

Canal Winchester

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



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

June 19, 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, Bill Sims
- D. **Reports of City Staff** - Bill Sims

Bill Sims

Discussion started at 32:31 on YouTube Channel

Sims – The 2023 Street Program is underway. The resident sidewalk program associated with that has been completed. Those walks have been installed. They're probably about 75% restored with that, and they'll be finishing up on Wednesday with the restoration of those walks. The paving contractor will be in town starting next Monday for pavement repairs. They were delayed a couple weeks, unfortunately, but they'll be in town to work on pavement repairs, so those roads are ready for resurfacing right after July 4th. They will be in later that week with their paving crews. The Dye Addition will also have some road reconstruction on Woodsvieview and resurfacing of the other streets, but those won't be performed until at least mid-August after the waterline project is complete. Speaking of the waterline project, it is underway and perceiving pretty decently. It is definitely on schedule. They're primarily working on Woodsvieview Drive right now. For the remainder of this week, they'll be completing the Woodsvieview Loop water main and then moving on to Cherokee next week. It seems to be moving along really well. As we expect in older, existing neighborhoods, there are always a couple interesting things that you find out that you didn't know before, so we have run across a couple smaller issues but nothing earth-shattering. Also, prior to mid-August, they'll be working on a short piece of Groveport Road water main replacement between Washington Street and Clinton Alley. It's kind of the phase one portion of that project, and then they'll be concentrating on Groveport Road and Gender Road. The Three Seasons Shelter is right in the midst of the drawing review. We did finally get drawings for the engineered building portion of that project, so those have been commented on once and returned. We're expecting some revised drawings on that. McGill Phase Two, EMH&T is working on the detailed design of what we call Phase 2 (A) with the pickleball courts. We'll make that basically the first thing that occurs and keep pace with the possibility of getting that done this year. They should have those wrapped up here pretty shortly. On the private side, the Evans Farm project is coming into the last few weeks of sitework. If you have been out there lately, Robinette Way has had all the aggregate base installed, or they've actually had some asphalt base installed as well. They're still working around Building (B), which is the north of the two buildings, with a lot of concrete work. Building (A) is further along, and they have mostly asphalt down around that building. The waterline has passed testing, and that is on currently. The sanitary sewer lift station still has not been worked on as far as the components go for being installed. That will most likely take a few weeks to complete. The storm sewer is complete for the public portions. I think that's their intent to try to be mostly wrapped up by mid-July on that project. Sheetz is trying to get wrapped up. We're supposed to have a walk-through on Thursday afternoon to take a look at the improvements and make any final comments we might have before they issue any kind of CO. They're pretty close to wrapping up that project. Accurate Electric on Howe Parkway is under construction with their site work. I think they're maybe waiting for some of the steel for the building. Turbo Wash has started the site work there, and they're also waiting for some other construction materials before they can move further. We have a pre-construction meeting scheduled for Greengate phases four, six, and seven, which are the final phases. We're going to be meeting this Thursday. Right-of-way items: we've got probably two substantial items; one is AT&T work for the Ashbrook Subdivision. They've addressed all of our comments in the plan sets, and it is finalized. We're really just waiting on

them to provide their bonding for the project. They also have some outstanding punch items on the Westchester portion, so we're waiting for them to complete that before we open up the next can of worms. South Central Power is rebuilding some of their infrastructure at the substation here off of Waterloo. They're starting roughly in the Waterloo and Elm Street area and going north all the way to the Bowen and Busey intersection. Most of that is pole replacement, but there are a few new poles and a few new pedestals. A good portion of this is actually not in public right-of-way; it's in private easements. Probably the most significant portion of that is that they're going to have to bury their lines under US-33. Any questions?

Clark – No thought of them going underground with everything through town?

Sims – Not everything. Typically, with our new stuff, we require subdivisions and areas on new developments. There are some situations, I think, in town where it could be a possibility. We've worked with them in some cases to bury their stuff, but it's been a couple years since they've inquired about the possibility of burying things on East Columbus Street. I haven't heard about it for a little while, but we did walk around and look at what it might take to do something. Obviously, the cost is extremely high, but you have the advantage that you don't have nearly as many issues with storm-type issues when it's underground. It is certainly more aesthetically pleasing. We'll see, I guess, what the future holds.

Shea – Did I hear you say that there's a possibility that we could have pickleball courts this year?

Sims – If we could get the construction project done, I would assume that yes, we could have them done. It certainly seems doable. Knowing the size of the project, we could get the plans wrapped up. The nice thing about that piece is that it's actually located in phase one, so we're having to do some environmental work on phase two items that are actually outside that area, which is going to take a little bit longer. We don't really have to do anything else from that standpoint.

Shea – The second question I got asked was out there at the Molto project on 33; they've got the fence up, and people are asking me if that fence is going to get painted or is it just going to stay like that?

Sims – The wood fence? I think it may be stained already.

Haire – The fence on the top of the mound, or are you talking about the sound wall fence?

Shea – The fence on top of the mound that looks decorative.

Haire – I believe it's going to be painted black.

Shea – You were talking about giving Sheetz a CO; on those bigger buildings, is it the same process to get them a CO? You have to check all your boxes before you give it to them?

Sims – Yes. It's the same process. They'll probably want to phase that project, so try to reach a CO on building (A), the one closest to US-33, and building (B), because that's kind of how they've been working out. They certainly indicated that's what their goals might be for July: to be able to obtain that.

Shea – Just for my own clarification, does that come from you or does that come from your department?

Sims – It comes from Luke’s department.

Haire – There are no tenants identified in those buildings yet, so it would be basically a temporary certificate of occupancy until the tenants come in and finish the rest of the improvements.

E. Old/New Business

Discussion started at 44:03 on YouTube Channel

Greg Pearce, Canal Winchester Recreation Director – I gave you all a copy of my report. I just wanted to touch on some things that have gone on this Spring and into the Summer. We did have a successful youth soccer season. This was our first season out at McGill Park. We tried to kind of shoot for the moon and try to move all of our teams out there all at once. We have to do some adapting throughout the season to make sure that we’re spreading awareness of the field, but the parking was adequate for our games there. Overall, I heard nothing but positive things from the community as far as being excited to be out there. I think it’ll take a few seasons to kind of hone in on exactly how to spread the games out and practice sites out so we’re able to give the teams as much practice time as possible while also being respectful of the facility. We also introduced youth lacrosse back to the community after a couple years off after COVID. Our commissioner there has been very aggressive in trying to grow that program. We were able to start a clinic that had kindergarten through 4th graders. I think that’s the first step to try to grow it back into having teams participate in the league format. We had 142 kids sign up for baseball this year. We had 13 teams, including T-Ball. We did have enough registration to have a pony team this year, which we were not able to have last year. That season is wrapping up with the tournaments taking place this week and next. The last thing for Baseball for this spring and summer season is that we are going to host an All-Star Tournament out at Hanner’s Park on July 8th and 9th. That’s one of the things we’ve heard from the other communities that are visiting to play our games in softball and baseball: people have been very complimentary as far as the condition of the field and quality of the park. I think that’s a testament to the city of how nicely that upkeep has taken place there. In softball, we participated in a new league again. They were very complimentary of the park as well. Our U8 and U12 teams won their league championships this past weekend. U10 is participating in their tournament this weekend, so hopefully we’re able to get a clean sweep across the board there. Our Dolphin Swim Team got started here in June, and we have 107 kids that are swimming. Our head coach returned this year, and we did add two new assistant coaches, Adam Money Penny and Grace Terflinger. We actually hosted our meet this past Saturday, June 17th, and it was very successful. We are currently planning for the fall season. We have several registrations open for fall soccer, flag football, volleyball, fall softball, and fall baseball. If you hear anything in the community, encourage people to get signed up. I think one of the challenges is that we plan so far ahead that people don’t realize that they’re already needing to register for the fall programs during the summer months. We’re trying to get that word out through our newsletters, email, and social media. Financially, our revenues for the year are up. The fiscal year is ending at the end of this month. Our revenue is up by 23% from last year. Our expenditures are only up by 8%. The one thing I did want to bring to the council’s attention is that within the past few days, Ohio House Bill 47 made its way through the house and goes on to the Senate as far as looking to add AEDs at all public recreational facilities, whether they’re indoor or outdoor. We had looked into the possibilities of adding an AED, but one of the concerns was having a secure site for that AED. They are very costly, and they can also be potentially dangerous. I was out in Upper Arlington at a baseball tournament a few weeks ago and happened to see a few different options that I think would be of interest to at least look into. On the back side of the report, you can see some examples of pictures I took. FirefighterSafe.com is a company out of Dayton, Ohio. I spoke with them briefly, and the services that they provide are a good option if we want to have outdoor AEDs available in our parks and public spaces. When you open the stand, it automatically calls 9-1-1, puts you in touch with the dispatcher, and sends EMS and police to that location. There is an annual fee; they said it was around

\$500. I think that is because it is a cellphone type of setup, and so that's paying for the cellphone service to that site. Anytime that box is opened, it triggers an alarm, dispatching police and EMS and giving you two-way communication. I thought that was a nice option for an outdoor location that at least provides that option. The statistics say that for every minute defibrillation is not given, your risk of not surviving goes down by 10%.

Milliken – Would that be \$500 per site, or is that if you have multiple sites?

Pearce – I would believe it's per site. The estimated cost that they gave was anywhere between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per location, and that's a turnkey installation. If that is something that the city would like CWJRD to look into further, I'm happy to do the legwork and provide more solid costs on that. I just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention so that they knew that option was out there.

Shea – We appreciate that. I actually noted that on your report and handed it to Mr. Boggs, telling him to look into House Bill 47 and find out what our requirements are under that.

Amick – What is the cost of the actual machine?

Pearce – AEDs new range from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per. I don't believe that the installation cost includes an AED. You can get refurbished units that have the same lifespan for between \$700 and \$1,000.

Amick – Does House Bill 47 require you to have so many AED units per acre of outdoor space?

Pearce – I don't think so, no.

Amos – Just to clarify, this unit you're showing on the back is \$5,000 to \$7,000 with installation.

Pearce – Correct.

Amos – Including the AED?

Pearce – Yes.

Shea – Are you enjoying being the director?

Pearce – 100%.

Shea – Do you feel like it's a fulfilling position and that you're successful at what you've been tasked to do?

Pearce – Yes. There are hurdles with any job. It's just trying to make the best of every situation and take every day one day at a time.

Shea – So you're the executive director of the CWJRD; I believe you're under contract presently for three years, is that right?

Pearce – Three more years.

Shea – Wonderful. I'm happy with the work you're doing as the city council liaison on the board. Where do you see CWJRD going over the next three years?

Pearce – Over the next three years, I wanted to focus on continuing to offer the services that we do provide at a high level, finding ways to improve those current services, and also looking to fill the gaps where there are new opportunities. When I heard that pickleball courts were a possibility this year, I thought that would be a very good option to get adult and senior programming back as another option under CWJRD.

Shea – That's a very good point. I can tell you that I am the second-youngest guy on this council. Some of my other council members remind me that there are folks in our community who are wise, are looking for recreation, and would like activities like that. I think if we're looking for activities for folks that can do that, maybe we could tie it with Human Services Transportation. Do you have any ideas of where you want to go with that?

Pearce – Right now, everybody's schedules are so busy, especially if you have younger kids and are trying to get them to their activities that a lot of times they wind up not focusing on time for themselves because they're too busy trying to get their kids to other activities. If there are ways, such as pickleball or other activities, where they're available to the public at any time instead of having to be on a set schedule, it works out a lot better.

Shea – There's a whole section of our city residents that are retired, so we could possibly have more opportunities for joint recreation, right?

Clark – Do you remember when the last time we had an adult tennis league?

Pearce – We have an adult tennis league right now.

Amick – What about addressing youth programs such as music or art programs for our youth because not all of our youth are into athletics? Do you see having some program for kids like that?

Pearce – Arts and Music are areas that we could expand. The biggest hurdle to that right now is finding instructors for those types of programs and also providing them with an adequate space to do that instruction. If anybody has any leads on instructors that are looking to offer their services, we can put them in touch with me and work to try to make that happen.

Amos – I've had numerous conversations with the high school, and they're going to be looking to do a theater camp in the future, so there are little bits we're trying to branch out into. We'll get there.

Shea – Hopefully, with the school being part of CWJRD, that would open up some facilities there to make some of those camps more feasible.

Amos – It's not necessarily the location, like Greg was saying we have to find somebody who's willing to take on the challenge of hosting a camp or hosting the class.

Amick – How have you surveyed the community to see if there's even an interest in those programs?

Amos – That’s one of the things we’ve talked about. We are going to put some meetings in place. Everyone has had super busy schedules. We did it three years ago. We had some town hall meetings, invited people in, and asked them some of the things they would want to do. I don’t know that we publicized it enough, so it’s one of the things we want to do.

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amos to move Old/New Business up on the Work Session Agenda. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

F. Request for Council Action

RES-23-023

Development

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTRACT FOR CREATION AND OPERATION OF A JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WITH VIOLET TOWNSHIP

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Buskirk to move RES-23-023 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Abstain 1 – Amos

Discussion started at 59:24 on YouTube Channel

Haire – We had a public hearing on this earlier this evening. This would allow us to create the JEDD with the district and partner with them specifically for the DHL parcel, which is at the south-west corner of Basil Western and Amanda Northern Road.

ORD-23-023

Public Service

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING OF THE GENDER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE VI PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Milliken to move ORD-23-023 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Discussion started at 1:00:43 on YouTube Channel

Peoples – We’ve identified some funding opportunities. As you recall, Gender Road Phase 6 is about a \$3 million project. We received a \$2 million grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation through their safety program, so that leaves us with a million-dollar shortfall. We’ve been working through the process, trying to identify some funding opportunities. We had met with MORPC and EMH&T. MORPC identified that Gender Road is actually on an existing Central Ohio Transportation Safety Plan. ODOT has done a safety action plan identifying Gender Road as a pedestrian corridor for improvements. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was recently passed by the federal government. We have identified the Safe Streets for All program, and we’d like to use that for our funding. We’re still working through a few of the details of the project, but this ordinance would authorize us to submit the application and accept funds. We are requesting it as an emergency because applications are due July 10th.

Shea – I just want to thank Mr. Peoples because he and I sat down with Ms. Sargent and had an hour-long meeting with her talking about these issues. She was very persuasive and diligent, and she really wanted to see good things happen. I just wanted to give her a special shout-out, as well as Mr. Peoples, for being the kind of director of Public Works who’s willing to sit down and meet with the resident at a moment’s notice and take time out of his schedule to do that. I just want to say thank you to both of those people

today.

Clark – The applications are due July 10th; when will they go through and be adopted? I know the federal government can take forever sometimes.

Peoples – It's actually pretty quick. I agree; sometimes they can linger, especially with the way they do their fiscal years. We've identified that the award announcements would be in December 2023, and agreements would be executed within 12 months. This lines up with our Gender Road project. We need to be under contract by July 1st, 2024, to meet the fiscal year for the state.

Amick – I could be incorrect, Mr. Peoples, but I noted in my notes from their webinar in April that it requires a 20% local match.

Peoples – Correct.

Amick – Would the \$2 million that we've already received be enough to cover our 20%?

Peoples – Yes. We've identified that EMH&T was able to get that question answered because they worked with some representatives from the Department of Transportation. We're trying to figure out how that match works, whether it's using the full \$2 million from ODOT or just a portion of that \$2 million. We're still trying to work through some of the details behind that.

Amick – Could we use a portion of the ODOT funds for signage on the overpass?

Peoples – Not for signage. There is a fence component that goes along with it, but we are looking at some options. There's a standard fence that goes along with it. We kind of identified some upgraded fence options that we would like to see rather than a standard chain-link fence. We're also looking at some options for that façade. The original application only had a fence on the east side of the bridge, so we're wanting to add one on the west side of the bridge as well.

G. Adjournment @ 6:36 p.m.

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

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

No 1 – Shea