

**CITY OF SHREWSBURY  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
WORK SESSION  
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

A Board of Aldermen Work Session was held at 6:00 p.m. this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011 in the Conference Room of the City Center.

There were present:

Mayor.....	Felicity Buckley
Alderman.....	Elmer Kauffmann
Alderman.....	Mike Travaglini
Alderwoman.....	Chris Gorman
Alderman.....	Sam Scherer
Alderman.....	Ed Köpff
Alderman.....	Greg Lauter

There were also present:

Assist. City Admin/City Clerk.....	Jonathan D. Greever
City Attorney .....	Michael Daming
Director of Finance .....	Rick Jett
Director of Parks .....	Marc Bernstein
Street Superintendent.....	Tony Wagner
Police Chief.....	Jeff Keller
Fire Chief.....	Bill Fox

**Roll Call**

Mayor Buckley opened the meeting and Assistant Greever commenced with the roll call. The entire Board was present.

**Hear Citizens**

None

**Discussion over the Estimate of the 2011 Tax Rate**

Mayor Buckley stated that the next item on the agenda the discussion over the estimate of the 2011 tax rate. She then turned the floor over to Finance Director Jett.

Director Jett overviewed the tax levy worksheet and compared the estimate presented against the 2010 and 2009 post-BOE actuals. He stated that value was declining and that it was not isolated to Shrewsbury. He stated that in the post "Senate Bill 711" world, the general fund tax levy rate ceiling was capped at the previous year's rate and therefore the same ceiling rates of the previous two years were applied to this estimate as well. This part of the total tax, he continued, was roughly half of the total tax levy. He stated that the other piece part of the tax rate, the debt service tax rate, was that which was necessary to satisfy the debt obligations of the City. He stated that the debt service operated like a teeter-totter, in that a decrease in value necessitated an increase in rate. He stated that this operation cause the debt service rate to increase nominally by 1.3 cents due to the decrease in assessed valuation.

He stated that this procedure was merely an estimate, and that an update to these values would be released post-BOE around September 15<sup>th</sup>, after which time the City would need to formally establish the tax rate prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>. He proposed that the City would submit the rate included in the worksheet as the proposed estimate to the County. He recommended that the Board recommend to the Mayor that the presented ceiling rates be submitted to the County.

Mayor Buckley asked if there were any questions. There were none and the Board was in general agreement with Director Jett's recommendation.

### **Personally Owned Patrol Officer Rifle Program**

Mayor Buckley stated that the next item on the agenda was a discussion over the Personally Owned Patrol Officer Rifle Program and turned the floor over to Police Chief Keller.

Chief Keller stated that in 2009, several officers were interested in purchasing their own rifles, which made sense from a logistical perspective due to personalization requirements in firearm operations. He stated that several new and senior officers were interested in participating in this program. He stated that the cost per rifle was \$929.23, which would be reimbursed to the City via payroll deductions over a one year period. He asked if the Board would be willing to allow these officers to participate in this program.

Mayor Buckley added that the program was currently established, and added that the officer would sign a contract with the City which outlined the payback provisions as well as reimbursement in the event of a termination of employment prior to full reimbursement.

Mayor Buckley stated that while no official Board motion was required, it would be advantageous to gain Board input into the matter. The Board was generally in favor of continuing the program as described.

### **Weapons Ordinance Consistency with State Law**

Mayor Buckley introduced the next topic, a discussion over the weapons ordinance consistency with state law and turned the floor over to Chief Keller.

Chief Keller stated that the state law regarding carry and conceal weapons regulations were modified in 2003, and that the City had never fully adopted it via ordinance. He added that the delay did not breach any state laws, but that it would be beneficial to update the Municipal Code in this regard. He proposed that the City copy the state law verbatim and adopt it as its own.

Mayor Buckley asked if there were any questions regarding this recommendation and there were none. The Mayor stated that a bill would be drafted soon for the Board's consideration.

### **Old Business**

Mayor Buckley stated that the administrative department would be hiring a new employee to assist Assistant Greever in the near future pursuant to previous Board discussions, and added that an ordinance was required to create the new position. This bill, she continued, would be drafted and submitted for Board consideration in the April Regular Board Meeting.

## New Business

### *Continuance of the Provision of Cable Television Services for Public Buildings*

Street Superintendent Wagner stated that his department had recently received notification from Charter Communications that it would begin charging the municipalities for the provision of cable television services. He stated that this service was currently provided at City Hall, the public safety building, and the public works building. He requested that the Board consider the provision of this service as a utility, since his department relied heavily upon it for updates regarding weather patterns. He stated that he estimated that the impact on expenditures would increase by approximately \$700 annually per location. He reiterated that he was requesting that the Board approve the continuance of the provision of cable television services.

Alderman Kauffmann asked what the total expenditure impact would be, and Parks Director Bernstein stated that the impact on the City Hall utility budget would be an increase of \$60 per month. Fire Chief Fox added that the fire department employees paid money to receive movie channels, and stated that the request before the Board merely dealt with the continual provision of basic cable television.

The department heads stated that they had solicited pricing from all of the major companies in the marketplace and that Charter had been the least expensive.

There being no further discussion, Alderman Scherer made a motion to authorize the continuance of the provision of basic cable television service to the aforementioned public buildings. Alderman Lauter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

### *Letter Update to the Community*

Mayor Buckley stated that she wanted to send out an update letter on the citywide email list serve regarding questions related to the redevelopment and those related to the budgetary development process.

The Board discussed the length of the letter, its format, and scope of topics. Alderman Kauffmann asked when it would be issued and the Mayor stated that it would be issued soon.

Alderman Kopff offered that it would be beneficial to include information explaining the various taxes applicable to the City in a future submission to the public. Mayor Buckley agreed with this idea.

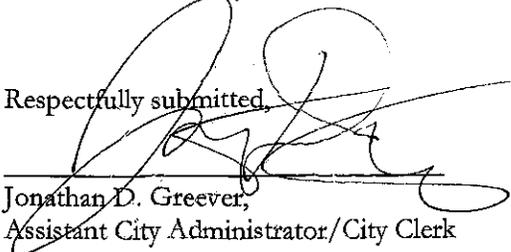
### *Municipal Code Update*

Mayor Buckley stated that the Municipal Code was in dire need of updating, and that the scope of this project was sizable. She stated that this project would only be addressed appropriately over a significant period of time. She added that she was going to employ the department heads to assist in the modification of applicable sections of the Code, beginning with Title I.

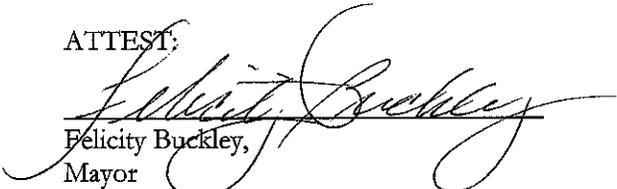
## Adjournment

Alderman Travaglini made a motion to adjourn the Work Session. Alderwoman Gorman seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The Work Session adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jonathan D. Greever,  
Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk

ATTEST:

  
Felicity Buckley,  
Mayor