

## COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MEETING

### Topic: Swimming Pool

April 1, 2024

Council President Thad Eikenbary called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. and noted the topic was a swimming pool.

Ringwald, Kallas, Agler, Dettrow, Moore and Marshall were present.

The Mayor reminded that council cannot take a vote to raise taxes on its own but would need to place a tax issue on the ballot for approval by voters. The deadline to put on the November ballot would be early August.

The Mayor noted that the current city parks do not make enough revenue to pay for themselves as they are provided at mostly no cost to residents. The parks budget for 2023 was \$482,450 taken out of a general fund budget.

According to the Mayor, current interest estimates for a pool project loan are 4.25% for under 20 years and 4.5% for over 20 years.

It was also noted that an income tax issue would likely be preferable to a property tax levy as it protects senior citizens and those on fixed incomes. Social Security, pensions, military benefits, interests and dividends and disability payments are not taxed.

The Mayor also provided a list of income tax rates that would be needed depending on the length of the levy. Tax rates needed to pay the cost of the pool and its operation range from 0.08% for a 34 year levy to a 0.12% for a 16 year levy. Currently the median annual household income for city residents is \$51,412. If a 0.08% tax were passed it would cost that average household \$41.13 per year. If the tax were at 0.12% it would cost \$61.69 per year.

It is also possible the City could receive money from the Ohio Capital Budget but it is not known how much but most likely less than half a million.

It was noted that Delphos pays a .25% income tax to fund their pool with Ada paying a .55% income tax.

Kallas indicated that he liked the idea of an income tax over a property tax.

Ringwald asked if we are doing what the community is wanting. Marshall agreed that a decision cannot be made until the citizens state what they want. Council members agreed that they need to talk to the citizens in their ward. Moore indicated she has talked to someone that helped do a survey for the Eggerss Stadium and will discuss with them how to do a survey for the interest in a pool.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Lisa Hartsock

Clerk of Council  
Lisa K. Hartsock

Thad R. Eikenbary

Council President  
Thad R. Eikenbary

April 10, 2024  
DATE