

Canal Winchester

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



Meeting Minutes – FINAL

September 6, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Work Session

*Bob Clark - Chair
Laurie Amick
Jill Amos
Steve Buskirk
Chuck Milliken
Patrick Shea
Mike Walker*

A. Call To Order

Clark called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Present 5 – Amick, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Shea to excuse Mrs. Amos and Mr. Buskirk from the Work Session meeting. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Walker, Shea, Amick, Clark, Milliken

Mr. Buskirk joined the Work Session meeting at 6:06 p.m.

C. Also In Attendance

Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson

D. Reports of City Staff

Bill Sims - *No verbal report given*

E. Request for Council Action**RES-22-033**

Mayor

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF STEVE PALSGROVE TO SERVE THE REMAINDER OF AN UNEXPIRED FOUR-YEAR TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2023.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Milliken to move RES-22-033 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Shea, Milliken, Walker, Amick, Clark

Ebert – Steve Palsgrove is a resident of Canal Winchester. He was on City Council from 1988 to 1992. He was on Violet Township Zoning Appeals Board for 14 years, Violet Township Zoning Board for 11 years, Lancaster Area Community Improvement Corporation for 14 years, Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce for 15 years, Fairfield County Parks and Commission for 29 years. This guy is pretty old. Also, he was with United Way Fairfield County for 17 years. He's held leadership positions in just about every board he's been on. I think he's a very, very, very qualified candidate for this position. He currently lives in Canal Winchester, once again. He was born in Madison Township and went to Groveport High School. He lived in Canal Winchester from 1987 to 1992 and moved to Violet Township. He couldn't stand it so he came back to Canal Winchester.

Clark – I'll just say, I've known Steve for many years. I've been involved with him down in my days as the Economic Development Director and Congressional Aide for several different members of congress. We've worked on committees together. He's very well qualified and a smart guy. He has a banking financial background so he'll be a true asset to our community serving on this board. I appreciate you stepping up, Steve. Thank you.

RES-22-034

Development

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TO TRANSFER CANAL LANDS

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amick to table RES-22-034. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Shea, Amick, Clark, Milliken, Walker

Abstain 1 – Buskirk

Haire – This is similar agreements we've done in the past with the State of Ohio. There are remnants of canal lands throughout the City and outside the City that we would like to acquire. This specific parcel is just across Trine Street here. It's three tenths of an acre behind the block wall that's there. That is a remnant piece of the canal lands with the City now controlling all of the parcels here. We thought it'd be beneficial for the long-term and to also control that parcel. We've had an immediate need for utility relocation in there. I think we've since resolved that because this process has taken so long so there are no immediate plans for that parcel at this time.

Amick – I have a couple quick questions. The homeowners that surround that small parcel, has there been any discussion with them or have you heard from any of them or at this point in time?

Haire – The only discussion is regards to maintenance of that parcel so the City has now taken over maintenance even though we haven't taken our ownership yet.

Amick – Is there any liability concern with anything on that property? If I recall, it's just a grassland, a small piece of grass, is there any reason to be concerned about any liability for the City on it?

Haire – It's a vacant parcel with the exception of the stone wall. Mr. Boggs can probably speak to any liability but I don't perceive it any different than any other City property.

Amick – Is the Indian wall part of this parcel?

Haire – I believe that's in the road right-of-way currently.

Shea – The outbuilding is shown on the survey, is that still there?

Haire – I believe it is, yes.

Shea – Who does that belong to?

Haire – It belongs to the Stiteler Family.

Shea – Do we have an easement in place for them so they don't have somebody come along and take down their existing structure that's been there for years?

Haire – We do not at this time, no. The state typically will transfer any easements. The Stiteler's have purchased canal lands before from the state adjacent to this and so I don't know if there's an easement agreement. They were doing their title search; the state was to figure out that but easements would transfer if there are some in place.

Shea – Do we need to give one if we acquire this?

Haire – We would have to work out a resolution. I don't know if the shed is on skids or can be moved.

Shea – I'm going to throw something crazy out there. This isn't time sensitive, right?

Haire – It is not.

Shea – Can we go back and talk to them about that outbuilding and make sure we're not going to have any issues down the road?

Haire – Yes. I think we have a certain number of days on this. I believe it's 90 to respond. We have to sign the agreement on or before November 1st. As long as we had a resolution prior to October 1st so that this went into effect prior to November 1st and the Mayor can sign it.

Clark – Does that give us enough readings?

Haire – It's a resolution.

Clark – Oh, that's right.

Shea – Would you mind doing that?

Haire – Yes. I can approach them.

Shea – Thank you.

RES-22-035

Finance

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amick to move RES-22-035 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Shea, Amick, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken

Abstain 1 - Walker

Jackson – This is an annual resolution that we are required to pass. As you recall we approved a tax budget for fiscal year 2023 back at the beginning of July. That was filed with the county auditor as required in the revised code. This resolution actually is done by the budget commission to adjust any voted levies. The City of Canal Winchester does not have any voted levies therefore, this is more of a formality for us. You can see on the second page of this resolution there is an estimate of property tax, homestead and rollback that we will receive in 2023. At this point like I said this is just a formality for us because there is no adjustment to our millage, it remains at two mills.

RES-22-036

Development

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CANAL WINCHESTER INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CORPORATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Walker to move RES-22-036 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Haire – The proposal before you is to allow the City to enter into a lease with the Canal Winchester Industry and Commerce Corporation for 20. South High Street. As part of acquiring that property there's a current tenant in the building. To be able to lease to that tenant without going out to a public bid process, the City needs to essentially lease this to the CWICC who can then lease through a sublease to the tenant of their choosing. This would allow the City to lease the CWICC, the CWICC would then sublease to Dr. Murray who is the current tenant in there so that he can continue his optometry practice there for a period of one year. The proposal before you would be to lease to the Canal Winchester Industry and Commerce Corporation for a dollar a year and then the CWICC would then sublease

to Dr. Murray for \$2,300.00 a month. The proposal was approved by the Canal Winchester Industry and Commerce Corporation at their meeting last Wednesday to enter into the sublease agreement. This would need to be done to complete that. The intention would be to have the rent funds be retained by the CWICC and then those would be used to renovate the building at the completion of the lease.

Amick – Just for the record Mr. Haire, at the CWICC meeting I believe that you said that should they find a new space within that 12 months. They're still obligated for the full 12 months of rent, correct?

Haire – That's correct.

Shea – Is there extension provisions in there if they don't?

Haire – There is not. As far as I'm aware they're currently negotiating on two spaces within Canal Winchester.

Shea – Is that \$30,000.00 approximately that they're going to take in rent? Does CWICC have like a specific account for building maintenance it's going to go into or is it just in a general fund? How do we know that it stays earmarked?

Haire – I would defer to Mrs. Jackson but I don't believe their funding is really that complex at this point. They've never really had much funding.

Shea – I just want to make sure that's the commitment we have from the CWICC.

RES-22-037
Development

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACQUIRE AN ACCESS
EASEMENT FROM FAIRFIELD TRINE, LLC.

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Walker to move RES-22-037 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Haire – This would allow the Mayor to acquire a lease from Fairfield Trine. If you recall we previously acquired a 6-foot strip of land from Chase Bank to accommodate this pedestrian and vehicular access easement. This is the second part of that. As the owner of this easement has moved into construction they've asked that we contribute \$12,500.00 to acquire this lease. That's essentially the costs of the off-site construction so the construction on the portion of the land that the City of Canal Winchester owns, the paving associated with that and the design cost associated with getting those grades right. They're asking that we pay that amount to acquire this access easement. At the end of that it'll provide access from Waterloo Street to the Towing Path Alley parking areas which will be a much more direct access and much more accessible to the public. It's 26-feet width which is enough to have both pedestrian and vehicular access through that easement area.

Shea – Didn't we spend \$20,000.00 earlier this year for another easement on the same stretch?

Haire – Correct.

Shea – When I'm looking at the picture here on the paper, the grey shaded area that's not in the red that would be immediately to the right of it, is that the part that we acquired from Chase?

Haire – Yes. Immediately adjacent. It's a 6-foot wide permanent easement and a 20-foot construction easement. The pavement needs to be adjusted in that area to match up grade-wise. That's the cost that's associated with this, it's for the off-site construction.

RES-22-038

Council

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO RESEARCH AND REPORT ON OPTIONS FOR DIGITAL AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

*- Request to move to full Council**A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Buskirk to withdraw RES-22-038 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:**Yes 6 – Shea, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Walker, Amick*

Shea – I was the one that asked Mr. Boggs to write this up. Mrs. Amick’s point about transcription software and helping Jordan with the ease of her job. It just seemed like a great idea. I thought it would be a great assignment for Jordan to do. To go out and find some options for software that would help with transcription and possibly make her job easier to do for us.

Peoples – I have a question. I’m a little bit confused by this. After last Council meeting I believe it was brought up and Mayor asked me to start taking a look at this and I’ve already started doing that. My department handles the IT portion so I don’t quite understand why we’re now going with a resolution to do this rather than the request that was asked at the last meeting.

Shea – I asked Mr. Boggs to write it up last week. I didn’t know that our request was being investigated because it sort of felt like it wasn’t well received so I decided to ask the clerk to do it.

Ebert – When Mrs. Amick asked about that I said yes, we’ll look into it. There was no question about it.

Amick – That is correct. That is accurate. You gave your word that you would have your department look into it and that’s what I’ve been waiting for so I have no reason to believe they are not or wouldn’t.

Clark – Can you give us a status of where you are? How much?

Peoples - No, I’ve not had how much. I was actually at a meeting and it was on a zoom. We were in person and also had some attendees online. It was actually scrolling across the bottom of the screen as this was going through. I asked the person and we have been in contact trying to get me hooked up with their IT person. Obviously with Labor Day and stuff this was actually last week that I saw the software or at least what was on the screen.

Clark – Where was that?

Peoples – City of Grove City. It was at one of our Health Care Consortium meetings.

Clark – I’m not as tech savvy as some of the younger people here. So, when you speak it just immediately goes in and types out the minutes?

Peoples – What I saw was basically like closed captioning that was going across the bottom and it was software driven. Other than that, I don’t know.

Clark – So, is that for the people at home too?

Amick – So, the question or the reason I ask for the research to be done is so that the minutes for the meeting could be more expeditiously and more efficiently created so that they would be readily available sooner. That helps Miss. Pearce that takes some work off of her plate. That’s all he asked for was just to do some research.

Peoples – I understand but we also have YouTube channel that’s going on and this is live. I believe the minutes are not official until you all approve them so from the expeditious standpoint we’re live right now if I understand that

correctly. I would go there first rather than going to a minute's type of thing but I get where you're coming from.

Amick – Again, the ask was simply to do the research and to find out what is available on the marketplace and what it will cost.

Milliken – I think this sounds like something that would be wise to do on the surface level but I think we would be doing ourselves a disservice if we didn't ask Miss. Pearce how she feels about it. Miss. Pearce, do you feel that this type of software would make your job easier or more difficult in which you prefer what you're doing now?

Pearce – I honestly prefer what I do now. I read the subtitles on YouTube and it helps a lot better. I've tried the transcription on my personal laptop and it doesn't always give you the correct wording. Like I was reading minutes from last week or the previous meeting and Mrs. Jackson had said "As you may recall" and it would type out "As you may call." It doesn't always type what it's supposed to say so I always have to go back and redo everything and then I'd have to go in and separate who said what. I like what I do but if you guys want me to try something else I can try that as well.

Milliken – Thank you, Miss. Pearce. I think too that we are making steps to get minutes out sooner. They may not be the official approved minutes but instead of waiting until our packets come out, we're anticipating starting to get minutes a little sooner hopefully. I just wanted to lay that out there that we're working on things to make the situation a little bit smoother.

Amick – If there's improvement in that then that's good. Part of it was, when I get asked by a resident about something or I want to recall for my own benefit what part of that conversation was, I don't have time to go back and watch a two-hour YouTube video. Where I can pretty much scan the notes very quickly and I can find what I was looking for and grab that piece of the conversation. That's why I was asking and again with all due respect it's like they're not getting published expeditiously. If there's improvement in that then that's great. Again, my ask was pretty simple. If it's causing someone heartburn please take it offline with me and we'll talk about it.

Peoples – I guess the heartburn to me is we were asked to do it and now we're being compelled to do it. That's what I don't understand. That's confusing on my part. I felt that I was doing something wrong. I guess it's been three weeks since the last meeting so I was concerned when I saw this that I've done something improperly.

Amick – For the record, I am unaware that anyone has done anything that's not perfectly acceptable.

Walker – I'd like to add that first of all, thank you for starting the research and getting that going Mr. Peoples. Also, being new our Clerk of Council, some vacations, Mrs. Jackson which has been training our Clerk of Council, and some illnesses I believe. That's probably kind of slowed some things down too and getting them out. If this is too expensive and we don't go with that and we choose not to, I believe that these will come out a little bit earlier once the training is complete or maybe the training is complete but I know there's been some illnesses and vacations between two of the folks.

Ebert – I'm going to put words in Amanda's mouth but I think she will probably tell you that sometimes it's very difficult to transcribe what you all say. Hannah has problems at times.

Shea – I'm the only person to put it on there so I will gladly withdraw it since it's already in process.

ORD-22-032
Finance

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2022 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #21-053, AMENDMENT #4

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Buskirk to move ORD-22-032 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Amick, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea

Abstain 1 - Walker

Jackson – Included in your packets this evening is actually a memo detailing what this appropriation amendment would do so I will quickly go over that. In the general fund we're asking for \$107,200.00 to be used for three different things. \$12,500.00 would be used for the easement that was discussed a couple pieces of legislation ago that would be resolution #22-037. \$14,700.00 for the two quarterly payments that we will need in 2022 for the 20. South High Street purchase that was approved previously by Council with ordinance #22-023. Then finally, \$80,000.00 for McGill Park Phase 2 engineering costs. We have actually started, we did have some money in the budget to get the engineer working on that but we will need additional funds to work on the other tasks that were in their proposal for Phase 2. In the bed tax fund, we're asking to appropriate \$65,000.00. This was the direct result of your Committee of the Whole meeting last Monday. \$50,000.00 of that to go to the construction of McGill Park and \$15,000.00 of it to the Canal Winchester Industry and Commerce Corporation. I do have a note in here that additionally Council had directed \$60,000.00 from the bed tax fund balance to be earmarked for the City's Bicentennial Celebration in 2028. I don't see a reason, a legitimate reason to create another fund for that. When we create funds there's certain funds that the revised code allows us to do. There are other funds that if we want to do it we have to ask for auditor state approval and based on my experience I'm not sure that they would necessarily see a need for another fund. I'm recommending that we just earmark that money within the bed tax fund so that it is not spent but not necessarily transferred to another fund. Then finally, in the Gender Road TIF Fund this appropriates \$350,000.00. This is for the reimbursement of some public utility improvements that were completed on Winchester Boulevard as previously approved by Council with ordinance #21-038. With that I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Milliken – With regards to the bed tax discussion from our Committee of the Whole meeting, can you remind me when we would expect to see that ordinance come through?

Jackson – Thad and I have been working on that so the hope would be the next meeting.

ORD-22-033
Public Service

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CABLE BARRIER ALONG US ROUTE 33

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Shea to move ORD-22-033 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Peoples – This is an ordinance to authorize Mayor to enter into a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the cable barrier on US 33. This is what started out from a lobbying effort that Mayor Ebert started with Senator Schaffer. If you recall earlier this year there was a crossover accident between Gender Road and High Street. A couple years before that there was another crossover, a dump truck blew a tire and went across just East of High Street. It went across and killed a dispatcher for Franklin County Sheriff's Department I believe. So, Mayor started lobbying with ODOT and my understanding is the cable barrier is scheduled to go down to Allen Road. I believe this one ends at Diley and some of the reason behind that is the Pickerington Road interchange will also be able to provide some of that cable barrier. This ordinance though is just for the procedural for ODOT to gain our permission to do so within our corporation limit.

Ebert – Just to add to what Matt said, that was a letter that went out to about everybody I could think of to tell you the truth. Not only Senator Schaffer but our State Representative, our Congressman, the Governor and it went out to

the director of ODOT. It gained some traction pretty quick. They put it in the budget right away so we're happy about it.

Shea – Will that go all the way up to Bixby then?

Peoples – That is in the ordinance. Let me check.

Shea – Near Gender is what it says. I found it. We don't have any utilities in there do we?

Peoples – We have waterline and sewer line crossings but no lateral.

Clark – They won't puncture that line, will they?

Peoples – They shouldn't with just a cable barrier. They'll go down a couple feet because that is designed to like catch and grab if you will. I'll call it like a baseball mitt that'll come in there and the webbing will keep it from going through. It's not guaranteed but less likelihood of a crossover.

Shea – They're pretty amazing. When it gets broke or hit who becomes responsible for fixing it? Is it us or ODOT?

Peoples – I believe its Ohio Department of Transportation. There is a time limit on this, we're just requesting this for one reading but the next meeting will more than likely be an emergency to get the timing done.

Clark – Will that reflect in the next legislation, it will be an emergency declaration?

Peoples – It'll be an emergency or waive the third reading and pass it. I've got to check the timing.

ORD-22-034

Public Service

AN ORDINANCE TO SET WATER USER FEES FOR CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE THE SPECIAL WATER ALLOCATION DISTRICT

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Amick to move ORD-22-034 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Peoples – This ordinance and the one following #22-035 kind of go hand in hand. We have done a four-year rate ordinance and this will be our third one if this passes through. It is to go through the water and sewer rates. This request is for 2% each year for both water and for sewer so for a total of 8%. Our last ordinance was two-years of no increases and two-years of 2% increases. Going through just kind of the history of that, we went four-years total with no increases on either one. Both of these together start with the water. We have quite a bit of capital projects that we're looking at. We got a loan for a \$2.6 million waterline improvement project. We'll have to pay that loan back obviously. We're looking at a water treatment plant expansion, we're coming up on 20-years in the existing plant. We're getting to the point where we're replacing some things. Some of the equipment are going, just normal wear items type of thing. Obviously in a water treatment plant with the humidity in there it gets a little bit corrosive at times. We got a headworks project that could be upwards of 18 or \$20 million that we're looking at as well as some other improvements. We're going to have some regulatory requirements that we believe we'll have to install for phosphorous removal within the next five years and then additional sewer work that goes along with that and then even more of a corrosive environment with some of the equipment on that. The treatment plant that we have there is from 1997 for the most part and we're replacing some of those items. So, we did do a 2%. We are very conservative with our budgeting. Mrs. Jackson just reminded me that in 2024 will be our last sewer debt payment on that 1997 plant. So, kind of going in with the headworks project we have is going to be some really good timing on that but we need to prepare for that. We'd really like to keep our rate increases at modest levels and still be able to

fund our operations.

Walker – The phosphate that we’re putting in, I haven’t asked this in a while, what is our level now of softness or hardness?

Peoples – It’s actually in the written report every month. Joe Taylor provides that, I believe it was 120. We’re right at 117 to 122 and that’s really good. 122 is probably on the high side so you’re going to be looking at less than 120 for the most part. That’s where we’ve maintained it for the last probably six years since we started that process.

Walker – Fantastic, thank you.

Peoples – As you bring that up the chemical costs and supplies has gone through the roof. We’ll probably be back for an appropriations amendment to have to get more money to pay for chemicals this year. It’s getting that bad.

Amick – It talks specifically about being for customers outside of the special water allocation district or SWAD at a very high level, is that a geographical boundary?

Peoples – It is. It’s basically Canal Pointe area. With our agreement with Pickerington they serve us, we buy the water from them. They’re at a different rate than what we are so we call that the Special Water Allocation District.

Amick – Great, thank you.

Shea – How come we’re not raising bulk?

Peoples – I thought we did.

Shea – It’s \$9.10, \$9.10, \$9.10, \$9.10.

Peoples – It has been \$8.90 so we are raising it. It’s just not every year. The bulk has been \$8.90 since 2013. I don’t know what the sales are total on it for that. It’s not one of our main revenue generators. I can find the numbers for you on what we’re at so far this year.

Jackson - \$6,600.00

Peoples – So, it’s not a major revenue generator so that would probably be why. We want to try to keep it up that we’re selling it for what it’s worth but we try not to go too far with it. We have a lot of people using it that’s for sure. It’s a fine line of where do you think we need to be and what is acceptable.

Shea – Sure. What’s your closest competitor for bulk water?

Peoples – The Village of Lithopolis has a bulk water station and I’m not sure if Pickerington does or Groveport.

Shea – Any way we could find out what they’re charging because I got a real problem raising it on residents and not raising it on businesses at the same time.

Peoples – Well, the bulk water rate is the only reason that is when a truck comes in, it’s a big tank. It’s not our businesses here in town, those are private water hauling companies that do that. I just want to clarify that.

Shea – I understand but still it’s the guys doing the direction of boring, it’s the guys hauling water out to the cistern properties that don’t have wells. We’re going to ask our residents to pay 2% compounding over the next four-years. I think we should at least look at the bulk. I know it’s not a big percentage of your sales at the water department but it’s more the principle of if we’re going to do it to the residents then we should probably ask the contractors to chip in too even though it’s only \$6,600.00 a year.

Clark – With these rate increases, did they take into effect this increased cost of these chemicals we're using? Are you eventually going to catch up so we don't have to go to the general fund? It would be the rate users paying for this.

Peoples – We wouldn't go to the general fund. I guess some reappropriation out of the water fund or the sewer fund if we're doing that. Kind of the same processes as what we did this evening.

Clark – I misunderstood, I got it now.

Peoples – These are completely self-sufficient. We have healthy fund balances but we want to keep it that way as well.

Walker – The complaints were really low the last time per year that we've had on City water. Is that still the same?

Peoples – Yes. I mean, we'll get one every once in a while. We obviously flush hydrants, we'll stir up the system that way. We've had a couple anomalies at our treatment plant that we've addressed. We'll get some disruption in the system. We had a major water break out at Bixby Road at one of the industrial facilities, a truck hit a hydrant in the middle of the night and knocked it off. That was just at the beginning of August. That disruptive system we lost hundreds of thousands of gallons of water with that.

Walker – But, as far as the softness?

Peoples – I haven't had any of those water quality complaints, I won't say none. Some people are more used to totally soft water and if they are and they're not getting that then they can tell a difference. We do not produce completely soft water because for one, we can't afford it with the chemicals that have to go into it and for two, it would be aggressive in our distribution system. We would be fixing a lot of water breaks. We don't want to do that.

Walker – Thank you.

Shea – We spoke earlier about this and I mentioned forecasting out to see like what would 2½% do for you in terms of offsetting your cost of chemicals and things like that or 3% because everybody knows that our costs are going up. Were you able to put those numbers to pencil at all?

Peoples – I did something based on kind of a year-to-date what we've had in revenue so far. So, if we had a 2% increase for next year, we would be at basically an additional \$23,000.00. At a 2½% it would be at \$28,000.00. Of course, that's in a water department as you get out the 24, 25, 26 then these do compound but a total of a year-to-date type of thing of about \$95,000.00 additional for 2% and \$120,000.00 for a 2½% so \$25,000.00 difference. That's total for a year-to-date so that plays out to about an additional \$145,000.00 for a year if everything stayed proportional. \$145,000.00 additional water revenues per-year with a 2%. \$180,000.00 total for the four-years for 2½%.

Shea – But, the big driver here is your chemical costs are skyrocketing.

Peoples – They are.

Shea – How much are they up year over year in terms of cost?

Peoples – I don't have that information but I can definitely send it out. Joe Taylor at the water plant keeps a very tight eye on that and would be able to answer that very easily.

Shea – I just think that would be a good number to know when we're looking at forecasting future water rates and stuff because those chemicals are not going to get any cheaper. I would imagine you continue to see them go up

10% a year.

People – I mean, even with our conservative budgeting going forward it did seem like we have an appropriation amendment for chemicals just about every year. I mean, we go in and we up that as well but I'll look over the last four years rate ordinance and find out about that.

Shea – Can I debate, please? I have one more point on this.

Clark – Go ahead.

Shea – The \$9.10, do you guys feel okay with leaving that flat for four years or do we want to increase that too?

Peoples – We can do the analysis and find out what our neighbors are doing and then we can always change it if we see the need to increase with our competition's sake or leave it alone. We can do it and propose that at the next reading.

Shea – Okay. Thank you.

ORD-22-035

Public Service

AN ORDINANCE TO SET SANITARY SEWER USER FEES

- Request to move to full Council

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Buskirk to move ORD-22-035 to full Council. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Peoples – I don't really have a whole lot to add from the previous discussion. Again, it's 2% per-year for four years on this as well.

F. Old/New Business

Milliken – Mr. Clark, I see we have Mrs. Mathias from the Chamber of Commerce with us this evening. I would maybe just ask Council if there are any further questions with regards to her communication and discussion from past meetings.

Shea – I have Mr. Pearce here too from CWJRD.

Clark – Mr. Pearce, would you like to give your report to Council?

Pearce – You guys have a copy of my written report. Just some overview on the numbers. Youth Soccer is one of our largest programs in the Fall. We do have 264 participants this Fall which breaks down to 29 teams. We did add a few new programs this Fall. Fall Baseball is new even with a new program we still got 47 kids registered. Flag Football transitioned away from the touchdown club. They felt that in the Fall it was their busy season and request that we help run the Fall Flag Football program. That registration was a little lower than we had hoped for the first year. We had 30 kids registered and that program will get started here next week. Youth Volleyball also closed as a good partnership with the High School program. They helped facilitate that. That program starts this Sunday. We're excited about that. Boys and Girls Basketball registration opened up this week. It's going to be one of our more popular Winter programs so we expect good numbers there. From a finance review standpoint our revenue is up about 18% as compared to 2021. I do believe that's based on adding in the Flag Football and the Baseball as well. Right now, our account balance is up slightly 5% compared to years past. It's at \$63,170.00. Some of the challenges we're facing right now, I don't want to use the word begging but we are pleading with our participants families to help on the volunteer standpoint in regards to helping coaching. A lot of the rationale behind that is that people are over committed so trying to get families to want to volunteer is something that we're facing a challenge with right

now. Commissioners as well, being a sport commissioner is really time consuming and a big ask of people to do so we are working to try to incentivize them to want to take on that role as well. From a staffing standpoint, we have been down a full-time staff member since late March and we are looking to post a position with starting one part-time position and the option of adding a second part-time position in place of that full-time position. We look to post that here in the next month. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer anything related to CWJRD.

Clark – So, you're going from one full-time to two part-time positions so you'll have you and then two others as part-time?

Pearce – Correct. The rationale behind that was the amount that salary was to be able to retain somebody at that amount.

Milliken – Can you maybe elaborate on the delineation of duties between those two positions?

Pearce – One will be assisting more on the program aspect so hopefully you know, assisting with the evening and weekend coverage and then the other aspect would be more communications based with publishing a periodic newsletter, assisting with the website, content, social media, and things of that nature.

Shea – In Jill's absence I'd like to compliment Mr. Pearce. He's done an incredible job of smoothing out processes, enrollments, and programs over there at CWJRD. I think we all can agree that it's a really valuable program for our kids and for our community because I'm sure many of us have had made good friends at these sporting events through our children. Thank you very much Mr. Pearce, for coming in and presenting to us this evening.

Pearce – You're welcome. If there's ever any other additional information that you'd like to have on these reports feel free to let me know.

Clark – I think we have time, Denise why don't you get up and give your report.

Mathias – Just very quickly, I wanted to go through a couple of the questions at a high level. The first thing I wanted to talk about was fundraising. I heard a lot of questions about that. I listened to both meetings from the past two meetings on this topic. Fundraising is very different in a not-for-profit business than it is for a non-profit or a cause. To give you an example, I believe I saw most if not all of you at the October Historical Society Gala, great event raise money for the Historical Society. I do not believe I saw all of you at the Chamber's Annual Dinner in February and I'm assuming because it doesn't have that same warm and fuzzy feeling in your heart to sponsor the chamber in the same way that you do the Historical Society. I think the large number of people in Canal that don't work in Canal, it's really hard to have local events that are fundraisers for the chamber. I think the numbers like 90% of people who live here don't work here, something to that effect. It's just not the same thing when I say we're having a fundraiser so we can pay for an associate. It doesn't have the same ring. Not to mention that a couple of years ago we had a conversation with Destination Canal Winchester where they wanted to retain right to all tourism events. Which is fine, we agreed to that as we would stay business to business and supporting businesses, they would do tourism. Not only as we raising funds for a slightly different scenario, we can't do anything that overlaps with Destination Canal Winchester. Just something to think about when you're challenging us on fundraising, it's just different in this environment to do that. I did provide you the support that we've done. I provided you our year-to-date numbers and our budget. You can see that we do live very simply at the chamber. It's very modest, the membership fees cover our current part-time associate. The events we have cover themselves and gives us a little bit extra. Just a little history on the dinner, we've tried to have it at several other locations. I know that was a topic that came up and attendance drops by half. So, while we might save a little money on a per-head basis, we don't get nearly the same turnout. At the current location we have it is incredibly expensive to hold an event there. I think that if we had a full-time person who could sell all of the sponsorships that we had and work to make sure that we fill every seat in the house it could become a meaningful fundraiser for us. It takes a person to do that. I just wanted to be really clear about that if I'm waiting on this wonderful event space at the park that hopefully we'll have the same draw to the local people in

town. I offered you a couple different funding models, some of them are very different. For example, New Albany sort of has a combination tourism chamber type thing, they don't really call it tourism but that's what it is. We talked to them today for clarification on some of that. There're all different chamber models, what we're missing is our grants and ad revenue to be able to beef up our income and what we need is a person to run the shop while the rest of us do that. Leslie our Treasurer had a chance to go to the Ohio Means Jobs Informational Seminar last week and we discovered there is money there that we can tap into but again it's going to take one of us volunteers away from our day job to be able to figure that out and get it done. What we're asking for is cover for a person to get the work done so the rest of us can work on identifying those opportunities. I've given you some statistics in there to go along with that. I did want to go through the history a little bit because I think it might paint a picture for why we're asking for a person. When we first started getting involved with the Chamber, we had about \$4,000.00 in the bank. There was a lot of bartering going on, a lot of sponsorships for not really paying for sponsorships, tax returns not being done completely, and getting angry letters from the IRS. We had a lot of cleaning up to do and a lot of resetting of expectations to be able to do that. We've worked really hard to do that. A lot of turnover because it is a part-time job with a lot of work and many times it does bleed over the 20 hours. Since 2018 we've increased our prices, we've increased the sponsorship, we've maintained a balance of members in that same area but since 2018 we cannot grow past that. For the last four years it's been exactly the same because we don't have a full-time dedicated source doing anything. So, really when our manager resigned we were like well this is the time to decide. Can we push this forward and be much more meaningful in the community and to our members and to the businesses or are we confident that we can just stay the way we are and that is acceptable? There was a point where we thought about just collapsing because of the low funds in the account and how difficult it is to get volunteers and someone to work at that pay scale. We kept coming along but honestly, I've poured my heart and soul in with the chamber for the last four years and there's nowhere to go with volunteers. We've run it out so that's why the dollar figure is so high. We're asking for a skilled professional to come in and take us to the next level. I do want to reiterate that it's just for three years. Many reasons we asked for the three years but one of them is that the person that we hire knows that we have a timeline that we're working against and they're not going to be out of a job in six months if we don't hit some of our goals. It gives us the runway to do those things. I appreciate the smaller amounts that you were talking about but it really doesn't solve the problem. I would rather see you rededicate those to other groups in the community if we can't get the need. I don't mean that in a threatening kind of way, I just mean it is what it is. It's a person that we're talking about. I know there's a lot of talk about the bed tax but I just wanted to clarify that there are contracts the City has out of the general fund which I believe has grown three, four, five million dollars in balance over the last couple of years. It's up to 17 million dollars. Currently, Destination Canal Winchester gets \$22,000.00, Human Services gets \$63,000.00, the Barber Museum gets \$3,600.00, Historical Society gets \$8,000.00, so we were thinking it would be a contract in that fund similar to do with the other organizations. I think there was a question about the City and what they provide us, they're very generous giving us a family pool membership for the silent auction every year. We get a \$1,500.00 bed tax grant for the race and we get to use the Community Center twice a year. I did include in the email an example of our bed tax grant which I feel is very detailed and fact based showing an ROI. I'm not sure that everybody who asked for bed tax money does it but I included it because that's the kind of report we would then provide to you based on these funds. I kind of just wanted to provide the commentary as you read through it. We fully expect ad revenue and grants to be able to make up the \$60,000.00, we just need the runway to get it going. I tried to do that really fast. I'm sure you all read my document in the hour you had before the meeting started.

Amick – I read your previous proposal and I admittedly didn't get to read the one you just sent before the meeting started but can you tell me the number of businesses versus the number of memberships?

Mathias – There isn't a comprehensive list of the all the businesses in Canal Winchester that we could bounce up out list against to be able to say what's our penetration. We did do by zip code, we went through our memberships and 50% of our members have a physical location in 43110. We have members like South Central Power who is in Lancaster now I believe. They moved officially to a new location. We have JDog Junk Removal. They want to do business in Canal Winchester even though they don't have a physical storefront. This is an area they service or market to but we do have several of the largest employers. I heard a lot of talk about the downtown businesses and

I just want to clarify that we have Nifco, Manifold, Diley, and Nationwide Children's. We have several of the largest employers. We have turned down some members who want us to fight City Hall on their behalf and that's just not something we do. We may have lost a membership based on that because they wanted to join in solely for us to help them in their causes and that's not something we do. I wish I knew if there was a comprehensive list that we could do that with. Happy to do that if such thing exists.

Amick – Mr. Haire, do we have such a list of every business that's doing business within?

Haire – We have a comprehensive list that they have a physical location here. We are lacking in home-based businesses unless they're registered within the City.

Amick – Maybe you two could get together and see what you can come up with.

Mathias – Sure. Happy to do that.

Shea – If you've had no market penetration increase since 2018, have you thought maybe this New Albany model where it's combined, have you thought about looking at a model like that? Maybe combining the chamber and destination to make it a more potent organization.

Mathias – We'd be happy to have those discussions. Karen Stiles works 60 hours a day, I'm just not sure when that would happen. I mean that's something we could explore. Again, it would be based on volunteers right now and finding the time to do that.

Milliken – I think there was also some general concern about how you know, we did just give some money to the CWJRD and your proposal is kind of somewhat similar to that. I think some members of this body might be concerned that it's just going to have this domino effect of people coming to us and asking for money. I was on the record in this discussion of supporting you with the bed tax money. I guess help me understand why you'd rather see that money go somewhere else because I guess my thought process would be to take what money you can get and do something with it and be able to move that needle somewhere.

Mathias – I appreciate the thought behind it but what I need is a full-time person who can talk to members, get new members, convince them to come to our events, create an ad stream of revenue on our website. I need someone who can work with Lucas to welcome new businesses to the community. I need someone to go to Central Ohio Chamber events and understand best practices and what we're missing out on. All of that has to come from a person who works at the chamber. We've tried moving the needle for the last four years in our current model which is a part-time person that we can afford. By the way part-time in this scenario was \$15 to \$16 an hour. I'm not saying money is tied to smarts. I'm talking about who you can retain for that type of hourly pay. We want to pay somebody 30-ish dollars an hour who has the skill and the background of building a membership, an association and can market appropriately the events that we're doing to drive attendance and have sales goals that they have to hit. I understand what you're saying about the can of worms. I heard that a couple of times. I didn't catch the reference to the joint rec district but I don't think you ask them to do fundraising. They have a fund of money, they're using it to fund their personnel. As a business owner I get asked to fundraise from Brock Strong, Human Services, every sports team, and Labor Day. I mean, there's only so many places that the money can go. Again, the chamber is near and dear to nobody's heart but mine. From a can of worm's perspective, I would hope to change your perspective that if somebody in the community came forward with an idea and they wanted to show value, add results, were willing to come to the table, talk to you, and show you the progress we've made no matter where it came from that would be something the City would consider. I don't come asking for money just asking for money. We provided a whole list of what our plan was, how we were going to ease off the money in three-years, and willing to come to you twice a year to provide a report. I would expect anybody else coming to the City for money would do the same thing.

Shea – What happens to the chamber if you don't get the money?

Mathias – Honestly, I’m going to resign at the end. I’m tired. I cannot do it anymore and then it’s just going to revert to some networking lunches and a couple of events. Unless somebody else picks up my slack. I serve 200 families in the area with their financial status and there’s a limit to my ability to carry on at this pace without some real strategic support behind me. That’s fine. I mean, if that’s what you guys are comfortable with then that’s perfectly acceptable from a chamber. I just see the vision of so much more that it can be where we can offer certifications, and we can provide more guidance with small businesses. I see the future of what it can be. I just can’t do it alone. I’m sorry, that came out so harsh. It is what it is.

Clark – I appreciate your time tonight, thank you.

G. Adjournment @ 7:09 p.m.

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

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