

her basically it wasn't worth nothing and didn't mean nothing and all surveys were different. Which we found offensive once again. My point is that you're invoking a law on two blocks of your town that doesn't effect any of the other parts of town, only us. We feel that is illegal and we're going to get a lawyer and see if we have grounds, we feel not only that, but we don't think it's a coincidence that the two block area you have chosen is primarily low income. People are either under poverty limit or they are on social security. We feel that you feel that you're not getting enough tax dollars out of this area and that you want to move the poor out, that you know cannot afford this because you know that when you put the sewers and sidewalks in that we will have to pay for that and the people already having trouble maintaining and keeping their houses, we feel this is a purposeful act to run out.

Mayor Hammon: That is 100% incorrect Brian, you hit my magic button. I grew up on Center Street and I know all about living in this town and the area. Council and the Planning Commission have talked about this and we want this town to have sidewalks around so people can walk around the town. We don't have the money, the \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 that it will take to do it. We have looked at it and strategized for the future and the money has never come in. First place to lose the parking was Debolt, not your area, but Debolt! Charlie did a study of all streets in there and the ones that were the narrowest should have "NO PARKING" on it and they were Plum Street and Debolt.

Mr. Thornberry: Are we going to bring up your neighborhood that is excluded from it. We all know, everyone that has driven through River Hills knows that there is less room to get to River Hills then there is in my block, it just happens to be your neighborhood.

Mayor Hammon: The roads are 30 feet, you can drive three cars down through there. I have lived there thirty-five years and there has never been a problem and I drive it everyday.

Mr. Thornberry: I think you should care about what your voters think.

Mayor Hammon: Brian, there has been a financial decision in this, it is the complaints from the public about the abuse of the parking and parking in the street, the driving lanes. I witnessed the complaints first hand. I saw an individual put his car in park, at the stop sign at Crull Street, never pulled off the street, turned his car off and went in his house. That verified complaints I heard from the public, we've had them for years now about the abusive parking in the driving lanes. Your parking pad, you are two and three feet out in the driving lane.

Mr. Evans: John and the rest of us on Council are here to try and make things better. I take offense to what you said, we come here every week to try and make things better for the Village of Newtown. I'll be more than happy to meet with you at any time and will try to work out the problem. We're not against you or anybody. We're trying to make the village better for everybody and 99% of the people that come in here wanted the things done that we've tried to do. If there's a problem with it, we will work through the issues to try and help you. I know you have signatures on there, I understand that, there's no use in making a big scene. We're not against the people down there just because we put "NO PARKING" signs up. We'll be more than happy to help you.

Mr. Thornberry: You have robbed us from parking and there has been parking down there since the subdivision's existence. I'm not going to waste your time, but we'll be back. We don't want your help, there's not a problem. You're trying to fix something that isn't broke. You told me that I had a parking garage in my backyard and you are absolutely wrong, there was never a garage on that property. You need to get your facts together.

Mayor Hammon: There are a couple of homes that probably never had garages back there. The fact of it is Brian, you have two cars parked back there now. Your time is up Brian, there are others who want to talk.

Resident Sharon Howes: 3515 Crawford Street. I want to publicly thank Brian for making things known to the neighbors. What other streets does it include besides my neighborhood?

Mayor Hammon: Previously, we did Debolt. Charlie Siegel, Street Commissioner did a study for me three or four years ago, of the streets we felt should be no parking and measured the width and one of the first streets we did was Debolt.

Ms. Howes: Are you planning to widen the streets?

Mayor Hammon: I would have said yes yesterday, but now it's only 30 feet and I'm not sure what I can do with it. We could make it one-way, if we have to do something. Some people say it was one-way in the past so maybe we'll have to make it one-way streets down there. We'll just have to look at other things that can be done.

Ms. Howes: I'm sure there are people who would like to have sidewalks, but I don't think just our little community should have to pay for it.

Mr. Pulskamp: Ma'am you wouldn't pay for it. It would be paid for by the Village General Fund.

Ms. Howes: Then if it needed to be repaired, we would have to pay for it?

Mayor Hammon: Yes, it would be your responsibility.

Ms. Howes: If someone slipped on it, I would get sued and not the city?

Mr. Pulskamp: There is a law that was passed a few years ago that pretty much did away with that.

Ms. Howes: So we won't get sued if someone slips on it?

Mayor Hammon: We couldn't guarantee you that.

Ms. Howes: We don't have sidewalks and I'm not responsible for that right now.

Mayor Hammon: I understand that.

Resident Jonathan Howes: 3515 Crawford Street. Ken, when it came to the sidewalk funds that there would not assessment.

Mr. Pulskamp: Correct

Mr. Howes: There was talk of a sewer assessment.

Mr. Pulskamp: Sewer assessments, you already have. You already have sewers down there.

Unknown from the audience: He's talking about storm sewers.

Mayor Hammon: We just did a street out here, all the way down and nobody was assessed. We're doing the other side of Church Street the same way and no one was assessed.

Mr. Pulskamp: You're getting the wrong information, if the project ever happens down there, because like John said, it will run \$800,000 to \$1,000,000, to widen the streets, curbs and gutters, storm sewers to help alleviate some of the drainage problems. The residents down there would not pay a penny on. It would be done through grants, federal, state, county and our general fund. You would have no assessments from it. Any assessment you ever had down there on property was when they put sanitary sewers in back in the 70's.

Mr. Howes: I remember paying the tax assessment on that when we bought our house. If there is no assessment, how does this impact our taxes we pay to the city of Newtown? Will this increase them any for our area?

Mr. Pulskamp: No. It may increase your property value.

Mr. Howes: Mr. Mayor and Council, I think you would find that if you could just take a little more time to communicate and break down information for the people.

Mr. Pulskamp: When we got to that point, we would definitely do that. We're looking at 3-5 years down the road.

Mayor Hammon: This is not something is scheduled two, three or even four years out. We want to make this a walking community with sidewalks, that is why we're seeking funds to come down SR32 from Little Dry Run Road. We're trying to tie all of the communities together so no one subdivision will be isolated. We're trying to bring the town in to make it an integrated community.

Mr. Howes: I'm not going to tell you what to do, but I do live here and I'm here as a result of one word, fear. Eliminate the fear and you'll get people working for you and with you, not against you. That takes communication and that takes getting us involved by keeping us in the loop.

Mayor Hammon: We're sitting here at Council talking about issues and we see no faces in our audience, how do we communicate to you if you don't show the willingness to come to Council? The "NO PARKING" issue was passed almost ten months ago and we had six units of people come here to represent the community and talk about it and we got no feedback. Now that the signs are up, everybody is upset.

Mr. Howes: I understand. Didn't you use to put out a Newtonian? This isn't a criticism John.

Mayor Hammon: We still do, if you have not received one, we need to talk about that. We try to communicate by putting the minutes on the website.

Mr. Pulskamp: The newsletter is mailed out quarterly, directly mailed to your house.

Mr. Evans: From what John said, if you look at places where we have done sidewalks, like Valley and this part of Church Street, there have been numerous people who have upgraded their properties and added on additions. If you talk to those people, they really like what Newtown did and they didn't have to extra money. The property looks better, it just upgraded everything.

Mr. Howes: Like I said, this isn't a criticism, just simply putting it on the table to help maybe eliminate that fear factor and get people to work with you. These are hard times and people are just trying to stay above water. I thank you.

Mr. Thornberry: That's not true when you say it won't cost nothing. When I have to put in a driveway, that will cost be something. The reason you are at the table is because one person didn't make it to Council. We have more people getting involved now and we're going to keep getting involved. Only one person didn't make it when we voted for council. All the people that signed this list are not going to vote for any of the people that voted "yeah" on here. To say it is not going to cost us nothing, you're wrong.

Mayor Hammon: Brian, I will say this, after we met, I did drive the alleyway and I will admit the one person that's most severely impacted by it is you.

Mr. Thornberry: It's funny you should mention that, the alleyway slopes towards my house, that's also not an accident. That's a deliberate act to drain water into my house, you are trying to get rid of me, you know you are, it's a fact. It's ridiculous.

Mayor Hammon: Brian, I thought there were no water problems. You have vehicles in your backyard, you have access off the alley. You come here and said you wanted the alleys down and we said we'd do that. We sat down and said, "well we made no parking....."

Mr. Thornberry: No I did not. You said you wanted to put gravel in and I said, "that will just make kids throw at the windows and I said why should we drive across your gravel to get to our hard services that you're trying to make us put in."

Mayor Hammon: It's a vacant lot.

Resident Tammy Thornberry: 6612 West Plum Street. I want to talk about the safety of the children. They do run up and down and play along the alleyways where cars are pulling in and out and the kids are running in and out of the yards and are going to end up getting hit. What are you guys going to do about that?

Mayor Hammon: I can't keep your kids off the street.

Mrs. Thornberry: It's closed in even more.

Mayor Hammon: It's like a street, how can I be responsible for your child getting hit in the street? It's a public thoroughfare, it's a right-of-way.

Mrs. Thornberry: Will you be putting lights up in the alleys? If I'm getting up going to hospitals at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m., I don't think I should have to walk down a dark alley.

Mayor Hammon: I'm not going to light the alley the entire distance. We had this conversation yesterday in front of your house and I think it is your responsibility, on your property, for you to put security lighting in when you're parking on your property and that's what we're talking about. We're not talking about parking in the right-of-way area, it's parking on your yard and getting in your van. Is that not a true statement?

Mrs. Thornberry: That's what you said that you would not put lights in down there because it's not for everyone.

Mayor Hammon: That's what I said. Every street is not well lit, we don't do that around the town. As I told you, the security of you parking behind your house is somewhat your responsibility.

Mrs. Thornberry: I make sure my kids are very cautious about things, but I have seen kids almost get hit from people flying out of them alleys.

Councilmember Mark Kobasuk: Mr. Mayor, I'm pretty new on Council, pretty new to this issue. I've never seen so many people come here and complain about something. If it was fine, why

don't we just let them park if there is not a safety issue. These people are really coming down here complaining about this. I don't know all of the issues, but could we look at in and look into more. With all of these concerns, if it's not broke then why are we fixing it?

Mr. Pulskamp: Because it was broke Mark. This is not something that we jumped into. This was discussed at this Council table for months and months. It has been a problem with the Forest Hills School District, they will not take their busses down the street.

Mr. Kobasuk: Ken, I guess I don't remember all of these discussions, maybe I wasn't paying attention, I don't know. I thought "NO PARKING" on the street was not a big issues. But, these people tell me that they've had this parking since the beginning that they've been living there.

Mr. Thornberry: Exactly.....Thank you !

Mr. Kobasuk: I'm a little concerned over what I'm hearing, maybe I'm uneducated on the issue, but I feel maybe we ought to take another look into this issue.

Mayor Hammon: The problem of it is, I think it is 14-16 feet wide and if you put a car out on the street, that narrows that down to 8-10 feet. That's the problem you get, it's the abuse that people have. Brian wants to talk about his, he has maybe four or five feet off of the roadway, but his vehicle still is parked out in the driving lane where you would normally drive through and it makes it difficult. This law was passed back in June of 2005 and it was brought here because people repeatedly witnessed the abuse. I've seen it. People are parking in the driving lanes. They're not making an effort to get out of the street. It's abusive. I understand some of their feelings, that's why Council made a commitment to blacktop the alleyways because when this subdivision was laid out, the parking was designed to come from behind the homes. When you go down and look at it, 85% of the people could put a driveway in their yard. I've had positive feedback, some have said it is one of the greatest things that has happened, the no parking. It's starting to clean up, the garbage, the trailers, broken down vehicles aren't on the street. We can continue to study the issue, we could make them one-way streets. It boils down to the fact that people have been parking in the driving lane.

Mr. Kobasuk: They should not be parking in the driving lane.

Ms. Hueber: Mark, you probably need to go look at it.

Resident Donna Brooks: 6620 Crull Street. We were one of the ones that complained about parking on the street, if my house goes up in flames tonight, you'll know the reason why. We are glad to see the parking signs because people were working on their automobiles parked along the side of the street in front of the stop sign. It happened more than once and there was no sign that said, "NO PARKING" within 30 feet of the stop sign, so they preceded to park there. They not only parked there, they took the wheels off of the car to fix the car. I'm glad to see the "NO PARKING" signs and I thank you very much.

Councilmember Curt Cosby: I was not present for this vote. I don't know what was discussed and when it was discussed. I do agree with Mark in that enough people are here showing displeasure and I feel maybe we should look at this again and include them on what they feel the solution is. I think everybody should have a voice in it. Obviously, we've not done this to the satisfaction of the people in the neighborhood, not even close. Not having been here and Mark not having been here, at least to us, it sounds like it needs to be revisited.

Mr. Kobasuk: I just am very disturbed by what I heard tonight.

Mayor Hammon: I think it's a mistake; regardless of what you want to do, it's the law, it's in place, the signs are marked, it can now be enforced. If you want to go back and visit it, it doesn't make any difference, if someone is parked there, they will get a ticket. That is the law. The ordinance is ten months old.

Mr. Cosby: All I'm saying, "there's enough concern here," in my opinion, it needs to be revisited. I think it needs to be talked about by the residents that have a problem, as well as the residents that like what the new law is. Obviously, I think they need a forum. Again, I wasn't here, I'm kind of shooting from the hip. I'm seeing the results tonight and I think we need to pay attention to the fact that there are some people upset, as well as some people that are pleased with it and try to work towards a compromise if there is one.

Mr. Kobasuk: I totally agree.

Mr. Cosby: I think it would be prudent of Council to do a working session. We've done that in the past, even if we come on an off night and devote it exclusively to this issue and send a flyer down there to inform the people that we're going to talk about it. They may have some solutions to what they can do that is not going to hit them in the pocketbook. There may be a way to work through it. I think that would be the best way to go, to revisit the issue, seeing the amount of opposition. Again, I wasn't here for it ten months ago, I don't know what was talked about, I don't know how extensive. I don't know if these people were notified. I know people don't show up to the meetings, you're right. It's very hard to get people involved, until sometimes after the fact. But obviously they are upset about it and I think now they would be more than happy to join us in a forum that we could look at this.

Mr. Mayor: I have a hard time with it a little bit because people came down and expressed opinions. When we passed the ordinance, they came here and talked about it and not a one said this is a problem.

Mr. Evans: We all as Council have driven before and we probably need to do it again Mayor.

Mayor Hammon: We can do it as part of the planning session and drive around town and come back to Town Hall and have a planning session.

Mr. Kobasuk: I'm certainly in favor of doing that for the residents.

Mr. Pulskamp: I agree with John. This was not an easy decision being made, it was not passed by emergency. If we're going to go back and look at this, we also had opposition when we passed no parking on Debolt. Are we going to go back and look at that? Are we going to go back and look at no parking at every street that we passed in the last fifty years in this village that we passed because of emergency problems. Are we going to go back and address every one of those issues?

Mr. Cosby: Ken, I see your point, but I think the no parking on Debolt was established last year. Again, this is my fourth meeting. I didn't see a large group of people from Debolt down here making noise about it.

Mr. Pulskamp: There was.

Mr. Cosby: I wasn't here to make that decision at that time. I may have made the same conclusion that I'm making tonight, that obviously we need a little more work on it.

Mayor Hammon: You can do it, but I think you're wrong. You're going back, you want to revisit all the other decisions Council has made. We had a study of it and this is what Charlie does, we looked at it. I encourage you to go down there and look at the cars parked in the middle of the street.

Mr. Cosby: I drive the entire village at least once a week.

Resident Sandra Stapleton: 6813 Center Street. Tracy, I know you had the alleyways done of off of Leonard Street and the car alley that goes into Center Street, I was wondering if the one behind my house, with the big holes would be done?

Mayor Hammon: At this time, there are no plans. We did the other ones because of how the concept of the houses were laid out, most of the homes have a garage in back. A few homes don't have parking and when we said there was going to be no parking, that was one of the things I asked Council to do was not pass the ordinance until we could surface the alleyways and give people access to the back of their lots. It is cost prohibitive to pave all of the alleyways.

Ms. Stapleton: I have to park on the street.

Mayor Hammon: I will pledge to you that if we put no parking in front of your house, we will put the alleyways behind you.

Mayor Hammon closed audience participation.

Assistant Fire Chief Terry Ramsey: (handout) Fire and EMS Funding Time-Line was presented to Council. This time-line began with the year 2000 with a 4.5 Mill Levy, duration for 5 years, it expired and voted and passed again after the five-year period. For 2002, the 3.5 was voted on and those funds started coming in 2003 and that's the year when the Village of Newtown merged with the Fairfax Madison Place Joint Fire District to establish the Little Miami Joint Fire District. Some of these numbers were provided by the clerk's office here, most provided by Hamilton County Auditor, some were based on our annual report.

Mayor Hammon: 2006, this is actually a Levy, but we're paying you in additional funds and you don't reflect that in that year. Contractually we owe you more than this and you fairly don't reflect that in with this document.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: Correct, it does not show that. Which we don't know what that amount is going to be.

Mayor Hammon: We'll owe somewhere between \$150,000 to \$160,000 out of the General Funds. The contract does guarantee a minimal payment.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: You're right, these numbers only reflect millage factors.

Ms. Hueber: This is the millage. What he has put together is what we're collecting from the village. In our contract, we're paying more, but that is not going to prove anything on this paper for millage wise.

Mr. Kobasuk: I thought in 2006, we were paying about 8 mills.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: No, it's 6 mills, but 8 based on contract. I was asked only to show monies generated by levies, existing levies. What we have formulated is a proposal for a 7.25 mill levy, so that the Fire District is the actual collection agency or authority. Which is pretty much, I believe, what the village wanted us to do based on what the solicitor stated and the mayor.

Mayor Hammon: Yes, we asked if you would consider putting a levy on one year earlier than originally planned.

Mr. Cosby: On the 2.5 Continuous, that means....

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: When Newtown joined the Fire District, there was an existing 2.5 mill levy that was voted on by the community of Columbia Township and Fairfax. By joining the district, that was assessed to Newtown.

Mr. Cosby: Is the new 7.25 proposed as a continuous levy?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: Yes that is our intention.

Mr. Cosby: If this levy is passed by voters, then the combination of 9.75 is just an on-going continuous levy until which time you feel that you're not collecting.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: It could be that based on new property valuations, we could maybe run it based on just property valuations and not increase the millage.

Mayor Hammon: What is the effective rate on the 2.5 mill?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: The rate drifts down, but the money has pretty much stayed consistent. The effective rate is 2.14 on the 2.5 mill.

Ms. Hueber: The graph he has just shows how it dwindles down each year up until the 2013 year.

Mayor Hammon: Could you talk a little about what the additional cost will buy the village?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: They'll get the same coverage as we are providing today. We'll maintain our staffing with paramedic coverage, purchase and replacement of capital equipment. Replacement of staff vehicles, improvement of facilities, replacement of fire gear if we're not successful with our FEMA grant. Maintaining the EMS services and costs, our costs are continually going up because we do not replace equipment that we use on EMS runs. We had \$100,000 renovation Hopefully, we can hire some career firefighters because that helps with the scheduling. Within the next couple of years, we will replace an Engine.

Mr. Evans: Terry, put yourself just in our shoes. We're the Council and personally, I really don't understand the whole thing. I hear all day long everybody wants 27% more, I own a business and there are people with fixed incomes or no income. We as a Council have to go to these people and tell them why they should vote for the fire levy. I haven't had a good bunch of answers to tell people why they should vote for it. First of all, we have a school levy at the same

time. If I'm paying \$444,000, give or take now or more and then all of a sudden I'm going to pay \$840,000. I'm scared about taxes because they go on, they never come off. I need an explanation.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: I heard Debbie concur that yes, once taxes come on, they never come off. First of all, you have to look at what you are getting for those tax dollars. That's not true for public services. Fire, police, your school, provisions usually never come off. If anything, they are going to constantly increase. Have you ever used the fire service at all, the EMS service? It's an insurance plan and that's what is tough for people to realize. It is an insurance plan. Have you ever used your home or health insurance? That's what the public fire service is, an insurance plan. You complain about it until you have to use us.

Mr. Evans: I'm not against you guys, I think you do a good job.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: Well, it sounds like you're against us.

Mr. Evans: I'm not, I have had my guys over here and you guys have done a good job. I'm a concerned taxpayer. I do pay a lot of taxes, period. I like to have aggressive people that do their job and I think we do have good people here. I have to be really convinced on what is going on here. I don't know all of the levels of staffing. I'd like to look into it myself.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: I'm sorry if I'm not giving you enough information tonight because I was told to bring a time-line in of costs from years past. There are different line items that increase on an annual basis. We base our budget on inflation costs. If we buy fire equipment today for maybe \$1,200 and say two to three years from now, we will pay \$1,300 to \$1,400 more for the same equipment. Just to show you something here in the past, the Village of Newtown people voted on, in 2000, they voted for a 4.5 mill levy, Fire and EMS services. I guess it was actually 1999 when they voted because it became effective in 2000. Then again in 2002, I guess it was to accommodate your fire department with a full-time chief and officers. But, then in 2003, the village voted for an additional 3.5 mill, that is 8.0 mills. So, apparently, the people of the Village of Newtown wanted this for fire protection and EMS services.

Mr. Evans: But it didn't pass last time.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: That was before acquiring EMS services. It was not worded that way. But, the people wanted this, at least someone convinced them of it. They felt strong enough that they wanted people there across the street 24/7, 365. Now, granted the property value has increased tremendously here in the village. Prior to 2006, the property value was \$72,683,840 million, we just got the numbers from the auditor a month ago and now the current value is \$86,212,910. I'm sure it is because of the development of the community. With that 8.0 mills, it generated \$614,000 and now there are 6.0 mills that are current that will generate \$441,000, approximately. Because of the failure last November. Really when you look at it, the village voted for 8.0 mills. We're looking for a total of 9.75 mills. The 2.5 that currently exists and we're looking an increase of a new levy of 7.25 to remove the 3.5 that is on there right now. We're only asking for a 1.75 mill increase for the Village of Newtown. Yes, it's based on different property values, but the cost are not going to be that extreme for the Village of Newtown.

Mrs. McCarthy: With this levy, what is the bottom line, how much is it going to up our taxes?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: When you look at the whole thing, it is \$29.48 per mill.

Mrs. McCarthy: Randy, with the school levy, what are we looking at on taxes?

Randy Smith: 7493 Pinehurst Drive. For a \$100,000 house, on annual basis, you're looking at I think it was, an increase of \$174.00 annually, half of that for a six month bill.

Ms. Hueber: What is the percentage of increase?

Mr. Smith: It's about 11% increase for the Village of Newtown.

Mrs. McCarthy: I'm really concerned. People that are on fixed incomes, that's what I'm concerned about with both levies.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: I'm sorry, I don't have an answer, I wish I did.

Mrs. McCarthy: This Council needs to start thinking about what happens if this doesn't go through, what is our plan B?

Mayor Hammon: We're contractually obligated, unless we back out of it for 2007. It's the same thing as we did this year, it will be about \$150,000 that will have to come out of the General Fund next year.

Mrs. McCarthy: That's a lot of money with both levies.

Mr. Pulskamp: Terry, you said it is \$29.48 per mill.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: For the Village of Newtown, you're looking at about an increase of 1.75, so \$29.48 per mill.

Mr. Pulskamp: On \$100,000 house, it will be \$59.00 per year increase, \$58.96 increase.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: It could be a little higher because of the difference in the values from prior 2006 and post 2006. It's not going to be that much.

Ms. Hueber: That is the point we need to stress.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: They're going to look at the whole thing and not realize they were paying 8.0 mill at one time.

Mr. Evans: I think it didn't pass last time because of the way it was worded.

Mr. Pulskamp: With what we're paying today, right now, if we go by the \$29.48 per mill, a \$100,000 house will pay roughly, increase it up to \$65.00 to \$70.00 more per year, \$35.00 every six months extra the average homeowner will pay.

Mr. Cosby: I assume you're going off the 1.75 increase, but when we pass this, at least on the 7.25, is that not then calculated on the latest valuation.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: That is why I said there would be a bit of an increase.

Mr. Cosby: There is actually a greater increase than what you are speaking of.

Mayor Hammon: The dollars generated is, if you go back to 2004, that's just what the levy generated. So you can see that this is going to be significant.

Mr. Cosby: It's going to be higher than just a 1.75 mill difference because of new property valuations. I think we need to be clear on that.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: Our plan is to put out a flyer to each community; however, each flyer will be different because each community is going to save a different case. Newtown will be a 1.75 increase on new ballots so hopefully we can get that number or we can put that into this flyer so the individual homeowners can figure that out.

Mr. Pulskamp: Terry, when we meet, we need to make this simple because this is very confusing to us and to the residents. We need something that shows at the end of 2005, because that is when our levy ended, that a homeowner with a \$100,000 house was paying "x" amount of dollars per year for fire. Then we need to show if this passes what they will pay now for 2007 at the new rates.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: My point I'm trying to impress upon everyone here, was that the village supported the fire district for the fire department with an 8.0 mill levy, that cost "x" amount of dollars to the homeowner. They felt that their fire and EMS services were so valuable and much needed in this area that they went to the polls and voted for it.

Mr. Cosby: In my opinion, we need to show the dollar figure and it's not just for 1.75 increase, it's 7.25 at today's valuation. The 2.5 that is a continuous, does that ever get updated to when new valuations or is it always off of where it began.

Mayor Hammon: I thought it's not new valuations, but you get an increase with new building.

Mr. Smith: You get new construction with Housebill 920 rolled back and that's not to be confused with the 10% rollback, but the Housebill 920 rolls back and that's why you have an effective, a voted and effective millage. You get the penalty we get.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: You have to realize that we created a joint fire district, so there is a lot of development going on in the three communities. There is a sixty to seventy dollar project being started on Red Bank Road, the old Ford plant. You have development here in the village, there is development going on Plainville Road and Madison Place, the Plainville area on Wooster. All of that development is going to help with costs and funding. Our proposal is to go to 2013, at 2013 we may be okay and may be able to extend it to 2014 and 2015 based on those factors. We hope if our proposal passes, we can run this out seven years. We want to get this out as soon as we can. Before we send anything out, we'll have an information flyer constructed, a sample and let you guys see it and hopefully will have your approval and endorsement.

Ms. Hueber: Columbia township's increase is unbelievable because they haven't had an increase for thirteen years, isn't it?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: No, actually it is the Village of Fairfax, they have never had a fire levy before. Theirs is going to be completely new. Columbia Township has had a fire levy, but it hasn't been renewed in several years, so there will be an increase for them. It's not only going to be Newtown. As a matter of fact, I believe Newtown may be hit the least.

Mayor Hammon: I'm going to assume from your comment regarding the building and construction, that is not considered anywhere in the budget for the next twelve years. What you said is we hope to maybe go a year or two more. I assume that you haven't brought those numbers in.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: I don't think we can just yet. You can always go back and resend portions of a millage. If this passes and we have 7.25 on and we have tremendous development within a short period of time, we can always resend it to a lower millage on new valuations. Once of the things I do want to say, on behalf of the fire department, I just want to show people what you're getting for your buck and we have brought on with us when we merged forty professional level-two firefighters, which have professional certification for full-time firefighters. That is not full-time people, but those firefighters have gone out and trained themselves to that level, and we have helped. We have twenty-two paramedics on staff, seventeen fire safety inspectors. We did over three hundred and fifty inspections last year in our district. We have CPR instructors, which I am one myself and provide CPR and first aid for the entire community, at a very nominal cost, just enough so we can replace our equipment. We have HAZMAT technicians, we do child carseat safety inspections and we have an arson investigator so we don't have to use the SCAT program here in the district.

Mrs. McCarthy: Terry, how many firefighters do we have over there everyday?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: It depends on the day and time. I just left there and came over here and we had seven. Six were on the schedule.

Mrs. McCarthy: How many paramedics out of that?

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: Today, we have two over there and two or three at the other station that would respond. During the evening, we usually have two POC's, two part-timers and two full-timers that are scheduled, that's five. During the day, we have four and now we'll be getting another POC coming on during the day. The time we are probably the shortest is during the weekend, during the day, we have three and then we will usually have another POC doing an eight-hour shift. We're pretty strong in the evening, we have usually ten in the district, five at each station. We're pretty much above what NFPA has required and what the standard is. You don't believe me?

Mayor Hammon: Well, no, I'm confused. I thought the chief stood here and said they say you got to have four on and you just told me three at sometimes. My concern is if we are meeting the standards? I can't go back to those exact figures because we just talked about it.

Assistant Fire Chief Ramsey: We are in the middle of NFPA, sometimes we have three and times we have four, depends if someone calls in sick, depends on POC schedule and if one is taking a class, he may come in late. We always promote training. We have several in paramedic school and several in EMT school.

Councilmember Mark Kobasuk: I would like to talk about this issue a little bit because in December, I sat in this chair, the board had met and Tracy, I took your spot. We had asked them to put the levy on early and they did. I'm just trying to understand some of the reservations, is it the amount we're concerned about, the 7.25 or the whole concept. As I look at Newtown, we had some pretty dire alternatives, if it doesn't pass, what do we do then? We're already paying money out of our General Fund to meet the contract. They moved it up, I'm not happy with the 7.25 mill, but it was a unanimous decision as I understand it from the fire board. Tracy, you were at that meeting. It's clearly up to the voters in the end, it's not really us. I think the fire district wants a vote of support of Council that they can use in their solicitation and advertising.

Mayor Hammon: That's probably true. People want to know more about it and we want the information to come in here.

Mr. Evans: I have a hard time hearing these people say you need to vote for this because it's going to raise your taxes.

Mr. Kobasuk: I have a hard time too Doug, but what are we going to do next year without a levy going through. We're going to have to really rethink the whole fire district.

Mayor Hammon: You have two options, withdraw from the district or pay it out of the General Funds, like we did this year.

Mr. Kobasuk: I think if it doesn't pass, we really need to look at other options.

Mayor Hammon: I will be fair with you, I'm always exploring other options. Maybe not at the forefront, but trying to get a feel, get the pulse of other alternatives.

Mr. Kobasuk: You owe it to the residents of Newtown.

Mr. Pulskamp: If we withdraw from the levy, then that leaves us with 3.5 mills levy.

Mr. Kobasuk: I'm not talking withdrawing, that's why I'm thinking we ought to give the fire district a vote of support. The fire district is going to sell this levy. In the end, it's up to the voters.

Mayor Hammon: One point I want to make to you Mark is that the fire board has to be the responsible person in this, I've got to assume they have done their job to make sure this is a proper number. None of us as taxpayers want to see that in front of us, we still have to respect this is what the board has done.

Mr. Kobasuk: The board voted unanimous and we had two representatives on the board, Tracy and Darwin and they voted for the 7.25.

Ms. Hueber: The thing is, we could have gone lower, but that would have been for less years.

Mr. Kobasuk: I wish you would have. What I'm hearing, that new development on Redbank Road, that will give them a lot more revenue. That's why I think they should have gone lower. It's going to be a hard sell for the district with the school levy.

Ms. Hueber: We're the only district that has a school levy on, which is favorable. If the other two villages pull this out and we fail, it still passes. We could fail here in Newtown and it doesn't matter, taxes are going up. It's the majority of the three communities.

Mayor Hammon: In the current contract, we can give them notice and withdraw.

Mr. Kobasuk: But, if the levy passes and we have the revenue, we can still.....

Mayor Hammon: We can do it anytime we want.

Ms. Hueber: We never have to collect what we say we're going to collect. We aren't collecting right now what we said we were going to collect.

Mayor Hammon: The thing you have to say Mark is that you withdraw from it is, what we get out of the district is our percentage of the tax base. When you look at the tax bases of all of the communities, if ours is 82 and it's 40%, that's what we get, we get 40% of the value of the district back. We don't get our equipment, we get 40% of it.

Ms. Hueber: Minus improvements.

Mayor Hammon closed audience participation.

Councilmember Debbie McCarthy:

- Council needs to approve minutes for December 6, 2005.

Mrs. McCarthy made a motion for Council to approve Council minutes for December 6, 2005. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Abstain. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Curt Cosby:

- I thought I had things worked out for Anderson Township Little League for a ball field at Short Park. Then Miami Valley Christian Academy was thrown into the mix. I met with their Athletic Director, Kevin and they desire a baseball diamond as well. They want to put highschoolers on there and Little League is for the younger children, so we couldn't share the same field due to base pad distances and things of that nature. I talked to Charlie, there are some areas that need to be fixed that have drainage problems at the gravel lot. We have one ball diamond at one end and could put a second one down toward the gravel parking lot at the opposite end and still get a multi-purpose soccer field or whatever that would become down the middle. Kevin was excited about this prospect, he is going before his board, they're looking at the cost themselves of putting up backstops, sweat equity in the labor to create the field. The nice thing for them, they're not interested in a field this year. They have already secured a field for the spring season this year. They are very interested in a field for next year, which gives Charlie plenty of time to do the work that needs to be done. In trying to rectify the problem with using one field, we actually gained another field out of it. Again, even with the work that Miami Valley would put into the field, it would not be an exclusive use just for them. When they're not using it, anybody would have the opportunity to use that field. Same applies with Little League. My proposal is that we allow ATLL to move forward, we need to act this evening with practices and games will start soon. They're willing to come in and do any necessary work, as they always have.

Ms. Hueber: Did we already approve the contract for Moundview?

Mr. Cosby: To my knowledge, we have not. We are just going to add the second field onto a new contract. That needs to be done as well.

Ms. Hueber: Previously, all Doug has to do is when he puts that contract in, he lists both addresses with the same dates and times. I think they pay \$500, I think that is really under. As long as they put money in it, which is what they have been doing, we'll lease it to them.

Mr. Cosby: The fact that they put a lot of money into Moundview, they want to do the same thing to Short Park. I don't know you can take a value of \$500 and say they're underpaying because of the value they have put into it out of their own pocket.

Ms. Hueber: I don't know at all, I came up with that figure. I'm just saying if you ever want to check rates for years to come.

Solicitor Rob Butler: We can enter into an agreement with them Curt, I don't have any legislation tonight to do this.

Mr. Cosby: We're not going to enter into a contract with them tonight, literally, the contract is already in place, we're just adding the second field onto a new contract. It's fine if Rob is not prepared tonight, as long as we all agree that they can move forward. I can say, pending approval of the contract at the next meeting. As far as Miami Valley, we're not looking at a contract yet, he will get back to me. I would like to say that they have the support of Council in the concept of what they want to do.

Mr. Pulskamp: Guys, we have a signed contract with Anderson Township Little League for Moundview Park. It was passed and signed on October 18, 2005 for the year starting March 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006.

Mr. Cosby: That would make sense, so we need to amend that contract.

Mr. Pulskamp: Or we just need an additional contract with a different address for Short Park.

Mr. Cosby made a motion for legal counsel to draw up a new contract for Anderson Township Little League to obtain field use at Short Park and support the concept for Miami Valley Christian Academy to also have use of the field at Short Park when they are ready. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mayor Hammon: We ought to talk to Anderson to see what they charge per hour. When you look at the field that they are reserving, they are not even paying for a week's worth of time in the fields. I think Anderson charges thirty-five to fifty dollars per field.

Mr. Cosby: Anderson does their own maintenance on those fields too. There's a difference here.

Mayor Hammon: Remember, the people in Anderson also pay for the parking lot and everything else, so they have money on there, they are collecting it and charging out for those fields. That is one of those things, if you want to talk competitively around, whether it is Withamsville or wherever else, they are grossly underpaying us.

Mr. Cosby: I will say, Moundview for instance is in better condition than it has ever been and we still collect off of it and they are a non-profit organization. I personally, am not out to soak the people. I think it would be different if they didn't put anything into those fields.

Ms. Hueber: I think it would still be okay to check and see what the fees are so that if for some reason they chose to not maintain the fields anymore, we would have a figure to go by if we had to start charging.

Mr. Cosby: I agree with that. I also know that with them putting money and effort into these fields, if we could look at offering them maybe a three-year deal, I think that politically for them to go to their board, expend funds on the fields they use, it may be an easier sell for them and it also provides a little more of a long-term deal and prospect of what they want to do long-term.

Ms. Hueber: I think they are going to rent it no matter what, they are desperate for fields. They are going to rent them, they're cheap fields.

Councilmember Curt Cosby:

- We have a Parks Committee meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.
- I talked with Jack regarding a Soccer Camp, I think you said the fee was \$300. I got from Debbie that we basically try to break fees down to a \$15.00 per hour on the other soccer.

Ms. Hueber: We have never done an hourly rental.

Mayor Hammon: I think it would behoove us to develop a schedule for hourly rates.

Mr. Cosby: Do we know what SCSA comes down to?

Ms. Hueber: They say there are four teams and say they are there from this hour to this hour, but are they? No body monitors it.

Mr. Cosby: I do agree with John, I think there are two weeks that they will need the fields, one week in June, right after school lets out and that is in the evening time, two and a half hours a night. In July, they will rent it for week of July 3 through July 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; essentially, at \$300, we're giving them two weeks of use on those fields. They want to put this information on the website.

Ms. Hueber: He also gives Newtown residents a fifty-percent discount too. They just reserve the field on the calendar, no contract involved.

Councilmember Mark Kobasuk:

- Mayor, I have some observations on the HCDC CRA drafts. I thought the photos in CRA 1 should have been in CRA 2 and vice versa. When I compared the two CRA districts, it looked like we were leaving out some homes and I just wondered why we're doing that. There are pockets of homes along Church Street, near West Jefferson that do not appear to be in either CRA 1 or CRA 2. I don't think our intent was to exclude anybody, I thought our intent was to include everybody.

Mayor Hammon: Let me talk with you later, we'll get the maps out and compare them. If anybody has any other comments, I need to feed it back. We should have a second reading tonight.

Mr. Kobasuk: I think our intent was to include our entire village.

Mayor Hammon: Basically, the only ones in the flood plains, had new construction. I'll check it out again.

Mr. Kobasuk: What about our strategic planning meeting? Have we ever set a time for that?

Mayor Hammon: We haven't done it. Doug Hall has been really tied up. My opinion is we pick a Saturday when everyone is available and drive around town and come back and talk about the plan.

- Do we have an update on the E-Check building?

Ms. Hueber: We can't afford it.

Mrs. McCarthy: We can't afford it.

Mayor Hammon: They are going to get it appraised and start from that point of view. I think that is where Doug Miller left it. I wouldn't say we can't afford it until we see the budget.

Mr. Kobasuk: Are we worried that someone else may go in there and take it?

Mayor Hammon: They don't want to sell, we've tried to go form a coalition with Green Township and Milford to go in and buy as many as we can to make it more attractive to them.

Councilmember Curt Cosby:

John, where do we stand with these two positions? What happened to the whole process?

Mayor Hammon: I have gone through many of them. My stance on it, Debbie, you got to speak up because you and I talked about this. We had over two hundred applications come in and I thought it was wasteful for this Council to throw away \$6,000 to ask the same people to apply again. We proceeded to go through them and review them and there are six or seven people that have been identified for the police clerk position. Debbie and Keri sat down as an interview committee and went through them and we set it up to do interviews on Thursday night. They have been contacted by phone and are still interested in the position.

Mr. Kobasuk: What about the other spot?

Mayor Hammon: Same situation, we're trying to get people in to do it, we have not focused on the secretary's job.

Mrs. McCarthy: I'm sorry John. Out of those two hundred resumes, we have one for secretary and one for clerk of Courts.

Mr. Kobasuk: John and Debbie, do you feel comfortable just dealing with the resumes that we have and not re-advertising?

Mayor Hammon: Absolutely Mark, I know with the police clerk position, there is someone that works to the east of us. Generally, the wages go down the farther east you go and she is interested in the job. There are very qualified people in there. I didn't want to sit down and advertise and start an eight-week process over again. I want to get somebody in here to relieve the pressure off of Keri, to get her moving towards the tax and get ourselves staffed and that. I will say no matter who we get into the police clerk, we'll give them extensive training. Again, it bothers me, you're asking to go out and advertise for the third time for the position and we already have \$5,000 in advertisement invested and you want to put \$6,000 more out.

Mr. Cosby: That's the first time we, as a HR committee met and proposed what we proposed. I do believe what Keri was prepared to consolidate the advertisement for both positions in the one ad; therefore, saving us.

Mayor Hammon: That is not what was presented to me. When we talked, it was two ads. Curt, another thing, we want the qualifications on the website and that hasn't occurred. This council hasn't seen any of the qualifications of the jobs. That was another thing I had given the HR committee to do, to come up with a job description and bring it to council.

Mr. Pulskamp: I have not seen a job description or pay.

Mr. Cosby: We came up with a job description between the HR committee, we were prepared to take it to the website and take it to council. Basically, the process was shutdown that we weren't going to advertise. Even though council had voted to advertise, we were going to go back and use the resumes we had from the last time you advertised. We had decided not to do that, we felt it was better to re-advertise.

Ms. Hueber: I think the point of it, before we did anything, it was supposed to come back to the table so the council could see the information before it went to website.

Mr. Cosby: We do have it as a singular description. I don't have them because Keri was gone today due to a funeral. I was going to present it tonight, but we were told to kill the ad.

Mr. Kobasuk: Let's just present it.

Mayor Hammon: There were a lot of concerns expressed to me over the job description.

Ms. Hueber: The whole point is to bring two papers to council, one with a full job description of each position, what we're paying them and what we're going to advertise. We can start the process after everyone agrees on this information.

Mr. Evans made a motion to approve Checklist dated February 28, 2006. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to accept the Second Reading, CRA1, Non-Flood Plain Area , A Resolution IMPLENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN AND DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND CREATING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a Second Reading of CRA2, Flood-Plain Area, A Resolution IMPLENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70, OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN AND DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND CREATING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion.

Mr. Kobasuk: I want to put something on the record regarding the CRA's. I think they need to be corrected, that the intent on CRA1 and CRA2 was to include the entire village, one way or another. As written, I don't think they do that.

Mr. Pulskamp: Mark, the original description I see is correct. The map is what I see as not correct.

Mr. Kobasuk: As long as we get it correct.

Mr. Pulskamp: If you look at the legal descriptions of the actual written description, they are correct.

Mr. Kobasuk: I'm not sure of that, Ken because when you read them, one of them does not go below McCullough Run, one ends at the bottom of McCullough Run and does not go down. We need to check, I do not believe they are correct and should include the entire village. We need to correct that.

Mayor Hammon: I will try to resolve it.

Councilmember Tracy Hueber: We spend too much on a lot of discussion that we should be doing in our groups. We get off track and take these meetings into hours that shouldn't.

Mr. Cosby: I don't think that happens on too many occasions. Tonight, the public spoke till almost 9:30 p.m. We have to give them the ear, absolutely.

Ms. Hueber: But three of us brought nothing up tonight.

Mr. Cosby: That's great, but I have something to bring up, I want to bring it up.

Mayor Hammon: We're trying to get an agenda together.

Engineer Bruce Brandstetter: We'd like to get Miller Construction under contract. I wasn't here a few weeks ago. There were some questions on the number of days with sub-contractors. We met with Miller and I have a letter basically says they will complete the project within 180 days. They realize we're under contract and that the road needs to be in race condition. I told them it was the second Saturday in August. They talked about their subcontractors. Jurgensen will do the painting, Miami Western will do the storm water and the water and then Unicustom on the traffic signal. I have an email from Russ Weber, Engineer at Cincinnati Water Works and I faxed John a copy. I asked him two questions that applied to this project. One was when could we get the check for Water Works, he said two weeks after he gets it in, he'll issue a letter to the village. So, \$350,000 of the contract is Water Work's money. Second question, was on Miami Western and per his email, "they do excellent work, we have no objection to them." They are looking to get started quickly since we had a mild winter. If you all pass the Resolution, we'll get the necessary paperwork to Ohio Public Works Commission and get the ball rolling. We met with the gas company, there are some minor changes in alignment for a storm sewer and we're ready to go.

Mr. Evans: Is Unicustom alright?

Mr. Brandstetter: They're not my favorite, but we're going to work with them. Really, Wagner Smith is premium when it comes to signals, but they didn't bid this project. Unicustoms is the only bid they received.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE 05-2006 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR A PAVING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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