

# Canal Winchester

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



## Meeting Minutes - FINAL

April 3, 2023

6:00 PM

### Council Work Session

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

- A. **Call To Order** *Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*
- B. **Roll Call** *Present 7 – Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker*

- C. **Also In Attendance**  
*Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson*

- D. **Reports of City Staff**  
Bill Sims

- E. **Request for Council Action**

**RES-23-015**

*Council*

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE OFFICE OF MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

*- Tabled*

*A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Buskirk to untable RES-23-015. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

*A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Buskirk to table RES-23-015. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

**Discussion started at 4:54 on YouTube Channel**

*Amick – Thad, can you please explain Section 7 of that resolution? I think it's a little confusing.*

*Boggs – That section concerns midterm increases. I would say under Ohio Ethics Law whether the ethics law allows members of council, even though here the charter says that the increase can be midterm, and whether the ethics law as a general rule would supersede that. So, unless the ethics commission would issue an opinion saying that councils could raise or elected officials generally could raise their compensation midterm where the charter allows for it, this section would just have it apply to new terms.*

*Amick – So it gives permission to be able to do that?*

*Boggs – Yes.*

*Shea – Do we have to get an opinion on that?*

*Boggs – Yes. I've added that to the previously requested opinion request.*

*Amos – We just untabled it. Mr. Shea, is your request to move it to...*

*Shea – We're going to have to do this at some point. My idea was to move it to full council.*

*Amos – My question was, if we're still waiting on the opinion from the ethics commission, should we be moving it forward?*

*Shea – Well, you’re not going to have an opinion back before this statutory deadline and have this done, correct?*

*Boggs – I actually might. They say that they aim for 45 days. That’s what they’ve published there. It’s possible that it could be here by the middle of next month or the first of next month.*

*Walker – My opinion is that we just keep it tabled until we get that opinion.*

*Clark – Does that give us enough time? When does this need to be decided on?*

*Amick – July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our last meeting will be June 19<sup>th</sup>.*

*Amos – I would say by June 19th, one way or another, we would need to pull it from tabled but right now we’re not at a time constraint that’s going to affect us if we hold it for a little while longer.*

*Boggs – It just needs to be adopted by July 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**RES-23-016**

*Council*

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

*- Tabled*

*A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Amick to untable RES-23-016. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

*A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Walker to table RES-23-016. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

**Discussion started at 9:41 on YouTube Channel**

*Amos – I really think we should revisit the total personally. With the PERS pickup, health insurance, and car allotment, we’re looking at \$85,000 to \$90,000. I really think that we should adjust the salary down a little bit more.*

*Amick – It’s actually \$91,952.*

*Amos – For me, I think we need to adjust the salary down. I’m not saying take away the PERS, health insurance, or car allotment. I just think we need to modify the salary.*

*Amick – I think Mrs. Jackson confirmed at our last meeting that in this amazing PowerPoint that she did—thank you again—the salaries listed just for comparison purposes were straight salaries. It did not include any other sort of compensation or benefits. For example, in Grandview Heights, theirs is \$50,000; in Grove City, its \$40,000; and in Whitehall, its \$95,000, and none of those salaries include benefits. I think Mrs. Amos has made this point previously, but Grove City is like three times the size of Canal Winchester. I’m just saying that to give a point of reference about the \$91,000. Is that too much for what we’re considering?*

*Amos – Before we factored in all of the compensation, car allotment, insurance, and PERS pick-up, before any of us discussed that, we kind of threw around that \$50,000; it seemed like a fair number. Now we're about \$40,000 over. I think for me, reeling it in a little bit and putting it closer to \$30,000 to \$40,000 is best.*

*Shea – I disagree. I think if you go too low, you may not get the quality of candidates that you're looking for. People cost money. Even if the salary is \$50,000 and the total is \$91,000, that's almost half of the salary. We're assuming the worst case is that they take out full insurance. How much is it for just an individual's health insurance?*

*Jackson – \$8,000 to \$9,000.*

*Shea – What we could do is limit it to individual coverage, like it is for council. That will save you \$18,000. I think you have to pay enough money to get somebody to do the job because \$50,000—you're a budget ninja if you could run your house on \$50,000. A lot of people do, but you're a budget ninja.*

*Amick – I'm trying really hard to keep these issues separate, at least in my head, but also on tonight's agenda we'll see an item for a council manager's consideration in our form of government. When I look at the council manager characteristics on page 7 of the PowerPoint, I look at the characteristics for the mayor under that arrangement, and it says basically that the member of council is elected as mayor by peers and they have no veto or administrative role, and that's a lot of money for someone who essentially has far less responsibility than our current form of government. Again, I'm not saying one way or the other; I'm just saying that these are all kinds of considerations that I've plugged into my head to try to reconcile that amount.*

*Amos – I agree with you, Laurie, and we have to kind of keep them separate, but in the same sense, we have to look at them together. I talked to a couple of cities that did the council-strong form of government. The woman chuckled when I said, "Well, how do you do the election?" She said, "Oh, honey, they know before it's even done." She was adorable and super sweet when she said it, but you do kind of have to play them out together. If we're even going to consider a council manager, which I don't think was the route that we had discussed previously, I think we were talking about a strong city manager versus a strong council manager, but you do have to factor them together.*

*Clark – I think we are putting legislation ahead of where we should be. I think we need to determine whether we are going to have a city administrator position or not. If we are, then I think we can decide at that point what the mayor's salary will be. If we're not going to have a city administrator, then I assume we keep things as-is in terms of what he or she will be making at that point. I think we need to determine that first and then go from there.*

*Amos – I'm fine if we want to come back to this after we discuss that piece of legislation. I do have one comment before we move on. Mrs. Jackson, can you confirm that a city manager or city administrator, whatever we decide to go with, doesn't get their insurance picked up? They don't have a car allotment; they get a portion of their insurance.*

*Jackson – A city administrator and a city manager are two different positions. The city administrator as we had presented it to council for consideration included all the benefits that city employees receive, which would include health insurance. There was nothing written in there about car allowance at all.*

*Amos – So, they would get PERS?*

*Jackson – Yes. It was approved by city council last year. A city manager has not been discussed internally, so I have no information on that.*

*Amos – As we look at the city administrator position, we do need to factor in how top-heavy or how heavy the salaries are together. If there are no objections, I can make a motion to table this so we can have further conversations.*

*Walker – Would the city administrator's job be a director's job too, as far as the title of that goes? They'd be treated the same as far as the pay, the pickup, and so forth.*

*Boggs – They would be eligible for the same benefits. They would get full OPERS pickup like the directors do, as well as the ability to sign up for city health insurance, mileage reimbursement for travel on city business, and supervise the directors under the direction of the mayor.*

*Walker – The only difference is possibly the pay.*

*Boggs – Right. The pay range that was made is its own for the city administrator versus other directors, and then they have responsibility for overseeing all the directors in their departments.*

*Milliken – If I could just clear up some things procedurally, if I'm reading the room correctly and I'm not missing anything, I would agree as well that we would like to maybe decide on the administrator position before moving forward with the salary. So, looking ahead to our council meeting, ordinance #23-014 for the city administrator position is currently tabled, so that's going to require three readings. Are we wanting to untable that at council and start moving that forward? That's what we're waiting on; it sounds like a decision on that.*

*Amos – I think we need to at least bring it back and untable it to discuss it and see where everybody stands on it.*

**RES-23-019**  
*Development*

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACQUIRE A DEED OF WATERLINE EASEMENT FROM GC WAREHOUSING, LLC.

*- Request to move to full Council*

***A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Walker to move RES-23-019 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:***

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

**Discussion started at 22:36 on YouTube Channel**

*Haire – This would allow the city to acquire a waterline easement from the parcel at 880 West Walnut Street. The city has a desire to replace the water line that services the water tower. That waterline is now underneath the surface of Gender Road, and it's very deep. It's one of our older waterlines, so we would like to replace that with a new line that services that tower and then connects to Gender Road along Walnut Street just to allow for easier service on that line. The owner of GC Warehousing has agreed to allow us to acquire a 20-foot-wide easement down their east property line with a 10-foot construction easement and adjacent to that for \$5,000. That's what we're asking for: permission to acquire that easement.*

**ORD-23-015**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #22-

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*Finance*

041, AMENDMENT #3

*- Request to move to full Council**A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Buskirk to move ORD-23-015 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:**Yes 7 – Walker, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Amick, Amos***Discussion started at 24:12 on YouTube Channel**

*Jackson – This appropriation amendment serves one purpose, which is to pay down a portion of our short-term bond anticipation notes that come due in May. This is based on the conversation we had at your meeting two weeks ago. You will actually see two different appropriations here: one in the general fund to allow me to move the money from the general fund to the debt service fund, and then one in the debt service fund to allow me to actually spend it out of that account. As we had discussed, this would bring our outstanding balance to exactly \$3 million, which would come due in May of 2024.*

**ORD-23-016***Council*

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER AT THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

*- Request to move to full Council**A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Amick to table ORD-23-016. The motion carried with the following vote:**Yes 7 – Milliken, Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Shea, Walker***Discussion started at 25:36 on YouTube Channel**

*Shea – I asked Mr. Boggs to write this up because we’ve been having discussions about the city administrator, and we’ve been completing the issue with the city manager style of government as well. I know that they can be interchangeable in practicality, but they are two very separate forms of government in terms of who they report to. Since the city administrator change was approved in the charter, I believe in 2010 or at least ten years ago, our city has almost doubled in size, and all this is frankly asking is for the council to put this on the November ballot to allow our citizens to decide if they want to have a city manager form of government or maintain a mayor-strong form of government with the option for a city administrator; whether we create it or not is irrelevant. My thought on this is that we have been exceptionally blessed to have had consistent leadership over the last 12 years and the growth that has happened. A lot of changes have happened in this city in the last 10 years, and most of us have been here that long and have seen them happen. My personal fear in talking with residents is that if you get an incompetent mayor, your only recourse is four years away, but an incompetent mayor could lead to an incompetent city administrator. That being said, the whole idea of a city administrator that was appealing when it was first brought to us by staff was the continuity of government operations. I think that the administrator position will step in the right direction, but it creates a risk for turnover and instability at that key management position, and my thought was to ask the voters what they think. All I’m simply asking the council is to consider putting a charter change on the general election ballot this November, where our voters will determine what form of government they would like to have.*

*Milliken – I don’t disagree with your sentiment. I think it’s a good idea, but with the discussions we’re having currently regarding the city administrator, we’re now throwing a city manager on top of it. I think it’s just further muddling the waters at this point. My recommendation would be that if we want to continue this discussion, this is something I think we should also table and then see how everything else comes out. If the administrator position is approved, I wouldn’t think we’d want to have a city manager on*

*top of that. Right?*

*Shea – Well, you wouldn't. You would have one or the other.*

*Milliken – Right. At that point, you'd rescind this if it was approved or...*

*Shea – No. I think we should put it to the voters and let them decide.*

*Milliken – So we would potentially be voting in a city administrator and then asking for a city manager on top of that?*

*Shea – We're not asking for anything. Take the city manager out of it. The city manager is a big part of my rationale for why I brought it forward, but take the city manager out of it. All we're doing is deciding whether or not we, as a council body, would like to put this on the ballot to let our voters, the people who run this town, decide if they would prefer a city manager over a city administrator. I have no dog in this hunt. In my opinion, it offers the true conclusion that we were looking for with the city administrator, which is continuity of government management and confident management in that leadership role. When you change the executive under the mayor-strong administrator form, your administrator is tied to your mayor. If you change mayors, you most likely change the continuity of leadership.*

*Amos – If I read your proposal correctly, seven people get elected to council, one of them serves as your mayor, and then you have a city manager. Do I have that correct?*

*Shea – I believe that's how it reads. City manager is hired by council and answers to council.*

*Amos – This is kind of totally opposite what we had talked about, and that's why I was kind of surprised when I read it. I thought we were talking about potentially doing city manager-strong, not council manager-strong. I thought we were looking at more city administrator-strong.*

*Walker – I think we should revisit this and come back to it once we know where we are on the administrator position.*

*Shea – I'm willing to table it. That, do we have some time constraints if we do want to put this on the ballot?*

*Boggs – That is correct. If you want to put it on the ballot for the November election of this year, it would have to be adopted and effective before August of this year.*

*Shea – So, we have time. How many signatures are required to put this on the ballot if a citizen is to do it themselves?*

*Boggs – I believe it's 10% of the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the last election. Let me confirm that quickly.*

*Shea – I know it's a lot to swallow, and I have no problem tabling it. I think that considering it and allowing the voters to decide on it is something we all should think about. At the end of the day, if the voters don't like it, they'll say no, and if they do, they'll say yes. All I see is that we've got a lot of changes coming and*

*that we've grown a lot. Hey voters, this is your town; what do you think?*

*Amick – What encouraged you to bring this forward now instead of waiting until the next charter review in 2025? My guess is that the committee would be formed in 2024 and then the charter commission would complete their work in 2025, which would give us plenty of time if there is a request to change the form of government as voted by the residents. Why now did you decide you wanted to bring this forward?*

*Shea – I thought with all the changes that we're looking at in terms of how we're going to operate the city, if we do go to an administrator, it is a change. It's not a change in the charter because it's existed for several years, but it is a change in management and operation. I really like the rationale for it, which was the continuation of management so that we maintain quality services and professional staff. You know, there is a buffer between those personalities and the people who make this city run very well. If we're going to look for a professional manager, which is something that I think we should have as a city, we want that to have as much continuity as possible, and tying it to the mayor-strong form of government doesn't offer the continuity that I think we're looking for. At least in my opinion, that continuity gets interrupted every time you switch your chief executive mayor position. I'm not opposed to a mayor, and when I read it for the first time, I was a little bit shocked. I called Thad and asked him where the mayor was, and he explained to me how it worked. I read it again and saw it, but still, it was a little shocking, and I had to think about that. All I'm asking for is for us to think about it because it is a conversation that people are having out there. There is confusion among our residents between the city administrator and the city manager. In this chamber, we've used those terms kind of interchangeably, and the same thing with part-time and full-time mayor. There is no part-time mayor. If you're the mayor, you're the mayor. For me, this is a continuity of government, and I figured that it was an appropriate time to bring it forward because we've got a mayoral election coming up. If the voters decide that they want it, then it would go into effect after that mayoral term is fully executed. We can transition to a continuity plan, and that's where I'm coming from on it. Do we have to do anything about it tonight? Absolutely not. Did I want to start a discussion? Absolutely.*

*Amos – In two years from now, half of us aren't going to be here. In four years, when this potentially takes place, none of us will be here. It's making sure that what we're doing is setting our future, because it may or may not be us. It's setting our future up in the right place. I don't know about having potentially seven new people sit here and suddenly being council manager-strong with this person becoming the mayor. I struggle with that. I'm not going to lie. I like that you're asking the voters, because ultimately, it's their city. They put us here, and they can put us out. I love the fact you're asking the city to approve the city manager, but the rest of the way this is written, with it being council manager, is something I'm struggling with. I totally agree with what you said about it being mayor-strong; I'm just not sure I agree with the council manager side.*

*Shea – Thad, as a municipal government, the state law allows how many forms of government?*

*Boggs – There are many different nuances. You have a city commission, which is run just by a council with no executive head. You have a council manager, which is what's in the amendment that's proposed, where the council contracts with somebody to serve as a city manager, and that person is the executive head of government instead of having a popularly elected mayor. You have what Canal Winchester has today, which is a strong-mayor council where you have a popularly elected mayor who is the executive head of the government and an elected council, which is the legislative branch of the government. The difference with the administrator is that the administrator is an employee of the city hired by the mayor with a pay*



range established by council. That person reports to the mayor. If you have a council manager form of government, that person would be an employee of the city but would contract directly with council. They would be negotiating with the council their salary, leave, benefit structure, and any severance-type provisions, which are pretty typical components of a manager's contract.

**ORD-23-017**

Public Service

## AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE THE SWIMMING POOL DAILY ADMISSION RATES

- Request to move to full Council

**A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Walker to move ORD-23-017 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:**

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

**Discussion starts at 43:52 on YouTube Channel**

*Peoples – Mrs. Jackson and I are going to kind of tag-team these two ordinances. They are related to each other. As we've talked for the last, I don't know, how many years, we always seem to have problems at the pool, especially in the early season. We've tried many different things to try to keep that from happening. It's different every year, but it's also the same. It's usually a group of younger people that are doing this, and most of the time it's people with daytime passes. Last year, when we did all the passes and memberships online, our intent was to try to capture as much information as we could on the people who were coming to the pool. We did have a few law enforcement actions as well. It did help that we were able to capture some of that data that we had, but it was very onerous. There were constant backlogs at the gate as people showed up for their daily admission pool passes. The pool staff did a great job of being able to help them out. I'd see them all the time grabbing their phones and going through that process to help them out, but it did make it quite a bit of a headache for us. There are residency issues that we go through. On the membership side, there were eligibility issues that we went through as well. We sat down about a month ago and came up with a plan for this year. These two ordinances are kind of related to that.*

*Jackson – The way that we were doing everything last year was online; it was pre-purchase, and people were not looking into that prior to coming to the pool, which speaks to the backlog that Mr. Peoples mentioned. They were showing up and finding out they couldn't just give them their \$8.00 and get in the door. On paper, it seemed like a great idea to be able to capture all of this data, but in practicality, it turned into a lot of falsification of information that people were putting into the system. Quite honestly, it turned into a lot of stolen credit card numbers being used. It became a headache, obviously. We sat down and said, what can we do to address that? The first part of this ordinance is going backwards, I suppose, to the way that it was done previously. The kids that work at the pool are young, so we are trying to make it as easy on them as possible. We had resident and non-resident rates. We know that a lot of adults don't know if they are residents or non-residents, let alone a 16-year-old child who has to tell someone whether they are residents or non-residents. In this first ordinance, we have proposed going back to daily passes being purchased only at the pool and going to one single rate. One daily rate regardless of residency. This should theoretically make things much smoother at the pool. The kids don't have to worry about where these individuals live. There's no messing with the cellphone or any type of computer information. We'll go back to taking cash and hopefully eliminate a lot of that headache that we had last year. Before we go into memberships, does anyone have any questions?*

*Amos – I have a little concern. I know part of the reason we shut it down and became a little stricter is because we saw a lot of people that were coming from outside of Canal Winchester. We saw Groveport and Pickerington shut down. I'm concerned that putting us back to this daily non-resident rate is going to*

*put us back in a similar position.*

*Jackson – Unfortunately, I don't think that changing the rate really accomplished anything. We did find that some of the issues we were having with specific kids were Canal Winchester students. I understand where you're coming from because we would have liked to have seen that change as well, but in reality, that's not what happened.*

*Peoples – This is what last year's non-resident rate would be. Part of our discussion was: does this penalize our residents? It does, yes, but if you go through the membership part of it, that is still at a resident and non-resident rate. As Mrs. Jackson said, to have someone come in and talk to a 16-year-old at the gate and say that they're not a resident of Canal Winchester when their ID says Canal Winchester, we even struggle with that. We have people calling my office wanting us to turn their water off who definitely live in Columbus. We get argued with, and this is not something that we really want to put the young kids through. We still have the lowest daily admission in the area.*

*Amick – I looked at the last year's resident and non-resident rates and then the proposed rate for all daily passes. I guess my first question is: does ordinance 23-017 help fund ordinance 23-018?*

*Jackson – No. The pool is not self-sustaining at all, even with our pool contract. We're just using general fund revenues to subsidize it.*

*Amick – With that said, tell me again why we wouldn't keep the proposed rate for all daily passes capped at \$5 instead of \$8 so that we don't penalize our residents.*

*Peoples – It is much lower than the surrounding communities.*

*Amick – If we're already willing to subsidize it, does it matter that we're the lowest?*

*Amos – It really does. If we're not consistent with other communities around us, we will see a huge influx in the number of people coming to the pool, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but we are a smaller pool than a lot of the other facilities. If they know ours is the lowest, they will come to ours.*

*Peoples – There is definitely a price point on behavior as well, it seems. A few years back, we had an after-6:00 p.m. rate of \$2.00, and it was chaos at times. If they got kicked out, it was \$2.00, so it's a little bit of a deterrent by paying a little bit more. If they do get kicked out, they just lost \$8.00 rather than \$5.00. I would assume mom and dad are going to be a little bit more upset about that portion of it.*

*Amick – So it's essentially a market adjustment to make it more competitive; I get that. My second question is: would there be an appetite or consideration given to not increasing the rate for daycare recipients? I talked with one of the daycare directors just to ask if they went once a month, and they said they go like eight times a month. If you take eight times a month and an increase of \$2.00 per kid and you've got two kids in the daycare, that's an additional \$32.00 a month that we're asking for those parents to pay so that their daycare-age child can go to the pool with their classmates. Would there be any consideration for keeping the daycare rate flat?*

*Peoples – I think we're just keeping it proportionate to where we were. Additionally, the daycares are a lot when they come in. There are ten to twelve kids and three adults with them. They take up a lot of space*

*and chairs. They're still at a discount compared to what our normal rate is. They typically don't stay as long. They normally come around noon and are typically gone by 3:00 p.m. That's one of the reasons for the reduced rate. They don't cause any problems, but it's just a lot of people at one time.*

*Amick – I just don't want to be the mom who tells my kid they can't go to the pool with their classmates because it's now going to cost me \$32.00 more a month.*

*Jackson – I will say that we do not charge for children at daycare who are members, so if your family has a membership and your child goes to the daycare and the daycare comes, we don't charge for that individual.*

*Amick – I don't know—maybe I'm just being overly sensitive to a working mom.*

*Amos – Daycare is expensive.*

*Amick – It is. If I remember, it's been a few years for me, but it was like your kid doesn't pay to go to the pool, so they stay back and play on the playground or whatever the activity is. I just wouldn't want to see any kid left behind because they couldn't pay that extra \$32.00 a month. Again, the \$32.00 would be for two children.*

*Amos – Out of curiosity, how many daycares do we have to take advantage of this? I know that David's did.*

*Jackson – A handful. We also got some last year that we were very unfamiliar with and that weren't super local to us because they were looking for a pool that would accept daycares. I think we had one come from as far as Reynoldsburg last year.*

*Peoples – If it's okay, we will transition into the next ordinance, and then we'll get into the changes on the admissions as well. The next ordinance is basically to have an adult supervisor at the pool. We've been talking about this for quite a few years. Last year, we implemented it a little bit with a seasonal employee at Urban Forestry, Mr. Denson. He's a teacher at the middle school here in town. He went there after he was done with the urban forestry tasks. He knew most of the kids that were there. He was a very calming presence. The lifeguards are there to monitor the pool, not so much to monitor the kids that are wrestling around. The sheriff walks through quite a bit. If our guys are nearby, they will walk through to provide that presence. It seemed to work out very well. It would take a little bit of burden off of Columbus Pool Management. Most issues seem to occur mid- to late-afternoon into the early evening. We're looking to hire someone for more of a common presence and customer service type of thing.*

*Shea – How many hours per week is this job going to be?*

*Peoples – We will probably end up still using Mr. Denson a little bit because we only plan on hiring one person—ideally a teacher, someone who knows the kids. In our minds, we'd hire a teacher. Mr. Denson did such a great job just because he knew who he was dealing with. He knew who the troublemakers were. If you go to the pool with him and walk around, everybody walks up and speaks to him. Just seeing that and the interaction he had would be ideal. As far as how many hours, I'm not sure. Off the top of my head, I'd say it's a 24-hour maximum.*

*Shea – I think it's great. Do we want anybody on weekends?*

*Peoples – Yes. That would be helpful, at least for a short amount of time.*

*Jackson – Weekends typically aren't the issue. It's usually Monday through Friday.*

*Peoples – Also, some members with the age we have will drop the kids off, and that's the babysitter from noon to 5:00 p.m. We did have to kick out a couple of members last year whose parents were threatened with having the entire family's membership canceled. It really gets the attention of the kids who are causing the problems. It straightens them out very quickly.*

*Jackson – It's difficult for the kids who work for Columbus Pool Management to have to—I don't want to say discipline—call out their peers, you know, for inappropriate behavior whatever that might be at the pool when they're not following rules. The thought was to have, as Matt said, more of an adult presence over there. I don't know that it will 100% alleviate some of the issues we've had. I've been called some very nasty names by some teenagers at the pool, so I think that it's still probably going to happen, but hopefully it will take the burden off of these kids. Let them do their jobs and not have to worry about retaliation from a classmate for telling them, hey, you need to knock it off kind of thing. It's definitely something we've talked about for the last couple of years. I, my assistant Stacey, and Matt spent an enormous amount of time at the pool during the summer, and we're hoping this will alleviate a little bit of that as well.*

*Amick – How would you feel about adding to the job's preferred qualifications the requirement that the candidate have at least a high school diploma? That way, you don't have a 17-year-old aquatic supervisor.*

*Jackson – They would have to be at least 18.*

*Peoples – It was originally written as a bachelor's degree. We did take that out. We thought that might be a little bit restrictive. If it's a stay-at-home mom, she might be able to do some things, or someone with a part-time job. Dads sometimes have some free time in the evenings as well.*

*Milliken – Who would this position report to?*

*Peoples – The both of us. I and Mrs. Jackson. I tend to do more of the pool operations, and Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Williams do the concession stand and front gate.*

*Amos – Are we considering doing two people, or are we looking for one primarily? What are your thoughts? If Mr. Denson doesn't want to do this for up to 24 hours, are you going to consider having a second person that they work in tandem with?*

*Peoples – We hope to fill this position, and then Mr. Denson would help out. The final part of this is not an ordinance, but some changes we want to get away from are all-electronic admissions. This is not only the daily admissions we talked about but the memberships as well.*

*Jackson – We have run into this for many years: everybody wants to put their neighbor's cousin's step kids, who are going to be in town for two days, on their membership. Memberships are designed for a household. Obviously, we're very sensitive to the fact that the family unit is different for some families*

*versus others, and we try to very carefully tread those waters with them and make sure that we get a full understanding of who exactly is a member of their family and who exactly is not. We do a lot of back and forth via email when people sign up online. To kind of alleviate a lot of that back and forth, we have talked about actually doing a hybrid of online and in-person registration. Essentially, what we have discussed internally is that anyone who wants to purchase a membership would create the account online, put all their family members on the account—if you have done this in the past because you had a membership last year, you don't have to redo that. If you are new, then you would have to do that. We would basically like to have some of what I'll refer to as open house times leading up to the opening of the pool where you will be required to come in, prove your address, prove your children, get your pictures taken, and we'll issue your cards right then and there. So that we are not doing this back-and-forth thing anymore. One of the issues that we have had with some of the teenagers is the sharing of passes because they don't have pictures attached to them. One of them will scan in, go out to the fence, hand it to their buddy, and that person will then scan in. We can't limit that unfortunately; that's a system limitation. So, we were hoping that by putting the pictures on these, the kids who are monitoring the scans will then say, hey, wait a minute, you just scanned in, or Hey, that's not you. It won't be perfect, but that's what we're hoping for anyway.*

*Peoples – As we kind of said, when we first open up the pool, everyone seems to show up on that first weekend. Its Memorial Day weekend. There's typically a little bit of staffing issue with the pool as well, just from a vacation standpoint. There are new employees that we have, and the rush of people coming in can be overwhelming at times. What we'd like to do is hold off on day passes until the next weekend, just to give them a little bit of time to do on-the-job training with the members and get them up to speed for the next weekend.*

*Jackson – Essentially, what we would do is have members only for the first week. Also, by going to the requirement of having to come in and bring your paperwork, get your picture taken, and all that, last Memorial Day we had a huge influx of people buying memberships who bought the membership and then turned around and went right to the pool. They didn't have their cards because we don't work here on the weekend, and that caused a lot of issues with the poor kids at the pool, telling them that they couldn't use their membership because it hadn't been verified essentially by a city staff member. The thought is that we will do these dates leading up to the opening day of the pool, and then we will temporarily halt membership sales over the weekend to sort of alleviate that. It being the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, we're hoping that we can reach the majority of individuals who would like to purchase memberships before the pool season opens and get them all taken care of. We're going to try and be as flexible as possible with the open house hours, doing nights and weekends, so that we can hopefully get everybody taken care of without disrupting their schedules too much.*

*Amos – Will you be emailing everybody who did it last year with the dates?*

*Jackson – We do have the ability to do that, yes. That is our plan.*

*Milliken – If I'm understanding correctly, if somebody were to buy a membership and then not get verified, then show up on opening day at the pool, they're not going to be able to get in.*

*Jackson – They're not going to be able to use that membership that day, correct.*

*Milliken – If we're not doing day passes for the first week, at least on day one of the pool opening, will*

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*somebody be able to verify at the pool without holding things up too much?*

*Jackson – No, because that would mean we'd be asking one of our staff members to give up their day to be there.*

*Amick – So you're just out of luck. If you show up that weekend, Memorial Day weekend, the opening weekend for the pool, and your membership hasn't been verified and we're not going to accept day passes, you're just out of luck for the Memorial Day weekend.*

*Shea – I don't like it.*

*Amick – I don't like it either. That's a huge weekend for families.*

*Jackson – I invite you all to come to the pool.*

*Shea – I go to the pool. A lot.*

*Jackson – I invite you to stand in that line and take care of all of this. All of these issues, I really do. I'm not going to ask a 16-year-old to verify.*

*Shea – I'm not asking to verify, but at least take cash on opening day. Maybe we're not verifying the membership, but at least still give them the option to come in and pay the cash rate.*

*Amos – We have two months to get this advertised in the community. Not doing daily admissions doesn't bother me as much that first week because it truly is an absolute nightmare down there at that gate.*

*Milliken – Would it be feasible to do this: if I purchased a membership but haven't been verified, we use that initial first week where we're not doing day passes as a kind of grace period...*

*Jackson – We've done that, and people have taken advantage of it.*

*Amos – I think Mrs. Jackson is saying we're going to shut down the ability to even sign up. You're not going to be able to go on and even get a membership Memorial Day Weekend; in the past you could.*

*Shea – I can live with that.*

*Jackson – You will not be able to buy a pass online at all. All you're doing is registering online.*

*Shea – Mr. Boggs, is this an equal opportunity issue to have your city municipal pool only open to members for one week?*

*Boggs – It is not in my opinion.*

*Shea – Feels wrong to me.*

*Peoples – We shut down in 2021. We had a lot of problems. It was members only for the remainder of the season.*

*Shea – I understand. Again, I think we should at least accept cash admissions those days. That’s my opinion.*

*Jackson – So, you’re saying we should just keep the pool open. Everyone can go on Memorial Day Weekend?*

*Shea – Yes. If you don’t have a pass, then you don’t have a pass. If part of our pass criteria has to be verified by the city, then your pass hasn’t been verified by the city yet, but you could still come in for \$8.00.*

*Amick – What is the actual verification? Is it making sure a check has cleared or that a credit card charge went through?*

*Jackson – Proof of residency or non-residency. Proof of your children or household members. Having your picture taken and actually being issued a card. Then, payment of course.*

*Shea – How do I prove my children?*

*Jackson – Bring me your tax return. It’s what Groveport requires.*

*Clark – Can I bring my family in and start applying now so I will definitely have that verified by opening day?*

*Jackson – The thought is that we’re going to have these open houses and specific hours for you to come in and do this so that we can run you down the line and get you out the door. We will likely not do any during the day because we understand people have to work. If you are unable to make those dates, we will require you to come in during our working hours after those dates, but the thought is that we will have at least four of those dates during the evening and on weekends for people to work into their schedule. The verification process isn’t difficult if you bring everything.*

*Shea – What happens if my kid isn’t on my tax return?*

*Jackson – Then it depends on whether they meet the definition of a member of your household. Our household definition is on our website; after a certain age, they are no longer considered a member of your household.*

*Shea – I understand, but there are some people that have to share children on tax returns, and not everybody lives in the same household.*

*Jackson – There are other ways. That was just the simplest response. A health insurance card, anything that shows that you and this individual are linked together. We understand that people share custody of their children, and we don’t fight with them about that. That’s not what we’re in the business of doing. We take all those situations into consideration, and we work with everybody who has a unique situation.*

**ORD-23-018**  
Public Service

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF SEASONAL AQUATICS  
SUPERVISOR AND ESTABLISHING A PAY RANGE

- Request to move to full Council

*A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Buskirk to move ORD-23-018 to full Council. The following motion carried with the following vote:*

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

## F. Old/New Business

### [OTH-22-021](#) Pedestrian Safety

*Discussion started at 1:17:56 on YouTube Channel*

*Peoples – We're just waiting for the contractors to do the striping.*

### [OTH-22-022](#) Police Study

*Discussion started at 1:18:10 on YouTube Channel*

*Shea – I put that on there but we're pretty deep in time. Let's come back to it at the next meeting.*

### [OTH-23-005](#) Liberty Street Parking

*Discussion started at 1:18:22 on YouTube Channel*

*Amos – We can pull that. The resident who was asking has moved, and there have been no other requests.*

### [OTH-23-006](#) DHL Community Events

*Discussion started at 1:18:32 on YouTube Channel*

*Shea – I actually wanted this to go under communications on our agenda. We get a lot of emails like this, where it's an invitation or request. Nowadays, email is a formal means of communication. It's no different than sending a letter. My thought is that when we get things like this, they get added to the agenda under communications on our agenda. That's why I put this on here. We can talk about it while we are here, but this is one of our big employers in town that's looking to do something voluntaristic for our town. I didn't want it to go unanswered because if you've got somebody that's willing to join in and help, then we should figure out how to connect them with the right groups of people.*

*Peoples – We get these types of requests all the time. If you could send them to us, we will respond. We are always looking for people to help.*

*Shea – So, should we just forward these to you?*

*Peoples – That would be the easiest way to do it. We'll take care of it and line them up with a project if we have one.*

### [OTH-23-007](#) Community Crisis Response Team

*Discussion started at 1:20:33 on YouTube Channel*

*Clark – I know there was some emails going back and forth. Do you want to take care of this now?*

*Shea – We can take care of it now. I know Ms. Davis is here to speak. I read it, and just from reading it, I wonder if it's more of a school district issue than a city issue.*

*Arnetta Davis, Community Crisis Response Team – The Community Crisis Response Team for Canal Winchester Local Schools is being formed because, as you know, we've had a lot of different traumatic events happen. Basically, the community crisis response team is a team of people. It's myself, Aletha Mullins, Dee Dee Doling-Dade, Kim Vojacek, and Angela Bensonhaver. The purpose of this team is for us to*



*respond to immediate crises on the scene for these traumatic events within the Canal Winchester Local School District. I am right now just focusing on Canal Winchester Local Schools so that we can see how things go. I am working with other school districts to help them create and facilitate their own. What this team is going to do is respond to issues such as homicides, suicides, fires, unexpected tragic deaths, and any other events that occur within the Canal Winchester Local Schools community. The goal for this is for us to provide a temporary solution for immediate needs not to exceed 90 days, which right now I'm way past 90 days with a lot of families. It's bringing everyone in the community together, pulling our resources together to help families, and then linking them with services afterwards. It's taken me some time to kind of design it and roll it out. I've already talked with the school district, so they're aware we're going to be making sure families know. I am the first point of contact for the Crisis Response Team, just for the safety of everybody involved and those kinds of things. We'll be getting that information out to the community as well.*

*Amick – Why is it limited to the local school families? I don't want to say local school district; that's not what I mean. But when I think about places like East Palestine and what's happened in Mississippi, to me, a community crisis team is like an invaluable resource in a community that is in dire need. Is there some reasoning why—if I understood you correctly—it would be limited to students?*

*Arnetta Davis – It won't be limited to just students. It would be limited to anyone who is inside the school district area.*

*Amos – First of all, thank you for what you've done. I saw you on Facebook and saw the various ways that you're reaching out to families; it means a lot to the community and the families. From the school side, when something happens, we have crisis intervention teams ready to go. Ours go into the buildings, we have counselors, and there are various different things that we do to work with our kids. Ms. Davis, from an outside standpoint, would be helping with food donations, clothing donations, and other things that not necessarily a school is going to touch on or be able to help with. Yours is more beyond the scope of what we would do.*

*Arnetta Davis – Correct. That's why we've kind of included Kim in this as well, so that there is no duplication of services.*

*Amick – Ms. Davis, what is it that you would like for the Canal Winchester City Council to do? Was this just to create awareness of the work that you're doing? Because I do commend you, this is very needed in every community.*

*Arnetta Davis – Yes. It's just to make people aware of something that is coming, that is new, that is out, and we want to continue to spread the word so that people know that there is something available in the unforeseen event that you have to go through. Right now, we're dealing with a family that had a fire in Canal. It's just getting the word out and letting people know that we're here to provide the support that's needed, even after hours.*

**G. Adjournment @ 7:23 p.m.**

***A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Shea to adjourn. The motion carried with the following vote:  
Yes 7 – Walker, Shea, Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken***