medic. No. We are looking to buy two or three max. Those will be housed with the weapons separately in the police department and they would respond there as the SRT does at the police department so the combat medics would go with them and brought to the location of need.

Speaking of vests, you know we had the 25 vests donated to the city. Those have not gone onto the trucks. They are waiting for the labels to label them. That saved us \$22,000 plus last year by getting those vests. We did take the vests out ourselves and they were tested in Canton. We look them out to the range and tested them ourselves. They worked fine. What people don't understand about vests is there is an expiration date of five years, but what the manufacturer is saying is that vest is good, but we won't cover the stitching on the vests. That is why we can recycle vests like we do. There is no additional risk involved when we do that. The vests that the fire department has as far as their combat medics, now are the vests that were recycled two cycles ago from the police department, we have reordered new vests for the SRT so when the new vests come in the present vests will go to the combat medics saving more money for the city. The manufacturers of this equipment they don't want people to know that. They think that at a five-year mark these things are so reduced in efficiency, but they are not. They say to get rid of them so you can come back and buy more from them. It is basically a big scam. So to let you know when you see these things come across it is not costing the city. I think it will make our people safer in the long run.

We also have two new police cars that came today. Hopefully, they won't get wrecked. We will also start for officers involved in a crash where there is negligence involved; we will carry through with discipline which includes time off. I think that is a great motivator for people. This is according to contract of course. We are also sending them to driving school. If you have that second wreck, guess what? See you; you are going to driving school. That takes them out of the loop here. A lot of officers survive because of extra jobs like off duty work. They work for a funeral home for instance and they do the escorts. They are paid by that company. You are out of the loop directly to go to driving school. By contract we can't take money from an officer because what happens is if you get a day off without pay it doesn't come out of their pocket because they say I will take a vacation day and plug that in by contract. This way, a little bit of financial loss is another motivator. Does it circumvent the contract, of course it does, but it works. So you are going to hear about it if an officer has two crashes, you will say, they are out? Where have they been? They have been to driving school. They will live in Columbus at the State Highway Patrol for a week. They won't enjoy that. It is a motivator.

A little short rundown of what we have been doing at the Fire Department and Police Department. We are looking at another K-9 to bring another dog on. We are in the process of evaluating dogs. That is going to be a good move for us. In the future we would always like more people, but one thing we are doing at the fire department is not going to cost us any money. We are going to create an arson bureau; a separate arson bureau in the fire department. We have Assistant Chief Hobson who is the most qualified and experienced so he will head that bureau at no extra cost. He will train and we are in the process of training additional fire fighters to be arson investigators. They will go out on the minor fires to get their experience. That way after they are certified by the state, they would report to him and he would still do his forty hour duties. It is a win, win for all of us. All that is going to take place after the move is made over to the Safety Annex by the detective bureau. When that space is free, we have planned it out and we will move forward from there. So, that is short and sweet. Once again some of you have called. If you need me you can call me anytime, it doesn't matter. You can call my cell phone. We will address the problems you are having as quickly as we can.

The public thinks we are slow about things. We have a framework we have to work within the legal framework. We can't kick people out, we can't! So we are moving forward.

Mayor Tilton: Sometimes we would like to, but we can't.

Keane Toney: Are there any questions? None? Okay. Tony Coury is not here. He is at school for a week in Columbus. He is not in driving school. He will be back Monday so we rescheduled to have him come in the next time.

Mr. Vincent: We will see everyone on the 26<sup>th</sup> for the second part of the budget hearings. It will be a little longer night, but again this is very important.

Ms. Gildow moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Sharrer. A voice vote was taken with all in favor. None were opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Vincent thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting adjourned about 5:15 p.m.

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Susan Culbertson, Clerk

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Daniel Vincent, President of Council

BUDGET HEARINGS FOR 2019  
March 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Vincent called the 2019 Budget Hearing meeting to order for March 26, 2019 and welcomed the special guests.

Council Members present: Sandy Gentry, Connie Norman, Jan Bradshaw, Ann Gildow, Joey Osborn, J. Rob Sharrer, Steven Foreman, Mark Baker and President Daniel Vincent.

Mr. Roberts was absent.

Others in attendance were; Rhonda Heskett, Budget and Finance Director; Jay Bennett, Public Service and Community Development Director; Ashley Miller, Public Service Administrative Secretary; the presenters: Jim Witte, Airport Manager; Jeff Shook, Street and Refuse Superintendent; Paul Mills, Water Department Superintendent; Jeff Johnson, Parks and Cemetery Superintendent; Scott Brown, Sewer Sanitation Superintendent; Bill Rosser, Vehicle Maintenance; Tony Coury, Police Chief; Keane Toney, Public Safety Director; and Susan Culbertson, Clerk of Council.

Council President Daniel Vincent opened the Budget Hearings for 2019. We will go ahead and get started. This is a Special Council as a Whole meeting to review the 2019 permanent budget which has already been passed by Council. This is very informative and we appreciate everyone's time. Council learns a lot and they get questions answered. If there are any issues with the permanent budget Council could go back and revise it, but I doubt that will happen.

**Airport Manager, Jim Witte**

Fund #601-pg 21-Airport Fund  
Fund #615-pg 28-Airport Capital

Jim Witte started with what happened last year.

- They just finished up a couple major projects some permanent paint on the runway overlay. We had just a basic punch list on the fencing project.
- Some new stuff like the State has granted funding for new runway lighting on the crosswind runway. This has gone to bid and has been awarded. It came in under bid so it looks like it is going to be a pretty good project. It should go pretty fast and hopefully, hassle free.
- In the fall we will start on a new electrical vault. The one that is there is actually original equipment from the 1940's. It is extremely dangerous and we are going to replace that so it will be much safer. We think it will get done this year, but it will at least get started.

Mr. Vincent: We don't like hearing dangerous.

Mr. Witte: It is called the penalty box.

- We are working on an update to the Master Plan, which is a 20 year document for the future development at the airport. It is kind of a long shot, but we are going for a runway extension on the main runway. This is going to take a long time, but if you don't do anything, nothing ever happens. We are working on that too.

•Additional land would need to be acquired to accommodate the extension plus the safety portion. A lot of fill is needed. The tree removal has taken place.

Mr. Witte is pleased with his budget. He retracted that- nobody is pleased with their budget. (Laughter broke out)

Mr. Witte said it is better than the master plan.

Mr. Vincent: Are there any questions from Council? Nothing. Thank you, sir. We appreciate it.

### **Streets, Jeff Shook**

Fund #202-pg 7-Auto Gas Fund  
Fund #650-pg 29-Sanitation Operations  
Fund #652-pg 29-Sanitation Capital

Jeff Shook:

- A handout of the paving list for this year was distributed and also plans for next year's paving.
  - It looks like we are getting another new dump truck which is a major asset. We had a truck that went on the brink this year.
  - We are getting a new paint striper. The ones we have are over 20 years old. We are starting to replace them too. Hopefully, we will get a lot of painting done this year if the weather holds up for us. Last year was a bad year for us with the weather. We hope to paint Maple Avenue this year and it will be a night job. We will have three crews in the night trying to get that done. The thermoplastic striping once the roughness wears off the asphalt it doesn't stick very well. The State is coming in a couple of years on Maple. Hopefully we will get some new curb too. Some of the curb needs repaired on Maple. It is in pretty bad shape. The state will pay a big portion of the paving cost for Maple, but the City will have a share of the cost. Ms. Heskett does not remember the City's share from 2012.
  - We would like to get some crack sealing done this year.
  - We want to get some of downtown done too.
  - The painted stripes usually last about one year. The thermoplastic on heavy traffic roads it would last about six or seven years. The thermoplastic will not stay with the roughness worn off the asphalt.
- It is best to put the thermoplastic down when it is new. The asphalt is porous and is best to put it down when the pavement is new. It gets rough to see and it would be nice if people would stay off the lines, but that won't happen.
- Materials, supplies, and capital outlay are about double the numbers from last year. Is there something in particular, I hope one new dump truck. Ms. Heskett said the carry over purchase orders in Material and Supplies is the issue. We had carry over purchase orders for rock salt, Larzelere paving, and under Capital Outlay there was carry over purchase order for a spreader, a leaf collector, and a different dump truck than what we are talking about this year. So that is why you see that inflated.

### **Sanitation, Jeff Shook**

- We bought a new compactor. It is hooked up and we just have to get the electric connected and the new compactor will be in operation.
- We bought a roll off from the Sewer Department which is going to be a help to us once we get it going. Our small trucks will be able to dump into the compactor and take one load out to the

land fill where we are taking two trips with our small trucks. We will be down to one trip a day with the roll off.

- The smaller trucks go around, collect, and dump into the compactor. We will push it into a box and then we will take one load out which will equal two of our small ones to the landfill. This is one driver taking one load per day. We hope for a cost savings. The landfill is outside of Glenford, at Waste Management. The City direct hauls now because they were going to eat us up on the last contract to contract it out. We saved a nice amount on it. We are still making good time on it also.

We have the two bigger trucks which really helps us. We have been able to get a full route plus some with the big truck that we have been running now where we would have had to make two runs per small truck that we had. We have been able to take the two big trucks and collect the biggest part of it so it really helped out.

- There are some challenges getting the bigger trucks into some locations. There are challenges with all of them. Actually the trucks are only 5 feet longer than the ones we have. We have been bringing the trash out of the alleys. I don't know if any of you have been driving the alleys, but since we brought the trash cans out; the alleys are a whole lot cleaner. Not only that, but the trucks are just destroying the alleys. Getting them out of there and the weight off the alleys will help us out in the future when we start doing some work in the alleys. That is one of our goals is to get them completely out of the alleys.

- Hopefully in the future when we go to the automated system we will be already set up with the street pickups out front. We are hoping to in the future.

Mr. Vincent: Is there anything from Council?

Mr. Sharrer: First I will touch on the automated thing. I could be long gone by then, but I know that I struggle with that in my neighborhood because I have for example in front of my house it is on street parking. That is the only parking I have. So, the only place for me to put my garbage out is in the alley. That is pretty much the same around my neighborhood and that is St. Louis Avenue and all of those that would have to take their garbage down the big front hill instead of going out the back into the alley could be dangerous.

Mr. Shook: There are going to be places that we know we still have to go into the alleys so we can use the small trucks where we will get to some that cannot have on street pickup.

Mr. Sharrer: I think that is a great idea and Jay and I have talked about it.

Mr. Bennett: You think about Center Drive and how it is wide open. It is perfect. Ridgewood, perfect. We have designed routes that are accessible and are perfect. The Manor, no. Homewood, and we looked at some of those and we know we can't go there. It is really all we are looking at is more of a hybrid type of a system.

Mr. Sharrer: That makes sense.

Mr. Shook: We went to Akron and we saw their operation. They have the same thing and they have to deal with it. The biggest part of it was handled by the automated system which made good time, safer, and less injuries. We still have a lot of things for employees to do as far as

hauling the trash away, fixing carts, we need somebody to police the recycling, and other things like that. We are looking to keep everybody and expanding out to outside the City limits to anybody that has City water. We would like get them to sign up and we are starting to get quite a few customers outside the City limits.

Mr. Bennett: We are getting more commercial accounts. If you think about injuries, it is not only back, but we just had another employee that was stuck by a sharp object.

Mr. Shook: We have had several guys stuck with needles.

Mr. Bennett: It is a tough job. I think that hybrid system we can continue to explore those opportunities and I think our alleys get better in part where we can. We see employees repurposing, as the injury costs go down on our insurance and those kinds of things. I think long term plans are on sustainability and preserving rates.

Mr. Sharrer: My second question was to Rhonda on the \$385,000 in contingency where the last two years there were none. Is that for a plan?

Ms. Heskett: It is a good projection on rate increases that Council looked over and passed. We have it there now.

Mr. Sharrer: So it is extra money to work with in sanitation.

Ms. Heskett: Yes, absolutely.

Mr. Vincent: Is there anything else from Council? Thank you, sir. We greatly appreciate it; very informative. We appreciate your time.

**Water Department, Paul Mills**

Fund #603-pg 23-Water Operating  
Fund #609-pg 25-Water Capital Rep.  
Fund #611-pg 26-Water Improve

Mr. Vincent: We have the retired, soon to be retired.

Mr. Bennett: The short timer. Some people say he has already left. (Laughter broke out)

Paul Mills said this is going to be a good year.

•We have already replaced two of our dump trucks. We just picked them up from Lucas. Rhonda had in our budget for a couple of new ones, but working with Billy in Vehicle Maintenance and John Smith we saw these two over at Lucas. They are 2012's. We are getting those two for less than the price of one new one. Billy is going to put a new bed on the third dump truck. So we will have three decent dump trucks going. We are also going to replace three much needed pickup trucks. The dump trucks were 24 years old. We have one of the pickup trucks that is 19 years old. It is going to be good.