

MINUTES

COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

September 12, 2011

Mayor Ronald A. D'Epifanio called the Council-Manager Briefing to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Terry Senger, Mitch Rhodus, Mike Oler, Tim Meyers, Marty Judd, and Mike Snyder. Staff present: Dave Crouch, Jim Bell, Dave Butsch, Mark Wendling, Tim Bachman, Art Pizzano, Carol Mayhall, and Angie Johns. Parks Board Members Present: Bob Breen, Don Hassler, Terry Senger, Bob Myron, Doug Meece, and Stanley Goodman MD.

Butler County Solid Waste District Management Plan

Anne Fiehrer Flaig, Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District, explained she is seeking to get Council's vote by Resolution in support of the Butler County Solid Waste Management update. She further explained all 52 solid waste districts are required to submit updated Management Plans to Ohio EPA. She further stated Butler County has a 15-year Management Plan, which is updated every five years with the last update ratified in 2005 and approved by elected officials representing 99% of the county population. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained approval and ratification of this plan has been secured by the Butler County Commissioners, the City of Hamilton, Reily Township, Liberty Township, St. Clair Township and she is meeting with other elected officials in the County. She explained the Solid Waste Management District is accountable to Ohio EPA, a Solid Waste Policy Committee that helps oversee by mandate of ORC development of this Solid Waste Management Plan and also the Butler County Commissioners. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained the Policy Committee is composed of a Township Trustee, a County Commissioner Designee, a Health Department representative, Public Interest, Industrial/Institutional representative, Largest municipality representative, and general interest of citizens representative who all provide input on the development of the plan. She thanked Public Works Director Dave Butsch for his service on this committee. She briefly overviewed the Solid Waste Management District Plan Update Schedule noting ratification must be obtained by October 26. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig explained the Waste Reduction Strategies including "access goal" which means opportunities and programs are provided to 90% of the population. She discussed curbside recycling, drop box recycling and the recycling incentive program which meet the access goal. Ms. Anne Fiehrer Flaig further discussed the 90% access goal has been met and in this plan update new incentives to promote contracted curbside recycling in townships and volume based trash collection in cities have been developed. She briefly discussed Fairfield's performance in the recycling incentive program, including the payout to the City for the last five years which totaled \$124,000. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed Fairfield's recycling percentage diversion rate for the last five years and the room for improvement. She further discussed the countywide recycling percentages for Butler County. In response to Councilmember Meyer's question, Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed that she can check with Rumpke to determine the number of single family residences that are participating in recycling; however Rumpke's method for determining this number is not scientific. She explained the District has spent over \$593,000 in recycling incentive funding to political jurisdictions and recycling performance has only modestly improved at a rate of less than 1% per year. She discussed how the strategies for the incentive program will increase the number of residents with access to curbside recycling and ask contracted communities to enact Pay As You Throw trash collection. She discussed the changes to the residential recycling incentive including continuing ongoing funding to cities and townships based on their recycling tonnage and diversion rates; offering a one time incentive grant to townships who competitively bid and contract for trash and curbside recycling; and offering a one time incentive grant to cities and townships who contract for volume based Pay As You Throw (PAYT) trash collection and curbside recycling services. Ms. Fiehrer Flaig discussed the City of Madeira's PAYT program. She stated the revised residential recycling program is voluntary. She discussed the other provisions of the plan include provide information and technical assistance on recycling, implement strategies for managing scrap tires, household hazardous waste, electronic waste and report annually to Ohio EPA on the status of the Solid Waste Plan implementation. She briefly discussed outreach and education including the website butlercountyrecycles.org and the outreach to businesses. She explained all is funded by a \$2 per ton generation fee. She briefly discussed the total investment in the City of Fairfield.

Parks Admission Fees Policy

Parks Director Jim Bell explained the four different military discounts that were discussed by Parks Board per City Council's directive including status quo, special days to honor active Military personnel, discounted fees and a complete waiver of admission fees. He further explained the Parks Board decision to offer discounts to both reservists and active military. He stated Parks Board directed staff to amend the fees and charges Resolution 11-02 to reflect a 50% discount for the Aquatic Center, Golf Courses, and Marsh Fishing Lake. Mayor D'Epifanio discussed the initial request was a discount for those on home or active duty to come on home on leave and get a fishing discount. Mr. Bell discussed how this decision came further. In response to Councilmember Meyers' question, Mr. Bell responded that there is no data on what it will cost if the fee is waived because they do not know who is coming. Councilmember Senger explained Parks Board decided whatever percentages were decided on would be done for one season and after the results it would be determined to either continue to discontinue the discount. Councilmember Rhodus commented it will be interesting data after a year or two to see how many other people came because of the discount. Parks Board member Doug Meece explained the thought process was to make it equitable across the board, simple so it is able to be implemented by field staff that run these operations on a daily basis, and not disrespect any military in Fairfield whether active or reserve. Councilmember Meyers asked

if it was demeaning to only give a percentage off instead of the whole thing. Parks Board Member Doug Meece explained the board looked at it as showing appreciation, but also showing responsibility to the citizens. Councilmember Senger explained that retired military are not included in this discount, only ones who have an active or reserve ID card and can show they are a resident of Fairfield. Councilmember Oler discussed his concern with the simple request turning into a long process, and someone was home on leave and something could not be done for these people right away. He commented he does not think enough is being done to show appreciation for those home on leave and going back and does not think a discount is enough. Parks Board Director Jim Bell explained Parks Board will vote on this tomorrow night. City Manager Pizzano thanked the Parks Board for looking at the larger scope of making sure the employees of these facilities adhere to the policy. Finance Director Mary Hopton responded to Councilmember Rhodus' question that anyone on active duty does not pay city income tax. Mr. Bell briefly discussed the current free fishing days for seniors and the special event days at both Marsh Lake and the Aquatic Center. Councilmember Senger clarified the free fish days for seniors are catch and release, but on the military discount days the fish can be taken home. Parks Board members briefly discussed the ID card similarities for active and reservists, which would make it difficult to know the difference.

Council and staff briefly discussed the cost of the 65 gallon recycling bins that was discussed a couple years ago. Parks Board Member Stanley Goodman, MD asked if Rumpke supplied any money towards the bins since they make money on the recycling that is given to them. Councilmember Meyers explained he asked Ms. Fiehrer Flaig if there was an incentive that would help buy those for the residents and she is open to looking into that.

Adjournment

Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Jolivette
Clerk of Council