

**Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
July 14, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.**

**This meeting was held electronically (remotely) pursuant to
Ohio Revised Code Section 121.221**

Public Hearing: Resolution No. 46-2020. A Resolution adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Monroe, Ohio, for the 2021 fiscal year.

Mayor Frentzel opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 46-2020, a Resolution adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Monroe, Ohio, for the 2021 fiscal year.

Having been sworn, Mrs. Ervin, Director of Finance, gave the following presentation:

This is tax budget season and the start of our annual budget process. This is for tax year 2021. The tax budget has historically been where I would present to you an estimate of our revenues and estimate of our expenses and we send it to the county to get their feedback. I would like us to take a look at the revenue portion and, using what we have so far in the data that we have collected, and say here is what we really anticipate our revenues to be. As we go through our budget process Council can really start to prioritize the services that we provide to our citizens based on here is the estimated revenue that we think we are going to get. Throughout this presentation you will hear me interchange tax budget with revenue budget. I will be using the two terms as the same thing this year. The tax budget will end with the City receiving the certificate of estimated resources. This is the legal document that we use in order to make appropriations. If we do not provide the county proof that we are going to get revenue we can't spend the money legally. The certificate of estimate resources is what allows you to set those priorities in order to establish the appropriations. We will do that starting in July. In September, we start working on our temporary appropriations. That is what we will call our operating budget. We don't do a lot of capital at that point. We just do temporary numbers. Here is what we think we are going to spend over the course of the next year and that happens in December. Then in April, we finalize everything. We use our actual year end revenue and expenditure totals to set up here is our budget plan for fiscal year 2021. That is when we start adding capital improvement items.

The tax budget is required to be adopted by the Ohio Revised Code and has to be submitted to the county by July 20th. The usefulness for Monroe is we are going to look at those revenues very closely. We have started implementing the five-year forecast. This will help isolate what we think we are going to get in the next year and this will help Council prioritize what services we can afford as a City to provide for our constituents. This is a tool that lets us build this wish list. We can say we want A, B, C, and D, but we know from our budget that we can only do A and B. This will give Council a framework for how we can budget. When we prepare a tax budget we can actually prepare it out of budget. Our expenses can exceed our revenues. This shows us what services we want to provide and then gives us a mechanism if we need to put additional tax levies on the ballot this gives us enough time. It also shows the county that we

need the property taxes and the local government funding to build and continue to fund our various operations. It is three-fold why we do it, but there is a lot of value to it.

Mrs. Ervin presented the proof of publication notifying the public of this evening's public hearing. She then presented the time-line for the tax budget. By July 15th Council must approve the tax budget, by July 20th it must be received by the county, in August the County Budget Commission gives the amounts and rates of property tax to the City, and in October Council approves and returns a resolution accepting the amounts and rates for property tax. Thereafter, they will issue a certificate of estimated resources.

We take every fund that receives property tax revenue and we need to provide in detail what the revenue will be and what the expenses will be. We give three years of actual data and then estimate for the current year and then a projection for the next fiscal year. The remaining funds do not need the detail, just a summary.

Our assumptions for the revenue for fiscal year 2020, as most of you know we have gone through a large amount of unknowns. Many different factors. Every month I am updating our forecast and it is changing dramatically every month. The five percent reduction that Council approved in the appropriations were included in the tax budget due to COVID-19. The fiscal year 2021 estimates are based on the forecast that ended June 30th. We also took a look at the current staffing levels and the current contracts.

Over the last 10 years our General Fund has increased on average approximately four percent. You will see there is a lot of ups and downs, but the trend is an overall increase. We hope that will continue. We are taking it one month at a time.

We are trying to build the revenue budget so that Council can look at it and build the priorities. In the General Fund about 80% of our revenue comes from local taxes. This includes property tax, municipal tax, admissions tax, and hotel/motel tax. Of that 80% currently about 90% is municipal income tax. About 7% is property tax. 3% is the other such as permissive sales tax and admissions tax. Our income tax makes up about 76% of our full General Fund revenue.

Looking at the income tax we have trended upwards and we have talked several times about the impact of COVID-19 anticipated this year and next year. This is due to the businesses and individuals filing their net profit taxes because of the shut down this year. Delinquencies in both income tax and property tax is also a concern.

For the property tax the biggest impact is probably going to be the delinquencies. I still built in the increase because we want to get the maximum amount of the property tax revenue as we can in order to continue our current services.

For municipal tax we keep adjusting it every month. For 2020 we believe the payroll taxes will decrease. Overall I am projecting a four percent increase in net profits because taxes are collected in arrears. For 2021, an assumption that businesses and individuals lost approximately three months of revenue during the COVID period is being made. This will be reflected in the 2021 budget. The hotel/motel tax and admissions tax numbers are dependent on the amount of visitors to our City. She did not increase or decrease it, but it will not impact us as much.

For other revenue we are going to estimate conservatively. The 2021 revenue an approximate two percent decrease is estimated and these can be adjusted accordingly.

The General Fund expenditures averages an annual increase of four percent over the last ten years. This year's tax budget is budgeting an estimate of \$14 million and last year's was \$16 million. That is a decrease, but that includes the five percent reduction. These numbers may also change as we get more data. We budgeted 42% of the General Fund toward public safety. 34% is general government for the administration.

The 2021 tax budget is less than one percent higher than 2020. For personnel and insurance costs includes a standard five percent increase. For capital it includes projects and debt service payments. These are not final numbers.

Looking at the General Fund cash balance for 2020 and 2021 we are projecting a downward trend. This is normal and at the end of 2021 it estimates approximately a \$3.8 carry over balance.

Mayor Frentzel asked for any comments. There were no comments.

Mr. Funk moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Frentzel opened the regular meeting of Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Tom Callahan, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, and Christina McElfresh.

Mr. Funk moved to excuse Mr. Routson; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes – None.

Visitors

None.

Committee Reports

None.

Old Business

Resolution No. 42-2020. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and US Bank for banking services. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock noted this is the second reading that will allow the City to consider its relationship with U S Bank.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 42-2020 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 42-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 42-2020; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 43-2020. A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Butler County Tax Incentive Review Council of May 21, 2020. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock requested that Council adopt Resolution No. 43-2020 as an emergency on its second reading.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Resolution No. 43-2020 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the second reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 43-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 43-2020; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 44-2020. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and the Ohio Department of Transportation for the construction of a 2.3 mile long trail along the Great Miami River associated with the Federal grant funds awarded. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock explained this is the first of two resolutions for the federal grants received for the 2.3 mile long trail.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 44-2020 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 44-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 44-2020; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 45-2020. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and the Ohio Department of Transportation agreeing to participate in the construction of a 2.3 mile long trail along the Great Miami River. (Second Reading)

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 45-2020 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 45-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 45-2020; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 46-2020. A Resolution adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Monroe, Ohio, for the 2021 fiscal year. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock requested that Resolution No. 46-2020 be adopted as an emergency on the second reading as it is required to be adopted by July 15, 2020.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Resolution No. 46-2020 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the second reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 46-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 46-2020; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 47-2020. A Resolution approving a Then-and-Now Certificate in the amount of \$49,033.52 to Frost Brown Todd LLC and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock stated this is related to our labor counsel's cost for negotiations with the IAFF.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 47-2020 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 47-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 47-2020; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 48-2020. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and Fishbeck for professional engineering

services for the Rosemont Park Nature Preserve Storm Water Drainage Project and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock reported that this resolution is for engineering services to review and design improvements to Rosemont Park drainage. We experienced some run off that were not originally intended for that type of run off in the Todds Glenn subdivision. This will give us options to redirect that water to the path it was originally intended.

Mrs. Hale asked if there was an engineer helping us in directing the water during the beginning of the work at Rosemont Park. Mr. Brock replied there was did not. Staff did their best to control the erosion that was happening at the park.

In response to Mr. Hickman's inquiry, Mr. Brock advised that the cost is \$16,500.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 48-2020 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 48-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 48-2020; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 49-2020. A Resolution amending Resolution No. 06-2020 approving blanket purchase orders as recommended by the Director of Finance and the City Manager.

Mr. Brock stated that this includes a blanket purchase order to Frost Brown Todd to cover union negotiations.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Brock advised that the appropriations were increased by \$50,000; however, a blanket purchase order was not created. Further, the amount in Emergency Resolution No. 47-2020 is not included in the blanket purchase order for \$50,000. He noted that there might be an increase dependent on how negotiations proceed.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 49-2020 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 49-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 49-2020; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Roll call vote: five ayes; one nay (McElfresh). Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-22. An Ordinance creating the Coronavirus Relief Fund and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock advised that this fund is required to track the activity related to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-22 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-22 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-22; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance No 2020-23. An Ordinance requiring face coverings in public spaces in the City of Monroe to reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19, to allow for enforcement and assessment of a civil penalty for violation of said mandate, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock stated that this ordinance would require face coverings in public spaces.

Mr. Hickman complimented Mrs. Wasson on putting the ordinance together and hopes that it passes so there is something we have in the City of Monroe to include both Butler and Warren counties. There are many other communities that has adopted similar legislation. Monroe needs to be on top of this and show the communities around us that we do care and make sure people where a mask; especially when they are in Kroger or other places. I just returned from Hilton Head and their businesses make sure that their customers wear a mask. While there, he was in Kroger and observed people following that 100%. If they can do that in Hilton Head they can do that in Monroe, Ohio.

Mrs. McElfresh pointed out that Butler County is at a different level than Warren County and the City of Monroe spans both counties. Therefore, our Entertainment District is not covered by any mandate or requirement. She believes that this ordinance will help bridge that within the City limits. Mr. Hickman added that we do have people that work on the Warren County side a lot. Everyone is well aware that thousands of people come up to Monroe on that side of the City. This would help Monroe keep those COVID cases down where they need to be. This helps Butler County. This helps the whole state. Mr. Hickman hoped that everyone really considers this and pass it.

Mr. Funk commented that hears Mr. Hickman when he says to keep the numbers where they need to be and I think our residents have done a great job. We are educating the public. Everybody is well informed and that is why we have only had 20 cases through all of this. It is a very marginal percentage and I do not think that putting undue stress on our businesses, on our residents, and as well on our administration to try to enforce such a wide spread thing. This is why the county is struggling with it. If the county health department is sufficient with a recommendation and saying yes wear it, but they are not going to enforce it, I would leave it. Especially, when we are leading the county as far as numbers go. Mr. Funk stated he is not against masks. He wears them all day at work and wears them when he goes to Kroger with his three boys. They all bought custom face masks. I feel like there is a majority of people that do not support this and as representatives of the residents I cannot vote for it.

Mr. Callahan stated that he wouldn't vote for that for nothing because I don't think it is our business to be telling these people to be wearing masks. It's not up to the government to tell the residents. I think what they should be doing if they feel threatened when they go into Kroger or if they don't feel like they got social distancing then they should do it on their own. Let them make the decision on what they want to do. I've not wore a mask yet and I've never felt threatened to walk into any store or anywhere and I just disagree with telling people to wear a mask. Next thing you do you'd be wearing scarves around your head.

Mr. Hickman replied that it is about other people and not yourself. If you don't want to take care of the people around you that could get sick from this then don't wear your mask. This isn't going to be going after individuals. This is going to make the businesses making people coming in wear a mask. You are also infecting those who work there as well by not wearing your mask. To even say you are going to be wearing a scarf around your head that is kind of ridiculous. I'm sure there are going to be a lot of people that don't want to wear a mask. I know there is. It is proven. You can go to Kroger right now and you find half of them not wearing masks. Mr. Hickman was very surprised at the way people react to this. All you are doing is helping other people out; yourself, your family, and people that are on this call right now. There are people on this call right now that need to make sure people wear a mask. I think we need to do that. This is a way to help with this. The county is not going to get involved. We are in two different counties. We are actually purple now, technically. We do have six indicators that are tagged. My guess is if you guys don't want to wear masks and you want to shut down the businesses again then you continue on not wearing your mask and worry about wearing a scarf around your head.

Mayor Frentzel respected Mr. Hickman and Mrs. McElfresh's point. I also am a proponent for wearing masks. I wear them at work. I wear them out anywhere else. Over the last few months I have visited businesses on the Warren County side and I am only talking about retail establishments because that is the only places I have been to. I will tell you businesses where we have the most traffic coming in such as, the Outlet Mall, and the restaurants that are over on that side are either limiting people not coming in their restaurant and maybe using the drive-through. There are a lot of the stores at the Outlet Mall, if not all of them, that require for you to wear a mask and have a maximum of quantities that are allowed in there. They actually have ques out in front of their line. Nike, for instance, had a line around the store and almost into the parking lot when I was there with people waiting there. The businesses are doing what they should. Mrs. McElfresh noted some of them. Mayor Frentzel said the majority of them.

Mr. Callahan said there again you are letting the businesses make the choice. You are letting the people make the choice. You don't need to tell people that they need to be wearing a mask. Let the people make the choice. Let the business make the choice. If you guys pass this it will shut everyone of these activities down like baseball, football, soccer. Shut it all down because this is what you are telling them. This is what you're saying.

Mayor Frentzel stated that what he is saying is businesses are already doing this. The majority of businesses are doing this. They are recognizing that if they don't do this there is a very real possibility that they will be shut down again. They should be good community stewards and

making sure that that happens. That being said, I don't feel comfortable taking someone that is already in an established position and making them go out and do this now. I don't feel it is the City's responsibility to make these businesses enforce this. What will happen when somebody enters the business and then immediately takes their mask off outside of public opinion. Why should the business be penalized for somebody's personal responsibility when they don't take their personal responsibility to wear their mask. That's what this ordinance is doing. It is penalizing businesses for individual's specific choices.

Mr. Hickman stated that you got two warnings. The idea was to put signs up that the City could make and distribute to wear a face mask when entering the building. It sounds like most of you, and I figured this pretty much out that this is the way this would go down. This would all be complaint based just like it would be for having a trailer sitting in your front yard. This isn't going to be going around looking. It would be complaint based, they would go check it out and if they walk in and a bunch of people don't have any masks they get a verbal. Next time they get a complaint it's a written. They talk to the owners or the managers and then the third time they get a fine. Hopefully, by then they are making people wear a mask.

Mayor Frentzel commented that the way this is written though, at least the way that I have interpreted the reading of it, is that we are only going to have one person that is going to be enforcing this. They work an 8 to 5 job, Monday through Friday. If anything happens after 5 p.m. during the weekday or during the weekend he has to visually see it happening. So if he happens to walk in and everybody is wearing masks then there is nothing for him to do so, I question the effectiveness of this ordinance.

Mr. Callahan said it is just like Sheriff Jones said "I'm not the mask patrol."

Mr. Funk added that regardless of the execution of it I do not think it is going to get there. But, Todd, the fundamental difference is what you keep saying. Make the businesses make the customers wear masks. Hopefully, after a couple of warnings they will make people wear masks. You continue to say make and we keep saying give people a choice. These are educated folks in our town and that is why our numbers are so good. We aren't Hamilton, we aren't Middletown, and we aren't Fairfield. We need to look at what we are dealing with. I don't think it is right to put that undue stress on our businesses, on our people, and on our administration. Not at this time.

Mrs. Hale asked if we are hiring someone to be code enforcement. Mr. Brock, referring to the ordinance, replied it would be the City's Code Enforcement Inspector. Regardless of the ordinance as it is written it is my responsibility that these things as written are administered. There would be some other questions I would have such as, how to set up the civil penalty. He believes a discussion is good on the back end and we as administrators just need to determine how best to administer it if it passes. Mr. Brock confirmed Mrs. Hale's understanding it would be the one code enforcement staff member that enforces all codes.

Mrs. McElfresh stated, if as Mayor Frentzel vocalized, most businesses are already doing this then what is the harm. The way I look at it, and maybe I am alone in this. I hope not, but maybe I am. I look at this as a preventative measure. Not to restrict anybody's rights. Not to force somebody to do something they don't want to do. The intent in my mind is to keep something

worse from happening. That is the way I view this. If most businesses are already complying with this measure then it is not going to change for them. Nothing is going to change for them. We are not going to put any additional stress on those businesses if they are already doing it. My thought is, in this position, in a seat of Council, I look at this job as trying to make the best decision on behalf of the whole. On the community at large. No matter what decision you make there is going to be unhappy people no matter what. You have to look at what is the betterment of the whole and that is the only way I can view this and it is not personal. It is not political. It is what is in the best interest of the whole.

In response, Mr. Funk stated you don't do what is best for the residents you represent the residents, so you just keep that in mind.

Mr. Hickman did not know how most people don't want this ordinance. The fact is the ones that don't want to wear a mask are the ones who are vocal. The ones that do wear a mask are not vocal because they don't want to get put down, harassed, or bullied because they want masks to be worn.

Mayor Frentzel appreciated Mr. Hickman's point, but did not know if that was necessarily true. I understand this is a polarized topic. If you look at the emails we received today it is about 50/50 on the ones that are for and ones that are against it. I know that it is not that or Facebook is a tool that takes in 100% of the population. I don't feel that the people that are wanting the mask ordinance are not being vocal. I see just as many people being vocal about that as there are being vocal about not wanting it as well. I appreciate your point, but I just don't see that. Especially, the point where people have the option to email us versus going on a public forum. There is just as many for it as there are against it.

Mr. Hickman stated you can't make your decision on what is being listed on Facebook when you are a Council member. Mayor Frentzel said he is not. Mr. Hickman is just telling him that is not how you do it. Mayor Frentzel clarified that never did he say he was using that as a guide to make his decision.

Mr. Callahan stated to let the people have the choice. Don't be making rules and then enforcing them on wearing a mask or not wearing a mask. Let the businesses take care like they have been doing and let the people that needs to wear a mask and the other ones that need to stay in their basement let them stay in their basement.

Mrs. Hale pointed out that the Governor has already mandated that we wear a mask why does it have to be pushed to the local level. He has already done that for the state level.

Mr. Hickman explained it is because we are in Warren County too and they are not the same level. That is okay. At the end of the week we will be at level four. I'm not sure what that will do to businesses. If you guys don't want to try to keep businesses open then that is fine.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-23 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-23 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-23; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Roll call vote: two ayes; four nays (Hale, Callahan, Frentzel, and Funk). Motion failed.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$15,112.00 to Brunk Excavating for the demolition of the swimming pool and other structures located at 401 Old Street.

Mr. Brock reported that this expenditure is for the removal of the old pool as it is a safety hazard. Mr. Funk asked if there are plans to make sure that the building cannot be accessed. Mr. Brock will have the Director of Public Works secure the building.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$15,112.00 to Brunk Excavating for the demolition of the swimming pool and other structures located at 401 Old Street; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$82,617.00 to Digital Visions Security Technologies for the camera system at the new police facility.

Mr. Brock advised this and the next three motions pertain to the new police facility. The reconstruction of the building is coming to conclusion in the next month to month and one-half. This is for the security system for that building.

Mayor Frentzel asked if all of these items part of the City's budget or is it in addition. Mr. Brock advised that it is all part of the appropriations.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$82,617.00 to Digital Visions Security Technologies for the camera system at the new police facility; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$51,283.00 to Sonitrol Verified Electronic Security for the access control system at the new police facility.

Mr. Callahan asked what specifically this is for. Mr. Brock explained it is the same system at the City Building and it will be for the security access points within the new police facility.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$51,283.00 to Sonitrol Verified Electronic Security for the access control System at the new police facility; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$36,313.20 to 123 Wellness Inc. for fitness equipment at the new police facility.

Mr. Hickman asked what type of equipment is being purchased. Mr. Brock referred to the listing of equipment that was part of the Council packet.

Mr. Callahan asked what is wrong with just going to a fitness center. Mr. Brock replied this will allow for those individuals to perform this onsite under supervision. Captain Curlis noted that the equipment is in with the state pricing. Mr. Hickman asked if they could go in and work out by themselves. Captain Curlis advised that there is the ability for a single person to go in there to work out.

Mr. Callahan felt it was a lot of money for something that will be used every once in a while.

Mayor Frentzel looked at it over paying for a gym membership as the fitness equipment will pay for itself. He asked if the officers would utilize the equipment either before or after their shift and not during their shift. Captain Curlis advised that has not been worked out yet.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$36,313.20 to 123 Wellness Inc. for fitness equipment at the new police facility; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$69,514.00 to RDT Concepts for the furnishings of the communication center in the new police facility.

Mr. Brock explained that these are dispatch consoles that we currently have to be transferred and two additional consoles to be purchased. Part of the plan is we have room for growth and there is a combined EOC we have enough consoles in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$69,514.00 to RDT Concepts for the furnishings of the communication center in the new police facility; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mrs. McElfresh asked Mr. Brock what the current policy is in the City Building as far as the COVID procedures and wearing masks. Mr. Brock replied that while we are in Butler County we have not put out any signs that say we require masks, but we do have all of the signs up requiring social distancing following the mask rules. We are encouraging people to wear masks in the building. We did receive an allotment of masks from the Butler County Emergency Management Agency and during Court this evening, we were handing them out. He has not seen an issue with people not wearing masks within the City Building and a lot of people are turning around and going back to their cars and grabbing them.

Mrs. McElfresh asked about staff wearing masks and if they are required to wear them. Mr. Brock stated that when they are outside their offices, yes. Front desk personnel has masks. Mrs. McElfresh asked if staff are complying with that. Mr. Brock indicated yes, for the most part.

In response to Mr. Hickman's question, Mr. Brock advised that the signs requiring people to wear masks in the City Building are not up yet, but we are supposed to according to the Governor. Mr. Hickman noted that Mr. Brock kind of proved his point and appreciated that.

Mr. Hickman moved to direct the City Manager to enforce the mask wearing policy of the Governor of Ohio in all of the departments; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Frentzel asked if there is a mask station available and Mr. Brock informed him that we will have one. Mr. Hickman asked about other departments such as, the fire departments. Chief Centers confirmed that they are limiting our visitors unless it is essential such as servicing a cardiac monitor. They do require they go through a health screening prior to entering.

Mrs. Hale complimented Chief Centers and the Police Department on their year-end report.

Mr. Frentzel referenced meeting in person and he is looking at the 10 person rule guideline and leaning to continue with the virtual meetings until that is lifted. There were no objections.

- **Executive Session** – To review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Mr. Funk moved to adjourn into executive session to review negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:13 p.m.

Mr. Funk moved to reconvene into regular session; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Funk moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council