

Canal Winchester

*City Hall
Council Chambers
45 East Waterloo Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

January 3, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Work Session

*Bob Clark - Chair
Laurie Amick
Jill Amos
Steve Buskirk
Chuck Milliken
Patrick Shea
Mike Walker*

A. Call To Order

Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present 7 – Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker

C. Also In Attendance

Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson

D. Request for Council Action

RES-23-001

Development

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DEED OF WATER AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM DANIEL ROBERT, INC.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Shea to move RES-23-001 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Amos, Shea, Walker, Amick, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken

Discussion started at 3:48 on YouTube Channel

Haire – A number of these items tonight are in regards to three single-family homes that are being developed on Clinton Street at Groveport Road and the utilities that were installed to serve those properties as well as adjacent properties. The first item is to accept a deed of water and drainage easement from Daniel Robert, Inc. This crosses three of those lots and is an easement associated with the water line and storm sewer that was installed along Clinton Street.

Clark – Is Clinton Street going to be widened at all? Is there a possibility of it being widened or will it remain that size?

Haire – There’s no intention of widening at this time. It’ll still remain a one-way street.

Amos – Is it technically a street or is it an alley?

Haire – It is called a street. It doesn’t meet our current standards for a street, but it is called Clinton Street.

RES-23-002

Development

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DEED OF SIDEWALK EASEMENT FROM DANIEL ROBERT, INC.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Walker to move RES-23-002 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Shea, Walker, Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken

Discussion started at 5:48 on YouTube Channel

Haire – Again, this is in regards to the lots along Clinton Street. This is an easement to allow for a sidewalk to be constructed along the front of those. Our subdivision regulations require new sidewalks on any residential lot that’s developed. With the right-of-way being narrow in that location, that sidewalk needs to be located outside of the road right-of-way where it typically would be so this will allow pedestrian access across the private lot through an easement.

Amos – What is the size of that sidewalk?

Haire – This is a five-foot sidewalk in a six-foot wide easement.

Amos – Didn't we readjust the sidewalks in other neighborhoods to a little larger?

Haire – Correct. We went from four feet to five feet.

Amos – So five feet is the new one.

Haire – Correct.

Shea – Are you putting all the easements right on top of one another?

Haire – Some of them are in the same location, correct.

Shea – Then, the sidewalks will go over it?

Haire – Yes.

Shea – So, if something goes bad, we have to pull up the sidewalk to get to it?

Haire – Yes. That's typical standards. All our utilities are typically within the road right-of-way.

Amick – Maybe you just said this but where will the sidewalk begin and end? You've got the small white home there and then you'll have the three others that'll actually make their way to Groveport Road, where will the sidewalk actually begin and end? Will it start at Groveport Road and then come across all three of the new homes? I'm trying to picture how far this will go.

Haire – There'll be a new sidewalk installed along Clinton Street in front of the three new single-family homes. There are actually five lots there that those homes are being built on. It'll extend across those three on Clinton Street. It'll also extend along Groveport Road. It'll stop adjacent to the condos.

Buskirk – Will that create two new crosswalks?

Haire – There is an existing crosswalk at Groveport and Washington. I don't think there's intention to put a ramp but typically we do install a ramp when there's a receiving ramp, so we'll have to look at that. I didn't realize there was a ramp on that other side.

Milliken – It appears to me that the first house that's still under construction already has a sidewalk in front of it. Correct?

Haire – I'm not sure. It may.

Milliken – I'm just wondering for my general knowledge. How did that sidewalk come into being before this resolution?

Haire – It would just be a private sidewalk at this point in time. What this resolution does is it allows it to have a public easement so the public can traverse that one.

RES-23-003*Development*

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DEED OF WATER LINE EASEMENT FROM ANOTHY L. HOWES.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Buskirk to move RES-23-003 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Walker, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Amick, Amos

Discussion started at 11:00 on YouTube Channel

Haire – Mr. Howes owns the two remaining lots on Clinton Street that are undeveloped. There's a single-family home that's been existing on Clinton Street for quite a long time. Mr. Howes owns the first two lots north of that between what's being constructed. This will allow the water line to be extended into Mr. Howes parcel so that a future home could be served by that water line. There's a small easement in the corner of that lot that allows that water line to be accepted. This would allow us to accept the water line easement on Mr. Howes' property.

RES-23-004*Development*

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DEED OF SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT FROM DANIEL ROBERT, INC.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Amos to move RES-23-004 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Buskirk, Amos, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker, Amick

Discussion started at 12:20 on YouTube Channel

Haire – This is the last easement legislation for a sanitary sewer line. That line is being constructed down the west lot line of all these properties between the condominiums and these single-family homes are being constructed. There's a 15-foot easement associated with that sewer line that's been installed. We're asking to accept that easement.

RES-23-005*Development*

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF EILEEN GOODIN TO SERVE THE REMAINDER OF AN UNEXPIRED FOUR-YEAR TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2023.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Walker to move RES-23-005 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Amick, Walker, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea

Discussion started at 13:20 on YouTube Channel

Haire – This is seeking the appointment of Eileen Goodin to serve the remainder of a four-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Kevin Serna, who's been on that board for a number of years, is moving outside of the city. The mayor has proposed Eileen Goodin to be appointed for the rest of this year to fill that seat. Eileen lives in Charleston Lakes which is the condominiums adjacent to Walmart. She's lived in

that community since 2010. She's a retired attorney. She is currently the president of the Charleston Lakes Association and she's been on that board for nine years. She is involved in a number of volunteer activities including Girl Scouts of America Heartland and she's currently serving as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. She has been a very vocal and active member of that board. We're seeking her appointment to fill this unexpired term.

ORD-23-001

Finance

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2022 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #22-041, AMENDMENT #1

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amos to move ORD-23-001 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Shea, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Amick

Abstain 1 – Walker

Discussion started at 15:18 on YouTube Channel

Jackson – As we spoke at our last council meeting, the majority of this appropriation amendment is related to that. I will touch on that in just one second. The first part of this appropriation amendment is to appropriate the funds needed to pay for the Chamber of Commerce agreement that council approved. That is the \$64,160 in the general fund. The remaining two sections on this appropriation amendment ordinance are related to the new Canal Pointe Industrial Public Water System fund that was created at your last meeting in December. You will see a \$75,000 transfer from the water fund. That is the seed money that we spoke of. That will be moved into the Canal Pointe Industrial Public Water System fund. The appropriation of \$275,000 in the Canal Pointe fund is divided up, as listed on the ordinance, that would mimic what would have been in the original appropriation ordinance that council passed last year based on the department and the line items. That \$275,000 includes the \$75,000 transfer as well as all the revenue we anticipate coming into that fund from water users in that area.

ORD-23-002

Development

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATION OF REAL PROPERTY FROM CANAL POINTE, LLC.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Amick to move ORD-23-002 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Amos, Amick, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker

Discussion started at 17:16 on YouTube Channel

Haire – This ordinance would allow the city to accept a .054-acre tract of land which is adjacent to Howe Pond in Canal Pointe. The current owner of Canal Pointe, LLC partnered with the city over the last 15 years and purchased land for the city to develop the park. The partners in Canal Pointe, LLC, also own Dublin Building Systems, which is a developer that's built a number of buildings in Canal Pointe. They're approaching the end of their ownership of any parcels in there. They have one parcel left that they've got some prospects for so when it came up that they actually retained ownership of the small sliver of land, they would like to donate that to the city. We can just incorporate it into the Howe Pond Park area and so that's what this ordinance will allow for us to accept that park land or right-of-way purposes.

ORD-23-003

Development

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATION OF REAL PROPERTY FROM DANIEL ROBERT, INC.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Walker to move ORD-23-003 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Buskirk, Walker, Amick, Amos, Clark, Milliken, Shea

Discussion started at 19:14 on YouTube Channel

Haire – Again, this involves the property at the corner of Groveport Road and Clinton Street. This would allow the developer to dedicate 339.55 square feet to the City of Canal Winchester to use for public right-of-way. This is within the road right-of-way of Groveport Road so it's a highway easement at this point. We'd like to convert that over to right-of-way; it makes it much easier to administer any of our right-of-way permitting and things like that for the future. Typically, we require that when we find these types of situations where lots were platted much prior to most of the current standards that we have. This would allow us to accept this small parcel for road right-of-way purposes.

E. Old/New Business**OTH-22-021**

Pedestrian Safety

Discussion started at 20:41 on YouTube Channel

Shea – Progress?

Peoples – We have discussed some scenarios with our engineer and just waiting on some feedback.

Shea – Any more detail than that?

Peoples – I'd rather wait until we can have an exhibitor at our presentation.

Shea – Do they know about those three homes that are going in there on Clinton Street?

Peoples – Yes.

OTH-22-022

Police Study

Discussion started at 21:28 on YouTube Channel

Clark – I'll start off and just ask Mrs. Jackson if she's had a chance to talk to the consultants and where they are.

Jackson – Hines called me while I was out of the office, and I have yet to touch base with him, but I will try to do that in the next couple of days. I will shoot you an email update when I have one for you.

OTHER DISCUSSION**Discussion started at 21:54 on YouTube Channel**

Clark – Tonight I noticed the distracted driving law was signed by the State of Ohio. I just wanted to know through Thad if you think our ordinance is fine the way it is or if it needs to be looked at to become more uniform. Do you have any thoughts or suggestions?

Boggs – I have not looked at the state’s distracted driving law in any detail but would be happy to do so and to the extent that changes would be advisable forward.

Discussion started at 23:00 on YouTube Channel

Amos – Just for fellow council members, I forwarded you all the email that I received from a few folks in Reynoldsburg regarding the human trafficking coalition. They’re asking for us to look at a resolution regarding it. I have not read it over, but I forwarded it out to you. They’re asking for us to pass a resolution for emergency so if you guys want to take a look at it and see if it’s something we’re interested in.

Ebert – Located where?

Amos – It’s a youth group in Reynoldsburg who is going around to different councils and asking them to just pledge their support to the domestic violence and human trafficking.

Clark – I think it’s human trafficking month.

Amos – Just take a look at it afterwards and then let the mayor know our interests. That would be wonderful.

Discussion started at 25:25 on YouTube Channel

Shea – I have some pictures. I don’t know if you noticed but you’ve got a flat tire, a shredded bumper, a broken mirror, and no license plate. I know it’s been there for at least a month.

Ebert – Where is that?

Shea – Walmart. Are you aware of this?

Ebert – No.

Shea – Does the Sheriff tell you about things like this because she told me about it and said that they just couldn’t do anything with it.

Boggs – In the city’s code there’s an impoundment ordinance. It looks like it might qualify under the definition of an abandoned junk vehicle, or it could be towed on the basis of not having current plates. I haven’t talked to Sergeant Walker about it.

Shea – I live in Canal Winchester because I want to live in a nice place and not look at things like that which were common in areas I grew up in. I’d really like to see it out of there as soon as possible especially since we got the authority to do it.

Ebert – I think part of the problem is getting a towing company to tow without being liable.

Boggs – It would be at the city’s cost to do the tow.

Peoples – We’ve had issues with them towing cars in our parking lot let alone someone else’s.

Shea – Who are you using?

Peoples – Long's Towing.

Shea – Have we talked to anybody else?

Peoples – It's part of the association. The towing association, that's where they're getting their direction from.

Shea – I know the guys that own Rusty's Towing. I might reach out to them and ask them what they could do for us if that's acceptable because if our local towing vendor is not willing to tow from our own lots then we need to find a new vendor.

Peoples – It's not that they're not willing to do it. There're provisions that have to be in place before they're allowed to do anything. Walmart will have to have signage out there as well.

Haire – They do. I'm trying to look to see which company Walmart contracts with, but it's posted, and that vendor would be able to tow.

Shea – What can we do about it?

Amos – Do we as residents need to call Walmart and ask them to tow it?

Shea – No. I'm asking you guys as the city administration with the codes and the laws to have it out of there as soon as possible.

Haire – We can notify them because I believe it does meet the junk vehicle standards. They have a certain number of days to remove that junk vehicle, or it will basically be placed in mayor's court. Whether that addresses the issue immediately or not, I don't know.

Shea – Mr. Boggs, can we or can we not call a tow truck right now and have the thing moved?

Boggs – Under the code is written there is authority to impound that car, but it sounds like in terms of practical realities of dealing with the tow companies it's not as easy as what the laws in the books are written.

Shea – So we just need to find a vendor who is willing to do it. What's a reasonable expectation to have that thing removed?

Haire – If it's mayor's court, it could be months.

Shea – Why does it have to go through mayor's court?

Haire – We have no other way to enforce the rules than basically citing someone into mayor's court.

Shea – Is that accurate Mr. Boggs?

Haire – If it's dealt with from a zoning perspective that's how we can handle it.

Boggs – From a zoning perspective that would be correct. From just the authority to impound a vehicle that appears to be a junk vehicle, the law would allow the city to have it towed. The question is, what the vendor is able to do and then ultimately how that vehicle is finally disposed of.

Shea – Let's play this out. Those are all good points. Let's say we have it towed and throw it down there where the sewage plant lot is. How long will it take until we can have it sent off to a scrapper and get it out of here?

Boggs – It would go to the towing company lot.

Shea – I was saying if we impounded it to our own lot. We wouldn't have to pay the impound fees for the daily storage.

Amos – Then, we consume the liability for it. That's not a good place for us to be.

Peoples – I don't want to keep junk cars out at our place.

Shea – I just want to get the thing out. I'm just trying to find a way to get there.

Amick – Does Walmart have any responsibility to this at all?

Boggs – That would be a zoning type of avenue that Lucas was talking about.

Shea – I guess my concern is if it's been there a long time, why isn't it getting kicked up to you guys? In my mind, that would be kind of an eyesore problem.

Ebert – Probably because the property owner hasn't reported it. We don't go around looking for abandoned vehicles necessarily unless we're alerted to one in one way or another.

Shea – So, you guys just haven't heard about it?

Ebert – I haven't heard about it, no.

Haire – You cannot proactively enforce codes. We had this discussion earlier this year.

Shea – I know. I remember.

Haire – If you'd like proactive enforcement, if council chooses to take proactive enforcement, we'd need more resources to do that.

Peoples – We'd need backing from council when they come in here and start throwing a fit because we've done something with that. We don't get that much.

Shea – That's a different issue than what we're talking about here.

Peoples – It's all related.

Ebert – It's all the same thing.

Shea – Is it?

Ebert – Sure it is.

Shea – Help me understand.

Ebert – I'm not saying all of council, but council goes against the way the ordinance is written. When you go against the way the ordinance is written such as property maintenance or property boundary issues...

Peoples -The fence right down here is the perfect example.

Shea – So, you didn't like the variance?

Peoples – Absolutely not. It should never have happened. It caused more problems than what it was worth.

Shea – Well it's done. It's in the past. We're in a new year.

Haire – It's not done. He's never paid for any permits.

Shea – Well he needs to do that, doesn't he? Anything else?

Amick – Mr. Haire, how long does Walmart have to respond once they're notified?

Haire – Typically, on junk vehicles we give them 10 days.

Amick – I mean it's conceivable that they just haven't noticed it and once it's brought to their attention perhaps they will take care of it. I think Walmart owes us some actions on multiple things so hopefully this will be taken care of quickly by them.

Shea – Thank you for enforcing it tomorrow. Hopefully we can find a towing vendor that we can use in an expeditious manner going forward. I also had another picture of six trucks at Walmart's parking lot this Sunday morning and none of them had any tickets on them.

Ebert – Was it raining?

Shea – I don't recall.

Ebert – They don't put tickets on the windshield of vehicles when it's raining.

Shea – There were several days last week where there were no tickets on trucks at Walmart.

Ebert – They've wrote five or six tickets in the last four days.

Shea – Very good.

Ebert – They're writing tickets. They're not going to spend 24 hours a day out there.

Discussion started at 39:20 on YouTube Channel

Milliken – I really didn't plan on bringing this up tonight but we do have a few minutes. I was involved in some extremely preliminary conversations last year with the mayor and Mr. Boggs about starting a Canal Winchester mobile app. Going into the new year I just wanted to officially bring that up and kind of get council's thoughts on it and get the administration's thoughts on it. I don't think there's anything wrong with our website currently but in the age that we're in I think everybody has an app and that's what people are used to. I see an opportunity to collate different polls of information throughout the city. It'd be bringing in organizations such as Destination and the Historical Society and just kind of being a one-stop shop for all of Canal Winchester.

Amos – When you're talking about the app, you're not talking about the city maintaining the app. Correct?

Milliken – It would be the city's app. In my mind, with all these organizations involved, it would basically just be a link to their website and a shared calendar.

Amos – The City of Pickerington did that with the school district last year. The city created a calendar and then they invited like the Historical Society and the schools to essentially put our stuff on this community shared calendar. Nobody looks at it. I'm just going to be quite honest with you. I love the idea of having something where our community can go to find out information. Realistically we spent a lot of time loading stuff that nobody's looking at. Nobody is aware it exists. It's been a year and hardly anybody knows that this calendar is even available. It's a lot for us to manage because we have to go in there and put all of our stuff in. The city wasn't reliable of the app. We all had a login, and everybody had their own little piece. Somebody still has to watch it. That's the piece that concerns me. I like an app. I think it's a cool idea. I just worry about who would be managing it and who would be overseeing it. I mean we're a cool city and anything we can get out there is great but to me this is almost a Destination piece. I worry about the burden of the city. I think we have a lot going on right now. I love the idea of promoting our city.

Milliken – I understand. I don't want to get too hung up on the calendar aspect of it. There're other things such as the bill pay system. I use it online. I think it could be a little bit more user friendly. I have other apps on my phone, and you can get push notifications. I close 90% of them out and don't open them but it catches my eye. I at least know what it was. I see a need for it. I'm not saying it has to happen, but I would just like to have that conversation and hear what other people's thoughts are about it.

Amick – I know initially you said all of the different organizations and just providing a link to those organizations but doing it from a single repository. Have you ever visited Budd Dairy?

Milliken – Yes.

Amick – They have the giant menu and each of the kitchens has their own QR code. Maybe something along that vision where you would have some repository and each organization would just simply provide a QR code to their website in one spot.

Milliken – Again, its not my intention to hash out any details here. I'll tell you the reason why this sparked my interest. There was something going on in town a few years ago and it seemed like everybody I talked to didn't know about it. I thought to myself, how does that happen? What is the quickest way that people get information? It's through their cellphones. Let's say we're having Christmas in the Village for example, its opening night, and I got a notification on my phone that gave me the start time and end time. I think it would create excitement and knowledge. If there isn't an appetite for it that's fine. I just wanted to hear those inputs.

Discussion started at 53:58 on YouTube Channel

Clark – Lucas, can you just give us a three-to-five-minute touch on the comprehensive plan?

Haire – Currently we're on a schedule where we meet with the steering committee on the third Thursday of every month. We had a meeting the third Thursday in December. At that meeting we went over the survey results with the consultant that was hired to handle that. There is a report that's available on the website which is www.cwgrowingtogether.com . All of the meetings are recorded, and the documents are on there that show the results of the survey. We also went over the residential real estate market analysis. At the next meeting we're scheduled to go over the full real estate market analysis which includes the commercial, residential, office, and industrial. That'll be our next meeting and that is on the third Thursday in January which is the 19th. There's still a lot of work to be done. Our next public meetings, we're working on scheduling those for sometime in February. It's either going to be the second week or the fourth week of February. Those will be public hearings where we talk about future land use maps, priority development and redevelopment areas in the city. That's kind of the next steps but we still have to address economic development, transportation, parks and open space, all those items remain to be addressed. We've asked for the consultant to provide us a schedule with all the tasks, and a timeline for completion. I asked them for that last Thursday again and so hopefully now that they're all back in the office after the holidays we'll get that for our next call on Thursday.

Clark – Can you report that at the next meeting?

Haire – Yes.

F. Adjournment @6:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Buskirk to adjourn. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Walker, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Amick, Amos