Meeting Minutes – FINAL

September 3, 2019

6:30 PM

Council Work Session

Mike Walker – Chair
Jill Amos
Will Bennett
Bob Clark
Mike Coolman
Bruce Jarvis
Patrick Lynch
A. Call To Order  
Call to order @ 6:30pm

B. Roll Call  
Present 7 – Amos, Bennett, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker

C. Also In Attendance

Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire

D. Request for Council Action

RES-19-020 - A Resolution To Adopt The Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan/Maintenance Of Effort For The Calendar Years 2020-2024 For The City Of Canal Winchester, Ohio (Resolution, Attachment)
- Request to move to full Council

Peoples: Thank you Mr. Walker, attached in the packet is a resolution adopting the 5-year Capital Improvements Plan, and a copy of that; the first page is actually the maintenance of effort; this is a tally of our infrastructure, and the condition ratings that we have for each one of those; you can see that it’s separated by roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater collections, and storm water collections – we do not have our own solid waste disposal, so that is left blank; we do put some replacement and repair costs along with those, there’s a formula built into that; it’s based on the amount that we have in each one of those categories; the superintendents put these together, keep track of these assets for us; there’s a large difference between the roads from the last time we had this updated and this year; we did have 49.5 center-line miles in the last adopted – since we’ve had that done, Bill Sims was working on a pavement condition rating; they’ve done a complete inventory of our assets, and only came up with 42.47; the number we’ve had around long before I came; on all the subdivisions, when we add the roads, we just started adding to that number; this is the first time we’ve really had a very good rating on that; along with that, the ratings of good, fair, and poor were done by an outside firm; we’ll talk about the PCR report in just a second; the rest of these are just updated, adding in some of the excellent, good, fair, poor – we don’t have anything critical, anything that would have to come up critical, we’re going to be fixing right away; we don’t want to sit on a list, and have it around for next year; that’s our philosophy; going down to the actual Capital Improvements Plan – the first section is the project we have done over the last couple of years; the 2018 projects, and so far in 2019; as you can see, a couple of those do last multiple years; most of those are in our street annual project that goes along with that; miscellaneous pavement repairs and sidewalk repairs and placements – we’ve been committed to funding those at at least $50,000 in pavement repairs, and then $25,000 in the sidewalks; that’s $25,000 that we’ve put in – we do assess residents for 50% of the cost of those; just going down through – we’ll go through some of the projects that are imminent; line number 27 is the Gender Road improvements, Phase V – we just talked about that; I missed one – Gender Road Urban Paving Program – that’s part of the ODOT process; we will have a resolution on the agenda for the next council meeting; just authorizing ODOT to continue to proceed with
Peoples: Going down a little bit further – we do have both the McGill Park grant projects; the Phase I and the trail connector; Phase I has been reported as being through the state – ODNR – and is waiting on the federal funds; there is no guarantee that they will approve it, obviously, but it did pass the state; we are expecting the trail connector grant to come back with word on that in October or November; Bill and Shane and I have met on some of the projects we are looking at for next year; what we’ve done in the past is gone through our annual street CIP and group a lot of them together; number 32 – Ashbrook Lanes – we’ve looked at that for the last 3 years; we give them a list of the projects that we are looking at – these are based on that PCR report that Bill Sims had done on the roadway projects, to give us a condition rating for where to prioritize our infrastructure improvements; we go through, and then we work with Amanda on how much money we project to spend – you’ll see that at the annual appropriations ordinance, that is sometime in November; we’ll start to actually dialing down, and putting the puzzle together on how much money we have, and how much money the projects are costing; after that, we go through and use that PCR into 2021 and beyond; we just start putting into there some of that PCR that are some of the ones that are rated fair and poor; the last couple of years, we’ve also included in there – they may or may not be rated as lower – some of the more impact projects; this year’s project was East Waterloo Street, from High Street out to the county line, going East; last year, we did a portion of High Street; going on past that, I do have a couple errors on here that I found as we were going through it; a couple of projects need to go back on there – one of them is the West Waterloo entry feature, which was in the downtown plan; it was identified in there; we’ll get that on here in one of the years; Winchester Boulevard and Prentiss School intersection modification – we’ve been looking at that for a while; and the High Street crossing, we talked about that – that is expected for this year, that is a partnership we have with the railroad, similar to what we did for Gender Road Phase IV.

Jarvis: Mr. Peoples, would you say that this is more of a budgeting document than an etched-in-stone work order? Peoples: It is a budgeting document for next year, but it is more for planning.

(Discussion ensued)

Peoples: West Waterloo Street – the extension of that is $15.5 million; Lynch: That’s the extension of that to Brice? Peoples: Yes, actually that $15.5 million is from 10 years ago, and that included everything from Kroger out; we’ve done a small portion of that over time, but with inflation on the cost, we have not evaluated that price since then.

Lynch: Question – the areas that are covered under the wastewater and water – are those covered from their own funds? Peoples: Yes; Lynch: They’re pretty much in black, anyways; we are able to cover those expenses without raising prices? Peoples: Right, both of the funds are what I’d call ‘healthy’; however, looking at each project – the water and wastewater projects are a little bit more programmed than some of the road process; the road – we try to put that puzzle together every year based on some of the conditions of all of the road infrastructure we have out there, and then also the park projects, and building projects.

(Discussion ensued)
Peoples: None of this is assuming any increase in any tax revenue – no increase in millage; that may be something for council to consider in the future, but at this point we do not figure any additional revenue, other than what’s planned with the income tax; Jarvis: Did I hear you say correctly that the Finance Director determines what can be spent in a given year, in 2020? With whatever project she thinks should be done in 2020, and if there’s more projects than money – how do you prioritize? Peoples: Just looking at some of the other – that’s part of balancing the budget; last year, we get a target in July; Ms. Jackson puts together the budget for the next year; we’ll use that as our guide going forward, so that for next year we’re looking at the same as what we did this year – it was about $750,000 for the street CIP; we are going forward with that, as we get into the actual appropriation phase of that in November, it fine-tunes a little bit more; it may be a little bit more, it may be less; we wait for that portion to finalize our contract documents; we’re bidding out in January, so we already know everything about where we are at with that fund balance; it’s just balancing the budget, and trying to figure out if there’s a building project out there, a park project – that type of thing, that we are going to prioritize one over the other.

Amos: Mr. Peoples, on things like the bike path rehabilitation – number 1 – it shows complete, but I know that the bike path is something that we revisit often; will it come back on, because we’ve had some residents say that we have some deterioration already; Peoples: On Dietz and Thrush, yeah we just did a grinding on it, and put a new surface; that was just last year; Amos: How often will they go out and check that? Peoples: There’s no set timeline on those; we are around, and on them – the crews are on the Groveport bike path, for example, doing some cleanup work; with Dietz – I haven’t seen anything on that; Amos: I have not, either, I just had someone mention it; they thought it had some issues.

Clark: Mr. Peoples, on the Winchester Boulevard/Prentiss School intersection – where are we in looking at planning for that, with OPUS coming in, and increased traffic with the hotel? Peoples: That was one of the ones we just talked about; Clark: What has been done at this point – I know there was some traffic signal optimizations going on, but other than that, what are we looking at, and how far out? Peoples: I do not have a timeframe on it; the intersection is still functioning as it’s designed; we are hoping that ODOT synchronization on Gender Road is going to open more time for it; there is 13 seconds for you to get out of Swan Cleaners – that side of the light – that’s during peak time; that’s typically up until 6 o’clock in the evening; that is the way it’s designed, and that’s the way it has to be in order for it to work; it cycles twice for every time the Gender Road/Winchester Boulevard signal cycles; it depends on the amount of traffic.

(Discussion ensued)

Haire: The traffic study that was conducted by the developer there suggested a few improvements; nothing was warranted in the initial build-year; they do an initial build-year, and then they do a 10-year horizon; in the 10-year horizon, there were some improvements warranted over that 10-year period; that included potentially doing some restriping within the existing Winchester Boulevard that would allow us to get more stacking to the west, at the Prentiss School intersection; that also included potentially relocating the traffic signal from Prentiss School further back to the Inn at Winchester Trail and Kroger entrance; Clark: What would you do with that intersection? Haire: We would modify the intersection to not allow through-traffic through the intersection.

Bennett: Mr. Peoples, should we add the other phases for McGill Park in here, for planning purposes? I
don’t know how many more phases we intend to have; is the Dietz park in this? Peoples: Westchester? It’s for this year, so it’s not marked as complete; Bennett: Oh, I see it – line 21.

Walker: As far as the pool parking expansion, I believe during the Steering Committee we were talking about – I can’t remember – flipping the parking on the other side; we’ve allotted $250,000 here for that; do you remember that, Mr. Haire? Haire: There was some discussion over redesigning Güiler Park; Walker: Right, and the parking would be on the other side; Haire: This would be parking to the west of the existing parking lot, is what this is referencing; Peoples: Just expanding the large lot that’s there to the west.

A motion was made by Bennett to move RES-19-020 to full council, seconded by Clark. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Bennett, Clark, Amos, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker

ORD-19-050  
An Ordinance To Amend The 2019 Appropriation Ordinance 18-040, Amendment #6 (Ordinance)  
- Request to move to full Council

Peoples: We discussed that as Ms. Jackson’s last council meeting that she was here for, about storm water; we did not have the funds for that – we did not have the cost estimate for that from Franklin County; if you recall, it is a portion of storm sewer that is north of 33; basically, it goes through the eastside property that is between Cemetery Road and Bowen Road; it crosses into Franklin County jurisdiction, and City of Columbus jurisdiction, and then keeps going into Fairfield County; Franklin County had offered to do the construction, administration, and inspection on the project, if we would pay for it; they have a generic storm water repair and replacement project that they had bid out to contractors earlier on this year; we would just be tying into that bid, so it would be a publicly bid project that we are doing; it is roughly $95,000; it will be a little bit less if the City of Columbus ties on, or connects onto this project as well; they have no committed to it; if they do not commit to it, we will have to pay more of a mobilization cost; originally – I know this is a new version of this ordinance – Ms. O’Donnell was off on Friday, so the agenda was put together a little bit early on Thursday; we heard from Ms. Jackson on the amounts of the appropriation; we were going to take everything out of the storm water fund – that fund currently sits at about $160,000, taking $95,000 out of there was a substantial chunk, and would put it at a balance that she was not comfortable with; she was suggesting to take half of it out of the general fund, and transfer it into the storm water fund, and then use that $95,000 out of the storm water fund; that is both of these in section 1 and section 2; one of them is transferring general fund money to the storm water fund, to assist with that balance.

A motion was made by Clark to move ORD-19-050 to full council, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Clark, Bennett, Amos, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker

ORD-19-051  
An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor And Finance Director To Seek Financial Assistance From The Ohio Public Works Commission For Funding
Peoples: Thank you Mr. Walker, based on Mr. Spencer’s presentation from earlier, the Gender Road Phase V project would include an intersection upgrade and a signal upgrade at Gender Road and Canal Street, with the addition of a turn lane, and the addition of a turn lane northbound on Gender Road to Winchester Boulevard; it also includes moving the bike path over – I think that was one of the biggest things that came out of that, is protecting the bike path the entire way; this would be an ordinance to authorize applications for the project with OPWC.

A motion was made by Bennett to move ORD-19-051 to full council, seconded by Coolman. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Bennett, Coolman, Amos, Clark, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker

E. Reports

Matt Peoples - Nothing in addition to my written report.

Lucas Haire - A few items on the Planning & Zoning Commission agenda for next week – there is a convenience store and fuel center on one of the COTA outparcels at Trillium Avenue and Gender Road; there is also a new location for a Bank of America branch on Winchester Boulevard, across the street from Firestone; Nifco completed their building on Friday in Canal Pointe, about 175,000 square feet there; they’ll be improving the interior of that over the next few weeks; it should be by the end of September, they’ll be occupying that space; the final plat for Turning Stone was released, and improvements were complete this past week; you should start to see some building permits and houses being constructed on Turning Stone Loop here in the coming weeks as well; OHM – which is a new company to Canal Winchester – finished their improvements at 7515 Hill Road, which is the formerly yellow warehouse across the street from Kingy’s; if you haven’t been out there, drive by and take a look – it’s an amazing improvement with some paint, and new windows; the interior is just as big of an improvement; it’s a good company to have, and hopefully they’ll be operating in the next few months.

F. Items for Discussion

G. Old/New Business

H. Adjournment

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

Yes 7 – Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Jarvis, Lynch, Walker

Adjourn @ 7:02p.m.