

# Tax

Continued from A1

Lammlein said that if the tax had not been passed and no other steps were taken to try and pay down the debt, the city could have defaulted on the bonds in 2015.

Council member Lee Phillips cast the lone dissenting vote, stating that it isn't fair to put this burden on the people.

Council member Jason Taylor, a staunch opponent of the tax, was unable to attend the meeting because of a family trip. In an interview

Friday, Taylor said he was unable to reschedule the trip after finding out the tax was going to be reintroduced.

During the July 29 special meeting, Taylor moved to table the ordinance for a week so he could attend the second reading. That would have pushed the decision back to council's September meeting. His motion was denied.

"I am extremely disappointed in the council's decision to implement an occupational tax," Taylor said Tuesday.

State statute allows council members to attend meetings via video conferencing

and in an e-mail last week Taylor requested Lammlein allow him to do so. In a reply e-mail, however, Lammlein said there wasn't enough time to set up the equipment and seemed concerned about the cost.

"I was out of town for this meeting and would have voted no," Taylor said. He said he believes Lammlein's decision not to allow Taylor to participate long-distance "was an attempt to silence one of the voices against the tax."

Attempts to reach Lammlein for a comment on Taylor's accusation were unsuccessful by press time.

## Residents believe tax is unfair

Many La Grange residents turned out to protest the tax, saying it is unfair to burden those employed within city limits with paying off the debt resulting from a mistake they feel the city made.

Terry Green, who works in the city, said he would have no problem paying a tax for public projects, such as new roads, but doesn't think he should be paying for something he had no say in originally.

"I didn't have a choice," Green said. "I'm just the guy paying for it."

The discussion got

so heated that, at one point, police had to escort an audience member out after he declared Lammlein needed a swastika. The man made the comment after Lammlein told him to stop interrupting a speaker.

Most of the council members agreed they had to do something about the debt and seemed to agree the tax is the best option.

Council member Tom Goldsmith said he tried to find a way to sell the city's portion of the Oldham business park.

But, Goldsmith explained, the council doesn't have the authority to sell the property on its own,

but has to work with the county and OLDA..

Council member Jean Knight, who voted against the tax in July, changed her vote.

"Nobody wants to do this tax," she said. "But we have to."

Melanie Woosley, who also had voted against the tax in July, said she wants people to understand this was a hard decision to make.

"We're up here trying to move forward in a positive direction and it does take some tough decisions," she said.

Email us about this story at: zach@oldham-era.com

# Ullman posts bond; victim's relative hopes for justice

BY WESLEY ROBINSON  
NEWS INTERN, THE OLDHAM ERA

Ricky Ullman Jr., 32, was freed from jail after posting a \$2,500 cash bond July 26.

Ullman faces charges of first-degree unlawful transactions with a minor, third-degree rape and first-degree sexual abuse.

The charges stem from a June 23 incident. Ullman is accused of raping a

then 14-year-old girl after returning home from a night out with friends.

Conditions of his release ban Ullman from Oldham County, except for court and to meet with his public defender. He also cannot have contact with anyone under the age of 16 without another adult present, including his nine children. Ullman must not contact the alleged victim or her

family. Ullman told the Oldham County District Court Judge Diana Wheeler he would be able to comply with all of her stipulations.

Keith Joseph, a relative of the alleged victim, said the girl went to spend the night with Ullman's daughter, like any other kid would. Joseph said the girl is a good student and involved at her church. He said he is at a loss for words as to how

this could happen to her.

"Right now we're going through a storm," Joseph said. "It's shocking. I just pray that God will take care of us."

Joseph said she looks up to him like a father, and said the only date

she has been on is a father-daughter dance with him. He said she is hurt and scarred by accusations that she is making up the situation. Joseph said his family has also been threatened by members of Ullman's family.

"I pray it doesn't hap-

pen to anyone," Joseph said. "I can only imagine what she faces day to day and for the rest of her life. We just hope justice is served so no kid is hurt like this."

Email us about this story at: intern@oldhamera.com.

# Fulcher

Continued from A1

look for a good working group."

Simms said Fulcher has been active on committees and attended meetings for a while. She said she believes he will acclimate quickly to the council.

"I expect he will get a lot done," Simms said. "He will participate well."

Fulcher has lived in Prospect for 32 years, but said his work caused him to be away for much of that time.

"I've retired and I want to give back to the community I've enjoyed for so long," Fulcher said.

Fulcher will serve out the remainder of

Scott's term through December 31, 2014.

He will begin his tenure at the next City Council meeting at 7 p.m., August 19, at City Hall.

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