

**CITY OF SHEPHERDSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013**

Councilwoman Gloria Taft gave the invocation
Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming out tonight braving the snow and cold!

Council members present: Bernie Brown, Jose' Cubero, Dana Bischoff James, Faith Portman, Clinton Kline and Gloria Taft.

Mayor Ellis asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 3/11/2013 regular meeting. Clinton Kline made motion to dispense with reading. Jose' Cubero 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 abstain.

Mayor Ellis called for a motion to approve minutes as written from the 3/11/2013 regular meeting. Jose' Cubero made motion to approve. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 abstain.

Mayor Ellis asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 3/13/2013 special meeting. Jose' Cubero made motion to dispense with reading. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 abstain.

Mayor Ellis called for a motion to approve minutes as written from the 3/13/2013 special meeting. Gloria Taft made motion to approve. Clinton Kline 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 abstain.

Mayor Ellis announced that City Hall would be closed on March 29th in observance of Good Friday.

Old Business:

City Attorney Wantland had second reading of Ordinance 013-(number to be assigned) making the City's Occupational Withholding rate of 1.5% permanent. Mayor Ellis opened the floor for comments from the Council. Bernie Brown: Mayor I want to be perfectly clear to this Council and to the public my position on this Ordinance that we've just heard the second reading on. This Ordinance does one thing and only one thing. It raises the taxes. It takes a temporary tax and makes it a permanent tax and I might add it does so without a good full explanation as to why. What's it needed for? What's the money going to be used for? Has the public been notified and told? If not, why haven't they been told? I don't think this is being transparent. And also for the benefit of anyone who may not know or who may have forgotten, in 2011 this City was in a financial crisis. One thing was certain, the debts and the bills could not be met without additional revenue. The majority of the Council made some hard decisions. They raised several taxes. It wasn't easy but we had to do it because it was a necessity. One of the taxes raised was the occupational tax, on a temporary basis. It was to sunset at the end of 2015. It was believed at that time that four years would be sufficient time; with good management practices and conservative spending, that would be sufficient time to get the financial house in order. That's why it was deliberately intended to sunset in four years. That's the commitment I made. It's a commitment that the Council made. I intend to keep my commitments. Mayor Ellis I suggested to you about three months ago and I know make the same suggestion to this Council, let's let the additional temporary tax sunset as planned, and then if additional money is needed let's tell the public what it is. It can be discussed; it can be debated; the public can have their input, that's what I call transparency. And I think that's the way democracy works. I've stated my reasons for not supporting this Amendment to this Ordinance. I would encourage this Council not to be swayed by anybody that seems to think that the way to move the City forward is to increase taxes. I cannot and I will not vote for this Amended tax Ordinance. City Attorney Wantland: I'm remiss. I was instructed by this Council to prepare two Ordinances. And the paper was remiss by not putting that in the paper. The first Ordinance that was to be prepared was to reduce property taxes on every property owner in Shepherdsville 20%. That was the first. The statement was made that property taxes are unfair. They may be the most

unfair tax because they do not properly reflect people's ability to pay. Now that's what I heard. I am unable at this juncture to properly prepare an Ordinance on reducing property taxes in Shepherdsville to the sum of 20% until I receive information from Mr. Johnson in the Property Valuation Administration Office. I spoke with him again today. Mr. Johnson advises me that this Council should have the information concerning the assessments of the real property and personal property in Shepherdsville in August of 2013. That's how his office has done it in the past. The reason why I am so reluctant, and I've encouraged the Council to wait, I'm telling this to the audience, as to the property taxes because if we take the number, 20% from the tax rate used in 2012 and apply that to the assessments in 2013 what will happen if that assessment is higher than it was in 2012 the tax payer will not get a 20% reduction in their tax. It won't work that way. I have talked to Mr. Johnson, he thinks the economy has changed a little bit; we're going to have an increase in the assessments for Shepherdsville. We can lower the rate 20% but if the assessments are up, we're not getting, at least I'm not doing the job that Councilman Cubero told me to do, and that was to prepare an Ordinance to reduce taxes 20% on the taxpayer in Shepherdsville who owns property. That was my instructions. I just can't do that fairly until I get that number and as soon as I get those numbers from Mr. Johnson's office I will get with the City Clerk and we will present an Ordinance. With the new assessments, you have to understand there is going to be a bigger assessment pool, I think or rate last year was 14.8 that number will have to be adjusted because of this assessment, then take the 20% off the rate. But that's how the taxpayer who owns real estate in Shepherdsville will get the 20% reduction. I didn't make up House Bill 44 but that's how it works. If the Council does what I think the Council intends to do, there is absolutely no question based on the Ordinances in place that they taxpayer in Shepherdsville, who lives in Shepherdsville, who owns property in Shepherdsville, will pay reduced taxes to Shepherdsville in 2013, 2014 and 2015. There's no question. None. Zip. That was my instructions. I just haven't been able to do it. But the tax rate of the occupational tax remains the same, the property taxes go down 20% and for everybody to understand under House Bill 44, once those rates go down, the taxpayer at that point has the ability to check the Council. The Council can't raise them. That is a permanent reduction in property taxes. No if, ands or buts. So the question comes does the people in Shepherdsville, are they entitled to a tax reduction for years 2013, 2014, and 2015? That's where we are. Because the sunset is not going to stop until 2016. And there's no reason if we continue to do, and I'll tell you right now, we have done it, we have pursued people paying these taxes that we can take some of the tax burden off the property owner in Shepherdsville. Not the property owner in Jefferson County who may work out here. We can take that off the people who live here. Dana Bischoff James: I want to make sure that everybody understands exactly what the occupational tax is before we go any further. The occupational tax is only a tax that impacts those who work in the City of Shepherdsville. So if you do not work in the City of Shepherdsville, this does not apply to you. This is only for those who work in the City of Shepherdsville; I just wanted to reiterate that. And I crunched a few numbers just from some basic salaries just so that anybody who is sitting there can put this into real life perspective and into your home at what you are looking at at this point. Let's say somebody is at a \$30,000 yearly salary. Your weekly difference from 1% to 1.5% will be \$2.88. So to put you in the ballpark, if you're at \$35,000 a year, your weekly difference between the 1% and 1.5% will be about \$3.37 a week. That just gives you a little bit weekly and I can continue from there just so that you know how much we're working with here. If you are at \$50,000 your weekly impact would be a little bit higher, \$4.87 a week. Just so you all understand this tax is only for those who work in the City of Shepherdsville. If you do not work here this tax does not necessarily impact you. I just want to put that out there as we're continuing with this discussion. Bernie Brown: Mr. Wantland I thought we were dealing with the occupational tax not the real estate tax. First of all I don't think anything can be done with the real estate tax until we get the information from the PVA. The PVA won't get that until probably August or very early September. I think it's a bad idea to go decreasing that tax that much. What about if there is another House Bill 44 that says you can't raise your taxes at all? Then we can't do anything about it. The real estate tax is a solid dependable tax, and I'm not saying we shouldn't decrease it or lower it, that can come later in the year when we have all the information. But that is a very dependable consistent tax. We had to use that not long ago as collateral to get a loan. And if that happened again and we don't have that ability that could be a major problem. Besides if you do some more math Dana, I haven't got it here but I've done it, if you do the math, 20% sounds like a lot, it doesn't amount to that much money. City Attorney Wantland: Every year. Bernie Brown: I know that. I know that. And what I'm saying is let's let this sunset as planned and then we can discuss, we can debate, the public can have input. That's the way to do it with transparency. Clinton

Kline: What is the exact sunset day is it 12/31/15? Gloria Taft: January 1, 2015. Bernie Brown: 33 months. That's another question, why are we trying to do it 33 months ahead. Mayor Ellis: 12/31/2014. Faith Portman: I personally don't understand why we're rushing this. We did agree when we passed this, and you know as well as I do, I was against it at that time. I wanted a sunset for one year. Bernie Brown: I would have liked to been against it too. Faith Portman: I know but I hate raising taxes and I just don't agree that we should do this right now. It's like rushing it and we told the taxpayers, the people that work in this Community that we would look at it then and I'm not ready to look at it until the sunset. So I agree with you Bernie I think we're just jumping the gun here in trying to raise things and lower things and not looking at numbers. We need to look ahead and leave it the way it is. Jose' Cubero: I initiated a lot of this so I'd like to hear from everybody else first before I add my opinions to this. Gloria Taft: There are 5 cities our size in the State of Kentucky that have a lesser amount of occupational tax; only five. And if you work in Jeffersontown you're paying 2.45% because you have the Louisville tax and you have the Jeffersontown tax. If you work in St. Matthews you're paying the Louisville tax and St. Matthews tax which is over what we pay. We're not that far off at our 1.5% as far as cities for this size. If we take the tax burden off of the people that live here that enjoy the Community that we have and we put the tax burden on those that drive in from other areas, because these taxes are going for sidewalks, to pay for our fire. Faith Portman: I don't understand the rush. We have a sunset on it for 2015. Mayor Ellis: January 1, 2015. Dana Bischoff James: If I could add on to Gloria's statement because I have a complete list of all the surrounding cities, if we take the cities that are Fourth Class cities, we are a Fourth Class city, that is the size of our City and it takes several things into account, and also being off of the interstate, that is also another big attribute, if you go up to Radcliff, although they are a Third Class city but they have a 2% payroll tax but in addition to their 2% payroll tax; and in the City of Shepherdsville this may be something we think about futuristic, but they have net profits, that percentage would come from the excess that the company's make themselves, so it takes it off the people, but they also have a 2% off of that. The other large cities that are Fourth Class Cities that are very similar to us, if you drop to Lebanon Junction, who is just below us, they have a 1% payroll tax but they have a .80% net profit, again that's taking from the actual company versus the people. But if we keep moving the City of Hillview which is a Fourth Class City, not far from us, they have 1.5% in addition to a 1.5% net profit. The City of Shepherdsville does not currently have a net profit. That's something futuristic that may be able to help reduce maybe in the future. Elizabethtown who is also a Fourth Class City right off the Interstate as well have a 1.35% in addition to a 1.35% net profit. Cave City, I would say that they are very similar to us, they are a Fourth Class City right off the Interstate, and even though at one point they were growing, their payroll is 2% which is significantly higher than the 1.5% and also net profit of 2%. So the City of Shepherdsville is still one of the cheaper areas to actually live and work and is growing. Again I have a pros and cons list sitting here but that does tag on to Miss Gloria's statement is that we at 1.5% is standard and/or low for the similarity of what we live in. One thing that does bother me is, I'm with you Faith, I hate the idea of taxing the working class. That is something that I do not like; and then also because the past administration had a goal of removing that. That was their goal. And again the concern of the timing of it, however, as these big companies, such as Amazon, and the big companies with the huge buildings come in our fire department; they are going to need larger trucks and ladders and equipment that they don't need for our single house dwellings. So as these large companies come in we need more equipment to be able to take care of these larger companies. Our Police Department, they have more traffic collisions that they are responding to, and so our manpower is now being taken away from our constituents and placed into taking care of the people who are coming in to our City to work and they are taking the services that should be going to the people. So as our services are being utilized and taken from this I do see the need for the occupational tax from that standpoint because when we're pulling from these people, if there's a house call and they are tied up responding to an accident, that takes away from the people. Gloria Taft: But no one yet has explained to me why the rush to make it permanent at this time. We've got all this year and half of next year before we absolutely have to act one way or the other before anything happens to the 1.5%. Jose' Cubero: Let me make sure I understand. Most of this the reason why the idea of doing this is do we just forget what happened two and three years ago and what happened to the City and not having the money to service the City the proper way? We're already seen, if you look at the way the City is growing and we already see, because obviously everybody is aware of having Wal-Mart here. That's not the only business, we've got a Standard Registry coming here, and we've got other businesses that are going to be part of it. Services are going to be needed to take care of them. People can look at it in different ways; you can say

spend \$1 to make \$5. When you look at a City growing like that you've got to have services. If you look at some of the people want to try to review what happened in January of approving the money that was in the budget. Not any additional money from taxpayers, but through good stewardship of all departments, they were able to take that money and take care of the folks that have been taking care of the City. They were also promised four years ago; hang with us; we're going to get through this. So for the folks that stayed; we lost half the Police Department, we lost some Fire personnel, I'm not sure about the exact numbers; there's a cost involved in that. We invest in these folks and then we don't keep them. The City has to decide which way it has to go. It's unfortunate, you know we always say we want to be a small City, I get that, I didn't move out here to be in the big City. But when you look at the modern day being on the Interstate and looking at the business opportunities you are going to need the services that you need for the next five and ten years and it's going to continue to grow. We can talk about who handled finances, we can say this person did this and this person did that, that's why we got in the mess we were in. That doesn't matter anymore. The reality is Shepherdsville is a growing City. It needs the services; it needs to maintain them. We can't take chances anymore like we have; both in being bad stewards of the money and not taking care of the folks that take care of the City. I guess you went to 1.5% because you were trying to get out of financial trouble; the reality is you need that money. We need that money. We need that money to service the City in the way it's going to grow. I look at it as an investment. I think somebody mentioned up here that we don't want to penalize the people that actually live here and work here, that number is a small number, I don't know what creative ways legislatively we can do something to change that, but I know in the Ordinance of a tax rate, we have to be fair about that across the board for occupational tax. What we're trying to do is all the people that take advantage of Shepherdsville have some investment in that; whether it's to continually strengthen our Police force or strengthening our Fire, increasing Public Works, does anybody want to tell me about the sidewalks, lights, or things that people need here. We talk about them all the time where is that money coming from? I missed that. So I get a little upset when I think that I'm always a good steward with money. I don't want to blow money. But I do know this City needs a number of things to become a 21st Century City, not some City that's about 25 years behind where it should be. Services here; how about the social services we need, retail services. You think people want to come to our City without having some of these things in place? Think about where you go when you see cities that are vibrant. I see all these good people out here and I think to myself sure I don't want to blow money but I do know that you've got to invest money if you want this City to grow like it's supposed to. I know a number of people that talk about we don't have this, we don't have this, so you know what we could wait 33 months but what the reality is that million dollars that we need is still out there to take care of this City. But there are a number of people that need to share in it and I'd like to say that the small percentage of people that we have that actually work in a number of the businesses here that have taken advantage of it, they come to Shepherdsville because they've got a great deal. We can't give out great deals. We've got to make sure that it's a balance approach that both businesses and the people that work in our City have a stake in how we grow it. That may not seem like we're trying to penalize anybody but I tell you what I would like a City that has more. The reason why I proposed the 20% property rate decrease is a way to offset some of that. Are there other ways that we can offset for the taxpayers, the citizens that live in Shepherdsville? Sure, I'll look at anything. But I just think we ought to take a serious look at how we really want to grow. That's why I put this on the table now. It's not about 33 months; it's not about doing it tomorrow. It's about our mindset of where you want this City to go. You know what, I represent you. You don't want to go that way; we'll go where you want to go. But I do know that there has got to be an outside vision. Think outside the box about Shepherdsville. We're a good City with good people. We need more and we deserve more. That's why I put this on the table. Dana Bischoff James: To continue and expand on Jose's comments, Wal-Mart would not have even considered the City of Shepherdsville if it was not a thriving and growing City. They did look at our Police Department, they looked at the Accreditation, and they looked at our Fire Department. They invested in that because some of those numbers decrease insurance rates. And as the City grows something I've said from the beginning is I want to have forward thinking; always thinking ahead so before we get in to a situation where we're going to start declining or slipping back, I always want to be moving forward and that's why we recently put \$528,000 in an emergency reserve. But at the same time as Wal-Mart comes in how many more officers, how many more issues, how much more theft, how much more are we going to need to add to this City because of the problems that it will also bring. Clinton Kline: We're not debating a free ride for anybody. You all keep bringing up that we're bringing in these new businesses and

we need more to take care of them. Well their bringing in the pie that we're taking that 1% off of so we're not saying just because they are coming in that we don't need to take more from everybody because they are there and we are adding these hundreds of jobs. According to the February financials, we're \$794,000 ahead of the budget, a budget done last June. With what we made last June we're going to take in on occupational tax, in February \$794,000 ahead. Mayor Ellis: That's at 1.5% not 1% Clinton Kline: That's how much employment has increased. Jose' Cubero: And we still have debt and bills to pay. Dana Bischoff James: We have debt and also services are going to need to continue. Clinton Kline: I understand it's at 1.5% but just since June. Mayor Ellis: It's not that you're added employment it's that you are now getting it from Gordon Food Service, Zappos, Chegg, Best Buy, places like that. Clinton Kline: And in 2015 we're going to be getting it from Wal-Mart, Standard Register. Dana Bischoff James: Is there a way to make a proposal that, I know that the City of Louisville and I'm not sure on the litigation side of it, but they do a reduced rate; is there a way we can do a reduced rate for our residents, they pay the 1% who work and live in Shepherdsville and 1.5% for others? City Attorney Wantland: No. They have a reduced rate because it was enacted that way through the legislature and that was for the park service primarily. Dana Bischoff James: Is there a way we can implement something similar to that if you work and live in the City of Shepherdsville you pay 1% versus living outside. Gloria Taft: Could we do a tax refund at income tax time? City Attorney Wantland: We were trying to do that through property taxes for the people who live and own property in Shepherdsville. Clinton Kline: I did the math and somebody making \$30,000 a year paying taxes on a \$100,000 piece of property; the 20% reduction on City taxes is going to save them about \$30.00 a year and it's going to cost them another \$150; the difference between a 1% and 1.5%. Jose' Cubero: We're talking about a small group. Clinton Kline: It seems like smoke and mirrors trying to tell somebody you're giving them a tax reduction and you're taking \$120 a year and making it permanent. It is what it is, \$150 a year. Dana Bischoff James: If we could do a 1% for the people who live and work here as a thank you for living and working here and keeping your business in Shepherdsville. Gloria Taft: I would like to see us wait for five to six months until we get the property, all property, not just real estate, but cars, boats, motorcycles, all property, until we get those rates and see if we can't come to maybe a more even amount to give back to the residents. If Clinton's ran the numbers and one is \$150 and the other one is \$45, let's see if we can't maybe do something with property taxes to move those numbers a little bit closer. Gloria Taft: I'd like to make a motion that we table this for five months until we get the other numbers in. Mayor Ellis asked for a second. Motion died for lack of second. Clinton Kline: I think waiting until the tax sunsets on 12/31/14; I think tabling it for a year until we get all the new businesses occupational license fees coming in and we know where we're at, what the budget demands are; how much the extra police and fire protection strain is. Jose' Cubero: You'll be putting that budget together before June. When you go back and want to increase it then that's going to be a different story for the folks out here too. We need to know those numbers, so you're saying you want to wait until we do our budgets. Clinton Kline: I think we can wait 12 months. Jose' Cubero: We've got a fiscal year coming up here that we're got to budget out for that we're going to have to include as far as the services that we're going to bring for each business. We've got four new businesses that we know are coming. Faith Portman: I personally made a promise that I'd wait until 2015 when this was voted on. I think the Council made a promise to the Community that we would wait and see how we were doing and I make a motion to wait until the sunset date is up. Bernie Brown: I agree with you Faith. I realize that four of you on the Council right now weren't involved in raising taxes. I can understand where your perception is a little different. Some of us took a beating when we raised taxes. Not to even talk about the 66% increase in the sewer. Faith Portman: People that didn't vote for it took a beating. I took a beating too. City Attorney Wantland: Is your motion to table it indefinitely? Faith Portman: My motion is to leave it the way it is with the sunset. I'll make the motion to table it indefinitely. Clinton Kline second. Dana Bischoff James: Does that keep us from lowering the property tax? City Attorney Wantland: No you all can reduce the property tax when the time comes. Dana Bischoff James: So does that mean that it is less likely that we will be decreasing the taxes due to the lack of financial stability for the future of Shepherdsville. City Attorney Wantland: It would affect financial planning definitely. Gloria Taft: It just means that's it's going to wait until December of 2014. Or until someone else wants to bring it up. Bernie Brown: Mr. Wantland doesn't the Ordinance right now sunset that additional .5% at the end of 2015. Gloria Taft: No it says January 1, 2015. Mayor Ellis: At midnight on January 31, 2014 it's gone. Bernie Brown: That's not what one copy of an Ordinance I have says. It was for four years and it was done in 2011. That's 12, 13, 14 and 15. Gloria Taft: The copy I have says January 1, 2015. City Clerk Richmond: I have the signed copy of the

Ordinance and is says January 31, 2014. Dana Bischoff James: My only concern with this is if the City does progress forward and I respect Bernie and Faith 110% and again I have my pros and cons list because you all did make that promise and that was your goal and your aim. Where I sit I'm just concerned about the future growth and not having the services and the resources that will be needed as we grow because I don't want the Fire Department to show up and say hey we need a new truck and us not have the ability to vote for that because funds aren't there. Gloria Taft: If a year from now we have the ability to change it to permanent if we see fit. Dana Bischoff James: Or to not be able to lower the property taxes. Gloria Taft: We can lower the property taxes in August. Faith Portman: Right now the way our finances were two years ago, I don't think the Community would want us to take \$30 away from them. Dana Bischoff James: Is there any way possible to do 1% for the constituents who live and work here? Jose' Cubero: If there is a way to reward the people who live here. I don't know if we can legally do that. City Attorney Wantland: The way to do it is going to be through the property tax. You have to have uniform taxation. Bernie Brown: And we have that opportunity every year along about September. Jose' Cubero: One of the things also that I want to point out is that at least commending the Council's before and the Departments, but I saw the budgets and those budgets were put in very lean to try to get through the last few years. So there are things that are missing that we need in this City and I just want to make sure like I said, there's a thought process, it's a vision, I would love to find a way and I guess property tax is the way I thought was the way to lower it for the folks that live here so that they got a break. No it's not the same number but we can continue to look at opportunities to lower for the folks that live here and work here but there are a lot of people a large majority of businesses and people that work here that are not part of this City. I think if we look at the investment we make in our City it's what it's going to be like in the next 10 – 20 years. Mayor Ellis: We have a motion and a second at this time I'll call for a vote. Bernie Brown: One more comment that I'm going to make because I've heard it mentioned quite a few times. Some people tend to think that the way to move the City forward is just increase taxes. We've got to have a vision and a plan. Let's get a plan and have some vision and then let the public have some input. It's their business, it's not our money we're talking about, it's theirs. Mayor Ellis: We've put \$500,000 in an emergency reserve account and just paid off \$200,000 of debt in this City, the General Fund of this City right now if \$1.2 million in debt and a million of it is this building and I'm working on finding a way to pay that off too. Bernie Brown: And we increased that .5% occupation tax for the purpose of paying debt. Mayor Ellis: And that's what we're doing with it; paying debt. Mayor Ellis called for vote at this time to table indefinitely; motion carried. 5-1-0.

New Business:

Tony Thompson, going to talk to you this evening about the Shepherdsville City Fair that we're planning for the last week in July. Mayor Ellis and I have talked about this a little bit and wanted to make sure everybody was brought up to date so everybody knew what was going on and if you had any input or anything like that. You're going to have to bear with me I made up a little outline to make sure I covered everything but I went off and left my reading glasses at home. A little bit of history, all the larger cities in the County have their own event. Hillview has their Hillview City Fair, Lebanon Junction has their Old Time Festival, Mt. Washington has their Spring Festival, and Shepherdsville doesn't have an actual festival that we call the Shepherdsville City Fair. Well now you're going to. Last year you had a Civil War Reenactment. What we're going to do, the Mayor and I talked about this, we're going to expand that and this year the fair is going to be unique because you're going to have the City Fair along with the Civil War Reenactment so you don't have that in most places so it's a little bit different than what everybody else is offering. We're going to be expanding the Civil War Reenactment. We're going to have cannons this year; we're also planning on having soldiers on horseback out there fighting the battles. There is going to be a skirmish on Friday night, there will be a full battle on Saturday and there will be a skirmish again on Sunday. So we've got something going on with that every day. You'll have a military camp out there that you can take your kids, grandkids, or yourself and walk through. You can talk to the re-enactors and everything will be set up just like it was 150 years ago during the Civil War. There is also going to be a Civil War area church service held Sunday morning. That will be a Civil War pastor/preacher whatever it is, he'll come and they'll do it just like they did 150 years ago and there is also on Saturday morning will be a Civil War Memorial held. There's a cemetery up at Shepherdsville City Park and they actually have some Confederate soldiers buried there. So there will be a memorial to honor the soldiers. In addition to the Civil War I'm working with some Bullitt County area artists with the artist groups so that we'll have an Art Council setting at part of the park. We'll be able to

showcase a lot of the Bullitt County artists and their wares. I'm working with the winery tourism people and they are going to be set up so that we can also showcase our small farm wineries that are right here in our Community. There is going to be live entertainment, carnival rides, a wine and beer garden, exhibitor booths, and hopefully we'll have a 5K run/walk if I can find a group that wants to put that on for that morning. There is also the possibility of a Car Show happening if we can find a sponsorship for that. The good news is that Knob Creek Gun range has agreed to be a sponsor this event as has Jim Beam. Knob Creek, most of you all know, they are coming out on April 21st, they are going to have a reality show called "Guntucky". That's going to be on CMT. So I'm hoping we'll get some play off of that, hopefully if the show goes over well we'll be able to get some of those reality stars to come out and sign autographs or whatever to promote the City and Knob Creek. Jim Beam has also agreed to be a sponsor. And part of what we want to do; they've invested millions of dollars on their tourism and facility with the still house and all that, we'll be running tour buses from the Fair over to Jim Beam, back and forth and Jim Beam is going to take care of all that. We're planning on having a Jim Beam flavor. We'll bring out barrels and wagons and all their marking material throughout and put that out there too. That goes along well with the Civil War reenactment. We're currently working with both of them on how to make this an event, we don't want to just draw here locally, we want to have this to be a regional draw. I think that Shepherdsville could probably have the top fair in the County. Right now I'm working on sponsorships, exhibitors, and volunteers. So if you know of anybody that would like to sponsor, you guys have business interests and know people, you guys know people, it can be anything from Avon to arts and crafts or whatever for exhibitors; and volunteers. We need volunteers to help put this event on. That's basically it unless you all have any questions. Faith Portman: I'd like to volunteer to sponsor the 5K walk. I don't know about a run. You've got my information so if you know of any volunteers or anyone who wants to help let me know. I just wanted to bring you up to day on where we are at.

City Attorney Wantland had first reading of Ordinance 013-(number to be assigned) providing for right of way closure of passway/alley requested by Publishers Printing. Mayor Ellis stated the second reading would be April 8th.

City Attorney Wantland had first reading of Ordinance 013-(number to be assigned) rezoning 25.43 acres, more or less, located 1,680 LF north of the intersection of Adam Shepherd Parkway and Conestoga Parkway from I-G General Industrial to B-1 Highway Business requested by Benjamin F. Robards III. He stated a copy of the recommendation is attached and it's recommended to be approved. Mayor Ellis: I would like to, Council, if everybody is okay with this, call a special meeting so that we can expedite this through pretty quick. That way they can get started as soon as the weather breaks on this property across the road if everybody is okay with that. I like to do something Wednesday night if we can. City Attorney Wantland: Has it been advertised? City Clerk Richmond: It has not been advertised. I didn't know you were planning a special meeting. Mayor Ellis: We can't do anything until it is advertised. Debra Bilitski, representing Wal-Mart: I think the 8th would be fine. There are still a few things that need to be done. I think they are planning on the second reading being on the 8th. Obviously we are pleased to come before you at any time that you will have us and so if you wanted to schedule an earlier meeting I just brought my calendar to make sure I could be here next week as well. Mayor Ellis: It's the pleasure of the Council. If we want to wait until the 8th I'm fine with that. We'll just wait and have the second reading and public hearing on the 8th. City Attorney Wantland: Does the Council have any questions. There was discussion at the Planning Commission and I don't know if all the Council knows; we're looking at a flashing light for the Fire Department, we're talking about redoing Adam Shepherd and Conestoga. Bernie Brown: Is that a traffic light at Adam Shepherd? Mayor Ellis: That's not with their project here, the light at Adam Shepherd and Conestoga is a venture with D&H which is the warehouse going in on the north side of Lowes and the developer and City will be helping out with that as well. Wal-Mart is helping with a Caution Light in front of City Hall as well as a stop light at your south entrance. Debra Bilitski: You know as much as I do! You know more than I do it sounds like. That is correct. I can address that now or would you like me to wait until the 8th? We've got that information. A traffic study was done there were some improvements recommended that was all done in consultation with the City.

City Attorney Wantland read Resolution 2013-06 approving the granting of inducements to Speyside Cooperaage for the purpose of attracting and retaining jobs pursuant to KRS Chapter 154, Subsection 32

revising Resolution 012-07 requested by the Cabinet for Economic Development in Frankfort. Mayor Ellis: This was actually voted on and passed when I was on the Council in 2009-2010 and it's just rewording. This has already been enacted. Bernie Brown: This does not give any dates. It gives a five year period and that could be interpreted as we're starting the five year period now. Mayor Ellis: They had already entered into one agreement this is just a language change. Jose' Cubero: So we're just reading this just to change the verbiage. Mayor Ellis: Yes. One has already been signed. All it is is KBI requested wording changes. Jose' Cubero: It doesn't have a date on it. If it's just verbiage it doesn't have a date on it so are we just putting it with it to show that the verbiage has been amended. Is that how that works? City Attorney Wantland: There is another inducement from the Revenue Cabinet that does have a date in it. And that we'll have a date and that's why they put in here that the Mayor and Clerk will sign all the other documents but there's a date that's already been approved by the Department of Revenue. Dana Bischoff James: A point of clarification on my behalf how can we do a .5% for new companies but we can't do a 1% for residents? City Attorney Wantland: You have to treat all your taxpayers equally. Mayor Ellis: This is set by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We don't do this anymore, this is an older company that had already been in the City and all it is is just changing language on it. City Clerk Richmond: It's not starting over its just continuing. Clinton Kline: Is there any way for them to show that? City Clerk Richmond: Actually it's got a date underneath my name on the original and when we pass this I'll put the date it passed it just doesn't say when it starts. Mayor Ellis: That is something we probably need to have them do. I'd like to wait on this until we can get them to put a date in.

City Attorney Wantland read Resolution 2013-07 designating the Shepherdsville-Bullitt County Tourist Convention Commission to collect restaurant tax. Mayor Ellis asked for questions. Bernie Brown: So who is going to collect it then? Mayor Ellis: They are going to start collecting it. Bernie Brown: Right now it's 2% for the restaurants. Mayor Ellis: Before that can happen that has to go through us. City Attorney Wantland: The only thing changing is they will collect it. Bernie Brown: Is there a sunset date on that 2% tax? Mayor Ellis: No I don't believe so. It was voted on with you guys on Council. Bernie Brown: With whom? Mayor Ellis: With you guys on the Council. It was done in our first year. Bernie Brown: The 2%. Mayor Ellis: Yes. Because it did sunset and they came back and asked the Council to extend it. It's been two years ago and they came to the Council and you guys said yes. Faith Portman: Yes they did. I remember that. Bernie Brown: When does the sunset now? Mayor Ellis: It's supposed to be another four years. Gloria Taft: When will they remit to us? City Attorney Wantland: It's always been a pass-through. We've always collected the tax and basically we as a City we charge \$1000 a month for administration fee. That's going to continue but literally we charge the administration fee and submitted the remainder of the money to the Commission. All we're doing now is having one collector rather than two. The Commission thinks that they can do a better job and monitor better than we can at this point because of the fact that there are hotels, motels and restaurants that are for lack of a better word, interacting among themselves. All we're changing is the collector of the restaurant tax from this office to the Commission and the Commission will bill both the hotels, motels, and restaurants. Bernie Brown: Mayor does the City ever get a budget from the Tourism on where this tax money goes? Mayor Ellis: Yes. Bernie Brown: I've never seen it. Has anyone else seen it? Mayor Ellis: We can make copies and give it to you that's no problem. Bernie Brown: I'm curious. I've heard several people say how much do they collect, don't they have their facility paid for and here they are building on more. Mayor Ellis: That's why you guys voted on it when they came in here and asked you because they were doing this expansion. Faith Portman made motion to approve Commission to collect restaurant tax. Clinton Kline 2nd. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Ellis: We have a parade permit from Tiffany Rhodes. She doesn't say who she is with or what it is for. Let's call her and ask her to come to the next meeting so she can talk to us. I don't want to give approval for something we have no information on.

Daryl Lee: We have a zoning coming up on Publishers Printing at Adam Shepherd Parkway and Highway 61 going south between the railroad track and 61. I don't know exactly how much ground there is but they own all that property and I think they want to bring it into compliance with what they have. The second thing, as some of you know, we are in the process of rewriting the Comprehensive Plan and that kicked off last week and I saw a couple councilmen there. We hired Chris Lowery out of Corinth Kentucky to finish this up.

The next meeting will be April 4th at Paroquet Springs. We would encourage all of you all to come out, have your input. Any citizen is welcome. It's going to be her meeting. She is planning on having one on the fourth Thursday of every month. It starts at 7:00. Paroquet Springs has graciously let us use their accommodations for nothing and we certainly appreciate that and she may be contacting you Mayor for some statistics as well as the other cities as well as the County.

Duane Price: We had a couple variances for parking; 10' x 20' down to 9' x 18'. As you know parking is set off the size of the building on how many spots are required. We're working on a Text Amendment to get that changed. One of them is right behind us on the other side of Lowes and the other is at Cedar Grove Industrial Park.

Sign in Speakers:

Brenda Board: I live at Partridge Run, Shepherdsville. This is in regard to something that happened on Saturday at the Convention Centre Tourism thing. We have this Bullitt County Visitors Guide that I picked up from over there. What my concern is that about 11:45 a.m. on Saturday there were about four tourists, I say tourists because they spoke very little English and they were dressed for their culture and they had entered the Convention Center as it would be stated here it's a Visitors Center also. It's #16 in the featured attractions. They were they looking for someone to talk to. They went up to the desk and there was no one there. I approached the gentleman that had a shirt on that had Paroquet Springs on the shirt and he said that they didn't have anybody there for the desk and that actually they were closed. They were having various different things that had been scheduled such as a style show, and there were the concerned families of Bullitt County had been there and possibly other things that were scheduled for that day. He disappeared but he pretty much that's how he left them. They kept looking for an office. They went upstairs. They went different places and I walked into another area trying to find another employee just to answer their questions because here we are saying this is a Visitors Center and there was no one there to help them. They were from another Country visiting here because we are advertising so many different things for people to come and do. But when they do come to Shepherdsville do we have an information area; do we have a visitor's area? They were looking for a place to have lunch. That part I did get from them. I told them that the visitor's center I didn't believe served lunches or meals but they informed me by lifting up a tote bag that they had their own meal. So mainly what they wanted was a place out of the cold weather to have a lunch. They went to another room apparently to sit out their meal and I saw the gentleman again and I was just trying to say hey isn't there somebody here than can help them. Well my understanding they informed these people that they could use the gazebo out back; so that was out in the cold again, and the last I saw of these people and it was four adults, they seemed like tourists that we so much want here, and they were sitting out on the front benches of the visitors center or conference center eating their meal on the benches out in the cold. I had hoped that somebody could have been able to been there to help them or if we could have a facility or a room or something for the people who do come to Shepherdsville who do need answers to some of these questions rather than me. I was unfamiliar with the visitor's center or I should say, I say visitors center because that's the wording in this book. Someone going on the internet they would see possibly if any of this were on the internet about Shepherdsville they could go to the visitor's center and there was nothing there for them except for somebody turning them out into the cold. I didn't appreciate it. I tried calling a couple people when I located the phone number to get answers and I couldn't get but voicemail. So I felt sorry for them but I myself didn't have any place or didn't know where they could go. I didn't even know that the convention center with the expansion they are doing will they have a facility that will actually be used by the public that come out or is that going to be up for rent or lease to be used by people who are renting some of the other part of the building. Mayor Ellis: It will be up for rent just like the rest of the building is. Brenda Board: Correct. So then it's back to what is it for people that are being told or with this facility being advertised for visitors with no information except for maybe some flyers that are outside if it's open. My husband noticed there was nothing on the door saying what time the facility is open or what days it's open or closed. Mayor Ellis: That's all set by the Tourism Commission. That's not set by the City of Shepherdsville. Jose' Cubero: Brenda I was going to ask you if you had contacted anybody today. Brenda Board: Not today. I waited to see if they would call me back. They haven't. This is in the City of Shepherdsville isn't it? Mayor Ellis: Yes it's in the City of Shepherdsville but it's not run by the City. Brenda Board: Well it's still part of the City and it's advertised as the City of Shepherdsville. Bernie Brown:

Who put that out? Mayor Ellis: The Tourism Board. Bernie Brown: They have a meeting every month. That sounds like that's something that ought to be brought up there at their meeting.

Stan Kapso: I live on Cedarview Drive and what I want to talk to you all about is this flyer here and I'm sure you all probably have gotten one also. I could read it to you but I think you understand what I'm going to say about it. You all voted years back or sometime back to have a 1% increase to pay a debt. You found out that this 1% probably was not enough so you voted for .5%. What I'd like to know is if you did get that money, the 1% to pay a debt off that we borrowed before this huge loan of 1% you raised it to 1.5%. The 1% was promised to pay off the debt is what I'm getting at. Now I don't mind being taxed. It don't hurt me a bit and I don't think anybody in here also is not concerned about being taxed, but what gets me is the baloney that was in on this. You said 1% to pay a debt off and then here you go wanting to pay which I know, I put 20 years in a business that saves lives, I know what it's all about, I don't mind paying the police officers or fire department any raises. They deserve it. I know about that. But if you said that you wanted 1% to pay the debt off and then jacked it up to 1.5% and you're still not satisfied, what is going on with you all.

Mayor Ellis: For one, the 1% was already put in many many years ago; that's an occupational tax. That's not put out there to retire debt. That is only put out there for one simple reason and that is to help provide for this City. You have a property tax and you have an occupational tax. Then the Council, as several folks mentioned when we had the discussion earlier, that there was .5% put in to help retire some debt. That's the part that we've worked on with the sunset date which is what we worked on tonight.

Mr. Kapso: I was here for all your conversations earlier. I appreciate that too. What gets me like I say is if you had that 1% raise to start with to jack down the \$600,000 that we owe, why didn't you pay that down?

Mayor Ellis: You're not understanding and you're not following me. The 1% was not raised by anybody. It was put in years ago to help pay for the salaries and things for this City. It was put in many moons ago. I think probably 1996 or 1997 correct, or before then? The 1% has been around a lot longer. And there's not \$600,000 in debt that you're sitting there with.

City Attorney Wantland: In February 2011 a new Mayor came on, new Council, the City was broke. The past administration spent grant money earmarked for specific purposes and they spent it out of the General Fund. Just total mismanagement in the way monies were spent. The City had to become liquid, we had assets, we had police cars, we had buildings, we had sewer plants, and the City did not have cash. The City was in a position of borrowing money basically cash to just basically make payments on bills as they came due. The creditors for short term financing required the City Council to put in place certain provisions to lend them the money to basically pay the bills. One of the provisions was raising the occupational tax from 1% to 1.5%. That was done. Part of it was raising the sewer rates 66% which was done. Part of it was the Sheriff had to collect our property taxes; which was done. What you're describing here tonight partially you are correct, this money was raised from 1% to 1.5% basically to fund a pool of money to pay back creditors who were lending the City money at a time when we were financially strapped. So you are correct on part of this. That's where it went. The 1% was always there and it was basically in the General Fund to pay the officer's salaries and these types of things. I hope that helps you understand the situation.

Mr. Kapso: Well yeah I do Mr. Wantland. I understand what you're saying sir, but what I don't understand is why would you jack it up to 1.5% then turn around and give others raises with the money that the City collected? Why would you do that? You've got a debt, why don't you pay the debt down?

City Attorney Wantland: The debt is being paid down.

Faith Portman, Gloria Taft and Mayor Ellis: We did pay the debt down.

Mr. Kapso: The \$600,000?

Mayor Ellis: That's not a debt. We paid \$200,000 off of debt out of that \$600,000 sir.

Gloria Taft: We paid off six of the loans that the City was carrying. So now instead of paying interest on debt at 5 and 6% we're saving every month, 5 to 6% of the City's money because we don't have to pay interest on loans.

Faith Portman: And we did give raises to people that hadn't had raised in two to three years.

Gloria Taft: If we don't keep good police officers and we don't keep good ISO qualified fire then we can't attract like Wal-Mart and we can't attract the good businesses that want to pay or people a living wage, not minimum wage.

Mr. Kapso: You're not going to soap box me because I understand all your stuff.

Gloria Taft: I'm not soap boxing you I'm simply telling you the facts.

Mr. Kapso: Yeah I know.

Dana Bischoff James: I believe that you're referring to the article in the newspaper thinking that we gave raises in the amount of \$600,000.

Mr. Kapso: Yes.

Dana Bischoff James: We did not give \$600,000 worth of raises. We put \$528,000 in emergency funding. Our raises for the City of Shepherdsville fire, police, city, and public works was \$68,000 approximately.

Mr. Kapso: So in other words this is incorrect.

Dana Bischoff James: It is incorrect. Jose' Cubero: It's somebody's opinion in a newspaper. It's not fact. Mr. Kapso: Well good then it's my mistake and I'll wipe with it. Thank you.

Department Reports:

City Attorney Wantland: It's not every day Chief Puckett, and the Council needs to hear this, particularly Mrs. James, early Monday morning about a week ago I called you and you got called out by a Circuit Judge who complimented our Police Department for the way they handle situations; one involving a very small child who had walked out of a house. The child is about two years old, evidently it had been in the elements and the Judge was just thankful that our officer was on the spot and basically saved that child's life. But she wasn't done with me and people need to hear this, the Circuit Judge then proceeded to complement our Police Department in the way they handle children from being in a meth lab situation in their home to the point that the children, their skin was absorbing the chemical. But again the Circuit Judge was upset with the act but was so abashed in thanking our Police department for intervening and removing the children from that element and they have to be said thank you on behalf of the Community. It's not every day you get cited by a Circuit Judge at 8:00 on a Monday morning. Good work Police. Good work Chief. Chief Puckett: The officers also went into that situation and they had to be decontaminated also. They didn't wait for anybody to get there they went in and took action immediately. City Attorney Wantland: I know you don't like to toot your horn but when you get praise like that you have to toot your horn! People need to realize what our police do.

(Bernie Brown left at this time.)

Bob Ryan: It's already been mentioned that the City did retire the debt on the police cars over at Republic Bank. And again my door is always open to come in and discuss financial statements with you if you care too. The \$700,00 excess in occupational tax was mentioned tonight, there is a debt on the other side of the balance sheet that that money is used to retire so it's not like you've got \$700,000 fun money.

Mayor Ellis: Council this is something here that I am totally proud of. I got an email from Scott last Monday requesting a phone conference and at this time I'm going to turn it over to **Chuck Keith and Scott Fleming**: Chuck Keith: It actually started about five or six months ago with the EPA. We'll bring you up to date on it. We have a phone conference with Dennis Sayre who is handling our case and in this conference was Scott, the Mayor, myself and Rob Campbell; nothing has been happening up to this point and in this conference we found out that there was some information that was incorrect; not the Mayor's or the Council's or our fault. It was just some wrong information. With Rob Campbell's help we got that all straightened out. Nothing was heard or done for a couple months. The Mayor, Scott and I talked and the Mayor said reach out to Dennis and see what's going on. That's what we did. Scott mainly, conversations, emails, sending him reports, so on and so forth, it goes on and just to make it short, last Tuesday at 9:30 they released us from our Agreed Order. No fines, no penalties, nothing. Scott Fleming asked the employees from the Sewer Department to stand up. Chuck Keith: Brad Armstrong was helping us with this also. No fines, no penalties, anything and when this first started the EPA made it clear what they could do to us and what they would if we didn't comply. Jose' Cubero: I think most people might understand but where do we go from here? Chuck Keith: Let's just say he made it clear that he would be dropping in on us a couple times a year to make sure that we're doing well. Mayor Ellis: He was supposed to come in this week and he called and told us that he wasn't going to come out and that they were releasing us. While it's a sense of ahhhh that he's not there's also some disappointment on Chuck, Scott and myself's part that we're sitting here going we've busted our butts to get to where we are right now and we want to share it with you Dennis. Come on in so we can share it with you. So we've invited him that when he's able to come up to Shepherdsville we'll have a cup a coffee and show you around the plant. Chuck Keith: He said he would be by. Mayor Ellis: He did say he would come by. He said he's in Louisville quite a bit and he said he would stop by and visit with us. I'm excited. That's great news and I have a big mouth. It's about like keeping Wal-Mart under my hat for six-seven months. Now I had to keep this under my hat for the past week. Jose' Cubero: The only thing I want to add is I know that I've tried to work with you guys closely; again we're always trying to look at what you guys need. There's obviously as we continue to grow with this there are some opportunities. Chuck Keith: There is still some stuff that the EPA is expecting us to do; and we will have to do. We don't want to go back

under an agreed order. Scott Fleming: Something that we would like to get out is over the past year we've had some problems with a couple of the Council members going around us and not dealing with us on the Stormwater and sewer. They've been dealing with the EPA and Division of Water and of course we know when they are talking to them; and what we ask you guys come to us. If you have a question about what's going on talk to us. It makes us look bad as a City. It's really foolish. Just come to us. Chuck Keith: That's how they get bad information. City Attorney Wantland: The Mayor has asked me, we're probably going to go into Executive Session, when we do I'd like for you to give the Council about five minutes.

Council Reports:

Gloria Taft: I'd like to address this article, if you will, that was placed in the Pioneer News. Number one, the people, as the City of Shepherdsville we do not do business under the local Model Procurement Code. We do business under the Procurement Act; the Kentucky State law. We do business under KRS 424 which says that we have to bid out contracts over \$20,000 unless there is an emergency. The Shawnee Acres had been dealt with for eight months by the previous Council. The previous Council decided to do nothing and they drug their feet and drug their feet and let it pass over to us. There was no vote taken, there was nothing pushed through, there was no act to get this done. The ones that put in the ad that can't show up to have a decent discussion. Don Cundiff attempted multiple times; I've got copies of the minutes, in trying to get something done for these people. We finally got something done at less than half of what the previous Council had budgeted. It was an emergency because the people that were affected had threatened a lawsuit to the City. So don't always believe everything that you read in the paper. City Attorney Wantland: I want to add something to that and people do not understand again, what a former administration did and did not do. Shawnee Acres was an incident where the City employees our City agents damaged and/or filled in a retention basin. The City actually caused the flooding that the people were complaining about. Someone/somebody/somehow took two 24" pipes and put in the middle of the two 24" drainage pipes a 10" pipe. Questioning about who, what, where was always the person responsible with "I don't know". The city made that mess and it was a horrible mess to the people that had their homes flooded. And it's real easy for people to put something in the paper but for the people who lived in that area knowing that their City government, their agents is the one who caused that particular problem and then refused to act really was a disappointment to them. It has been cured. Very shortly I understand the project will be completed. It was an emergency again it's one of those questions. But the people did not need to be flooded again especially when it was the City who did it.

Faith Portman: First off I want to thank the employees and the community who reached out to me and my family this week. We had a pretty close call with my grandson and he's home now and doing fine but I want to thank everybody that's called and been concerned about him. I also wanted to ask about when we're going to start on the budget workshops? I know we talked about doing those in April. I'd like to see us vote on that early. City Clerk Richmond: Probably by mid-April. Bob Ryan: I have all the department budgets, projected revenue, now we're sharpening pencils. Faith Portman: Mr. Fleming, I had a call from the guy on Eastview. Have you heard anything about the pictures? Scott Fleming: I've talked to Flynn and they have turned it over to their again and they are supposed to be revisiting the subject on it. I spoke to the Mayor a couple different times on how to handle that. It's basically something we're going to have to push Flynn on a little bit because apparently their first investigation came back as they were not responsible for anything. Faith Portman: Aren't they responsible to turn the pictures over to us though? Scott Fleming: Definitely. Faith Portman: Do you mind calling him and telling him I want those pictures. If you call him and I call him. It's our right to have those pictures. I also had a couple phone calls from people this week that saw the article in the paper and they were wondering about whatever happened with the investigation and I told them they needed to call our Commonwealth Attorney and ask him what's going on with that. I would appreciate it if people would start bombarding him and asking him what's going on with our investigation. Gloria Taft: I've called him three times and have yet to get a return phone call. Faith Portman: I have too. He will not return a phone call. If you would put that in the newspaper that we're trying to get a hold of him.

Dana Bischoff James: I just want to say thank you to the City for working diligently and for keeping the morale going; just because I think employees are naturally happier working in the City of Shepherdsville. But at the same I want to see that from the constituents of Shepherdsville as well. I want this to be a happy

healthy place to live in addition to a working environment. I encourage the constituents if you call see a firefighter, public works employee, police officer, stop and talk to them, meet them, get to know them, say thank you and find out who they are and as always I look seeing our children here, we have Desi back and we also had another little one. I love to see that because the more they can learn about government early on from people who truly want that leadership; I think the better are future society will be. One other thing is I ask for prayer for your local government. I ask that you honestly pray for us because we're making tough decisions and trying to do what is correct and what is biblically right for some of us. I think the majority of us have some sort of faith and I ask that you do keep your local government in your prayers as well as the advance government from our President all the way down because God knows we need prayer in government. Lastly, if you all will keep Bernie Brown's wife in your prayers; she fell and has went through surgery so please do keep her in your prayers. That's hard and dedication as well to show up to a meeting whenever you're going through that life situation. Just keep each other in your thoughts and prayers.

Jose' Cubero: The only thing I'd like to say is you see all these personalities up here but I don't think anybody up here doesn't want the best for Shepherdsville. I think you're going to see us; we all respect each other, we're going to bump heads, we're going to argue, but I don't think anybody up here doesn't want the best and I think even still being a newcomer to the City I think it's important for guys like me to understand what the City needs but things I think we deserve and as we fight these battles, we always respect our taxpayers are the ones we work for. And we're going to keep doing that. I think the key in a lot of this though is like she said; we've got a guy who is committed to come out here after what happened so keep him in your prayers. But I think for most of us I just want to make sure that when you look at us and you see the newspaper articles and you see some of the things that are said, we're just like you guys, we really just want the best for this City and that may take a different opinion sometimes. But I think the key is we have a lot of things going on real well. We want to keep them going that way. There has been some hurt. There's been frustration in this City. Some things we're going to keep eyes on. And you know what; we're a new Council up here. But I assure you every day I think of doing something better for this City. So I do appreciate the opportunity to be up here and like I said we have a lot of things going on. We have a lot of great things going on, Wal-Mart is coming. We have some new business coming. But I do think it's great that we have a City that's moving. And I think as long as we move forward and we have that attitude then I think you'll see that we'll always take care of the City the best way we know how.

Mayor Ellis asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss litigation and property acquisition settlement. Jose' Cubero made motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Clinton Kline 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 absent.

Clinton Kline made motion to return to Regular Session. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 absent. City Attorney Wantland: The City Attorney and City employees are going to meet and formulate a plan to handle an effluent problem in the Community and report back to the Council.

Clinton Kline made motion to adjourn. Gloria Taft 2nd. Motion carried 5-0-1 absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

R. Scott Ellis III, Mayor

Attest: _____
Tammy Richmond, City Clerk