

**CITY OF SHEPHERDSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

Pastor Randy Pace, Family Worship Center the invocation
Pledge of Allegiance was recited
Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

In attendance were Council members Bernie Brown, Don Cundiff, Larry Hatfield, Faith Portman and Alan Wetzel.

Faith Portman made motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on August 22, 2011. Alan Wetzel 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Larry Hatfield made motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on August 30, 2011. Bernie Brown 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Bernie Brown made motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on September 1, 2011. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Don Cundiff made motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2011 Regular Meeting. Larry Hatfield 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Bernie Brown made motion to approve minutes from the August 30, 2011 Special Meeting. Alan Wetzel 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Faith Portman made motion to approve minutes from the September 1, 2011 Special Meeting. Don Cundiff 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ellis reported that the 9/11 Ceremony was a great success. He thanked Paulita Keith and Scott Miller for all their hard work on putting the Ceremony together. Mayor Ellis stated it was a great day. He thanked the Police and Fire Department and all first responders for their participation and all City employees who helped with preparations.

At this time Mayor Ellis opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacant Council seat left by the resignation of Bonnie Enlow. Faith Portman nominated James Watkins. Alan Wetzel nominated Rob Flaherty. Larry Hatfield nominated Corky Miller. Bernie Brown nominated Tom Rosselli. Mayor Ellis asked for any additional nominations, and there being none asked for a motion to close nominations. Larry Hatfield made motion to close nominations. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 5-0. After a secret ballot vote the City Clerk announced that Corky Miller had received the most votes with three. City Attorney Joe Wantland then administered the oath of office to Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller thanked the Council for having faith in him. Mr. Miller stated he's learned one thing that when you're working with other people the only way to be successful is to work as a team, be a team, and not go behind peoples back; do the best we can for the City of Shepherdsville. He promised to work with everyone and the Mayor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Ellis asked City Attorney Wantland to have second summary reading of Ordinance 011-(number to be assigned) regarding storm water runoff control and quality management. City Attorney Wantland stated that he had received a call from Rudy Hawkins with the County and Mr. Hawkins has taken a copy of this Ordinance to the Division Of Water for review and would like to have their comments before having the second reading. Larry Hatfield made motion to table. Alan Wetzel 2nd. Motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Attorney Wantland read Resolution 011-021 concerning Fiscal Audit of years 2009-2010 (the last Resolution had the wrong dates). Larry Hatfield made motion to approve. Alan Wetzel 2nd. Motion carried 6-0.

City Attorney Wantland had first reading of Ordinance 011-(number to be assigned) a request by Steve L. Capps to rezone a lot 95' x 165' located at 748 Highway 44 West from R-1 Residential to B-2 Central Business with a condition.

City Attorney Wantland had first reading of Ordinance 011-(number to be assigned) amending prior Ordinances concerning safety of neighborhoods, defining public nuisance and curfew, imposing responsibility for the conduct of unattended children, within the limits of the City of Shepherdsville.

City Attorney Wantland had first reading of Ordinance 011-(number to be assigned) establishing the real property ad valorem taxes and providing assessment, equalization and collection pursuant to the provisions of KRS 92.280, Et Seq. City Attorney Wantland stated the real property tax rate will go from .143 cents per \$100 to 0.15 cents per \$100. Discussion followed on having a special meeting to have the second reading. Bernie Brown suggested having a Special Meeting on Thursday to have the 2nd reading. He stated the sooner we can get this information to the Sheriff's Department the better off the City's going to be. Larry Hatfield stated he hasn't seen anything that says what the rate is. He stated before we have a second reading we might discuss this a little bit. Mr. Hatfield stated he is not going to vote for a tax increase. And I'm going to tell you why. I'm not going to sit here, we've made no plan to get rid of anything, we're still \$1.6 million in debt on this building, we paid \$252,000 in utilities last year here. He stated before he votes for a tax increase he's got to come up with a different plan to do something different. Bernie Brown stated well I can say this, I agree with what you said Larry but I will say that if the tax is not raised, there's going to have to be some reduction in expenditures. There were several comments from the floor that I could not hear.)

David Basset addressed the Council saying first of all I've seen what's happening around here, and it's not good. But the citizens of the City, it sounds like what you're doing is putting the burden on them. The citizens of the City didn't make this burden so why should we have to pay for it. I mean that's the bottom line. It is what it is.

Jim Enlow addressed the Council saying I got a problem with that too. I just learned that the fire department had to pay \$800 out of their own pocket to go to training that they need to go to take care of the people in this City. Out of their own pocket. The other thing, you took a fully accredited police department, one of six in the State of Kentucky, and you're totally tearing it apart. They don't know if they got a job, when they're going to get a job, if they are going to get a pay check. And that ain't right. I mean they started an account, charging people who don't live here, for wrecks and stuff so the people who live in the City don't have to carry that burden and you got the right to tell them no don't spend it. We have a fire truck over there right not that needs an alternator, they were told they couldn't get one. If I was Chief you know what I would be doing. I'd be getting me an alternator.

Mayor Ellis asked for any further comment.

Corky Miller: How much money will be generated going from .143 to 0.15; \$7.00/\$100,000 is what we are talking about per year.

Larry Hatfield: I think a little over \$200,000.

City Clerk: Total 2011 revenue is \$1.6 million which is what we budgeted.

Larry Hatfield: I know the finances of the City are terrible. Well, it's worse than terrible. It's a whole lot worse than 90% of you even know. But not everybody is responsible, and it's no one person. But it is a fact that this economy for one thing has turned. But we have got to put together, we, as a Council, has got to put together a long range plan for this City of survive. And it ain't going to be easy and it's not going to be done overnight. We met with the police department last Friday and I felt we had a pretty good meeting with them. They know more I think now that what they did. But I can tell you folks something, I'm going to talk from my heart; I've been in politics here for 15 years, on and off, and I have never in my life seen Shepherdsville in the shape we're in. And instead of raising anything any more, I would like for everybody on the Council this time to leave it at where its at and let's get 3 or 4 Councilmen together and see if we can't come up with a plan, a solid plan for the next year or two. That's what it's going to take ladies and gentlemen to come out of this.

Hubert Richmond: Mr. Mayor, if this gentleman proposes to cut more police and fire department and these kinds of things ...

Larry Hatfield: Nobody has made any accusations to cut these people.

Hubert Richmond: What else are you going to do Larry?

Larry Hatfield: There are a lot of things we can do.

Hubert Richmond: I have this question, if you're not going to sit here and go ahead and pay for it; you've got the Sheriff's Department collecting our taxes, there's no where in the system where you've come up with the money to pay for that. Now there's another drain on the money you've got coming in – is it not??

Larry Hatfield: We had no choice but to do that or we wouldn't have gotten our note.

Hubert Richmond: You've already cut our police services. If you cut our fire department, we're going to be back in the courtroom again, I would believe. If you're going to do that instead of raising my taxes you better be lowering them; because if you're going to give me less services I want less taxes. I'm willing to pay for what I got. I've lived in and around this County most of my life.

Larry Hatfield: I'll pay for what I've got when I know what I'm paying for.

Hubert Richmond: We've been through this hog wash before. A lot of you folks were here. You said you were lied too. That's your fault. Step up to the plate, do what we need to do. If it's raising taxes, let's do it. You're either going to do that or shut this place down. That's the only choice you have.

Larry Hatfield: I'm not. I have a choice. It won't be to increase your taxes.

Hubert Richmond: I would rather pay more than to see these gentlemen get laid off and we go back 30-40 years ago when I was a young man. We had a deputy that sit on the street down here in front of Dairy Queen and slept. And as a teenager I ran these streets like a Wildman because there wasn't any law around and we knew that. That's where we're headed back to. You've got juvenile problems in this community now that these gentlemen don't have the manpower to do anything about. How you going to fix it? Other than it takes money. I'm retired. I've got a fixed income. But I guarantee you I'd rather see you raise my taxes and pay for the services we need than to keep this horse wash of saying, I can't do this, I can't do that. The property taxes in the City have been lowered year after year after year after year and the majority of these folks don't even realize that. The minimal amount of money you're asking for per household is nothing for the services we're getting for it. But to sit here and say you're not going to do that is totally irresponsible.

Larry Hatfield: I don't think so.

Hubert Richmond: I do. I've been in and around this community as long as you have and I have as much right to voice my opinion as you do. You voice your opinion and you do it in a loud way so everybody coys into your opinion.

Larry Hatfield: No.

Hubert Richmond: Yes they do. Yes they do. I've sit here for 7 months.

City Attorney Wantland: Time out. No personal comments.

Hubert Richmond: I'm sorry. I apologize.

Larry Hatfield: No apology needed.

Hubert Richmond: But you're sitting here, you've got an obligation. Step up to it and do it. It's not about reelection folks; it's about survival – today.

Faith Portman: I'd like to ask the public. Would you rather see a full fire department and police department or would you rather see your taxes raised:

(Several comments from the audience – couldn't hear – everyone talking at once.)

Steve Larimore: The tax rate you're looking to increase is \$7.00/\$100,000 value. So we're not talking about much. Here's my problem, we're in September, and you guys have been saying the same thing since January. Every time I come up here it's the same thing, we're going get to it, we're going to get to it, we're going to get to it. Have a meeting every night. I don't care. Come up with a plan. How long does it take to do a budget? We approved the budget, I guess on last year's tax rate? I don't know. Bernie was it based on last year's tax rate?

Bernie Brown: Well I do know this. If we're going to meet the anticipated revenue from real estate and personal property taxes we have to raise it the maximum.

Steve Larimore: Then you have no choice Larry; because that's what you voted a budget for.

Larry Hatfield: I have a choice.

Steve Larimore: You can vote no that's fine, but here's my real concern. Let's annex the property out there, that's 1500 people paying employment tax. It makes sense. When we had the alcohol issue, it really came down to one thing, it was an economic issue. People decided and voted. It was good for economic development in the City for us to have alcohol in restaurants. Is this opportunity out on 245 and 61 not another opportunity to develop the City, get more people on the sewer line, increase some revenues, guys we can't keep Shepherdsville in the 1970s. And Larry we were high school kids in the 70s. We know what it was like with Bennie and those guys, 1 or 2 cops; we don't ever want to go back to that again. We want a better place for our kids. Bite the bullet, let's do what we gotta do and if you gotta raise it to \$10.00/\$100,000, if that's what it takes to get us out of this mess, then we can quit coming up here twice a month hearing we're going to get to it. Just make a decision and let's move forward. Please.

Bernie Brown, Steve, before you go there's something I want to say too. One of the problems we have been battling with all year long is getting good accurate numbers.

Larry Hatfield: We still don't have them. I'm sad as anybody else about that; but we don't have them.

At this time Fire Chief Layne Troutman asked to address the Council. He stated there are a lot of rumors going around this County and the City about what's going on. I'd like to get to those but before we do that I want to try to give everybody a rundown of what the fire department does for the community right now, because a lot of people just don't know. A lot of Council members don't even know what all we do. When all this started about the money issues the fire department stepped up to the plate and we took on a lot of responsibilities that really weren't our responsibility; but we took them on. We started cutting the grass here to the Government Center. We started taking care of the shrubbery and landscape here; helping Public Works out because they got cut pretty hard. On top of that we detail people out every once in a while to go over the City Park and cut the fields and cut the grass to help out. Then there were more cuts and they cut janitorial service here at City Hall. So the fire department stepped up to the plate again and took over all the janitorial services at City Hall, the common areas and the gymnasium to help save money for the City because we're here. That's what we do; the fire department, if somebody can't do something we try to help out, we step into the roll. Then there are things people never have know—in the winter time the fire department uses one of our service vehicles and we go out here and plow the City streets with Public Works to help them out on that because we have the personnel around. We know somebody needs help so we're helping out. Then we get into our duties, what we have to do for the City. We protect lives and property. We respond to fires, EMS responses, auto rescues, swift water rescues. And that's just a few things that we respond to. We take on Public Education for fire safety. We do fire safety in schools, churches, and businesses. We try to tell people how they can make their businesses and schools safer. Then we take on the roll of training to keep our certifications up to protect the people here in Shepherdsville. Like Mr. Enlow said, we have a firefighter that we couldn't get the funds to get our swift water rescue training paid for, this firefighter stepped up to the plate and paid the \$800 out of his pocket to send us to it. The training we do, EMT training, swift water tech training, we have hazmat tech training to keep up, confined space tech training. Our apparatus operators have to keep up their training to drive the trucks and operate them. We have our officers who respond to the scene and the officers who ride the trucks. They need their training so they know what to do when they get there. Again that's just a few things we cover. Then we go into fire inspections and pre planning. We hired a Fire Marshal, the last person we hired. He started doing inspections on all businesses here in Shepherdsville and every business in Shepherdsville is going to be inspected. That's going to help us with our ISO rates. What the ISO rate is, it's a number that tells your insurance company how much insurance you're going to pay on your home or on your business. Right now Shepherdsville is a Class 4. We're the number two department in the County that has a Class 4. Everybody else is much higher than that. We only missed going to a Class 3 by eight points. Some of the stuff we've implemented is already working to get that down. Then you go into hydrant inspections. We've never done that before, ever; we do them twice a year. That also helps with the ISO rates. Then we go to hose testing, same thing there, it's for ISO rates to make sure all the equipment is ready to go. Then we have our daily, monthly and yearly duties that we have to do. This is the stuff we do everyday or once a month or we do it once a year. It includes truck inspections that are a daily thing. We inspect all the trucks, air packs, extrication equipment, swift water equipment, confined space equipment, ladders inspection, tools, and saws. There again that's just a few things on the apparatus we have to check every day or once a month or year. Then we go into what we're doing to help the City out. We've brought back the cost recovery on the Interstate and the people that don't live in the City that we make runs on. So, far, to this date, we've generated about \$25,000 in about five months. Then we go into the agreement with Louisville Water Company. The hydrants we're inspecting to get everybody's insurance rates down, Louisville Water Company is going to pay us to inspect those hydrants. So it's going to offset the cost on the City for us going around and inspecting these hydrants; which is going to help the tax payer out on their insurance. Then you go into advertisement. This is something everybody is going to find out about soon enough, we're trying to get into the corporate world a little bit. We're trying to get some big corporates to help pay for some of the service for the City and stop hitting on the tax payers. That's something we'll get into a little later. Then we get into the lives we've saved this year. So far this year, our swift water rescue team, we're the only one in Bullitt County; we've pulled 7 people out of the stream ways in Bullitt County. Seven people who would not be around if we weren't there. Since the last part of January we've cut 3 people out who were trapped in their cars; and probably wouldn't be alive today if we hadn't. These are just a few things we've done since January. This doesn't include the EMS assists, the fire runs we make, but then this is

the type of guys I have working for me. Back in March 2009 the State of Kentucky passed a law saying the cities didn't have to pay the overtime rate which is \$2.24 on the scheduled overtime for the fire service; and without your knowledge the City administrator cut these firefighters from getting that. All other departments around us continued to pay it, but the City, without your knowledge cut it. So they've had a \$2.24/hour cut on their scheduled overtime they work. Right now my lowest firefighter makes \$8.24/hour; the next firefighter up, and this is most of them, make \$8.39/hour. And what most people don't understand, because we get a lot of flack, people say all they do is lay around at the fire house, they're not doing anything. I got news for you, we do a lot. These are facts that people don't know about fire fighting. The first 7 minutes these guys go out and pull up on a scene of a house fire, they do the same physical exhausting work, they put their body through the same physical stress that a 40 hour factory worker does. This is a reason we have a high rate of heart attacks, from age 25-35 because of this. Some of the guys are making very little money and they risk their lives everyday. People just don't understand that. Moving into fire gear and equipment. That is some of my idea to try to get all this money generated out on the Interstate to take that off the City. I understand we're having some really tough times for the next month to get through. I'm glad we could help out and give that money to you but hopefully down the road the money we're getting in we can take the burden off the City and help buy equipment we need to protect this City. And after all this these guys still come to work. They try to help this great City out. They help save money every single day by taking on the duties, from where the City has already made the cuts, knowing in the back of their minds that there is talking about cutting their pay, doing away with their health insurance, we've even heard there are some people around talking about doing completely away with our jobs. These are the rumors flying around. And right now I have to say the morale of the City is at rock bottom. The people here, it's hard to come to work. We still do it because we're proud to protect this City. So I have a few questions for the Council. This is something I've talked to a few of you about already. I just want to squash some rumors that are going around. I think it would be good for the public to know and for the Council to know. One is the fact that we keep hearing talk from down South, up North, out West and out East that our fire department is getting ready to be dissolved. That they're going to do away with the fire department. We keep hearing this. It's kind of scary. I'm just asking the Council, is that something you all are looking at?

Faith Portman: Not if I can keep from it.

Larry Hatfield: Layne, I'll tell you straight up, I've not made any comment on this but what would be so bad talking about a merger. What would be so bad to sit down with these fire departments? It might even be beneficial. But you say that and everybody thinks we want to get rid of you all. No. But if you could use some of their tax base. When you say that it's like everybody screams like we can't do that. We've been in a lawsuit for 11 years.

Chief Troutman: You're right, we have.

City Attorney Wantland: And for 11 years tax money has come out of peoples pockets \$0.10/\$100 is what we've fighting over because that's exactly what every tax payer in the City of Shepherdsville is going to pay for fire protection.

George Miller: It's cheaper.

City Attorney Wantland: No it's not cheaper. You're going to pay \$0.13, like you're paying in Mt. Washington, and another \$0.10 to the fire district in Mt. Washington. It's the same in Hillview. It's the same in every other 4th Class City in this County. It's \$0.10/\$100 plus your property tax and that's what the merger that is being talked about will effect the people in Shepherdsville.

Larry Hatfield: Let's get something straight Mr. Wantland. Larry Hatfield has not said anything about a merger. I've not talked with anybody. I want to make that damn clear tonight.

Corky Miller: Let me ask Mr. Larimore a question before we finish up. The figures you gave, did you say \$7.00; Mr. Larimore answered per \$100,000. Mr. Miller: So you're talking about on a \$200,000 home, a \$14.00 increase a year. Well I'm going to tell you this is and this is all I'm going to say about it. If your insurance company finds that out your fire insurance will go up more than \$14.00/year. A whole lot more.

Bonnie Enlow: You'll go to a 5 or 6 ISO rate which is worse. I work for an insurance company, I know.

Chief Troutman: To answer your question about the merger.

Larry Hatfield: I've been accused up here of saying that I've been at meetings and everything. I want the fire department to know that's not true.

Chief Troutman: I'll cover that real quickly. There are things a municipality can do that these fire districts cannot do. There are grants that apply to us. Matter of fact, I'll tell everybody this right now. We're sponsoring a grant for all the fire districts, North, West, and East to they can get radios for their apparatus because they can't do it because they're a taxing district. But we're a good guy we'll help out anybody we can help out. So we're trying to get some radios. Another thing, you come into is simply the fact of their a fire district, we're a City fire. If you pay City taxes you get the City fire department, if you pay for a taxing district, you get them. The one to the South of us, their ISO rate is I believe 6, the West is either a 7 or 9; the East, they're a 5-9. If you're not within five miles of the fire house and 1000 feet of a fire hydrant you're a Class 9. The North of us, they are the same thing we are, they're a Class 4. But now, I've talked to some of the other departments about different things, about helping each other out because all these fire departments do the same thing. And this is where the tax payers get rolled over quick. Everybody duplicates everything. I may have a Fire Marshal that's full time; Mt. Washington may have a Training Officer that is full time; Zoneton may have a Mechanic up there that's full time that does nothing but work on their trucks. You just never know who's got what. But then we may end up having the exact same thing. We may have a Fire Marshal, a Training Officer, and Mechanic. Mt. Washington may have all those. North may have all those. There are some trucks that each department may have that they don't really need; but they have them because it helps their ISO rates just to have those trucks there. Instead of being able to say well they have a truck 3 miles down the road, we'll just put an automatic with us that would help us out there which is something we've been looking at; trying to use other people's equipment to lower our ISO rate. It hasn't got underway, but us and Mt. Washington are talking about some things right now. Maybe about sharing a station with some personnel and a truck; to get another truck out on the road at times to help us out and to help them out. There are a lot of things going on. But to go back to the merger thing, it would be impossible for a City fire department and a taxing district to merge without one of them taking it over; and if it's the taxing district that takes it over that means everybody in the City is going to get a tax on them, \$0.10/\$100 and if the City takes them over its totally different. That's what the lawsuit is over. We're trying to get these people that are in the City from having to pay that extra \$0.10/\$100 when their just paying City tax only and they get police, fire, City Works, the City Hall staff. They get all that for just one tax. That's where it's much better being in the City that out in the City that has a fire district covering it. That's the whole thing with taxing districts.

City Attorney Wantland: Every municipality outside the City of Shepherdsville, 4th Class City, pays approximately \$0.10/\$100 for fire protection. We pay \$0.13/\$100, we have police, we have fire, we have code enforcement, we have it all. This is the best value by for of any taxing district in this City.

Bernie Brown: The only problem I have is that, we have an excellent fire department that we want to keep, but there never was a plan, that I know of. A long range plan on how to pay for it. I think that needs to be dealt with.

Bonnie Enlow: That's not true. Jim Enlow made a plan and nobody listened to him.

Jim Enlow: I made a ten year plan a long time ago and Mark Edison, he was our City Attorney; they sit up there and laughed at me. I told them, boys if you fail to plan; you plan to fail. I'm thinking ten years ahead by the time I retired we got 7 years in to it. Then somebody else took the reins and took it over. John Harper told me one thing, he said don't ever start being a taxing district because every time you move out, you can't have property in that tax base and you got what you take in that taxing district. Larry, you came and ask me when I was Fire Chief, you remember, about a taxing district. I said are you going to give me neutral freedom, your answer was no. So I said then I'm not going to go out here and get 51% of the people to sign a petition to raise their taxes \$0.10./\$00 and not bring the City's revenue down.

Bernie Brown asked Bonnie Enlow if he could get a copy of that plan because we were not aware of it.

Jim Enlow: I'll get it out of my closet because that's where they told me to stick it.

Bernie Brown asked if any of the rest of the Council was aware of a long term plan.

Mayor Ellis, Faith, Alan all stated they were not. Don Cundiff stated he did remember Jim bringing stuff to the Council.

Chief Troutman: The other question I have, like I said there is a lot of stuff going around the County and we're just trying to get some answers. We keep hearing we're going to be laying people off. That's a big rumor. It's a burden on them, that's what has the morale down. They keep hearing all these rumors and the only people that can really answer this are you. You all are the only one's that can tell us if its being looked it, being talked about or what. At least they'll know if it is being talked about or it isn't being talked about. It will put an end to the rumors. They'll have some insight on what's going to happen. That's the thing right now.

Larry Hatfield: I'll tell you straight up I've not said anything about losing any more men. Matter of fact if I was going to do that I wouldn't have met with the Mayor the other day and told him to get to the bank to see if we can get some money to make payroll.

Chief Troutman: You're absolutely correct, you've been nothing but supportive of that.

Larry Hatfield: I don't know what anybody else has said.

Faith Portman: I'm not for laying anybody off.

Bernie Brown: There's no question the next 4 to 6 weeks are going to be pretty tough because not much revenue is coming in. And I think because of some concern involving what we're going to be able to do or have to do for the next 5-6 weeks some people are misconstruing that. The rumors have been rampant apparently and there have been a lot of people jumping to conclusions based on rumors. And that's unfortunate. We're going to get through the next 4-5 weeks until more revenue start to come in; somehow we're going to do it. And then the revenue will be coming in and we'll get over that hump. But this City is just about maxed out on borrowing, and that's a fact. That leaves only one thing. And by the way when cuts are mentioned it doesn't necessarily mean laying people off. We don't need \$700 coffee bills to be paid, things like that, and you know what I'm talking about.

Chief Troutman: I do. I have a couple more questions. It goes back to the fact of pay and insurance. We definitely keep hearing that we're going to take it on pay and insurance. And again if you cut the insurance, you definitely can't cut the pay and if you cut pay you definitely can't cut insurance because especially with firefighters, you're going to put them completely in the poor house because you're taking them way down below minimum wage at that point in time.

Don Cundiff: I'd like to say something. We appointed a committee to look to see what we can do and we have met and there's no decision made. Part of having a committee, in my opinion, is to discuss all the options before you make a decision. And to my knowledge, no decision has been made. But I have a problem because I think, and I don't know where it's come from, there's been a lot of stuff said that we're going to do this and we're going to do that. I don't know whose saying what but no decision has been made. When you have a committee formed you're going to throw everything on the table. I think that's our purpose.

Chief Troutman: So what you're saying is what I'm gathering here, the committee has talked about cuts.

Don Cundiff: We've talked about everything. I think that was the purpose of the committee. What can we do? You're either going to raise revenue or lower expenses. That's your two options and we've talked about both of them.

(Comments from audience—I can't hear)

Alan Wetzel: I'm on the committee, Don and Faith.

Don Cundiff: As I said I am on a Committee. We are going to discuss all the options that are available. Our choices are raise revenue or decrease expenses.

(Comments from audience—I can't hear)

Alan Wetzel: We've been meeting periodically for weeks now.

Faith Portman: We have to go through the Personnel Policies and Procedures, everyone's pay, insurance options. You can't do this in a week.

Alan Wetzel: We're looking at two main documents that are very thick. We've looking at the Policies and Procedures manual and the Civil Service Ordinance. Both are tied together. It's a very thick document, it's huge and one thing you have to understand is we are keeping all options on the table. I think that's what we need to do. We need to bring all options to the table and discuss them all and see what we can come up with. One of the most interesting things I've found out tonight is seems that some folks out here are in favor of raising taxes. And I'll be honest with you; phone calls to my residence have been absolutely nothing but do not raise our taxes under any circumstances. My main objective here, and my main job here is to represent my constituents. When my constituents are telling me do not under any circumstances raise my taxes I need to take that option in some sense to a degree off of the table. My point is this. If the case is that you're okay with raising taxes to an extent to maintain your services then we all need to know that. And we need to know that in no uncertain terms. If we're being told do not raise our taxes you have to do something else, there's limited options there.

(Comments from audience—I can't hear)

Alan Wetzel: They need to come to meeting or call us. Our numbers are all on the website; you can call us or call City Hall and find our numbers. Feel free to call me any time. I will talk to anyone. I need to know what my constituents want me to do. If I'm being told one thing and then find out later on, like Don said, we've made no decisions, but we need to know what the options are and our constituents give us the options.

(Comments from audience—I can't hear)

Alan Wetzel: I think most people understand the two options we have. We have limited funds of money in the City. We can't print money like the federal government does. We've got the money we receive. That's it. There are no other options. And we have to raise taxes or cut services that's it, that's all we got.

Chief Troutman: I understand most of it. The first question was never answered. It was answered by Mr. Hatfield.

Faith Portman: What was the first question again?

Chief Troutman: About doing away with the fire department.

Faith Portman: I don't want to see it merged.

City Attorney Wantland: Chief Troutman I've been instructed to proceed in that lawsuit. Nobody has told me otherwise. And I intend to prevail on behalf of the citizens of Shepherdsville in that lawsuit. There will be no two taxes of City residents in this community for a fire district. You're the best value in this City and everybody needs to know it.

Daryl Lee stated this has been going on all over the Country. However people were just hit pretty hard with sewer rate increase and about 85% of people in Shepherdsville are on a fixed income. He pointed out that growth is aided by lower tax rates and many don't understand why the City hasn't annexed vacant property out where the new sewer line was put in.

City Attorney Wantland stated he would prepare the Ordinance any way instructed. He stated he is partly responsible for some of this. Mr. Wantland stated he wanted to tell the people that he does not charge for most of the services he does for the City. But we may as a Committee and a Council together collectively, advised creditors that we were going to take the amount that was allowed for the City to take for purposes of acquiring a long. He stated he thinks before we vote on that we need to look at its \$7 per \$100,000. He stated we're still in a spot, if you will, and he appreciated the work of all six council members, but we may have to borrow money, and as Councilman Brown indicated, we may be borrowed out; but we may have to do something to meet these federal mandates, and legally speaking we do not want to jeopardize that over \$7 per \$100,000.

Don Cundiff stated we have paid professionals like Marty Brown who have told us we need to take the maximum property tax allowed because it's been lowered for years and years. Mr. Cundiff stated he feels if we don't do what was recommended we spent a lot of money for nothing.

City Attorney Wantland had first reading of Ordinance 011-(number to be assigned) levying personal property, and property of public service companies ad valorem taxes and providing assessment, equalization and collection pursuant to the provisions of KRS 92.280, Et Seq. The 2nd reading of this Ordinance will also be Thursday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning update- Daryl Lee reported there was a 35 acre tract coming up that concerns the City.

Board of Adjustment update- Duane Price was not present at the meeting.

Sign in speakers:

Ted Korfhage addressed the Council by saying "thank God we live in a Country with free speech". He then stated that when he and his partner started the Heritage Hill development they had to do a lot of sewer work that he feels should have been done by the City. He stated they have always been part of the City and when the issue of taking over the streets came up there was a handshake agreement with Mayor Sohm to take them over after the final coat of blacktop was put on. Mr. Korfhage stated that is done and he would ask that the City honor a former Mayor's agreement to take over the streets. In regard to the storm sewer grates; he realizes the City can't replace all missing drain covers at this time and suggested that the remaining be spot welded to prevent them from being stolen. He stated that he had given a license plate number to the Chief of Police that he felt would help catch the people responsible for these thefts.

Jay Smith addressed the Council regarding occupational taxes. He asked if there had been any progress with the collection of those not paying, such as flea market exhibitors, etc. Mr. Smith stated if he has to pay, and pay on a regular basis as he does, everyone should have to pay. Mayor Ellis stated that we had made some progress on collecting delinquent taxes and are getting ready to look at the folks at the flea markets.

Department Head Reports: None

Council Reports:

Faith Portman thanked the police and fire departments on a job well done Sunday at the 9/11 Ceremony.

Larry Hatfield asked to make sure that the Quality Stone invoices were on the next bill list.

Don Cundiff stated he thinks its unfortunate all the rumors that have gone out. He emphasized they are looking at all options and they do appreciate our employees. He stated we are doing the best we can do.

Bernie Brown stated he is really ashamed so many rumors are out there. He stated people have jumped to conclusions and asked to anyone to talk with them before things get so out of hand. Mr. Brown also stated he had put a paper on the back table that explains the duties of the Mayor and Council. He stated there is a definite separation of powers and asked everyone to take a copy if they were interested in seeing it.

Larry Hatfield made motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss litigation. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 6-0.

Bernie Brown made motion to return to Regular Session. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 6-0. City Attorney Wantland stated the Fire Chief has been instructed to follow directive from Mayor and Council and he is under obligation to do that forthwith. There is a time frame where he has to act.

Motion to adjourn by Bernie Brown. Faith Portman 2nd. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

R. Scott Ellis III, Mayor

Attest: _____
Tammy Richmond, City Clerk