

BLUE ASH CITY COUNCIL

November 18, 2010

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A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Blue Ash, Ohio, was held on November 18, 2010. Mayor Mark F. Weber called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Weber led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilman Tom Adamec, Councilman Rick Bryan, Councilman Robert Buckman, Vice Mayor Lee Czerwonka, Councilwoman Stephanie Stoller, Councilman James Sumner, and Mayor Mark Weber

ALSO PRESENT: Solicitor Mark Vander Laan, Clerk of Council Jamie Eifert, Deputy Clerk of Council Sue Bennett (entered the meeting at 7:40PM), Treasurer/Administrative Services Director James Pfeffer, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk, Public Works Director Mike Duncan, Fire Chief Rick Brown, Recreation/Sports Superintendent Kathy Swensen, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Osler, and interested citizens

Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Adamec seconded to excuse City Manager David Waltz from the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Weber appointed Kelly Osler to read the legislation (ordinances) in their entirety in the rear of Council Chambers.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to accept the agenda. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

- “1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
2. OPENING CEREMONIES
3. ROLL CALL - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
4. APPOINTMENT OF PERSON(S) TO READ ORDINANCES IN FULL IN REAR OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Regular Meeting of October 28, 2010
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Communications to Council - Clerk of Council Jamie K. Eifert
 - b. Reports From Outside Agencies
 - c. Mayor’s Report – October 2010 – Honorable Mark F. Weber
 - d. Financial Report – Motion to accept the report for October 2010
8. HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson
 1. Ordinance No. 2010-48, rezoning of approximately 44 acres on the north side of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road from M-1 Office-Industrial to the M-3 Planned Office and Mixed Use District (*second reading & vote*)

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- b. Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2010-64, transferring funds
- c. Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson
 - 1. Ordinance No. 2010-65, authorizing purchase of police vehicles

10. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Buckman moved, Vice Mayor Czerwonka seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 28, 2010. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Council

There were no communications presented to Council.

Reports From Outside Agencies

There were no representatives from outside agencies present at the meeting.

Mayor's Report – October 2010

RECEIPTS:

Fines	\$ 17,956.82
Bonds carried over	\$200.00
Restitution Payment collected	\$12.00
Bonds applied	\$150.00
Bonds collected	\$ 412.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$18,730.82

DISBURSEMENTS:

To Blue Ash (fines/costs/interest/Expungements/forfeitures)	\$11,890.75
To the State of OH:	
Victims of Crime	\$1,359.00
General Rev Fund	\$3,140.00
Indigent Defense Support fund	\$1,349.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	now included in 2a on SC form
Justice Program Service Fund	now included in 2b on SC form
Indigent Driver's Alcohol Trtm't Fund	now included in 1a on SC form
Seat Belts	\$585.00
Refund of overpaid fines	\$245.07
Bond Money applied	\$150.00
Bond Money returned	\$0
Restitution payment	\$12.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$18,730.82

BALANCE IN BONDS: \$ 0

Mayor's Court traffic citations	171
Mayor's Court criminal citations	10
Total Mayor's Court cases	181
Oct. rev. from Mayor's Ct. Cases:	\$11,890.75

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Financial Report – October 2010

Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Bryan seconded to accept the Financial Report for October 2010 as submitted. A voice vote was taken. All members present voted yes. Motion carried.

CITY OF BLUE ASH FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT- MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2010

MONTH TO DATE	2009	2010
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 10-1-10	\$23,306,932.40	\$24,924,036.81
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	2,049,961.83	2,638,864.98
Debt Financing (long term)	0	10,263,232.50
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	487,178.59	1,440,140.61
= Total Monthly Receipts	2,537,140.42	14,342,238.09
Expenditures:		
Long Term Debt Retirement	3,545,000.00	2,085,000.00
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	2,654,819.14	2,961,761.26
= Total Monthly Expenditures:	-6,199,819.14	-5,046,761.26
END OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 10-31-10	19,644,253.68	34,219,513.64
YEAR TO DATE	2009	2010
START OF MONTH FUND BALANCE: 10-1-10	21,919,948.20	19,339,082.19
Revenues:		
Earnings Tax Collections:	24,232,983.43	24,479,649.00
Debt Financing (long term)	0	10,263,232.50
Debt Financing (short term)	0	0
Other Revenue Received:	11,019,747.43	10,156,876.97
= Total YTD Receipts	35,252,730.86	44,899,758.47
Expenditures:		
Long term Debt Retirement	4,545,000.00	3,283,570.48
Short term debt refinancing	0	0
Other Expenditures:	32,983,425.38	26,735,756.54
	-37,528,425.38	-30,019,327.02
YEAR-TO-DATE FUND BALANCE:	19,644,253.68	34,219,513.64

100% of the fund balance was invested as of 10/31/10. Interest paid to date on matured investments: \$19,682.82. Receipt and expenditure figures do not include interfund transfers.

BLUE ASH INCOME TAX DIV. INCOME TAX RECEIPT SUMMARY - MONTH ENDING OCT. 31, 2010

MONTH-TO-DATE STATUS	2009	2010
Business Net Profit	171,158.09	494,563.77
Resident Net Profit	108,860.87	107,915.91
Non-Resident Net Profit	21,646.27	29,909.73
Subcontractor Net Profit	3,862.08	7,472.76
Net Profit Total	305,527.31	639,862.17
Withholding	1,698,567.56	1,932,682.93
Subcontractor Withholding	45,866.95	66,319.88
Withholding Total	1,744,434.52	1,999,002.81
Monthly Collection Totals	2,049,961.83	2,638,864.98 (28.73%)
YEAR TO DATE STATUS		
Business Net Profit	4,105,712.99	4,200,789.80
Resident Net Profit	918,234.08	874,390.55
Non-Resident Net Profit	227,050.00	180,811.67
Subcontractor Net Profit	42,659.11	32,186.69
Net Profit Total	5,293,656.18	5,288,178.71
Withholding	18,602,143.25	18,778,950.52
Subcontractor Withholding	337,184.00	412,519.77
Withholding Total	18,939,327.25	19,191,470.29
YTD Collection Totals	24,232,983.43	19,191,470.29 (1.02%)
YTD Refund Totals	1,104,730.98	1,055,606.36 (-4.45%)

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HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Martin Clarke of All Star Construction Services expressed concerns with the City's procedure associated with the solid waste and recycling collection and disposal services contract (currently out to bid). A summary of his comments follows:

- Combining the residential trash collection services and portable restrooms needed for special events limits, in his opinion, the number of vendors who can participate in the bidding process to one contractor.
- His company has for several years made numerous attempts to provide their port-a-let units for the City's special events. They were informed that this is part of a contract and that they needed to wait until the contract expired to bid on the contract.
- After purchasing the specification package, they were frustrated that they were, in effect, excluded from being considered.
- In talking with Mr. Funk, he noted that "he didn't have to breakdown the bid."
- Mr. Clark asked why the City would want to exclude contractors or make it difficult for them to provide a bid to be considered for these special event services. He noted that whether intentional or not, only one company in the area can provide a bid for both waste collection and portable restroom services without subcontracting – he asked what the City would have to gain from this method of bidding.
- He would be excited about the opportunity to allow his company to bid on the portable restrooms portion of this contract and to have their bid be considered.

Public Works Director Mike Duncan confirmed that the City's solid waste collection contract is currently out to bid and that one of the services within the contract is the option for the City to rent port-a-lets and wash stations from the waste service contractor for special events. The contract does not require the City to utilize those services, and the bid states explicitly that there is no minimum or maximum for this service. However, the City chooses to include this service as a part of this bid because it is considered a waste service. Mr. Duncan explained that he, Mr. Dole (Community Development office), and Mr. Funk have all talked with Mr. Clarke and have all informed him that the City invites him to submit quotes for provision of the portable restroom services for the special events. Mr. Duncan noted that there is no reason why the City should separate this when there is no requirement for the City to utilize these services as described in that specification package.

Mr. Clarke questioned the combining of these services if the City has the right to "take them apart." He noted that for the last 10 years, no other vendor, other than one contractor, has performed this service for the City.

There being no further comments, Hearings from Citizens was declared closed at approximately 7:08 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to the Council meeting, Council members received the following report describing agenda items:

The following offers a brief description of the items included on the November 18 Council agenda:

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2010-48 - Rezoning of approximately 44 acres on the north side of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road from M-1 Office-Industrial to the M-3 Planned Office and Mixed Use District (second reading & vote)

The City has received a request for rezoning of approximately 44 acres of real estate located north of Osborne Boulevard between Reed Hartman Highway and Kenwood Road. The public hearing and first

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reading of Ordinance No. 2010-48 was presented at the October 28 Council meeting. Thursday's meeting represents the second reading and formal vote.

The property is currently zoned M-1 Office-Industrial (land use is warehouse), with the request to change it to the M-3 Planned Office and Mixed Use district. The site itself is about 40 acres; the remaining approximate 4 acres includes adjacent rights-of-way.

This concept went to Planning Commission at its September meeting, with approval recommended unanimously. The proposed rezoning is in anticipation of a phased Planned Development that would replace the existing warehouses with an office, retail, and residential mixed use development. The M-3 District allows the types of uses that are proposed for the Planned Development; however, some of the uses would not be permitted in the current M-1 district.

Ordinance No. 2010-48 addresses the rezoning aspect of this project. The specific project details associated with any development within this Planned Development (still in preliminary stage) would have to be reviewed by both Planning Commission as well as Council before moving forward.

A representative from RREEF, the applicant, is expected to be at Thursday's meeting to address any questions from Council or the public. Please address any questions regarding this ordinance to the Assistant Community Development Director Dan Johnson at djohnson@blueash.com.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2010-64 - Transferring funds

One of the benefits of working through the fall budget process is comparing expected fourth quarter activity with our current appropriations. This evaluation highlights areas of revenue and expense that need to be adjusted, as this will likely be the last transfer of the year.

The changes reflected on the attachment to Ordinance No. 2010-64 are focused on realigning certain revenue categories, in both a positive and negative fashion, and providing supplementary expenditure appropriations in the General Fund salaries area, in SCMR street light categories, and in Recreation Center refunds.

The revenue items include recognizing additional inheritance tax collections (over budget) of just over \$300,000, a reduction in anticipated 2011 real estate tax collections of approximately \$121,000, as well as reducing our expected interest earnings with the yields available in today's market.

The net impact of all of these changes represents a reduction of \$24,000 from the 10/31/10 contingency of \$107,459.

All of the other revenue and expenditure accounts appear to be in line with projections for the remainder of the year. Please address questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer.

9.c.1. Ordinance No. 2010-65 - Authorizing purchase of police vehicles

Ordinance No. 2010-65 authorizes the purchase of two 2011 model vehicles to be used by the Police Department. The purchase would be made through the Federal GSA Autochoice 1122 program, which is administered by the Ohio Department of Public Safety for the State of Ohio. The cost of each vehicle is approximately \$18,300, and the ordinance authorizes an amount not to exceed \$37,000.

This program is similar to the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing program; however, it is offered by the Federal government and administered through the State's Department of Public Safety. Although the Police Department (and other City departments) periodically utilize the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing program, the Department has also on occasion utilized this GSA Autochoice 1122 program, though it is administered differently.

The department plans to purchase the 2011 model vehicles late this year, and they are replacement vehicles, although there are no trade-ins involved with this transaction as the department plans to auction the existing vehicles through the Hamilton County surplus auction site.

Please address questions regarding this ordinance to Police Chief Chris Wallace at cwallace@blueash.com."

Planning & Zoning Committee, James W. Sumner, Chairperson

Councilman Sumner asked the Clerk of Council to read Ordinance No. 2010-48 by title only (it having been read in full at the public hearing on October 28, 2010).

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THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-48

AMENDING THE DISTRICT MAP ESTABLISHED IN THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BLUE ASH, PART ELEVEN, PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, CHAPTER 1127, AND THUS THE BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICTS AS APPROVED ON MARCH 13, 2003, BY PLACING CERTAIN REAL ESTATE CURRENTLY ZONED M-1 OFFICE-INDUSTRIAL IN THE M-3 PLANNED OFFICE AND MIXED USE DISTRICT, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 44 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF OSBORNE BOULEVARD BETWEEN REED HARTMAN HIGHWAY AND KENWOOD ROAD

Councilman Sumner moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-48. Councilman Sumner noted that this represents the second reading of this ordinance as the first reading and public hearing were held at the last meeting. There being no further discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Stoller, Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2010-48 passed.

Finance & Administration Committee, Rick Bryan, Chairperson

Councilman Bryan asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2010-64 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-64

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND AMENDMENTS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2010-3 FOR THE YEAR 2010 (AS SHOWN ON ATTACHMENT); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-64. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Buckman, Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2010-64 passed.

Public Safety Committee, Stephanie Stoller, Chairperson

Councilwoman Stoller asked the Clerk to read Ordinance No. 2010-65 by title only.

THEN WAS PRESENTED AND READ BY TITLE ONLY:

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-65

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE IN LATE 2010 OF YEAR 2011 VEHICLES PLUS RELATED ACCESSORIES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$37,000 THROUGH THE GSA AUTOCHOICE 1122 PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to suspend the rules of Council requiring a second reading of the ordinance. The Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Czerwonka, Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Councilman Buckman, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Stoller moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-65. There being no discussion, the Clerk called the roll. Councilpersons Adamec, Bryan, Stoller, Sumner, Buckman, Czerwonka, and Mayor Weber voted yes. Seven yeases. Ordinance No. 2010-65 passed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Discussion regarding July 4 Event in 2011

Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk noted that it will be necessary to move the July 4th special event to Sunday, July 3, 2011 (in lieu of having it on Monday, July 4). Plans are to hold the event again this year on the Duke Realty property (same location as in 2010). As discussed at the last meeting, moving the event to Sunday will allow staff adequate time to clean up after the event and allow the business park to be open for business as usual on Tuesday, July 5. After brief discussion, Vice Mayor Czerwonka moved, Councilman Buckman seconded to authorize the Parks & Recreation Department to hold the City's July 4th special event on Sunday, July 3, in 2011. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. Motion carried. Councilwoman Stoller noted that the Blue Ash/Montgomery Symphony has a concert also scheduled (in Montgomery) on that evening. It was confirmed that this July 4 event location and alternative date is intended to be temporary, until the City can move the event onto the City-owned park property at the airport on July 4.

Discussion relating to proposed revised Recreation Center membership fee structure

Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Funk noted that he and his staff have been reviewing potential changes to the structure of the Recreation Center membership fees. He noted that very few changes to the fees have occurred since the Center opened in 1979, and his team is proposing a more streamline, "all-inclusive," approach to the membership fees, and noted that many comparable facilities are considering the same.

Recreation/Sports Superintendent Kathy Swensen noted that over recent months, the staff has already worked towards a process of streamlining the membership renewal process. She noted that the Department no longer sends renewal notices, but does send a simple postcard which directs members to the City's website. Their efforts have been geared towards a more efficient and simplified process for citizens.

Mrs. Swensen reminded Council that all members have to have the "basic" membership (i.e., which includes use of the pool); if members choose to add use of the fitness center, then they can do so with an "add on" fee to that basic membership rate. Tennis memberships and use of the racquetball courts are sold "a la carte." Senior and disability membership fees for residents are offered at 50% off the regular rates.

The proposed new fee structure recommendation is to offer only an all-inclusive membership, which would allow access to all areas of the Recreation Center, including the pool, fitness center, racquetball facilities, & tennis courts, at the rates as summarized below:

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PASS PLAN	PASS TYPE	CURRENT ANNUAL FEE	PROPOSED 2011 "ALL INCLUSIVE" FEE
Basic	Res. Single	\$20	
Fitness	Res. Single	\$15	\$50
Basic	Res. Family	\$40	
Fitness	Res. Family	\$30	\$100
Basic	Bus. Single	\$75	
Fitness	Bus. Single	\$55	\$170
Basic	Bus. Family	\$150	
Fitness	Bus. Family	\$110	\$335

Currently, if a single resident wanted to use the Recreation Center pool and the fitness center, then their annual membership fee would be \$35. Similarly, the annual fee for a resident family would be \$70. The proposed all-inclusive fee would be \$50 and \$100 respectively.

Mrs. Swensen explained that the current memberships also include 5 guest passes with a single membership and 10 passes with a family membership. To offset the additional cost being proposed in the form of increased membership fees, the Recreation team recommends "added amenities" to the all-inclusive recreation memberships, which are summarized below:

ADDED AMENITY VALUE				
AMENITY	RES. SINGLE	RES. FAMILY	BUS. SINGLE	BUS. FAMILY
Racquetball reservations	\$10	\$20	\$20	\$40
Tennis Memberships	\$12	\$12	\$45	\$45
Guest Passes	\$25	\$50	\$25	\$50
5 climbing passes	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
5 Fitness class passes	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
ADDED VALUE	\$102 Plus rec membership all for \$50	\$137 Plus rec membership all for \$100	\$145 Plus rec membership all for \$170	\$190 Plus rec membership all for \$335

Mrs. Swensen explained that another benefit discussed by staff with the proposed additional

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amenities described above is that citizens who may not otherwise participate in an activity (such as the climbing wall, tennis, a fitness class, etc.) may try that activity given they would be given a pass with their membership. This benefit could result in more members utilizing even more of the fitness and health benefits offered at the center.

In considering these proposed increases, Mrs. Swensen explained that they have looked at the cost of comparable memberships offered by other communities, with those results summarized below:

MEMBR SHIP TYPE	SHAR ON-VILLE	EVEN-DALE	SPRING-DALE	MASON	MASON	CURRE NT BLUE ASH	PROPOSED BLUE ASH
				BASIC	PREMIER		
Res. Single	\$80	\$100	\$145	\$624	\$780	\$35	\$50
Res. Family	\$170	\$140	\$195	\$984	\$1,380	\$70	\$100
Bus. Single	\$155	\$375	\$150	\$624	\$780	\$130	\$170
Bus. Family	\$305	\$600	\$200	\$984	\$1,380	\$260	\$335

Mr. Funk noted that Recreation Center fees have remained essentially the same since the Center opened in 1979. The only change in fees was made in 1994, when the Center was renovated and the fitness center was added. It was then that the Basic + Fitness center fees were created (however, the basic membership fees remained unchanged – the City simply added minimal fees for use of the fitness center if a member so chose).

Mr. Funk explained that in considering the fact that fees have not changed for many years, the Rec team thought it would be interesting to see what fee changes would be had they increased in line with the Consumer Price Index, as is summarized below in looking at residential fees:

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES	CPI 2010	PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE	CPI 1979
Resident Single	\$20	\$60	\$50	\$16.67
Resident Family	\$40	\$120	\$100	\$33.24
Resident Senior	\$10	\$30	\$25	\$8.33

The current basic membership fees have remained unchanged since 1979. The above chart shows that if fees in 1979 were increased annually in line with the CPI, the single membership fee in 2010 would be \$60 (but it currently is \$20). Similarly, assuming the proposed fee of \$50 for a resident single in Year 2011, utilizing the CPI index going backwards in time, that value would equate to \$16.67 in 1979 – still less than the \$20 charged.

Utilizing a similar approach in comparing business fees, Mr. Funk displayed the following

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information:

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES	CPI 2010	PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE	CPI 1994
Business Single	\$130	\$191	\$170	\$115
Business Family	\$260	\$382	\$335	\$227

For example, a business single membership purchased in 1994 (when the first fitness center amenities were added) with annual fees adjusted to match the Consumer Price Index would cost \$191 in 2010 (compared to the actual fee of \$130). In considering what the proposed membership fees would equate to in 1994 dollars, utilizing the same annual adjustment/CPI, the \$170 proposed fee would have equated to \$115 in 1994.

In addressing a question from Mayor Weber, Mrs. Swensen noted that the annual revenues that would be generated from this proposed fee structure change, assuming everyone renewed, would equate to approximately \$83,000 for residential memberships and \$161,000 for business memberships, totaling about \$245,000.

In addressing a comment by Councilman Adamec, Mr. Funk confirmed that the proposed increase does not result in a "profit" for the City and that its purpose is to simply help offset current costs, which far exceed membership revenues. Mr. Funk added that the streamlined approach to memberships would also expedite the membership renewal process for citizens and should result in a decrease amount of staffing time, especially in June and July, when membership renewals are at their highest.

Mrs. Swensen added that from a facility management standpoint, the proposed membership fee structure change would allow anyone in the facility to utilize any portion of the facility, making management and control of the facility much more efficient.

In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, Mrs. Swensen noted that there are now 844 residential single memberships, and all 844 of these having the added fitness center membership. When considering current membership counts for residential family memberships, approximately 87% of the family "basic" memberships also have the fitness center ad-on membership.

Councilman Sumner complimented the staff on their creative ideas and efforts to streamline the Recreation Center's operations. He noted that he has no objection to streamlining efforts or to changing the business membership fees; however, he would prefer that the current fee structure for residents remain as is.

Councilman Bryan added that he too applauds the Recreation Center team's efforts; however, he agrees with Councilman Sumner in that he would not like to see residential fees increase. Councilman Bryan suggested that a voluntary option of the proposed all-inclusive package be offered to residents.

Mrs. Swensen noted that the Center already offers "bundled" services separate from membership fees. For example, a monthly pass allowing access to any fitness class is only \$35 per month. She reiterated the benefit of someone trying a new fitness activity that they might not have otherwise tried.

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Mayor Weber complimented the staff on their presentation and ideas and noted that the recreation fees have been essentially the same for 31 years. He questioned what service (anywhere) has remained the same price for 31 years, and agreed that now seems to be an appropriate time to look at this option.

Councilwoman Stoller commented that she favors the ideas presented this evening and noted that the slight increases being proposed are not that much, especially considering that rates have not increased for 31 years. She also agrees that the changes would make for an easier process to manage in the Recreation Center office and in the membership renewal process.

In addressing a question from Councilman Sumner, Mr. Funk noted that the approximate Recreation Center budget is \$2 million; however, that includes aspects of the programming that takes place elsewhere, including the special events. He noted that the \$250,000 in additional revenues could, for example, pay lifeguard, tennis staff, and other salaries for the entire year.

Councilman Buckman agreed that residents are being affected during this economy; however, he added that those who have business memberships are also being affected. Councilman Buckman noted that he believes the residential and business memberships should be treated the same way and he would not favor a business-only increase in fees.

After brief discussion, it was agreed that additional discussion will be held internally and new thoughts would be brought to Council at the November 29 Budget Study Session.

Public Works Director Mike Duncan reminded Council that the Budget Study session is set for Monday, November 29, beginning at 6:30PM.

Mr. Duncan made note of a memo included in Council packets regarding suggestions related to various public works services, including hazardous waste disposal, etc.. He noted that this was included tonight for informational purposes only and that additional discussion can be held at that Budget Study Session. Mr. Duncan added his wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded all that City offices would be closed on Thursday and Friday.

Councilman Sumner commented that he was impressed that so far this year there have already been 1,600 visits to the Interstate Circle facility by residents utilizing the dumpster area. He made note of the uniqueness of this service.

Councilman Bryan noted that he and Councilman Adamec attended an event with Financial Management Group, a business that recently expanded in Blue Ash. He noted that the business has been in Blue Ash for 22 years, but now has much larger office space.

In addressing a question from Councilman Bryan, Mr. Duncan noted that beginning on November 1, curbside brush service for residents is on a call-in basis only; however, leaf collection, which began in mid October, will continue to mid December.

Councilmen Buckman and Czerwonka and Mayor Weber wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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ADJOURNMENT

All items on the agenda having been acted upon, Councilman Bryan moved, Councilwoman Stoller seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken. All members voted yes. The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:44PM.

Mark F. Weber, Mayor

Jamie K. Eifert, Clerk of Council

MINUTES WRITTEN BY *(via audio recording)*:

Susan K. Bennett, Deputy Clerk of Council