

mean nothing if we aren't prepared to defend those words, including occasionally in court. I hope that the planning process truly provides the city with a backbone, to be blunt. Property owners have rights, but so does our collective community. Once we decide on those values and codify them, we better be prepared to defend them when necessary. To close, this might seem backwards, but I think we are actually blessed to have this planning opportunity. So many communities in the Midwest are suffering from population loss, industry moving out, and general decay. It's not everyday that communities are faced with the opposite problem of having a lot of money and a lot of development thrown at you too quickly. What twists and turns await us along this planning process we can only guess. However, my favorite poet, Robert Frost, had some words I think are relevant, "Two roads diverged in a wood and I, I took the road less traveled by, And that has made all the difference". That's kind of how I've lived my life. I started this by saying that Canal Winchester is at that crossroads. Let's take the road less traveled by, the road of courage and conviction. Let's make Canal Winchester a destination like Jill said. To create a safe, forward-looking community for our children and grandchildren. A community with balanced economic development, strong schools, with beautiful green spaces and environmentally friendly policies that embrace the technology industry as much as possible. I look forward to building that community with all of you. Thank you.

Ann Bennett, 41 Elizabeth St - Good evening. Ann Bennett, a Canal Winchester resident since 1990. Thank you for beginning the process of shaping a comprehensive development plan. In the section of today's agenda entitled, "What a Comprehensive Plan Does," the first bullet states, "Provide guidance for the orderly growth, development, and physical appearance of the community." If orderly growth and physical appearance standards are indeed valued, does that mean city leaders didn't understand or choose to preserve the spirit of who we are and where we came from when they approved the twin concrete monstrosities at Route 33 and Rager Rd? I quote from the city's website, "Winchester has flourished since 1928 because of the twin industries of agriculture and transportation. The rich soil of Violet and Madison townships allowed the farmers to grow excess grain to be sold and created an agriculture-based economy for the area. The village itself developed goods, services, and social opportunities for people in the surrounding area. The businesses prospered as they met most of the needs of the farmers, their families, and the towns' people." Mayor Eberts statement on the city website reads, "I am committed to using a common sense approach that allows us to grow responsibly, while maintaining our heritage." Our heritage is farming. Families and their supporting social, religious, academic, and mercantile infrastructure and municipal roadways that accommodate goods required and produced by our residents. Not municipal roadways choked by tractor trailers. Canal Winchester did not evolve as a logistics-mecca for commercial enterprises that devour fields and overwhelm roadways to enrich themselves by building monstrous warehouses in high traffic areas that are adjacent to homes, schools, and shopping. They clog our roads and insult our senses. They don't pay their workers enough to afford to buy a home in the city. Developers sell out after the spaces are leased and then move on to pillage another town. It's like science-fiction movies in which aliens attack earth to devour its natural resources in their quest to survive. But, there is one difference: Canal Winchester has been telling the aliens to come on down. Those twin concrete monstrosities amount to twenty thousand people passing by everyday on 33, basically saying, "Welcome to Warehouse City." The second bullet on page of the comprehensive plan overview states, "A plan builds consensus and commitment from elected and appointed officials, residents, staff, and other interested stakeholders. You can not build consensus without ensuring all vested voices are solicited and

bridled, understood, and respected. In a shocking reply that, "Everything is posted on the city's website," or "voters can sign up for notifications" ignores the responsibility of being proactive. For example, by overtly reaching out via social media or text where the city just posted a help wanted ad for construction services tech. The local newspaper, the U.S Mail. At a rotary meeting last Wednesday, the Development director said, "It's the council's responsibility to reach out to and connect with residents." How are you going to do that? The section on page 7 entitled, "Likely next steps" is worsened. Is it only likely the city will embrace feedback from the public and incorporate critical components desired by the community or is the word likely to create an out? By allowing for something akin to emergency authorization to cut off citizens' voices, if those voices make you uncomfortable. 33 city ordinances have been approved so far in 2021 and ten of them, nearly one-third, have been approved through emergency action. What will ensure a community development plan which ignores residents' priorities is not going to be railroaded through in effectively the same way? Using the development director's speech at the rotary last week, "We're making a comprehensive plan that should be the residents' plan and in the best interest of our residents. I ask the council to include in its deliberation these issues, exactly who is going to participate in writing the RFP and what relevant skill sets and inherent biases do those authors bring to the table? How will the public be informed of the development plans' progress and be invited to submit ideas and recommendations? Last Wednesday, Mr. Haire told Rotarians, "It's council's responsibility to reach out and connect to residents." Again, how are you going to do that? Once approved, the planning document in the city's review process requires petitions for rezoning and development. Will they be required to cite plan guidelines and many more? Understanding that a good plan will likely take many months, what happens in the meantime? Thank you.

Walker - If we could before we continue, comments should be directed to the topic of the scope of the comprehensive plan project. If you are going to repeat anything, please send them in for any seconds on anything.

Ashley Ward, 7516 Heffley Ct - Hi, my name is Ashley Ward and I live in Ashbrook village in Canal Winchester. I hate to start out being negative, I really do, but I have to point out that, like many things that have been happening recently, this hearing was poorly planned. You only granted about enough time for about four or five people to speak on this very important topic and there's a lot more people here who want to provide input. I would encourage council to perhaps consider holding a second hearing at a venue big enough to hold everyone and provide adequate time for everyone who wants to provide input to do so. As a resident of Canal Winchester, I'd love to see the development plan facilitate a diverse mixture of different types of business. It sounds like a lot of people agree with that, some on council included. As part of that, I think it would be important for the city to hire a full-time planner. Someone who can attract businesses. Columbus is the fastest growing city in the Midwest and a lot of opportunities come with that. A full-time planner would be able to keep their thumb on the pulse of that and help attract these businesses to our community. I understand that we do have a full-time development director, but all we've been seeing lately is warehouses, warehouses, and more warehouses. The residents are saying we can do better and we want better. We want a diverse mix. We have warehouses, we have more warehouses that are approved and not yet built, we're good on the warehouses. Lastly, I think it's important for the development plan to have some teeth to it. A plan is useless if not followed. So, there needs to be some teeth to it and there needs to be a good reason to deviate from that plan. Really lastly is public participation. Again, this hearing was not well done, only four or five were able to talk and I

think it would be really important for residents to see a draft of the plan and be able to provide meaningful comments. As a part of that, I have a suggestion which would be to do a survey, perhaps sent out with the mayor's letter that comes with our water bills, surveying the citizens and what they think is important for our community. Thank you.

Mike Redmon 6465 Tallman Ct - I have been a city resident for thirteen years. I'll write my name in the book as I speak, since we're so limited by time, which I have to agree with the previous speaker, seems a little silly, by the way. My comments are related to how I came here with a little bit of an open mind and I can tell you while I was listening, I like Councilman Lynch's comments. Generally, the comments are all centered on the fact....I feel like it's a self-licking ice cream cone, it's all about development and growth for the sake of development and growth. As the earlier lady said, we're not trying to serve the residents, we're trying to serve people from outside the community. I don't see the point of doing TIFs and developmental CRAs. What's the purpose of those if they diminish the quality of life for the residents who are currently here paying income taxes in this city and raising their families here? And if you guys don't think that the intersection at Gender road up by 33 is a mess already, I don't know if you live here. I question if you drive over there ever. Then we went and gave away tax abatements for corporations to come in and ruin that entire area. You're going to say it's not that bad, but yes, it is. And you're not going to build an overpass anytime soon. It's just decreased the quality of life for this community. For what purpose? To raise income and the finances of the city, for what purpose? I don't understand the purpose. Are we in dire straits financially? No, we're not because I've read them and we're fine. We have an area to develop and that's over on Diley road and you've done a great job, you're like a pitbull go get them. We just let the development director off the leash though. He's a pitbull and he's doing his job, but we've let him run wild though. Just think of the purpose of the development we're trying to get. A Smoothie King, great that serves the community. Warehouses don't serve the residents. Just keep that in mind. I truly feel strongly about that.

David Steman 7855 Windsor Ave - Hi I'm Dave Steman and I've lived in Canal Winchester my entire life and I live at 7855 Windsor Ave. Our landscape has changed a lot and we're looking at a lot of new plans and it's going to change even more. But I hope that everybody in this council really understands that this is only the second time I've ever been here. I don't know if anyone in my family has been here. My parents are 95 and I don't think they've been here, so how much input are we really getting from these people to reiterate what I just heard from the last three speakers? Canal Winchester, are you representing it or a business opportunity? When we're looking at development plans, we're viewing it in the vision of business. Bloom-Carroll is very similar to the way it was when I played them in high school sports back in the 70s, it's not changed much. Obviously, we aren't Carroll, but they're not in dire financial need. Can we just slow down a little bit on the growth? One of the comments I also want to make too is it was brought to the attention that we're going to take input from people here tonight and I have seen about 25 people. We have a Canal Winchester Connection group that has 9,200 members that are chatting. Are we engaging these people? You've got 763 members that are CW for Smart Growth. Are we engaging that group? We could have a lot less chatter and more open discussion if we reached out to these groups. Again, I listened to Lucas Haire speak the other day at the Rotary Club meeting and he said the council members were the ones to reach out to the population and ask for our input, and I don't know if I've spoken to any of you about this stuff. Maybe, Mr. Coolman once. I think we have to connect with people more before we keep on growing. Canal Winchester is fine, but this isn't

what...if you would've told be twenty years ago that every farm field was going to be a warehouse, Kroger, Home Depot, I may have packed up back then. Can we slow down? Can we look at it as the residents and not the businesses? I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Walker - We have time for one more tonight. I want to remind everyone this meeting will conclude at seven to move onto the committee of the whole. If you don't get a chance to speak tonight, I've said it before and we're sincere, you will get to speak. There will be many opportunities to make public comment about the comprehensive plan.

Denise Mathias, Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce - Hello, Denise Mathias, chairman of the Canal Winchester Chamber. In regards to the RFP, which is what I understood this meeting is about tonight, the Chamber would really like something in the RFP or in the process about how to take all the divergent ideas and decide what Canal Winchester is supposed to be. I realize that the RFP is for the plan, but can we include something? I know I heard twelve different versions of Canal Winchester tonight. I heard, don't change it all. I heard, change it all the way to make it super attractive to other businesses. Coming from a group that supports businesses after they open here, we want them to be welcome. I don't get to say what's in the RFP, but I'm curious what part of the process decides which way we go because I heard so many descriptions tonight. It's exhausting supporting businesses that are constantly beaten up because they don't meet somebody's version of what Canal Winchester is. That's my ask from the Chamber and I echo transparency. Thanks.

Walker - I just wanted to make sure all the speakers signed in and if you didn't please print your name in there. We're at 7 o'clock, but you can still submit comments in writing. It's just as important and meaningful as being at the podium. There will be many more opportunities to speak about this comprehensive plan. We thank you. If you wish to stay, we're going to continue on with the Committee of the Whole and again we thank you for coming out tonight and for speaking.

Clerk - Mr. Walker, I would like to point out that there are sheets where the agendas are. Those are printed out for public comment submission forms and you can also do them online. I promise as the Clerk of Council they will be included in the public record and be included in discussions. Feel free to fill those out, that's why we have those sheets there.

Haire - There is a public comment form on our website, so if anyone wants to share that in their private Facebook groups, they're welcome to do that. We have received two comments so far, so we're hoping to gain a lot more community input, more than the two so far. That will be on there until the next council meeting on the seventh.

F. Adjournment

Bennett - No we haven't adjourned yet.

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

Yes 5 - Milliken, Lynch, Walker, Clark, Coolman

No 2 - Amos, Bennett

Abstain 0 - None

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 P.M.