Canal Winchester

Town Hall
10 North High Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

Meeting Minutes - FINAL

June 17, 2019
7:00 PM

City Council
Bruce Jarvis – President
Mike Walker – Vice President
Jill Amos
Will Bennett
Bob Clark
Mike Coolman
Patrick Lynch
A. Call To Order  
Call to order @ 7:24 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - Walker

C. Roll Call  
Present 6 – Amos, Bennett, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch
Absent 1 – Walker

A motion was made by Coolman to excuse Walker, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Coolman, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Jarvis, Lynch

D. Approval of Minutes

MIN-19-027  
6-3-19 Work Session Minutes (Work Session Minutes)

MIN-19-028  
6-3-19 City Council Meeting Minutes (Council Minutes)

A motion was made by Coolman to approve MIN-19-027 & MIN-19-028, seconded by Amos. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Amos, Coolman, Clark, Jarvis, Lynch
Abstain 1 – Bennett

E. Communications & Petitions

19-052  
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority Public Notice (Letter)

Jarvis: Some properties that were not in Canal Winchester, but near Canal Winchester – I have to admit, after reading it I wasn’t quite clear what they were saying, there are only 2 properties mentioned; it seemed as though the 2 properties in question were large apartment complexes; they are changing in ownership, or how they will be used? Hollins: They are getting some form of OFA – Ohio Financing House Authority – funding for some renovations, or maintenance issues; it still kicks in as a requirement for public notice within a certain distance; Jarvis: It does not warrant a response from us? Hollins: No, it’s just a required notice.

F. Public Comments - Five Minute Limit Per Person

G. RESOLUTIONS

RES-19-011  
A Resolution Indicating What Services The City Of Canal Winchester Will Provide To 1.26± Acres Of Land, More Or Less, The Description And Map Are Attached Hereto As Exhibits “A” And “B” For The Annexation Known
As The Jenkins Annexation By Eugene Hollins, Agent For The Petitioners (Resolution, Exhibits A_B)

- Adoption

A motion was made by Clark to adopt RES-19-011, seconded by Coolman. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Clark, Coolman, Amos, Bennett, Jarvis, Lynch

**RES-19-012 Development**

A Resolution Indicating What Services The City Of Canal Winchester Will Provide To 0.75± Acres Of Land, More Or Less, The Description And Map Are Attached Hereto As Exhibits “A” And “B” For The Annexation Known As The McCormick Annexation By Eugene Hollins, Agent For The Petitioners (Resolution, Exhibits A_B)

- Adoption

A motion was made by Bennett to adopt RES-19-012, seconded by Amos. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch

**RES-19-013 Development**

A Resolution Indicating What Services The City Of Canal Winchester Will Provide To 0.62± Acres Of Land, More Or Less, The Description And Map Are Attached Hereto As Exhibits “A” And “B” For The Annexation Known As The Sullivan Annexation By Eugene Hollins, Agent For The Petitioners (Resolution, Exhibits A_B)

- Adoption

A motion was made by Lynch to adopt RES-19-013, seconded by Clark. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Lynch, Clark, Amos, Bennett, Coolman, Jarvis

**H. ORDINANCES**

Tabled

**ORD-18-046 Development**

An Ordinance To Amend Part 11 Of The Codified Ordinances And The Zoning Map Of The City Of Canal Winchester, Rezoning An Approximately 69.237 Acre Tract Of Exceptional Use (EU) To Limited Manufacturing (LM), Owned By Gender/Thirty Three, Located On The North Side Of Winchester Boulevard (PID 184-000532 And 184-000871) (Ordinance, Exhibit A)

- Adoption

Jarvis: I understand that this ordinance is ready to be untabled? Clark: Correct.
A motion was made by Clark to untable ORD-18-046, seconded by Coolman.

Jarvis: I’m looking to staff, because this conversation happened several weeks, if not months ago; I don’t remember the details on it – there was a traffic study done on this as a result of this project on Winchester Boulevard, which is known to be troublesome already; as I recall, this is not necessarily going to improve anything, is that still the consensus? Haire: A traffic study was completed by the developer’s consultant; it was reviewed by EMH&T, they asked for a number of corrections; they reviewed the corrections, and came up with a list that said they either agreed with their assumptions in the traffic study, or whether they recommended any additional improvements; the only area that they had recommended that we look for some type of contribution was for the 2nd access to the shopping center, and also the drive at the Inn at Winchester Trail; the recommendation was that there was likely going to be some improvements needed there, likely in the 2030 horizon – 10 years out from the development opening; they recommended that we look at having each developer that develops any property along the future Winchester Boulevard contribute to those improvements; Jarvis: What would be the nature of the improvements? Haire: It looks like their recommendation would be a traffic signal; it does not currently meet warrants, but it would meet warrants in the 2030 horizon; Jarvis: Outside of this project, there are other projects that are either underway or recently completed? Possibly on the drawing board – all of those, assuming they’re not already online or fully functional, the impact of those on top of this – is that what the traffic study encompassed? Haire: It took into account any known and approved developments; it took into account the office developments taking place across the street, the proposed hotel that’s also located there, and then that industrial development; there is a certain assumption for background traffic growth; MORPC provides those – the transportational planning agency provides assumptions on growth of traffic in the Gender Road corridor, for example; they assign a growth factor; Jarvis: That’s the only thing about this that makes me a little nervous, but it’s nothing that all of us here aren’t already aware of, it’s just a matter of timing; Haire: Something that we will address when we go to the final development approval, that’s typically the phase we address impact fees or contributions.

Lynch: The impact fees – would they be going into the TIF fund? Haire: The TIF fund could definitely fund any of those improvements, and there is a significant amount of revenue generated from this development that will go into that TIF, so that is definitely something that can be used to make any infrastructure improvements that are needed due to development that takes place anywhere in that TIF; basically, TIF funds can be expended on anything that improves or assists the TIF area; Lynch: The funds you are talking about to improve those areas, is that a fund separate from the TIF? Haire: It could be.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Clark, Coolman, Amos, Bennett, Jarvis, Lynch

A motion was made by Clark to adopt ORD-18-046, seconded by Coolman.

Bennett: Mr. Haire, that final development plan that you referenced – that doesn’t necessarily come back through council? Haire: No, it would go to Planning & Zoning Commission; Bennett: The decision to make a separate fund to fund that infrastructure improvement, how is that decision made and who is the decision maker in that? Haire: It would be done through our technical review group, who is myself,
Matt, Andrew Moore and Bill Sims, and also our city engineer who is Bird & Bull, and we would likely consult EMH&T since they did the traffic study review.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Clark, Coolman, Amos, Bennett, Jarvis, Lynch

Third Reading

ORD-19-032 Development
Sponsor: Coolman

An Ordinance To Authorize The Mayor To Enter Into An Agreement For Building Department Services With Dynasty Inspections, LLC For The Provision Of Building Inspections And Residential Building Official Services (Ordinance, Exhibit A)

- Adoption

A motion was made by Coolman to adopt ORD-19-032, seconded by Amos. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Coolman, Amos, Bennett, Clark, Jarvis, Lynch

ORD-19-033 Development
Sponsor: Lynch

An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 1321 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Canal Winchester To Adopt The 2019 Residential Code Of Ohio Including All Referenced Standards Therein (Ordinance)

- Adoption

A motion was made by Lynch to adopt ORD-19-033, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Lynch, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis

Second Reading

ORD-19-035 Development
Sponsor: Coolman

An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor And Clerk To Accept And Execute The Plat For The Villages At Westchester Section 13, Phase 1, And Declaring An Emergency (Ordinance)

- Request waiver of second and/or third reading and adoption

A motion was made by Coolman to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings for ORD-19-035, seconded by Jarvis.

Bennett: Clarification on what the request for suspending the rules centers around? Haire: We’re okay with it going another reading if that would be necessary; in the past, we have done plats with waiving the 2nd and 3rd reading; we just don’t want it to go into the recess where it would delay them selling lots; they’re just about finished with the improvements there, so they are close to wanting to record the plat and selling the lots; they have homebuyers that are waiting to build their homes, it will be delayed potentially if we have another reading.
The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Coolman, Jarvis, Amos, Bennett, Clark, Lynch

A motion was made by Coolman to adopt ORD-19-035, seconded by Jarvis. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Coolman, Jarvis, Amos, Bennett, Clark, Lynch

ORD-19-037
An Ordinance Approving And Adopting The 2020 Tax Budget
Finance
Sponsor: Jarvis
- Second Reading Only

ORD-19-038
An Ordinance To Set The Salaries Of Members Of Council Effective January 1, 2020
Finance
Sponsor: Coolman
- Second Reading Only

ORD-19-039
An Ordinance To Set The Salary And Fringe Benefits Of The Mayor Effective January 1, 2020
Finance
Sponsor: Walker
- Second Reading Only

First Reading

ORD-19-040
An Ordinance To Waive Competitive Bidding For Water Tower Maintenance Services And To Authorize The Mayor And Finance Director To Enter Into A Multiple Year Agreement With Utility Service Co, Inc
Public Service
- First Reading Only

ORD-19-041
An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor And Clerk To Accept And Execute The Plat For Turning Stone, Phase 1
Development
- First Reading Only

I. Reports

Mayor's Report

19-057

19-058

Mayor's Report

May 2019 Mayor's Court Report

Mayor: Thank you Mr. Jarvis, just a couple of things in my written report – the substance abuse seminar that we had last week was very, very – it was one of the best seminars I’ve been to when it comes to discussing substance abuse; Pat was there, and I think you’d probably say the same; Lynch: It was
outstanding; Mayor: I just wish we would have had twice as many people as we had, there was only 15 people show up; we will probably end up trying it again later in the year; I don’t know how much more advertising we could do on it – we had it in every paper, on our website and on Facebook; people say they want to see that type of thing, but when you do it, they don’t come to it.

Mayor: It’s going to be a busy week again, Music and Art in the Park is going to be Friday night from 6:30-9:30; Relay for Life is going to be Saturday from 4pm to 12 midnight at the high school football field; that’s all I have, other than the mayor’s court report, I need approval for that.

A motion was made by Lynch to approve the mayor’s court report for May 2019, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Lynch, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis

Fairfield County Sheriff - I don’t have anything to add to my original report.

Law Director - Real quickly, no reason for an executive session; I did want to attribute to you though the rewritten texting while driving; what you’ll see is – in red line – the starting point for the revised document is what is currently on the state law on texting while driving, with one notable exception, which is ‘D’; ‘D’ makes it a primary offense in the City of Canal Winchester; what that means is that somebody can be pulled over if observed by law enforcement doing one of the prohibited acts – i.e. texting while driving – while operating a vehicle; for your consideration, if this is where we want to start, we can get this put on your agenda; if after your review, you’re thinking that we can take a stab at making it more aggressive, which is what Bexley did, we can do that as well; I did want to distribute this for you review and consideration this evening, and we will move forward – if you want to have this on the agenda next time, we can start that process.

Bennett: My initial thoughts are that it does seem like it’s limited to texting, the description talks about texting and sending emails; my concern is that what happens if the sheriff pulls someone over, and he’s not texting and watching Netflix while driving? Any of these things that aren’t part of the description of what a text message encompasses; Hollins: It’s hard to draft legislation to keep up with technology; Bennett: That’s why Bexley’s is a little more impactful, it just says that if your phone is in your hand – it’s black and white, it’s easier than what type of communication you were having; I may be in the minority with how aggressive to be with this; Hollins: Sargent – I don’t know if you have heard of any practical experience with attempts to implement this; you’re right – we draft legislation with taking a snapshot in time, and then everything changes; I don’t know if you have any practical experience with whether this is a workable solution?

Amos: Mr. Hollins, the changes you gave us, those go along with the Ohio revised code? Hollins: Yes, exactly; Amos: Did you have a chance to look at Bexley, and does it fall within the ORC? Hollins: It goes way beyond the ORC; it goes to Mr. Bennett’s point of we’re not going to try and distinguish between what you were doing; if you were using a device while driving, you’re in violation; Bennett: Bexley’s goes far beyond – I think that’s where Mr. Hollins was trying to find that middle ground between what the ORC is, and Bexley who is way far past that; Coolman: Bexley allows them to use the phone, as long as it’s in a holder for GPS? Hollins: As long as your car is setup so that it’s not in your hand, you can receive a call; Amos: Sheriff, is this a call you can make to Bexley, and ask the question of how enforceable – Cassel: I can do that, I honestly think that if you have something like that in the books, it will be
challenging and it will lose in court; Amos: I would be interested to see Bexley’s view on this; Bennett: I talked to their police chief; Jarvis: Right now, we do not have any topics submitted for the Committee of the Whole, perhaps this would be a good one; Bennett: Committee of the Whole is generally a council-only driven session, correct? Is it open to the public for comment? Jarvis: Not for comment, but they can attend and observe; Lynch: Anything that we do in Committee of the Whole is just discussing an idea, and take action later; Hollins: Somewhere in the process there would be public input with the 3 readings.

Discussion ensued

Finance Director

Finance Director's Report, May 2019 Financial Statements

Jackson: Thank you Mr. Jarvis, the only thing I wanted to mention was that all of you deserve a nice, long council recess.

Public Service Director

Public Service Director's Report

Peoples: Thank you Mr. Jarvis, just a couple of things from my written report – the Eagle Scout project, there was a little free library installed at Guiler Park, right next to the previous Eagle Scout project that had the flag pole and the brick area; the scout put 2 of them in – one of them is out by Olive Branch out on Gender Road, just north of 33, and we also recently saw one on Liberty Street; there is one in a resident’s yard; the Westchester Park improvements – we are working with the engineer to go over some of the comments; we are probably at about a 50% design on this; they came out with basically 2 distinct, separate projects; one of them is just site work with the parking lot, asphalt and concrete, the trail, and there is some storm sewer being put in for drainage; it’s very wet between the parking lot and the playset; we also have the playground set itself; typically, a contractor that does one doesn’t usually do the other; we’re kind of looking into that, that may be one of those instances as we talked earlier in work session about waiving competitive bid, and working with a couple contractors; the contractor who is doing the street program – we had a successful project with them, and they’re wrapping things up; we are still getting approval from ODNR, but that is something we would like to get moving in the September timeframe.

Development Director - A few items to update you on – we did close on the Bixby property last Wednesday, so the City of Canal Winchester is now the proud owner of 110 acres out there; later this week, the CIC will be entering into a lease agreement with Fairfield Trine LLC for 18 and 26 West Waterloo, to allow that project to move forward; we have some busy agendas coming up for both Landmarks and Planning & Zoning; Landmarks – there is 8 or 9 applications on the agenda; there is a lot of improvements happening in the old town area, which is a good thing.

J. Council Reports

Work Session/Council - Monday, July 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

NO MEETING MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019 DUE TO COUNCIL RECESS

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Committee of the Whole - Monday, July 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (TENTATIVE)

Work Session/Council - Monday, August 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

CW Human Services - Mr. Lynch: I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that they had the Brock Walk day – that was the 3rd one, the whole 6th grade class participated; there was a gathering of 22,734 pantry items – this is by far the largest food gathering our Human Services has ever had; I talked to Kristi and Terry Johnson, and of course Kelly Best at the 6th grade building; Jarvis: It’s a very active, visible charity – Brockstrong Foundation – I hope they can keep it going; Lynch: They are quite a gem for our community.

CWICC - Mr. Clark: Next meeting, unless we need an earlier one with all of this activity is July 31st, 11am at the Interurban Building.

CWJR德 - Mr. Bennett/Mrs. Amos: I am super excited to announce that we are rolling out big kid recreation, and our first event is Zumba; it will be starting July 2nd, and our first day – the representative that we have teaching Zumba said we have to have at least 10 people, and we had 12 people the first day; I’m super excited to see our big kid recreation build up steam; we are looking for more adult classes, and we are going to start looking at our science and art programs for the kids; we are very excited; Bennett: The executive board meeting is this Thursday at 7pm, here at Town Hall.

Jarvis: Mr. Walker is not here to talk about Destination: Canal Winchester, so I will defer to Mr. Coolman; Coolman: Next meeting is June 25th, 6:30 at the Interurban Building; the Blues & Ribfest is fast approaching – that is the last Friday and Saturday of July; the Farmers Market is off to a very good start; we are averaging about 500 people between 9am and noon; we are at about 60% of our vendor participation, mainly we have a lot of fresh vegetables, vendors that can’t make it because crops aren’t in yet; that’s exciting to have 500 people when you don’t have a full house of vendors; Karen Stiles took on – our executive director – she took on a certification over the winter where she is now a certified Farmers Market master, which the guy that runs it is out of Washington, he runs the Pikes Peak market; he hand picks 3 markets in Ohio to come and visit, and give a free demonstration of what his marketing skills are; Canal Winchester is one of them – he will be here in August; Karen will be reaching out to some of you, because she will need up to 8 volunteers; that’s some exciting stuff, that’s a big accolade; they come into Canal Winchester, they do a review of our community and our market, and try to make suggestions on how we can grow.

Jarvis: Mr. Walker is not here to talk about Destination: Canal Winchester, so I will defer to Mr. Coolman; Coolman: Next meeting is June 25th, 6:30 at the Interurban Building; the Blues & Ribfest is fast approaching – that is the last Friday and Saturday of July; the Farmers Market is off to a very good start; we are averaging about 500 people between 9am and noon; we are at about 60% of our vendor participation, mainly we have a lot of fresh vegetables, vendors that can’t make it because crops aren’t in yet; that’s exciting to have 500 people when you don’t have a full house of vendors; Karen Stiles took on – our executive director – she took on a certification over the winter where she is now a certified Farmers Market master, which the guy that runs it is out of Washington, he runs the Pikes Peak market; he hand picks 3 markets in Ohio to come and visit, and give a free demonstration of what his marketing skills are; Canal Winchester is one of them – he will be here in August; Karen will be reaching out to some of you, because she will need up to 8 volunteers; that’s some exciting stuff, that’s a big accolade; they come into Canal Winchester, they do a review of our community and our market, and try to make suggestions on how we can grow.

Old/New Business

K. Old/New Business

19-053 Pool Concerns Update

Peoples: I was understand that there were some comments at the last meeting, I did review the minutes; I spoke to the resident’s husband earlier that day about some of the concerns; the 3 main ones that I gathered – first one is that it feels more like a community pool, versus a public pool; there’s a Canal Winchester proper and school district residents that have historically been the only people who were allowed to attend; the memberships were opened up to allow non-residents; before we had the non-residents, the daily admissions were not being asked for their IDs, so there were still some nonresidents

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still coming in; there are some new faces that may be coming in with that; also, I don’t know if this would have been the right timeframe – I understand that Groveport had to close their pool, so I don’t know if that may have been some of those people; the next one was under 10 without an adult; as was discussed, our policy is that no one under 10 without a caregiver – we did talk to the managers and the gate attendants about making sure that they are keeping track of that; when talking to some of the managers over there that had previously been lifeguards, they said that at the beginning of the year, the parents think that because they’re another year older they should be able to swim better; it is something that happens every year at the beginning of the season; this isn’t an every hour, every day type of occurrence; the 3rd one that we talked about the managers being there that are quite young; there are 3 managers that are on site at this time; they are all 4 year lifeguards, this is their 4th year at the pool; they went through 3 years of lifeguarding, now they have gone through Columbus Pool Management’s manager academy; they do a lot of training on conflict resolution and shadowing at other pools; last year, they started doing this at our pool, where they were going through the gate entry side of things, and into the pump house as well; those were the 3 things that he and I discussed. Discussion ensued.

Jarvis: What they were saying was that there were things outside of the water where the only person of authority to stop that was the lifeguard, other than the manager; that wasn’t clear on whether that was outside the scope of the contract with Columbus Pool Management, or whether that was in the contract and they weren’t performing that piece of it; Peoples: I understand there was a fight that had happened; when I went in and talked to one of the managers, there was a whistle blown, she said that as soon as it was done, they left the pool area; it wasn’t a knockdown, drag out fight – the way it was explained to me – it was addressed, and they moved on; we talked to them about that situation, that they’re well within their rights to kick the kids out, and to ban them if it happens multiple times with the same kids; we’ve had one kid that was very close to being banned the last couple of years, I think he’s grown up a little bit. Discussion ensued.

Coolman: Another issue she brought up is a staffing issue, how do we talk to Columbus Pool about their staffing? Peoples: I did, and that’s where I learned about the leadership academy that they do; I talked to one of the managers that are there now, and got more information on how that works; I’d really like to have those people that have been at the pool for a while, moving them up gives them great experience; I know there was discussion that we need an adult; these are 18-year old kids; some people may not think of them as adults, but they are adults; they have limited experience in dealing with some of the more escalated situations; I think we all were there at any given point in time, and you need that type of experience; we do not dictate on how old the managers have to be; we don’t do that with Waste Management, we don’t do it with Columbus Asphalt Paving, and we don’t do it with Columbus Pool Management; Coolman: As far as the number of bodies that they have available every day? Peoples: I was told that they had their full staff in February; this is always the pool that they never have problems filling up their staffing; on any given day, there are 2 lifeguards at each pool; from 1pm-5pm there is a floater that walks around them, a manager is on site; there is 1 at the concession stand and at least 1 at the front gate, most of the time there are 2; one can float back and forth; Coolman: So we are fully staffed? Peoples: Yes, I have not been told of any issues; I know there was some issues with scheduling – I think that was taken care of. Discussion ensued.

Coolman: I think what the resident was reporting is more situational than long-term. Discussion ensued.

Amos: Mr. Peoples, I appreciate you addressing with them the pool schedule; my understanding was that they got the schedule the Friday before the Sunday; I did have a parent reach out to me from the JRD that
they didn’t have a lifeguard show up to their first competition, because it was never scheduled; I’m hoping that after that conversation, it was wrapped up; Peoples: It was explained to me that the regional manager was scheduling for 3 pools, and got behind; it’s worked out from what I understand; Jackson: One more thing I want to add to that – I know Sergeant Cassel and Deputy West, who is the school resource officer, went to the pool after our last council meeting and spoke with the manager; they walked around, and it was discussed that Deputy West goes over there more frequently to make his presence known, and interact with the kids; hopefully that too will help with any ‘kids being kids’; at least having that presence there more often will remind the kids that they need to be on their best behavior; I did reiterate about the 10 and under; I was told that while there have been a couple, it hasn’t been as bad as other years; I don’t know about any of you, I have a hard time judging how old these kids are anymore; it proves to be a challenge; they are trying, and they understand that they need to be pressing people a little bit more. Discussion ensued.

Amos: One thing we did say was that while we can’t judge a 10-year old – you’re right Ms. Jackson – those coming in with younger kids claiming to be 16 should have a school ID, a state ID, or some sort of ID that can demonstrate that they’re at least 16; I realize that it’s still hard; Jarvis: Mom and dad aren’t standing by, they’re taking off and leaving them there; Amos: I know the Canal high school, most of Columbus schools, Pickerington schools do give school IDs to everyone that is a freshman and above; at least we can identify that if they’re claiming to be 16, then they can legitimately show us that; Mayor: To discuss the older managers, if they don’t apply, then it’s hard to get an older person as a manager.

Amos: Last time we discussed the use of the room, the Interurban for civic events, and at that point in time, we had not decided to vote or come to an agreement; I was asked to throw it back out there to get a vote, to see if one council person could use it for one civic reason once a month; Jarvis: As I recall, it’s the mayor’s discretion as far as the fee goes, but the other issue was that the day of the week; Mayor: Correct; Jarvis: His hands are tied because of the way it was written; Mayor: We may have a business in town that wants to use it every weekend, the whole weekend; Amos: I think in general we were just talking about a city facility; it is the community center or the Interurban; the question was just coming down to if we could waive it for council members to use for civic meetings, such as Community Coffee; Mayor: Personally, I think it’s just like I answered you in the email; if it’s truly open to all council members, then that can probably be done; if it’s limited to 1, 2, or 3, then I’ll probably still answer it the same way; Amos: Our hopes are to open it up to everybody, because we really want everyone to rotate out; we are just trying to establish a way for it to be easy to happen; we don’t want everybody to try and find a room, we wanted this to be a smooth transition, so that when council members do step in – in July, I won’t be there in July, so we sent out a message; we want to make sure that whoever takes those 2 spots, it’s seamless for them. Discussion ensued.

Jarvis: That still doesn’t get around the Saturday thing on the fee portion of it; I think that’s the sticking point, because otherwise we would have to come back to modify the ordinance; Amos: We have a lot of buildings that are not in use on Saturdays once a month; I asked the community center if they see a lot of rentals on Saturday mornings, the answer was no, and that they see a lot of rentals in the afternoons; Jarvis: I’m going to guess that the reason it was in there that there isn’t a staff person that can come and verify that someone didn’t spray graffiti on the wall; Amos: The community center doesn’t have someone
open it; Jackson: No, everyone is assigned a code – the same for the Interurban; if you’re talking about each council member having one free rental a month, that’s 84 free rentals a year; Lynch: If available; Jackson: It’s still a lot for a small community like ours; Amos: With that being said, thus far there have been no community events put on council where we have requested this; Jackson: I understand that, the other thing is the event that is chosen to be put on – who is making the determination that it’s a community event, and not a campaign event? Jarvis: That’s one of the things we talked about; there would be no commercial or political activity going on. Discussion ensued.

Coolman: The problem I have is that once we allow it, then I’m not sure that that’s giving us a benefit as an elected council person that a normal resident couldn’t receive; what if a resident that is civic-minded but is not a councilperson wants to waive their fees; Mayor: That’s my concern, too, and the fact that if the ordinance continues to read as it reads right now, I have to enforce it the way I see it; until you change the ordinance; Jackson: I think the other issue is that this is all centered around the coffee event; when the coffee event was first brought forward, it was not brought forward as an entire council-supported event; I think that has changed, but it wasn’t originally; to allow to use a city facility for what is more and more ‘muddying the waters’ to be a city-backed event, I think it needs to be a city-backed event, and I don’t think you have the city’s back right now; we don’t have your back on this right now, because we don’t necessarily agree with how things are going; Bennett: Interesting point, Ms. Jackson; is there a particular reason why we can’t come to a unified agreement? Jackson: Personally, I think it was the way it was presented; we were told it was happening, we weren’t asked for our opinion on it; we are the ones who are taking the phone calls, emails, and addressing whatever may be coming up; I think that the communication at the beginning wasn’t there, and is still not there; I didn’t even know you had one last month until today; I didn’t know you had one planned for Saturday until today – there is a little bit of a communication gap, and that’s putting us in an awkward spot; Bennett: I will say that there is a lot of rigor put around those events by the feedback not only from council but from staff as well; I can’t say that it’s been followed through perfectly; it makes it hard for us to rotate individuals in and out because of the challenge of the rigor that we are trying to adhere to; I understand your point, that it does create challenges from the side that there is more follow-up that may be put on city personnel, instead of us maintaining an arbitration between; I guess it would be nice to have more conversation on how we can move this to a phase where it is more of a city-sanctioned event.

Amos: I am fine paying for the room this month, because we have already reserved it; the event is important for us to engage with our community; I did bring it up for a Committee of the Whole, and it was declined; we rely so heavily on the city staff to help us day-to-day; these are concerns that our residents are bringing forth; instead of people blasting things on Facebook, not getting answers, and it becoming more than it needs to be, this is a nice outlet for people to come and talk; Jackson: Part of the social media problem is that people aren’t asking the city; they are asking other individuals that may or may not live in the city; Bennett: We have encouraged people at those events to reach out to the city staff. Discussion ensued.

Clark: I just have concerns of the communication of how they come in, and they address you, and then we hear about it today at 5:15pm; I get an email that says what your meeting was about last month; that’s hard, because I have no – I’m coming into a meeting, and you’re hitting me with an issue; Bennett: Mr.
Clark, I hear you completely; we have to find a better system for getting those communications out quicker and more responsively; I think that part of the challenge is that Ms. Amos is trying to manage that herself – to your credit, but also maybe too much; if we can share that responsibility, then maybe we can be more responsive with getting those out faster. Discussion ensued.

Amos: City of Columbus is doing a version of this as well, and I’ve reached out to them to see what they are doing; Hollins: It just begs for a policy of some sort; Clark: Do they have all the council coming together? Amos: I don’t know, from what I understood on the brochure is that they rotate out, so they don’t have more than 3; Lynch: A suggestion – first of all I want to say hats off to these 2 for putting themselves out there; they created this forum, and they’re getting feedback; I understand the concern of everyone here that wants to jump in, and get that information; Mr. Clark, you want to have minutes and know what’s going on; taking contact info for these people that way you can follow up with them, and everyone can be part of this process; Jarvis: Some of us couldn’t independently respond – that person would be like ‘what is this?’; Bennett: The other thing we’ve had happen is large groups want to talk about different things at the same time; trying to video chat 3 separate conversations at the same time is complicated; the other challenge is that someone may not want to be on camera.

L. Adjourn to Executive Session (if necessary)

M. Adjournment @ 8:50 p.m.  
A motion was made by Lynch to adjourn, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Lynch, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis