

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 16, 2018
MINUTES

Mayor Prejna called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE: Aldermen Mike Cannon; Nick Budmats, Laura Majikes, Joe Gallo; Robert Banger, Jr., John D’Astice, Tim Veenbaas

COUNCIL ABSENT: 0

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Manager Barry Krumstok, Deputy City Clerk Ginny Cotugno, Assistant to the City Manager Lori Ciezak, Finance Director Melissa Gallagher, Police Chief John Nowacki, Public Works Director Fred Vogt, Business Advocate Martha Corner, and City Attorney Jim Macholl

1) Billboard

Mayor Prejna: First up is the billboard question. Mr. Krumstok, would you lead the introduction please.

Mr. Krumstok: Thank you very much Mayor and City Council. Obviously we’ve talked about 3975 Algonquin Road in the past. Tonight Chris Lupo and Jim Perry from Lamar Real Estate will actually do another presentation. The current owner is Luxury Automotive Import Auto and Mr. Kim and the entire family is here. We’re going to be asked to help on homework soon in a little bit too, but they have a small Power Point to talk about the billboard, and again it would need some additional changes in zoning to allow them to put this billboard in place, but again we believe that it’s an opportunity for the City Council to discuss this to give you really a presentation from Lamar Billboard. This is completely different from the last time Oxford was here when they were going to put up a billboard, give us a park, which then we would have been in a park at that point in time. Pretty much the same understanding for the billboard is in front of you. The one thing that was passed out at everybody’s place and also emailed to the City Council is a new rendering. The rendering that’s actually in the packet was the first one that made the billboard look larger on the lot than before. But with that, that’s really the main subjects that Mr. Lupo and Mr. Perry will be talking about, but overall the action items before you is would the City Council want additional information before proceeding? Would you like staff to continue working with Lamar and Mr. Kim? And then if approved, then it does need to go to Planning and Zoning Commission for the variances that are needed for this project. With that I ask for Mr. Lupo, who’s somewhere behind me, to come up and actually just do this quick presentation.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you for coming forward tonight. We appreciate it.

Mr. Chris Lupo: Thanks for having us. I appreciate it. Lamar advertising is a billboard company. We have experience working in the Village already. We have a billboard sign on Village owned property of which we provide advertising for the Village already. Right now we're actually running a recycle program for your Christmas lights so that the constituents in the Village know where to come and recycle their lights and don't just discard them in the garbage can. That's just one promotion we have on there for the City. I believe within the next week or two I'll be contacted by, I'm sorry, I can't remember her name. Thank you and we'll have some new copy going up in real short order for a March promotion that you guys are having in March, obviously. So with that said we're looking at the property at 3975 Algonquin Road. This is the southwest corner of Rt. 53 and Algonquin Road. It's the site of the location that used to house a car wash and then it was abandoned and I'm guessing somewhere in the area of over 10 years of no use and the new property owner, Mr. Kim, recently probably within the last 5 years had put in a car dealership and so we were contacted by Mr. Kim as a potential location here to see if we had any interest and we've been working with him accordingly. The site is right there on the, again, southwest corner. The whole purpose of this survey was really just to show where the sign is in relation to, I know there was a question with regards to the sewer inceptor that runs through the property and if you, I'll have to walk over there, if you look really closely (didn't have a microphone so can't hear what he is saying), our foundation for the sign would be here. Its 50+ feet away from the interceptor sewer. We did contact the Water Reclamation District to make sure that we had adequate spacing away from them and with that said they said you only need it to be 10 feet away from their easement, so we're satisfying that five times over. This here is just the representation again. It's just an estimate rendering for illustration purposes only. We realize that the sign is bigger than it would look normal, especially when you're looking at it from Rt. 53. The angle of that would also be turned toward Rt. 53 so the back end of the left side there would actually be pulled forward, angled toward the road. We are also, we adhere to the brightness guidelines for Dr. Ean Lewin, who is a lighting professional, Lighting Science & Institute in Scottsdale, Arizona. He had done a light study for digital signs back in 2008 and basically he's synopsis is saying that light produced by the digital billboard should not exceed .3 foot candles over ambient light. So light produced by the digital sign should not exceed those levels as measured and our sign is 14 x 48 bulletin so that's the one that's highlighted on the bottom. That measures from 250 feet back. This diagram here if you look there's, measurements here is 200, 400, 600 feet away, so 200 feet away we're at .07 foot candles. Over here .24 foot candles, and as you continue going further out to 400, .08 and .02. So we're 7/10 or 7% of what's actually allowed for foot candles above ambient light. Again, Dr. Lewin suggested again .3 foot candles over ambient light as measured at 250 feet. At 200 feet, which is closer to the sign, we're only at .24 along the road and by the building .07, so its miniscule light. With regards to traffic analysis, studies conclude that traffic accidents are caused by drivers being distracted by things within the car itself or actions that are performed while driving. 80% of these crashes are caused by driver inattention and distractions within these 3 seconds of the crash. These here, based on the traffic analysis study, are the top 10 distractions listed and sited by the NHTSA are as follows, reaching for something, dialing a phone, texting, eating, drinking, interacting with passengers, daydreaming, billboard signs aren't even in the conversation. With regards to the sign, we also put up as well, we talked about putting up advertising pro bono for the Village, we also use the sign with the State and Federal governments to place amber alerts for missing children and silver alerts.

Mayor Prejna: Any further, now we'll open it up for clarification questions and I just have to make one correction. We are a City.

Mr. Lupo: I'm sorry, my fault.

Mayor Prejna: Does any alderman wish to have any questions for clarification questions only of what was presented tonight? Mr. Banger

Alderman Banger: Thank you. I'm fairly certain 2014 was the last time this came in front of us and I guess my only question for tonight's discussion has anything changed in terms of the size. That was one of the big issues last time.

Mr. Lupo: Jim Perry from our office was in those presentations. He's here today. He can attest that there hasn't been any change with regards to the size of the sign. The biggest change is that we no longer have the park. There's going to be no liability for the, donating a park to the City, the maintenance for the City, the liability for the City, so those are completely the biggest changes as well as now the property is owned by Mr. Kim, a business man in the community.

Alderman Banger: Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Any other, Mr. Cannon

Alderman Cannon: Thank you Mr. Mayor. So could you clarify, so this is how big is each side going to be? What's the dimensions?

Mr. Lupo: 14 x 48

Alderman Cannon: Ok, how does that compare with our current Code? Is that bigger than our Code?

Mr. Krumstok: That's why it has to go to Planning & Zoning Commission.

Alderman Cannon: Can you refresh me, Barry, of what our current Code is?

Mr. Krumstok: I think Public Works Director Fred Vogt might have that, but I do not remember that on the top of my head.

Mayor Prejna: Fred is coming up to the microphone right now.

Mr. Macholl: I think its 200 feet.

Mr. Krumstok: The gross area is 200 feet. Per side, which I wrote it, but there's more stuff in there that Fred probably knows too.

Mr. Vogt: Thank you. Going back to the 2013 Plan Commission Summary, the variation was requested for excess of 200 square feet. So 200 is what is allowed in the C-2 District.

Alderman Cannon: So how many square feet is the sign then? 14 x 48....

Mr. Lupo: 672

Alderman Cannon: I got 772, did I add it wrong?

Mr. Lupo: 672

Alderman Cannon: Okay, so that's substantially larger than what we had. Does anybody else have a sign along there that's similar size? Barry would you know that?

Mr. Krumstok: No, I would make the comment it's very similar to the one we have on Winnetka which Lamar actually owns. Most of those billboards in that area are about the same and on the top of my head the Green sign one we did on Euclid is also about that same dimensions.

Mr. Vogt: Those are in the overlay District and we could certainly pull through the permits and get you the comparable....

Alderman Cannon: That's fine. The other question, Fred, so how does this, does this affect any of our overlay districts that we've always talked about in the past?

Mr. Vogt: This is not in the overlay district. This is simply C-2 zoning and not in the overlay district,

Mr. Krumstok: The overlay district is specifically off of that area over here. We never put anything on Algonquin Road.

Alderman Cannon: How far does the overlay go south?

Mr. Krumstok: It stops right at Euclid?

Mr. Vogt: For the manufacturing and transitional districts.

Mr. Macholl: It starts at Euclid and then goes north to an area I believe south of Winnetka and then we have another overlay district on the east side, that was Euclid to I think several hundred feet north of that.

Alderman Cannon: Okay, I have some other questions but they're not about....

Mr. Prejna: Any other questions regarding clarification? We had no one in on the sign in sheet so it's time to open it up for discussion on the item. Who would like to start first? Mr. Banger.

Alderman Banger: I want to say this is maybe the third time that we talked about this and my feelings haven't changed. I would still not be in support of this. Thanks.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you. Further discussion? Mr. Gallo

Alderman Gallo: A couple questions. First, what are some of the benefits or advantages to the City for having this, or proposing this idea? Can anyone help me understand that?

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Krumstok, who do you want to answer that?

Mr. Krumstok: I can start with this. So the only benefit for the City of Rolling Meadows is obviously additional promotional items. This is not an item that was bought up by the City, per se, and again the City has actually looked at this property in the past to see if we even wanted to do anything on it. So, again, just some promotional. There's really not that much out of there because we have an annual fee that these pay for the sign itself. It's really for Mr. Kim and Luxury Imports Auto for additional revenue for them, additional if you want to say advertising for them too, for anybody driving by that area, Algonquin Road or off of 53, so when you look at the benefits for the City its limited to really just those annual fees and additional promotional items on a larger billboard for people on 53.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Gallo does that answer your question?

Alderman Gallo: For now, yes.

Mayor Prejna: Any further discussion? Mr. Cannon

Alderman Cannon: So Barry, maybe you could help me with this. So let's just assume we approve this, so between that sign and all the signs that are up farther north, how many other signs would be allowed to be fit into that space? Do you have any idea? I know I'm kind of hitting you with a hard one, but I just, but I mean right now they have what, 700 feet apart in the overlay district? Is it 700 feet?

Mr. Krumstok: No, its 500 feet from those overlays. That's why when Arlington Park came to us it was actually just outside of our overlay area so in our overlay area I think one or two potentially, but this Algonquin Road, that would be the one that we've heard that people even want to use the property by the 53.

Alderman Cannon: I was wondering if we approve this if other people will come out and say hey maybe we can make revenue off of our property also. There's a couple properties I can think of right off the top of my head.

Mr. Krumstok: And I can think of one on Golf Road that would probably be knocking on our door to ask the same thing.

Alderman Cannon: And I can think of one on Kirchoff too. So it's a concern of mine. I don't know how, that doesn't mean we should vote for this or not vote for it, but it's a concern that we'll just have a whole wall of signs.

Mr. Krumstok: And that's why we put the overlay over that one section which was the main area that we're getting a lot of calls and requests for.

Alderman Cannon: Okay, I guess a couple concerns, if we go ahead and approve this, a couple of caveats I'd like to have attached to this in writing is how much advertising we're going to get actually so in case Mr. Kim decides that he wants to start a business somewhere else and we asked that the new owner would assure us that we would still get access to the sign so many times a week, or whatever we do right now.

Mr. Krumstok: The agreement would be between the City and Lamar Billboard itself.

Alderman Cannon: I'd like that in writing.

Mr. Krumstok: I think Chris heard that pretty well.

Alderman Cannon: Okay, that's all right how, thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Any further discussion? So I guess at this stage to move forward is there any other information that anyone wants that was not discussed tonight? Okay, does, seeing one, okay. I guess we'll ask for a Straw vote, should staff continue to work with Lamar and Mr. Kim on the project? Those in favor please raise your hand. One, two, three, four, five. Those opposed?

Alderman Gallo: Can I abstain for now?

Mayor Prejna: So it's five, and one opposed. Alderman Gallo abstained. So right now what we're looking at Mr. Krumstok is for staff to continue to work with them and bring the project back to us.

Mr. Krumstok: It would hopefully be, and again I ask for the straw vote also, Lamar Billboard and Mr. Kim work with the City and also bring it back to the Planning & Zoning Commission before it actually comes back so Lamar has some homework to do.

Mayor Prejna: Well they continue to work with us, then you could bring it back to us before it gets to them, or?

Mr. Krumstok: We're just trying to say at this point if we just work with them, dealing with them, we'd like to keep in on the movement with the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, so then I guess the next question is after staff gets done with it that this could proceed on to the Planning & Zoning Commission and then you'll come back to us again.

Mr. Krumstok: As an ordinance.

Mayor Prejna: So a straw vote for it to be able to move forward to Planning & Zoning. Those in favor? Five, and against? So you have direction. Just wanted to make sure we're clarified.

Mr. Krumstok: Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you for your time.

2) Council Chambers

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Krumstok, Council. Chambers

Mr. Krumstok: This is actually Alderman Cannon who will be running this presentation.

Alderman Cannon: Thank you everybody. As you know we were here a number of weeks ago with just our initial thoughts. In the meantime we reached out to Dina Tsiolis, an interior design consultant from EWS Consultants, Inc. Dina is a professional who has worked with a number of cities in the area to help them with a similar program of remodeling spaces, especially City Hall Chambers. So I think this week, I should say last week, Lori and I had a chance to meet with her and we kind of finalized some ideas to bring forth to you. Our goal tonight would be to get your buy in and move to the next level. A lot of the things that we're talking about are on the State contract so we don't have to worry about bidding and all of that. The prices are kind of locked in so we can give you some numbers. The good news is we can do a lot of the things that we talk about for less than the budget we asked for and with that Lori is going to pass some information out to you so you can get an idea of a couple of things that we're thinking about. So even though I'm kind of going to lead the discussion, Dina is here to help if there's any questions that I can't answer or Lori's here. They've been wonderful in putting this all together. They've done a great job getting us to this point. That is a print of what the new dais would look like and staff desk. So with that in mind, I'm kind of excited to show you what Dina has come up with. She kind of made us think about things in a whole different picture. Many of us don't think about that space because we come here three or four times a month, sometimes more, and it's just a place we come to. But when you think about it, this is really the people's space and it's a space we present to customers who might want to move businesses here and things of that nature and I think all of us can agree that we need to do something to the room to make it look more professional at minimum. I think Dina has come up with some very rational ideas that are within a cost range that we can handle. We can accomplish a lot of the things that we're going to present tonight probably by the end of summer if we wanted to move that quickly. We're prepared to do that. So, with that, I would just ask you to look briefly at the plan so you can see the one desk that we, our dais that we sit at that has the angles on it similar to what we use right now and then you can see the concept we have for all the staff so we would propose that we put the staff all on one side as opposed to splitting it. So here's where I'd like you to start thinking differently than what we've been doing right now, as opposed to just remodeling what we have

up there. The proposal we have would ask you to think about changing the whole room and here's where we're going to go. This would be the center of the space going forward. This is where Mr. Prejna would sit facing this way. This is our concept that we have. To make you think about one of the reasons we decided to do this, if we leave it up there and we remodel it at any level we need to make it ADA compliant. It's really, it's not impossible, but is extremely difficult to accomplish that without going through a lot of hoops. We've investigated kind of redoing what we have right now. Believe it or not we actually can buy new furniture for not much more and have the flexibility of changing things because they're modular. The benefit of modular as we all change and the City changes as time goes on, modular gets you the idea of pulling parts apart and putting new parts in, making it bigger, longer, whatever we want to do. But it gives us a lot more flexibility. When you do hard goods like we have up there, the problem is that's what you have forever. They don't change. You have to rip it all apart to get it changed. So, this is where the center of the new room, this would be the middle of the building right there. Or the middle of our dais going forward, so we would offer that we would put the ideas up off the floor just like it is over there, like 8" to 10", and then proceed from there. We would have large TV monitors, one back over there, one over here, and we would move that large one there into the middle of the room. Obviously whatever plan we do these are going away. So this is all again just in the first phase of it. As we talked before all the walls would be redecorated. We'd get rid of that chair rail. Try to get a continuity in the sense I think Lori and I counted there's five different woods in here, different colors, so we would just like to make it closer to be all one, or at least not five, maybe one or two. The Chief has suggested that we get rid of some of the windows from a security standpoint and we relied on him. He's been through one of these programs over in Elk Grove Village so he has a lot of knowledge, plus he's the only guy in the room that can protect us if we run into trouble and he's the only guy that has something on his belt that could protect us all. I'd like him to see everything, so I think the new setup, so as you stand here the design would be similar to what we have known. You can see it on the plan what we have laid out. The big difference is we would have all of the staff members lined up against that wall over there, starting here and going to the back so they'd probably go back to somewhere where Ginny or Laura's sign is up there. Somewhere in that area. We're going to lay all this out exactly if you guys give us the permission to go forward. But at this point we just kind of wanted to get the general concern out there and see how you feel about it. Okay, a couple of other parts to this, the audio/visual doesn't have to change a lot right now. If we do this Justin has assured us that for a relatively small amount of money we should be able to move the cameras around and make them work functionally in the same way. Some of us would like to get rid of that closet because all it does is hold junk so we might make a small presentation area over there potentially or in the back where people can come in with plans, put their plans up sitting there until their presentation so if the general public wanted to come in and look at them they could do that also. It's just something. We haven't finalized that, but it's an idea. We've also, so let's go back to the top. So if we, the desks, both desks and a new podium would get us, we can do all of it for under \$25,000 installed. All the products we're talking about, Dina picked stuff that's on a State contract right now so it's already been bid out and we got a very, very good price on it. We think we can do all that work for less than \$25,000. Not a lot less, but under \$25,000. In conjunction with that, we do have an option if we wanted to get, I just wanted to show you, when you start doing interior design work, as Dina would tell all of us, here's choices you have for colors, finishes. So these are all laminates. If we wanted to do

wood, we can do that, but it's about \$15,000 more. That would be actual wood veneer. The other part of this is we can include this, remember we asked for \$50,000, so we're at \$25,000 right now. Here's the carpet sample that we're thinking about using. This is what they're using upstairs right now. They just installed it I believe this week, right? Yeah, so it would be the same thing. So we think we can do this for less than \$10,000 for the whole room. So now we're at about \$35,000. Now obviously we have some costs involved with building a new platform for the dais. Fred's guys think they can do the work with taking the windows out and putting new studs in and dry walling it, repainting everything. We just don't know, they're time schedule is a bit difficult because obviously with snow and stuff that's their number one priority, but they're working on the museum now. This would be their next project. So we think we could probably get a lot of the work done by middle spring, redoing everything. So, I think I have a lot of it covered. Did I cover all of it? Is there anything I'm missing? Okay, so you guys get a general idea of what we're doing, guys and girls, excuse me. Anybody have questions?

Mayor Prejna: Questions for clarification I guess? Mine is that first off is that when we we're discussing this last time I thought we were talking about \$10,000 in the beginning.

Alderman Cannon: We were but then we had a straw vote up to \$50,000

Mayor Prejna: I just think that this is, well I'll save my comments.

Alderman Cannon: Okay

Mayor Prejna: Go ahead. Who wants clarification? Ms. Majikes

Alderman Majikes: So just, so \$25,000 and \$10,000. You're just saying \$35,000 max?

Alderman Cannon: Well, no I'm not saying that. I'm saying that's \$35,000 and we don't know what the other things are going to cost because we haven't costed them out. One of the things we didn't want to get too far ahead of the horses here and start doing a lot of work until we get general buy in. If you guys agree that we want to go forward with this, we will get all those numbers locked down and present them to you shortly, but some of these things because our own staff is going to do it, it's a little harder to get. We have to go out and figure out how much would we need and who is going to do the buildout and that. So in the future, like we talked to you before, if we decide to do this we're going to have to do it in phases because there's still things we need to do. We still need to do stuff with the draperies, the ceiling needs to be redone, and lighting in here is pretty poor. Most people would come in here and say this is ancient lighting because it's about 40 years old. A lot of the lighting could be redone and a lot more professional look. I don't know how much that will cost. I have no idea, but that's another phase down the line. We're not worried about that right now.

Alderman Majikes: Okay

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Budmats

Alderman Budmats: What are you planning on doing with those windows over there?

Alderman Cannon: We would probably either put black up stuff, black off of some kind to block them right now. We'll put some kind of shade up at some minimal cost just to get through because we realized they can't have light coming through them during the meeting. Eventually, Nick, the idea would be to replace the draperies, but as you know draperies can get very expensive and we don't know what the best solution is for it yet because we really haven't looked into it.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Banger

Alderman Banger: Thank you. One of my questions, you're talking modular, flexible, but does that also equal moveable, because I know sometimes...

Alderman Cannon: Absolutely

Alderman Banger: Okay, because we also have things in here for blood drives, voting booths, etc.

Alderman Cannon: That's the good thing about it Rob is you can do a lot of different things with it. You're not locked into one section and you can't move it forever. That's the beauty of modular furniture no matter where you have.

Alderman Banger: Okay, so it can literally be picked up, moved to one side if we're going to do something in here.

Alderman Cannon: Yes

Alderman Banger: I guess another question of mine you did mention there's, so there's other phases to this. Is this the first step, in other words should we save the ceiling to the last because it will be easier to do it last, or would it make more sense to redo everything at once. You know what I'm saying?

Alderman Cannon: In a perfect world. It's like remodeling your house. You do two walls and leave two of them blank. Ideally we'd be able to do it all, but I mean the other thing is we do have some restraints about money. I mean none of us wants to spend any more money than we have to, but we also need to get a newer look here. We need to get more professional looking. When you see what other towns have we always compare ourselves to other towns, we really look like we're outside of the game.

Mayor Prejna: Further questions or for clarification?

Alderman Cannon: So I guess what I would ask tonight is to get some kind of a straw vote to see if you're willing to support this going forward. If not, we'll stop it in its tracks right now, but we need to have your support to move on.

Mayor Prejna: My comment to this is as I stated at the last meeting that I feel starting out at \$10,000 simply to spruce it up was fine, but spending this type of money with other things that we have coming out on the table I don't support that. Just putting it out there. This is much more expensive than what we were discussing the first time.

Alderman Gallo: Alderman Cannon, can you walk me through it again. At a high level \$35,000 gets us a relocated dais, relocated position for the staff, flooring, and podium.

Alderman Cannon: Right

Alderman Gallo: No demolition of the closet yet.

Alderman Cannon: Again, those are fair questions. We don't have numbers yet because we'll have to figure out how Finance would want to budget that relative to what we're asking for because I don't know how we do that internally because we would be using our own employees to do that. We've already talked to Fred. He thinks his guys can handle it, but he just can't promise us a timeline because other things that are more important than this, but he can do pieces of it at a time and he thinks he can accomplish most of it by summer, but he can't give me a date. I'm not trying to lock him down on a date either.

Alderman Gallo: Understood, so then having addressed those components that leaves a couple things like windows, maybe ultimately sealing the exterior windows and then sealing the interior glass windows.

Alderman Cannon: Our goal, Mr. Gallo, is to take a couple, the Chief has recommended from a safety standpoint to take some of the windows out. Now that's changed a little bit, but out of those four big ones, a couple of them will be gone for sure. That one there's no need for because no one uses the one over there.

Alderman Gallo: Okay

Alderman Cannon: So at least three of them will be gone as you see them right now, if not more.

Alderman Gallo: Got it. What I'm trying to do is wrap my head around the remaining punch list so I can kind of quantify that in terms of a price value and see where we are from \$35,000 to what we're initially addressing to what the projected cost might be to then move forward down the punch list to see if we stay at \$50,000 or if we're going to be at \$85,000.

Alderman Cannon: Well I think the first phase we'll stay under the \$50,000. It just depends, I have no idea what a new ceiling will cost because I just don't know.

Alderman Gallo: And video equipment relocation.

Alderman Cannon: That's not as major as you think because we talked to Justin about that. He has a pretty good handle on it. It's going to cost something. I don't mean to sound like it's not going to cost anything.

Alderman Gallo: Right

Alderman Cannon: But you're not talking \$20 or \$30,000, something like that. We have relatively new equipment. He gets a new budget for audio/visual every 5 years so he's 3 ½ years into this equipment so a year and a half from now he'll be asking for new equipment, whether we move it or not.

Alderman Gallo: Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: My other question for clarification is what could we do for just \$10,000 if we just did that this year?

Alderman Cannon: Again, not knowing how we would do it. Obviously my first impression is to get rid of the wall back there and I don't know how much, I just don't know how much from a budget standpoint, Mr. Mayor, how much that costs. I'd have to talk to Finance to find out how that would be costed out and the Chief would like to remove a couple of the windows and redecorate the whole thing. Take the chair rail off, so I don't know. I can't answer that question. I can't give you a good number on it.

Mayor Prejna: Ms. Majikes

Alderman Majikes: Sorry if I missed this one, I'm a little foggy, but in the initial \$25,000 with the whole modular changing all there, is that include changing that wall? So that wall would look exactly the same.

Alderman Cannon: No we would redecorate it. We would remove that.

Alderman Majikes: We would just remove all that paneling.

Alderman Cannon: If you guys give us the okay, we will come up with a color scheme. We just don't have that now. Again, I don't want to have Dina running around doing things and then saying we don't know if we're going to do it.

Alderman Majikes: Right

Alderman Cannon: So if you guys say we're going to do it, we'll come back with a color scheme for it that will match the brown rug, whatever.

Alderman Majikes: I just wanted to make sure that I was wrapping my head around the fact that when we change this to the modular, that wall.....

Alderman Cannon: Just so you know that's number one priority is to get rid of that wall.

Alderman Majikes: I remember you said that, okay.

Alderman Cannon: I don't know about you guys, but it just drives me crazy.

Alderman Majikes: I just wanted to make sure I got it right. Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Veenbaas

Alderman Veenbaas: So to what Mr. Gallo was asking, that includes the furniture, right? For the \$35,000

Alderman Cannon: All the furniture. Now no seating, because we never talked about seating, we're not going to talk about seating

Alderman Veenbaas: So when you say seating you're talking about the seating....

Alderman Cannon: The chairs, we'll just use the chairs we have.

Alderman Veenbaas: I get that, and to what Laura's point is that wall is the biggest problem I've got. It just needs to get upgraded.

Alderman Cannon: All that will come off and we'll do it, we just don't know what's underneath. We assume drywall.

Alderman Veenbaas: That's part of the \$35,000, at least to get rid of the wall.

Alderman Cannon: Yeah

Alderman Veenbaas: Right?

Alderman Cannon: Well, I don't know. Again, it depends on how we cost it out. It's a reasonable question you're asking. I understand where you're coming from. I don't know how we cost those things out internally.

Alderman Veenbaas: So from my standpoint, for my vote, it's like I don't mind the modular. I get that. I don't mind using the same furniture, as far as chairs and that. I'd love to see the modular. I think that's what the whole world is going to anyway. And I want that wall taken care of. Just upgrade the place a little bit and then we can work our way through changing windows and all that for what the Chief wants. I think we could almost leave these blinds up.

Alderman Cannon: We'll make it work.

Alderman Veenbaas: I would just be happy to get the modular furniture. We could use the same chairs and get rid of that wall. If you could do that for \$35,000, thereabouts, I don't mind that. I think that's actually pretty good, but I want the wall to be gone. That's all I got.

Mayor Prejna: Any further points of discussion? So, Mr. Cannon, so what are you asking for tonight exactly?

Alderman Cannon: Well everything that I presented. I'd like to be able to....

Mayor Prejna: No, I mean the dollar amount so we're verifying....

Alderman Cannon: \$35,000 plus whatever the internal costs are.

Mayor Prejna: I mean \$35,000 plus....

Alderman Cannon: The internal costs. Again, Len, I don't know how we cost those things out.

Mayor Prejna: I'm looking for a cap.

Alderman Cannon: \$50,000 is what you gave us.

Mayor Prejna: Okay

Alderman Cannon: It will be less than that. I just don't know how much less.

Mayor Prejna: Ok, any further discussion? Mr. Banger

Alderman Banger: I agree with Alderman Veenbaas. I'm perfectly fine with this and the key features that they're talking about, that wall doesn't bug me as much, but I also like the idea of getting rid of the useless closet and the other cosmetic changes so I'm in support of this.

Alderman Cannon: Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Veenbaas, further comments?

Alderman Veenbaas: I'm not going to comment.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, I saw the hand up there.

Alderman Cannon: I've got a couple side things. When we do the remodel we would like to include eventually some accessories for the room like literature holders and some modern looking recycling bins. Not like the ones we have at the curb out there. Things like that. Extra signage in the hallway to get people down here so people aren't lost in the hall figuring out where City Hall Chambers is at. So eventually those are things we'd like to put in. Those aren't

major things. We have a major discussion among us about getting rid of the COW tables and running the COW meetings up front, but we can talk about that at another time.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, any further discussion? So, Mr. Krumstok, do you want to weigh in?

Mr. Krumstok: Nope, I'm just waiting for the straw vote.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, so I gather from Mr. Cannon is asking for a straw vote of \$50,000....

Alderman Cannon: Maximum

Mayor Prejna: So all in favor raise your hands. 2 in favor. Those opposed?

Alderman Gallo: I can't support \$50,000

Mayor Prejna: It fails.

Alderman Majikes: I'm just concerned about growing, growing, outside of the \$50,000.

Mayor Prejna: So

Alderman Majikes: Construction projects balloon.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Cannon there is only two folks....

Alderman Cannon: That's fine. That's a democracy.

Mayor Prejna: At this stage, do you want to come back with a scaled down plan?

Alderman Canon: No, I'm done.

Mayor Prejna: Okay

Alderman Cannon: It's all yours. You guys can design it anyway you want.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, thank you. Mr. Gallo did you have a comment?

Alderman Gallo: No, I'd be willing to work with you.

Alderman Cannon: Fine, you can take it all over.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Gallo, we can discuss afterwards. Thank you.

3) Ambulance Billing

Mayor Prejna: That moves us on to Ambulance Billing.

Mr. Krumstok: Thank you very much Mayor and City Council. Actually then next three items I would make the same statement. Obviously we are always looking for revenues. We're also looking at what our neighbors are doing, but the first one that we're talking about is Ambulance Billing and we do look at this what other municipalities have increased. We have not increased ours over 15 years. We are one of the lowest in the area. We do look at the Medicare, Medicaid items typically with their transports and some of the other incidentals. Obviously with any discussion of revenues we're very concerned about what the State of Illinois is actually doing. They took some of the municipal money last time. They were talking about property tax freeze and that goes back into additional revenue anywhere we can find it is beneficial for the General Fund, specifically, obviously with pensions and general workings and operations, but also we look at this as an opportunity if we can increase our revenues. Hopefully we can also contribute additional money to local roads and into other capital items that we have done in the past and obviously the first item that we have we're talking about Ambulance Billing. We know that certain people look at it differently than we have looked at it over the years. And that's why we really haven't ever touched it in all those years. There's really two components that you talk about. You talk about the transportation and obviously mileage. When you look at what has happened in 2016 and 2017, the number of municipalities that have increased that, and again ours are low, we felt that it's an opportunity to come back to the City Council and have this discussion at this point in time. We do believe the main thing that we see with many municipalities, they are increasing to \$1200, \$1500, and the \$1800 which is the current Medicare/Medicaid reimbursable amount that they are utilizing. As staff, we believe that the \$1500 per transportation is beneficial for the City. We also feel that that's in par with some of our neighbors at this point in time. When you look at the analysis that Andre actually did for us, and we do have a representative over here, that \$1500 is around that number that most is in that halfway point, so we feel comfortable with that point in time. We caution the City Council with this discussion. Obviously the numbers that we talk about are for a full year and that also depends on how many runs we have and how many transports we have, so again it's a revenue generator that we do see that municipalities have been increasing over the years. We believe that it's time for the City of Rolling Meadows to increase this at this point in time. If the council does support us, and obviously before I bring up the Chief and Deputy Chief and obviously Finance Director Melissa Gallagher, we just want people to know that if there are additional questions, that's why we do have a lot of staff here, our recommendation is moving it up to the \$1500 per transport. That additional revenue we hope will help us in the 2018 budget, but then when we generate that money we will look for the 2019 to utilize that money in 2019 for some of the other pieces, but also some of the other capital items that we have coming up. And this also goes back with the other two discussions that we're having. We're always looking at local roads, when can we actually increase or when can we put more money into it and that's something that we do look at with this increase in General Fund hopefully we can siphon some of that, not the best word for that, but reallocate some of that money back into specifically local roads and then take some pressure off some those other pieces. I would love to tell you that I have a magic wand that I can find \$500,000 for General Fund, \$500,000 for Local Roads, \$500,000 for other Capital

items, but I don't. I think that this is a discussion for a long time, but at the same point in time if you feel comfortable at the straw vote, it does take an ordinance. After 1st Reading and 2nd Reading, if ordinance does pass, Andres would be able to institute the new amounts and hopefully by March we would start receiving this additional revenue. So with that I do bring up Chief Valentino and obviously Finance Director Melissa Gallagher if they would like to give additional pieces and when we did reach out to the private sector they're typically running about \$2300 to \$3000 a run.

Ms. Gallagher: Thank you Mr. Krumstok. Just to echo, just a couple of points, we certainly are looking at pieces as we build for the 2019 budget year and I think it's really important to understand that we are looking to diversify in the General Fund in particular, but also make sure that we're looking ahead to things such as Local Roads. Our commitment to improving our roads, this diversification is a key one. It is something that other municipalities are doing at this point in time. It is also something that is a recovery effort, and we're going to hand it over in a minute to Andres Medical Billing, Pat Maddux, in just a moment, but it is something that is extremely important to look at our diversity of revenue stream and then also to make sure that we're recovering things that are also out there and be in line with industry standards. So I'm going to kick it off and turn it over to Chief Valentino to say a few words before we introduce Pat.

Chief Valentino: So the overall impact fire wise is negligible. This is truly a financial impact. It's seizing an opportunity for revenue based on our fee. I need you to understand that the fee here is directly related to transports and not where we would just go to help someone, bandage their arm, and take care of things, so this is more or less a user fee and it is not tax. There is zero impact on taxpayers. This is not a tax hike. This has nothing to do with taxes. It's a user, when someone calls 911, we transport them, there's a fixed fee for residents, non-residents, adjust for a simple transport. All the associated training, capital outlays for ambulances for training, is fixed on a given year and we budget for that, so this is an opportunity to capture money from typically the PPO payers and Mr. Maddux can explain that in detail on how we can capture that. Its either going in our General Revenue pocket, or into the insurance companies. So I'll turn it over to Pat Maddux from Andres Billing. We have a contract with Andres Medical Billing. They can do all of our medical billing.

Pat Maddux, Andres Medical Billing: Good evening. We've been working with the City for about 12 years now in the ambulance billing space. We annually get together, at least annually, with Finance and Fire and talk about industry trends, standards, cost of services, things of that nature and as they both spoke. This was an option that a lot of our services have taken upon themselves. The cost of services have escalated over time and the City was far, far below the reasonable, customary standards that a lot of payers would pay out for these types of services. So we put together a couple of forecast options, talked about again what's going on in healthcare. The Affordable Care Act, things of that nature, and it seemed like a good time to present the revenue stream that the City really hasn't realized since we started working for you folks way back when. So, if anybody has any specific questions about how ambulance billing works, I'd certainly be willing to answer any questions.

Mayor Prejna: Yes, I have a couple. I'm sorry, the firefighters at the station house are probably chuckling because they've been to our house so many times. You take assignment, basically when we send out a bill, so if you're charging \$1500 for transport, but the insurance company only pays \$1200, you still take the assignment so there's no extra billing to the resident.

Mr. Maddux: Correct. Those parameters are set up by the City and so how the follow-up typically in a scenario like this, there'd be zero out of pocket expense for residents. Their tax dollars they pay to fund the services would be considered 100% payment. Non-resident events you'd have to follow the parameters of the policies so Medicare pays a certain amount, public aide pays a certain amount, but in the set up that we've talked about with Fire and Finance that there'd be zero out of pocket expenses for City residents.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, any other questions for clarification before we move on to discussion? Mr. Gallo

Alderman Gallo: What allows for the medical billing to charge a higher rate to the insurance companies or to Medicaid?

Mr. Maddux: You're charging the same rate. It's just certain payers have certain contractual obligations. The State Medicaid program pay a certain amount for certain levels of care. Medicare is a Federal payer so they'll pay deemed on what the Federal rates are, but insurance companies don't have reasonable and customary fees based on certain level of care. Every provider is different, so it's again just looking at what insurance companies would potentially pay and again looking at the cost to provide the services, those things all come into play, but again as your billing vendor I wouldn't have a suggested rate one way or the other. Our job is to show you what's happening with your neighbors. It's certainly becoming a practice to really look at the overall cost to provide the service and generate as much revenue as possible.

Alderman Gallo: Okay, so it sounds more like it's a because you can, you will type of model, right? Because you can receive that type of revenue, you will bill to that capacity.

Mr. Maddux: Correct

Alderman Gallo: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Any other? Mr. Cannon

Alderman Cannon: So could you tell me, say you had an accident here and the person lived out of town and they had private insurance. How much would that person get charged?

Mr. Maddux: Every policy is different so the charge would be the same. It would be the \$1500 amount that was proposed.

Alderman Cannon: And then we, meaning you, would just accept whatever the insurance company pays. Then it would be paid in full?

Mr. Maddux: For residents

Alderman Cannon: How about people who aren't residents?

Mr. Maddux: Again those policy parameters would be in place so if their policy was 80/20, then the person would be responsible for the 20%.

Mr. Krumstok: So typically, Alderman Cannon, what happens is in your scenario, someone is in an accident, we transport over. A bill is sent so let's use right now the hypothetical recommendation of \$1500. We bill the \$1500. The insurance company pays let's say \$1400 so that extra \$100 typically Andres will come back to the Chief and say we only got partial payment. What would you like us to do? So they come back to the City and specifically say do you want us to charge the individual? Do you want us to write it off? But if they don't get their full payment they're coming back to the City and asking what would you like us to do.

Alderman Cannon: Okay, so I'm a little bit confused. So are we going to ask for \$1200 to transport or are you asking us to pick one of the three?

Mr. Krumstok: We gave you the most scenarios, the \$1200, the \$1500, and the \$1800. \$1500.00 is our recommendation to go up to.

Alderman Cannon: Okay and then how does that compare to Palatine?

Mr. Krumstok: Palatine actually just increased theirs. They do it a little bit, but they did it two pronged because they did it for the transport fee and their mileage fee, so they increased their mileage fee considerably. We're not talking about doing that. We're just doing the transport and if I remember correctly it was either a thousand or twelve.

Mr. Maddux: We do 240 customers. It's hard to keep....

Alderman Cannon: Oh no, that's why I didn't ask you. I wouldn't expect you to know. My daughter got transported from Palatine last year, or not last year, in '16 because she broke her arm really bad and they charged us \$900 and then the insurance company paid part of that, but not all of it. They just left the rest of it go.

Mr. Krumstok: Right, and that's their parameters. Every time you use, set up a vendor, it's all parameters that are, so whatever they get, now they went back to Palatine and said would you write it off and their parameter was obviously yes. The other thing is to understand is whatever we charge, so specifically let's use the hypothetical, the \$1500 that you increase it to, which is staff recommendation, Palatine comes in here and they do a transport, they have to charge our rates so they can't be doing, so Arlington Heights, which already increased their rates higher than ours, if they do a transport from Rolling Meadows they have to do the Rolling Meadows rate, so if we're in Palatine we're using the Palatine rate or the Arlington Heights rate if we're doing a transport from their areas.

Alderman Canon: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Any other, Mr. Budmats

Alderman Budmats: What percentage of the transports are paid for with Medicare and what could private insurance?

Mr. Maddux: The payer makes a somewhat 50% will be Medicare and public aide, about 35% would be private insurance and then the remaining would be Workmen's Comp or uninsured folks. I have all the statistics. I just don't have them with me.

Alderman Budmats: Thank you. That's it.

Mayor Prejna: Any other questions? So there's three recommendations so just so we're clarifying are that any further questions on the staff recommendations for the three options? Okay, seeing none is the City Council comfortable with moving ahead for the staff recommendation of generating an additional \$350,000. Let's take a straw vote. Raise your hand. One, two, three, four. Opposed? Four went forward and three others didn't vote. Okay, so that being the case is there support to moving ahead to draft an ordinance. Straw poll? One, two, three, four. You have direction from council.

4) Revenue Discussion

a) Natural Gas Tax

Mayor Prejna: Mr. Krumstok, Natural Gas Tax

Mr. Krumstok: Obviously as we said the next two are sort of related, but let's start with the first one which is Natural Gas Tax. Obviously Finance Director Melissa Gallagher is going to stay for this one, but we've had this discussion in the past when we did the Electric Tax, but also part of the discussion revolves that many more municipalities are starting to use Natural Gas for their Local Road Fund. Specifically I can use the example of Hoffman Estates when they started needing more money that's one of their, they did some bonding, they did the Natural Gas, they did some other pieces too, put it in place with some of their other pieces. We do look at again with what's going on with the State with even MFT overall and some of the other pieces. This is another discussion that we have to talk about with the City Council, but also having the discussion about what some of our other neighbors are, and that is 4 to 5 cents and we're recommending the 5 cents per therm Natural Gas be put in place, but again it all goes back into what range does the council actually feel about this, but also how it's actually calculated and for most typical residents, between \$20 and \$50 annually based on that 4 cent to 5 cent per therm, but again when we go through the presentation before I actually turn it over to Finance Director Melissa Gallagher, we just would like to know if you want us to continue with it. If there is support then we do need to draft the ordinance. It does take Nicor a little more time to

implement this. Typically they tell us 4 to 6 months once we are in process to do this. So this would be something that we would see some money potentially in 2018, but it's really setting up for that 2019. With that I turn that over to Financial Director Melissa Gallagher.

Ms. Gallagher: Thank you Mr. Krumstok. Tonight on Natural Gas, again it continues the revenue discussion and revenue diversification and it gets very clear right now that we have some external pressures from the State of Illinois in terms of revenue and I think it's something that we need to look at closely and be very financially prudent thinking about it going forward. We obviously want to keep our commitment to Local Road funding and pension funding and other commitments out there. With the fact that we've got State pressures coming up we want to start the process and look at this in 2018 and then also continue the revenue discussion in 2019. We're not only looking at this type of revenue stream but looking at other things such as building permits, business licenses, and other kinds of things that will generate revenue particularly to the General Fund, but also to support our Capital commitments. Right now we look back to 2009, the Electric Utility Tax was something that was implemented and generates 1.3 million dollars into the General Fund annually. It is something that is always coupled with the Natural Gas Tax. At the time of 2009 that was decided not to move ahead with a Natural Gas Tax, but certainly when you look at the research from other municipalities they've always coupled it. Where you've had an Electric Utility Tax with a Natural Gas Tax, because they go hand in hand, generally 1.3 million dollars is generated. It is an electronic revenue meaning it's an extremely effective revenue to the City. It takes Finance not very long to get the payment in and to reconcile it. I'm going to give just an example and some feedback on Vehicle Stickers in general just because it is something that Alderman Budmats had mentioned. He wanted to look at and discuss with the City Council. When we look at vehicle stickers it is the month of June that they're renewed. They are renewed throughout the year, or purchased throughout the year. We do have a late purchase period in September as well. So it's not just the month of June. It is throughout the year. It is a very hectic busy time at the front counter. I know many of you I see you at the front counter purchasing your vehicle stickers so you know how the lines are. You know how the calls are, the emails coming in. It's a very hectic time. What we consider a very inefficient tax, many municipalities are getting away from vehicle stickers for the fact that it is inefficient. It takes staff hours and hours to prepare and then also in the entire month of June your entire processing is all pretty much you're doing that plus your additional work. Why I mention its inefficient is that you also have to spend a certain amount to achieve that certain amount, so we budget \$500,000, it takes about \$100,000 when you net all the expenses out, we're at about a \$400,000 revenue stream to the Local Road Fund. I do mention that because there are the expenses, postage, also the Police Department expenses, ticketing, there are many other things included in there. And we're just mentioning that just to set the table for the discussion process. Whether or not that's something that's decided on or it's just some, as far as a replacement of Vehicle Stickers with a Natural Gas Tax or maybe some other type of revenue. Just thoughts to consider because it is a very inefficient tax. There are many residents that are very, they're not very happy to purchase their vehicle sticker. Let's put it that way. Again, when we did the research from the NWMC and other surveys that we've done, municipalities have not only again coupled it with their Electric Utility Tax, but they've also replaced vehicle stickers. Mr. Krumstok mentioned Hoffman Estates. I speak with the Finance Director every now and then over there. He mentioned that the Natural Gas Tax is extremely efficient. It's similar to the

Electric Utility Tax that you receive your revenue electronically and you reconcile and that's it. They do dedicate that for roads in Hoffman Estates and it has helped them tremendously. As we've mentioned therm use is about 1 cent per therm. It generates about \$100,000 annually to the General, would be to the General Fund if approved. Right now when we look at our bills it can vary, of course, but if you use an average home, let's say about a 1,000 therms per year, somewhere about a 28 to \$50.00 annual expense for this tax to a resident. Just typical, just kind of doing some averages. What we're looking at, again, is to achieve revenue stability, particularly for the General Fund, but also to generate additional revenue enhancements for roads and other areas. So we're looking at this for revenue discussion and what we will continue to look at other resources and revenues as well, not just the Natural Gas Tax. So at this point we did want to share our recommendation with a 4 to 5 cent per therm Natural Gas Tax that would generate approximately \$400 to \$500,000. Again, its council's decision, but it's something that we could look at together and continue the discussion for the 2019 budget. But our goal would be to approve it for 2018, begin the tax, it does take about 4 to 6 months thereabouts for Nicor to implement and then we can continue the discussion for 2019, but that's staff's recommendation. Thank you Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you Melissa. Questions for clarification of what Melissa presented? Mr. D'Astice

Alderman D'Astice: What is the average cost to a resident for vehicle stickers right now?

Mr. Krumstok: I think average again most people are doing that two vehicles, so for non-senior you're talking about 60 to 70 dollars depending on when they walk in, but \$60 is a good number.

Alderman D'Astice: And how many residents have one car and how many residents have more than one card. I don't think you'll have that number, but I'd like to know that answer before I make a decision one way or another. If 50% have one car, and 50% have more than one car, people are going to be paying a lot more money. My next question is you said based on a 1,000 therms, it charges \$20 to \$50.00. Why is that and can we find out therm usage currently so we can get a better number?

Ms. Gallagher: We sure can. That was just off of actually I used my bill as an example, but we can....

Alderman D'Astice: If I could get the number.

Ms. Gallagher: Sure

Alderman D'Astice: And are you proposing this in lieu of and getting rid of vehicle stickers or is this going to be an addition to vehicle stickers?

Ms. Gallagher: Our thought process, Mr. D'Astice, was to implement, to begin in 2018 with the process of going through to the General Fund as a credit and to look and discuss, continue the discussion with the City Council for the 2019 budget. Whether or not it is an option to replace

vehicle stickers, or continue it for some other dedicated source like Local Roads, or perhaps keep a split, but it's certainly City Council's decision, but at this point it would be to start it in 2018 and continue to 2019 with the thought process of maybe replacing vehicle stickers with that Tax.

Alderman D'Astice: And then my final question at this point is, and you sort of answered it but didn't, if we do something like this, which I'm not in favor of it at this point, are we going to dedicate this extra money to Road Funds because if you, right now all the vehicle sticker money goes to Road Funds. If we eliminate vehicle stickers and you're anticipating this to generate as much as stickers do, then this money should theoretically be dedicated exclusively to Road Fund.

Ms. Gallagher: Yes

Alderman D'Astice: And not General Fund.

Mayor Prejna: That would be the direction of the Council.

Ms. Gallagher: Yes

Alderman D'Astice: Well I just heard General Fund.

Mayor Prejna: Right, but the council can determine where they want, General Fund or if they want it to go into Road Fund.

Alderman D'Astice: So, I'm not prepared to make any decisions or make any votes tonight other than to the negative because we don't have enough information at this point as far as I'm concerned.

Mayor Prejna: Anything else Mr. D'Astice?

Alderman D'Astice: Not at this time.

Mayor Prejna: Okay, thank you. Anybody else? Mr. Cannon

Alderman Cannon: Thank you Mr. Mayor. We have talked about this in the past. I'm not real excited about it. That doesn't necessarily mean I'm against it. I guess the other comment I would make because of the discussion we're having, I've been on the council for six years and every year we have discussion about stickers at some level. As a City we, from my perspective, we've done little to make ourselves more efficient in destruction of stickers and I think there's a number of things that we've talked about in the past that we just refuse to implement and I would really ask us to strongly look at that until we decide to get rid of them. You go up to Wisconsin, you can go into most grocery stores and they have a nice little kiosk right there. You put your card in and it pushes out a sticker for you. No one even touches the thing. The other thing we could do is stop the mad rush in June. If you do them by mail you get them at the same price. If you walk in it costs you an extra \$5.00 or something like that. It doesn't have to be that, but we just continue to do it the same way and I can appreciate the fact that staff gets overwhelmed in

June, but let's do something to change that then. We're going to have them for at least this next June. Do something different. If you don't like my idea, I'm fine with that. Just do something different though. Don't keep on doing it the same way and experience all that frustration and have all the employees angry because of the stuff they've got to do. Or split it somehow where you do part of the City one month and the other part of the City the other month, but do something different is all I'm asking. Ask you to at least consider anyhow. Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you Mr. Cannon. Mr. Banger

Alderman Banger: Thank you, Mayor. This kind of turned into a vehicle sticker discussion. I agree with everything Alderman Cannon said about trying to streamline the process and take out staff members from the actual, physical distribution of those. I was thinking back to when tollway doubled their tolls. If you had an I-PASS they stayed the same though. So, there's more to be said about that and this isn't the topic. The topic of this Natural Gas Tax doesn't excite me just because I'm comfortable with the vehicle stickers. That's truly a use tax. If you have a car and you're on the roads, you're using the road, wear and tear, etc., etc., and you're paying that. Natural Gas is just a vehicle of ginning up more money and I understand what we're getting at. We're trying to build up our income. The argument that we need to be ahead of the State doesn't work with me just because the State's so erratic. I don't want to try to anticipate the craziness that comes out of Springfield so on some level I'm just not worried about what they're going to do because if you do stay up late at night worrying about what's Springfield's going to do, well you'd never go to sleep. So that just doesn't get me anywhere. That being said I'm just not a fan of the Natural Gas Tax at this point. I think if the State did something crazy we could react. It is nice to know that a reaction time would be padded by 4 to 6 months as Ms. Gallagher said and because it takes time for the utility to set this up for the City, so I am glad she mentioned that. It's something I'll consider down the road. But at this point I'm not going to be in favor of this. Thank you.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you. Any other comments or discussion on the topic? Mr. Budmats

Alderman Budmats: The reason why I would be in support of this tax instead of the Wheel Tax and it would only be instead of the Wheel Tax and not an addition to the Wheel Tax, is that there are many people who come into Rolling Meadows, use our roads every day and pay nothing on a Wheel Tax. They come into office buildings, wherever, drive off of the tollway, and unless they buy the odd tank of gas at a Rolling Meadows gas station, they pay nothing for our roads, but they all enjoy the warmth provided by the building that they're working in and therefore whoever is paying to heat that building would in fact pay a portion of that money in tax to us that we would then be able to repair those roads with, so I think that it would distribute the tax burden up across all of the users of the road equally and not just the citizens who happen to house their vehicles in garages in this town. So I think that it's a fairer tax. I did a bit of investigation. The average house on Grouse would pay about \$37.00 a year for this tax and if they have one vehicle they're paying \$30 now. If they have two, they're paying \$60.00. So most people have two vehicles. Chances are they are going to save money by this. Obviously it's going to cost business owners more, large business owners. Smaller business owners not so much. I did this with my own private business. I figured it out in Schaumburg. Based on the number of vehicles

that I have in Schaumburg, if I were to pay it I would pay less than paying the stickers. So even with an industrial building is a large amount of gas to heat a larger space, it would still be a savings. It would be a savings in my own house as well. So I really think that it would be a net savings to the average user in the City and it would be a much more efficient way to collect \$500,000 rather than spending a \$100,000 to collect \$500,000. It's a terrible burden to place on police officers to become revenue agents at that point. They have a negative impact and a negative view when they're looked at by the community because everybody looks at a police officer as a guy who's there to collect money on behalf of the system rather than a friend who's there to help when they need help, or to solve a problem. That's it.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you. Further discussion?

Ms. Gallagher: If I could just interject, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Prejna: Yes, go ahead.

Ms. Gallagher: We could, I know we have several council discussion items here. We could bring back information to the City Council to address Alderman D'Astice questions and information to get data back to the City Council for further discussion.

Mayor Prejna: You read my mind because Mr. D'Astice bought up several good points tonight and he had several questions. Mr. Budmats has bought up some information so we'll ask for a straw vote for staff to come back with more information based on the questions that are here tonight and any questions that any of the aldermen may have, so just a straw vote for more information from staff on the subject. Oaky, that's unanimous. Thank you. Yes?

Alderman Banger: I do have a question. If we were to abide by the condition to drop one if we enact another I'd want to know what the timeline of what a convenient timeline to discontinue vehicle stickers would be.

Alderman D'Astice: I agree

Mr. Krumstok: I think what we're trying to say is if we did it now, 2019 there would be no stickers. So right now no matter what 2018 we're still doing vehicle stickers. So your timeline is again whenever you make that decision before the 6 months for that to be implemented and then 2019 if you're saying that flat out then there would be nothing so you can make the announcement hopefully in that budget process of what you're doing.

Alderman Budmats: And based on the fact that it takes 3 to 6 months for this to ramp up, if we approve this in the first or the second quarter of the year, there's very limited effect in the summer months. Nobody's heating their houses in the summer, so it won't really become an issue until December.

Mayor Prejna: And then one other thought is Mr. D'Astice wanted to make sure it got funded to roads, correct, so maybe and the point I want to make is that when you come back with the information show how that would affect the Road Fund based on this revenue.

Mr. Krumstok: That's all part of this because it did ask number of cars, household, the term term usage, and dedication that we understand this budget.

Mayor Prejna: Correct, I just want to make sure his points were covered. Thank you.

Ms. Gallagher: Thank you.

b) Video Gaming

Mayor Prejna: This brings us to video gambling, Mr.....

Alderman D'Astice: Mr. Mayor, if I may. I'd like to ask that we postpone the conversation on Video Gaming. It's come to my attention that several businesses in the City have bought this subject up to the Chamber of Commerce and that the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce will be reviewing this and having discussion on this exact subject next week on the 23rd and maybe coming to City Council with either a recommendation or not coming to City Council at all, so I think it's premature for the City at this point in time to make a decision on this before we've heard from what several businesses and the Board of Directors of the Chamber are interested in. I believe that we need to support our business. I've had several, several means more than two but less than five, businesses contact me about this over the last so many years and I know our City Manager has had inquiries about this from potential restaurants and/or lounges, or restaurant lounges over the last so many years so I would respectfully request we pull this until we hear the recommendation or no recommendation from the Chamber of Commerce because I believe that we need to support our businesses and if they come back saying they need help or this is a possibility, then I think we look at it in a different light, but I'm respectfully requesting that we pull it.

Mayor Prejna: A motion to postpone. Is there a second.

Alderman D'Astice: I don't think there's a motion at a COW meeting, but take a straw vote to postpone it.

Mayor Prejna: A straw vote to postpone it to the Cow meeting in February.

Alderman D'Astice: Correct

Mayor Prejna: All in favor raise your hand. Thank you, seven.

5) EAB Final Report

Mayor Prejna: Okay, moving on to the EAB Report. I see Fred sprinting up here.

Mr. Krumstok: Thank you Mayor. As he walks up to the thing, obviously this is an item that we've been talking about for years. Last time that I get to say the little buggers really cost the City of Rolling Meadows, as well as other municipalities in the area, but we want to give you final results on the Emerald Ash Borer. What did it actually do to the City of Rolling Meadows? How much money was actually spent? This is a follow-up as we committed to City Councils in the past, what we've done and where we sit. Obviously there are a few that we're still treating, but with that that's my quick intro on Emerald Ash Borer.

Mr. Veenbaas left at 8:48pm.

Mr. Veenbaas returned at 8:49pm.

Mr. Vogt: Thank you Barry. This is primarily a statistical report, both on Emerald Ash Borer and on our tree maintenance needs and projections. In summary through the end of 2017 the Emerald Ash Borer removal of approximately 2,000 Ash trees, which is about 20% of the City's parkway trees. That started in 2011. The forestry crew in Public Works removed about 1,050 trees, contract crews 750 trees. The total costs as we calculated, and these aren't audited by any means, but just in terms of using our labor man-hour reports, about a \$1,100,000 in in-house Public Works costs. \$750,000 in equipment costs that we charged to ourselves. \$103,000 in disposal fees, treatment costs, which are the roughly 35 trees that we treat downtown and the stump grinder removal. For contractual tree removals it was just under \$450,000 and then similar \$450,000 in contractual tree planting costs over the last six years. We did replace the 1800 removals with about 2100 replacements. That number is larger because in some parkways it was warranted to put two trees in rather than one because there was either a large gap or a tree that had been removed earlier. A number of different reasons why that number is higher. We also planted smaller trees. That was decided on several years ago to save money to use 1 1/2" trees rather than the 2 1/2" trees that we used prior to that. So are there any questions in regards to the Emerald Ash Borer program as we wrap that up. We still estimate that there's probably about a hundred trees in the City parkways and certainly numerous Ash trees in residential back yards that we're not responsible for, but the 100 roughly that we are responsible for we'll keep an eye on those. Residents have chosen in some locations to treat them themselves. If they continue to do that at least what we've seen here and in other communities is that it is affective and has retarded the disease. They've been very successful. We've only lost I believe maybe two or three of our trees in the downtown parkway areas that were treated and still have about 35 of them that are still doing quite well at this time.

Mayor Prejna: Does anyone have any questions for clarification. Mr. Banger

Alderman Banger: Thank you Mayor. Fred, this is a great report. Thank you. I remember when I first got on council this was a big deal because number one we were quite poor at the time and

this was the last thing we needed to spend extra money and you convinced us of the sense of urgency so we I think reluctantly spent the money. I remember I lost a vote because I felt bad that we were replacing these trees with 1" whips rather than the much more expensive 2" trees and I just remember those 1" trees looked like Charlie Brown's Christmas tree, but it was one of the best losses I think. I got creamed on the vote I remember, but you later came back and told us that the 1" trees actually grew faster than the 2" trees because you're taking a larger tree and it stunts its growth for a while before it takes off and the 1" trees had no such problems and they took off, so again great report and this was painful and it has been painful for the last several years, but it's something we had to tackle and its hopefully over now. I also wanted to thank I think its Graham who's our tree guy for having that list of different species because now instead of doing all Elms like they did back in the day before Dutch Elm Disease wiped those out, which were replaced by Ash trees which got wiped out by Barry's little buggers, I would suggest if possible for tree nerds out there who want to I think upgrade their parkway trees if we could have a tiled page on our Public Works website that says this is this tree, this is a Ginkgo tree, this is a such and such. I've been passing trees on the parkway that I like the look of them. I would like one myself. I'm not a tree guy so I don't know what it is so it would be nice if the species that we offer are represented with a picture of an actual mature tree with maybe an inset of a leaf. Just a suggestion, but it's great what we've done and when these whips grow up in 15, 20 years I think it's going to be, the diversity is going to be amazing and we won't have this problem with pests or diseases again, now that we've diversified. Thank you.

Mr. Vogt: We are providing roughly 20 different species for residents to choose. And again it's always subject to availability, but we've discussed putting those out there. We've certainly provided that to residents that had to pick from trees and antidotally I have a few residents come in to Public Works over the years and it was like the most difficult decision in their life to try to decide what type of tree they wanted. Sometimes it might be that there's too many choices, but that's what we provide and we do that for a reason to try to diversity the forest and avoid this type of situation from killing that percentage of trees, roughly 20%.

Mr. Krumstok: And I would also make the comment, I guess it's more of a self-plug for the City of Rolling Meadows. We do have a 50/50 program that anybody can really sign up on their parkway trees too.

Mr. Vogt: For a large tree if they so desire, but yeah I had to see it to believe it myself, but the smaller trees certainly after two or three years were right where the large 2, 2 1/2" would have been, so it took a few more years, but I think its been overall satisfactory to the majority of residents.

Mayor Prejna: Mr. D'Astice

Alderman D'Astice: Thank you. Fred, great report, but I'm looking at it a little differently saying now that this is done and we have spent by my looks here about \$3,000,000, are we going to save that moving ahead or are we spending it on something different? We've spent \$450,000 on tree planting. I know we don't spend that every year now and this is over the course of 3 or 4 years I believe. You've got a million dollars in labor costs. So that means something wasn't

getting done, so what more can we do moving forward? Like I said, I just look at it differently. I don't, it's not like I'm expecting answers from you right how other than there's a whole lot of money we spent on this one thing. How are we going to create action plans for us to capitalize on this moving forward?

Mr. Krumstok: And part of that we can say is some of that was now reallocation because we stopped some of our other tree trimming and pruning and some of our other pieces. We're now coming back into that. Part of that was reallocation back into some of the pension programs, but there have been some reallocations that we've had to do because we deferred a bunch and now we're coming back onto a normal standards. That's my quick answer and I know Fred is shaking his head. He has more.

Mr. Vogt: Yeah, Barry's correct from a Public Works operations standpoint that we did defer and not trim as many trees over the last several years as we would have otherwise recommended or liked to. Some of that we're proposing in the rest of this report to get back doing that to supplement the contractual work in trimming trees. We also have to point out that all those trees that we planted to replace the City forester points out to me that yeah we can't just let them be for 5, 10 years. That we need to do what he calls training pruning on them to get them to grow properly, so Public Works staff will take a lot more active role in that in addition to picking up with our what we call block trimming or the tree trimming that is scheduled work on our part and we hope to increase that scheduled trimming, block trimming. We will be able to cut back on the resident request for trimming because we've seen up to 500 requests from residents just throughout the City, gee I've got a limb that's hanging over the sidewalk or my driveway, or I just want a trim. If we can get into a five year cycle we think we can certainly be much more efficient by minimizing the requests.

Mayor Prejna: Thank you. Any further discussion, questions? Well, after all is said and done, do I have a motion to adjourn? Alderman Banger made the motion and it was seconded. All in favor? We're out of here.

Mr. Vogt: Thank you.

Adjourned at 8:57pm.