

Ways & Means Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
January 17, 2013

The Ways and Means Committee met Monday, January 14, in Council Chambers following the Economic Development Committee, with these members in attendance:

Carol Floyd, Chair Duke Frost, sub for Doug Marmie
Bill Cost Jr

We wish to report:

1. Resolution No. 12-95 urging the Ohio General Assembly to reinstate all Local Government funding was considered.

Mr. Guthrie- advised everyone that the resolution that they have a copy of is a revision to the original legislation. The original legislation referenced inheritance tax, however due to concerns regarding the inclusion of the inheritance tax he requested the legislation be re-drafted to what members had in their packet.

He explained that over the last several years the City has lost around 1 million dollars just from the local government. If we were to consider the state funding it would be at or above 2 million dollars. What he was asking Council to do was join him in asking the legislators and State Government in general to allow them to heal from some of these cuts. He believes that passing a piece of legislation such as this would send a message to the State and also say that we were sticking up for our community. He stated that in many ways Local Governments are an extension of State Government and we have to implement State laws and State regulations in our communities. The concept of revenue sharing goes clear back to when Richard Nixon was President. He believes that it is a fair concept but the State's revenue is going up, now is good timing there is a new budget process starting, actually later this month or early next month a budget has to be adopted by July 1st. He said now is the time for communities to express themselves about this need.

Mr. Frost-he said that Mr. Guthrie touched on this, unfunded mandates are nothing new. He also said that if the State was having problems balancing their budget and therefore had to cut he understands that but if it is balanced then they need to start giving us the funds back. He asked Mr. Guthrie if what he was stating was that the State's budget is balanced and in the black.

Mr. Guthrie- confirmed that not only is their budget in the black but they are also building a surplus, which is a good thing but at some degree they are building it at our expense.

Motion by Mr. Frost to send to full Council, second by Mr. Cost

**Mr. Houdeshell- asked Mr. Guthrie how much this fund for all the cities cost the State.
Mr. Guthrie- provided \$465 million for the fiscal year that we are in, which is a 190 million less than it was three years ago.**

Mr. Greene- stated that he felt that this is an important proposal in defense of Newark.

Motion was carried by a 3-0 vote.

Carol Floyd, Chair