

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
April 6, 2010
City Council Chambers – Rouss City Hall**

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Councilor Evan Clark, Milt McInturff and Les Veach; Vice-President Art Major; Mayor Elizabeth Minor (6)
ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Michael Butler; Councilor John Hill and John Willingham (3)

President Buettner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

New Business:

Discussion - FY11 Budget Item Review

City Manager Jim O'Connor presented a budget with options prepared from the comments received and the impacts each option would have on the outside agencies. Staff would like to narrow it down to one option with some direction from Council. Mr. O'Connor suggested each councilor look at the outside agencies and picks 2-3 priorities to get to a manageable number. Council could also direct a general dollar amount to take back and plug into the budget.

Vice-President Major suggested option 3a and stated it has a more equitable distribution to the agencies Council has chosen in the past. All of the agencies provide services that if they were not there, it would cost more elsewhere. Vice-President Major stated previous Councils made a commitment to make the Discovery Museum work and this Council needs to get behind that.

Mr. O'Connor stated with option 3a there would be a deficit of \$250,000 to come out of the fund balance unless staff can take liberties to reduce other projects.

President Buettner stated Detox is still \$100,000 that can be used elsewhere.

Councilor McInturff asked why the Northwestern Community Services was not cut back.

Councilor Clark stated he did not the reasoning but they provide mental health and drug services throughout the community. The state has cut their funding much greater than the City has. The organization has cut back on services and staff and is down to the bone. It is his opinion the

city will see detrimental effects if their funding is cut. If possible, he would increase their funding.

Councilor Veach stated the city has cut down 13% over the last 4 years and has trimmed down to a very efficient machine. He thanked staff for all of their work.

Mr. O'Connor stated staff will look at funding under option 3a and make sure there are no contract violations.

R-2010-18: Resolution – Cigarette Tax funding specified for equipment (at request of Council)

City Attorney Anthony Williams stated that while Council cannot bind future councils, the resolution would direct the City Manager to spend the funds in a specific manner.

Vice-President Major stated he will not be supporting the resolution at this time. It is the wrong time to raise taxes for anything to makeup for State shortfalls.

Councilor Clark moved to forward R-2010-18 to Council. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then defeated 3/3 with President Buettner, Vice-President Major and Mayor Minor voting in the negative.*

Mayor Minor announced the Healthy Families Celebration will be held at noon tomorrow on the Shenandoah University campus. She will be presenting a proclamation honoring Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Adjournment

Vice-President Major moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor then unanimously approved by voice-vote.