



July 29, 2008

News Release

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ENACTING CHARTER MILLAGE

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – During the city council meeting on Tuesday, July 22, the West Carrollton city council unanimously approved a 3.51 mill property tax increase.

The increase is allowable without a general election because the millage has already been approved by city charter – voted on in 1967.

The approved millage will result in a \$108 annual increase for a \$100,000 home, payable in 2009. “That’s less than \$10 month or 30 cents a day,” said Tom Reilly, finance director.

The addition of the 3.51 mills is projected to generate approximately \$700,000 of revenue per year – making the general fund budget solvent through 2013. Financial projections showed the city’s general fund balance having an \$800,000 deficit by the year 2011 if no changes were made.

“It is important to emphasize that this increase will not replace the income tax,” said Tom Reilly, finance director. “Our projections assume a renewal of the ¼ percent income tax in January 2010 and no additional loss of businesses in the city.”

The city’s new property tax rate will rank 11th lowest (up from 5th) lowest of 90 districts.

Reilly explained that currently out of every dollar collected in property taxes, the city of West Carrollton receives only four cents. “The remaining amount goes to the county, schools and library,” he said.

The city has made several cuts and established hiring freezes on positions to slow expenditures during the past decade.

“Further reducing personnel and thereby reducing the city services that residents expect did not seem like a good option for our community,” said Brad Townsend, city manager.

“We have held off on enacting this charter-approved millage for as long as possible,” said Mayor Jeff Sanner. “Hopefully this will give the city more time to pursue additional economic development opportunities in the city,” he said.

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For media interviews, call **Tom Reilly**, finance department director, at (937) 859-8288 or **Brad Townsend**, city manager, at (937) 859-5183.