

**SPECIAL AND CONTACT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2017**

The Special and Contact Committee met Monday, September 11, 2017. At 6:15 PM in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre.

In attendance were Special and Contact Committee Members, Chairman Mr. Kelly Ricklic, Mrs. Aimee May, Mrs. Cheryl Ramos.

Guests were Mayor Joel Day, President of Council Sam Hitchcock, Council Clerk Julie Courtright, Safety Director Greg Popham, Service Director Ron McAbier, Treasurer Tom Gerber, Auditor Beth Gundy, Councilperson Darrin Lautenschleger, Councilperson John Zucal, and Councilperson Dean Holland.

The Special & Contact Committee had a brief meeting at 6:15 PM in Council Chambers in regard to: The Attorney General's Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement for Municipal Court.

Chairman Ricklic made the following comment:

I spoke to Julie Stamets and she has reviewed the entire packet. She agrees that's a very good thing for them so they can collect some of their debt. What she has told me is they would like to get it approved as soon as possible so they can get their training and everything together and their paperwork, so as soon as tax returns are available they are able to put liens on those so they can get their money first. So, that is what she has expressed to me if we could pass it so they can have it for the end of the year and get anything going that would put them ahead in collecting some of their revenue.

Mrs. Ramos made the following statement:

Just to clarify, this is for debts to the court, not income tax debt to the City.

Chairman Ricklic made the following comment:

Under what Julie spoke to me, and what I've read, I agree it is a debt to the court. The Municipal Court purpose at collecting delinquent fines, court costs, and judgement claims as assigned by the New Philadelphia Municipal Court. So, if somebody would take something to Municipal Court and it'd be for the City, it would be.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

So that's where they're taking the delinquent tax things that Marvin is prosecuting, correct?

Chairman Ricklic made the following comment:

Yes.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

So he still has to do his piece, and it won't be turned over to the Attorney General.

Mayor Day had the following comment:

The Income Tax Administrator pursues their own cases. This is the other court cases.

Chairman Ricklic had the following comment:

Right, it allows them to get their funds however they can, attach wages, refunds from the State taxes. The sooner we pass it the sooner they're allowed to use the tool to collect the debt. The Attorney General is the one who put the program together.

Mrs. Ramos had the following comment:

They get 10% of the proceeds. The other thing I asked about, it said the venue would be in Franklin County, of course we know that's where Columbus is, to tri all these cases. I wonder if that would be a hardship for people to get to Franklin County.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

If I get a speeding ticket I have to appear in the area where I was sited. That's just part of the deal.

Mrs. Ramos had the following comment:

Somehow they're agreeing here and there's also an agreement attached to the Capital Recovery Systems. I read in here where then the Attorney General can farm that out to a third party. So this must be the third party.

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

Yes, it's no different than the City doing a third party.

Mayor Day had the following comment:

These are just matters prosecuted in the court. Anything from civil judgements, traffic, if you're arrested by the police department and the judge finds a judgment against you, you don't pay your fine then this program would kick in.

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

Correct, and help locate them, because they leave town.

President of New Philadelphia City Council Sam Hitchcock had the following question for Mayor Day:

Are delinquent taxes pursued through the court system?

Mayor Day had the following comment:

They are. The way this was explained to me by Judy Dzigiel, this is for cases outside of income tax. Income tax now, the court's working with them to garnish wages and using the other traditional means of collecting debt. It could be income tax may also go contact the Attorney General to have a separate agreement with them to do the same thing. Right now these are cases outside of income tax.

Mr. Lautenschleger had the following question for Mr. Ricklic:

A few years ago, Council either approved or reviewed a request by the court to utilize a third party vendor to do these collections. They were having a great success rate. They were very pleased. Maybe this is a better deal, I can't remember the percentage we're paying out of the fine collection but they were real happy with that. This is the one from 2012.

Mayor Day had the following statement for Mr. Ricklic:

You don't have to act on this tonight. If you want to invite Ms. Dzigiel to speak to the Committee.

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

We can put it on the Agenda to pass on 2nd Reading.

Mrs. May had the following comment:

I feel more comfortable answering our questions first before we go approving something.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

My concern is that we're easing into the State controlling all of our revenues and everyone of us has talked about the fact that we don't support that, but the State has chosen to move forward with that. Does this in any manner assist the State in doing this?

Mayor Day had the following comment:

Not in income tax collection but collecting fines.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

I understand that, but recognizing that at some point there will be a redistribution but we will know they don't redistribute fairly.

Mayor Day had the following comment:

This is money due to our court. So anything they collect should come back to us.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

So the 10 percent is the only thing that we're looking at from something that we might have come back to our community.

Mayor Day had the following comment:

Correct.

Mrs. Ramos had the following comment:

So now we've got a middle man that we didn't have in 2012, the Attorney General's office. Is there a way just to do a direct contract with Capital Recovery like we did in the past?

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

That's where Julie Stamets and Judee Dzigiel both said they reviewed it and they feel this is best. So if you want to hear from them we could invite them. I'll agree to that. Law Director Fete should be here. Let's just hold it for next meeting. I'll have another meeting. The second item is we have 3 liquor permits. The first one is the Family Dollar Store of Ohio on 566 Wabash Avenue, the second one is Aramark Education Service which is Kent State University the Performing Arts Center, the final one is Bud and Tooties Mathew J. Smith. He is a transfer, Kent State's is a transfer, Family Dollar Store is a new. I spoke with the Police Chief today and he has no problem with any of those three being passed or approved by Council tonight. Do any of the Committee members have a question or concern?

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

Bud and Tooties has been selling liquor for as long as I lived here. Is this a different location?

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

It's the same location. It's just one owner sold the business from B2 Management LLC to Mathew J. Smith DBA Bud and Tooties. They're both 601 West High Avenue. It's the same business, just a different operator and owner.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

Who's transferring the liquor license to the PAC?

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:
It's Armitts Trax Kent Café.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

What Kent State does is they go out and seek vendors and they put out their food service and all that. Whoever does the food service in the Cafeteria also gets the contract for the Performing Arts. Whenever they put that out to bid Aramark, which is a major vendor, does a lot of stadiums, came up with the best competitive bid. The previous contract was with Michael Smith and Sandy Armitt. Michael was a proprietor for it. He operated for years out there, but Aramark outbid them so that's why the transfer's taking place. He owns Benson's Café but Aramark outbid them.

Mr. Ricklic had the following question:

So do I have a motion to do a roll call during tonight's Council Meeting on the liquor licenses, all 3 at the same time?

MRS. MAY MOTIONED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ALL
THREE LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTS DURING TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING
MRS. RAMOS SECONDED THE MOTION
3 YEAS
A ROLL CALL VOTE WILL OCCUR DURING MR. RICKLIC'S COMMITTEE
REPORT TO APPROVE THE THREE LIQUOR LICENSES

Mrs. Ramos made a motion for the meeting to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Ricklic, Committee Chairman
Special and Contact Committee