

# Canal Winchester

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



## Meeting Minutes - FINAL

**April 16, 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, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson, Bill Sims, Steve Smith, Shawn Starcher, Joe Taylor, Sargent Cassel, Shane Spencer*

**D. Reports**

*Bill Sims - The utility relocation work is continuing at Gender Road and Groveport Road; if you've been by there lately, it's opened up quite a bit with the clearing that South Central needed to perform to move their stuff; the utility stuff is nearing completion, probably here in the next couple of weeks; the stubs of the old poles should be removed, which is perfect timing for our contractor; we have the pre-construction meeting with Strawser Paving this coming Monday; we'll probably be seeing some kind of activity in the next 2-3 weeks out there; Street Program - we've awarded the contracts, I'm in the midst of conversation with the contractor to schedule the pre-construction meeting for that, we're pretty much right on track, normal time of year for that job to start; typically they'll come in and do concrete work first, paving work will follow typically in the later part of May or early June; we'll be issuing those this week, to get the clock ticking on that job; letters to the residents that are affected by paving work in Ashbrook were sent out about a month ago; letters to folks in the sidewalk program went out last week; notices are getting out to start conversations with people, so if they have any issues, or if they have something scheduled during the summer that might be impacted by paving; private work is also underway, Winchester Ridge continues to be constructed, they're working on waterlines currently, sanitary sewer is completed, most of their storm sewer is completed as well; they will actually be moving onto the proposed Greengate Drive location to extend the waterline back to Winchester Ridge 3; they're going to start that later this week, they have a very short run of sanitary sewer to put in first, and then onto the water; they're anticipating about 3 weeks to complete the offsite water; in Westchester, they're continuing the work in Section 10-2-91 which is the end of Connor Drive, which is the end of Connor to Cormorant, so the contractor is in there; once he completes the underground work there, that same contractor will move to Section 12-2, parts 3&4, which is off of Connell Court, which is on the west side of Gender Road; probably anticipating COTA actually getting started hopefully in the next few weeks; they've got a contractor on board, I think they have all the information they need at this point; Lucas I'm not sure if you know the status of the agreement with those folks; we're obviously looking forward to that getting going; Columbia Gas Transmission – their pipe replacement, the initial type of projects are underway with tree clearing, they're also installing access driveways, they're kind of all over right now; I see them working very heavily in Columbus currently; I see them down as far as Coonpath Road area, working on some access drives now, too; they seem to be well into the area that is in our section, the shutdown of the pipeline this summer; on a personal note, we have the Relay for Life Dinner on May 16<sup>th</sup>; think you've probably seen some information on that; I am hopeful that you can all attend, I know sometimes there's scheduling conflicts with other things; having you folks there to serve during that event really is a treat for everybody; over the years we have received nothing but positive comments from council members about having a good time; it's fun seeing folks, lots of families there; I think those folks from the community here really appreciate it, we get a lot of the same people year after year; they just really enjoy that opportunity; speaks a lot about our community, kind of a personal aspect of it; so*

looking forward to that; Walker: I'd like to let new council know, it is a competition, who can bring in the most tips; Sims: That's true, some members are a little more competitive than others; there is an honor in who brings in the most tips; not only the money at the door goes to Relay for Life, but also the people who go above and beyond that, who tip you for the great service that you provide; we also make desserts that we take there that we provide, so if you're a baking type, you can bring a dessert; Bennett: Would you like us to - is there a way to register a dessert in advance? I didn't know if you wanted 7 of us bringing brownies; Sims: I'll talk to Amanda Lemke in the morning; I think we setup a SignUp Genius for that; I'm sure I've got them from the previous years; Lynch: Sidewalk program, I received one of the letters; I'm curious as to how this works; it seems like 10 years ago, I received a very similar letter; tree grew, sidewalk broke, etcetera, etcetera; is this something that has been done on a 10-year rotation, how do you guys do this? Sims: We've had a couple different ways that we've performed this; the program that we currently do, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of that particular program; currently what we do is go around town on a geographic basis, so we started in the older neighborhoods and worked to the newer portions of town, primarily because that's where the more serious sidewalk issues are; a number of years ago, when we talked to council, council expressed interest in having a grant program to help share costs; we spent a lot of time talking about the myriad of issues that cause sidewalk problems, all the different levels of responsibility that can exist; it became pretty cumbersome, so the city basically said 'we'll pay half, regardless of what the problem is'; under the ORC, the homeowner's 100% responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk; the program we're doing now, is the city does take 50%; at this point what we've done, rather than putting it solely on the individual to get it all worked out, we incorporate it into our street program, so that we have the advantage of having a large quantity of work to do, in a competitive bid situation; even though we may be paying prevailing wage rates, someone may not have had that; we're finding that prices are extremely competitive still, with our contractor; we get a very professional contractor, we also do monitor testing, inspection of their work, so the end product is better as well, versus just calling somebody in the ads who are doing concrete work; that program, we have been doing for 3 years; it's been very successful, we're accomplishing a lot more; just in the old part of town here, there used to be a lot of problems; previously, we had the grant program, we did one year when it first started based on a geographic area; with the downturn of the economy, we decided to scale back, it was complaint driven for a number of years; every year, we will probably get – it used to be 25 complaints on a sidewalk, all over town; mostly folks who were doing a lot of walking, mostly neighbors, but sometimes people themselves who knew the grant program existed, which is good because the goal was to improve sidewalks; we did that for a number of years, the notice about the problem could've come from anybody; we went out and did an inspection, then sent them a letter, and those were all individual; Lynch: This sounds like a more proactive approach, which I think is a better way to go; the grant money, does that come out of our general fund, the street improvement fund? Sims: It is in the general fund, it's a line item I think Lynch: So when you say grant, you mean a grant from the city to the homeowner? Sims: That's correct; Lynch: Okay, got it, not an outside grant to the city; Sims: It basically covers up to 50%; if you're working within the street program, it's a solid 50/50 split; Lynch: It's a very fair program, there's no question there, how often do we plan on re-inspecting? IS that going to be put on a so-many-year basis? Sims: My original plan was to have the town broken up into 5 sections; we're on, this would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> section now – 4<sup>th</sup> section now; we have to tailor that, depending on how much sidewalk's in there; I advised the plan initially based on some nice and neat geographic areas; in the older sections of town, there's a lot more volume of work that needs to be done; if I went into Westchester, I could do 400 lots, and have the same

amount of work as 200 lots here in the old part of town; it's a matter of scale, too; we're really left now, after this year's program, we'll be left with Ashbrook, Westchester, and Winchester Village; Lynch: It gets easier every year, as you keep up with it; Sims: It will, I think what we'll find is once we've completed town, we'll go back and take a look, so the sections will actually get larger, because they'll be so much less volume the second time through; we might do all of old town in one year, all of Westchester and Ashbrook in on year; there may need to be a gap in between them, to generate enough volume of work. Amos: On Gender Road Phase IV, you said Strawser Paving – that you're meeting with them on Monday, and activity will be happening in 2-3 weeks; is that activity on Gender Road, or are we still planning on waiting until school's out for the season? Sims: I would anticipate work on Gender Road; the only part of the project that's impacted by the schools is the closure of Gender Road; the whole rest of the project, aside from the closure associated primarily with the railroad, that 4-day event; it can be done during the work day with single lane closures, and then opened back up for rush hour; it shouldn't be much of an issue, quite frankly; not much different than when we did Gender and Winchester Boulevard, Gender and Fox Hill, even Gender Road north of 33; some inconveniences, but not a lot; Amos: Okay, are you working with Dr. Bruning over there? Sims: Yes; Gender IV won't affect him too much; the street program is usually the biggest headache, because we impact bus stops; when we're doing the concrete work, normally school is just about out when we start paving.

Dick Miller - These just came in today; if you remember the February meeting, I brought in a chip; these are the new containers, we've got 5 different sizes for starters; this is the largest one, and then they go all the way down to the 18", which I think goes on the pedestals out here as you go out the door; this is the color; these are made to stay out 365, if we chose to do that; these will get plants in them; the bigger containers, we had Austin Lynch from the Urban Forestry Department put on new wood veneer, and do a similar stain as close as we could get to this; got a little bit of a new look here; we have the tree giveaway May 5<sup>th</sup>, rain or shine, Stradley Place, 9-11am, that's a Saturday; we have 108 trees to giveaway; we also have some tree seedlings, if anybody is interested; Mr. Lynch has the list – it's already working its way down; Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – we have the backyard conservation presentation at the community center; we'll also be discussing the urban forest of the future; that is Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am, it usually lasts about an hour to an hour and a half; it's usually well-attended; today we had a small crew out mulching, you may have noticed that that started; Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> we have Arbor Day at Winchester Trails school; I think that's 2:45pm, and it's usually a hoot, it's a lot of fun; spring tree street tree planning started today; we've got our herbicides in that we use for the guardrails, mulch beds, gravel areas, and even some paved areas; Washington Knoll's tree replacements; we're going to be removing some of the trees that were put in in the 70's; those trees, mostly the larger sweetgum trees that have issues, should we go in there and replace sidewalks and cutting roots out of 60-70 foot trees; we have a potential problem there, so we will be replacing some of the Washington Knoll's trees; that will happen this spring, as far as the removals; the replacements probably in the fall; Potting Day – Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>; that's at noon at the 400 Ashbrook Road facility, that is a rain or shine happening; this Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> we'll celebrate 25 years as a tree city at Grove City, Ohio at the tree city awards; Walker: Did we already fill in, Mr. Miller, on Potting Day? Miller: Potting Day, I hope, we pot up all the hanging bosses; at noon we meet at 400 Ashbrook Road, you bring a covered dish, we have a big smorgasbord, we eat; then we commence to get dirty, filling pots and listening to music; usually that takes about 45 minutes to pot about 100 pots, we have an assembly line.

Steve Smith - Probably the biggest news for us is figuring out what season is outside; first time since I've been here that we've had the creek come out of its banks twice in a two week period; right now, I am interested in, at least to me, not to them – where a normal rainfall is about 3.25, and we're only halfway through the month, and we're at 5.11; if you go back to March and include that, we are at 7.27; for some reason we are experiencing a wet season here, hopefully it goes away; the plant is handling it just fine; improvements we've made previously, and the initiation of use of both facilities have really made that a lot better, we're happy about that; the only other thing I have tonight is something I'm pretty proud of; we have been doing a lot of research on odor complaints in the Westchester area, very detailed odor research; in addition to putting in sensors and manholes; we've also went forward with interviews with different companies that are offering expertise in that area; some time back we got into a contract with a company called Evoqua; in my opinion, they're the best of the best; we have the new system installed, you might see it if you look next to the water tower across from Brewdog, you'll see a new tank sitting there; that tank contains a chemical that will be used to create the odor control situation; that is filled with chemical on Wednesday, we initiate use of it; it usually takes about 24 hours for things to mix up; Evoqua, under the first year contract, not only manages it and monitors it, but they optimize it; we anticipate a lot better smelling summer this year, going on perpetually from that point on; the cost of the thing will be reasonably offset by the monies we get from Brewdog and treating their waste; wish us luck on that, we will be keeping an eye on that; Lynch: Across the street from Brewdog's, where the water tower is, you're putting a giant air freshener, is that what I'm hearing? Smith: Essentially; not to get too technical, what we've got is something that's trade named 'bioxide'; it's calcium nitrate; this tank is 11,600 gallons; what happens is, the hydrogen sulfide typically uses sulfur – as the molecule mutates, it usually uses sulfur and makes hydrogen sulfide, which in turn combines with mist in the air to create sulfuric acid, which is ruining our sewers; we have already spent a quarter of a million dollars rehabbing our sewers for this, and it stinks; this gives – a molecule locks into that, before it has a chance to uptake the sulfur, and essentially takes the hydrogen sulfide down to 0; it's all monitorable, and all cost efficient; it shouldn't be a real boon to the community; we are not the first to get it, there are thousands of communities across the United States who are doing; it's a proven technology by a proven company; I'm looking forward to reduction – not only, again, of the odors; we have spent thousands of dollars, I think Bill can tell more about it than I can; thousands of dollars to rehab manholes and sewer pipe that are just eaten apart by hydrogen sulfide; that is now branching out into the substructures, it just takes longer because they're farther away from the source; ultimately, we expect this to be a huge cost savings for the city; Jarvis: In years past, the I and I used to be a problem when we had major rainfall events; is that no longer a problem, I haven't heard anyone talking about it in a while; Smith: That's a great question; we did a lot of stuff on I and I, the big main truck line, we discovered that big problem over there; we got a nice newspaper article about it over at 33; just recently, this winter, while the crops were down and trees were bare; we walked the entire trunk line, and we had two huge sources of I and I; one behind the Washington Knolls area, and another one out in the field where a tractor had knocked over an air vent, and had a gaping 2-inch hole in our main; we believe we have knocked about a million gallons of I and I out over the last 2 events; our I and I was – this event was 3.5 times normal flow; it was 4.5 times normal flow 2 weeks ago; that may sound like a lot, but last Thursday I visited Circleville – they had 18 times normal flow; we have gone a long way, and it will be a never ending process; we are always going to be looking for I and I, we'll always be trying to beat it, and we are never going to beat it; we are going to do the best we can to keep it in check; Jarvis: I'm going to blow this, but for the new council members, the term refers to the storm water, or brown water

entering the sanitary sewer system that has to be treated just as if it were sewage; it can create some problems; Clark: Inflow and infiltration, correct? Jarvis: Yes, I and I stands for inflow and infiltration; Smith: Yes, it can overwhelm sewers to the point that it's flooding basements; that's when it gets hyper-critical.

Shawn Starcher - I regret saying this, but I agree with Steve; with the crazy spring we've had, we just can't find ourselves to put our snow plows away; we've got it cleaned and ready, but literally we just got called out by the deputies the weekend before last to salt bridges and overpasses; the mowers are prepped and ready to go, we actually were out at the end of last week during that nice weather, we were able to get our first mow in at some of the parks; we will continue to work on that, get that equipment put away soon, you'll see the crews out mowing here very soon; in years past, we are typically mowing about now and weed eating and everything else; we are about 90% complete with our speed limit sign replacements, just have a few things I need to go out with Matt to talk about some signs in some subdivisions; our street sweeper has been in for a repair; we had to replace a pick-up head; we've been without it for about 2 weeks now; it's a costly repair, but we should get that back by the end of the week, so you'll see that back out; as soon as we get that back, we'll be out for the rest of the month sweeping; I'm finishing up with some seasonal applications, so hopefully can get that taken care of by the end of the week; as Dick mentioned, we started mulching parks and flower beds, and things like that; we started putting up the banners today, if you recognized that; Clark: I've got a question about the street sweeper; is there a way that we can notify when they're going to be in an area, or is it just too random; do you do Westchester a certain day, and then 'this' a certain day, and then 'that'; so that we can tell people to get their cars off the streets, I think the neighbors would do that if the street sweeper is coming down; Starcher: We always try to avoid Mondays, because that's trash day; we try to avoid going in and out around trash cans; if you see us out on Monday, we will usually be in the downtown area, and avoid the subdivisions; we did talk about using our system for our weather alerts to notify our residents about our certain routes, it's something we could definitely do; we have 4 routes for the street sweeper, we could definitely do that; Clark: Maybe in the Mayor's letter, or Amanda; Starcher: It'd be something easy we could do, like send out an alert through social media; Clark: It might be helpful, yeah; Mayor: Sometimes you can't always follow that schedule, though, if you're a day late, they pull it off the street, and then are back out there the next day – just so they understand that.

Joe Taylor - We got all the bulk water control system installed; we've been tinkering with it, getting it tuned in; that should be ready to go, people will start utilizing it when the weather breaks, trucks will start coming in; Rawdon Myers – they're our SCADA company, they're supposed to come back tomorrow; they've done all the offsite telemetry work, at all of the towers, and the Lieberman well field; they still have some programming issues that they need to sort through and get taken care of; we're having some communication faults that's sending out some false alarms; guys are coming in at 3 o'clock in the morning to acknowledge an alarm that doesn't exist; we're working on that, trying to get that cleaned up; I sent out for some course sampling for 3 filters and 2 softeners, as kind of a maintenance precautionary; I wanted to determine the efficiency of the filters, and the softeners to see how the media is holding up, as they're getting towards their tenth year – media life can range anywhere from 7-20 years, depending on operational; we're right in that time frame, I just want to determine how well it's operating, see how much buildup we have on the media itself; one of the filters we've been kind of working with – number 3, for the past couple of years with some issues, I want to send that one out, and 2 other ones that I know operate great, just for a comparison, to see if

maybe if it's something with the media itself; we continue to install the MIUs for the AMI system; we're around 980 right now, so by the time we get through this next billing cycle, I'm sure we'll be well over a thousand; we're right in the middle of hydrant flushing, we actually flushed Westchester today; we're getting close to the end, we still have Bowen and Busey to do, and then the Canal Pointe area; that's going very well, considering the weather; luckily it hasn't rained and snowed a whole lot during that time; we have been able to move along, they look pretty decent; it's been a normal amount of time to flush them; downtown area has a little more sediment than further out, so as we get further out it gets quicker; we're preparing to do some valve bolt replacement along North High Street; we've been doing the valve bolt replacement on suspected valves for the last few years; this year we're actually going to be working primarily on North High Street from the railroad tracks towards 33, there's 10 in there; that's in that time frame of valves that we're looking at; that's going to coincide with the street paving project, so we will get them knocked out right before we pave so we don't have an issue with something 2-3 years down the road on a brand new paved road; next week we are doing shutoffs and meter readings, working on the consumer confidence report, hopefully we'll have that link sent out and the report ready for when we send the bills out there around the first week of May; we've had 2-4 calls during the flushing program from people who have noticed the discoloration; I had one comment about some calcium deposition on a refrigerator water dispenser; we've lowered our hardness just a little bit, anything else is going pretty well; Walker: Just during the flushing, no other complaints on any water quality, other than that? Taylor: No, just one comment I had about a water dispenser out at Old Coach area; Walker: You said that there is 980 meters so far, and there's 3,000 – Taylor: Yeah, there are 2,700 accounts, and with those 2,700 accounts there are some people with sprinkler meters or deduct meters; in total there are 3,300 MIUs to be installed; overall we are about a third of the way, we have been at it for about a year now; we have the wastewater department helping now as well, so we should be over 2,000 by the end of this year; Jarvis: Mr. Taylor, you made a reference to Lieberman well fields; refresh my memory, is that the one that's north of 33 and west of Speedway and Bowen Road? Taylor: That is correct; Jarvis: How many wells, for the benefit of everybody, how many wells do we have, and what are their names? Taylor: We have the well field that was the existing well field at the water plant, so that's 223 North High; those are 3 of the original wells, those are wells 4, 5, and 6; 1, 2, and 3 through the years have been abandoned; there were some others that were abandoned here and there for other reasons; 9 and 10 are the Lieberman, we call those 9 and 10; those are the Lieberman wells, the Lieberman name came from the tract of land that was purchased there; those are across from the old Wendy's, there's a well field that's back over on the northwest of the freeway there; Jarvis: So that's it, the original and the Lieberman; Taylor: Yes, we have the 3 wells on the original site, and then 2 large wells over at the Lieberman tract; Jarvis: Is there opportunity for an additional well there, if needed? Taylor: Yes, when that was built, we had to obtain a sanitary easement for the wells, a 300 foot sanitary easement for the wells; so nobody can put sanitary sewer, or other things in that 300 foot radius around those wells; the existing well field was grandfathered in, because they were installed prior to the regulation changes through the state, so those had to be grandfathered in; the two new ones, each well is required to have a 300 foot radius of sanitary control; when we built that well field, when it was designed, back in 2006, it was thought to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> well there; the control is there for that 3<sup>rd</sup> well; Jarvis: Each well has that 300 foot halo around it? Taylor: Yes; Jarvis: So nothing can go in there; Taylor: We actually got the control from Homewood Homes when they owned the land north of that tract; we actually have a control radius into their property.

Shane Spencer - As Mr. Sims indicated; a lot of items are moving into construction here in the spring; one item on Gender Road Phase IV, we did receive and distribute the fully executed agreement for the cost share with the railroad; everything is in place, that was the last piece of the puzzle with that project; building on that, the bids that we received for the railroad portion of the Gender Road project came in below what we initially estimated, with the agreement with the railroad, the cost share, they had established in their capital improvements for the year based on the original estimate; there was some additional monies that we realized that they had budgeted, so we approached the railroad and proposed the idea of adding and improving the High Street crossing as well, which would enable us to get some pedestrian connectivity through there, and potentially still do that this year; the local office of the railroad has been very receptive to that, there's a little bit of additional funding we think they'll have to come to the table with, if we were to reach a cost sharing agreement on that as well; local office certainly thought that was a good idea, but they have to run that up their chain, so nothing formal yet; we have started those conversations, because we have an opportunity with the railroad licensed contractor working on the Gender Road project; might have an opportunity to do that most economical than any other point in the future; other than that, just to update you on one other thing I've been working on; I know over the course of the past year, year and a half, certainly there's been various conversations about aspects of the Gender Road/33 interchange; different things from pedestrian connectivity, anybody that's out there, folks in wheelchairs trying to traverse across the interchange, pedestrians – almost anytime you go through there, you see them; to beautification, potential branding of the interchange, signage, you see a lot of that going on, and also some of the traffic operations; certainly 33 is a whole other animal, just at the interchange itself, we are seeing some things on Gender Road; all of those conversations have been ongoing; my office has helped a number of communities, what's really happening with a lot of these interchanges, and you see these things happen, certainly there's the ODOT factor; a lot of them are getting traction at the local level, it's getting the ball rolling initially with the community, and then taking things to ODOT and saying 'hey this is what we want to do', then looking to leverage funding; basically what I'm doing now is putting together a roadmap; a timeline, a steps to the sequence; honestly, the process could be 4-5 years, just to get us into a construction project; one example my office has helped with is Grove City, the 665/71 interchange, it's down there where their FedEx facility is; they've done some treatments there, certainly a lot of beautification at that interchange, that was a ? design, if you're familiar; that was started at the local level with the city, they got the concept rolling, went to ODOT; the important thing is certainly leveraging funding; there's a lot of different funding opportunities out there, a lot of times once you secure one, you can leverage that to the next one, and then to the next one; so it's just a process, certainly working with ODOT, they have a normal process that they like dealing with as well; right now I'm just putting together a timeline, a roadmap as you would call it; certainly no decisions on anything, but at least it will be a document that we can look at and say 'if we want to start something, here's the timeline, and here's the steps'; start to engage ODOT; something I hope to have complete here in the next couple of weeks; Jarvis: Mr. Spencer, I'm a little confused; if you don't have a vision or some direction, how can you proceed? Spencer: Absolutely, that's step one; really step one from a community perspective here is identifying specifically what those goals are; this is starting with the idea that there's been all these different pieces and parts that are issues with the interchange that have been identified; so the very first step is, from the community's perspective, is to say 'these are the things we want to accomplish'; that's the first step before even going to ODOT; Jarvis: Can you describe the nature of what you have in mind – is it safety, aesthetics? Spencer: I'd say it was a combination thereof; the reality is that if you're going to get into the interchange, and do



*different aspects, it's hard to do one without the other; safety from a pedestrian standpoint, we talk about functionality with the lane configuration; you can't go in now and address pedestrian issues knowing that in 5-10 years, you may have some traffic issues; the beautification is well placed in to that; looking at pedestrian connectivity across is likely looking at modification to the bridge structure there; so if you're modifying it for pedestrian use, you can also do some branding with the bridge construction, you can do it then; they're all intertwined, that's what's important about prioritization; one of the initial steps too is understanding of the cost; cost is a real world constraint, you may have priorities, but some of them may be beyond what their value is; the first step is really a true brainstorming of saying 'here's what we want, here's the things we want to do, let's understand what the cost of those are', then you start engaging ODOT and other factors; Jarvis: Will we be a part of that process at some point? Spencer: I would certainly anticipate so, yes; Jarvis: Before the budget? Spencer: Absolutely; again right now is just getting that – because a lot of times, when you're working with ODOT and a lot of steps in the process, it's not a month; we're talking 6 months, 9 months, to a year with different processes that they have; understanding that if we want something to happen in 4 years, now is the time to start; Clark: I appreciate your efforts very much in regards to this; it's an important interchange, it's got and F grade right now with ODOT, because it's not functioning properly; I think there needs to be some upgrades there; as our community grows, and if businesses continue to grow behind Kroger, it's just going to increase the volume of traffic; I think you're on the right track with that; is there enough acreage to do – and this is probably going to be a tough question – to do a curl, coming from Wyler's Chevrolet, instead of crossing over Gender Road, is there enough to do a loop and hook around; Spencer: You're saying if you want to go east bound; Clark: Yes, right; so that light would not have to stop as much in sending traffic down; Spencer: Yes, I think that's one of the things that I think we've observed, some of the congestion there; I couldn't answer right now in terms of acreage; that's one of the steps in if those are priorities, then there's an effort in taking a look at that, and looking at the geometry and if there would be a right of way needed; certainly that may be challenging there with the already developed businesses; I couldn't answer specifically; Clark: That's okay, it's a tough question; Spencer: Again, it's that list of 'hey, here's the things we want to look at', and that's step one; there's been a lot of different conversations that have been viral here in the last year, year and a half to two years; at different points of time, it's kind of been disconnected; certainly if you want to tackle something, it's coming up with a plan to do it; Lynch: A lot of your solutions that you're coming up with would be at the result of current traffic studies, as well as projected traffic studies? Spencer: Absolutely, whenever we are going to design anything from a traffic perspective, we look at a horizon; most often, a twenty-year horizon; the other thing I'll add, too, is we have met with ODOT at various times for different aspects, including the noise barrier; they always talk in terms of what they have programmed, what they can physically see in their list; we know the improvements of 33 up towards 270; as of right now there's nothing down there near Gender; a lot of times, we've seen that when the local community starts the ball rolling, all of a sudden you maybe get ODOT to take a better look at 33; then they start thinking 'if we're bringing in local money, if we're bringing in different funding outside of ODOT for transportation improvements'; they start to realize that when other people come to the table, maybe we need to stop and think about it; it gets you to the forefront with planning folks there; we've seen a lot of different things develop there; the initial concept development, getting in front of ODOT, it's a small investment to get there; you'd be surprised at where it can go.*

*Sargent Cassel - First of all, I wanted to tell you that the new mid-shift deputy position is working really well; I want to thank you guys for that, it's helping out a lot; if you look at the handout I gave you, attached is the stats broken down for March; I decided I'm going to hand those to you once a month, for the whole month; I will go over the stats so far for this month; for 16 days we have had 235 dispatched calls; 484 pick-up runs; 142 reports; 50 addendums; 25 F.I. cards; 0 civil papers attempted; 11 civil papers served; 10 building checks; 3,780 vacation checks; 192 traffic stops; 70 citations; 41 warnings; 0 felony arrests; 14 misdemeanor arrests; 9 warrant arrests; 1 OVI arrest; 2 pink slips; 0 charge packets; 7 summons in lieu of arrest; 20 misdemeanor charges filed; 0 felony charges filed; possible down time 46,080; total down time 28,442; so the deputies were busy 61.72% of the time this month; that's all I have, unless there are any questions; Jarvis: Has the new deputy been on long enough to influence these numbers at all? Cassel: Yeah he has, that's deputy D'Amore; he's helping me out a lot with some special things that I needed him to do; mainly I have him running traffic right now in any of the areas that we think we are having problems.*

#### **E. Request for Council Action**

**ORD-18-017**  
Development

An Ordinance To Create Chapter 187 In Part Seven Of The Codified Ordinances Of Canal Winchester Enacting An Admissions Tax

*- Request to move to full Council*

*Haire: This is again, the ordinance that we talked about at the last meeting, and had some discussion on; we had updated that with a 3% rate; I sent out some information after the last meeting about the cities in Ohio that collected admissions tax, and the rates; I requested the updated information from the Ohio Department of Taxation, I have not received it yet to this point; I believe they have updated information from 2016; I left a voicemail to someone and have not heard back at this point on whether they have that yet or not; as you can see, some cities in that information I sent out – some of it's 2013 data, some 2014 data; those range from the city of Cleveland was the highest at 8%, down to a 1% tax rate; a number of the cities don't collect anything, they have admissions tax on the books, but they don't collect anything; hopefully that's the type of information that you were looking for, looking forward to some discussion on that; Coolman: I noticed on the list that you gave us, the city of Columbus was not on there; I would expect that they do have an admissions tax, don't you think? Haire: They currently do not have an admissions tax, they have discussed it a number of times; it's currently being discussed to help, or to assist with financing a new convention hotel; it's been discussed a number of times over the years, but they never enacted one up to this point; Coolman: I'm surprised; Haire: It was 1994 that the state first authorized collections of admissions taxes; Amos: I have couple of questions for you; one of the questions is first it seems like that although in the agreement, the ordinance that you put forward, there's a lot of stipulations that the company would go through; so first if they're going to have an event, they have to apply for the permit, it's \$20; then they have to follow through with filing it in a certain amount of time; is this basically an honor system though, because we're not going to know everything that's going on? Haire: Correct; it's like all taxes, the burden's on the person that owes the tax; Amos: I noticed that it's earmarked the general fund, not towards anything specific, correct? Haire: Correct; Amos: Was there a specific reason that drove you to ask for this, because I know you said it came up a year or so ago, and nothing happened – so was there a specific reason that we're just starting to push this forward again? Mayor: I can give you several reasons; local government funds are 44% across the board; property rollback taxes are down almost 5%; gas and excise taxes are down almost 8%, due to cars getting better gas mileage; state*

and local highway tax distribution is down about 5.5%; the estate tax is down 100%, we get 0; Amos: How much was that financially, can you give me an example? Mayor: I'm not sure; probably or the city of Canal Winchester, I would say \$300,000 a year; Amos: With the new bed tax increase that we plan on seeing, and since we've already said that would go towards the general fund, do we think that would help cover some of those costs? Mayor: That would help, not totally, but that would help; Jarvis: Let's put that in perspective; a return hotel generates somewhere between \$60-70,000; is that correct Ms. Jackson? Jackson: Last year it was closer to 80; Jarvis: Okay, so a rough number is \$80,000; this other hotel, which has more rooms, I think you could say it would generate similar, or a little higher even; that would be an offset, but not 100%; Amos: Not 100%, correct, but we do have the Brewdog coming in, which is double the current rate of our hotel; a lot less rooms – Walker: 32, I believe, and 92 in the Marriott; Amos: So another question I have was that last time we had given an example of the golf course, the green fees going up; we said that it would not affect – Mayor: The green fees would not go up; Amos: So they would have a tax on them? Mayor: This would be for outings only; it wouldn't be for someone who just wants to go play golf, it would be for outings only, a paid event; Haire: I think it's any admissions, mayor; it would be any admissions to the course; Mayor: I'm sorry, Luke says it is; but 3% of \$30 is what, 90 cents? Amos: The only reason I ask is that when I talked to the golf course, and a couple of people who do events at the golf course, the greens would then turn around and charge it back to the non-profits; essentially the non-profit would receive less of the profit; so it does affect the non-profit; Mayor: It depends, the non-profit could still raise their fee by a dollar, and still gain a dime; Amos: That's true, it just does trickle down, there's an effect on that; I did talk with some other cities, and just asked them – Columbus being one of them, and they said that while they're considering it, nothing is set in stone right now; same with New Albany, Gahanna; they just didn't feel like with all of the other taxes that they had, they didn't need it; they asked if we were in a financial crisis and I said 'oh no'; we have a great finance director; Mayor: We know the state has taken away our authority to collect our own income taxes, that's going to cost us money; everything the state does is costing us money; we have not done anything to gain any of that back, it's time we start doing that type of stuff; this is not going to cost the citizens of Canal Winchester; how many of you go to an event at Brewdog? The events they have, the 5K's, that type of stuff; how many of you have been to it? Amos: I missed this one this weekend, but I was at the last one; Mayor: How much did it cost you to get in? Mayor: Okay, so 3% of 40 is \$1.20; not that much, and you're one of 12 people here; Amos: There was about 500 runners this weekend; Mayor: There were, and that's great to see; I don't think 3% is going to hurt that a bit; I've talked to people out there, and they don't think it will either; Amos: You've talked to Brewdog? Mayor: At Brewdog, yes; Lynch: So I have a question, we are talking about charging for admission fees to paid events, that I understand; my question here comes from it says here 'a charge made for food, refreshments for any place where there is any free entertainment, recreation, or amusement'; Haire: An example of that would be a dinner theater event, where you're buying a ticket to the dinner, but you're enjoying the theater as part of the event; if you pay \$40 to go to a dinner theater event, you're paying for dinner, not for the event; Lynch: That I understand, it just doesn't – I don't know, maybe I'm reading it wrong; for example, if Harvest Moon has a performer playing one night, I'm not being charged an additional tax just because someone is playing music at that venue? Haire: No; Lynch: The other thing too is that we are talking about an exemption; it says down here 'a certificate registered for exemption'; all non-profits would then have to register, you said it was done on a merit system, an honor system; it says here you have to file for an exemption, so if I've got an event that's tax-free, I'd have to file with the city in order to not have to pay that tax? Haire: Correct; so a good example

would be the Harlem Wizards at the Rotary Club, and that was on a percentage basis, so that wouldn't be exempt from this tax; the wizards are keeping the majority the ticket sales from that event, and the Rotary Club is keeping a portion; each event would be evaluated on a case by case basis, whether the majority of the profit is going to the non-profit, or some other group that's putting on the event; another example would be the Lions Club putting on the circus; the majority of the sales go to the circus, so that would also be evaluated; Lynch: So the circus would be taxed, not the Lions Club; Haire: Correct; Lynch: So the school would for football and basketball games would just do a blanket certificate? Haire: Yes, they would have an exemption; Clark: With the golf course, and let's say the Historical Society golf outing; they would have to come down and file for an exemption, and then a tax would not be charged for that event? Because 100% of it goes to the Historical Society, is that right? Mayor: They're already tax exempt; if you're a 501(3)(c), you're already tax exempt; Clark: Right, so they won't have to collect or pay this or anything, right? Mayor: No; Amos: So would the golf course come down and file one as well, so that they wouldn't have to charge the tax during that, if they're doing it for a non-profit event? Let's say for the Historical Society – if they're charging them a green fee, or a portion, or giving them a discounted rate, would they need to – Haire: You'd have to ask Mr. Hollins, you're getting into too complex of tax issues for a Development Director; Coolman: If it's a Historical Society event, it's their event that's charging, so they're a non-profit; if the golf course posted something themselves for a Canal Winchester outing for an age group golf event open to the public, then they'd have to – Bennett: How much does that event bring in, versus how much the golf course collects? For example, the Wizards coming, we said 'well the Wizards get taxed, because not the majority of the money is going to the non-profit'; if they're not making more than they're paying the golf course, I don't know how you – Coolman: I don't know how much the Historical Society charges and takes, versus what they're being charged; it's a good question for them; Amos: Would a company whose hosted lots of events, like Brewdog, would they need to come down and apply every time they do an event for \$20, or do one blanket for the year? Haire: Yes, just once a year; Lynch: It says 'valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year of which it's applied'; Bennett: One additional question, is there any projection of how much, or any estimates on how much we think this tax would raise? Mayor: Not at this time, we don't have a good handle on that, no; Haire: The majority of the communities that I gave you tax movie theater admissions; that's the primary source of revenue from this, if you look at all of those smaller suburban communities around Cleveland and Cincinnati, it's because they're taxing movie theater admissions.

Jarvis: I appreciate what the mayor was saying about the loss of revenue, and know that to be true; I guess I have a problem with it on the grounds that there's no correlation between this tax and that event, the fact that we are 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' in a way; it seems like this could be a potentially a bureaucratic, messy situation; we're sitting here wrestling with different scenarios, one-offs and things like that; I think it's going to hurt somebody that we don't want to get hurt; for that reason, I'm very uncomfortable with this; without thinking about it a little bit more, I would not be in support about going forward with it; it's a group situation. Bennett: I guess, personally, I think I'm in a similar place, I don't know that I've seen enough events or opportunities; if we had a movie theater, maybe it makes sense, if we have a mystery theater, or an escape room, some type of entertainment venue that's constantly holding events; the biggest potential revenue collector from this may be the golf course; potentially Brewdog with their events, but the consistency of that, not the largest; I feel like that's going to end up hitting the Canal Winchester residents more than tourists; Jarvis: Indirectly; Bennett: Indirectly, yes; it's a great ordinance, it's something we should definitely consider, I just

*don't know that now is the time, for me personally; Coolman: I think as our city continues to grow in population, and we continue to want to expand the nice services that our community offers to our residents, now as our population grows, we have to expand our services even to more residents; we have to find a way to fund that; as Ms. Jackson pointed out, in the beginning of the year when we looked at the budget, our operating expenses continue to rise; with the help, as Mayor Ebert pointed out, with the state taking away our ability to collect taxes, and our ability to do other functions for our city, we are losing that revenue; as we continue to grow, and our overhead expenses grow, and our revenues continue to drop, we have to think and look at other ways to generate a little income; I don't think this is a bad issue for now, because as you said, I don't know if it will affect that many – I can see Brewdog, as they continue to load up their calendar with more events, but we are talking 3% of a fee that's charged for admission; think about what they're charging, what's 3% of \$5? I don't know, I think it's something we should really consider, because what other options do we have as we continue to grow as a community? We certainly don't want to get around to raising taxes; Mayor: You pay 3% or more every time you use your credit card; Lynch: You go to buy groceries, you end up paying a 7% sales tax on that; if anyone's issuing a ticket, let's say a \$10 ticket, maybe they charge \$10.30 per ticket; it doesn't become a burden on said business owner, because they're just paying a tax, no different than a sales tax for buying apples at the store, or whatever tax; if I buy stuff at the hardware store; Coolman: Remember, this is a tax on events that charge an admission; Lynch: That tax we pass on to the recipient; Mayor: Whether if this passes or not, down the road something's going to have to be done; whether it's done now or later; what's going to happen later, I'm not going to say we're getting in the hole, because we're not; we have to think about what's coming up, and not react to it when we get there; Coolman: We have to be proactive; I'd rather be proactive and have it in position, so that if we need it, it's there; as our events grow, it's there; it doesn't really impact us that badly now, because we don't really host that many events now; why not put it in place, so when we reach that point of saturation, it's already there; Hollins: This is clearly a matter of home rule; this one is reserved for us, the state doesn't have anything to do with this; they only acknowledge that local municipalities charge it; what does that mean – if you have issues about grey areas, whether it applies this, that, or the other; it's completely within your discretion to define what events this applies to, if that helps; Mayor: If you don't like what's in there now – Hollins: We'll clarify it; we'll go after the big events, first; Coolman: That's how I look at this, I look at it as another tool for the city to pay our overhead; to keep affording the nice services that we give our community and our residents; it's another option for us; Jarvis: Is this really the last stop before income tax is looked at; is this all we have in the tool bag? Mayor: As long as we have property to sell to business to buy in Canal Winchester, and they're hiring employees, we can rely 100% on income tax; when we run out of property to sell, or property to buy, and the businesses stop hiring, we're dead in our tracks; Lynch: We don't make any money off of residential houses at all; Clark: It's jobs, creating jobs, creating new wealth; Lynch: It's the way we fill our coffers, it's a tough call; Amos: As we have increased events, we're adding new staff; I know Brewdog in general, every time I go in, there's more people they are hiring, because they have so many events coming in lately; I am just going to wrestle with this one; there just needs to be a little more conversation that takes place, in my opinion, before we sign on the dotted line; Walker: A lot of their hiring right now is due to their Short North – Brewdog is opening today I believe; Franklinton is in a week or so; they're moving a lot of their experienced people to those clubs; that's why they're hiring; Jarvis: Assuming that we forward this to full council, we've got a month and a half from the first reading this evening to the third reading; it can be tabled at any point, it can be modified at any point to make it feel better; I'm with you, I'm having trouble with it;*

*part of it is I'm just not seeing every scenario, I can't run every scenario through there; Mayor: If there's something in there you don't like now, and you definitely want it out of there; take a look at it, let us know between now and the next meeting, or before the next meeting, or at the next meeting; we can strike it, discuss it, or whatever happens; Coolman: I just think a little more detail on what events, and how it's charged, involving the non-profits that we have that use, for example, the golf course; a little more detail on how you break that down, make it a little more clear; we could work on that, I think we can get that done in a month; Amos: The city of Philadelphia has a very nice – again, still wrestling with it; had a nice layout of how they handle it; if we're going to push forward, or we decide to take a look at theirs; they also did theirs on a quarterly return, I think it was either Philadelphia or Missouri; one of them, because I looked around the United States, one of them did a quarterly, instead of – I think in ours it says that you have to immediately turn around in 30 days; in theirs you did a form quarterly, and submitted everything at one time, which was very effective, and was less tail chasing; Jackson: Yes, but you're talking about two different numbers of events; a city like Philadelphia is going to have sporting events and concerts constantly; whereas here, we are not going to have that; my fear in giving them a longer time frame is that it gets forgotten; Lynch: Money gets spent; Amos: Who should we direct our questions to, mayor? Mayor: Pardon? Amos: If we have questions or suggestions, who should we point those to? Mayor: To Luke, for now; or copy Amanda and myself on it.*

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

***Yes 6 – Coolman, Jarvis, Amos, Clark, Lynch, Walker***

***No 1 – Bennett***

- F. Items for Discussion**
- G. Old/New Business**
- H. Adjournment at 7:14 p.m.**

***A motion was made by Lynch, seconded by Bennett to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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