

Barnesville City Council
Special Meeting
November 12, 2002

This special meeting of the Barnesville City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Gene Prim. Council members present were Chad Hagen, Roger Cooper, Larry Davis Jr., Charles Martinson, Kim Simonsen, and Jerry Ames. Also present were City Administrator Ray Miller, Finance Director Brian Jacobson, EDA Director Karen Lauer, Main Street Director Brenda Brand, Department Heads, Karen Dollison from the Record Review, and Angie Ernst.

The first item on the agenda was to select an auditor for the City of Barnesville. Mr. Jacobson stated proposal by the firm of Kern Dewenter Viere of St. Cloud was the most impressive due to their expertise and experience. Kern Dewenter Viere also gave the low bid of \$9,400. Auditing was formerly done by Drees Risky &Vallagher.

11-12-02-01 Motion by Mr. Simonsen and second by Mr. Davis to accept the bid of \$9,400 by auditors Kern Dewenter Viere. Carried.

The first layer of blacktop has been put down in the Stoneridge addition. Quam Construction has signed an agreement stating that they will be responsible for any repairs needed to the blacktop in the spring due to the late date of the paving. Quam was behind on completing paving by the contract deadline.

11-12-02-02 Motion by Mr. Cooper and second by Mr. Hagen to make a partial payment of \$89,978.87. Carried.

Mr. Cooper reported that five years ago water service had been shut off at the Frosty Ice building owned by Craig LeNoue. There were two lines running into the building and only one line was shut off. Mr. LeNoue used \$2,566.00 in water over the last five years, which he was not billed for as the City assumed the water supply was entirely shut off. Mr. LeNoue was overcharged \$954.00 for use of two sewer lines when only one line had been left open. The difference owed by Mr. LeNoue is \$1,612. The Council discussed how long Mr. LeNoue should have to pay the amount owed. This item was tabled. The committee holding the water and sewer portfolio will discuss this issue and make a recommendation at the November 25, 2002 Special Meeting.

11-12-02-03 Motion by Mr. Simonsen and second by Mr. Martinson to approve disbursement checks 9227 through 9363 in the amount of \$421,566.58 and manual checks 570 through 591 in the amount of \$5,485.29. Carried.

The Council discussed the budget for the coming year. Mr. Jacobson advised the council that it would not be a good idea to use all of the reserves in the utility departments for general operating expenses. The amount available would be \$156,583 if all reserves were used. Mr. Simonsen suggested using some of the Community Fund money to help balance the budget and keep the reserve funds in the utility departments to pay for improvements or repairs that are needed.

Mr. Simonsen and Mr. Davis proposed that \$5,000.00 be placed in the discretionary fund for the next year. Mayor Prim disagreed with this amount and felt \$15,000 should be placed in the fund instead due to the many small funding requests made from different community groups during the year. No consensus was reached on this issue.

Additional funds will be raised in the coming year by increasing utility fees. Sewer and water replacement funds have not been raised since 1988. Current funds are not enough to pay

for repairs to the city sewer system that will be needed in the coming years. Mayor Prim suggested raising each of the replacement funds by 75 cents, which would amount to \$15,300 per year in additional funds. Council agreed with Mayor Prim's suggestion and also agreed to add a storm sewer replacement fund charge of \$2.00 per month to each customer's utility bill to generate an additional \$35,700 in revenue per year. Electric and telephone will also see increases in the coming year. The ambulance service will increase their per mile transport rate. This will raise approximately \$17,800 in extra funds for the ambulance service.

The City has \$620,000.00 in current debt service. None of the city's current bond debt matures prior to 2012.

A discussion was held on how to pay for repairs that need to be made on the roof of the old city hall. Mr. Jacobson suggested that maybe there would be some middle ground on using community funds and utility revenues in an attempt to get movement on this discussion. The consensus of the discussion was to put the repairs back into the budget for 2003.

Mr. Jacobson was asked to make necessary changes to the budget numbers and present the new figures at the next special meeting, which will be held November 25, 2002 at 7 p.m.

Mayor Prim adjourned this meeting at 8:00p.m.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Angela Ernst
Minutes Recorder

Eugene Prim
Mayor