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PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

A Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 7:25 PM in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building to consider the estimated revenues for fiscal year 2016. A copy of the proposed revenue estimates are on file in the City Auditor's Office for public inspection during business hours.

Council President Slough asked if anyone wished to address Council.

Councilwoman Spence was not in attendance at the City Council meeting when this was in the packet. There are several pages of estimated revenues and debt, but no lump sum figure. City Auditor Staschiak replied the report is submitted in the format that is presented to him by the County Budget Commission which is the same format as the prior two (2) years. Councilwoman Spence then asked if it has any totals of estimated revenues. City Auditor Staschiak replied that they are totaled by category. Councilwoman Spence asked for clarification on how the figures are calculated. City Auditor Staschiak replied that the letter came to City Council two (2) meetings ago. Then at the last meeting, it was in that Council packet to allow time in between then and now to come to his office to get questions answered. City Auditor Staschiak asked if there were specific questions due to the length of the document. Councilwoman Spence does not understand how the figures are calculated as they have been significantly inaccurate in previous years. She asked for more detailed information on how they are calculated and why they are not presented in a total of what the debt and revenue estimates would be. City Auditor Staschiak replied he does not understand what is meant by saying the figures were inaccurate in past years. The purpose of this document is to provide the County with a guideline more than a half a year ahead of time so that they have an idea of whether or not there is a need for local government funds from the County and State. It is the first step of the budgetary process that the City has to go through. Councilwoman Spence's statement that they have been inaccurate in the past is incorrect. Councilwoman Spence replied that they have been incorrect by millions of dollars at some point of time, and a little over a million last year. During the Committee of the Whole meeting, City Auditor Staschiak indicated that the numbers were not very accurate. City Auditor Staschiak replied that is incorrect. Councilwoman Spence then asked how he comes up with these figures. City Auditor Staschiak replied that most of the figures (approximately 95%) are given to him by City Department Heads. As discussed during the last meeting, the information from the Income Tax Department is incomplete. Some of the other figures come from State and Local Government sources. It is expected that the numbers from year to year, for estimation purposes for the first part of this, will not change a lot unless there is specific knowledge. The estimates become more important later in the budget year. The statutory process requires the City to present a full budget to the County Budget Commission in July of each year. The County Auditor has the right to waive all or any portion of the requirement that they deem necessary. The City's budget is very large and detailed. Years ago, the Budget Commission decided they only wanted a ball park estimate of revenues. Past Auditors, including City Auditor Staschiak, have taken the numbers from the prior year that are in the current budget year and moved them forward only adjusting known significant changes. If a number varies widely, that variation is probably due to a known significant change. There was a very positive difference in the budget process this year. Budgets were done for two (2) years. The budget book last fall probably reflected ninety-nine percent (99%) of the numbers before Council today. The standard process to come up with the numbers is to query department heads where he has different areas of concern (i.e. City Income Tax Department). The City Income Tax Department Administrator has nothing to report as a change since the time his budget numbers were submitted last fall for the normal budget process. The statement by Councilwoman Spence that the numbers are inaccurate are misleading, political, and not necessary. Councilwoman Spence replied that because the numbers have been so inaccurate in the past, she cannot move forward in approving it at this time. She welcomed the opportunity to discuss further, but with the information she has, she cannot with good conscious sign off on it. City Auditor Staschiak replied he respects that, but discussion on this should have been done weeks ago when Council was told the numbers were coming. If Council does not move forward and submit these numbers to the County Budget Commission, it will jeopardize local government funding. This is why the numbers and the letter were presented two (2) Council meetings ago saying the numbers were being prepared. The numbers were prepared as part of closing out the books last month and were submitted to Council at the prior meeting to allow ample time. Notice was given to the public that the numbers were prepared more than ten (10) days prior to tonight's City Council meeting, so that this public hearing could take place. Those numbers have been also been available through the Council Office and the Auditor's Office. He reiterated that there is a potential consequence to not

accepting the revenues tonight. Councilwoman Spence added that there is not a potential consequence of not passing this evening. City Auditor Staschiak asked Councilwoman Spence if she is going to call a special meeting. Councilwoman Spence replied if she were able to get the information she felt was necessary and felt comfortable with it, then she would.

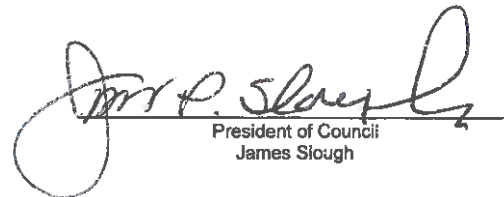
City Auditor Staschiak asked Council how they would like to proceed. He asked if it is Council's intention to proceed with the revenue estimates tonight, not proceed and potentially jeopardize local government funds, or hold a special session to review the numbers.

Councilwoman Frische asked if a motion on what to do is to be made now. Council President Slough replied no. This is just a public hearing. Councilwoman Frische then asked if a motion on what will happen will need to be done during tonight's regular session of City Council meeting. City Auditor Staschiak replied yes. The next regular session of City Council meeting is the day after the estimates are due.

Councilman Russel asked if these numbers were created before the final budget was passed in Columbus in which the municipal and county funds were estimated based on the same numbers. He asked what effect will come out of the budget and its potential effect on our local government funds. City Auditor Staschiak replied that a large portion of the local government funds are at risk. The final budget was passed. He has not received the summary report back that indicates exactly where the funds went when the Governor signed. He should receive it probably later this week. He will notify Council once he receives it. He suggested Council address this at the mid-year review. There are more than local government funds that need to be discussed long term. Councilman Russel asked if the Ohio Municipal League is a main source of information on this. City Auditor Staschiak replied it is one of them.

President of Council Slough adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:36 PM


Clerk of Council
Denise DeVore


President of Council
James Slough