

# Canal Winchester

*Town Hall  
10 North High Street  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



## Meeting Minutes - FINAL

February 7, 2022

7:00 PM

### City Council

*Chuck Milliken - President*

*Bob Clark - Vice President*

*Laurie Amick*

*Jill Amos*

*Patrick Shea*

*Mike Walker*

*Ashley Ward*

- A. Call To Order** *Milliken called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.*
- B. Pledge of Allegiance - Clark**
- C. Roll Call** *Present 7 – Amick, Amos, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker, Ward*
- D. Approval of Minutes**

[MIN-22-004](#) January 18, 2022 Work Session Minutes

*A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Walker to approve MIN-22-004. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

[MIN-22-005](#) January 18, 2022 City Council Minutes

*A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Walker to approve MIN-22-005. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

[MIN-22-006](#) January 31, 2022 Committee of the Whole Minutes

*A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Amick to approve MIN-22-006. The motion carried with the following vote:*

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

**E. Communications & Petitions**

[COM-22-002](#) Madison Township Police Department January 2022 Statistics

**F. Public Comments - Five Minutes Per Person**

[PCS-22-011](#) C. Brown Public Comment Submission - 1/14/2022

[PCS-22-012](#) D. Hanrahan Public Comment Submission - 1/18/2022

[PCS-22-013](#) K. Hoopes Public Comment Submission - 1/18/2022

*Jim Bohnlein, 6320 Rossmore Ln – I just wanted to get up here and congratulate and thank our street department for what a tremendous job they did on our streets. Even though we had all the ice, all the snow, they did a fabulous job. And I just wanted to thank them. They should be proud and we should be proud of the job that the city does for us. It's incredible. I've been in a couple other developments, City of Columbus, they've got some real problems. And Dublin wasn't that great either. But you look at our streets and they did a fabulous job.*

*Kathleen Vasko, 65 W. Columbus St – I didn't get to say everything that I wanted to say the last time and I want it to go on the record. Again, regarding free of speech rights, and anyone's freedom of speech rights in this town. It's sort of like your Planning and Zoning people, I guess their family members put potentially, like my husband couldn't do anything that looked to you guys to be something that it wasn't. Just need to get that on the record. That anybody that's affiliated with anything that has to do with the opposition of what this city wants should be very cautious how they do things. The other thing I wanted to mention, conflicts of interest. At Meet the Candidate night, Mr. Shea to a small group of people, said I love warehouses, they make me money. To some, that statement alone would indicate a bias and possibility could render your decisions on council regarding warehouses specifically as a potential liability. I needed to point that out. Of course, from what I'm learning there's a double standard here. But it is something that I needed to point out. Regarding the land at Franklin St, it's floodplains. I know you can't say anything to me right now, but I'll put it in an email, I'm just wondering specifically what your plans are for that property. As you know, my property butts up to Franklin St. My concern would be the potential, and I know I've heard the answer to this but I have to voice my opinion, the potential for incoming traffic in that area. As you know, we don't have sidewalks back there on Franklin St. A lot of our residents park back there. We don't all have big long driveways and big garages back there. I'm on West Columbus St but I just needed to state my concerns.*

*And I will do a follow up email because I am concerned about, is this going to be an area that people are going to park their car and walk to this. I think that I know that you all think that people are going to park at the main park and come across that way. And if it is a floodplain area specifically, what are you going to do with it. Because I think that at some point, the owners of that property have asked for that property to be filled in. And it wasn't allowed to be filled in. And of course, the environmental aspect of it. It's lovely back there. All kinds of wildlife back there. I guess I'll put that into an email and wait to hear from somebody because that does concern me. My kids play back there. All of the kids play back there. There is a concern with what exactly is going back there. And are we going to have increased traffic back there. Again, there are no sidewalks back there either. And also, the gentleman that spoke before me, yes, our street people did an amazing job and they're just wonderful.*

*Angie Halstead, 59 Busey Rd – I kind of wanted to start off in 2019 of June, when the property over off of Bixby was purchased by Canal Winchester. Where the two NorthPoint buildings are now. And then fast forward to February 2020, it was then transferred to CWICC, and then within a month NorthPoint bought it. An emergency was declared. When you talk about how important this new NorthPoint development is, I want you to rewind because the reason that this is so important is because you guys planned it. You knew back then what you were doing. You ran utilities. You knew you were talking to Schacht then. You created this mess that's happening right now. We all know it. And to tell me that this is the most important decision that you had, you made it the most important decision. Not us. And you did it all during COVID and you declared it an emergency so we couldn't do anything about it to stop that. Moving on to other things that are happening around town, Basil-Western, last time Mr. Shea you were adamant that we needed to slow things down. You said to me, I want to do something different there. I want to not put just industrial. Well a week ago, someone tries to scare you again, oh we're not going to have connecting property to 11 acres, and then oh we've got to get this property. What is 11 acres and 9 of it's being developed on and there are 2 acres that are not? I don't understand that. So, let's fast forward it again really quick and let's jump on the band wagon and here we go. Not listening to any of us, right. You and I had a conversation too when I talked about property around my house that I'm worried about. And your reply was, well there's only 20 houses there. Well, those 20 houses are in the city of Canal Winchester. We worked hard for our properties. Hard for our land. We moved there for a reason and for you to say that we don't matter, and to also say the people outside of Canal Winchester don't matter, is really disgusting honestly. Because what's happening does affect them. They go to our schools. They patronize our business. They help build this town. They are part of our town. And this is the divide that's happening. Again, it's starting from the top. And the reason, I know Mr. Milliken you said you don't like when we get up and we're upset, well, we're upset. We've talked, we've talked, we've told you how we feel, and it just keeps going. Nobody is slowing down. Nobody. You flip flopped within a week. You had another scare tactic and were like, yep, it's going to make me flip flop again. I just don't understand. I don't understand what we have to do, what we have to say to stop it. This is our town. We hired all of you to do what's best for our citizens and it just does not feel like it at all that you're listening. You guys can go up and you can say all you want that this is the most important decision, NorthPoint, well, you created that mess. You created it by what you did. I would like to understand why it needed to be an emergency. So, nobody could stop it. I'm up here for all the Canal Winchester Smart Growth people that have over 900 people in that group right now, I'm speaking again. We're watching you guys. We're watching what you're doing constantly. We research. We know what's going on. You make think we don't, but we do. And we're going to keep coming up and we're going to keep speaking and we're going to keep fighting to save our town.*

*Chuck Carpenter 59 Johnanne Circle – I was here a couple weeks ago when my nomination was up. And I had a parade of people coming through saying I don't know you, but this is what I hear. Well, I'd say shame on those people that paraded up here. I'm easy to get to know. I live here in the town and I'm not afraid to say anything about opinions that I have. The other thing I would like to point out, is that I know that again, I was labeled a warehouse person, but I'd like to point out that I never voted in Planning and Zoning or Council, like some of you people have, to build a warehouse. You guys are the ones that put the warehouses up there so I have never voted for a warehouse. But I do want to say one thing additional is that it did make me realize that 60 years of friendship with Mayor Mike Ebert is not worth City Council or Planning and Zoning so I'm glad you guys made me realize that 60 years of friendship is worth very much more than serving where you guys are serving.*

## **G. Reports of City Officials and Staff**

### *Mayor's Report*

*Mayor – I'd just like to say a little bit about what Mr. Bohnlein said a little bit ago. The street crew worked around the clock from Thursday until actually late last night and they were back at it again today. Just trying to clean up around the edges some and get some drains cleared out and some additional parking spots cleared out. They'll probably be working on that for the next couple more days until some of this goes away, which probably won't be too quickly. But they did a great job as they always do. But this was a particularly tough snow to handle. It came in the form of rain, and then it froze. Then we had freezing rain and then snow. That's about the worst combination you can have because you can't pretreat it because you have rain coming first. You've got to wait until*

*it gets here and then tackle it. And that's what they did. And they did a great job at it.*

### January 2022 Mayor's Court Report

**A motion was made by Clark, seconded by Walker to approve the January 2022 Mayor's Court Report. The motion carried with the following vote:**

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

#### *Fairfield County Sheriff*

*Sgt. Walker – In addition to my written report, just wanted to point out on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Sheriff's Office Investigations Bureau conducted an operation targeting retail thefts in the city of Canal Winchester. That resulted in 11 arrests at Walmart.*

*Amos – That walks right in to what I have written down. The ordinance for shop lifting, Mr. Boggs, is there any ability to make our ordinance that addresses shop lifting more fierce? Because from what I understand, right now there's no teeth in it. They can go and rob the Walmart, which we spend a lot of time at, and then they can go to court and their fee is so minimal, that they keep coming back. I want to make it so that it's not fun for them to shop here, that it's going to affect them, where it should have affected them if they just purchased the item.*

*Boggs – Already, petty theft in our code, as it is under state law as well, is a first-degree misdemeanor which is the highest level of offense that the city of Canal Winchester can define. That provides a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to potential 180 days in jail. I don't know about specific case that you might be referencing where there's a minimal fine. Often what is done is a period of probation, as well as fine and potentially days served in jail. The probation is conditioned upon not committing other theft offenses and not going back into any Walmart stores. So if they are found in a Walmart store subsequent to that, for any reason, they can be violated on their probation which would cause them to serve days. They could also be charged with criminal trespass. There are teeth for those repeat offenders. I don't personally know how many of the people who are coming through are repeat offenders having coming through Mayor's Court more than once. It's a challenge dealing with these petty thefts. Not just in this jurisdiction but in every other jurisdiction I've been associated with.*

*Amos – When I walk into a Walmart, there's so many people in there, that the person could be re-violating on a regular basis. We're not going to know it. Statistically, and maybe Ms. Jackson you can tell me this, who would be able to pull how many repetitives we have and what's the average fine that they're getting fined through Mayor's Court?*

*Jackson – The fine portion of that is going to depend on whether or not they've ever had a petty theft charge before. The magistrate generally looks at their record, asks them, if they're honest, he'll be a little bit more lenient with the fine that he does assess to them. We do have a lot of first-time offenders that come through. The fine, in that situation, typically \$250 plus court costs which gives them \$317 that is owed to us. I will say that we spend a lot of time chasing most of these individuals for payments. We have started putting more individuals in jail, but do they get credit for time served. Which means they are put in jail for any number of days, their fine is then reduced by a certain dollar amount, depending on how long they were in jail. Someone could do 5-6 days, and their fine goes away.*

*Amos – But they've lost 5 days. I think for me, I hear too often that our Sheriffs are down at the Walmarts or the Meijers a lot. I feel like if we were more stringent, and obviously for first-time offenders and being honest, I totally understand that, everybody makes a mistake. But when they're stealing these large ticket items that are like \$600-\$700 and they're walking away with a \$300 fine, I fail to see where we've taught them a lesson. I'm interested in seeing how many are repetitive. So, who could pull? Bobbi?*

*Jackson – We can look through the reports that are available in her Mayor's Court system. We do know certain people by name, people that have been charged before, as do the Sheriff's deputies. I encourage you to come sit through a Mayor's Court. Honestly. Just see what it is we do there and the questions that are asked of them and the responses that are given.*

*Amos – I would love to. I just feel like I hear it so often that either we need to do something about it to make it more stringent or figure out a way to help so we're not getting a lot. I don't want people to go, it's pretty cheap to do it in Canal Winchester, let's go there. When you have 11 stings coming out of the Canal Winchester, and these I'm sure were not small ticket stings, you don't do stings for the \$50 Walmart shopper. I have to think if there was a targeted sting in our operation, it's because we've been labeled easy and that's a problem. If they know they can get away with it, there's a reason that they're coming to our city. What are we going to do to stop it? Just ponder that. I will definitely attend Mayor's Court. That's a very good suggestion.*

*Shea – Thad, does ORC allows us to do labor crews, like volunteer labor crews? If you get stuck picking up trash as part of your punishment, that will make you not want to steal quicker than anything.*

*Boggs – There is the ability to do community service as a requirement of probation. In terms of doing a volunteer labor crew, the*

question then is, or sentenced labor crew, how is that staffed? If we're talking about an actual trash pickup. Often times, in terms of community service, it's asking people, or telling people in the case of a sentencing, that they need to go out and do X number of hours at a non-profit, get that verified to release that requirement of their probation. I'm not talking about theft, specifically, I'm just talking about community service generally. We have the ability to do that, but how do you staff that?

Shea – Just generally, it's a pain in the butt?

Mayor – Yeah, we had an incident. It's been several years ago where we had a young lady, I don't know what she was tried for, but she wanted to do community service. We had her weeding the flower beds. But we had to have somebody with her the whole time. So, watching over her was, it just wasn't worth it. We had to have a supervisor there with her the whole time.

Shea – I've been spending a lot of time down south. They use lots of labor crews down there. There's nothing like actually having to work because you never learned how to and you have to steal stuff. To get out there and start getting some necessary skills. If it's just picking up garbage, I'm just throwing it out there, like something different. If we get the reputation that no, don't go steal there, they're going to make you clean up trash on the highway on a Saturday morning, just a thought.

Boggs – I would be surprised if the city's reputation is actually as an easier place to steal than jurisdictions around this. I don't know if Sgt. Walker might have more intel from that element of society.

Sgt. Walker – Just retail theft in general, it's not going to go away. It's not that they see Canal Winchester as an easy target. They see all of these places as an easy target – Walmart, Meijer, Kroger, Home Depot. All around Central Ohio. One thing that we have been doing is, if it's a first-time offender, which we can tell when we pull their background, we summons them. If it's a repeat offender, they get to go to jail.

Milliken – I'm assuming these stings were done in coordination with loss prevention with Walmart?

Sgt. Walker – Yes, loss prevention was aware. They brought in people from Whitehall and Grove City or Groveport, so they brought in a lot of their extra help. We had our SWAT team up there undercover and again it resulted in 11 arrests at Walmart.

Milliken – Did they initiate this? Did they come to you requesting this? How did that process work?

Sgt. Walker – No, this was Sgt. Warner. He's head of our Investigations Bureau, and he was the one that initiated this.

Milliken – One other non-theft related question. With the weather event we had this past weekend, I'm assuming that was a busy time for you as well I'm guessing maybe with traffic accidents? Or maybe it wasn't because people weren't out?

Sgt. Walker – Honestly, it wasn't really that bad Thursday and Friday morning. It was when the levels were lifted and the snow and ice started melting that people started going off the roadways.

Milliken – I just wanted to check that you were adequately staffed to handle any adverse weather events and things like that.

Sgt. Walker – We were definitely prepared for it.

Amos – Ms. Jackson, Mayor's Court is February 17<sup>th</sup>. What time?

Jackson – February 17<sup>th</sup>. It starts at 1 p.m. Just so you know, the individuals that Sgt. Walker was speaking of that were picked up during that retail blitz have not yet been tried. They are due in court on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Shea – And I saw your mid-watch guys are on the speeders. Thank you.

### Law Director

Boggs – This evening there is a written report in your packet that goes into some detail in regards to public comments that were delivered at your last regular Council meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. I would just like to address that in summary this evening for the people assembled here and the people watching online. Those comments of course made certain allegations in terms of the handling of a case by the Mayor, Sheriff's Office, and the city in general. So, we looked into it. It's something we take seriously. In looking into it, all of those comments were inaccurate. Just to give everybody a little bit of a background understanding, the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office investigates crime in Canal Winchester. Fairfield County Sheriff's Office makes a determination whether elements have been met such that crimes may be charged. The Mayor does not have any day-to-day involvement in any specific case, nor should he. When a deputy writes a charge under the state code, which this particular case was, that case, if it is a misdemeanor, goes to the Franklin County Municipal Court. At the Franklin County Municipal Court, when it is filed, a deputy clerk makes a determination as to whether a warrant will be issued, if the deputy requests a warrant. That is what occurred in this case. When a warrant is issued in the Franklin County Municipal Court, it shows in their docketing system as a closed case. That doesn't mean that it's done. That doesn't mean that it's over. That means it's an administrative closure so that it is not counting against their time that they have to hit in their

case management requirements for the State Supreme Court. When that warrant is served, as this one was in October 2020, that reopens the case. In this case, the warrant was served, the defendant was taken to the Franklin County jail and she was denied admission for medical reasons. That decision was made, not by the Mayor or any Fairfield County Sheriff's deputy, but by a Franklin County Sheriff's Office corrections officer in the Franklin County jail. That person was released on a summons, appeared for arraignment the next day, pled not guilty, and the court proceeded through the court system accordingly. A conviction by plea agreement was obtained. The prosecuting witness, the woman who made the comments at the last meeting, was consulted throughout that case, and ultimately on what the final plea bargain offer was. The conviction was obtained. The defendant paid her fine and cost. The case has been closed since March of 2021. That case was handled appropriately, professionally from start to finish and I want to be unequivocally clear about my findings in that regard. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Ward – I just want to say thank you for looking into it and providing that explanation. I was a little confused about what happened and I found that your explanation was really helpful.

Milliken – I agree. Thank you for clearing that up.

#### Finance Director

Jackson – I am happy to report that last week we received our Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant for the Walnut Creek trail that goes through McGill Park. That project was funded partially with a \$450,000 grant from the State of Ohio. That is now done and closed and we've received that funding. That is awfully exciting. The only other thing I have to add to my written report this evening is in regards to the appropriation amendment that is on your agenda this evening, we are asking for waiver of second and third readings so that we can get the funds for that police study that we discussed at Committee of the Whole last week. They are very eager to get started.

Ward – So, we're not requesting an emergency ordinance. We're just requesting waiving of the second and third reading?

Boggs – Right. For appropriation ordinances there is not a 30-day waiting period as there are for most other legislative actions. But to be able to vote on it tonight, the rule for readings has to be waived.

#### Public Service Director

#### Development Director

Haire – I'll also be speaking on a few items on Mr. People's report. The big item he wanted presented was Gender Rd Phase IV. ODOT notified us earlier this year that they would have highway safety improvement funds again. Some of you that have been on Council for the last term remember that we had anticipated applying for some safety funds for some pedestrian improvements along the Gender Rd corridor around the 33 interchange. And then ODOT basically didn't fund the program in the last fiscal year. They notified us that they will have funds available again. We have put in an application for those funds working with EMH&T. That was put in on the 28<sup>th</sup>. What that project would entail is an 8-foot pedestrian sidewalk that would go from Winchester Blvd on the south. It would also include a small section of sidewalk from Gender Rd back to Prentiss School. And then on Prentiss School there are existing sidewalks on the east side. As you look at this, north is to the right on the screen. South is to the left. You're looking at the Gender Rd corridor there. The orange is the pedestrian walk and the blue is an added lane. It would be looking at from Waterloo St north to 33, it would be adding a right turn lane. As you head eastbound on 33 to head towards Lancaster, you'll have a dedicated right turn lane as part of that. There will be added width there. As you go across the interchange, there would be a dedicated 8-foot sidewalk across the current bridge. That would require also including some pedestrian fencing and making the wall a bit higher for safe purposes there. I know this has been a topic of discussion with past Councils that they would like to see some upgrades above and beyond what ODOT typically does on those. There is a cost estimate as part of the application. I believe those upgrades are about \$400,000 beyond what the typical vandal fence would be included there. If we wanted to include that, that would be something we could consider as part of the project. But that would be local funding. That wouldn't be eligible for the grant funding and ODOT's process. It would include modifying the existing westbound 33 ramp from northbound Gender Rd. You see the Xs there. The ramp would be removed in that location. That's a continuous turn movement so for pedestrians that's the biggest area where you see safety issues because pedestrians don't get a safe change to cross the street there. And they don't have a nice right angle turn which makes it easy to put a pedestrian signal in. The purple area on the screen would be a new right turn lane and access point to get on the Gender westbound ramp. It would be relocated there with pedestrian crossing signals. That would then tie into the existing, not existing but it's under construction. Friendship Kitchen is constructing an additional turn lane which is shown there in blue that goes to the north and the pedestrian walk there. The total cost of that project is just over \$3 million. And the ODOT Safety portion that we've applied for is \$2 million. ODOT Safety Funds could cover up to \$2 million of that cost and then the city of Canal Winchester would be responsible for the rest. Our intention would be that if we receive that safety funding, that we would apply for OPWC funds in the fall to cover the remaining portion for the city of Canal Winchester.

Jackson – There will likely have to be some local revenue as part of the project. There are certain things that the OPWC funding will not cover. At this point, I don't have an estimate on that dollar amount, but just so you're aware.

Shea – Is there enough room there to put an additional lane there in front of O'Charley's and Starbucks? In terms of right-of-way? You're putting that additional lane there in front of the BP. And that at the old Waterloo you're stopping it. But what if you build out all the way back down to the actual intersection? Would that not help with capacity of traffic coming through there?

Haire – It may. I don't know that we've looked at that. Mr. Peoples may be able to specify that. We allow right turn movements there so it would likely turn into right turn lane for Waterloo St there. I don't know if that would be beneficial or not. But the right-of-way would be able to accommodate that. Whether there's utility relocations or significant grade changes, those are things that we would have to look at. I know when they did the last Gender Rd widening, they did the grading adjacent to BP to be able to accommodate that lane. There's very little grading work that needs to take place to allow the turn lane to go in there.

Amick – Ms. Jackson, can you talk at just a high level about what that grant wouldn't cover? Is it aesthetics or what are some of the categories that they would not cover?

Jackson – Yes, usually it's upgrading to nicer things such as the mast arms, the upgraded fencing that Mr. Haire was speaking of. Those are the types of things the city has to pay for.

Shea – How much is it to get one of those bridges where your name is in wrought iron?

Haire – In the proposal here, they have a base and then they have an enhanced alternative which is the black chain link fencing similar to that. And then any logo they charge per letter so Canal Winchester would be pretty expensive. It all depends on the design so it just depends.

Milliken – With regards to the public comments this evening with the 2019 declaring of an emergency, that was before my time here on Council, can you recall why those developments were declared an emergency on their passage?

Haire – I don't specifically recall why we declared an individual ordinance as an emergency. There was significant discussion throughout in regards to Bixby Rd development. The city of Canal Winchester acquired the parcels, I think I mentioned this at the last meeting. We started receiving calls from developers that were inquiring about developing those parcels as multi-family. The family that owned those parcels for the last hundred years, none of them lived in the Ohio area. They didn't desire to hold those parcels anymore. They put them for sale. There was a broker out of Lancaster that listed them for sale. We started getting calls from developers that wanted to put multi-family, talking about up to 700 hundred units of apartments there. It's 110 acres. It would easily accommodate that number of units. It's not something that we wanted to see happen so we started to investigate the potential of us acquiring the property and then extending utilities out to serve that property. That was also the biggest hurdle is that it requires a sanitary sewer lift station. There's significant cost associated with that, to serve those property. And we didn't want to see that developed as 700 apartment units. If that gets developed as 700 units then it's likely the rest of that corridor gets developed into apartments as well. I want to say that was back in 2018. We started working on this in 2018. Put the property in contract in late 2018. Had a public process. Had public meetings to discuss the purchase of those properties, to enter into the real estate contract. And then again, we had public processes throughout 2019 to put the property in contract with a developer to sell that and to talk about the utility processes. And then again to enter into the agreements to transfer the property to the CWICC and then ultimately to the developer. When we sell property in the city of Canal Winchester, you're restricted on how you can sell property in the state of Ohio. You typically sell it to the highest bidder as a government entity. What we have is the Canal Winchester Industry and Commerce Corporation. They are an agency of the city. They have been named through resolution as an agent for economic development of Canal Winchester. So that allows us to transfer the property to the CWICC who then transfers it to whoever they chose to benefit the community, for the greater good of the community, and the greater good of economic development for the community. That's how we handle those transactions. All those took place in open, public meetings. Both the CWICC and City Council. Again, those were throughout 2018, 2019, and then 2020. We were intending on closing – I believe our closing date was scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> of 2020. We all know what happened in March 2020. That was then delayed because the lender pulled out of the deal for them. We signed another extension and were able to close that later in 2020.

## H. Resolutions

### [RES-22-005](#)

Mayor

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF RICK DEEDS TO SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025

- Adoption



Ebert – Mr. Deeds had planned on being here but he texted me about an hour ago and said he a pet emergency so he wasn't going to make it.

**A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Clark to adopt RES-22-005. The motion carried with the following vote:**

**Yes 6 – Shea, Clark, Amick, Milliken, Walker, Ward  
Abstain 1- Amos**

**RES-22-006**

Mayor

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF DEBORAH MCDONNELL TO SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025

- Adoption

Ebert – Deborah is here this evening if you'd like to meet her.

**A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Ward to adopt RES-22-006. The motion carried with the following vote:**

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

**I. Ordinances**

**Third Reading**

**ORD-22-001**

Development

Sponsor: Milliken

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 2.5 ACRES LOCATED ON FRANKLIN STREET, CANAL WINCHESTER, OHIO OWNED BY TIMOTHY W. FISKE AND LEE OSTER

- Adoption

Milliken – Mr. Haire, with some of the questions that were brought up this evening, what is our time horizon for completion of this project?

Haire – I believe we have 90 days to complete a closing. And that was from the effective date of December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Milliken – That's just the closing on the property. Our vision for this property being the park entrance and we have a timeline on when that part, because we haven't really seen a plan yet.

Haire – Correct. This was part of the Old Town plan. You've seen the concepts that have been presented there in terms of making this a trailhead. This is really opportunistic because the property became available. Trying to acquire this in the future when someone else acquires it and builds a house on it makes it much more difficult to accomplish the goals of the Old Town Plan. This is in the same general vicinity of McGill Park and the hope is to grow McGill Park at some point in the future so it encompasses both sides of Walnut Creek. This would then be directly adjacent to that parcel. Again, we're not actively out trying to purchase additional land but we are hoping to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. The goal would be to spend the funds on the park itself. In your packet this evening, in Mr. People's report, there was the shelter house. We're moving that forward. The three seasons pavilion. That's out to bid currently to do a design build process on that. Out to bid to four different contractors with those being returned on next Monday. That will be before you again. But we'd rather spend those funds on the park right now rather than acquiring more land. If the opportunities arise, then we'll pursue those but we're not actively seeking them.

Milliken – With the plans being a trailhead, I would assume that there would be a goal in mind of preserving as much of the green space around that area as possible, if not upgrading it and making it look better than it currently does. With all respects to what the floodplain can do, obviously.

Haire – This area floods significantly so there won't be a significant amount of improvements that take place there. I would anticipate this being open fields or passive recreation. We wouldn't see a lot of active recreation, fencing, things like that being installed, because you get so much debris and damage in a flood event. Things like soccer goals, those are pretty easy to put in floodplains.



*They're everywhere in floodplains. In the bottom area, that may be an option for the future. But we haven't planned out anything in particular beyond this being an opportunity to connect the downtown area to a significant amount of open space at the dead end of High St.*

*Amick – This particular parcel, if I'm understanding you correct, there is no intent to make this a vehicular entrance of any kind, is that correct?*

*Haire – There is no intent currently to make this a vehicular entrance. There is access there, you do have access along the alley. But there is no intent currently to do any improvements to this parcel.*

*Ward – If this is a trailhead, then would people be parking on Franklin St to access it?*

*Haire – The plan indicates that there would be parking somewhere along the alley there. It doesn't really specific exactly where that would be. There is 75 feet off the alley that would allow for parking, if we wanted to develop that there as part of a greater plan, but there is no specific plan for that at this time.*

*Ward – I have heard from some residents that live in that area and they're concerned about people parking along the roads and increased traffic.*

*Haire – This will not be signed as a public park. It will not be necessarily used as a public park. It will be available. But there's not the intention currently to encourage people to go interact with that space. Until we acquire more property there, it would be available for that, but there's nothing developed there to attract people. I guess you could walk your dog there, or do something like that, but there's not going to be anything developed at this time.*

*Ebert – I personally see it as more of a walking trail to get down to the park. Eventually there will be a dog park at the far east end of the park, along Lithopolis-Winchester Rd. There's like 4 acres there. It would be on the north side of the creek. That was part of the original purchase. That's proposed to be a dog park. So, I can see this potentially purpose being a connector to that. And as well, at some point there will be another bridge going over, or at least we plan to, to go over Walnut Creek to connect to the dog park over to the baseball fields. That's all in the proposed plans.*

*Amos – When you say trailhead, you truly just mean a small, 8-foot sidewalk?*

*Haire – There may be half a dozen parking spots or something there for people to park and get on their bike or something but it wouldn't be significant.*

*Amos – When you say there's access to parking, are you saying you will drive on to the property and park on the property, or are you saying along that road?*

*Haire – I don't know. We haven't designed that or planned that. I don't know if we would widen the alley and then provide on street parking. Or whether it makes sense to just provide off street parking. Or whether there will be any parking at all.*

*Amos – I had three of the residents there that called. They were just very concerned because a lot of them don't have any parking. A lot of them don't have any driveways. And living on Trine St, I get that because we have no driveways.*

*Haire – I'm sure we could cooperate with the church and inquire whether they would allow parking in their lot, and we could use their lot for parking for those purposes. It's very limited, the times that that parking lot is used, to the rear of the church.*

*Amos – I think the foresight of buying while it's available is good. I think before we develop that trailhead any further, we need to sit down with the church, with the residents, or layout the plan and try to come up with a way not to put additional parking in that street.*

*Amick – I think that's my concern. When I think about it just being an access, I'm like ok that's probably not a big deal. Maybe we can even put up some no parking signs on the street. What concerns me is we think into the future, should there ever be a desire for that to become parking, to make that so it's not a floodplain and safe for a parking lot, to me seems like it would be very costly. I'm trying to see the vision all the way through. I would agree, I'd kind of like to see a few more plans around a design for that particular parcel. I don't have any objection to the parcel itself. But I hear Ms. Vasko and I understand that alley, there's just not much there in terms of parking or anything.*

*Ebert – It would be no different than the trail that currently comes from Ashbrook Village into the park. That's all it would be, an access point. I don't envision this as vehicles going back there.*

*Haire – Along Groveport Rd, along the trail, we have a gravel parking area with 5 parking spaces in it. It would be something comparable to that. I rarely see cars parked along there. But there is a gravel parking area at the far western edge of the city along Groveport Rd.*

Amos – I agree. Like you said, you're not advertising it as a park entrance. Most local people will know it's an access point to the sledding hill and a way to get into the park. But I still think, before we go further, we just develop a plan and make sure we're thinking about everything. My understanding is when there was some cleaning out of concrete, it was all dumped back there. So, that is like concrete and it's covered in dirt to make it look pretty.

Haire – The majority of the fill there came from Canal Cove basements. It was Lacko Poured Walls that put it there. We're really familiar with it because we were really concerned that they were destroying the alley when they did it. So, we were monitoring that plus we permitted the fill to take place there. We understand exactly most of what went in there. I can't say everything, but we watched it.

Amos – Some of the residents that live there said they were watching concrete being dumped in the field and then the dirt. So, they were like, it's mounds of concrete back there. So, being developable in the future, could be super questionable.

Haire – There's 216 feet of width, it's 75 feet deep. You could accommodate two lanes of parking with a drive aisle down the middle, if you wanted to do it all off the pavement. So, you're talking 30+ parking spaces. If we wanted to say the parking all has to be off the alley, it could accommodate that with the dimensions that are there currently.

Amos – Ok, so we'll come up with a good plan then.

Milliken – It doesn't sound like it's on any list of sense of urgency to do that at the moment. For me, ultimately it boils down to you can take a property that floods, that currently doesn't serve much of a purpose, and give it some sort of purpose. It's still going to flood but I like being able to get some use out of it.

Haire – I did include the summary of the appraisal in your packets. The whole appraisal is this book here. But if you have any other questions about comps they used, things like that, but the appraised value was \$100,000.

Ward – I did see the appraisal but I questioned whether that property would ever actually sell for \$100,000. I remember when it went for sale before, because my husband and I loved the idea of building a house in town and we looked at it and thought oh no, it's in the floodplain, this isn't a good property. It didn't sell, so I do wonder if it's worth upwards of \$100,000.

Haire – The comps they used were Clinton St, which is right across the street from the pool. Those are small residential lots. One and a half lots sold for \$70,000. The other one sold for \$100,000, the rest of the three and a half lots that are there. Those are some of the comps they used. They used a comp on Winchester Pike. There's just not many vacant land sales of small parcels in Canal Winchester that can be used as comps. And there was one other comparable sale they used. I believe it's right around \$45,000 an acre.

Amick – I continue to get stuck in my crawl, the futuristic look of that and the idea of parking. As we continue to talk through this particular item, if we could get some ballpark range of what it would cost to fill it in, so that it's not a floodplain? I don't know how feasible that is, but I'd like to know if we're talking about \$50,000 or a half a million dollars. I have no frame of reference for that.

Haire – The entire parcel, in excess of a half a million dollars. If you wanted to fill the entire 2.5 acres. Easily in excess of that.

Amos - Do you believe \$100,000 is fair, or do you think we should be negotiating a little bit further? Especially since it's not a buildable property. I think we all agree.

Haire – It is a buildable property. It has access to utilities. It can be built upon. You can't build a basement because the basement would be in the floodplain so it could be built on a slab. But it is buildable.

Ward – But is that after substantial upgrades? Because you can't build on floodplain.

Haire – It's about \$7,000 to do the studies and do the filing with FEMA to get it removed from the flood plain. And to do the soil samples that would necessary to get a building permit.

Ward – To build on the floodplain.

Haire – To build on the lot, correct. You would have to do soil samples under the slab of the house, for your foundations or footers, so it's that. And then filing. The area that's been filled has been permitted, but the filing was never done to remove it from the FEMA map. You have to do updated engineering work and then file to remove it from the floodplain map.

Ward – Ok so you're saying to build on top.

Haire – Yes, not at the bottom. In the first 75 feet.

Ward – On the concrete mound.

Haire – Apparently. Some people claim it's concrete. I'm not going to guarantee there's not concrete in there but the dirt came from

Canal Cove basements. That's where the majority of the dirt came from. I'm not saying there wasn't other things dumped in there. I don't know.

**A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Shea to adopt ORD-22-001. The motion carried with the following vote:**

**Yes 4 – Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker**

**No 3 – Amick, Amos, Ward**

**ORD-22-002**

*Development*

*Sponsor: Shea*

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON BASIL-WESTERN ROAD

- Adoption

**A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Milliken to adopt ORD-22-002.**

*Ward – Lucas, I remember when we were doing the land overview, you said that some areas we had to offer the 15-year, 100% tax abatement, is this property in one of those areas where we have to offer that?*

*Haire – No, this would be negotiated with the developer. Those are pre-1994 areas. We have very little property left within a pre-1994 that is not already developed. This would be creating a new CRA for this parcel and then negotiating between the developer, the city, and the school district to basically come to terms.*

*Ward – I just want to add, I don't think we should be offering such generous tax abatements to bring in warehouses. I've been a pretty big proponent of trying to pull in some more diverse business, rather than just warehouses. I don't like that we're offering such a generous abatement here for this project.*

*Amos – It seems to be very sought after, this area.*

*Ward – Especially given some of the opportunities I think we all foresee coming. It seems kind of like a missed opportunity.*

*Amick – Can this be continued to stay tabled? I know that Mrs. Amos had said earlier that she'd like to see a meeting between Canal Winchester, Pickerington, Violet Township happen with respect to this particular are. We don't have to move this to adoption, we can table this for this evening, correct?*

*Boggs – The motion before the body right now is a motion to adopt. To table it, that motion would have to be withdrawn or a motion would have to be made to amend that motion to change it to one of tabling rather than adoption.*

*Shea – This is just a pre-annexation agreement. This isn't us committing to anything in stone but the facts that have changed that I'm flip flopping like a fish on a deck, happen to be that information that I was given was inaccurate. And we stand to lose access to that corridor going all the way down to Pickerington Rd. I don't think that's something that we should lightly give away to Violet Township. Violet Township is looking to do the exact same kinds of development over there. I think it would be imprudent to our residents as their financial stewards to let this opportunity pass without taking a good hard look at it and having the discussion and seeing what kind of product can be put there. I know that not everyone agrees with me, but I think the NorthPoint project is a really nice project. And I think it's going to do a lot of good things for this community. I've had several people approach me and say that to me in the two days I've been back in town this. I feel pretty strongly about it and we should go ahead and at least let the conversations happen through the pre-annexation agreement. And there will be more that will come down the pipe when it comes to Planning and Zoning, when it comes to us for eventual approval. If I'm wrong about that, I'm willing to listen.*

*Amos – I agree with Ms. Amick. I think if we get a meeting scheduled with Violet Township sooner than later, I think the opportunity to discuss this will happen before they can go to Violet Township or come back to us and have this conversation. I don't think it's going to jump ship tomorrow and leave us.*

*Shea – They've already been to Violet.*

*Haire – If I could provide some updates here. I did speak with the developer's representative today. They have met with Fairfield County and Violet Township already. They are looking to head that direction. They said this ordinance only authorizes the Mayor to enter into the agreement. Doesn't guarantee they'll sign it. They said go ahead and do what you want with the agreement but we're not going to attend or participate at this point. They didn't feel they were warmly received here at the last meeting. They didn't think it would be worth their time to be here this evening with us. But they said feel free to leave it on the agenda. We don't have to pull it off. But it doesn't necessary commit the developer to entering into the agreement either.*

Amos – Was this the two gentleman that came with like a post it note? The flip board that didn't flip well. That barely described anything about their project.

Haire – Correct. So, what they're proposing is 185,000 sq foot industrial building and then about a 375,000 sq foot building. That's approximate. Two buildings that were presented in your packet. They're presented in your packet here with their concept site plan. That's kind of where we stand with them currently. They have had meetings already with both the county and the township.

Amos – I'm going to be really honest when I say this. I think they may have felt not well received because all of us afterwards were wondering where their presentation was. They did such a poor job at representing their company, their project, that all of us kind of stood there going, what was that. That could be why they felt unreceived.

Ward – There were also a lot of citizens that spoke out about how the residents don't want any more warehouses. I think that's another important factor when we're making our decisions is the residents and what they want to see in that area.

Clark – How many residents do you think actually know that they can build these in Violet Township and move forward with these buildings and then the buildings are there and Canal now losing out on all the tax revenue and any good things that happen with these buildings.

Ward – I think you're underestimating the amount of research that our residents do.

Clark – I spoke to three at church on Sunday and not one of them knew that Columbus was even close to have utilities over on Bixby Rd and knew anything like that. Once they were informed and you tell them that, it changes a lot of minds. To me, it's a no brainer. I don't see how you argue against the Bixby Rd project when you know that they're going to go get built by Columbus and we're just screwing the citizens, the schools, and the taxpayers of that revenue.

Ward – I think we're veering off course a little bit talking about Bixby when what's in front of us is Basil.

Clark – I was using it as an analogy.

Amos – I've had lots of conversations with Violet Township as well. And I don't disagree that they're interested in some of the things that are going on. I do think they want to come to the table and have the conversation which is why I brought it tonight. Will they turn it down to zone it there? I mean conversations I've had, probably not. They're interested in development of some sort as well. But they do want to look at the CEDA and come up with that big picture we've been talking about and create something that is worth it to everybody.

Clark – Can we still do this, Lucas, and pass this tonight and still come to the table and try to bring Violet to the table?

Haire – We can definitely do that. What this does is authorizes the Mayor to enter into the agreement. It doesn't mean the Mayor has to enter into the agreement. It doesn't mean that they have to enter into the agreement. It just authorizes him to sign the agreement.

Amos – But they already have a predetermined notion of what they want to bring, right, the two warehouses?

Haire – They do. Roebing, LLC is the development arm of Hemmer Companies. Hemmer Companies is a very large industrial contractor. That's their main line of business. They build buildings for many different industrial projects in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Their intention is this would be their own development, but that doesn't necessarily mean it would have to be their development. That would be part of the zoning process and working through that with them.

Amos – In addition to the pre-annexation, they're asking for the development agreement which includes the CRA and the TIF information.

Haire – Correct. It also includes commitments for widening Basil-Western Rd and providing funding for the potential of a relocation of Basil, Hill, and King's Crossing.

Amos – Then it also discussed the zoning change.

Haire – Correct. That's not necessarily committing to your approving the zoning. It's just saying that if we do not approve the zoning, they can then detach the territory. Very similar to the last agreement that we signed. It gives them the right to detach from the city and go ahead and pursue the township if they're not comfortable with the terms we're presenting them with.

Shea – What's the zoning in Violet right now?

Haire – It's zoned residential currently. They would have to go through a rezoning process in Violet.

Ward – Whether or not if this passes, I think it would be great if we did have that meeting where we all came to the table and tried to

have a cohesive plan that benefited everybody.

Clark – I don't have a problem with that. I think Violet would win, we would win. I think it'd be a much better project if we're involved with our TIF capability instead of have a tar chip road out there with 300,000 sq foot building.

Shea – That's what scares me is the Violet roads. They don't do very nice roads.

Clark – Right. That's the kind of development you're going to have if we don't get involved.

**The motion carried with the following vote:**

**Yes 4 – Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker**

**No 3 – Amick, Amos, Ward**

**ORD-22-003**

Development

Sponsor: Milliken

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON BASIL-WESTERN ROAD

- Adoption

**A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Clark to adopt ORD-22-003. The motion carried with the following vote:**

**Yes 4 – Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker**

**No 3 – Amick, Amos, Ward**

**Second Reading**

**ORD-22-004**

Finance

Sponsor: Shea

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE REPRESENTATION IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT WITH THE FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER MAYORS COURT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

- Second Reading Only

**First Reading**

**ORD-22-005**

Development

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACQUIRE AN ACCESS EASEMENT FROM JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- First Reading Only

**ORD-22-006**

Finance

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2022 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #21-053, AMENDMENT #1

- Request waiver of second and third reading and adoption

**A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Amick to suspend the rules and waive the second and third reading of ORD-22-006. The motion carried with the following vote:**

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

**A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Clark to adopt ORD-22-006. The motion carried with the following vote:**

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

**J. Council Reports**

Work Session/Council - TUESDAY, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

*Work Session/Council - Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.*

### *CW Human Services*

*Walker – Once again, words from Canal Winchester Human Services. This is going to sound familiar. They're in the midst in the of getting ready for their biggest fundraiser which is the SOUPer Bowl which is this Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in baking goods for the bake sale, it's not too late. Putting together a nice gift basket or gift certificates for services, and the silent auction, that would be amazing, once again said Aletha. This is very important to Human Services. Please, if interested, call Aletha Mullins. Baked goods can be dropped off that morning and auction items can be dropped off any time before the event. Time of the event is from 11 to 2 p.m. this Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Very important fundraiser for them as these funds keep their doors open, keep them in the building. If you're interested, please get involved. And do all we can do.*

### *CWICC*

*Clark – Our next meeting is March 30<sup>th</sup> 11:30 at the Interurban Building.*

### *CWJRD*

*Amos – The JRD is rolling out some more sports. We're super excited. We currently have baseball, softball, soccer opening. We joining a new baseball league this year so we're pretty excited to get the parents on board. We had some issues with our baseball league last year so we switched to a new league we hope will be just a better opportunity for our families. We have a lot of commissioners coming back so that's very exciting on our end as well. Our new director is taking off with leaps and bounds. He is making his way around so he will probably be calling some of you in the city just to stop in and meet people. He's been making his way around the school and the different places and kind of getting to know everybody. Already getting some really good feedback on him so that's outstanding. Our intention is in March for him to come to one meeting, starting in March, come to one meeting a month. If there is anything in particular you'd like him to discuss when he comes in. Otherwise he'll just kind of give a general report on where we are and how things are going and anything new that's going on. Our next meeting – February 17<sup>th</sup>, here, 7 p.m.*

*Milliken – Remind me of his name again?*

*Amos – Greg Pearce. He's normally out of here Monday through Friday. When the city has things going on in here, he kind of works from home or a different office. But normally he's here. You can always feel free to drop in.*

*Milliken - I don't know if you know this, do you know the junior basketball leagues, my son has been playing Hamilton and Groveport. Do you know did they approach us about getting into our league? Is that normal? This is the first year he's played.*

*Amos – Sometimes it's about whether we can find a league that has openings. Because a lot of the leagues will transition between the different cities. We do know that there's been some issues with the basketball league so we're taking a look at that one as we speak.*

### *Destination: Canal Winchester*

*Milliken – Not much to report other than the continued meeting that was held last night with regards to the Art Stroll. The last meeting was January 25<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be the end of March. And that's the board meeting.*

*Shea – On the CW visitor's bureau, they're getting quite a windfall from the bed tax. One of the things I thought would be super cool, and I've heard tossed around, take some of those murals that they buy and throw them up on some of those NorthPoint buildings, up on top of the berms so you'd get an artistic view from those warehouses. It sort of makes it more unique and adds more culture to the city as you enter.*

*Amos – Ms. Preston sent us a really pretty picture of one that was painted to look like a farmland. It was really nice. It was really pretty.*

*Milliken – Actually not a bad idea. I don't know the process that they would go through to do that but I'll pass that information along for sure.*

*Jackson – Mr. Milliken, if I could, the Art Guild handles the murals.*

*Shea – But Destination could, couldn't they?*

*Amos – But I think Destination's helping the Art Guild now.*

*Jackson – You awarded bed tax money to the Art Guild for the mural projects.*

Shea – These are going to be big murals. They are going to be expensive. Probably going to need some of that Destination money. It would look pretty – unicorns and rainbows.

## **K. Old/New Business**

Walker – The coats with Human Services. There still may be some available. So please contact Aletha Mullins on that for children. Anyone that might be needing a coat. A neighbor, someone that you see, that you can reach out to and help. Please have them call Aletha Mullins to see if there are any coats available.

Amos – For the SOUPer Bowl, last year we raised over \$13,000. This is SOUPer Bowl 11 so the goal is to at least reach \$11,000. If you can't make the event, you can call the pantry that day and they are taking donations over the phone.

Ward – Talking about the Art Stroll made me think of DORA. And I'm wondering what the status of that is.

Milliken – Correct me if I'm wrong, Mayor, it was my understanding that we left that discussion, where did we leave that discussion?

Amos – The Mayor has asked me for a couple of things that we're working on getting final answers for him. He had asked about storage on the cups, pricing on the cups, so that we can also find out if we can use the money, if we can allocate some of that bed tax money towards those cups. And to kind of get an idea. I've asked some other cities how many do you go through, so that's the information we're waiting on right now. We're just trying to get our research so that when we present it the Mayor he has the right picture and it's complete and hopefully he won't have any questions and we'll be able to answer them all in one lump sum. That's all, he's waiting on me.

Milliken – Ok, so we're just working through logistics then.

Amos – Yes, just waiting on some phone calls back and making sure we priced them out and that we're doing our due diligence to answer all his questions.

Amick – I have a request and I think this probably would go toward Mrs. Jackson. When I was looking at the Madison Township Police Department statistics, there is the January stats and then a year to date. Of course, it being the first month of the year, they're the same numbers. I would like to ask them to start including a graph or chart so that we can see trends in crime by the categories they list on their report. Because whether it's real or perceived that we have an increasing crime situation in Canal Winchester, I can't find data to support that one way or the other. If we could see a month by month trend chart from actually both Madison Township and Fairfield County, that would be greatly appreciated.

Ward – Laurie, I love that and I think we should do it per population. If we have 5,000 people, the crime is per 1,000 people. Because as population grows, incidents increase but that's not necessarily.

Mayor – Depends on where your crime comes from.

Ward – I think it would be useful to look at the incidents per population of Canal Winchester.

Amos – Sgt. Walker, is that going forward that you could do? Not going backwards. Is that feasible?

Sgt. Walker – That's going to take a lot of time to do, to come up with. What do you mean by population? Like density?

Ward – Another question is we're getting ready to do the safety, where we're contracting for the safety report, I'm wondering if that's work they could do as part of the contract, if it's going to be a lot of work to do in house.

Shea – Sgt. Walker, you guys have records and stuff, is there a way to do a big dump into Excel where it can be sorted in Excel? I don't know how your data comes out of your system that you keep your records in.

Sgt. Walker – The data just comes from CAD printouts and then our log sheets. I'm sure I can figure it out. I'm sure I can find someone that can help me with it. I can crime trends. I can list business thefts, retail thefts, property crimes and things of that nature. Is that what you're looking for?

Amick – I think there's a two part ask here. My ask was I would just like to see with the reports that are filed a month by month trend line so that if somebody says our crime is getting worse, we can say, according to this graph that is not accurate. I would like to see a month by month graph showing a trend up or down by line item of the crime committed so we can validate whether we have a crime problem or not. And then Mrs. Ward, her request was, relative to the size of our population, is the per capita of crimes being committed going up as well? Am I saying that right?

Ward – I think so. As population increases the total of people increases and you would expect the number of incidents to increase. But that doesn't necessarily mean that there's a real increase if you break it per capita.



Mayor – *The majority of our crime does not come from our own residents. How do you figure that then?*

Jackson – *That is absolutely correct.*

Clark – *You would have to take Columbus population into account.*

Milliken – *I think what she was getting at is whether it's our residents or not, just number of incidents based on our population?*

Mayor – *What's that going to tell you? It's not going to tell you anything. It's their population that's creating the problem Our population here are being good citizens.*

Jackson – *Some of the other factors you have to consider is how active loss prevention is at these retail stores. We've had instances where we've had very active loss prevention individuals and we've had instances where they have done nothing. You're not really comparing apples to apples when you do that. We can work together and see what we can find for you. It's just whether or not you're going to get exactly what you're looking for is hard to say right now.*

Milliken – *I think that Sgt. Walker does a great job of providing us with the monthly reports. I know it's a tedious task but I would like to say that I feel like that ask should be, that's something that should be done by us. I can take those monthly reports and plot it out on my own and make my own graph.*

Amick – *I could too. Anybody could do that. I feel like they have the data, and how do they know, if crime is getting better or worse or staying the same if they're not even looking at the trends?*

Sgt. Walker – *Because we work the area. I have a set number deputies that don't patrol any other area but Canal Winchester. They work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day, sometimes more, patrolling the same exact area. We know where those crime trends are and we hit those areas hard.*

Amick – *But we don't. We as Council, maybe I'll play my newbie card, I can't tell if the number of crimes in the Canal Winchester corporation limits are going up, are going down, or are staying flat.*

Milliken – *When you start to get monthly report after monthly report, you can compare them month to month and say ok, in January we had so many felony warrants and February we had so many and it was down or up. I see what you're saying though. There's two facets to this. There's the data and then there's what our law enforcement officers are telling us what they're seeing. In my opinion, I can look at a sheet of paper some times and not really get a good feel of what's going on our there as what Sgt. Walker could tell us.*

Clark – *I think in the police study there might be some of this data that they're going to collect and look into this. They're going to come up with how much crime has been happening in Canal Winchester with the data dump their going to get from the Sheriff's Office. I don't know if they're specifically tell us exactly that crime went up from 3% to 6%\$ from April to May in 2022 or whatever. But I think they will analyze and get to how many police do we really need. What kind of problem do we really have in this city to figure out how many officers we really need to combat that.*

Amos – *The doctor that you referred to in the survey, that was one of the key things she did touch on, was the fact that they would take the data from different departments and start piecing it together to see where the trends were, where's the data coming from. Is there a particular season, a particular crime. She discussed the fact that she would analyze a lot of that for us.*

Amick – *That's fine. I don't care where it come from. I just feel like maybe I'm missing the forest through the trees. But that seems like such a basic thing. Is crime getting better, worse, or staying flat.*

Amos – *The other thing I would offer you is that I do have quite a few of my reports, and I'm sure the gentlemen do to, because we usually get these and I'd be happy to go back and find some of the historical sheets.*

Milliken – *I actually pulled a couple of mine out. My apologies, you guys haven't seen these yet even, have you? If you want, I can give you these two. June of 2021 and November of 2021. In June 2021, 64,000 hours of downtime and November 2021 60,000 hours of downtime. There's months missing there between June and November but just pulling out two random months, you're looking at 60 and 64,000 hours of downtime. Correct me if I'm wrong, I would assume that would be pretty steady. Feel free to take a look at those.*

Amick – *I just want to know if it's real or perceived, that's all.*

Ward – *I appreciate the question. I would find that really useful too, to look at a graph.*

Shea – *Sgt. Walker, do you all have a public affairs to pretty data up, down there to do presentations and stuff?*

Sgt. Walker – *We have a community sergeant. He goes around and he talks to schools and all that other stuff. He's like our*

community outreach supervisor. That's Sgt. Strawn.

Shea – I would just think that there's somebody own there that does presentations that might be able to make your life a lot easier if you were able to get some help from them.

Sgt. Walker – Sure. I'm all for it. I can find somebody that can help me with it and I can come up with something for you all.

Mayor – At our last meeting, the lady stood up there for 10 minutes and bashed me the whole time. I wanted to kind of add what Thad said earlier. She went on and on about how I never answered her emails. I didn't say anything that because I'm thinking maybe there's some emails that I missed. I don't know. I went back the next day and I checked. She sent me, actually not only to me but all of Council, on 9 different dates, emails. Most of them were in regard to the Franklin County Public Health CHAT program. They were this is what happened today, this is what happened today and required no response from me, no response from Council. On one of them she mentioned the John Bender Scholarship. She thought that it was basically not right that you had to be an athlete to get the grant. I responded to that one. I said, Ms. Acklin, your child does not have to be an athlete to get the John Bender Scholarship. All you have to do is live within the city. That was almost an immediate response, like same day. Same day she responded back to me, thank you very much Mayor Ebert. I appreciate your quick response. In another email it was in regard to when is the city employees and yourself going to do the diversity training. We had planned on doing it in March, I explained that to her. But with the snow levels that we had last year and all the guys working overtime, we delayed it until July. I explained that to her. That was my second response. Second request, second response. The last was in regard to – I don't remember what the third one was. But there was another question she asked and I responded to that one. If there's more emails out there, they're no where to be found. I had Rick check, I checked, Thad's been through them as well. And I responded to every one I was responsible for responding to. There were some that she asked questions of Council. I don't know if they were responded to or not. I didn't think it was my responsibility to answer for Council so I did not. I just wanted you all to know that.

Amos – You brought up a good point though for Council. We do have some new people on here. In previous years, we kind of set our established how we responded to emails. When we did. When we didn't. Who was and who wasn't. And we set the precedence that when we were replying to a resident, that we would include all of us just so we had it. It does make it public record. It's public record regardless but I want to make sure the new people also realize that we did that as a courtesy so that you could see what we would replying to in case a resident was emailing you separately and you separately. So, we were giving a bunch of answers across the board. We would answer and copy our fellow council members so that they could see somebody had replied and what the reply was. If you're replying, that's what we did last.

Boggs – And Mrs. Amos is exactly right. Whether you reply to all or whether you are communicating or text what have you, one on one with a resident, that would be a public record.

Amos – We just did it as a courtesy because it really kept us from duplicating efforts.

Milliken – I think depending on the question too. I think it's ok if we say different things.

Amos – Right. I got a question yesterday or two days ago. Do I have a list of the previous mayors? I went on the website, copied the list, and sent it off. But like that I didn't feel everybody needed a copy of.

#### **L. Adjourn to Executive Session (if necessary)**

#### **M. Adjournment @ 8:42 p.m.**

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

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