

Canal Winchester

*Town Hall
10 North High Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

April 2, 2018

6:00 PM

Council Work Session

Mike Walker - Chair

Jill Amos

Will Bennett

Bob Clark

Mike Coolman

Bruce Jarvis

Patrick Lynch

- A. **Call To Order** *Walker called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.*
B. **Roll Call** *Present 7 – Amos, Bennett, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker*
C. **Also In Attendance**

Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson

D. Request for Council Action

ORD-18-013

Public Service

An Ordinance To Authorize The Mayor To Grant A Utility Easement To South Central Power Company For The Relocation Of Electric Utilities For The Gender Road Phase 4 Improvement Project And Declaring An Emergency ([Ex. A](#))

- Request to move to full Council

Peoples: Part of the Gender IV project, South Central is relocating utilities; had granted another easement previously for project; this is the same thing; Bennett: the reason for the emergency; Peoples: construction timeline.

A motion was made by Jarvis, seconded by Bennett to move this ordinance to full Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 – Jarvis, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Lynch, Walker

ORD-18-015

Development

An Ordinance to Adopt the Canal Winchester Parks Master Plan ([Ex. A](#))

- Request to move to full Council

Haire: this has been a lengthy process, started last July; held several stakeholder meetings and received input from the public; sent out a survey and received 1,019 responses; large response from a community this size; plan covers all 12 parks, consisting of 272 acres; there is 1 park for every 718 residents; very good for our size; plan has not changed since the public meeting; weren't any significant comments from the meeting that changed the plan; the results of the public meeting were that the public wanted the basics – restrooms, playgrounds, benches, etc; the idea is that the master plan can be used to program park upgrades in the city's capital improvement plan; the plan includes park observations, public input received, recommendations, an implementation strategy, and maintenance items for each park; these were all identified through the process from the commission meetings, to stakeholder and public input;

Jarvis: I applaud the team and OHM on their work in developing the plan; I'm hesitant about parts of the plan but think the city is moving in the right direction; what does the future hold in terms of staffing; more facilities will inevitably require more maintenance; Haire: we understand a future need but haven't planned anything in depth up to this point in terms of staffing.

Lynch: Plan is a great roadmap to start with; thoughts about how to pay for it; Mayor: we are looking at different sponsorship levels and opportunities for local businesses and residents; Jackson: I believe the Mayor is speaking more specifically to McGill Park; in terms of all the parks, we are looking at grant funding for things like trails; we can use our fund balance as I mentioned in the past; and we

can issue debt, although not our first choice; Haire: We are looking at Nature Works grants through the state; have used them in the past to fund Stradley Park and Walnut Creek.

Clark: How will we determine what is a priority in the plan; Haire: the plan breaks up each park with a list of short term, mid-term, and long term projects and the cost associated with each; this will help us plan future improvements.

A motion was made by Jarvis, seconded by Clark to move this ordinance to full Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 – Jarvis, Clark, Amos, Bennett, Coolman, Lynch, Walker

ORD-18-016

Development

An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A Tax Increment Financing Agreement With Central Ohio Transit Authority ([Ex. A](#))

- Request to move to full Council

Haire: Some of you are new on council, so I'll explain what a tif is and we will start there; tif stands for tax increment financing; in 2013 we established a tax increment fund that centers around Gender Road and 33; what it does is it takes the value of the commercial property in that area, and locks it in at that time; any improvements made after that time that increase the value of the property are the increment; the taxes on that increment are put into a separate fund to be used for public improvements; part of the COTA project is to build a road that would connect Gender Rd to Winchester Pike; this will allow the buses to make a loop when picking up and dropping off passengers; this agreement with COTA would be to reimburse them for the construction of the road which will be called Trillium Ave; COTA does not pay property taxes but they have two outparcels along Gender Rd that will be developed commercially; this agreement is a reimbursement agreement; they would be reimbursed only from the taxes paid on the two outparcels after they are developed; they pay their taxes just like they would with the county, the county redistributes that to the other taxing entities, but the portion related to the tif does not get distributed to the county, the zoo, or the township; the school still gets their portion though; that tif fund can be used for other future infrastructure improvements that benefit the public; the Gender Rd TIF that generated about \$125,000 last year, and that was mostly Wylers.

A motion was made by Lynch, seconded by Amos to move this ordinance to full Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 – Lynch, Amos, Bennett, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis, Walker

E. Reports

Matt Peoples: Nothing to add to my written report.

Lucas Haire: I've done enough taking already; I don't have anything in addition to my written report.

Amanda Jackson: Just wanted to report on the Dr. Bender Scholarship applications; they were due by 4:30 p.m. today; received 11; have not gone through to check them for eligibility yet; will have these

reviewed and the two recipients selected so that they can be awarded at the April 16th Council meeting; the President, Vice President, and Mayor are the selection committee.

F. Items for Discussion

18-031 Admissions Tax Ordinance

Haire: had discussed this years ago when Nanisa was here; Jennifer Croghan, Gene's associate, put together draft in front of you; wanted to present it to you and get your thoughts; admissions tax would be charged on events that have an admission fee or ticket; nonprofits would be exempt from the tax like Blues and Rib, Labor Day, and school events; tax varies across the state; some do a percentage while others do a flat amount; Cleveland and Cincinnati areas have the most municipalities that have enacted these; locally Obetz, Valleyview; most smaller communities don't offer amenities like Canal Winchester so can't always compare similar sized entities; don't have a lot of events it currently would apply to but could come affect future events; discussion about affected events and residents ensued; Amos: can we get information about other communities around the state; Haire: sure, I will forward that information to you; Lynch: Is there a way to make tax only applicable to events that attract tourists; Jackson: that would be difficult to accomplish; Jarvis: businesses would more than likely pass tax on to the consumers; Bennett: what about a place like Gym Extreme, has open gym on Friday night; mostly CW residents; now we are taxing the residents; Mayor: the state is taking away our funding like local government so we need to get more creative with raising funds; tax may affect some residents but would not affect all; thought behind the tax was for things like BrewDog events that are attracting more visitors.

G. Old/New Business

Lynch: Recycling, seems to come up all the time; I understand we are dumping more often now; Peoples: 8 times a week; Lynch: what happens if 90% of the dumpster is recycling and 10% trash; Mayor: all of it goes to the trash; I've been driving by on the weekends checking it out; have Sgt. Cassel and Fairfield County watching it.

H. Adjournment at 6:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Coolman, seconded by Amos to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 – Coolman, Amos, Bennett, Clark, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker