

OWA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

P Susan Allen
P Greg Browning
P Mikel Coulter
A Dennis Hennen
P Maggie Huff
P Margaret Real
P Jo Rodgers
P Jim Ventresca

AGENDA:

7:00 Call to order

- Jim reviewed OWA's activities in the last year including
 - Historic District process and current status
 - What it means to be on the National Register
 - The community dialog process
 - Areas of involvement including:
 - CVS building
 - Old CVS development
 - James Kilbourne Memorial Library
 - Packard Building/MAC Arts Center
 - Updated communications with email groups and improved web site
- Maggie presented the slate of officers recommended by the Board of Trustees. Nominations from the floor were requested but none were offered. The slate of officers was approved as nominated.
 - President - Jim Ventresca
 - Vice President - Margaret Real
 - Treasurer - Greg Browning
 - Secretary - Jo Rodgers
- Greg provided the Treasurer's Report. We have a \$3000 CD and approximately \$600 in the bank.
- Margaret presented our annual scholarship to Rachel Webb and highlighted some of her many accomplishments.
- Jim recognized LaChatelaine for their ongoing support, both for our monthly meetings in their facility as well as for their sponsorship of the Annual Meeting.
- Mikel presented the architectural awards.
 - The Certificate of Achievement was awarded to Jill and Steve Cohen
 - The Award of Merit was awarded to Rakesh and Shoma Jha
- Jim introduced Matt and his presentation titled "All About the City's Income Tax Proposal".
- Matt outlined the items he was planning to cover:
 - Discuss the income tax issue on the May ballot

- Provide information about the City's finances
- Highlight City services
- Discuss the cost of municipal services in Central Ohio
- The proposal on the ballot is to increase income tax from 2% to 2.5%.
- This will be voted on during election day on May 4.
- If approved, the 2.5% tax would go into effect on July 1, 2010.
- The City needs 3.5 million dollars annually above anticipated revenue to support the existing service levels. The City believes that the current operating reserves are not high enough to ensure fiscal stability.
- Worthington spending has exceeded revenue in 7 of the last 10 years. Reserves have been used to continue services during those years. 78% of the current balances are in the capital fund and cannot be used for operating expenses.
- The tax increase is planned to achieve:
 - Maintenance of existing service levels.
 - Keep the infrastructure of the city in good condition.
 - Attract and retain jobs.
- A portion of the revenue is planned to be used to add an Economic Development Coordinator to City staff. The City will also review incentives to encourage new business and retain existing businesses.
- Who will pay for the increase?
 - Workers pay where they work.
 - Worthington residents will pay if:
 - They work in Worthington
 - They work in a place where the tax is less than 2.5%
 - They work in a place where there is no income tax.
 - Residents on social security or who are not earning income are exempt.
- 61.8% of City revenue is from income tax. 40% of spending is on public safety and 16% on parks and rec.
- Our current costs put us very near the bottom of the list when compared to other Columbus suburbs. With the increase we would fall at about the middle of the list.
- The floor was opened for questions from meeting attendees.
 - What does an Economic Development Coordinator do?
 - Marketing
 - Working with businesses as they plan growth
 - Working proactively to retain businesses in the city
 - Focus on land use planning
 - Do we anticipate any peaks in expenses?
 - No, there are no currently planned major expenses that would cause a peak as we have had in the past when the Rec Center was built and opened.
 - Does the City have an economic development plan?
 - Yes, one was put together with a consultant a few years ago. There is also a Comprehensive Plan that provides guidance. However the new Director would help to finalize and update this plan.

- Mayor Minton commented that the surrounding suburbs already have Economic Development Directors and that we are competing with them for business. He also encouraged everyone to support local vendors by thinking of shopping in Worthington first!
- Jim asked for any new business and hearing none moved to adjourn. Jo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

9:00 Adjourn

Submitted by Jo Rodgers