

CITY OF SPRINGBORO  
320 W. CENTRAL AVENUE, SPRINGBORO, OH

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
*2011 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SESSION OF CITY COUNCIL*

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2010

5:30 PM

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CITY COUNCIL  
John Agenbroad, Mayor

Jim Chmiel, Deputy Mayor      Marie Belpulsi  
Tom LaDu                              Sheila Lairson  
Bruce Moore                          David Vomacka

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CITY STAFF  
Chris Thompson, City Manager  
Chris Pozzuto, Assistant City Manager  
Alan Schaeffer, Law Director  
Lori Martin, Clerk of Council

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Agenbroad called the Springboro, Ohio City Council Special Meeting to order on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room at the Springboro Municipal Building, 320 W. Central Avenue, Springboro, Ohio.
2. **ATTENDANCE: COUNCIL:** Jim Chmiel was absent. **STAFF:** City Manager Chris Thompson, Assistant City Manager Chris Pozzuto, and Clerk of Council Lori Martin.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Agenbroad led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Agenbroad asked for a motion to excuse Mr. Chmiel from the Special Meeting.

**Mr. LaDu motioned excuse Mr. Jim Chmiel from the Special Meeting. Ms. Belpulsi seconded the motion.**

No discussion.

**VOTE: Moore, Yes; Vomacka, Yes; Lairson, Yes; LaDu, Yes; Agenbroad, Yes; Belpulsi, Yes. [6-0]**

Before discussing City Goals and Objectives, Mr. LaDu, as Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the City of Springboro Water and Sewer Assistance Program. (A copy of the proposed Water and Sewer Assistance Program is attached for the record.) Mr. LaDu commented that the program's purpose is to help mitigate the financial burden of the recent water and sewer rate increases beginning with the next monthly bill. Mr. LaDu commented that the Committee is proposing a manageable plan that will help the residents that need help and manageable through the City's billing systems, etc. for City staff to review and approve the residents applying for assistance. Eligibility will be based on income, which will be based on the federal poverty levels. They are proposing an income 175% above the published poverty level rates to qualify. Also, the applicant must be a resident of the City of Springboro and the utility bill must be in the applicant's name. Other circumstances may qualify and applicants should contact the City to discuss those circumstances. In essence, the program proposes no rate increase for qualified applicants through December 31, 2013; thereafter, their rates would increase by the annual cost of living adjustment. During that time,

program participants would not have a reduction to the storm water and trash fees; those rates would remain the same for residents participating in the program.

Ms. Thompson clarified that a participant's actual usage rate would be at the pre-increase rates.

Mr. LaDu continued by stating that they are proposing that this program be a permanent assistance program for those who qualify. The assistance will be in the form of a credit to the resident's bill. The first year the credit would be \$8.62, the second the credit would be \$13.90, and the third year the credit would be \$7.89.

Ms. Thompson clarified that the above stated amounts are the calculated increases based on 5,000 gallons, which is the average usage.

Mr. Vomacka asked if the City will credit those exact amounts or based on what the resident's actual charges would be.

Ms. Thompson answered that program participants would be credited those exact amounts for the first three years of the program because it is too cumbersome under the current billing system to adjust each resident's credit based on their actual usage. After the three-year period in which participants receive credits for those standardized amounts, their rate will revert back to the March 31, 2011 rate. As of January 1, 2014, their pre-increase rate of usage per gallon based on 5,000 gallons will slowly increase based on the COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) i.e. participants will never pay the increase. They will have, according to the Finance Committee's recommendation, an additional cost of living charge if a COLA is applied to the general populace. Based on the past COLA schedule; it would increase by 2%.

Mr. LaDu pointed out that the COLA has always been applied to the rates annually.

Mr. Vomacka inquired regarding the poverty levels used. He commented that the poverty level is \$22,350 for a family of four.

Ms. Thompson explained that the calculations are based on families of one, two, and three persons. At 175% of the poverty level, a one-person family would be \$19,100/year, for a two-person family it would be \$25,800/year, and a three-person family would be \$18,530/year.

Ms. Belpulsi asked if the City did any research regarding how many residents would qualify for the program.

Ms. Thompson commented that the City would not have the data to determine how many would residents would qualify.

Mr. LaDu stated that he does not anticipate that many residents qualifying for the program.

Ms. Thompson agreed stating that she would guess that less than 25 people would apply for this program.

Mr. Moore asked in what ways the City would advertise the program to the public.

Ms. Thompson commented that the City would advertise the program via the newsletter, website, etc., but applicants do have to qualify by presenting certain materials.

Mr. LaDu explained that residents would have to produce proof of residency, proof of identity, proof of income, etc. They do not want the paperwork to be prohibitive and want to keep the paperwork fairly simple and not too burdensome on the people who apply.

Ms. Thompson commented that staff will have a check list to refer to and if they have any questions they can direct them to her or Finance Director Robyn Brown. They will use logic to make decisions based on individual circumstances. If, for example, a person applies and their utility bill has been in

another family member's or individual's name that they are living with for the past twenty-years for a particular reason they will not be automatically disqualified.

Ms. Lairson commented that the utility bill cannot be in the landlord's name, and it should be confirmed that the resident is actually paying the water bill.

Mr. LaDu commented that the Finance Committee would like to present this program in the form of a resolution for approval at the May 5 Council Meeting in order to get the program implemented as residents begin receiving their utility bills next month. Mr. LaDu commented that he would defer to staff to make sure the program is advertised to the populace by all the normal means.

Ms. Belpulsi asked how long would a resident qualify for this program once they have applied. Ms. Belpulsi also asked if residents would have to qualify for the program every year.

Ms. Thompson answered no.

Ms. Belpulsi asked how the City would know if a resident's income has changed; what are the safeguards for the program.

Ms. Thompson suggested that if the resident's income increased somehow, the City would probably be flagged through a change of address.

Mr. LaDu explained that it would be difficult to determine if someone's income changed.

Ms. Thompson commented that staff would monitor the program and if they suspect that something is not right, they can look into it.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the City is offering this nice program for residents, but there needs to be some accountability even if it takes a little more time and effort. She added that to give "carte blanche" to receive the assistance for an extended time period is not prudent.

Ms. Thompson commented that they could flag the applications and if the resident starts filing tax returns they can review the applicant's qualifications.

Mr. LaDu suggested that maybe in a year and a half the Finance Committee reviews the program and makes any necessary changes one of which might be that residents must re-qualify every two years.

Ms. Lairson commented that the proof of income is really going to be on the honor system anyway. She explained that the proof of income that the City requires does not precede other income that they are not reporting to the City. If a resident has inherited a bunch of money and it is sitting in a savings account, the City would not know that.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that she is just looking for ways to protect the City when using taxpayer dollars to supplement others assistance.

Ms. Thompson commented that it would not be that big of a deal to re-apply on an annual basis. Utilities Supervisor Dee Mullins could code it in and print something on the resident's water bill before the anniversary date, which states that they must re-apply.

It was the general consensus of Council to have residents who qualify for the program re-qualify each year.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that Council would have a chance to review the proposed program again at the next Work Session when the legislation is presented for consideration.

Ms. Thompson commented that she could prepare the resolution to give staff the authority to tweak the program if needed as it progresses.

Ms. Belpulsi thanked the Finance Committee for their work and recommendation.

Mr. LaDu thanked Council for their consideration and reminded them that they would see a resolution regarding the proposed Water and Sewer Assistance Program on May 5.

At this time, Mayor Agenbroad recognized Kyle, a member of the audience, who is going to be an Eagle Scout. Mayor Agenbroad commented that Council knows what kind of hard work, diligence, etc. it takes to be an Eagle Scout and congratulated Kyle on his endeavor.

At this time, Ms. Thompson announced that Lieutenant Jon Wheeler is leaving the City to take the position of Police Chief in Hamilton Township. Lieutenant Wheeler's last day with the City is May 11, 2011. Ms. Thompson requested that Mayor Agenbroad prepare a proclamation to present to Lieutenant Wheeler at the May 5 Council Meeting and that Council hold a cake and coffee farewell reception in the Community Room following the meeting. Ms. Thompson suggested sending a general invitation to the public to stop by around 7:30 PM on May 5 to say goodbye to Lieutenant Wheeler. Ms. Thompson commented that Lieutenant Wheeler has been a good employee and a great person to have in Springboro for so long. Ms. Thompson added that Lieutenant Wheeler has been with the City for nearly 20 years.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that Lieutenant Wheeler will be missed, but is happy for him. Mayor Agenbroad asked if another Lieutenant would be hired to replace Lieutenant Wheeler.

Ms. Thompson commented that they would like to hold off testing for the position and take some time. She explained that Lieutenant Wheeler is integral to the Police Department's policy writing and procedures and operations manual, etc. They are suggesting and will be bringing to Council on May 5 a recommendation to hire a former Dayton Police Lieutenant, Detective Lieutenant John Huber, who Police Chief Kruithoff has interviewed and she has met, to work on a part-time contractual basis to help continue writing the policies and continue helping with payroll processing and scheduling. Ms. Thompson further explained that the contract would be on an hourly basis with only a certain number of hours per year and no benefits. It would obviously be much less than the City is paying Lieutenant Wheeler, but it would be a stop gap between May 11 and when the City can resolve some of the Senate Bill 5 issues, resolve some of the union issues and resolve some of the categories, etc. before they do another Lieutenant's exam. Ms. Thompson further commented that Lieutenant Huber lives in Centerville and she has made inquiries regarding his character, etc. and was told what an honest, stand-up guy he is. Lieutenant Huber was in the "drop-program" and had to leave the Dayton Police Department, which is why he is not working right now. Lieutenant Huber will be bonded and maintain his certification. Finally, Ms. Thompson commented that they would get the word out to the area departments and organizations regarding Lieutenant Wheeler's farewell reception on May 5.

Ms. Thompson also commented that Franklin hired a City Manager, who happens to be their Public Works Director Sonny Lewis. Mr. Lewis is going to be both the Public Works Director and the City Manager. Former Franklin City Manager Jim Lukas went to Brunswick, Ohio near Cleveland about a month ago. Also, Greg Sample of RG Properties is the new Franklin Township Trustee; he was appointed to fill Elmo Rose's seat, and he will seek election in the fall.

4. **DISCUSSION: CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** Ms. Thompson began the discussion by reviewing the spreadsheet of 2011 Goals/Objectives. (A copy of the 2011 Goals/Objectives spreadsheet is attached for the record.)

**Citizen Satisfaction Survey** – Ms. Thompson commented that the Citizen Satisfaction Survey is being conducted now. The survey is a repeat of the one conducted by the City three years ago. The goal is to repeat the process to see if things have changed. Returns are being collected now and the final report should be issued by July. Ms. Thompson ascertained that two of the Council Members received a survey. (The surveys were sent randomly to households in Springboro.)

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**South Tech Business Park TIF / Springboro City Schools** – Ms. Thompson commented that Council passed legislation to establish the TIF (Tax Increment Financing), which helps the Springboro School District. The roadwork to extend W. Tech Road will be bid on April 26; thus far, 12 bidders have submitted proposals. The contract states that the project is to be completed by August 31.

In regard to the intersection at Austin Road, Ms. Thompson briefly commented that ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) has recognized the problem of the left turn lane. They have 2,035 traffic counts today; however, their solution is to add a lane on State Route 741, which is not an insignificant ordeal. Ms. Thompson suggested adjusting the timing of the light for one-hour in the morning, but that will not work; ODOT will not do it. ODOT has shared that their solution will be to add a lane to SR741 from Austin to somewhere in Springboro. They are trying to install a light on W. Tech Road, which is very critical.

Mr. Vomacka commented that they were originally going to construct a four-lane CFI (Continuous Flow Intersection) at Austin.

Ms. Belpulsi asked who would pay for the extra lane.

Ms. Thompson commented that it would probably be a tract project and the City would not pay for an additional lane. Ms. Thompson commented that instead of adding a lane, they should just complete the CFI, which has been a suggestion. Ms. Thompson further commented that they feel better that the left turn lane issue is being acknowledged and solutions are being thrown out there. There are some people in that area really working on the City's behalf and they are hoping the traffic signal will be resolved in order to get back in South Tech because the City has an obligation to Children's Medical Center and to other users and to open up the acreage in Montgomery County and get a user in there. The City has an obligation to get that light on W. Tech Road; it may be modified, but really need to get that signal involved. The signal is part of the TIF; therefore, if the City gets a user the TIF revenues will help pay for the light.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Research City's Presence on Social Networking Sites** – Ms. Thompson commented that there has been some discussion regarding social networking and the MVCC has had some seminars on the legal issues. Ms. Thompson further commented that she had a conversation with the CLG (Center for Local Government) Intern TJ White, a young man who is very experienced with this type of media. Mr. White made a statement at a board meeting recently that he could handle the social networking site for the City in an hour from his computer. Ms. Thompson asked to meet with Mr. White next week to discuss the details. Ms. Thompson commented that if she can get a social networking site managed in a reasonable fashion, she has no problem with the City having a site. It would be a learning curve for staff in making sure the information gets to whoever is updating the site. Ms. Thompson also commented that a site that allows an exchange would be hard to manage, but the City has other venues by which it allows people to do that, but by having an open exchange on a social networking site produces that anticipation that the answer will be immediate and then the City would be looking at staffing someone to manage the site eight hours a day everyday of the week. Ms. Thompson appreciated Mr. White's opinion regarding using the site as an exchange, but she does not recommend it.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that, at the seminars, the issue of using a social media site as an exchange has always been an issue with cities. They do not want the two-way communications because a lot of things can go wrong depending on who is doing the communicating. Using a social media site like Facebook to announce things that are going on in the City are all good things. Ms. Belpulsi has a speaker scheduled for the next MTA (Municipal Training Academy) meeting to talk about this from a marketing perspective. Ms. Belpulsi commented that social media is almost beyond Facebook now, which is almost passé. Social media now means the City getting the message to iphones.

Ms. Thompson commented that staff's intention is to use social media as an information source for notices such as "SR741 is closed due to an accident." Ms. Thompson reiterated that the learning

curve for staff would be that everyone has to get the information to a source and that source has to update the site. Ms. Thompson stated that she does not want the social media site to be an exchange. Ms. Thompson further stated that she also has some legal concerns, but this meeting with TJ White is simply a preliminary discussion with someone who thinks they can manage a social media site for the City in less time.

Ms. Belpulsi asked how the City wants to use social media; what does the City want to do with it.

Ms. Thompson reiterated that she would like the City to use social media to disseminate information, not as a blog or for opinions. She explained that she would like people to have timely and real time information if it can be handled that way. Again, that is her question, can the City get real time information on the site and that really depends on everyone getting the information to the source and how long it will take, etc. Ms. Thompson further commented that there is no sense in have a social networking site if the City does not get the information out.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that there are a lot of good public networking sites out there that the City can research.

Mr. Vomacka commented that he appreciates the one-way communication to get information to the community; however, the City also needs a mechanism to find out what is going on in the community. Mr. Vomacka explained that he was recently with a small group of residents from Springboro, mainly from his ward, and none of them knew that the City changed the water rates or that there was an issue in regard to The Springs Development.

Ms. Thompson commented that every resident received a letter regarding the water and sewer rate increase.

Mr. LaDu asked if the information were posted on a Facebook page, would they have known about the rate increase.

Mr. Vomacka stated that he did not know, but the other side of this issue is what is important to the resident, what do they care about that the City is or is not doing, and what should the City be reacting to.

Mayor Agenbroad suggested that the Citizen Satisfaction Survey serves this purpose.

Mr. Vomacka disagreed stating that the survey is too structured and does not give people a chance to express themselves.

Ms. Thompson emphasized that the City does do the survey and there is a place in the newsletter that encourages people to submit questions and comments as well as on-line through the City's website.

Mr. Moore commented that there is an opportunity for guest comments at each Council meeting.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the Council hosts Town Hall Meetings, but no one ever shows up.

Mr. Vomacka commented that the Town Hall Meeting format is very structured and each Council Member reads a scripted presentation regarding an issue and Council thanks everyone for attending. Mr. Vomacka commented that Council does not encourage them to express what they are interested in or ask them what they want to hear or find out what is important to them or what do they want to know.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that the original Town Hall Meetings were an exchange of ideas and concerns and no one provided any input at the meetings, which is why Council chose the organizational style of meeting. Mayor Agenbroad explained that at past Town Hall Meetings they

would make a brief introduction and then open the meeting to the audience and the same three or four people did all of the talking.

Ms. Thompson commented that it is one thing for residents to talk about City issues amongst their friend, but another thing to make the effort to make those issues known to the City. Ms. Thompson commented that if you ask her what people care about in Springboro being accessible via e-mail, phone, walk-ins the common complaints are in regard to for example a neighbor's property maintenance and the City can only control certain things under property maintenance. Ms. Thompson further commented that people do not talk to her about water rates, the parks, and trash pick-up. She added that suggestions or complaints are mainly generated based on what a resident is concerned about today.

Mr. Pozzuto pointed out that in getting information out the City tries to touch all of the bases, parks, police, etc.

Mr. Moore commented that it could also mean that the City of Springboro is doing a pretty good job.

Ms. Thompson commented that she does not think that there is a groundswell of complaints out there; it is really individual issues. For example, if something happens that affects a resident they are going to complain and they have every right to do that. Ms. Thompson cited an example of a resident in Heatherwoode who has concerns about golf balls hitting his house and a resident on the border of the City who has expressed concerns about a shooting range on the adjacent property, which sits in the Township. Ms. Thompson commented that these issues concern those individuals, but not everyone knows about them.

Mr. Pozzuto commented that every year the Playhouse South group that performs the *Theater Under the Stars* asks if the City received any feedback and he responds by telling them that no one complained so they did a good job. Mr. Pozzuto commented that that is how staff measures things; if they do not get complaints about it then they think they are doing ok.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that he received a phone call from a resident who complained about coyotes running in a pack around his property and the safety of his grandchildren in the backyard. Mayor Agenbroad offered to help resolve the problem, but that person turned out not to be a City resident.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that she had a resident who recently spoke at a meeting tell her how nervous he was. She further commented that it is very intimidating for citizens to come to a Council meeting and speak before Council; people are more comfortable talking with officials at a gathering or with friends. Therefore, it is the Council Member's responsibility to tell Ms. Thompson or Mr. Pozzuto about issues that they have heard from people because they are not going to call the City or come to a meeting.

Ms. Lairson also commented that people talk to her about City issues when they come to her business because they are there, but would not contact her at home. Ms. Lairson explained that she often suggests that they contact certain staff members at the City for assistance, but then they usually say they are going to wait and see if the issue gets resolved.

Ms. Thompson commented that a former Council Member believed that the Council meeting room would be full of people to talk about a stop sign they wanted, but no one showed up and the Council Member was very disappointed. Ms. Thompson stated that the reality is that it is easy to talk with a Council Member with a group of friends or neighbors in the community, but it is really difficult to get people to speak up. Ms. Thompson commented that even at the Citizens Academy they asked if there was anything they would like to say and only a few people spoke. Ms. Thompson commented that she wished the City knew; it would be easier to do their jobs.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that she always believed that if the City is not doing its job, then the Council Chambers would be full of people. As long as the City is doing its job and people can get up in the

morning and flush the toilet, turn the lights on and off, and the police are responsive and the parks are maintained for public use, etc. then the City is doing its job. Ms. Belpulsi commented that if there is a community issue, such as The Springs Development Plan issue, people will come to comment or express their concerns.

Ms. Thompson commented that you are a good Council Member when you have those associations with groups of people in the community and can get that feedback. Ms. Thompson commented that if staff does not know there is a problem, then they are not able to resolve it. Ms. Thompson commented that they have tried a lot of ways to encourage people to provide feedback, and she is not sure what else to do.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the City has had Town Hall Meetings and meetings to introduce the new Master Plan and the response has not been all that tremendous, but the people who show up are really interested and that is a good thing. Ms. Belpulsi further commented that she understands Mr. Vomacka's desire to have a two-way exchange on a social media site, but the City has to be careful because those exchanges are anonymous; how do you know who you are talking to.

At this point, a member of the audience commented that when the City proposes something like a water and sewer rate increase it would get a lot of responses from people on both sides of the issue. As to the accuracy of what is out there, what the City puts out there has to be accurate. The audience member went on to say that a couple of days ago on the Springboro Voice they talked about this meeting and it actually stated that at the end of this meeting Council would be voting on The Springs Development Plan, which is totally wrong. The audience member explained that the Springboro Voice is a site on Facebook and the man who writes the blog lives in Carlisle.

Ms. Thompson commented that there is no way for the City to monitor that kind of information.

The audience member explained that the author of the blog picks up articles from the newspaper and re-posts them and comments on them. He continued by commenting that if people are used to looking on-line for a specific incident such as a road being closed due to an accident then the City has to be careful that someone does hold the City responsible for not posting that type of information.

Ms. Thompson commented that that is exactly what will happen they will hold the City responsible and that is the legal aspect of the issue.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Identify Regional Opportunities / Promote Regional Projects** – Ms. Thompson commented that the City works regionally on an on-going basis. As far as the specifics of the City's efforts to get the Township to meet, Ms. Thompson stated that she has been totally unsuccessful. Ms. Thompson commented that she can certainly keep trying, but she has yet to have any positive response about getting the City Council and Township Trustees together for a meeting. Staff will proceed as Council directs, but Ms. Thomson stated that she thinks it is absolutely critical that there is some level of communication and cooperation between the City and Township.

Mr. Vomacka suggested finding out what is necessary to withdraw from the Township.

Ms. Thompson commented that the Ohio City Manager's Association (OCMA) sent out an inquiry that is distributed statewide about another community that was looking for information from their colleagues about how to secede from a township. Ms. Thompson commented that it is expensive; the City would have to provide fire service. Ms. Thompson further commented that the City did an analysis regarding fire service about 10 to 15 years ago. They took the inside mileage and calculated the difference to analyze the cost of providing fire service in the City. Ms. Thompson reiterated that she would continue as Council directs regarding a meeting with the Township.

Mayor Agenbroad suggested that he does not think it would hurt to continue to ask the Township to meet with the City. Mayor Agenbroad further suggested including the School Board, as the new

Superintendent seems very willing to meet and is interested in meeting as many people as possible. Mayor Agenbroad again suggested inviting the three entities to a meeting and if the School Board and Township do not show up, then they do not show up.

Ms. Thompson commented that the direction she had prior to this meeting was to arrange a meeting with the Township to specifically discuss park issues, etc.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that she would be careful about including the schools in the meeting.

Mayor Agenbroad stated that he simply meant that the schools have always asked to meet and have no problem coming to a meeting.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that if the schools are included in the meeting then Council would have to be careful in regard to what is discussed and have specific issues to discuss.

Mr. LaDu suggested just meeting with the Township.

It was the consensus of Council to meet exclusively with the Township and to continue asking to meet with them.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that he would be glad to contact Ed Wade, Township Trustee President, to arrange a meeting.

Ms. Thompson offered to talk with Township Administrator Dennis Pickett at the next opportunity regarding a joint meeting between the City and the Township.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Economic Development** – Ms. Thompson commented that Economic Development is something the City does every single day. Ms. Thompson commented that she does have a question and she would like Council to think of the answer to the question on a regional level. Ms. Thompson continued by stating that the Dayton Development Coalition (DDC) has been extremely active in trying to recruit Springboro as a member. The former director is now serving as the Director of Economic Development for the Governor. There are three or four candidates for the Executive Director's position. One of the applicants is Jeff Hoagland, who was the Vandalia City Manager. Mr. Hoagland recently took the position of Economic Development Director at the DDC and has applied for the Executive Director's position. Ms. Thompson stated that there are a lot of regional reasons why she would recommend becoming members of the DDC and she asked them to prorate the City's membership fees.

Ms. Belpulsi asked how much the DDC membership would cost.

Ms. Thompson stated that the DDC membership is \$7,500 per year, but the prorated fee from May of this year would be \$5,000.

Ms. Belpulsi replied yes, but the membership cost would still have to be budgeted for next year.

Ms. Thompson continued by stating that there are occasions when the DDC has been involved in ventures in Springboro, especially in the South Tech area. Ms. Thompson commented that she has as many reasons to do become a member of the DDC as she has not to become a member, but if the City chooses to play in the regional field we might want to join this year for \$5,000 and see if there is any benefit. If there is no benefit, then the City can stop being a member. Ms. Thompson commented that the DDC has the fly-in every year to Washington, D.C. and again they will sometimes come into a deal when a community is trying to bring in a user or business and sometimes they will help on a financial level and sometimes not. The DDC did participate in the development of Renegade and take full credit for Renegade, which Ms. Thompson respectfully disagrees with, and they participated in Alien Technology. Ms. Thompson stated that it is an expenditure that she thinks

the City could look at doing once and never doing again and she would not have a problem telling the DDC if the membership does not work out and the City does not feel it is appropriate. Ms. Thompson finally stated that on a regional level, the DDC would love to have the City as a member.

Ms. Belpulsi asked what is the benefit of the membership to the City. Ms. Belpulsi pointed out that the City is involved in the Business First! Program and other economic development programs that are really good.

Ms. Thompson answered yes, but they are not money programs and the key is the money.

Ms. Belpulsi asked what money the City could possibly get from the DDC.

Ms. Thompson explained that they use the membership funds and other funds to give money to companies that are trying to move into the greater community such as Renegade. They have enterprise funds and venture capital funds that they tap into. They also have companies and banks that give money to them in order for development to occur in the region.

Ms. Belpulsi pointed out that they gave Renegade money and Springboro was not a member.

Ms. Thompson replied that that is true, but maybe if the next company wanted to come to Springboro and the City was a member the DDC may say yes to helping that company.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the DDC is focused on the Air Force Base and she thinks they are trying to expand and get more involved in localities.

Mr. Vomacka commented that that might be an argument for the City becoming a member because if they are involved with the Base this development that is coming to the Austin Interchange is an off-shoot of the Base.

Ms. Thompson agreed that a lot of defense related development is going on at the Austin Interchange. Ms. Thompson reiterated that the difference is the DDC's access to funds for development. Ms. Thompson explained that the Business First! Program is more of a respect for each other type of program. For example, one community will not call a business in another community, but there is no money.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that he cannot see spending the money for the members. He explained that even though the money is from separate funds the City recently instituted the water and sewer rate increase and he cannot see spending \$5,000 now and \$7,500 again next year. Mayor Agenbroad suggested that if the City wanted to revisit the issue at a later time maybe, but in the current economy he cannot justify taxpayer dollars for this membership.

Ms. Belpulsi asked if the \$7,500 rate applies to everyone.

Ms. Thompson replied yes, that is the rate for municipalities.

Mr. Moore commented that if it is not clear what the benefit is, then he agrees with Mayor Agenbroad regarding this expenditure.

Ms. Thompson commented that the benefit is not tangible unless a business tries to come to Springboro and needs money to be here. Ms. Thompson further commented that the City could go 10 years without that occurring, she concurs, but the intangible is that if someone wants to develop on the 30 acres in South Tech Industrial Park and they need shovel ready money or some kind of assistance then that money could produce that user who might bring in an income tax of \$500,000 per year for example, and that is the membership intangible. She added that the City might be members for five years or might get another Renegade, which received approximately \$300,000 from the DDC.

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Pozzuto what he thinks regarding this membership.

Ms. Lairson asked if the City withdrew from the South Metro Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Thompson commented that the City remained members of that organization due to the regional implication and as far as a financial benefit to the City of Springboro for a user to come in there is no comparison between the South Metro Chamber and the DDC because the Chamber does not have money for economic development.

Ms. Thompson commented that she understands Mayor Agenbroad's comments regarding the fact that it is taxpayer money, but if it brings a company in that has a \$30,000 income tax benefit to the City it would pay that amount off. Ms. Thompson further commented that it is not a guarantee that she can give Council that a company is going to come to Springboro and that the DDC is going to give the company money.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the City has done very well in tracking businesses to Springboro and also has a fund that the City uses to help companies, which is not hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it does help.

Ms. Thompson clarified that those funds are for companies to relocate in vacant buildings in the City.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the City also entertains opportunities for tax abatements. Ms. Belpulsi further commented that she would have to defer to Mayor Agenbroad regarding this membership.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that timing is everything and he is not opposed to the membership possibly in the future, but he does not think right now is a good time.

Mr. Vomacka commented that he does not know enough about what the DDC does or might do for Springboro.

Ms. Lairson asked if the DDC could present some information to Council.

Ms. Thompson commented that she could ask Jeff Hoagland and Maureen Patterson to present information to Council at a Work Session.

It was the consensus of Council that they would like representatives from the DDC to present information about the organization at a future Work Session.

Mr. Vomacka commented that he does not agree with the argument against the membership due to the economy when really it is economic times like these that are the best times to stress getting businesses into the City.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that the City does not need to have someone else for economic development because the City has been doing a pretty good job by itself.

Mr. Vomacka commented that if it brings in one company with a high enough payroll, then that is the benefit.

Ms. Lairson commented that the cost is not much compared to what the City might benefit from one opportunity through the membership.

Mr. Vomacka commented that he would like more information.

Ms. Thompson stated that she would rather the DDC come in to talk with Council and will make arrangements for representatives from the Coalition to present information at a future Work Session.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Economic Development continued:** Ms. Thompson commented that she did not know if these discussions would go anywhere, but N. Pioneer is one of the City's last bastions of open land especially near the interstate and she would like to try to talk to Henkle-Schuler, instead of them asking the City to help build \$7M worth of roadwork for Motoman, about a potential public/private partnership that might be able to open that land by constructing a road back there. The cost of the road would be about \$2M plus utility work. Ms. Thompson further commented that it really is one of the City's land acquisitions and Henkle-Schuler owns it all. She would like to see what their intentions are and to see if they are ready to move. Ms. Thompson stated that it seems like they only move when someone like Motoman calls them and the City could probably do better than that. With Council's permission, Ms. Thompson stated that she would like to pursue the development of the remaining land on N. Pioneer Boulevard with Henkle-Schuler.

There were no objections from Council to this pursuit.

**I75/SR73** – Ms. Thompson commented that July of 2012 is the anticipated date of completion for the entire project at the I75/SR73 interchange including the southbound exit ramp, the bridge, etc. Ms. Thompson further commented that the City needs a new appraisal on the BP Gas Station and that project (the northbound ramp) is on the list of one of three projects that have been approved by the newly formed Warren County TID (Transportation Improvement District). Ms. Thompson explained that the problem is the newly formed Warren County TID has a dollar in the treasury. Three projects have been identified for funding; the other two are the Western Row area and the Fields-Ertel Exit on I-71. The anticipation of the people who decided to form the Warren County TID was that the Proctor and Gamble TIF revenues that are supposed to be able to benefit the I-71 corridor can be utilized for the Fields-Ertel Project and the Western Row Project. The Fields-Ertel Project is not one project; it is five projects. The Fields-Ertel Project is five separate and distinct pieces of a puzzle that will come together to make that interchange actually work and Western Row is not much better, but that is pretty much an alignment issue by Kings Island. The other issue is that apparently even though those TIF revenues can be used for the corridor, Springboro is on I-75 not I-71. Ms. Thompson commented that they would have to seek some financing from the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission for the northbound ramp project at I-75/SR73. Mason is near the Western Row Project and Deerfield Township is near the Fields-Ertel Project and they are both willing to put money into the TID, but only for their projects, which is totally understandable, but Springboro is not going to put money into the TID unless we know our project is going to get done too. Springboro is the only one of the three projects that has an IMS (Interchange Modification Study) and a project number from ODOT, which puts the project leaps and bounds ahead of anybody else. Ms. Thompson stated that she does not look for the TID to resolve the issue of the northbound ramp, but the first challenge is to get an appraisal that does not assume that the property's highest and best use is a gas station. The City has received two appraisals and cannot get the rationale to sink in even though she hands over the City's Mobility Master Plan to the appraiser for consideration. Ms. Thompson further stated that Warren County Engineer Neil Tunison gave her the name of a person that he thought might be able to help out and do an appropriate appraisal of the land. Following the new appraisal, the City could go through the eminent domain process or the ODOT process and see if BP will talk with us because they have not thus far.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Zoning Code and Sign Code Up-date and Review** – Ms. Thompson explained that, according to City Planner Dan Boron, the RFP and RFQ for the Zoning Code and Sign Code Up-date and Review will be completed by the end of the third quarter.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Community Information** – Ms. Thompson commented that Community Information defers to the previous conversation regarding social networking and ways to communicate information to the public. Ms. Thompson further commented that Mr. Chmiel wanted the City to try to continue to make efforts to get information out to the public. Ms. Thompson stated that she does not have any more ideas about how to do it at this time. She added that the e-mail alerts are working great.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that she thinks the City is doing a really good job getting information out through the newsletters, the e-alerts, etc.

Ms. Thompson commented that they do try and Mr. Pozzuto does put together most of those communications for the City and tries to issue e-alerts with timely information.

An audience member suggested a Town Crier.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Volunteer Training** – Ms. Martin commented that the companion piece to the "Boards and Commissions Guide," which is the "Board and Commission Handbook" is finished. The "Board and Commission Handbook" is a training and resource manual for appointed board and commission members. Ms. Martin tucked the "Guide" in the front cover of each "Handbook" for reference. (A volunteer training session is tentatively scheduled for 2012.)

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Franklin/Springboro Library Agreement** – Ms. Thompson commented that she thinks everyone is aware that the Franklin/Springboro Library has a new Director (Interim Director Martha Bush); Anita Carroll left the library. Ms. Thompson commented that she thought she would let the new Director get her feet wet before telling her that the City would like to re-write the contract.

Mr. Vomacka asked what the Library agreement was all about.

Ms. Thompson explained that former City Manager, Ed Doczy, signed an agreement with the Franklin/Springboro Library that made the City responsible for the library building maintenance. The City pays for all of the building maintenance and repairs. Ms. Thompson further explained that the building has been paid for and the City should no longer be responsible for all of the maintenance and the agreement should be more reasonable, but now it is not reasonable. The entire building maintenance burden falls on the City. The agreement is a two-page document that former Law Director Roger Eckert wrote.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**City Sidewalks** – Ms. Thompson commented that this is an ongoing initiative and the sidewalk construction continues on S. Main Street. There is also a project on Sycamore Creek Drive to connect the sidewalks near the intersection with SR741.

Mayor Agenbroad asked what is the completion date for the sidewalk on South Main Street.

Ms. Thompson responded that she did not know; however, the bridge will not be completed this summer.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Citizens Academy** – Ms. Thompson asked William Harm, an audience member and a Citizens Academy graduate if he had any comments.

Mr. Harn commented that he thought the Citizens Academy was very enjoyable and he learned a lot, and he continues to attend Council Meetings. Mr. Harn commented that he was really impressed with the waterworks and glad to see that the City planned ahead and was really surprised to find out that the City sells water to Franklin and the County and that the Township golf course also buys water from the City. Mr. Harn further commented that it was good to see the City running a little business, which should be saving him some tax dollars by making money some other way. Mr. Harn continued by commenting that he liked seeing the water treatment plant and meeting the guy who mowed the grass around the water treatment plant and now works at the plant. Mr. Harn stated that he thinks

everyone who participated enjoyed the program and it was good to meet other people from the community. He added that some of the program participants thought it would be good to have a program for a younger audience.

Ms. Thompson explained that the thought was not to do the instruction part of the program, but have tours for young people. Ms. Thompson commented that they just sent out a survey to participants of the Citizens Academy and did not get much feedback, but what they received was all positive. Staff plans to continue the program and will schedule another Citizens Academy in the spring of 2012. She added that the program worked and they had 15 participants.

There were no further comments regarding this project/goal.

**Recurring Goals** – Ms. Thompson referred to the Recurring Goals listed on the spreadsheet. Ms. Thompson would like to have a discussion about the annual Springboro Day at Heatherwoode event in relation to the financial burden of the event and maybe changing it from a Sunday all day event to an evening event. Ms. Thompson explained that General Manager Tom West and Assistant Matt Cole of Heatherwoode shared with her that even if they started the event at 4:00 PM on a Friday, they could still get a lot of people through a round of golf. They anticipate that this event costs \$10,000 to \$12,000 in lost revenue, and, at this point when the golf course is just on the brink of being profitable and then getting bad weather the entire spring, it is a negative. Ms. Thompson commented that from a public relations standpoint, it is wonderful for the people that attend the event, but she would like to come back to Council with a suggestion for a more abbreviated program that does not take an entire Sunday during good golf weather. She added that between the food, the golf and the labor for the event, the golf course loses a lot of money.

Ms. Belpulsi suggested that maybe they rethink the event and maybe not have a golfing event.

Mr. Vomacka commented that Springboro Day at Heatherwoode is a very popular package.

Ms. Thompson commented that she knows the event is popular and certainly for the board and commission volunteers the City can give them a voucher for a round of golf for four at Heatherwoode that they can cash in anytime they want; they deserve that. For the other people that attend the event to have a burger, etc., they can abbreviate the event to possibly a Friday evening and will not lose that kind revenue.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that he likes the idea of moving the event to a different day such as a Friday night because the golf course does not seem to be crowded on a Friday night.

Ms. Thompson commented that any golfers on a Friday night would be on the course by 4:00 PM and off the golf course early; therefore, any event the City would have from 4:00-8:00 PM would not result in the course losing lots of money on tee times. Ms. Thompson further commented that if the City holds the event on a Sunday it would block out the entire tee sheet for an entire day and if it is a nice day then the course loses the revenue.

Mayor Agenbroad suggested a Friday in October.

Ms. Thompson recommended that she bring a suggested program to Council for consideration.

Ms. Belpulsi asked Ms. Thompson to give it some thought and present a couple of options to Council.

Mr. Vomacka commented that if the event is in October, the days would be getting very short making it more difficult to get many golfers through the course.

Ms. Thompson commented that the event does not have to be in October.

Mr. Vomacka suggested August as a possibility.

Ms. Belpulsi reiterated that she would like for Ms. Thompson to give Council some options because that is a lot of money for the City to lose on an event.

Ms. Thompson commented that they were talking about using taxpayer money and that is taxpayer money being used for that event.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that she has been to every single Springboro Day at Heatherwoode and it is a great event, but they always get the same people; it is not like the event is drawing new people.

Ms. Thompson commented that the event is very popular, but she does not know if it is popular because of the golf, but she suspects that is part of it. Ms. Thompson further commented that they can do this differently. She suggested that if you are a Springboro resident and you want to make the effort to come to the City Building and get a voucher, then they would give a voucher to play nine holes of golf whenever they want and they would not have to come and eat food and take a day of tee times. Ms. Thompson reiterated that it is so costly to hold the event on a Sunday, and in talking about taxpayer money, that is taxpayer money too. Ms. Thompson continued commenting that they would formulate some ideas and the event would probably not be held in October because it would get dark by 6:30 PM. They would prefer to have any event on a Friday evening when most of the golfers are already on the course and can use the driving range if desired. Ms. Thompson also wanted to share that it is Heatherwoode's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, and there will be a Heatherwoode Open or a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Outing on August 20. It is anticipated and she is 99.9% sure that Billy Casper will attend the event to talk to people, to be out on the driving range and have some interaction with golfers since he has truly been the head of the company. Ms. Thompson's suggestion was that if Billy Casper was able to be here in the morning and they were able to do a 1:00 PM shotgun that maybe in the morning he could do a fireside chat, which he loves to do. Ms. Thompson explained that Billy Casper loves to sit there and have you ask questions about golf and his experiences. Ms. Thompson commented that he is fascinating and she met him at the Ryder Cup and he truly has stories about Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, and Jack Nicholas, who were the top four. Billy Casper calls himself number four; he was the fourth highest money winner, etc.; he is fascinating and enjoyable. Ms. Thompson further commented that she thought they could have Council and maybe some selected business people invited to Heatherwoode for a breakfast with Billy Casper. He could sit upstairs with everyone and talk and answer questions. Ms. Thompson suggested that it might be a way for the City to acknowledge some of the larger contributors to the City such as the Superintendent of Schools, Gayston, Pioneer Electronics, Renegade, etc., and anyone else they know who might be a true friend to Heatherwoode. Ms. Thompson stated that there are a lot of Heatherwoode members who would probably be thrilled to meet Billy Casper. It would be a thank you to them. Again, August 20 is the target date for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Outing and Heatherwoode General Manager Tom West and Assistant Matt Cole are putting it all together.

Ms. Belpulsi asked if Billy Casper Golf was going to pay for the event.

Ms. Thompson answered that people will pay to be in the outing and the money will go to a charity and part will go to Heatherwoode.

Furthermore, Ms. Thompson commented that as far as other discussion items they are not worried about Senate Bill 5 anymore after 14 seminars because no one is clear on the language of the bill.

Ms. Thompson commented that the Park Levy issue she thinks is resolved by continuing to try to talk to the Township. She further commented that the Association Fees for the use of parks by Township residents goes along with talking to the Township about the formation of a Park District.

Ms. Lairson commented that she thinks that if the City cannot get the Township to come to the table then the City needs to talk about fees for park use by non-residents.

Mayor Agenbroad stated that he thinks imposing fees for park use by non-residents should be enough leverage for the Township to talk to the City.

Ms. Thompson explained that Mr. Pozzuto requested information from the youth sports associations and the ratio of residents to non-residents is about 60% to 40%, which means 40% of the participants are Township residents who play at City parks at no charge.

Mr. Vomacka added that they put pressure on the City to put new fields in, as well.

Mayor Agenbroad commented the Township could help the City with the parks since a lot of their residents use those facilities.

Ms. Thompson commented that if the City could get the inside millage back from the Township it would resolve the problem, but it took a lot to get the \$75,000 for the Library.

Ms. Thompson referred to the discussion item listed on the 2011 Goals/Objectives spreadsheet as "Neighborhood Sustainability and Viability: Programs for Vibrant Neighborhoods" and stated that it boils down to the sustainability and viability of the City's neighborhoods as a future goal. Most of the City's neighborhoods are 20 to 25 years old and getting older and how does the City make sure it helps to keep them vibrant appearance wise as well as the livelihood, the sustainability, the walkability, and everything else that is involved in having a neighborhood. Ms. Thompson commented that Settlers Walk is 15 years old and Heatherwoode is 20 years old; Springboro is becoming an older community with older areas such as Royal Oaks. The City does landscape work and banners, etc., downtown, but what about the rest of the City. Ms. Thompson suggested that it is something to think about right now and maybe something for the City to delve into with some ICMA (International City/County Management Association) publications.

Mr. Vomacka commented that there are a lot of things like that the City should be thinking about. Mr. Vomacka further commented that the price of gas and all energy is going up on a long-term or permanent basis. People are worried about \$5/gallon gas now, but it will not be long before it is \$6-\$7/gallon, and that will change the way people live, how people commute; where people work, and change the relationship between where people live and where they work and the kind of transportation people will demand. Mr. Vomacka added that a lot of towns are starting to allow golf carts on City streets. Mr. Vomacka stated that it is something that the City needs to maybe think about or maybe not think about. Mr. Vomacka further stated that more and more people are telecommuting and he does it a lot, but paying the taxes to the City of Springboro becomes a challenge because the City of Dayton demands them whether he is working in Dayton or not.

Ms. Thompson commented that there is a current House Bill concerning that issue.

Mr. Vomacka commented that he did not know about the House Bill.

Ms. Thompson explained that it is similar to what Pennsylvania does. She stated for example if you are working in Pittsburgh you drive there to work for eight hours of the day, but you are not demanding a lot of services from the city. There is a proposal in the Ohio House to share that income. For example, Pittsburgh would give back to the local community where you live a percentage of the income tax an individual pays to the City of Pittsburgh because you are not utilizing all of the city's services eight, twelve, or twenty-four hours per day; you are coming home and using water and sewer and parks in your locality. Other states practice this income tax sharing, but there is a proposal in Ohio to do the same, but it is under the radar due to Senate Bill 5.

Ms. Thompson commented that Senate Bill 5 is Senate Bill 5, but it is the Budget Bill where a lot of those changes are going to be hidden in some form or another. The Pension Reform Bill is coming in June and the Governor will get some changes included in that bill guaranteed.

Mr. Vomacka commented that even he works in Springboro for two or three days because he can work from home as well as from anywhere and his income taxes still go to Dayton. Mr. Vomacka stated that he tried to get that changed, but could not. Mr. Vomacka commented that government needs to worry about the growing, long-term resistance to taxes and fees. The issue is getting a lot of publicity right now, but Mr. Vomacka stated that he thinks it is more of a long-term than a short-

term concern out there. Mr. Vomacka further stated that the City needs to worry about how it can be more efficient in doing the things that it does. The City needs to worry about the fact that the population in the City of Springboro, although he has not looked at the census data, but he thinks is getting older. Mr. Vomacka explained that he was talking with friends that live right around him at a gathering about how when they moved into that area everybody had kids, but no one has them anymore or they have moved away. The City's population is changing, the kinds of people, the ages, and the things they are interested in are shifting very dramatically.

Ms. Thompson commented that is the typical neighborhood and that is the topic of discussion.

Mr. Vomacka agreed with Ms. Thompson and stated that it is something that the City needs to look forward and figure out how we can make it as positive for people as we possibly can.

Ms. Thompson commented that she thought it was interesting that the City did what it did to try to explain the purpose of the water and sewer rate increase and had what she felt were very reasonable and legitimate arguments concerning the construction of the sewer plant and the water plant, the growth that Springboro saw over the years, the fact that the City did not ask people to pay now and then put the improvements in; the City took care of business and took care of the people. Ms. Thompson further stated that she read an article about the Warren County increase in water and sewer rates and the statement was that the County had to increase revenues so it raised the rates. The article did not say that the County was going to make infrastructure improvements and Mr. Vomacka's comment about a resistance to taxes and fees is why she brings that up. Last night, at the Warren County Municipal League (WCML) meeting with Mr. LaDu and Ms. Belpulsi, the topic was for Finance Directors to speak to their respective city's budgets and what services were going to be cut, etc., and interestingly to her the "doom and gloom" that was anticipated by one of the Board Members of the WCML was very disappointed because the "doom and gloom" was not as "doom and gloom" as he thought it would be because people are doing things differently; people are running government differently as a reaction to the economy and if nothing else good probably happened; it was that. Ms. Thompson stated that she could honestly say that Springboro did not do that because Springboro has been really bare bones for a really long time. She explained that the whole time she has been with the City the City has never increased staff. Ms. Thompson further explained that she asked the Mason City Manager how many employees they have and they have 188 full-time employees. Mason started a Fire Department, which is a lot of it, but having 188 employees for their population is fairly reasonable, but in a place like Montgomery with 8,000 people they have approximately 400 employees. How does that balance; it is very disproportionate to the population.

Mr. Vomacka commented that the other piece of this issue he would like to point out again is that people are not adamantly opposed to all taxes and all fee increases. He explained that the library levy went through with almost no controversy at all because it is something that people can see the value in.

Ms. Thompson commented that she thinks it is historic. She explained that she thinks most people do not use the library anymore; they use the internet. Ms. Thompson stated that people do not read the printed word, but it is historic; how do they vote against the library.

Mayor Agenbroad commented that there are a lot of people who use the library.

Ms. Thompson stated that she realizes that people use the library, but the library's use is not rising exponentially. Ms. Thompson stated that she is not here to discuss the viability of the library; she is happy the levy passed because the City contributed \$50,000 to help the library continue to operate.

Mr. Vomacka commented that there are things in this community, which is very conservative, very fiscally conservative, that people are willing to support by voting for additional taxes, but it has to be the right thing.

Ms. Thompson commented that a park levy is a perfect example of something that she believes this community would embrace.

Mr. Vomacka commented that he does not think a park levy would have a chance.

Ms. Thompson expanded on her comment by stating that a park levy would fly if the City could say that it would be for the development of baseball diamonds and soccer fields or if the City is developing usable spaces because there are a lot of people that live in Springboro with children who want those facilities.

Mr. Moore commented that people in his ward ask about ball fields all of the time and tell him they have to go to other communities to use ball fields.

Ms. Thompson commented that it is not the passive space, but the walking trails and ball fields that people want and if the Township partnered with the City there would be more acreage available. She added that the Township just bought 80 acres on Lower Springboro Road that they have no money to develop.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that the Park issues that they are talking about go right along with the sustainability issue because the City is almost at a point of no growth and those types of amenities are needed to maintain and enhance the quality of life for the residents. Ms. Belpulsi further commented that the City has wonderful park areas and the potential for expansion and are used a lot.

Ms. Thompson agreed that the parks are used a lot, for example, the walking trail at North Park.

Ms. Belpulsi commented that if that is what the City is going to recommend, then how we put the program together will be the key.

Mr. Vomacka mentioned the Concerts in the Park as another park use.

A member of the audience spoke up again in regard to promoting viability in the park area by commenting that it appears to him that in the space by the pavilion at North Park there is an opportunity for a fair to bring people in to participate.

Mayor Agenbroad mentioned that the City sponsors the Concerts in the Park Series at North Park.

The audience member acknowledged that program stating that they were wonderful concerts and he and his neighbors enjoy them, as well, but he was referring to a community activity similar to the festival downtown. He asked if there would be an opportunity at North Park to have some kind of fair.

Ms. Lairson commented that the festivals and events that occur downtown are not City run events. For example, the City does not manage the Christmas in Springboro Festival.

Mr. Vomacka added that the group that does manage the Christmas Festival is having trouble sustaining it.

Ms. Lairson commented that a private group manages the Christmas Festival.

The audience member stated that he thought those were City run events.

Mayor Agenbroad explained that the City used to manage the Christmas Festival, but gave it up because it was too cumbersome, they had too many complaints, and it was too expensive plus the liability and staff time.

Mr. LaDu commented that if a private group wanted to rent some space and put on a fair; that would be fine.

The audience member further commented that along with that the sustainability of the town itself and the businesses that are there would be helped by bringing in some more businesses. He mentioned Heathers Café and some new businesses, but, he stated, they come and go and it would be nice to

see that area develop. Finally, he referred to Mr. Vomacka's earlier comment regarding people not wanting to travel as much and how that would possibly add to the sustainability of the downtown.

With that final comment, Mayor Agenbroad thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting. Mayor Agenbroad thanked Ms. Martin for providing the food for the meeting.

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** No Executive Session.
5. **ADJOURNMENT.** With no further business or discussion, the City Council Special Meeting of April 21, 2011 adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

—MEETING ADJOURNED—

John Agenbroad, Mayor

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**John H. Agenbroad, Mayor**

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**Presiding Officer**

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**Lori Martin, Clerk of Council**