

Canal Winchester

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



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

February 21, 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 6:01 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, Bill Sims

Reports of City Staff – Bill Sims

Discussion started at 4:38 on YouTube Channel

Sims – The 2023 Street Program is currently out for bid. The bid opening will be on March 3rd. We had a cost estimate of \$1.295 million for that project, so it was basically right around \$1.3 million. The increased cost this year is associated with the work we are going to do with the pavement in the areas where we're installing water lines back in the Manor/Dye subdivision. We've awarded the contract for the three-season shelter to Ferguson. We're basically just processing the contract right now, and hopefully we'll get them rolling on material procurement here shortly. I mentioned the water line briefly, but they're finalizing details on the plans and gathering information for the bidding documents for the water line replacement project that V3 is working on. It's our intention to have that out for bid on the 15th of March. McGill Phase 2, as I mentioned before, not much has changed since my last talk, but EMH&T was working on some preliminary design information. They provided a number of cost proposals and options to us, which we're still evaluating. On the private development side, Evans Farm construction is continuing. They are moving along now with the Robinette Way work, so they're moving on to some of the public improvements. They've got some water lines installed and a fair amount of public storm sewers installed at this point. The roadway is not quite at subgrade level, but it's getting pretty close. It's getting a lot more evident. If you go out there, you start to kind of see how things will lay out now for Robinette. We've been looking at plans for the next four, six, and seven phases of Greengate Development. Those plans aren't approved yet, but talking to the developer, it sounds like they'd like to do at least sections four and six this summer. The Sheetz at Gender and Winchester Pike is underway. There's not a lot of public impact there beyond the right turn lane. It'll come in off of Gender Road, but the work will take place in the spring. Any questions?

Ebert – Do you want to mention the Dye Addition meeting you're having?

Sims – Sure. As part of the water line project, we have to do road work in that same neighborhood, so we'll be having a public information open house for the folks of that neighborhood. Woodsviw, Cherokee, and Mohican will have an opportunity to come and look at plans, ask questions, and so forth. I just put together the notice to send out tentatively on March 8th, Wednesday evening, but we'll get that confirmed here in the next day or so.

Shea – I have a question regarding Greengate. How many sections are there total in that plot development?

Sims – Seven. So four, six, and seven are basically in the North Loop, which is the completion of the Greengate project. At this point, they are roughly two-thirds completed with roads and utilities. One-third of it has home construction occurring, one-third is sitting empty, and the remaining third will hopefully be constructed this summer.

D. Request for Council Action

[ORD-23-009](#)

Public Service

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CASE IH F75C 4WD

TRACTOR REAR AND WING FLAIL MOWERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Buskirk to move ORD-23-009 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Discussion started at 10:31 on YouTube Channel

Peoples – This is the tractor that we discussed during the budgeting process for our partnership with Violet Township. It’s a full-size roadside mower. It will replace the one that we have now. Originally, Violet Township was going to purchase the mower, and we would reimburse them. They requested that we purchase, and they reimburse us. That is what this ordinance is for. We are requesting to declare an emergency just so we can procure it and be ready for mowing season.

Buskirk – Was this an even split between the two?

Peoples – Yes.

Clark – I don’t have a question, but I think this is an example of good governing in reaching out to a neighbor when they have a need and we have a need. Job well done, Mr. Peoples.

Shea – I’ll just say one more thing because Matt Peoples and I talked about it. It’s also a big safety enhancement for our road crews because this is going to be a tractor that is used along Route 33. It’s going to have an enclosed cab, which will offer us a substantially higher level of protection than just the open tractors they’re using now. It’s a win-win for everybody.

ORD-23-010

Finance

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2022 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #22-041, AMENDMENT #2

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Shea to move ORD-23-010 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Discussion started at 13:05 on YouTube Channel

Jackson – As you may recall, we’ve been talking about all the capital projects that we have coming up here in the city within this year and in the next few years. I had sort of forewarned you that this appropriation amendment would be coming. To kind of go through it real quick line by line, in the general fund we’re asking for \$150,000. This is all capital outlay-related. \$125,000 of that is for the street program that Mr. Sims spoke about earlier. There’s also \$25,000 in there for the McGill Park three-season shelter house. That was a contract that council approved two weeks ago, and we have enough funding except for that \$25,000. We are in need of those additional funds to make sure we can complete that project this year. As Mr. Peoples spoke about the tractor purchase with Violet Township, we had originally included \$50,000 in our original budget that was approved by city council. Now that the changes have been made for us to purchase it and have Violet reimburse us, we need to appropriate the other funds needed for that

purchase, so that's where the \$47,000 to that capital outlay line item is coming from. Then in the Gender Road TIF Fund, we're asking for \$317,000. This is all for engineering costs for the Gender Road Phase 6 project. You may recall that we've spoken about how we were preliminary awarded safety funding for that project. The funding is contingent on the completion of an interstate modification study that needs to be approved by ODOT, so part of that \$317,000 is specifically for that study. We would like to get moving on that. Finally, the last section in this ordinance is something we don't do very often around here. I'm not sure that many of you have actually seen me ask for the transfer of already appropriated money, but that's what I'm asking for in our Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. This is our Round 2 COVID funding that we got from the federal government. When I did the original budget, I had \$83,400 in the operating expenses line item. We are asking to transfer that to the capital outlay line item for that three-season shelter house project. The original expense that we had budgeted for with that \$83,000 was inadvertently also included in the general fund that you have already approved, so we're going to take that money out of the general fund and then use all of the local fiscal recovery fund money for the three-season shelter house.

Shea – When the \$317,000 comes out of the Gender Road TIF Fund, what is going to be left?

Jackson – Quite a bit. I don't have an answer off the top of my head, but I can tell you that last year we received about \$575,000–\$580,000 into that fund, and we will receive that if not more this year. There is quite a bit of money in there, but I will get you a definite answer.

Shea – I know it's a good, healthy one. I'm just more curious if the TIF can only be used for gender road improvements. Is that how that works?

Jackson – The gender road TIF can be used for public improvements on gender road. Yes.

Shea – For example, we're talking about possibly doing a roundabout on Winchester Boulevard.

Jackson – Yes. There is potential for the use of funds on that project as well from that fund.

Haire – Any public infrastructure project that benefits the TIF area so as long as there's a correlation to the TIF area you can use it for those purposes.

ORD-23-011
Development

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE
MEIJER STORE LOCATED AT 8300 MEIJER DRIVE

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amick to move ORD-23-011 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Discussion started at 19:12 on YouTube Channel

Andrew Moore – Planning and Zoning Administrator

Moore – I'll be here this evening to present the final development plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Meijer store. They are requesting a final development plan amendment to the Meijer store to add a pharmacy drive-thru window and to relocate the garden center. This property is approximately 56 acres. It is part of the Meijer store and a number of developed and undeveloped outlots that are part of the overall Meijer development. For a brief history of this property, the Meijer store and

the out parcel development pattern book were approved in September of 2006 with ordinance #74-06. This approved the plans for the 207,364 square foot Meijer store on 23.36 acres, and the 32.6 remaining acres would be for the commercial outlots that surround the development. Some of those outlots have been developed today. I apologize; my picture is a little old, and it doesn't show Chipotle, Pediatrics Associates, or the new Taco Bell. When looking at the Meijer store, this is the primary corner of activity that I'm going to be talking about. Back in 2006, when Meijer wanted to get approval for the main store, they were showing a pharmacy drive-up on the front southwest corner of the building. For those that are familiar with the pharmacy location, it is inside the facility. The original location for the pharmacy pickup had you pulling in front of the building with your driver's window facing the main façade, so you'd have to cross over traffic to get to the drive-thru loop. If anybody's been to the pharmacy in Lancaster, it was the original design for this location. The Planning and Zoning Commission at the time didn't like it or thought it was safe, so the applicant pulled it. The applicant is going through a major remodel on the interior of the store right now, and with their remodels, they're looking to add their newest design for the drive-thru loop for convenience for the customers. The area with the white wall is their three season's room, which they close off during the winter and open up during the summer to display mulch and other planting materials. That area will be completely removed, and they will shift the fenced-in area for the garden center 67 feet back and extend it as far back as they can on their property. The photo you see will be where the primary drive-thru loop gets constructed. Looking at the plans provided by the applicant, 2,500 square feet of that three-season room will be removed, and they will be working on approximately 29,000 square feet of the area on the side of the building. The drive-thru loop is highlighted in gray on the left, and the darker gray on the right is where the garden center will be expanded to. There is a dashed line that's within that gray area on the right-hand side that shows the current extents of the garden center. They're going to try to pick up some of the square footage they're losing with the pharmacy drive-thru relocation. With this relocation here, they're looking to change some of the traffic patterns, which aren't shown on this screen but will be on the next one. As you can see now, there are currently two lanes in every direction on Meijer Drive going in and out of the site. This site has a southbound and westbound lane on the screen to your left, and then there's an eastbound lane that goes to the dead end of Meijer Drive on the right. What they're looking to do with this proposal is remove the eastbound lane on the right to have the traffic flow in all directions as you get to that stop bar, and then that will help clean up the traffic heading up to the loop. Part of the design concept when working with the applicant was really trying to restrict traffic movements from trying to do a U-turn. The applicant is showing that they are installing three additional landscape islands that will separate the drive-thru traffic loop from the rest of the vehicle traffic. Another component that's part of this proposal is the island in the center of the drive-thru loop, which will feature all of their seasonal hanging baskets and flowers that are for sale. Typically, during the off-season, like right now, there's nothing there, so what they would like to do is utilize the center island. As part of that, pedestrian safety was something we talked a lot with the applicant about how to improve it and make it as safe as possible. They're showing on the screen that there's going to be some fenced-in sections that will delineate the limits of that seasonal area. There are pedestrian crosswalks, warning signs, and really good deterrent measures to keep you from wandering into the drive-thru traffic. The front is the area that is being heavily modified. The back photograph shows where the fence is being extended to eat up the rest of this grassy area. One of the things that really stood out when staff was reviewing this rendering specifically was that they're showing some bagged and bulky products in the middle of this island. One of the things that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended as part of their approval was to really eliminate and prohibit any sort of bagged, palletized, or displayed materials that would really force you to stop and load your vehicle from the drive-thru loop rather than somewhere else that's safer and more convenient. The applicant at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting had no problem meeting that request. Another item to note when looking at this rendering in particular is that the fencing for the

garden center is now immediately adjacent to an active traffic pattern exiting the pharmacy loop. The recommendation was to have the fencing looked at from a site triangle perspective. The applicant had no problem with looking at that request. The Planning and Zoning Commission also noticed when looking at this rendering that there were some detectable warnings as shown on the screen, but there were some stop signs indicated for the pedestrian traffic instead of yields to understand it is a pedestrian crossing. They asked for that to be further evaluated during the engineering review at a later stage. This rendering shows the landscaping that will be installed to help screen it. When looking at the landscape plan provided by the applicant, the landscaping didn't really show plants being installed, only the rendering did, so staff had asked the applicant to update the landscape plan to show the plants that will be in there, make sure they're compatible, and have the Urban Forester review it. The applicant had no problem with that and indicated it was really just an error on their part. This rendering shows the revamp within the garden center. Currently they have one shade structure for the plant area, and now they will have two. They're also showing a greenhouse structure for more year-round plants. I believe this is also going to be irrigated to have a little nicer of a product in it. This is something they're doing with most of their store remodels. Part of the discussion with the applicant on their requests to amend the final development plan was that this had to go to city council for approval. A couple years ago, the city worked with Meijer's landscape team to try to clean up and replant basically everything in these red boxes with better plants and make the landscaping more maintenance-free. The applicant really went out and said they tried to look at it two years ago and it really didn't work, so let's see if we can do it again. They highlighted these areas in red to work with our Urban Forester on either totally replanting or doing it in a better manner to make it easier to maintain long-term. As part of that discussion, we talked about the brick columns that are out there now that have the Canal Winchester "C" and not the "CW" in the limestone medallions. The applicant indicated they have no issues popping those out and replacing them. The CEDA Land Use Committee met on February 2nd to review the Final Development Plan for the proposed changes to the pharmacy drive-thru loop and garden center. The committee made a motion to approve the application with the following recommendations: 1. The applicant modify the fence location for the pharmacy loop at the garden center to reduce sight triangle concerns with oncoming traffic. 2. The applicant work with city staff to look at adding an additional exit point for the pharmacy traffic onto Meijer Drive. The concern with this is that traffic is trying to head south, leaving the pharmacy loop. If there's anybody stacked at the stop sign, they would have to be queued up and really wait for somebody to waive them through. The CEDA Land Use Committee thought about having it go straight through to have a second out path or something further east that could even be used for semi-truck traffic so the trucks can enter behind the facility without ever having to cross in front at all. Those are things that the Planning and Zoning Commission didn't want to say yes to either because they don't know the technical ins and outs of them, so they further recommended that they be deferred to the engineering review, which would be the next step after the city council's overview. The Department of Planning and Zoning recommends that the final development plan FDP-23-001 be approved with the following four conditions: 1. The drive-thru island is only used for seasonal hanging baskets and flower displays. No mulch, topsoil, or other bagged products, nor landscaping stone or other pallet display items, may be stored or displayed in this area. 2. Sheet LS-1.2 to include information for the plant materials within the new landscape islands around the pharmacy drive-up loop. 3. The CEDA Land Use Committee recommendations be further evaluated during the civil engineering review for vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety within the drive-up loop. 4. The brick columns along Diley Road and Busey Road have the limestone medallions replaced with Canal Winchester "CW" logo lettering. I'd be happy to answer any questions you all may have.

Milliken – Planning and Zoning's recommendation was that they do not use this island area for the bigger bulk items. I know you mentioned the fencing potentially blocking line of sight for traffic, but just in my

experience working retail, when inventories come in, they're going to put things wherever they need to put them. How do we hold them to that?

Moore – If the condition of approval is that they can only display hanging baskets and seasonal displays and no bagged or pallet stored items, if they start having bagged or pallet stored items out there, then you can send them a zoning violation based off of the final development plan. That's what makes a planned district unique—they're writing their own code. This would be a condition of their code saying they can't do this.

Amos – I saw on the front where they have the garden entrance. Where's the actual entrance for people to pick up large items because currently you pick up from the front.

Moore – The screen that I have up right here, the two striped locations, are the fire exit paths where there are gates to leave the garden center. The applicant indicated that they could sign those locations as bulk pickup or loading zones. If you wanted to do that, you could pull up past the pharmacy and then have it at that location.

Amos – Will there be clear signs indicating it's a loading zone? It looks like it's in a parking area.

Moore – It's something we can clearly identify during the review. There are parking spaces there now. I don't know if I've ever seen anybody parked there. It's something we can look at.

Amos – Are we ever going to finish the road that leads back to the Pickerington area?

Moore – Meijer is required to finish the connection with the next out parcel they sell.

Amos – We've had so many issues with landscaping there because they don't monitor it. I'm glad that they're going in and doing some of this, but consistency has not been their strong suit. I'd love for somebody from Meijer to speak to that, if possible.

Moore – That was definitely the whole reason behind this page in your guys' packet: to let them know that the plan approval had to go to the city council for ultimate approval, and you guys are a body that can make any condition a part of it. Zoning wouldn't have anything to say but maintain it. Part of that discussion had some of these limestone medallions being swapped out to make it more appropriate to look at the landscaping and clean it up. Two years ago, I worked with the Urban Forster to totally revamp and change the landscaping behind the triangle marker that says "Welcome to Canal Winchester" to make it just grass plants, so that way there's like zero maintenance behind it. Those are the types of things we want to work on with the applicant to make the landscaping that's out there nice with as little effort as possible.

Amick – I think most of my questions have been answered, but I do have one about the pharmacy loop. If you are in line, in the loop, and you need to leave due to an emergency of some sort, is there any kind of vehicular emergency exit out of the loop?

Moore – No.

Shea – Thank you for the great presentation. On this one here, right along the edge of the loop where they're doing landscaping, along the roadway that goes in front of the store, I can't tell if there's a sidewalk there.

Buskirk – There’s no sidewalks in front of those islands on the roadway.

Moore – Correct.

Shea – Should there be?

Moore – I don’t think there’s enough room to do a sidewalk and keep the landscape island. If the island were to go away, it could be replaced with a raised sidewalk, but then there would be no screening for the drive-thru.

Shea – I have one other ask. This is more of a preventative, proactive ask. Truck parking has been a source of complaints with our residents for aesthetics and sometimes noise. We are having a lot of industrial development in that particular corridor; can we make one of the conditions of this that there is to be absolutely no overnight truck parking in the front parking lot? I understand if they want to park by the dock or in the back of the building, but in the front, I don’t think that’s the image we’re trying to send about our city.

Moore – Yes. Again, this is a planned district, so with them opening up the development text to request for this, any parking restrictions that council wants to add to the text to regulate the site is totally appropriate.

Milliken – Let’s do it.

Buskirk – I second that.

E. Old/New Business

OTH-22-021 Pedestrian Safety

Discussion started at 49:27 on YouTube Channel

Clark – Is there anything further to address Pedestrian Safety?

Shea – I just want to say thank you to the city for responding to the request of the council to really look into that three-way stop for the future.

Peoples – Just an update: we did get an exhibit from EMH&T on how that should be laid out. We have to order some materials, so as soon as that comes in, we’ll get that put together.

OTH-22-022 Police Study

Discussion started at 49:59 on YouTube Channel

Clark – Tonight we have Chief Von Eckartsberg to present a police study. We had conducted a request for a police department staffing study to determine if we were right-sized for our city. We were able to contract with the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Chief Von Eckartsberg, and John Wenzlick. We also have Chief Deputy Collins and Sergeant Walker from the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Department.

Eckartsberg – I just want to thank everybody who worked on this. Sergeant Walker, I realized this, and I apologize, but I didn’t give you credit in the report for the work you did with us. I want to thank Sergeant Walker, Chief Deputy Collins, the folks from the city, Amanda Jackson, Mayor Ebert, and Matt Peoples, as well as Elisa Dowdy and the Communications Supervisor of Fairfield County, Joe Morris. We had a lot of

help on this, and I appreciate everybody's cooperation. Did you want me to go through some of the questions that I received from you guys and kind of walk through those a little bit?

Clark – That'd be fine.

Eckartsberg – First of all, as you can see, I don't want to belabor what you've already read, but I will just summarize briefly that the police staffing study has to look at several methods for trying to determine how police agencies should be staffed because there is no industry standard for making that determination. Whenever we do a study like this, we try to pick some formulas that are best suited to the area we're looking at, and for this study, we used the per capita method, the minimum staffing method, the IACP staffing model, and a workload-based approach. I do believe the law enforcement services that you receive are staffed very well. As I put in my responses to some of your questions, I also think you guys benefit greatly from the fact that you have a minimum staffing that you require in your contract, but you're lucky because you have this great agency that's got more people than just the people they dedicate to Fairfield County. If there's some type of emergency where their staffing runs low, they actually have the ability to pull people from other areas of the county to staff Canal Winchester if they actually had to. That's something you wouldn't have if you had your own police department. We'll start with the first question. The question was: What method(s) are currently used by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department? I assumed you meant to determine their staffing requirements, which wasn't part of the scope of this study, so I didn't ask. I mean, that's something I'm sure they'll be willing to talk to you about. The second question talked about using the methods we used: Does the report assume that the supervisor is also patrolling? Really, the way I'd like to answer that is that ideally, the number of law enforcement officers that we would recommend that you have staffing the city and patrolling the city would be the number of line officers that are sufficient to handle the workload that you're seeing. Canal Winchester has 12 deputies currently assigned, plus a supervisor, a communications technician, and a deputy. We believe that's sufficient. Again, I mentioned in my response to that answer that yes, in circumstances where you may have emergencies in terms of staffing, they have other people they can pull from staff. Although we recognize that there are 13 people assigned to patrol from the sheriff's office, that 12 number is important because that's how many people are usually answering the calls. No offense, but the sergeant has a lot of administrative duties, I'm sure. The next question is: Does the severity of calls using crime data or crime trends ever get included in the calculation, or is that just assumed in the 45 minutes per call? As I talked about a little bit in the report, the data that we received from Fairfield County's CAD system was great. We were able to separate the calls for service in terms of calls initiated by the public, calls initiated by the officers, administrative calls, and that type of thing, but looking at the total number of minutes on average that I got using that data, there's just no way it's accurate. It came out to about 218 minutes on average per call, and there's no way that's accurate. It's almost 4 hours a call. There could be a number of reasons for this, but because the data was inaccurate, we used 45 minutes as a standard, which is an accepted estimate. It's a generally accepted rule that it takes around that long to complete an average police call, whether it's a long-involved crime or something very quick like a lockout. Using crime data is something we could not do with this report because you do not have your own police department. You do not report your neighbor's crime data to the FBI. In the FBI's crime data, if you try to look up Canal Winchester, there's nothing. The sheriff's office obviously reports their data to the FBI, but they report the data for the entire county. That is one thing that is a little more difficult to come up with when you don't have your own police department because you're not making those types of crime data reports to the FBI. The fourth question: It appears that the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office does not accurately track the average time to handle. This could be for a lot of reasons. This is not a fault of the sheriff's office. This is more of a fault of the CAD system that they are replacing. They recognize they need to update it, and it's being updated

currently. The next question is: Is the spread of geography and estimated travel time across the territory ever used in the calculation? Does the 45-minute average per call take travel time into account? It really doesn't, because we're simply looking at the time they're tied up on a call. The CAD system can determine the amount of time if you need it, and that is something that may be in a future staffing study if you ever do decide to get your own police department at some point, which at this point I don't think would be necessary. You could look at things like how long it takes for an officer to get to a call and then how long they spend on the call. The CAD system will absolutely give you that data. All we were looking at was the amount of time they were tied up on a call. The next question had to do with our final recommendation for 2028. I just want to caution you that this is a very broad estimate. I can't give you an accurate look at what you're going to see in 2028 because we don't know. First of all, we don't have a crime date. I can't tell you whether your crime issues are going up or down. The sheriff's office could probably anecdotally tell you, but there is no actual neighbor crime date to give you on that. Based on your growth, which has been obviously significant, if we extrapolate from the fact that growth will continue at least for the next five years, we can get an idea of how many residents you're going to have and possibly how many more deputies or officers you would need patrolling the city. Finally, the question I got late this afternoon: Did we take into consideration outside growth? I did not, and for two reasons, it really wasn't part of the scope of the study. At least from my experience, I was a chief in a city that had huge growth in the city itself and then even bigger growth in the city of Columbus surrounding us. In the eight years that I was chief, the property crime rate actually went down, and there was huge growth in both the city and in the areas around us. Now in full disclosure, the violent crime rate did go up, but the way we measured it was by looking at our index crimes. It's going to be the same in any city in America. What's the most common crime you're going to see in any city in America? Theft. Any city. It may be the most violent city in America, but the most common crime you're going to see is theft. The things we looked at in our city to help us determine whether crime was going up or down and where we needed to focus our efforts were the property crime rates, which went down steadily. My experience was that yes, you get more people, and you may get more calls in terms of traffic crashes because you are going to get more traffic, but in terms of crime, it wasn't really a significant difference.

Shea – You said that your property crime went down but your violent crime did go up.

Eckartsberg – Yes, during that time period. The index crimes we looked at were to help us determine where we needed to focus. However, if we were seeing a particular type of violent crime, that was an issue that we had to respond to right away, but the trends that we followed were mostly property crimes.

Shea – The theft happens consistently, and the violent crime may pop it's head up on occasion.

Eckartsberg – Absolutely. There's always been the argument: can we really affect crime, and can we really reduce crime? We probably wouldn't be in this business if we felt we couldn't. We always felt that we could. When people commit crime, there's a thought process behind it. They make a decision; they commit a crime. There are often patterns to that crime. Reducing crashes and other similar incidents is more difficult. What's the difference between a crime and a crash? Crashing is random and accidental. We always felt that we could affect it by focusing our resources, and I think the evidence is there that we did, although obviously there are other factors. Yes, violent crime isn't something you should ignore, but it has a much lower rate than our property crime rate. The bottom line is you guys receive fantastic service from Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. The impression I got when I was working with the city was that they feel like it's their police department. They're pretty happy with the service. The impression I got when I spoke to the sheriff's office was they really enjoy having the ability to work this as their own city and their own

police department for the city. It's kind of a nice marriage of services.

Amos – When you say violent crimes, can you define what you consider violent crimes?

Eckartsberg – It's not what I consider. It's the part one crimes that are defined by the FBI. Murder, aggravated assault, rape, and robbery. We look at part two also but part one mostly.

Amos – I did want to thank you for the way you broke down the math. It was very helpful to understand how you came to some of your equations. We were talking about the population and the potential growth; did you look at census data?

Eckartsberg – I looked at census data, correct. Not necessarily birth rate or death rate but population change and demographics.

Amos – Did you use a trend of how many years?

Eckartsberg – I did. I believe it was from the 2010 census to present. I used that rate of growth and extrapolated from that what the growth would be from now until 2028.

Amos – I noticed a lot of this is based around our current sheriff's department. How many of the calls were Madison Township? How much of this data that's been incorporated includes Madison Township?

Eckartsberg – When I spoke to the sheriff's office and looked at the data, all the dispatch calls were to the sheriff's office. Everything that I looked at from Madison Township that I could determine was self-initiated. These were not calls that were initiated by residents of the city. In my opinion, it wasn't as relevant as the sheriff's data.

Clark – When you talk about the CAD system and how they're going to do something different. What is different? Once that system is in place, would you be able to get a better idea than just guessing the 45 minutes? Like six months of information after that was installed.

Eckartsberg – You'd want a full year. I don't want to speak for the sheriff's office in terms of what their system can do, but from my experience, going to a more advanced system is about technology. Technology gets better all the time. They're going to a better product that I think will be able to give them better data. We probably would be able to get more accurate data and give you a more accurate look at how much time an officer or deputy spends on average on a call. You probably would even be able to break it down to how many of the calls are two deputy calls and that type of thing. The bottom line is that you'll probably come to about the same conclusion.

Clark – Also, with the FBI numbers, and maybe this is a better question for the sheriff's office, is there any way to break out the city of Canal Winchester instead of the whole county?

Chief Deputy Collins – It's something I can look into. The problem with our current CAD system is that it is extremely limited. The new system is a \$2.1 million commitment. It's been promised from the manufacturer and all of our tech people that this system will provide us with any report we could ever think of asking for. What that means, I have no idea. It's an all-encompassing system. This system is the jail, our civil division, records management, CAD; everything under our roof is managed by this system.

They've assured me that really any report we could think of asking for from this system will be given to us. Our current system wasn't the best when we got it, but at the time, it was all we could afford. That's the reality of the situation. As a good example, it went down for two days over the weekend. When your agency has been computer-only for the last eight years, I believe I had a lieutenant running around with paper reports for guys to fill out to catch up. We're really looking forward to this. It's a game changer for the agency.

Clark – How hard would it be to throw those numbers in and make sure the numbers are what they're saying? This seems like a lot of assumption to me.

Eckartsberg – Let me just say that in any report like this, there are going to be a lot of assumptions. I mean, the reason you have someone with law enforcement executive experience doing one of these is because you do have to make some assumptions. It's not an exact science. It depends on whether the city would like to look at this again in the future when there's a little more data. The only thing I would caution you about is to wait until we get what we think we need.

Amick – When I was doing my review of your report, I noticed quite a variance in the suggested number. The per capita suggested is 18, the minimum staffing model suggested is 20, the IACP suggested is 7, and the workload model suggests 10. It's quite a variance. I was actually the person who asked some of these questions. Chief Collins, do you know what combination of these methods the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office uses?

Chief Deputy Collins – Are you talking about determining the staffing level in our areas in Fairfield County?

Amick – Correct. I'm assuming these are generally accepted known models across different kinds of police agencies. Do you know what kind of model's you guys use to determine your staffing?

Chief Deputy Collins – I know the general formulas that we use. Generally, if we're talking about Canal Winchester or one of my other areas, there are different factors at play. We're under contract here, so we'll staff it with what you provide, given our recommendations. Our recommendations are based on call volume, area covered, and even a comparison to other areas in the county. Like the chief said, your violent crime is extremely low, even compared to other areas of Fairfield County. Your policing area is much smaller than other areas of the county. It has to be one of the factors that I look at for staffing in comparison to other areas that I cover, and with the exception of your retail issues, there's very little else. I hate to break it to you, but Canal Winchester is a wonderful place to live. It's safe and a good place to raise your family.

Eckartsberg – If I were in the sheriff's shoes and you guys came to me, I would do exactly what they did because they had the benefit of you coming to them and saying, "Here's the minimum number of deputies we want on the street at all times." It's pretty easy to come up with a number that way. That's what I would do.

Amick – You use the workload and the per capita for your final recommendation. Do you normally make that recommendation for any municipality?

Eckartsberg – Well, because of the limited amount of data I have for the future, that's why I use those two. Most of the time, when we do these studies, we don't really look at the future. It would be a little easier if I

had crime data, but based on the data I had, those were the two easiest to use. The FBI and everybody else cautions: don't use that per capita method too much to determine what your staffing should be. The nice thing about the per capita method is that if you're looking at similar agencies, it gives you a kind of guess as to where you should be. If you have five or six cities that are all fairly similar, looking at what that per capita number is can kind of help you.

Buskirk – I do want to say thank you to the Sheriff's Office for the high level of service that you do provide to us. Safety is very important to every one of us up here, so we want to continue that trend and keep those numbers down. It is greatly appreciated.

Amick – Thank you, Chief Collins. I kind of didn't factor in some of the other things about getting what you pay for. Whatever we, as a city, have asked you to provide, you take that into account as well, so thank you for that.

Shea – As we discussed, retail theft is probably our biggest challenge here. With your experience, do you have any strategies to combat retail theft? Is having a special duty officer required to be at high-incident locations?

Eckartsberg – Having a cop at a high-theft location is definitely a deterrent. Absolutely.

Shea – Thank you. This is a very good report. It was worth the wait.

Walker – Yes. Thank you.

Shea – Chief Collins, thank you for your continued service to Canal Winchester, and thank you for letting us have Sergeant Walker. She does a great job.

Chief Deputy Collins – Absolutely. I'd like to thank all of you. Again, working with the chief here, it's always nice to see the raw numbers and see that we're doing the right thing. We've had this relationship for well over 20 years now, and I can't say enough on behalf of the sheriff that we would really like it to continue. We can feel at home up here.

Eckartsberg – Any other questions?

Shea – Thank you for your service.

Clark – Thank you very much. We've been after this for a while, so I appreciate you finalizing it so our citizens can digest it and go from there.

[OTH-23-001](#)

Mayor and Council Salaries

Discussion started at 1:26:05 on YouTube Channel

Clark – Is there any appetite for this discussion?

Shea – We did get that letter that Ms. Sargent sent to all of us. She's concerned as a member of the public. If we do let it go tonight, we have to dig into it at our next meeting.

Milliken – Sounds good.

[OTH-23-002](#)

Chamber of Commerce Council Representative

Discussion started at 1:26:37 on YouTube Channel

Milliken – In my communication with Denise Mathias at the chamber, it dawned on me that we have yet to assign someone to report to council as part of the agreement that we have with them. Does anybody want to throw their name in the hat for that?

Buskirk – I'll more than happy to do it.

Milliken – Are you able to attend their meetings? Are they still meeting in the middle of the week? Does anybody know?

Haire – They usually meet on Wednesdays.

Milliken – That's what I thought. Are you able to attend?

Buskirk – I should be able to arrange that.

Milliken – Even if you're not, sometimes what we do is communicate via email.

Amick – I don't see this being any different than what Mr. Walker does representing Human Services. He gets a report from the leader of that organization, and he gives that report to council.

[OTH-23-003](#)

July Recess

Discussion started at 1:28:13 on YouTube Channel

Amick – I think Mr. Milliken had suggested we let Mr. Shea weigh in publicly.

Clark – We would miss the first week of July and resume on July 17th.

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Shea to amend the council calendar to change recess to the first week of July. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

OTHER OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion started at 1:29:15 on YouTube Channel

Shea – I do have a question. One of the gentlemen I participated in the polar plunge with sent an email to us today. If you live in the city but you're not taxed by any other city, are you required to pay income taxes?

Jackson – Correct.

F. Adjournment @ 7:27 p.m.

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

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