

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF  
SPECIAL MEETING                      JULY 15, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 4:30 P.M.

President Kevin Corcoran called to order the North Ridgeville City Council Special Meeting of Thursday, July 15, 2010. He asked the Clerk to call the roll.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were Council Members Nancy Buescher, Dennis Boose, Richard Jaenke, Bob Olesen, Bernadine Butkowski, Roseanne Johnson and President Kevin Corcoran.

Also, present were Mayor David Gillock, Safety-Service Director Jeffry Armbruster, Deputy Auditor Teresa Machovina and Clerk of Council George Smith.

**READING OF NOTICE:**

Clerk of Council Smith read the notice regarding the Special Council Meeting to be held July 15, 2010 to discuss and act on the 2011 Budget.

**SECOND READING:**

T 83-2010        AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE  
4759-2010        CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
                     BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2011, IN THE FORMAT PRESCRIBED BY THE  
                     LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR, AND SUBMITTING SAME TO THE LORAIN  
                     COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Second Reading

moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to dispense with the third reading on

T 83-2010

Yes, 6            No, 1 (Boose)

moved by Butkowski, seconded by Johnson to adopt T 83-2010

moved by Mayor Gillock, seconded by Johnson to add the emergency to

T 83-2010 in order to meet the filing deadline

Yes, 6            No, 1 (Boose)

(Tape 1, Side 1 begins)

Mayor Gillock: Because it doesn't mean anything. This is a procedural item that we just need to send to the County and get it done, so that they can get back to us with their revenue assumptions and then when we get to it; at the right point in time, we will take those actions that we need to do to balance the budget.

Council Member Buescher: Mr. President, the thing that I was concerned about was that it was reported in the Press that there was no penalty if we didn't get this budget in at this time, but my concern is that there would be a notation and we don't want that on our records and so, that was a red flag to me there too.

Council President Corcoran: I think something that you just touched on, Chris did mention that there was a penalty. There was a possibility that the County could withhold funds and that is what he had said the last time. But the one thing that hasn't been reported on or said is that State law requires us to have a balanced budget. So, the idea that we have a deficit right now is somewhat meaningless. Before you get a second chance, Mr. Armbruster?

Safety-Service Director Armbruster: In speaking with regards to the deficit, we have been working very hard over the last two months with regards to preparations for negotiations. As you are all aware, we, unfortunately had several employees that had left the city of North Ridgeville through situations that are unfortunate; not only for us, but for the individuals involved. Quite honestly, I think those happenings were done appropriately and fairly to not only the residents, to this body and to the Administration, but actually, to those individuals so that they can go on with their lives because they are young enough or old enough that they still have to face themselves in the mirror as they move forward. As we prepare for these negotiations, it is very difficult, as in the process today, there were two grievances that I was dealing with so that we make sure that the City employees recognize that this Safety-Service Director, as well as others and this Mayor, understands the contracts and how they work and how we are going to get the most we can for our bosses, the taxpayers. So, those preparations that we are going through; in fact, the Mayor and I discussed it today. We are meeting with our lawyer again next week. I met with them this week and we also met the week before. We've started with AFSCME contract three, four, five weeks ago in setting the ground rules. We notified the Police and Fire because they hadn't notified us that if we are going to be negotiating with AFSCME, we notified them that the contract will be opened up. So, we are not only going to be negotiating with AFSCME, but also the Police and Fire unions at the same time, through that process. Our hiring policies have been one that for the last; unfortunately, three weeks and maybe even longer than that, we've been interviewing Park and Rec individuals which has really taken a substantial amount of my time and the Mayor's time in the process to give a fair balanced approach to try to find that right person that is going to take a very rock solid Park program and I am just absolutely stunned at the quality of individuals that have come; that the Mayor has been able to get to apply as there were over 75 to 78 of those people. We took our time on that knowing that the budgets were tight. We have been taking our time through this process; not to stretch out, but to make sure that we make the presentation or the Mayor makes the presentation to the Park and Rec Department and we pick that right person, because now is the opportunity where we can turn that program around and not just jump into a political pick. That is not what we are looking to do.

We have been, since January, working on an anaerobic digester for French Creek to try to save our cost in taking the sludge out to the farmer's fields which is killing us in a process and that makes no sense. Sometimes, you are flirting with making a decision as to what is a drying bed

and what isn't a drying bed and trying to fly by the seat of your pants, as sometimes, I think the EPA is flying by the seat of their pants as they come up with new rules that no community can deal with and yet we have a very good relationship. Surprisingly so and not surprisingly, with the Mayor's personality with the EPA, we don't have them come here, we actually physically go to Twinsburg and sit down with these individuals to see if we can't work out any issues with them, which again is saving the City money. We are taking a very firm process and a fair process, but unfortunately, all these things take time and again, Mr. President, if you are negotiating contracts, certainly, I can tell you one thing, this City will be more prepared based on the experience I have had in the last four or five months with grievances, that walked into my door, where we are being firm and fair with the employees. We are being firm and fair with the residents and we are absolutely making sure that we are spending and we are going to have a budget that makes some sense that the Mayor can present to you all and the Auditor's office to make it work.

Unfortunately, as I put my Senators' hat on, we put forth the budget; we didn't always balance it. Look at it now. They are worse off now than what they ever were. I don't know how they are going to find the billions, but I do appreciate; sometimes, when I voted on these budgets that weren't balanced, I said, "This is crazy." I understand where you are coming from, but sometimes you have to do things. You have to put your hip boots on and your snorkel and just go forward. That is all I have to say, but we are working hard. I'm pontificating, but I am just telling you that we are working as hard and as fast as we can in order to save tax dollars and in order to get this budget balanced. At least I know that the Administration is and I know City Council is, as well as the employees.

President Corcoran: Anybody else want to have a first shot before we let Roseanne have her second? Roseanne?

Council Member Johnson: I just want to say that we won't spend what we don't have. There is a clause on the budget where it states that this budget must be adopted by the Council or other legislative body on or before July 15. Two copies must be submitted to the County Auditor on or before July 20. In capital letters it states, failure to comply with sections 5705.28 Ohio Revised Code shall result in loss of local government fund allocations. So, failure to pass this budget, I would say, that would be shame on you.

Council Member Buescher: Mr. President, I would like to thank Mrs. Johnson for that information because that was my feeling on the issue.

Council Member Boose: Mr. President, it was never my intention to have this late. It was never my intention to have any kind of penalty brought to this City. I am sure that Council and Administration would work to make sure that whatever budget that Council deemed appropriate to pass, would pass within the allotted amount of time and so, it was never my intention to do that and I would not be in favor of that.

President Corcoran: Does anybody else have any other comments?

Council Member Jaenke: Mr. President, I think we are at the point where you should call the roll.

Council Member Buescher: Mr. President, I just want to also thank Mr. Boose for the work that

he did, because we all understand where he is coming from; I'm sure.

President Corcoran: Clerk, please call the roll.

Yes, 6            No, 1 (Boose)

Clerk of Council Smith: Measure passed with one no and becomes ordinance number 4759-2010.  
Permanent Ordinance No. 4759-2010

Mayor Gillock: Mr. President, I don't know if you need to take any formal action to cancel tomorrow's meeting as it won't be needed.

                  moved by Boose, seconded by Jaenke to cancel tomorrow's meeting because the matter has already been settled today

President Corcoran: All those in favor say yes. Those opposed say no.

Yes, 7            No, 0

**ADJOURNMENT:**

                  moved by Butkowski to adjourn  
(Tape 1, Side 1 ends)

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

---

Approval of Minutes:

These Minutes were approved at a regular meeting of the North Ridgeville Municipal Council on September 7, 2010: