

Businessman announces candidacy for new county council

By Kevin Kelley

WESTSHORE

Dave Greenspan, a Westlake resident for the past three years who owns and operates a consulting company, has announced his candidacy for the new Cuyahoga County council.

The new council is a result of the passage in November of Issue 6, which formed a new charter government that eliminated the three county commissioners in favor of an elected county executive and 11-member council.

Under the new charter government, the county council's District 1 will include Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River, Westlake and most of Olmsted Township.

Members of the county council will

receive a salary of \$45,000, while the council president will receive \$55,000.

Greenspan, a Republican, points to his elected office experience — service on the inaugural city council of the city of Sandy Springs, Ga., Atlanta's second largest city with a population of almost 85,000 residents. Greenspan said he was involved in all aspects of starting the city from the ground up, such as launching the city's police and fire departments.

"I'm running to be able to utilize the skills and experience that I've been able



Dave Greenspan

to develop by starting a city of 85,000 from scratch," Greenspan told West Life.

While Cuyahoga County was formed in 1807, Greenspan sees parallels between the new county government and his experience in Sandy Springs when it was incorporated in 2005.

Greenspan said he's running on three key issues — economic development and jobs, restoring integrity and ethics to county government and creating operational efficiencies in government.

Creating new jobs will solve a lot of

the county's problems, Greenspan said.

Greenspan's consulting company specializes in startup and turnaround firms. In many ways, Cuyahoga County matches the description of a turnaround company, he said.

Greenspan said he was inspired to public service by his grandmother, who volunteered for 50 years for an organization that provided ambulance and medical care in Israel.

"I view public service in the same light," Greenspan said, adding that he has devoted time to volunteer work since he graduated from Troy University in Alabama with a degree in business administration and accounting.

Greenspan currently serves on Westlake's board of zoning appeals and the government relations committee of Lakewood's Beck Center For the Arts.

Budget uses reserve fund, retains quarterly trash fee

By Jeff Gallatin

BAY VILLAGE

City Council passed a 2010 budget Monday which dipped into the reserve fund, retained the quarterly trash fee and trimmed part-time and seasonal hours from the city financial blueprint.

"It's been a work in progress this year like any year," Mayor Debbie Sutherland said prior to its passage. "We all had to compromise and give a little to get it done."

In the overall budget, administration officials estimated the budget revenue at \$11.65 million for the year. Sutherland noted the budget projects taking about \$800,000 from the nearly \$13 million reserve fund set up with funds from the Jacobs estate settlement.

"It's probably going to be a little under \$800,000 depending upon how the revenues come in," Sutherland said.

"The economy continues to be tight, so our revenues are as well. One of the reasons we have a reserve fund is to deal with situations like this."

In previous years, council decided against utilizing the reserve fund after some members, as well as citizens, expressed concern about losing interest revenue if the city dipped into the fund. City Council President Brian Cruse said he doesn't believe the city will be using the reserve fund regularly.

"I don't think we'll be making a habit of it," he said. "We have had good, healthy discussions on the possible use of it through the years. I understand that not everybody wants to use it for something like this, but I believe it's something that can be utilized this year until we see the economy turns around."

Overall, Cruse said he is pleased with the budget.

"There's been a lot of talk and discus-

sion, but I believe we've managed to do a good job in spite of the economy and a lot of related issues which are affecting many governmental bodies," he said.

City officials have again estimated revenues from the trash collection fee at \$300,000 for the year. There was discussion of possibly rescinding it, but officials stopped it after there weren't any major signs that the economy was improving.

"We're leaving it as is for the time being," Sutherland said.

Referring to the cutting of part-time and seasonal hours, Sutherland said it was expected.

"We thought that would happen early on in the process, and that's what we ended up doing," she said.

Many of the hours cut were in the service and recreation areas, Sutherland said. She said she doesn't expect it to affect services.

"People should not see changes in

service levels in the city," she said. "We have not had layoffs of full-time personnel or cutbacks in their services. We have expanded a lot of effort in trying to find the best ways to maintain services for people without cutting positions."

She said the city is retaining a hiring freeze for most positions for the time being.

"We're trying to get by with the people we have for now," she said. "We'll be evaluating whenever an opening comes up."

Sutherland did anticipate possible changes in the final figures later on.

"We're still talking with the EPA about the mandates for sewer service," she said. "At some point, like a lot of communities, we will have to deal with those issues. We also are in contract negotiations with several employee unions. So, we could be making changes based on those as well."

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