

Financial Planning Committee Minutes

January 5, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Porter at 6:10 p.m. Whittie was appointed to take the minutes of the meeting.

Roll Call

Present: Chess, Hartuea, Helmer, Hersherber, Pawlicka, Porter, Smith, Van Dyke, Whittie

Not Present: McQuiggen, UpDyke

The committee addressed the recent resignation of Co-Chair Petrie and acknowledged his great work and leadership on the committee.

Public Comment:

Dan Wilson. Not a Ferndale resident, but is an activist who organized various protests. Travels the state and has been in Ferndale. Is going to help Shawn House organize to make people aware that the failure that our state of Michigan has become and there has to be changes.

Sean House: Lived in Ferndale since 1981. Has been involved in many Ferndale activities through his father, Nelson. Has insight into some of the work that goes into committees such as bonds and taxes both behind the scene and through the council. Inquired as to where committee members lived. Asked for his "No More Taxes" literature be entered into the record. Concerned about taxes being too high and residents having to move out. Believes the city needs to renegotiate employment contracts. If employees won't accept cuts, fire all of them who will not negotiate and rehire those positions at a lower salary. Addressed items that are wasteful spending in the past. There is a big need for public safety and he does not want this cut unless as a last resort.

Dan Harteau arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Tom Gagne: Addressed that the talk around town is that we are proposing just a tax increase and suggested that the committee addresses the "cuts" portion more, so that the community understands that the committee is not coming after a money increase without cuts. Quality of life is a weak and soft phrase and it's defined differently by each person. People are leaving the city as evidenced by the latest census. What we as a community think we are all doing in this area has failed to keep and attract people. Addressed 2009 Budget as FYE 2009 had a "lag" from property values. 2009 should not be the reference, more of FYE 2004 or 2005. Discussed the merger of city services.

Jacki Smith arrived at 6:45pm.

General Business:

Sharon Chess went over the notes from the Public Hearing of December 29, 2010 including what the eleven persons who spoke at the Public Hearing had addressed.

The committee edited the recommendation document and formed a Final Rouge Draft.

Motion by Hershberger, seconded by Harteau to approval the draft of January 5, 2011 and to forward said Draft to Pawlicka to format.

Roll Call

AYES: Chess, Hartuea, Helmer, Hershberger, Pawlicka, Porter, Smith, VanDyke, Whittie.

NAYES: None

Motion by Whittie, seconded by Pawlicka to adjourn.

Roll Call

AYES: Chess, Hartuea, Helmer, Hershberger, Pawlicka, Porter, Smith, VanDyke, Whittie.

NAYES: None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.