

# Bob Mollette

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilman

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April 20, 2006

Jim Kalb, Mayor  
728 Second Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: **2006 Camp Ground Rate Increase**

Council *tabled* the above proposed Ordinance to obtain and review additional information at the March 13, 2006 regular City Council Meeting. It was scheduled for a third reading of the proposed amendment to Section 753.031 Tourist and Trailer Camps - Riverfront Trailer Park Fees of the Codified Ordinances. Citizens who participated at the meeting had questions regarding the need for the rate increase and a *plan* for improvements. I received a packet from the Director of Public Service dated March 21, 2005 to clarify items and to assist Council in their decision making process concerning a rate increase.

The amendment to the Riverfront Trailer Park Fees was originally requested per Council Letter #02 at the January 23, 2006 Conference Session. *"The City needs to increase fees to offset the rising cost of electric and make future improvements to the campsite areas. Constant repairs drain Recreation Fund 801. Upgrades and updates are needed to provide a better camping environment."* Council authorized preparation of legislation. I am requesting a five (5) year *plan* for future improvements to the campsite areas described above. Citizens expressed concerns associated with the lack of restroom/shower facilities and needed playground improvements. The packet informed campground electrical improvements are needed (\$39,202) to provide an adequate power system for existing and future facilities in the area. Please elaborate on future facilities. Are grants available for these improvements?

My belief, the campground must be self-sufficient. As stated in the packet, the campground fees have not been increased in the last sixteen (16) years. Is it logical to assume these rate increases are to maintain and upgrade the camping environment? It was stated by the Director of Public Service, *"that the campground is just a small piece of the pie."* This statement appears to indicate the campground fee increase is needed for the Recreation Fund 801. Is it the intention for the campground fees to provide revenue to the Recreation Fund 801? What other sources of recreation revenue, grants, or soliciting donations are being considered? Is there a reason Shawnee State University does not utilize our baseball facilities?

The packet (page #1) states the Campground 2006 (estimated) Annual Revenue is \$38,000 with Annual Expense of \$25,000. The additional expense for electrical improvements, gravel, and license indicates a *deficit* of \$16,194 in 2006. Previous years indicate a surplus in revenue of \$6,659 (2004) and \$3,590 in 2005. How much revenue will be generated as a result of these proposed rate increases?

Constituents have also expressed concerns about establishing time limits, an occupancy requirement, and needed increased security. It was expressed the original purpose of the City's Riverfront Campground was to provide a clean, comfortable, and convenient place for visitors traveling with recreational vehicles to park, visit, and conduct their business in Portsmouth. A time limit and occupancy requirement was suggested to provide vacant lots for this purpose. It was also suggested this rate increase should reflect an increase in security for this area as needed.

As always, I welcome your thoughts on these and any matters disclosed here. Contact me should you have any questions concerning this matter.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Council

rwm

cc: Christopher Murphy, Director of Public Service  
Council (5)  
David Kuhn, Solicitor  
Trent Williams, Auditor  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)