



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON CITY FINANCES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 6, 2005
Lower Level Meeting Room
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Paul Tait.

II. ROLL CALL –

Present: Paul Tait, Timothy Robinson, Steve Pierce, Peter Fletcher, Ingrid Kock
Absent: James Hawkins (6:08 p.m.), Deborah Strong (6:55 p.m.), Christian Overland, Frederick Davis, Thomas Biggs

Motion by Peter Fletcher to excuse the absences of James Hawkins, Deborah Strong, Christian Overland, Frederick Davis and Thomas Biggs. Supported by Steve Pierce. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2005

Motion by Peter Fletcher to approve the minutes. Motion supported by Steve Pierce. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION –

There were no presentations.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

VI. INFORMATION/REQUESTS BY THE COMMITTEE

There is nothing at this time.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

A. Discuss/Continue EMS Report

B. Regionalization Study

Chairman Tait asked the committee what would be the appropriate role for the Committee at this point. He stated that one of the concerns is finding someone to be a good catalyst outside of the City of Ypsilanti.

Peter Fletcher stated that it's important to get the sense of exactly what City Council expects of the Committee.

Chairman Tait recalled the original charge from City Council of looking at revenues, expenditures and options therein.

Peter Fletcher inquired of Chairman Tate as to how much longer the Blue Ribbon Committee on City Finances should be functioning.

Chairman Tait answered that 30-60 days after the income tax study, the Committee should have its charge completed. Ed Koryzno said that the income tax study should be completed early May, making the end of June the Committee's completion date.

Ingrid Kock interjected that she felt that she had not received a copy of the Regionalization report. She requested that a copy of the report be emailed to her.

Steve Pierce brought up the Metro Alliance. He said that the Metro Alliance was being led at the County and City of Ann Arbor level and, to some extent the City of Ypsilanti.

Ed Koryzno clarified the extent of the Metro Alliance. It started out as Sustainable Washtenaw. It is now a formalized organization known as the Metro Alliance.

Steve Pierce expressed the merit of putting a recommendation before City Council to take the lead in initiating discussions to help move Regionalization forward.

C. County Plan – This was included with the discussion on Regionalization.

D. Update/Status Income Tax

Chairman Paul Tait noted that the City of Mount Clemens had suspended their income tax study due to a lack of information.

Steve Pierce stated that the Committee should strategize on receiving, interpreting and reporting on the report from Plante Moran.

Peter Fletcher encouraged acquiring Plante Moran's report in advance, giving the City the opportunity to ask any questions, focusing on issues relevant to Ypsilanti itself.

Steve Pierce suggested that the Committee meet soon after receipt of the report to prepare for a meeting with Plante Moran. He then asked what the course of events would be after meeting with Plante Moran.

Peter Fletcher stated that what is done after receipt of the report would be a matter that City Council would decide. The Committee is responsible to the Council.

E. Update City Buildings – Ed Koryzno

Ed Koryzno informed the Committee that late last year to early this year a group requested an assessment of the buildings to get an idea of what the liability might be regarding city buildings and facilities. About a month ago a list was compiled by Charles Boulard, Building Inspector and Harry Hutchison, Director of the Department of Public Works.

Peter Fletcher asked if the list includes only buildings owned directly by the City were included on the list. Riverside Arts Center was discussed briefly as being legally owned by the DDA, which is a creature of the City. Mr. Fletcher then asked if there are any facilities that are leased by the City.

Ed Koryzno answered that the City did not lease any facilities.

Peter Fletcher asked if there were any environmental issues on North Huron on the east side.

Ed Koryzno said he was not aware of any environmental issues in that area.

Mr. Fletcher asked if the City would consider a Building Authority. He questioned the mechanisms the City has for addressing the significant issues raised

Ed Koryzno requested time to do research before answering that question.

Peter Fletcher asked where the Housing Commission stands on the ownership of its property.

Ed Koryzno deferred to Attorney John Barr to answer that question.

Peter Fletcher asked if the City had any oversight over properties that are in disrepair.

Ed Koryzno answered that those buildings are inspected by the City, but HUD would have to do the enforcing.

Ingrid Kock brought up that there are violations throughout the City. She has heard remarks among members of the community expressing concern that the City is supposedly not ticketing for these violations.

Peter Fletcher stated that the City needs to be able to demonstrate that corrective action is being taken.

F. SEMCOG Infrastructure in the 7 County Area

Chairman Paul Tait informed the Committee that the region would need to come up with over \$100 billion over the next 25 years to meet the total infrastructure costs of the region.

Peter Fletcher asked if the space available to perform municipal services is sufficient. Mr. Koryzno answered that he feels the Police Department building is not adequate. He also mentioned that the design of City Hall is not the most advantageous.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING

- A.** Next meeting to be scheduled seven to ten days after receipt of the Plante Moran report.
- B.** Future meeting will include building inspection report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.