

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Gore at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Taylor, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Fogt, Mr. Gore, Ms. Groat, Mr. Reams, Mr. Berbee

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Schmenk, Director of Administration Froment, Police Chief Golden, Asst. Fire Chief Riley, Finance Director Morehart, Tax Administrator Arnott, Clerk Patterson

REPORTERS PRESENT: Ryan Horns – Journal Tribune

CITIZENS PRESENT: Brian Clark, Terry DeRammelaere, Kelly Miller, Monty Staats, James Shaw, Martha Shaw, Nathan Vanover, Everett Humble, Rebecca Gerhart, Scott Thrall, Brian Aden, Sue Rowlett, Roger Rowlett, Steve Anderson, Craig Main, Kayla Lindamood, Brenda Lindamood, Stephen Simms, Mary Bak, Ben Vollrath, Scott Freeland, Scott Failor, Jeff Groat, Laura Kaiser, Matt Miller, Sue Remy, Linda Birkheimer, Sandra Baker, Jeffrey Smith, Pete & Sue Emmons, Scott Brock, Marianne Berbee, Tammy Penhorwood, Dave & Marjolein Dzmura, Jeannie Wolfe, David Holden, Marion Ward, Kathy Young, Jennifer Willis, Mark DiDonato, Scott Reese, Avanelle Oberlin, Dennis Neidert

Mr. Gore welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that since the November election, Council has heard from individuals who work in other communities that they were interested in some type of commuter tax credit. The Citizen's Committee, consisting of 22 members, was formed to advise the City on the tax issue and put the levy together. One of the things the members heard from people after the election, was that they would have voted for the levy if they had a tax credit. Silently, on the street, Council heard from those that said, "I live here, I work here and everybody should pay the same amount." The decision was made to hold public discussions to hear the thoughts of individuals who live and work in the community. At the meeting on January 13th, more people were interested in the tax credit than those giving us their thoughts on living and working in the community.

The Mayor gave an overview of the issue on the tax levy. Mayor Schmenk introduced City Administrator Jillian Froment.

The Mayor gave the background of how the City got to where we are. She asked the group to stop and think, “Why you live in Marysville.” Some of the reasons why she and her family live in Marysville are its hometown atmosphere, quality of life, good neighborhoods, good schools, good employment opportunities and a pretty reasonable cost of living. She grew up in Marysville, moved away for about 15 years and moved back in 1993. Those kinds of things brought her and her husband back to Marysville to raise their children, but it takes money to do all those things. The Mayor took office two years ago. She was told coming into office that the City’s finances were not in great shape. Bottom line, the City was just getting by and not really able to cover its day-to-day expenses. City had to dip into its financial reserves the first two years she was in office just to meet day-to-day expenses, to pave roads, to open and operate the City pool and to provide police and fire services. She knew the City had to face the fact that something needed to be done. That was even before the national economy tanked, so the City was in shaky financial shape for probably 8-10 years before the national economy tanked. In 2002/2003, the City tried to do the same thing. She wasn’t involved with the City, but she had the opportunity to serve on a financial advisory committee for the City. The City looked at its budget and said they needed more income. The City also looked at safety services. What they had was not going to provide for the future. The City back then said they needed another fire station north of the tracks; they needed more fire and police personnel to really protect the City. Back then, the City attempted to raise the income tax, but it failed. After that point in time, after 2003, the City just got by however it could. Money was borrowed to pave streets. As many of you know, for day-to-day living expenses, you shouldn’t be borrowing money; you ought to be able to pay for it out of your paycheck. The City’s paycheck wasn’t big enough, so the City borrowed money to do day-to-day things, like pave the streets. The City has not been able to replace our police and fire vehicles or really keep up with street paving. The income tax rate has always been 1%. It was put into effect in 1968 and has never been raised. There is a good published list of all cities’ income tax rates on the City of Columbus website. Marysville is about the lowest in the area and it’s not enough to pay for our day-to-day services. When it was put in place, the intention was that 1% would cover only street paving. We had a volunteer fire department at that point in time. We had pretty much a volunteer police department. We were a small town. We didn’t need things like professional engineering services that are needed today or a professional finance department. Over the last 20 years or so, City has seen unprecedented growth. Population in 1980 was about 7400 citizens, now we’re pushing 19,000. Back then the City was 4 sq. miles; it is now 16 sq.

miles. While this growth has been good in many ways, it's put a big demand on the city to provide adequate services.

In 2005, the City was doing the best it could to keep up with services, with not enough income. Because the City was desperate for funds, it did away with the commuter credit that was offered. There had been a half percent commuter credit. It was bringing in another \$500,000 a year. That was another way to get by without going really deep into the red.

Last year after having to dip into reserves for two years, City decided we had to do something about it. A Citizen Advisory Committee was formed and headed by Dr. Dave Applegate. The Committee looked at current police and fire facilities and concluded that they were not adequate to protect the citizens. They concluded that the current budget was not adequate. They looked at how the City was being run and came to the conclusion that "we were doing a pretty darn good job." We were stretching the dollars as far as we could. They looked at the number of employees and found that we were not overstaffed. She compared Marysville to Hudson, Ohio, a city similar in size. They have around 400 employees; Marysville has about 120 full-time employees. They looked at the budget and decided we couldn't make deeper cuts without taking away essential services. They looked at, "if you got more money, how could you do that." They concluded that property taxes were not a viable solution. Under current Ohio laws, almost all property taxes go to cover things like County services, Mental Health, Jobs and Family Services and the County Health Department. The rest of the property taxes go to pay school expenses, as well as for our Public Library. The City only gets a tiny share of property taxes. Committee also said if the City tried to put on a special property tax, then the City would really increase the tax burden on property owners in Marysville. Right now under income taxes, we're able to collect income taxes from people who don't live here. It spreads the tax burden and decreases the proportionate share. If we only taxed on property of Marysville owners, they'd have to pay a lot higher percentage to cover what we need to cover. Committee also looked at a question a lot of people have asked, "As our population grows, we're getting 1% from more people, why hasn't that been enough to pay for what we need." If we look at that 1%, it was only designed to cover street paving. We've had to add more services, and it doesn't and hasn't kept up. The Committee recommended that we ask for an increase in income tax. They concluded when they looked at our real safety service needs, as well as the amount to pay for our day-to-day services, that we needed a higher amount, .6 to .75%. With the economy, that would be asking too much out of the citizens, so they recommended that we ask for half percent increase. They looked at a commuter credit, but said if

you give a commuter credit, you aren't going to have enough money to get by. The City went with their recommended half percent increase. Many people have said other local cities around us offer a commuter credit, and asked how do they do it and why can't Marysville do it. Some of the cities do, but most of them have a large number of businesses that attract more people to work here that live in other cities, therefore, they get more income tax from people commuting into their city. Marysville really doesn't have that many. Scotts is the biggest one; Honda is outside of our corporate limits, so we're not getting the benefit of those taxes. As an example, the Mayor used to live in the City of Westerville and they've been able to attract a large number of big companies to locate in the city limits. Thousands of people commute to work there and don't live there, and they're collecting those income taxes, so they're able to give a commuter credit and still have enough money to pay for their daily services.

Many people have asked, "If we were able to pass this, where would the money go?" It would bring in an additional \$4.1M per year, \$2.85M per year would be used to address our safety service needs and give us adequate police and fire services, another fire station north of the railroad tracks and a different police station. If you have not taken a tour of our police and fire stations, you really should, especially, when you go inside the police station, you'll realize it's not up to today's standards, and an additional \$1.3M roughly would be used every year to meet those day-to-day needs that we have. We had to make painful cuts since the levy failed. We wouldn't be able to restore everything, but we would try to put back some of it and would be able to continue to get by.

In conclusion, Mayor Schmenk realizes this is probably the worst time to be asking for more money with the way things are at the Federal level and with the state of Ohio in a really bad situation. She asked everyone to remember that Marysville has had this problem for 8-10 years, and it can't keep going unless it faces the facts and addresses the needs. Council and the Mayor have talked a lot. They're trying to pull all the facts and trying to make decisions to the best of their knowledge that are best for the City.

Mr. Gore recognized Police Chief Golden and Asst. Fire Chief Riley. They will be around after the meeting in case anyone has any questions for them.

Mr. Gore said he has received emails from people who could not attend either meeting. Those will be made a part of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Pete Emmons addressed Council. He was actively involved in helping to coordinate the campaign activity for the November election. He would like everyone to consider a couple of things. He spent a lot of time talking to people in Mill Valley during the past election campaign drive, and he really believes in his heart that all of our citizens really are deeply concerned about the quality of life and the direction that the City is going. He heard repeatedly that people were forced into making some difficult choices. He feels the failure of the levy was a reflection of the severe economic climate that everyone was in. It's a travesty that it happened because of that particular fact. We're all faced with a very challenging and difficult situation. He knows there are very strong sentiments on both sides of the coin. He noted London had a commuter tax issue on the November ballot and it failed, so there is no guarantee that with a commuter tax credit, that it will necessarily ensure safety. What should be considered is, what other communities in central Ohio have offered a commuter tax credit, what was their success rate and what were the challenges they incurred with that. Also, related to that, be cognizant of potential voter backlash from voters who just live and work in Marysville. He cautioned to be very careful as you look at that component. He applauded City Council and Administration for stepping out of the box for their efforts in holding these public meetings and really giving everyone a chance to thoroughly understand what the state of the City really is, what the affairs of the City are and how dire the need of the City is in terms of safety services in particular. He commented that he hoped that there would be several of these meetings. He would also like the City to consider straw polling residents in general to really get consensus on the issue. Once you do get that consensus, he believes "that all of us have a civic responsibility here, living in Marysville, to do whatever we can do to continue to ensure that we have the highest quality of life, so that we can move forward and really address these pressing needs as best that we are able to."

Mr. Monty Staats addressed Council. He has lived in Marysville for 15 years. He's happy that they chose Marysville in which to make their home and raise their children, and he continues to look forward to the future.

Mr. Staats presented some information to City Council. This information was obtained from the Ohio Department of Taxation. The information consists of all the tax rates in each community in the state.

He noted one of the difficulties that he has experienced when talking to people during his time in Marysville, is that there has been a tendency among certain

members of the community to forget that Rt. 33 runs two ways. He is one of those people that works in Hilliard, yet chooses to live in Marysville, rather than the big city that Hilliard has become. He grew up in a community of 5,000 people. That community is still at 5,000 people, 47 years later. By comparison when you look at the information just submitted to Council, Marysville actually ranks in the top 100 cities in the state, we're actually #93 in the state. When you look at the income tax rates that are collected in all these large communities throughout Ohio and you eliminate Marysville and the eight other cities that have an income tax rate of 1%, you'll find that the remainder, which is 91% of that group, is all very close to 2%; it's 1.9%. If you go to the top 70%, 70 of those cities out of the 100, you'll find that they're over 2% in what they're averaging in a city income tax.

His concern in coming this evening was not to suggest that he had any answers at all. He's looking for future discussions and he knows we'll make good decisions together. He suggested that in his case as a commuter, because he did take advantage of the commuter credit when he moved here, and then it was taken away without a vote because it was simply policy, and he understands that policy can be changed. In his instance, with the median income in Marysville being \$50,000 annually, which is what he makes, he's currently paying \$1,000 to the City of Hilliard each year, another \$500 to the City of Marysville each year, and he's paying \$1500 a year in gasoline to get to and from Hilliard to pursue his career. On the other hand, someone that lives and works in Marysville is currently paying \$500 a year if they are earning his \$50,000. That's the disparity of him paying three times the income tax, not including the fuel cost. He would like to know what percentage of our residents work and live in the community or they work here but live someplace else, or they live here and work somewhere else. He's not sure of the percentages, but he suggested that an income tax proposal on the ballot that gets us closer to 2% is probably what the City needs. He feels that recommendation was right even though we're in tough economic times. "We probably need to be closer to 2% on the go forward just to get done what every other large community in the state does."

Mr. Gore said as far as the percentage of people, we know what the income is as far as those that reside outside the community and work here. We know what the percentage contribution is, but to know the actual number of folks, we'd have to go through the actual W-2's.

Ms. Froment said percentage of people who live here and work somewhere is estimated to be between 30-40%. We can only count the W-2's, and if an

individual earns multiple W-2's from outside the community, that's actually one person.

Mr. Gore said the percentage of contribution to the City income tax that actually lives outside the community and works in the community is almost 50%. Those numbers don't mean that it's 50% of the tax payers; it's 50% of the total amount of income tax collected.

Mr. Craig Main addressed Council and thanked them for holding this forum. He has lived in Marysville for ten years and works in Dublin; his wife works in Bellefontaine. When he moved to Marysville, there was a 1% income tax and .5% commuter tax. City Council voted a few years later, without input from the people, to remove that, so he's had to pay 1% to Marysville and 2% to Dublin. He'd love to bring that 2% to Marysville because he doesn't get anything out of it in Dublin other than five miles of road he drives every day. His concern with putting on a commuting credit on is, down the road it would eventually get repealed.

Mr. Gore assured Mr. Main that that has been a part of the discussion. He made it real clear that there is not a question on the table for a commuter credit. Legislation has been adopted by this Council that has been filed with the Board of Elections and will be on the May ballot for a one-half percent increase for the City of Marysville. These discussions came about as Council talked with folks and decided there is an opportunity for Council, legislatively, to have companion legislation, if voted in favor of, which would provide a commuter credit, and a date specific would be put in the legislation. That date specific would be long term so that a Council couldn't come behind this Council and change it. That has been a concern because it happened once before.

Mr. Main agreed that 2% is probably more what needs to happen here to add to the Parks and Rec and to make sure fire and safety is taken care and up to par for the community. He personally doesn't think there is an opportunity for him to work in Marysville at the type of job he works in Dublin and make the money he makes in Dublin. At this time, especially the way the economy is, he's not willing to pay 4% of City income out of his pay. His big concern with the issue on the ballot was that on the ballot it mentioned fire and safety and from previous discussions and reading flyers, it was about building an extra fire station and adding extra police and fire, which is certainly needed. He voted against the increase because he was willing to say, "I don't need that extra service right now, personally. And then once the ballot didn't pass, and this is where my concern comes in, there was discussion of the pool shutting down, parks & rec not being able to mow the sports

fields and things of that nature on a regular basis this summer. Those things impact me directly. My big concern is that those things were not on the ballot. So, looking at what has happened in the past on the other ballots through the schools and such, I think the perception is now that people hear that, is this a scare tactic.”

Mr. Gore said that is exactly why, when evaluating the entire campaign presentation process, it was decided to run a positive campaign. He noted past school levies have said “we’re going to do away with bussing; we’re going to do away with athletics; we’re going to do away with extra curricular and people step back and go, don’t threaten me.” That seems to be the reaction of people when you start telling them what you are going to take away from them. City decided to tell the people here’s what we need, here’s why we need it and here are our facilities, come visit, etc. As positive as we can be when you’re asking people for money and that’s what the City was trying to do. Mr. Gore said we probably should have said, in addition to, here’s what the impact will be. We are prepared to do that this time. “We made a decision and obviously, it was the wrong one.”

Mr. Main asked Council to think about all the people who have taken a pay cut at work to maintain the jobs that they have now. Also, from a solution perspective, are there people or businesses currently in business in Marysville who are continually delinquent in their taxes? Is there a pool of money out there, that in some fashion, the city can invest an effort to collect the money from people who are just not paying? Another possible solution, look at volunteers across the city. He’s involved in a lot of the sports organizations, and they use the fields and put a lot of time, effort and money into providing hundreds of kids the opportunity to be able to use those fields.

Ms. Froment said the tax administration function was brought back in house from the Regional Income Tax Association (RITA) in 2006. The reason was the City felt they could do it more economically and was able to put a process together for pursuing both individuals and businesses that were delinquent. City hired a Tax Administrator, and part of her process is to go through and pursue delinquent taxes. The list of delinquent taxpayers has shrunk dramatically.

Regarding Mr. Main’s comment on pay cuts, Mr. Gore said there have been quite a few that have taken pay cuts, but reminded everyone that every cut in pay cuts the City’s pay because the reduction in income tax that is received.

Laura Kaiser addressed Council. She has lived in Marysville about 20 years. She is a commuter. She works in Marion. Her occupation, forensic nurse, is not an

occupation available in Marysville. In her job, she works with Police and Fire. She has seen cutbacks in those services in Marion and realizes those services are important to a community. The commuter credit that was taken away without a vote was tough. She is a single mom and could use the extra money for her family but at the same time, she knows we need to keep the community going. She is torn on whether to pass it and pay all that extra money, “do I really have money right now.” She’s torn on this whole issue. She thanked Council for this public discussion.

Mr. Gore reminded everyone that City Council meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at City Hall. There is a part of the agenda which permits open discussion on any item that is not on the agenda. He encouraged anyone and everyone to attend Council meetings.

Mr. Roger Rowlette addressed Council. He has lived in the community for 30+ years. He has commuted and worked in the City over the years and is now retired. As a retiree, he leans towards property tax. No one likes property tax; he doesn’t like property tax, but a property tax is a more fair approach. Everybody pays their fair share instead of just the people that are working or commuting.

He also addressed cuts in personnel. He’s not real sure the City has cut as much as they need to. He noted he saw three City employees driving around in a truck with a wood chipper on the back of it that’s running, and they go from one end of town to the other in January, and we’ve had no ice storms and nobody’s working on yards. He can’t really see the expense of three employees and two machines running. He feels the city needs to go back and look at the labor costs.

Brian Clark addressed Council. He has lived in Marysville for three years. One of the greatest things about being in America is that he can make about any choice he wants, freely. He can make his own decisions, but he also has to live with the consequences of those decisions. He moved to Marysville because it’s a small town. He grew up in a small town. When he came back to work in Columbus, he chose Marysville to live because it was a nice community, good people, clean community, and it was close enough to the city that he could still go and work. He pays 2% to Columbus and 1% to Marysville. It was his decision to work in Columbus, so he also had to make the choice to pay taxes for commuting.

One of the things he has an issue with is back in November we had a vote and the citizens voted down a tax increase and here it is three months later and we’re talking about putting a tax back up again. His biggest concern is why, after only

three months, have we decided that we need this tax again when we've already decided as a tax paying base, that we didn't want it. Do we need more services, do we need bigger services to sustain the growth – absolutely. He has an issue with, at what rate are we thinking the city is growing, compared to what it truly is growing, and at what rate is the tax burden coming onto the citizens of this city for future growth that just doesn't come. The water is a great example of that. We expected the growth; it didn't come, but yet we're still stuck with the water bills. He was a police officer for 11 years so he knows what it's like to work on a police department and need funding for a new department and new things. He had cause to be in the municipal courtroom as part of the Union County Leadership Program and noticed the wood paneling on all of the walls. It looks 60'ish. He said every day law is judicated in that court whether it has wood paneling or brand new brick walls, etc. He said when the panel was put together to talk about the adequacy of the police and fire services, what criteria or specialty did these people have to say this police department is not right? His police department served 18,000 residents. He has seen the Marysville police department. Would it be bigger for the growth in the future – absolutely. We should get one in the future. In his police department, they had to make it work. They made the budget they had for that police department work because they had to. They didn't have brand new cruisers. He's not saying Marysville doesn't deserve it here, but we're coming off one of the worst economic times this country has seen in decades. On his street alone, there were four foreclosures this year. A lot of people don't have the money. "For us to go back three months after we said no, this isn't right for us; this isn't the right time to do this, to go back on the ballot, I just think is wrong. I think it's a little insulting to the voters that voted no."

Lastly, Marysville does a great job. He just thinks that we have to look at what Marysville is. We can't make Marysville grow faster than it realistically can grow. We can't spend money. In the past, City has been spending money hand over fist trying to make Marysville into something that the tax base just can't do. He feels that's what caused the economy. People were spending madly whether they had the money or not. He asked that when we look at balancing on what we need and to what we want and to what these people say the standards are, we take a deep look and say is this really the standards that we need; do we really need it this year or can we wait another year to put a levy back on when people are back on their feet and back to work again. He doesn't know the answer, but he's here to challenge everyone to think about that. "Rather than trying to get that car or get that new thing or that new whatever, we take a look and say, can we be responsible and just wait until the time is right."

Mr. Reams said the focus for tonight's meeting is on the commuter tax credit and he didn't hear Mr. Clark say anything specific to that. He asked him if he had anything to offer. Mr. Clark said he paid the 2% when he worked in Columbus and lived in Marysville. He heard someone say that they don't get anything out of the taxes they pay to Columbus. Mr. Clark said when he works in Columbus, the police protect him and the fire department protects him if his car should catch on fire. The street services were nice. Lights were on, so he feels he gets the services that he's paying for. "As a taxpayer and an American, I've paid my taxes that are rightful, but when we're trying to put taxes on at a wrong time, I just think we need to look at that. As for your question on the commuter tax, I think that if you're part of the community and you have a job in the community and you take services from the community, then you should pay back to the community.

Ms. Mary Bak addressed Council. She has lived in Marysville for 3 years. Her husband works in East Liberty and she works in Dublin. They feel Marysville is a perfect location for them. It's a great community and great people and feels the City has done a great job for the little amount of money it has. She voted for the increase even though she pays 2% of her income to Dublin and 1% to Marysville, and she did it because she is a roadway engineer so she works in public works. She understands you need money to maintain and it's a lot cheaper to maintain than to have to rebuild things. She feels the City's approach to passing the next levy should be about not just fire and police, which are great and are definitely needed, but also branch it out to roads, the pool and the parks because those are also important to everyone. She asked if there is a push to get more companies to come to Marysville to provide more jobs. She said she would love to live and work here.

Mayor Schmenk said we have a good economic development function, not only for the city, it's shared with the County. Mr. Eric Phillips is the Economic Development Director for both the City and the County. He is also CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Phillips is really good and well respected around the state. He serves on the National Economic Development Council, so he keeps tabs on what other communities are doing. He serves on the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, which is the planning function for Central Ohio. He works hard to try to attract new businesses. It's been tough. He's always out there working and he's also fighting to retain good companies. Ms. Bak asked if there are certain types of companies he goes after or is he trying to stay diverse. Mayor Schmenk said he tries to stay diverse, but he has tried to market Marysville as a research specialist community because we do have Scotts R&D, Nestle R & D, Univenture, Honda and Transportation Research Center. R&D has been one of his

focuses because it brings with it really good jobs. However, he hasn't ignored things like call centers and distribution warehouses and office parks. Mr. Phillips was instrumental in getting a grant from the state of Ohio for the Job Ready Site, where development is in progress.

Mr. Gore said Marysville is fortunate in Union County to have that connector of 33 because there is a great opportunity for development along that way. We are talking about commercial and industrial type development in that area and our hope is to someday develop that area.

Mr. Stephen Simms addressed Council. He came to this area from Illinois in 1990 and moved to Marysville proper in 2005. He took a job at Scotts and in 2005 he took a better opportunity in Columbus knowing full well that he would be paying an increase in taxes. The tax rate in Columbus at that time was 2% and has since been raised to 2-1/2%, and when it came time to vote on the tax increase for here, he chose to vote against it. The reason why he voted against it was largely around reciprocity or not having the ability to have some type of a credit for commuter actions. He also stated that he generally votes for other types of tax increases, such as property tax increases and other things to support the community. He believes that if you don't have those types of things, your property values will go down, not to mention the community itself will suffer. You choose to live in a community depending on a wide range of things, but one of the reasons is the total cost of ownership you have for your home and how well it's going to do with the property values for the services you have. When he looked at this, he just could not make the jump. One was the reciprocity, but also, have we really looked at all the various options. He has not heard anything about going to a township model for fire support like Dublin does. He feels they do that because they get a strong tax base off their property taxes to help pay for their fire department. It seems to work for them. Also, when he came to this community, he was working at Scotts and worked outside the community. It was not part of Marysville. The management of Scotts changed, and it was annexed into the City, so it started paying income to the City. If it's possible to do that for Scotts, is it possible to do that for parts of Honda? He asked if those options had been considered. If you take those types of approaches, does it make sense to grow even though you'd have to support getting to Honda, could you increase your tax base by doing that. He said he was surprised when he came to this community. He was used to paying property taxes as the method for funding of all sorts of things. They didn't have local income taxes. He found it interesting that all the local income tax is on gross income, so he's paying income tax on income because he chooses to participate in sheltering plans for income, like 401K that he can't touch, yet he pays on the full amount of

his income for local taxes. Something else to consider to make it more palatable for people, is to take a look at doing this not on a gross income basis, but on an adjusted basis. Lastly, if we were to go to some reciprocity model, he's sure the City would still have some portion of disparity in revenue that you need to support the city, but he has to wonder if you wouldn't attract more people by doing that. When he looks at the total cost of ownership for his house, and if the levy were to eventually pass, he would be paying 4% local income on top of 6% state income. He looks at the property tax versus the cost of his home. There is not that much disparity anymore between the property tax, the value of his home versus one in Dublin, "so why would I live here and drive. For me, I drive either 74 miles or 96 miles a day to go to work, given that amount of load on my income." He'd like to hear about his annexing ideas, as well as his fire department model.

Mr. Gore addressed Mr. Simms' annexing idea. Speaking for himself, annexing requires the City to provide all the other services to that land, including the roads, police and fire. To annex anything right now, we're having a difficult time maintaining what we have in 16 sq. miles. When you mention Scotts, which happened more than 10 years ago, one of the reasons why it happened was because of the additional revenue that would be brought into the City so that we could pay our bills. What happened was that we had more area that we had to provide basic services to. Although it has contributed quite a bit, he says a high percentage of those individuals that work in our community and don't reside in that community as part of that 50% tax base, probably comes from Scotts. Annexation has not been on Mr. Gore's radar because the difficulty of taking care of what we presently have. We have to figure out how to take care of what we have before we expand and try to take care of something that we don't have.

Mayor Schmenk said the State Law on annexation has changed since the Scotts issue. Back then you could do it on an involuntary basis, which is what the City did. Scotts did not want to be annexed and fought it in court. Now the law has changed and she doesn't believe it can be done if the property owner isn't in agreement. She didn't think Honda would want to be annexed; it would change the way they do business. Ms. Froment added that Honda would also be subject to corporate taxes. It's highly unlikely they would put themselves in that position. The City has not approached Honda about being annexed into the City.

Ms. Froment said as far as the Fire Department model, Dublin, by using Washington Township, has created a consortium with several townships and the City of Dublin. A portion of it is served by Washington Township. They have come together as a group because working together makes sense. You have less

administrative overhead and you don't have to buy three trucks for areas that may not get a lot of service. Marysville has done that over time. Our Fire Department not only serves Marysville, it serves four townships, which almost entirely surround the City. City receives funds from those townships that help for our cost. In fact, they actually pay more than their share. City has the only ladder truck in Union County. We also contract outside of those townships, such as Washington Township, and all the outside surrounding townships in Union County. Those contracts are called Mutual Aid Contracts. If The City is not able to provide service, they will respond without question, and we do the same for them. No funds are exchanged but City feels over time, it evens out. She noted the City had to call outside people to respond 114 times last year because we didn't have enough people or equipment. We actually have a consortium, but the City holds it and works with surrounding townships.

Mr. Steve Anderson addressed Council. He lives on Grand Avenue and has lived in Marysville all his life. He works for Columbia Gas. He winds up in about 13 different towns, pays tax to all of them and to him, it's a non-issue; that's just the way it is. It happens with the job. He complimented Police and Fire. They do a wonderful job. His issue is a matter of trust, and not the Mayor because she was not involved with the sewer plant early on. He feels "we were sold a bill of goods." A lot of development was going to pay for it and it didn't; now we've got the bill. He doesn't know if he should trust the City. One example of something that happened to him personally just last week. He noticed survey stakes heading for the back of his house. He checked with the Engineering Department to see what was going on. Mrs. Penhorwood said that a water main was going to be put between Scott Circle and Grand Avenue. Mr. Anderson said that it would have to go either on one side of his house or the other. Mr. Anderson went to talk to the crews working on site and talked to the Water Superintendent. He was told, "Maybe five ten years down the road. We're not tying anything in now; it's going to be down the road, don't worry about it. The new main we're putting in is ductile iron; that stuff on Grand Avenue is cast. I don't want to tie into a cast iron main." Mr. Anderson did some more checking. The main they tied into on 3rd St. is cast iron. He's thinking, "this is just more stuff I'm being fed and I don't like it."

Mr. Gore suggested that Mr. Anderson contact Ms. Froment and she'll get to the bottom of it. Ms. Froment said they aren't putting the water main in now, but they were lining up to make sure it would ultimately fit when it's needed. She apologized for the miscommunication.

Ms. Jeannie Wolf addressed Council. She has lived in Marysville for 15 years. She and the Mayor spent some time in different cities while their sons played soccer. She realized at that time that “this would be awesome to have in Marysville; wouldn’t this be great to do in Marysville so she thought it would be so awesome to make it happen here,” so she was all gun ho initially for the income tax, and then she talked to her husband who works in Columbus. They fell under the rescinding of the commuter tax, so that hurt, so he was not at all in favor of an additional income tax. Also at that time, Columbus increased their tax. She said she’s not sure how county property taxes work. One thing that concerns her with the safety services was “were we just going to give the city a blank check.” Unlike schools, when they come to you and want a levy passed because this is the piece of property that we’re going to purchase, this is the building we’re going to build; here’s a picture of it; this is how much it costs, and then we get to decide yes or no. Then when it’s time for the levy to be renewed or they need operating funds, then we get to look back and say, “Wow, did the schools do a good job, did we like what they did when they came to us the last time and ask for money.” Yes, the schools do come to us time and time ago, but as voters, we get to look at every little piece of that and evaluate whether that money was well spent.

Ms. Wolf noted an article in the Columbus Dispatch last week saying that Westerville City Council went to their County Auditor and asked for money for their fire services. She thought maybe that is something that could be done in Marysville.

She also expressed concern about the pool. She knows the City is asking for donations to help with pool expenses. She and her children go to the pool. The fees that go to the pool are the lowest she’s ever seen anywhere. She would gladly have made increasing donations over the last 15 years rather than trying to find some way to keep it open this year. It really concerns her to hear someone say out loud, in public, “Well, this year, for the first time, we’re going to run the City pool as a business.” It makes you stop and think what other little piece of the city has not been run like a business. There are little bits of doubt that have been put in her mind, and she can’t help but think others feel the same way. She is all for making Marysville a great place to live. She’s just concerned about the message and being able to fight for what you really want and making sure those pieces of what you really want are in the right place for people to make those decisions.

Ms. Sandy Ray Baker addressed Council. She has lived in Marysville a very long time. She would like to see a new sound ordinance. She recently purchased a home on W. Fifth Street thinking that in her senior years she would have peace and

quiet. She's not complaining about sirens or music coming from the park or sounds from the football fields or the band playing. The nuisance to her is the low-base sounds that shake her windows at 2:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. that are coming from the house next door to her that vibrate her home. It's very painful to have to hear the sound. The Police have been helpful and kind, but nothing can be done. She'd like to see something happen so she'll be able to enjoy the spring.

Mr. Gore said this is a great example of issues to bring to a City Council meeting. Ms. Baker said she would be glad to attend Council meetings, but she works every night except Wednesday night. Mr. Gore said that one of the problems with a noise ordinance is in order to be able to actually enforce it, it takes special equipment. Police Chief Golden agreed. For the amphitheatre in Westerville, they had to have special equipment to measure the noise and special people to operate the equipment. Marysville has discussed it and enforcement is the issue. The equipment is very expensive.

Ms. Kathy Young addressed Council. She said Dublin has a Rec Center that if you pay Dublin taxes, you can use the Rec Center. She said, "If you are trying to increase taxes, why don't you throw a bone out to residents like us for maybe a free pool pass." Mr. Fogt said that Rec Center is not free. There is a huge fee. Ms. Young said she was told it was free but she could be wrong. Her point is, "Throw us a bone, maybe give us a free pool pass if we're residents or something; maybe we'll increase the taxes one-half percent or three-quarters percent."

Mr. Scott Reese addressed Council. He lives in Mill Valley and he and his wife work in Dublin and both pay 2%. We've talked about the growth in Marysville and noted Mill Valley, Green Pastures and Scott Farms. He came from Johnstown and they are also experiencing growth. When they were looking at the zoning proposals for the new developments, they leveraged the developers into doing contributions. He came here five years ago, so he's not sure what has historically occurred in Marysville. He asked if there has ever been a contribution from the developers that are still building houses here in Marysville and whether or not that was incorporated in the original plan or for future developments. If it wasn't in the prior developments, will that be aggressively pursued with those developers? They are going to make a lot of money in Marysville and they should be giving back to the community.

Regarding corporate tax, there's not a whole lot of big employers here in Marysville, but he sees in Dublin, Hilliard and Westerville where they are fighting over employers left and right, people are moving to get tax credits. Are there any

current employers in Marysville that have been given a waiver on corporate tax or any kind of tax to retain them in Marysville?

Mr. Taylor said, as far as developers paying for development, in the past that was not addressed. Beginning three years ago, the issue of making new development more aware of the costs that they would incur to come here when it comes to houses, has definitely stepped forward. There was a parkland fee put into original developments. Many more issues have surfaced since, like tap fees, other individual expenses as they develop, that developers have become much more financially responsible for what they're taking out of the community in income to put back into the community.

Ms. Froment added that one of the things this Council and City Administration believe is that all development must pay for itself. The City does not charge an impact fee like other communities, but the City requires the developer to do all the infrastructure that they require so there is no cost to the City, so there is a tradeoff in that way. The City does not pick up the cost of anything of a new development. A development must come on its own legs into the community.

Ms. Froment said there are some agreements that were put in place through Economic Development. She believes there are 11 agreements, but they're not all City. Possibly five or six city agreements. City works with a company when they have an option to expand here or go somewhere else and we'll work with an economic development incentive that gives them a credit. Each one can be drafted differently. They must meet certain tiers that are laid out in the Economic Development Incentive Plan that's posted on the Chamber's website. They have to meet a certain amount of development for capital investment that would result in property taxes; they must meet a certain payroll level and a certain amount of employees, that in the long term, is a huge benefit for us, but in the short term we might give them some sort of economic incentive. When we weigh that against not having received that investment of those employees, we're actually making money that would have gone to another community. We also have an agreement with the schools to make sure that we offset the impact to the schools.

Mr. Gore said if there is any type of credit and/or abatement given, there is a process that includes the schools. It goes before the Tax Incentive Review Committee for any request. Mr. Reese asked if Scotts is one of the companies that has received a credit and if so, will it be expiring any time soon. Mr. Gore said yes, it has received some sort of a credit, but he was unsure of its expiration date. Ms. Froment said the agreement is a ten year agreement and believes we're three

or four years into the agreement. Mr. Gore said Scotts actually pays back to the school to make the school system whole through the process.

Mr. Reese read the article from last week's meeting when someone said that commuters pay taxes to another community but get nothing out of it. He said that isn't true. "We do get other services there, but the big thing that we get out of that, is the opportunity to work and to earn a living that we would not be able to earn here at all. We're here in Marysville rather than Genoa Township up in Sunbury, because our house was \$80,000 cheaper here, and I recognize that. As far as the amount of tax that my wife and I would end up paying, even with all the pay cuts and furloughs that we have experienced in the last year, we could actually afford the tax, but I get back to the fact that there are a lot of things that are troubling for me, and I think that we are paying for the sins of some prior issues as far as how money was handled and planning for the future, but that ship has sailed, and we do have to go forward. And push come to shove, if there is no other option, it's probably going to end up passing and we're going to have to pay those debts. I think it's from a timing perspective. I think that's what the bitter pill is for people right now, with all the issues. You look around, someone mentioned foreclosures; we've had two or three on our street; it's just tough times now."

Mr. Gore said they appreciate and understand that, "but we're elected to try to do the right thing for the community and provide what services that they feel need to be provided. As tough as it was to say we need a tax increase, we've identified a need, we've taken it to the voters. Someone said earlier that we just said no three months ago and you're coming back again with questions. Well, the need is still there. That's what we feel we're elected to do. We're elected to try to make the tough decisions. We're elected to lead and if that means paying for the sins of the past, I'm sure that in your employment you've had issues that you've had to clean up. We don't gain by criticizing the past. We have to look at the present and the future and that's what we're trying to do, we're trying to address the needs."

Mr. Reese said that if there was a credit, he would have voted for the income tax increase.

Ms. Kayla Lindamood addressed Council. She's been a citizen of Marysville since 1987. She was born in Marysville. She is taking a personal finance class at Columbus State Community College, so she's interested in the tax issue. She's heard a lot of the people here state that they voted no for the tax increase and she voted no as well. She said, "Your answer is in the community of Marysville. Listen to the people. I believe it sounds that we're okay. If it were a big deal, the

majority of this community would have voted yes to increase its taxes already. I have also noticed that the media is always persuading us, the consumer, to buy better quality things. I believe most of us are all aware of that. I ponder in my mind why are we not ever satisfied with what we already have. If Marysville decides to increase taxes on another vote, maybe we ought to think about, is it something Marysville needs right now, or is it another want that could wait. I understand that we all need money to survive, that's just how economy works and that's what we're brought up and taught to follow, which makes it a money issue that can be a life-threatening resolution. The people who live in Marysville every day who support this town know better what our town needs.”

Ms. Jennifer Willis addressed Council. She has lived in Marysville for 13 years. She works in Richwood and her husband works in Marion. She admitted that when the commuter tax was rescinded, her family was hit hard, but they made some adjustments to their budget and survived and got through it. It would be great to get it back. She is undecided whether she will vote yes or no come May. Today when she got her mail and opened up her water bill and saw that her water bill was \$134 and it had been \$102 in December, she is assuming there was a rate increase. We're paying more and more for those bills every year, so she has to ask. Her credit was taken away four or five years ago and now she's seeing like a 30% increase in her water bill. At some point, it's just getting to be too much with the increase. If she had to vote after seeing her water bill today, she would vote no. She said her family always supports levies and she voted yes in November, but if the water rates are going to continue to skyrocket like this, they do their best to conserve on water as it is when the rates increased a few years ago. She added that she does love the unlimited trash option.

Mr. Gore encouraged Ms. Willis to contact the Water Department because there was no water rate increase. Ms. Willis said she has never paid that high of a water bill in 13 years.

Ms. Richardson asked Ms. Willis if she knew she was going to get some money back from the City, would she think twice about voting. Ms. Willis said, yes.

Mr. Brian Clark wanted to make another point and the reason he came tonight was the people voted no for this, then we heard that maybe if we don't make the people who commute out, if we don't make them pay, they'll vote for it. Just like this lady said. Ms. Richardson asked will you vote for it if you don't have to pay. Sure I'll vote for it. Mr. Clark said, “That's insulting. We said no and then now you're trying to feel around again to see whose going to vote yes for it when we already

said no for the people that are going to have to pay, but you'll allow the people that aren't going to have to pay to vote for us to have to pay. It's utterly insulting."

Mr. Gore said, speaking for himself, he's not out there trying to find votes or buy votes. He's trying to figure out what's right, and if right means we go with what we have because we have identified a need, and then let the people decide again, that's what we'll do. Neither of these meetings is really about how do we buy votes, but what do you think. The disappointing thing to him is we've now done about 3-1/2 hours of meetings between the last meeting and this one, but the real intent was we've heard from tons of people saying give me a credit, but the people who actually live and work here, how do you feel? Mr. Clark has just told us how he feels and it's appreciated. That's the kind of thing we've been looking for in these meetings. Very few people have come to these meetings that live and work here to offer their opinions. "If I take anything away from this, and I think Council will agree, is, if nothing else, it's been good dialogue in the community." The Mayor and he have been talking about moving Council meeting out of City Hall once a quarter into a bigger place to invite folks to come in for public discussion on whatever issues.

Mr. Curt Langlois addressed Council. He lives in Marysville. He thanked the City for getting rid of RITA. He doesn't think he ever received any correspondence that was correct. He noted that it was mentioned earlier that school levies keep coming back. The reason they do is that they expire. He voted against the increase. The credit would not change his vote, either way. One of the main selling points for the increase in the income taxes was the need for the Fire Services, Police Services and new buildings. He knows that need is there and has been for a long time. To him, those are more capital improvements that would be more of a one-time cost. He realizes there would be operating costs involved. That would be more of a one-time tax fee, somewhat like a fire levy or public services levy that would have an expiration time rather than a permanent increase in taxes.

Mr. Gore wanted to make sure everyone knew that he wasn't attacking the schools. He was using that as an example of why the City chose not to run a negative campaign.

Relative to what Mr. Langlois said about fire and police being more capital improvements, Mr. Fogt explained the way it was structured was a major expense and the loan would be over 20 years, so to put a time limit on the levy, it would be 20 or 30 years. At the end of that 20-30 years, City will probably need another fire station if the town grows. The operating expense is probably as great as paying the

building off. Mayor Schmenk said that was included also in what the extra money would be used for, so if it expired in 20 years, we'd have no money to run the building at that point. Mr. Fogt said that's the reason why there is no time limit put on it.

Mr. Matt Miller addressed Council. He has lived in Marysville for about 10 years. He echoed a lot of comments made tonight. He's a commuter and pays 2% in Columbus and 1% here. He said he would likely have voted for the levy had the commuter credit been reinstated. He said it's not clear to him. He's heard it said many times that growth doesn't pay itself, but he's never been very clear on what expenses are outpacing the revenue increase. As there is growth, new people coming to the community, there is an increased tax base, so over time your revenue is going to go up, but expenses are also going up. What expense in particular is outstripping that income? Secondly, he asked what the city's plans are if the levy fails in May, the need is still there. Is the intention to put it on in November, then May, then again and again until it passes? What is Plan C?

Ms. Froment explained why growth doesn't pay for itself. The City has a report that analyzes costs associated with different types of development, whether it is a home, retail, commercial or industrial development. What comes with a new home: the street, the plowing of the street, the maintenance of the street, the lights that come on in the neighborhood, the additional area for police patrol, additional responses for fire and EMS for that area, the park land that must be maintained and the trails that go through the area. The services that they pay are not paid for by the 1% income tax. Those services outpace the actual income that is received. In addition to that, there is a Municipal Price Index that shows basically how much income taxes generally raise each year due to the increases you would see through your employment or additional jobs coming to the City. That rate each year is about 2-3%. Asphalt in the last ten years has gone up 10%. Gasoline has increased at a much higher rate than income tax. City also sees increases in just the base cost of providing the usual things that aren't keeping up with what you see as your typical income (inaudible).

Mr. Miller said that would be helpful information when trying to decide to vote for a levy. He understands the facilities, etc. but not sure he clearly understood the expenses such as asphalt, salt, gas, etc. It would be good to inform the public of such information. Let them know the real issues. Let people know the issues that relate to the budget cuts.

Mr. Gore said there have been discussions as City plans the education or presentation, that if there has to be cuts, which there will have to be, the public will know that before they go to vote.

Mayor Schmenk added that it will be a gradual ripple effect if we don't pass it in May. We don't have a planned list of additional cuts yet. But just by attrition, we've lost four police vehicles in the last year, and we don't have money to replace them. Eventually we'll have to replace them, which means something else will have to fall, whether it's additional personnel or close parks or something.

Mayor Schmenk asked this group what's the best way to communicate with all of you and the public in general. We have a City website; we work with the local newspaper. Someone said the public forum.

Mr. Smith agreed, public forums. He thought the City did a great job with the campaign for the levy. The only issue was the message in it was the wrong one. He received the mail pieces, articles in the paper which were good and public forums like this are very helpful. Could send emails as well. Mayor Schmenk mentioned the 411 on the cable channel. Ms. Froment is creating an email list as another way of keeping people informed. Please send her your email if you are interested in being added to the list.

Mr. Miller asked if the intention would be, if it didn't pass, to continue to put it on until it does pass.

Mr. Taylor said as a member of Finance, "It has to because the needs of this city cannot survive. If it doesn't pass in May, then we're going to have to look at coming back and we're going to have to look at cuts, because the safety of the City cannot be dealt with with the current 1%."

Mr. Miller said that is completely fair and he appreciates the honesty. If that's the situation and that's the way it's got to be, then we have to be up front and open about it and make sure everyone is aware.

Mr. Dave Holden addressed Council. He has lived in Marysville for seven years. For the EMS, why is that not billable to insurance? Mr. Gore said we do bill. Mr. Holden said the reason he asked was that earlier this year, his wife was transported. The insurance money came to him. He called the EMS and the emergency room to get that money to them. They told him, "you live here; that comes from your taxes," so Mr. Holden sent the money back to the insurance company. Mr. Gore

said it's a soft bill. City bills the insurance company. If they don't pay, we don't come after you. The insurance company told Mr. Holden that they have no direct relationship with the EMS.

Mr. Staats said he is not so much advocating for it so much as trying to explain ways of looking at it as City deliberates in the near future. His wife works in town. One way to look at the commuter credit is, "I spend about half of my week in Hilliard and the other half here in Marysville. I'm paying income taxes to the City of Hilliard because I'm using their services during half my week. The other half of the week, I'm here. When you look at the folks living and working here in Marysville, you are seeing people using the services nearly 100% of the time unless they on a shopping run at Tuttle Mall or something. So, when you look at this business model in terms of Time Warner charges you whether you're using it or not on a monthly fee, versus someone like DPL where they bill you for the kilowatt hours used. These are two different ways to look at how we want to handle the tax and the revenue stream. Mr. Staats said, "I am so proud of Council tonight. You guys are showing tremendous leadership, I am blown away. This is exactly what we need and be able to say, we're not going to do what may have been done in the past in terms of everyone voted no and we're just going to roll up. That's actually how the commuter credit went away; no one wanted to put it back on the ballot, so someone found a way to get a few additional dollars. This is what we need to do; we need to talk about it and keep working on it until we find something that is really going to help the community, because when we were voting, and both my wife and I did vote yes even though it was going to cost us more money, at the end of the day I know it's worth an extra \$500 a year to protect my family from God knows what calamity could befall us, and we're blessed to live in a safe community and we want to keep it that way."

Mr. Gore thanked everyone for coming tonight. He encouraged everyone to come out to Council meetings when you have issues and concerns. This is your community and we truly want input and we want you to attend our meetings. We want you to know what's going on in your community. We try to communicate in numerous ways, but it's still difficult to reach everyone.

Mr. Gore said he's not sure what the next step is. There is no question on the table at this time.

Mr. Fogt reminded everyone to sign in for the record.

Ms. Richardson said the single, most compelling issue when she was going door to door and was running for election in Ward 1, was that folks were concerned that they were paying too much tax outside of Marysville. She hopes after today, that those folks had an opportunity to express themselves. That's an important component of why this meeting was called. She invited anyone who has thoughts and concerns, whether or not in Ward 1, to email her at trichardson@marysvilleohio.org. She has started a contact list so that she can keep in touch with those residents and update on what's going on in Marysville.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The following emails were received and made a part of the record:

Dear Members of Marysville City Council,

I will try and keep this short and to the point. I moved to Marysville with my family (3) years ago from Dublin, and still however work in Dublin. We moved here because of the good school systems and the relatively lower real estate prices and taxes. Since then I, like many people, have been feeling the effects of the the current economic downturn. Not only have I not received an increase in salary in 2 years, but I have been subject to a 5 percent cut in salary 1 1/2 years ago. As living expenses continue to increase, I can not support any additional income taxes. 2 percent to Dublin and 1 percent to Marysville is quite enough. A full credit to commuters for any additional income tax is all I can consider supporting.

In addition to the above, I don't believe an income tax is a fair way to collect the funds needed, or as I understood they would be needed. Also, I feel as if the purpose of the tax has been distorted by representatives of the city on it's first attempt on the ballot. The tax increase as I understood it from various news outlets was to go toward expanding fire and police facilities with an emphasis on fire and ems services on opposite sides of the railroad tracks. I was somewhat surprised when cuts in city services were announced as a result of the tax not passing. It seems to me that a capital expenditure should be tied to a property tax that is fixed to a limited period of time to collect the required funds and an operating tax should be considered separately.

Some final thoughts, I can never understand the rationale that the income tax needs to increase to keep up with rising costs. With the exception of the last two years,

for me anyhow, as costs increase so do incomes and thus taxes. And for the argument that the population has increased and thus so have city expenses, if the population increases, so does the tax base. Had I known three years ago I would be making a payment equivalent to a car payment to have water and I would be subject to dual taxation, I would have stayed in Dublin. So please consider these economic times moving forward and try to settle for doing more with less. And hopefully have a better growth plan in the future so as not to allow growth of major residential subdivisions and retail centers that can't be serviced by emergency services when a train is passing.

Respectfully,

Aaron C. Hellam
472 Triple Crown Way
Marysville, OH

Dear President Gore and Members of Council,

First, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the recognition you gave me at my last council meeting. It was an honor and pleasure to serve with you.

Second, I wanted to pass on my thoughts as a resident about the commuter credit. I support the credit if the levy will pass with it and Marysville continues to exercise discipline in spending only on essential services like public safety and roads.

I support the credit if passing it means commuters will support the levy. Although I believe that we should have lower flat taxes for everyone rather than commuter credits and other tax exceptions, most municipalities offer some kind of credit, and high-property-value suburbs with lots of jobs within city limits offer the credit: e.g., Beachwood (1.5%, 100% credit), Dublin (2%, 100% credit). As such, I can see why there is anecdotal data that the levy failed because we didn't offer the commuter credit. People simply see that other cities offer it, and wonder how Marysville can ask for more money without providing relief to commuters.

Regarding discipline, I believe that cutting the pool and cemetery spending is a tough but necessary. Limited governments spend money only on essential services. If these nonessential services cannot pay for themselves using a

government model, perhaps it is time to look for private investors who can operate them more efficiently than the city.

Best wishes on your decision. I know what a tough job you have. I appreciate all you do to serve our city and know that you will make the best decision based on the information available.

Thanks again,

Leah Sellers
1477 Hickory Gate Drive