

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 28, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Alan E. Oberloh with the following Aldermen present: Lyle Ten Haken, Mike Kuhle, Scott Nelson, Ron Wood, Mike Woll (6:25 p.m).

Staff present: Craig Clark, City Administrator; Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, Scott Hain, General Manager Worthington Public Utilities; Janice Oberloh, City Clerk.

Others present: Wayne Radenbaugh, Mr. And Mrs. Richard Hartzler, Roger Larson.

**PUBLIC INPUT RECEIVED - STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL SERVICE CHARGE**

Pursuant to published notice, this was the time and date set for a public meeting for input on the proposed Street Lighting Special Service Charge.

Dwayne Haffield, Director of Engineering, gave a presentation on the proposed service charge and rate structure. Mr. Haffield noted the following service charges are proposed:

Residential	\$4.35/month	\$52.20/annually
Commercial	\$13.05/month	\$156.60/annually
Industrial	\$13.05/month	\$156.60/annually
Institution	\$13.05/month	\$156.60/annually
Multi-family (up to 3)	\$13.05/month	\$156.60/annually

Mayor Oberloh asked if anyone in attendance had any comments. The following were received:

Richard Hartzler - Do you know what the cost of this street lighting was two years ago? Any idea? I mean you say it's a quarter of a million dollars now, what was it two years ago, five years ago, or...everything is going up except my pay. Second question is, you say this quarter of a million is going to be funded through this \$4.35, can I look forward in February or March of next year seeing my tax bill drop? Is that going to, is my real estate tax going to drop next year? Don't tell me it's going to stay the same. I'm talking about City, the City portion, is that portion of my real estate taxes going to go down next year? You're talking about your city expenses and your city income, but maybe you should be looking at some cuts in some city expenses, because last year or this year, I didn't get an increase. I'm 70 years old, I'm living on Social Security, I didn't get any increase and I'm not going to get one next year according to what they say. You're going to run me right out of town. I moved back here because I couldn't afford to live where I was before I retired. So are you going to run me and all the other elderly people out of town? With continually increasing, in the ten years I've been here, 11 years, you've added water bills - my utility bill has more than doubled in that ten years, way more than doubled. And I'm going to have to start cutting stuff off or leave town.

Alderman Wood responded to Mr. Hartzler's concern regarding his utility bills, noting we have controlled the budget of the City of Worthington, but some things we have no control over like

transmission costs.

Mr. Hartzler - That doesn't mean anything to me. You keep raising my utility bills. I can't control my income. I can't go in and ask for a raise. I can't go in and ask for more time off. I can't ask for any of that. Maybe you shouldn't sweep the streets every week. I see guys going up and down the street, I saw, not last winter, I saw a truck come by and spread gravel on the snow in the street and about an hour later I saw a snow plow come by and plow it into the curb. I see stuff like this all the time and it's irritating. I think you've got to look closer at cutting costs. If it's laying people off, maybe it's not running the street sweeper as often. Retire the street sweeper, I'll go sweep the streets every month.

Wayne Radenbaugh - I had to make some notes and some of this may be repeated on what I have to ask. I'll have some comments and some questions. My questions are: my family has lived in Worthington for over 62 years. When we started in our household our bill we had was a postcard showing electric and water, that was it. Since then there has been many things added to utility bills such as electric residential base charge, water base charge, sewer base charge, storm water, garbage, solid waste, trash and city sales tax. I wasn't here when you passed the city sales tax, but if I would have been you would have gotten another negative on that. And now we looked ahead to street lights. Does the utilities transfer funds in, this is a question, does the utilities transfer funds into the general fund? I understand it does. Doesn't that get used for the electric lights, the street lights?

(Council and staff gave an explanation of the transfer in lieu of taxes.)

Mr. Radenbaugh - but can't that be standing alone, along with the utilities? I mean everybody has a budget and the utilities should have a budget and I know they do. And the street department and everybody else. Why can't that be added back into that? We're also charged a franchise fee on the gas, telephone, tv bills. When is this going to stop? How was the street lights paid before? That used to go on our sales tax..er not sales tax, property tax. We can deduct our property tax but we can't deduct all these other things that's coming into our city, utilities. Are you people going to act on this tonight? Or will you be here at a later date when you have new opposition?

Council and staff responded the intent would be to bring the proposed ordinance back for a first reading at the next regular City Council meeting, and that it would take three readings to pass the ordinance. The charge would not be an additional charge but an offset of the current method, and will more encompass all the "players", including institutional. Dwayne Haffield, City Engineer, noted the revenue that would come in from the street lighting charge would go into a dedicated fund, and if more was collected than needed it would continue to sit in that fund for the next year.

Council agreed they needed to do a better job in getting an explanation and details of the charge out to the public.

Worthington City Council  
Special Meeting, June 28, 2010  
Page 3

Mr. Hartzler expressed his dismay that more people did not turn out to oppose the charge.

The motion was made by Alderman Woll, seconded by Alderman Kuhle and unanimously carried to have additional information put together for the next Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The motion was made by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Woll and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Janice Oberloh  
City Clerk