



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes
November 6, 2017

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, November 6, 2017, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of the Louis J.R. Goorey Municipal Building, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rachael R. Dorothy, Douglas Foust, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, Michael C. Troper, and Bonnie D. Michael

Also present: City Manager Matthew Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Scott Bartter, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Chief of Fire & EMS Scott Highley, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Chief of Police Jerry Strait, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

There were sixteen visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Michael invited all to stand and join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

VISITOR COMMENTS

No visitor comments

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Committee of the Whole – October 9, 2017
- Special Meeting – October 16, 2017
- Regular Meeting – October 16, 2017

Mr. Norstrom commented that in the minutes of October 16, 2017, Item 5.C. Page 9 of 33, he referred to “CoverMyMeds” and not “Govern My Meds”.

MOTION

Mr. Foust moved to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 9th and the Special Meeting minutes of October 16th as presented and the Regular Meeting minutes of October 16th as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The motion to approve the minutes as corrected carried unanimously by a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

President Michael declared public hearings and voting on legislation previously introduced to be in order.

Ordinance 39-2017

An Ordinance Enacted by the City of Worthington, Franklin County, Ohio, in the Matter of the Stated Described Project, (FRA-SR161-8.86 to 9.04)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Ms. Michael reported this ordinance provides consent to the Ohio Department of Transportation to work on guardrail end replacements in Worthington along SR-161 between SR-315 and the west corporation limit.

Mr. Greeson shared that the City has an opportunity to provide our consent to this ODOT work. Staff recommends approval.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy the reason for the repair work, Mr. Whited reported it being for routine maintenance.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 39-2017. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 Foust, Troper, Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 39-2017 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

RESOLUTION NO. 64-2017

Authorizing an Amendment to the Final Development Plan for 2285 West Dublin-Granville Road (SR-161) and Authorizing a Variance (Victor & Lori Orta/Diamonds Ice Cream & Tomatillos)

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 64-2017. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

Mr. Brown reported that any type of Development Plan that has an amendment that has variances associated with it, it is required to go on to MPC with a recommendation to City Council for approval. The request is for variances to deviate from the four colors permitted

within our Planning and Zoning Code. It is for Tomatillos and Diamonds Ice Cream in the Linworth Plaza. The request went before Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) on October 26th. The Architectural Review Board did recommend approval of the signage itself. The MPC did recommend approval of the ADP to send on to City Council for approval.

Ms. Dorothy asked what the mitigating factors were that allowed for more than four colors. Mr. Brown replied that the center is actually in the western portion of the Plaza. The additional colors are part of their branding and the Board did not think it deviated too much from our code requirements. There are various shades of a variety of colors that did not stray too far from our code so the Board felt it was appropriate to recommend approval to Council.

Mr. Myers shared that the landlord had adopted design guidelines for the Plaza which were approved with the Development Plan. He thinks the Board was okay with the deviation when he came forward and spoke to say that he was willing to accept the design even though it did not fit with his own design guidelines. Other factors include this being the first outlet in Columbus for these two establishments and they are located on the far western edge of the plaza.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 64-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Policy Item(s)

Alcohol on City-Owned Property (Kilbourne Memorial Library Building)

Ms. Michael acknowledged that Mr. Davis of COhatch was present. She requested that Policy Item 8.A.I. – Alcohol on City-Owned Property (Kilbourne Memorial Library Building) be moved up on the Agenda and discussed at this time. She reported that this item would add the Kilbourne Memorial Library Building at 752 High St. to the list of properties exempted from the City's alcohol prohibition.

Mr. Greeson explained that at a previous meeting members and staff discussed this matter and members asked that we invite Mr. Davis with COhatch to this meeting so that he can be a part of our conversation. He welcomed Mr. Davis to the meeting and thanked him for his willingness to work with us through this matter.

We entered into a lease relationship with COhatch, who occupies the lower floor and the south end of the Kilbourne Building. They operate an innovative co-working center in what is called the makery. When we negotiated the lease with COhatch similar to Sweet Carrot before them the participants in that negotiation and the parties understood that alcohol was going to be allowed within the private leasehold, inside the walls, and on the outdoor private patio leasehold. This intent was reflected in the lease terms between the City and COhatch where we proactively limited alcohol consumption on the outdoor private patio to non-school hours. We did this to be sensitive to the school use. The area in question does not include the Village Green, the patio or walkway in front of the building but rather the patio and pergola area on the south and southeast corners. However, when the lease was approved there was one "I" not dotted or "T" not crossed if you will. That is an amendment to our administrative regulations.

We have a simple prohibition on alcohol on city-owned properties unless it is allowed in the administrative regulations by vote of the City Council. So when we adopted the lease by Ordinance we should have included that in that document. We have similarly done this for the McConnell Arts Center.

Mr. Davis and his partners at COhatch have worked in good faith with the City to resolve innumerable issues that have arisen in the renovation and activation in this building. They have invested well over \$600,000 in improving the asset. All of this has occurred with the understanding that alcohol was going to be allowed within what amounts to the private premises that we described. Staff is recommending that City Council adopt a motion that adds the James Kilbourne Memorial Library Building to the list of properties exempted from the City's alcohol prohibition. Mr. Davis will answer member's questions about how that works from an operational standpoint. In doing so staff believes that will be consistent with our arrangement with COhatch and with the goals we have for the Kilbourne Building.

Mr. Davis asked what questions members had.

Ms. Michael thinks that the concept was a concern in that somebody could be in the lower level perhaps creating a brewery and then giving out samples to people upstairs, almost like in violation of liquor laws. Mr. Davis reported that they have no plans on getting a liquor license or permit, and obviously the landlord would need to approve that. They have no plans on producing alcohol in The Madery. At one time there was something on our website that said we were entertaining the idea of a wine press for local crafted wine. We have since abandoned that idea due to space constraints. We are working with the food pantry to put in an off-site food pantry type of thing in that space instead. He added that they will never sell liquor or booze. The only time they plan on alcohol on the private patio is since it is an event space and was designed as such, many events have already been planned. It is kind of bring your own wine and beer for private events and also for their members to have after 3:00 p.m. on a weekday or weekend to be able to set on the patio and have a glass of wine as part of their membership. That is pretty much the extent of their alcohol use for private events that it was designed for and already have bookings for and for member use on the patio.

At Mr. Greeson's request, Mr. Davis provided a general update on new tenants and success stories at their two downtown locations.

Mr. Myers thanked Mr. Davis for coming in to speak with Council. He knows this has been a long and protracted experience. He hopes he understands that members just kind of needed a little handholding and comfort level because they are kind of struggling with where our attitudes becomes too liberal on alcohol and is that inconsistent with our position supporting things like Drug Safe Worthington. We really just kind of needed you to confirm what we already knew; that this is going to be contained to the patio and pretty reserved like your facility already is. It is not going to spill out into the public space. It is going to be adults behaving like adults. He appreciates him coming in and explaining that.

Mr. Foust shared that he was the one that had some questions and he is very appreciative of what he is doing. His question might almost go more towards City staff. He drove by and looked and the only question that he has that really didn't register before is whether there are openings out into the grassy area. He asked if someone could leave the private patio with a

beverage in hand. If so, then what controls that? Mr. Greeson thinks they would be outside the gate. Mr. Davis reported that the fence isn't up yet. There will be an iron gate that will go around and all the way in the back. Yes, someone could exit out of that gate and walk around just like they could at any bar downtown.

Mr. Foust said he sees the drawing that shows a full fence all the way around but the previous slide looked like there were openings in the fence. Mr. Davis explained that the only opening is actually where a tree is located. Mr. Foust concluded that the fence is a solid fence.

Mr. Foust stated that the only reason he is asking the question is because of the approach members took with regard to the DORA and we were very thoughtful about people being able to leave the designated area. When asked if that same kind of opportunity is available in this situation, Mr. Davis replied that this is stricter than the DORA, which has signs but no gate. We have a gate.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to add the James Kilbourne Memorial Library Building at 752 High Street to the list of properties exempted from the prohibition of alcohol on City property. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

There being no additional comments, the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Davis thanked members and reminded them of their grand opening event Friday night.

RESOLUTION NO. 65-2017 Authorizing an Amendment to the Final Development Plan for 910 High Street and Authorizing a Variance (Pet People)

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 64-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Brown reported that this ADP is for signage. This is for 910 High St., the new building just south of the CVS for Pet People. It went before MPC on October 12th. The ARB did recommend approval and MPC did recommend approval to go on to City Council with ADP. They are requesting a variance to have two signs. The Code permits one sign per business. The request is for two with one at the rear of the building, which is consistent with the one approved for the CVS site. Staff did issue a temporary use permit to help them keep in line with their opening dates with the caveat that the variance would need to be approved by MPC and Council. The applicant, Mr. Dee is here tonight if he wishes to speak.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy if customers can enter from both High St. and the parking lot, Mr. Brown replied yes. Mr. Myers thinks the principal entrance will be the rear entrance. That was one of the thoughts that the board had.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 65-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-2017

Authorizing an Amendment to the Final Development Plan for 7020-7030 Huntley Road and Authorizing a Variance (Milhoan Architects, LLC).

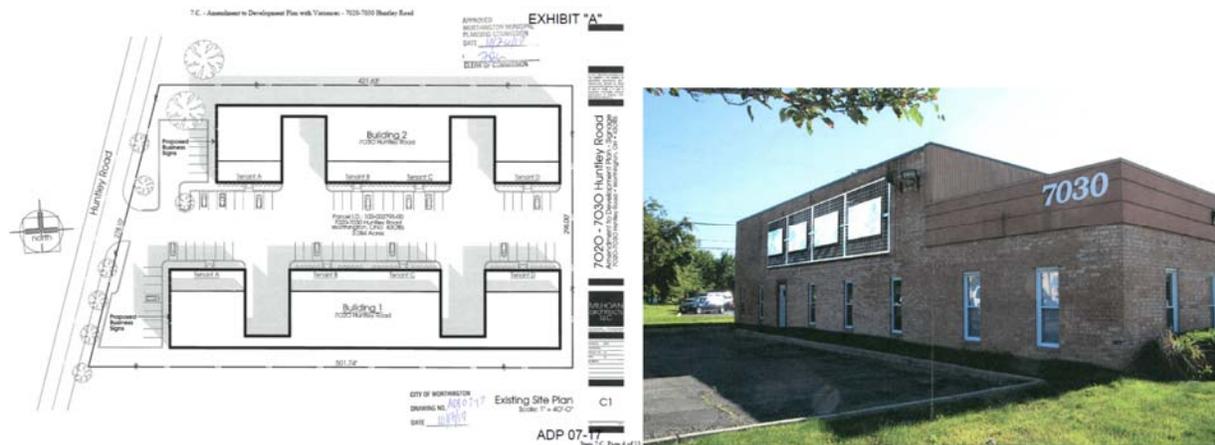
Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 66-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

Mr. Brown reported this being an Amendment to Development Plan with variances. The request is for two buildings located on the east side of Huntley Road. Each building has four tenants. The applicant is proposing to have two signs along Huntley Road to identify the tenants. The top building houses Zaftig Brewing. An oversized sign was approved by Council in 2016 for that business. This request will allow for future signage as Zaftig may evolve in the future. The two variances will allow for exceeding allowable sign area and more than one sign per business. Currently each of the four businesses have a sign over the front entrance by their door. This would allow for four signs along Huntley Road to identify the four tenants in the buildings.

It went before Municipal Planning Commission on October 26th. There was a long discussion over these two buildings and how best to identify the four businesses within the site. MPC did recommend approval at that meeting sending it on to City Council.



When asked by Ms. Dorothy if this is for future signs, Mr. Brown replied that it could be but it is also setting it up for the buildings to at least mirror each other. Staff understands that the northern building could be sooner and the Zaftig could be in phase II. But they are to be mirror images of each other so staff thought taking them together for approval at the same time would be appropriate.

Dustin Mondrach, 290 E. South St.

Mr. Mondrach commented that he is present to represent the building owner. After Zaftig installed its large sign along Huntley Rd. they received some complaints from some of the other

tenants. They thought if there was a way to dress up the buildings with a metal detail to dress up the brick a little and get these tenants some presence on Huntley Road at the same time that would be kind of a windfall. With regard to Zaftig, since this is a development as a whole, they are just getting approval for both buildings although the southern building may not happen right away.

Mr. Myers thinks that the Board liked this application a great deal. They thought it fit with the structure and the area as it looked a little industrial. They thought it looked really nice. But just so we are all clear, this is just in case something happens down the road, heaven forbid, right now that Zaftig is not going anywhere. Mr. Mondrach confirmed that they have no knowledge of Zaftig going anywhere at this time but that is probably between Zaftig as a tenant and the building owner, whatever they agree to work out.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 66-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 67- 2017

Amending the Staffing Chart of the City of Worthington to Provide for Twenty-six (26) Firefighter EMT-P Positions in the Division of Fire for up to a One Year Period.

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

MOTION

Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 66-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson shared that this is a renewal of a resolution that members previously approved. It gives staff time to fill officer level positions where there are vacancies. In order to ensure a continuity of service, staff went ahead and filled at the lower level while we go through the promotional process. That promotional process has begun but it not yet completed. This will allow us to renew that extended timeframe for the increased staffing chart at the lower levels.

When asked by Ms. Michael if staff would return after the promotions with a revised chart, Mr. Greeson replied no because it will expire.

Chief Highley added that we will have the same number of employees. This is just until we can change title of two individuals from firefighter to lieutenant and finish the testing process.

Ms. Dorothy asked if it is correct that this staffing helps reduce our reliance on overtime and we also get to train and have people in positions in time when we will be able to move firefighters to other positions. Chief Highley agreed that it limits overtime from the standpoint that they have full staffing. Had they not done this and waited to test to do a promotion and waited to fill that position until we had done the promotion we would have been two individuals short so that would have created more overtime. So this just keeps us at our same staffing level and doesn't create the vacancies which always causes overtime. Mr. Greeson added that people gain experience because they have opportunities to ride out class which means they get to serve in that lieutenant position when they are on shift.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 66-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Discussion Item(s)

- **Architectural Review Board Appeal – Mural at 627 High Street**

Ms. Michael commented that City Council will decide tonight whether to hear the appeal by the Old Worthington Partnership of the decision of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) to deny a request for a mural on the south side of La Chatelaine at 627 High St.

Mr. Norstrom stated that with his position on the Partnership, he will not be participating in this discussion or this vote.

Mr. Greeson explained the following bureaucratic process:

- An appeal was filed by Annina Parini, Executive Director of the Old Worthington Partnership, of the ARB's denial of a proposed mural on the south side of La Chatelaine at 627 High St.
- Section 1177.08 of the Planning and Zoning Code gives the Council discretion as to whether to hold a public hearing on the appeal.
- An affirmative vote of the majority of Council is required to elect to hold a public hearing.
 - If Council does not elect to hold a hearing, then the application for the appeal is rejected.
 - If Council elects to hold a hearing, then the hearing must be held within sixty days after the date of the decision by the ARB.
- The issue before the Council this evening is limited. It is a procedural issue of whether to hold a public hearing on the appeal.
- It seems a little bureaucratic but under the Code, the Council will not be addressing the substantive issue of whether the mural should be approved or denied.
- Discussion of that substantive issue is only appropriate after the Council has voted to hold a public hearing, staff has properly noticed the public hearing, and the interested parties have an opportunity to appear and offer their sworn testimony on the issue.
- It would be appropriate to have a member of Council make an affirmative motion, receive a second to begin the discussion. If there is no motion, then the Council is electing not to hold a hearing.
 - Appropriate Motion would be to hold a public hearing on the appeal filed by Ms. Parini on behalf of the Old Worthington Partnership.
- Staff believes a public hearing could be scheduled as early as November 20, 2017.

MOTION

Mr. Troper made a motion that City Council hold a public hearing on the appeal filed by Mr. Parini on behalf of the Old Worthington Partnership. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Mr. Myers confirmed that this discussion is not a hearing on the merits but merely a discretionary decision about whether members want to hear the merits of this case. So whether members want a mural or do not want a mural has nothing to do with this discussion. He takes issue with Mr. Greeson's characterization of this as bureaucratic as it is a very familiar process to him. In the court system, if you lose at the trial level, you have an automatic right to appeal to the Court of Appeals. Regardless of no matter how frivolous your appeal is, you still have that right. However, if you lose in the Court of Appeals and you want to appeal to the Supreme Court that is a discretionary appeal. The Supreme Court can decide whether they want to hear the appeal or not, much like Council. When he was with the Supreme Court, they accepted about 7% of all the requests. They are very selective on what they take. The criteria that you apply when you accept an appeal at the Supreme Court he thinks is the same that Council should apply in this case.

- 1) Does it present a great constitutional question?

Mr. Myers commented that in the case of Worthington he believes that would be a charter question. He doesn't think that exists in this case as no one is calling the charter into question with this appeal.

- 2) Does it present a matter of great public and general interest?

Mr. Myers thinks this one does. It was a matter that was very well attended at the ARB meeting and that members have heard a great deal of comment on. He thinks there is a great deal of public interests and this is a significant issue that should be decided by Council. It may very well be that when it comes before Council that members will determine to affirm the Board for whatever reason or it may be that we want to reverse the Board and allow the murals. That is a decision for a later date but he thinks that is the process that ought to be employed. Members should let it in and hear the testimony and make an informed decision after that testimony.

Mr. Smith commented that when he read the staff memo to Council about this issue, his gut reaction is that we need a policy for this because if Mike Duffey hears the Old Worthington Partnership is doing a mural and then the next person wants to do a mural and so on and so forth, members need to have some guidelines including murals on Huntley Road on Zaftig property and everything else. Then he started reading some of the e-mails that were sent and understands that to be their reaction as well. He asked Mr. Myers how he would propose getting a policy assuming everybody is in favor of doing something of that sort.

Mr. Myers commented that he thinks this discussion is misplaced at this point as he is addressing the merits and not the procedure as to whether this is a matter of great interest. It is a matter of great interest, therefore it fits the criteria to be heard. If ultimately members determine in good conscience that you can't support the application/mural because there are no guidelines that is a decision that you can make at that time. But that is a merits decision that has no place in this discussion tonight.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Lindsey if it is Council and each council representative's discretion to decide how they vote and for what purpose on an appeal, whether to hear it or not. Mr. Lindsey replied that each Council member does have a right to vote on this issue. The way the Code presents the issue, it is a procedural decision as to whether or not to hold the public hearing.

The analogy that Mr. Myers used is certainly a familiar one from a legal context in the discretionary appeals before either the Ohio Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court. So the decision as to whether to hold the appeal he thinks is an appropriate one as to whether it is a general interest. In voting to hold an appeal is in no way indicating a preference to grant the mural, in this case because it was the applicant who was denied so therefore holding the hearing isn't saying that you are going to grant the mural. The discussion as to whether or not that appeal should be granted in the absence of guidelines is a reasonable one that a Council member could consider in choosing to deny that appeal if you hold that public hearing. So the vote tonight really should be limited to whether or not members believe there is merit in having a public hearing on the appeal.

Ms. Michael commented that if the majority favor the concept of having a policy in place before moving forward to have murals in our community, we would have to hold the appeal and handle that at that point in time or is that something that gets done now? She is just trying to figure out the timing.

Mr. Lindsey referred back to his reply to Mr. Smith as to how one votes. That would be each council member's prerogative whether to do so or not. The question of whether or not to grant a mural in the absence of guidelines, he would agree with Mr. Myers, would appear to be more of a merit decision on the substantive issue as opposed to the procedural of whether or not having a public hearing on the appeal is appropriate. Certainly there may be members of the public, and he thinks if memory recalls, he believes that some of the members of the public that spoke before the ARB did express concern about the absence of guideline. So certainly there would be people who might want to speak to that issue if you were to hold a public hearing. Deciding that issue today would deprive them of that ability. It would also deprive the Partnership of offering any testimony as to why proceeding in the absence of guidelines would be appropriate in their situation. While it is ultimately the Council's decision whether to grant a public hearing or not, avoiding anything relating to the merits he thinks is the best course of action given the way the code describes this decision tonight.

Ms. Michael commented that in some ways it seems a little like dragging your feet in the sense that if the majority of people feel that guidelines are in order and we have an appeal and then we start working on the guidelines, we are putting the whole work on guidelines that much farther out.

Mr. Lindsey replied that at any point in time Council would have the prerogative to either establish a moratorium on future murals or to direct staff specifically as to adopting new legislation to provide those guidelines. But that is separate from the appeal that has now been presented. Members are really acting at this point in a quasi-judicial mode and not as a legislative body establishing policy. That is why he thinks it is best to separate the two issues but he can't tell members how to vote. That is your prerogative.

Mr. Foust commented that if members decline the appeal and then set about to craft policy during the months ahead, how does that affect the applicants ability to come back around once a policy is established, if at all and request a mural at that time under whatever policy unfolds. Mr. Myers replied that the applicant can certainly come back and apply again under any new guidelines members might draft but once again, we are missing the point here in his mind. All of our questions on the policy and guidelines are addressing the merits of the appeal. If you

ultimately decide after we hear the testimony from both sides that in good conscience you cannot reverse the denial of the mural because you want guidelines that is an appropriate merits decision. It is not an appropriate decision at this stage of the proceeding. Every person that testified and he believes every person that has e-mailed and he knows the Board unanimously said this is a matter that should come before Council. In his mind that means both guidelines and a hearing. By denying a hearing he believes members are usurping our responsibilities in hearing the matter. The shortcut would be to deny the hearing and it all goes away but for how long have members stressed the ability to allow people in this community to be heard. It has to be people we agree with as equally as people we disagree with. He offers no hint or guideline on what his ultimate decision would be but he thinks it is appropriate to at least hear the arguments and then make a decision. If that decision is that you can't make a decision without guidelines, then we do guidelines but that is a completely separate line of inquiry. If next week we want to convene a commission to start on guidelines at that same time we have an appeal, we can do that. They are two totally separate things.

Mr. Foust commented that if members agree to have the hearing and it is possible we could approve a mural out of that conversation. He asked if this situation is similar to what occurred with solar panels in which we granted one, it was cited as a precedent. We then granted a second and we got a policy in place, somewhere through all of that. Again, he is not arguing merits of any murals but he is concerned about the order of the process. He goes back to his earlier question of what is the harm in stepping back, developing policy, and then proceeding from there. Mr. Myers replied that he doesn't think there is any harm in that at all.

Mr. Troper asked wouldn't it be good to hear the appeal and hear the public's input on how they feel about murals to get their input on a policy.

Mr. Foust stated that perhaps he is confused. He thought the appeal would be content related and members will deal with this particular mural. He asked if that was correct. Mr. Myers agreed. He added that it will also, and he thinks he is correct that there will be some precedential value to whatever decision members make. Whether it is binding or not, it will certainly be used when the next mural comes along. One of the issues that the Board had is can you approve based on content and probably you cannot. There are 1st Amendment considerations when members review content, which is one of the things we were hoping the guidelines would be able to address. So he thinks that is an appropriate, if you feel that allowing the Partnerships mural would open up the ability for Mr. Duffey to put his mural in and you don't want that to happen then that is a reason to vote against the Partnership's mural. If you believe that you need guidelines before you can accept a mural that is a merit based reason to vote against having the mural and affirming the ARB's decision. If you support the mural and you believe this is an appropriate project then that is a reason to reverse ARB and vote to have the mural but all of those go to the merits. All we are asking at this point is if this is a matter that is significant enough that it ought to be heard by Council and not an appointed board. He thinks it should be heard by an elected body and that is why he believes it is a matter of great general importance that should be heard by Council. Ultimately we may affirm and we don't have murals but that is another day.

Mr. Troper commented that it was clear from the meeting that we could not make any decision based on context but public input could have some importance on location of murals, which was a part of the discussion too at the ARB meeting.

Ms. Michael thinks what she is hearing is that there is a significant portion of Council that would like to have some guidelines in place but would also like to give the applicant an opportunity to come and express.

Mr. Myers asked that she not impart that thinking to him because if we are going to have a hearing, he personally owes them an open mind and to hear both sides equally. He cannot preordain what his decision will be because at this point he doesn't know what his decision will be. He knows what he has heard so far and he will leave it to the arguments and the logical argument will prevail.

Mr. Smith asked a non-merit based question in that if members agree to hear the appeal, what statutes/guidelines/ordinances are we putting that appeal up against. He asked what members will use as their guidelines. Mr. Brown replied that by our Code, by definition the mural meets our definition for a sign. Mr. Myers added that it would require a variance for colors. Mr. Brown agreed.

Mr. Brown shared that they went before the Board of Zoning Appeals last Thursday and by a 4 to 1 vote they received their variance for color.

Mr. Smith concluded that members would be walking into an appeal with the signage framework with the variance. Ms. Michael agreed.

The motion to hear the appeal pass by a vote of 5 (Myers, Smith, Dorothy, Troper, Michael) to 1 (Foust). Mr. Norstrom abstained.

At Mr. Greeson's request and following some discussion, Council set the date to hear the appeal for December 11, 2017.

- **Proposed 2018-2022 Capital Improvements Program**

Mr. Greeson reported that as part of our annual budget process staff submitted a Five-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to members that looks at capital projects, maintenance projects, and the purchase of capital equipment. Ms. Stewart will lead us through a discussion of the large trends related to the CIP and towards the end will focus primary on the 2018 recommendations. We have a number of staff in the audience who can help – Asst. Fire Chief Bailot and Gene Oliver, our relatively new Information Technology Director.

Ms. Stewart shared that staff distributed the Capital Improvements Program information in October and actually highlighted some of the financial trends that were included with that proposal at the October 16th meeting. She will recap some of those trends but does not plan to spend much time on them unless members have questions.

Presentation Goals

- Recap overarching trends in the proposed CIP
- Highlight how City Council priorities are met
- Review the cash flow projections and the financial forecast for the CIP Fund

- Discuss the City's current and projected debt
- Discuss the impacts of the CIP's financial constraints
- If desired by City Council, discuss specific projects and equipment
 - Overview the 2018 projects and equipment
 - Highlight projects and equipment for 2019-2022

Trends in the CIP

- Investments primarily focused on maintain existing infrastructure
- Bond & license tax reimbursement revenue allows for additional investments in 2018
- Final four years of Community Center/Police Station debt
- New debt associated with mandated sewer projects and desired projects
- Building projects associated with age of buildings

City Council Priorities

- Park Master Plan
 - Renovation of McCord Park (2018-2020)
 - Restroom Facility at the Olentangy Parklands (2018)
 - Pickleball Courts (2018)
 - Playground replacement at East Granville Road Park (2020)
 - Playground replacement at Shaker Square Park (2021)
 - Replacement of Drinking Fountains in parks (2018-2020)

When asked by Mr. Troper when the playgrounds were last renovated, Mr. Hurley replied that there are three playgrounds shown specifically in the Five Year Plan (East Granville Road, Selby, and Shaker Square). They are all from the early to mid-90s in terms of their initial installation. There is also one at McCord Park that would be included in the renovations from that same timeframe.

- Bike & Pedestrian Accommodations
 - Continuation of Annual Allocation for Improvements (2018-2022)
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (2018)
 - East Wilson Bridge Road Shared Use Path (2018-2019)
 - Northeast Gateway Project (2018-2019)

Ms. Dorothy commented that members talked about McCord Park and we have in here the Wilson Bridge Road shared use path. She asked if either of those are candidates for application funding through the State. Ms. Stewart replied that she believes staff is looking at opportunities to supplement funds. In fact we do not have the full funding – showing that the City is fully funding the shared use path on East Wilson Bridge Rd. We do anticipate leveraging other funding, particularly from the state.

Mr. Myers commented that the East Wilson Bridge Road amount is \$800,000 and that is insufficient funds to build a path. Ms. Stewart agreed.

When asked by Ms. Michael how much more is needed, Ms. Stewart replied that staff is projecting a cost of about \$2.3M to build the shared use path along East Wilson Bridge Road.

Mr. Greeson added to the answer of Ms. Dorothy's question about McCord Park, later in tonight's meeting staff wants to talk with members a little more about the capital bill process. We think the East Wilson Bridge Road shared use path is a candidate for Greenways and Trails money. We think McCord Park would be a good candidate for the capital bill process, which is something we will talk about later in the meeting.

- Connection of Bike Lanes between Northeast Gateway project and Schrock Road
 - Shared Use Path included in Huntley Road Arterial Improvement (2021)

Ms. Michael commented that Huntley Rd. will connect into the Northeast Gateway. She asked if that was correct. Ms. Stewart replied yes. Ms. Michael stated that this project will be done after the Northeast Gateway is completed. Ms. Stewart again agreed. It will be the southern terminus of the Northeast Gateway project on Huntley down to Schrock. Timing wise, probably late 2019/early 2020 are when we are planning construction of the Northeast Gateway so right now this addition is scheduled for 2020/2021.

Ms. Dorothy commented that this is actually not five years out. There are other bike paths that have been five years out for five or ten years. This is actually only three years away.

- Wilson Bridge Road Corridor
 - Shared Use Path along East Wilson Bridge Road (2018-2019)
 - Opportunity for use of TIF revenue for West Wilson Bridge Road enhancements

When asked by Ms. Michael what kind of enhancements are being looked at for West Wilson Bridge Road, Mr. Greeson replied that the Wilson Bridge Road plan contemplates street lighting, pedestrian amenities as there are some gaps there in sidewalks. . . Ms. Michael asked if staff could look at a path from Corporate Hill to the Mall parking lot. Mr. Greeson agreed to that being one of the possibilities. In addition there are streetscaping opportunities (trees, signage, etc.). He added that there is probably a bigger list of items and opportunities to pursue than we have revenue currently off of that TIF so one of the things staff is working on is prioritizing those dollars.

- Waterlines
 - East Wilson Bridge Waterline Replacement (2018)
 - Inventory & Assessment of City's Waterlines (2019)
 - Multi-year Funding for Waterline Projects (2021-2022)

When asked by Ms. Dorothy why East Wilson Bridge Road has been prioritized for waterline replacement, Mr. Whited reported there being several waterlines in that area that consistently break. That road needs paved and we prefer to replace the waterline before paving the road so we are trying to do that from a timing perspective.

Ms. Dorothy asked if we have also asked the gas companies if they need to do anything before we tear up the road. Mr. Whited replied that they have not yet been contacted but they will be as

will the other utilities as well. He acknowledged there being significant other water line issues that we need to address. This multi-year funding and inventory assessment are high on our priority list to get accomplished for a multitude of reasons.

Overview of Proposed CIP

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
Projects	\$10,925,358	\$18,274,542	\$3,653,500	\$2,442,500	\$2,196,500	\$37,492,400
Equipment	\$2,490,200	\$1,040,000	\$1,236,578	\$1,265,000	\$883,000	\$6,914,778
Total	\$13,415,558	\$19,314,542	\$4,890,078	\$3,707,500	\$3,079,500	\$44,407,178

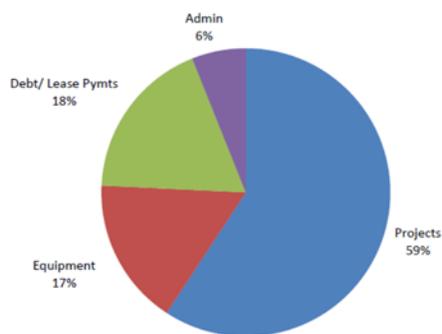
Ms. Stewart reported that much of the project funding in 2019 is for the Northeast Gateway project. Other notable projects include the HVAC project at the Community Center and the East Wilson Bridge Road water line. In equipment, there will be a number of investments in technology projects that were recommended from our Information Technology Assessment.

City’s Share of Proposed CIP

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Cost	\$13,415,558	\$19,314,542	\$4,890,078	\$3,707,500	\$3,079,500	\$44,407,178
City Sources	\$10,809,303	\$8,239,253	\$4,865,078	\$3,492,500	\$3,054,500	\$30,460,634
% City Share	80.6%	42.7%	99.5%	94.2%	99.2%	68.6%

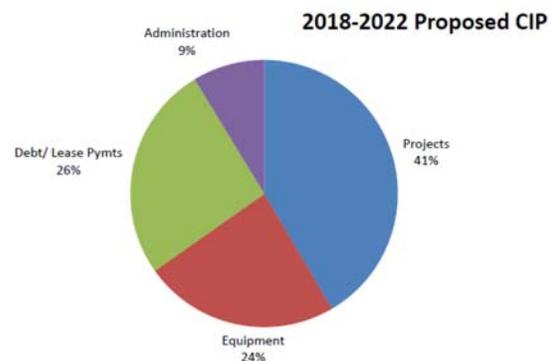
Expenditure Categories – CIP Fund

(includes bonded projects)



Expenditure Categories – CIP Fund

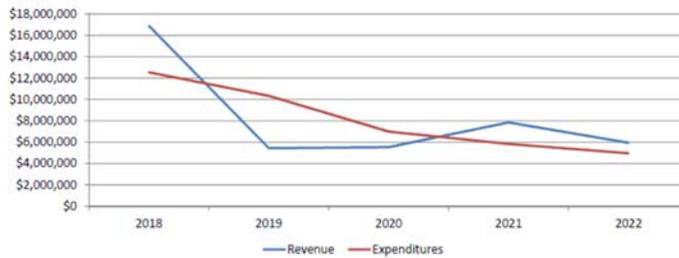
(excludes bonded projects)



Ms. Dorothy asked where we are getting our money to pay for the CIP. Ms. Stewart replied that the revenue that comes into the CIP is predominantly income tax (20% of income tax revenues support the CIP). In a year where bonds are issued, bond proceeds will come in to help pay for those bonded projects. We then pay off that debt using the ongoing revenue streams of income tax and a little bit of license tax. Ms. Dorothy understands the license tax to be about \$150,000 a year but then everything else is from our income tax. Ms. Stewart agreed. She added that we also utilize another license tax for arterial projects so the Huntley Rd. project that was done this year was through the arterial program that will be reimbursed from the license tax.

CIP Fund Revenue & Expenditures

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenue	\$16,878,009	\$5,437,052	\$5,542,293	\$7,849,639	\$5,949,131
Expenditures	\$12,531,814	\$10,333,209	\$6,993,435	\$5,830,016	\$4,959,950

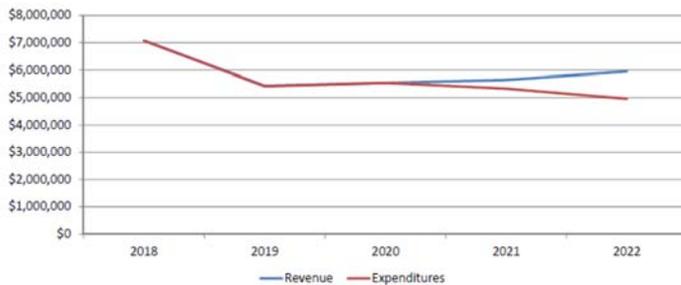


Ms. Stewart reported that the trend lines reflect bond revenue as well as bonded expenditures. We plan to issue bonds in 2018 and in 2021 which account for the spikes in those two years. On the revenue side in 2018, we also have some reimbursement of license tax revenue that will increase that line. On the expenditure side you do pick up the expenditures for the bonded projects so what we are planning on bonding in 2018 will be spent across a few years on projects.

CIP Fund Revenue & Expenditures

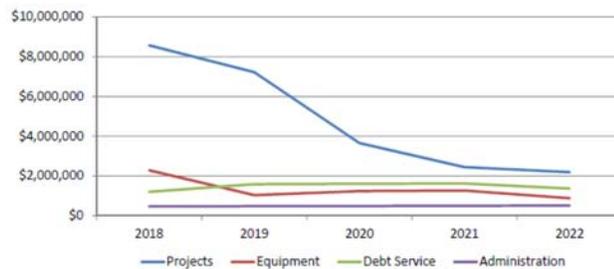
(excluding bonded revenue and projects)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenue	\$7,079,309	\$5,437,052	\$5,542,293	\$5,649,639	\$5,949,131
Expenditures	\$7,069,711	\$5,418,956	\$5,543,435	\$5,330,016	\$4,959,950



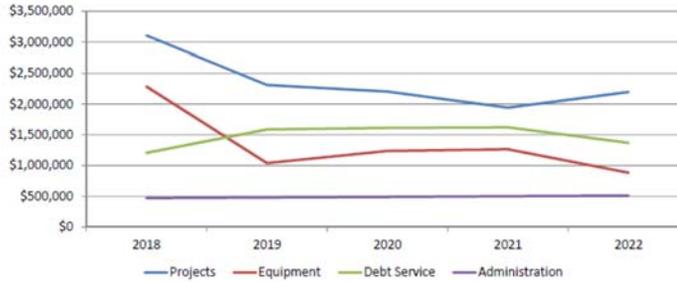
CIP Fund Expenditures

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Projects	\$8,569,103	\$7,224,253	\$3,653,500	\$2,442,500	\$2,196,500
Equipment	\$2,284,200	\$1,040,000	\$1,236,578	\$1,265,000	\$883,000
Debt Service	\$1,206,251	\$1,587,251	\$1,612,018	\$1,621,350	\$1,369,261
Administration	\$472,260	\$481,705	\$491,339	\$501,166	\$511,189



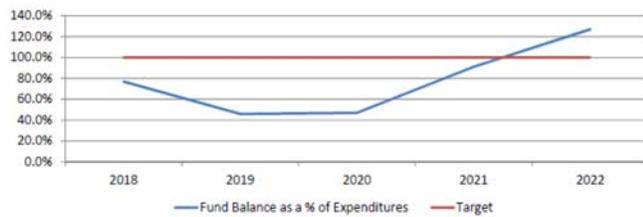
CIP Fund Expenditures
(excluding bonded projects)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Projects	\$3,107,000	\$2,310,000	\$2,203,500	\$1,942,500	\$2,196,500
Equipment	\$2,284,200	\$1,040,000	\$1,236,578	\$1,265,000	\$883,000
Debt Service	\$1,206,251	\$1,587,251	\$1,612,018	\$1,621,350	\$1,369,261
Administration	\$472,260	\$481,705	\$491,339	\$501,166	\$511,189



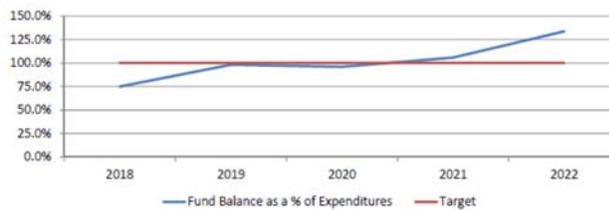
Five Year Forecast – CIP Fund

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Revenue	\$16,878,009	\$5,437,052	\$5,542,293	\$7,849,639	\$5,949,131
Total Expenditures	\$12,531,514	\$10,333,209	\$6,993,435	\$5,830,016	\$4,959,950
Fund Balance (FB)	\$9,637,718	\$4,741,561	\$3,290,419	\$5,310,042	\$6,299,223
FB as % of Budget	76.9%	45.9%	47.1%	91.1%	127.0%



Five Year Forecast – CIP Fund
(excluding bonded revenue and projects)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Revenue	\$7,079,309	\$5,437,052	\$5,542,293	\$5,649,639	\$5,949,131
Total Expenditures	\$7,069,711	\$5,418,956	\$5,543,435	\$5,330,016	\$4,959,950
Fund Balance (FB)	\$5,301,121	\$5,319,217	\$5,318,075	\$5,637,698	\$6,626,879
FB as % of Budget	75.0%	98.2%	95.9%	105.8%	133.6%



Debt Information

Current Debt Obligations

- 2015 Refunding Bonds (Police Division & Community Center Improvements) Maturing 12/01/2021
 - Interest: 1.62%
 - Original Issuance \$4,590,000
 - Remaining Principal as of 1/1/2018: \$3,040,000
 - Principal Payment Due in 2018: \$740,000
 - Interest Payment Due in 2018: \$49,248

Mr. Troper asked why we wouldn't pay off debt ahead of time if possible and save 1.62% interest. He is not saying we do it now but maybe at some point. Mr. Bartter replied that it is something that staff can evaluate as our fund balance begins to get stronger. In the past there has been an issue with having enough cash to fund the operations in the CIP before we paid off that debt. Now with income tax revenues being stronger that is something that we could potentially take a look at. Ms. Stewart added that these are bonds that have been refinanced as recently as 2015 to take advantage of lower interest rates.

Mr. Norstrom argued that if the rate of inflation is greater than our interest rate then we should spend and pay off with cheaper dollars in the future.

- OPWC 0% Loan Issued 2/15/2008 – ADA Ramps
 - Interest: 0%
 - Original Issuance \$156,201
 - Remaining Principal Due as of 1/1/2018: \$78,100.49
 - Annual Payments: \$7,810.06
- OPWC 0% Loan Issued 7/1/2015 – Kenyonbrook Sanitary Sewer Improvements
 - Interest: 0%
 - Original Issuance \$612,816
 - Remaining Principal Due as of 1/1/2018: \$561,747.96
 - Annual Payments: \$20,428
- 2017 Various Purpose bonds (Northeast Gateway Design, Sanitary Sewer Repairs & Bond Anticipation Note Repayment)
 - Interest: 2.21%
 - Original Issuance: \$3,960,000
 - Remaining Principal as of 1/1/2018: \$3,745,000
 - Principal Payment Due in 2018: \$220,000
 - Interest Payment Due in 2018: \$82,764.50

Current Projects to be Bonded - \$1,058,300

- Community Center South End Roof
- Northbrook Sewer Design

Future Proposed Debt Issuance Projects

- Northbrook Relief Sewer \$ 488,000

- Kenyonbrook Sewer Trunk \$1,210,000
- Oxford Court/SW Addition Sewer Improvement \$ 300,000
- North Districts Sanitary Sewer Improvements \$ 500,000
- North Districts Sanitary Sewer Repairs & Lining \$ 250,000
- West & Industrial Districts Sewer Improvements \$ 500,000
- Community Center HVAC & Lighting Improvements \$1,000,000
- Fire Station Roof Replacement \$ 330,400
- Municipal Building Windows & Door \$ 138,000
- Waterline Replacement – East Wilson Bridge Road \$1,000,000
- McCord Park Renovations \$ 850,000
- Huntley/Wilson Bridge/Worth. Galena Intersection \$4,959,956

Ms. Stewart shared that this figure is the City's share of the project. The City has submitted an application for Ohio Public Works Commission funding for that project. If we are successful we will be able to reduce the City's share of that project.

When asked by Ms. Michael if that was a grant or loan, Ms. Stewart replied that it was predominantly grant from what she recalled. Mr. Whited added that we gave the option for either but we would prefer the grant.

- East Wilson Bridge Road Shared Use Path \$ 800,000

Recurring Projects & Equipment (most occur annually)

- Street & Sidewalk Improvement
- Arterial Street Improvement
- Building Improvement
- Traffic Signal Improvement
- Urban Forestry Restoration
- Security System Improvements
- Bike & Pedestrian Improvements
- Police Cruisers & Mobile Data Terminals
- Community Wayfinding
- Small Equipment Replacement
- Computers

Ms. Dorothy commented that urban forestry restoration amounts have not been increased in quite a while. She knows that many trees were lost due to disease and the ash borer. She had some people ask if we were going to try to increase our street trees. She asked if there was any other money that we could allocate towards that or if there are any other funding sources that we are already using. Mr. Hurley replied that the \$7,500 allocation that shows up in the CIP annually at one point had been \$10,000. We utilized that money specifically to plant trees as recommended by the Arbor Advisory Committee. Typically they have been along our major corridors where we have seen ash tree taken out in great number or where we have specific projects in mind (up and down High St and on the SR-161 corridor). There are also some operating funds that are used by both the Service Dept. and the Parks Dept. for planting trees. There is also the City's cost share program where residents typically pay \$90.00 which is a little

less than half the cost of a tree that is planted in their right-of-way. So we have a few different methods for tree planting. Ms. Dorothy has an accurate point with the ash trees and other things as it has been difficult to keep up in terms of replacing tree for tree which of course is our goal. Some years we have been close to that and some years we have struggled.

Ms. Michael commented that the cost share program is lovely.

Ms. Dorothy concluded that there is no additional funding for that line item currently in this budget and it has even been reduced from previous years. Ms. Stewart agreed. She added that it is an annual allocation of \$7,500, which has been static for a number of years.

Mr. Myers shared that it would seem to him that with the number of ash trees that have been removed there might be a greater need. He asked if we can find another \$2,500 and if we can't, is it worth it. Mr. Greeson agreed that it was worth it. He agreed to find the additional funds. Mr. Myers added that he would like to know if we were going to get the best bang for our buck but it would be nice given how many we have already lost.

Mr. Hurley commented that the rate when we do bulk tree plantings is typically around \$200 per tree so every little bit helps. Ms. Dorothy added that she would support increasing the funding.

Mr. Greeson stated that members are not adopting the CIP tonight so staff can look at that number. This particular allocation is typically used by the Arbor Advisory Committee to accomplish a project. So the question may be if there was a little more money what additional project might be accomplished. Mr. Myers wondered if we need a more formalized plan to replace our ash trees. He doesn't know.

Mr. Hurley thinks we could probably provide an update when we go through because within the operating budget might be just as good a place as this and we can tell members some of the things we are doing with those funds in that presentation.

Members were agreeable to Mr. Hurley's suggestion.

2018 Projects (page 15)

Legal Mandates

- Northbrook Relief Sewer Phase II \$488,000
- Kenyonbrook Trunk Sewer (design) \$160,000
- Hardy Way Sanitary Sewer Relocation \$133,000

Essential for Basic Services

- Street & Sidewalk Improvement \$900,000
- Building Improvement Program \$200,000
- HVAC Improvements \$160,000
- Traffic Signal Improvements \$50,000
- Community Center Door Access Controls \$6,500
- Community Center HVAC & Lighting Improvements \$1,000,000
- Community Center Parking Lot Reconstruction \$175,000

• Fire Apparatus Bay Exhaust and Heater System	\$126,000
• Fire Hydrant Replacement & Painting	\$50,000
• Fire Station Roof Replacement	\$330,400
• Fleet Garage Floor Drain System & Lift	\$165,000
• Fuel Dispensing System and Tank Farm	\$175,000
• Municipal Building Roof Replacement	\$93,000
• Municipal Building Window and Door Replacements	\$138,000
• Old Worthington Street Light & Mast Arm Rehabilitation	\$85,000
• SR 315 Pavement Maintenance	\$75,000
• Waterline Replacement – East Wilson Bridge Road	\$1,000,000

Ms. Stewart noted that the Building Improvement Program has been increased in an effort to keep up with what staff felt were the needs of our buildings. There are also several HVAC improvement projects that need attention. Staff sees that as an opportunity to increase the efficiencies of the systems.

Ms. Dorothy commented that staff might want to track what the existing baseline is so when we do have our sustainability policy in place we can see how much we have improved with the replacements. It would be good to have that baseline information. Mr. Whited acknowledged that staff will absolutely do that and not just with the community center project but the rest of the projects we are encountering with HVAC improvements. Our consultants have been very good at educating us so that we can best do that work as well as some work we are doing with MORPC. We have a meeting next week to further advance our opportunities to do that.

Ms. Michael shared that she is glad to hear that the Griswold Center will be getting its HVAC fixed.

Improvements to Basic Service

• Urban Forestry Restoration	\$7,500
• CBD Paver Renovation	\$20,000
• CBD Holiday Decoration Replacement	\$45,000
• Community Center Water Slide Refurbishing	\$4,500
• Granby Street Storm Drainage	\$20,000
• McCord Park Renovations – Phase I	\$200,000
• Storm Drainage Culvert Improvement at North Corp.	\$6,000
• Huntley/Wilson Bridge/Worthington Galena (utilities & ROW)	\$4,501,958

Enhancement/Discretionary

• Bike & Pedestrian Improvements	\$100,000
• Community Wayfinding Signage	\$75,000
• East Wilson Bridge Road Shared Use Path (design)	\$228,000
• Olentangy Parklands Restrooms	\$120,000
• Pickleball Courts at Olentangy Parklands	\$37,500
• Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan	\$50,000

Mr. Norstrom stated that members have talked about our sidewalk policy and how the existing policy hasn't worked. We have talked about the Bike and Pedestrian Committee coming to

members with some suggestions for sidewalk improvements but at this point the budget does not have any money in it for those items, does it? Ms. Stewart confirmed that there were no specific funds for sidewalks. The master plan for bike and pedestrian in general, which will look at what our priorities should be in this area. But we do not have specific sidewalk projects allocated. Mr. Greeson added that the \$100,000 could be allocated to whatever the Bike and Ped Board recommends.

2018 Equipment (page 34)

Administration/Information Technology

• Computer Replacement	\$85,000
• Networking Equipment Infrastructure Upgrade	\$150,000
• Phone Upgrade Program	\$100,000
• Public Safety Hardware, Servers & Upgrades	\$325,000
• Radios	\$100,000
• Server Virtualization	\$125,000
• Timekeeping Software/Hardware	\$15,000

Ms. Stewart commented that most equipment is for replacement items with one exception being in the Administration/Information Technology section. Many of the IT projects were recommended by the IT assessment. While we are looking at replacements, we are also looking at upgrades of existing equipment. As Mr. Greeson mentioned we do have Gene Oliver here to talk more about the IT projects if members have questions about them.

Fire & EMS

• Small Equipment Replacement	\$15,000
• Fire Hose	\$13,000
• Fire Initial Issue	\$18,000
• Firefighter Protective Equipment	\$45,000
• Physical Fitness Equipment	\$6,500
• Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	\$250,000

Ms. Stewart noted that staff intends to pursue a grant for the majority of the cost of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Parks & Recreation

• Small Equipment Replacement	\$15,000
• ¾ Ton Pickup with Lift Gate (replacement of van)	\$42,000
• Community Center Copier	\$20,000
• Community Center Fitness Equipment	\$50,000
• Griswold Center Chairs (Topping & Case Rooms)	\$11,700
• Parks Drinking Fountain Replacement	\$10,000
• Pool Equipment	\$15,000
• Transit Bus	\$85,000
• Turf Mowers (2)	\$19,000

Planning & Building

- Staff Vehicle \$23,000
- Work Management Software \$125,000

Police

- Mobile Data Terminals – Police \$22,000
- Police Cruisers (3) \$127,000
- Evidential Breath Testing Device (B.A.C. machine) \$10,000
- Furniture – Communication Center \$57,000
- Police Initial Issue \$19,500

Service & Engineering

- Small Equipment Replacement \$12,000
- 2 ½ Ton Dump Truck with Plow & Spreader \$170,000
- ¾ Ton Pickup \$42,000
- Mobile Equipment (GPS Mapping Unit & OUPS Locator) \$5,100
- Leaf Vacuum \$75,000
- Loader \$206,000
- Plotter & Scanner \$12,000
- Wide Area Mower & Trailer \$75,000

Ms. Stewart commented that the Loader is purposed to be purchased from a five year lease. The \$206,000 is the projected cost but it will be spread out with lease payments.

When asked by Ms. Michael if the loader would be leased or owned, Ms. Stewart confirmed that it will be a lease but there will likely be an option to buy if we choose to do so.

Ms. Dorothy shared that some in the community wonder if we look at the use we have for these units and then evaluate options (share with someone else or lease or buy). She asked if we have done an analysis of what would be best for us to buy. Mr. Whited confirmed that it is looked at. For example, a loader is one piece of equipment that you would hope could be borrowed and loaned but often everybody would need it at the same time for things like loading salt. Staff does look at that and has actually instituted some more meetings with our peers locally to see what equipment and materials that we can share.

Ms. Stewart reported that being the end of her summary for 2018. She does however have slides for 2019 – 2022 if members want to go through them.

Mr. Norstrom stated that he would like to go back to the IT information to get an understanding. We are spending about \$900,000 and not just on replacements. He wondered what the state of our IT will be in a year from now.

Mr. Oliver reported that the IT infrastructure is very old. It is at the end of its useful life and has no maintenance on it. If we have something that falls into disrepair we either have to purchase the new item or try to find a useful spare amongst the equipment that we do have. The plan is to modernize the infrastructure to bring everything under a maintenance agreement. We will also generate a number of efficiencies as a result of doing this. For example, the virtualization project lets us take twenty five servers down to three, which will reduce our power consumption,

electric utilization for cooling and provide some additional capabilities in term of failover and disaster recovery.

When asked by Mr. Norstrom if we are leasing or buying equipment, Mr. Oliver replied that we are planning to buy. We typically hold the assets for a very long time and use them for well beyond the lease term. He thinks in most cases it makes sense to buy.

When asked by Ms. Michael what is considered “a long time”, Mr. Oliver replied that much of the equipment we have has been in place for eight to ten years.

Mr. Norstrom pointed out that if the equipment is leased then you continue to have upgraded equipment every three or four years. We bought and then held on to it for a very long time. Given the rapid rate of technology advancement, he asked if that gap widens as we go out. He asked how we stay current with our equipment. Mr. Oliver replied that the plan is to get the baseline infrastructure modernized and then to continue to make smaller investments over time so we don't get as far behind as we are today.

Mr. Troper commented that on the capital side, he had recommended that we move up replacing the equipment in the Heischman Park a few years ago. He would like to see the equipment replacement for East Granville Park and Shaker Square moved up if possible. The equipment is thirty five years old. The replacement costs \$95,000. He doesn't think moving it us two or three years will create a significant financial issue for operations.

Mr. Norstrom commented that if we don't pay down debt then we would have the money to put into parks. He asked how this request stands in terms of the parks master plan that members were presented earlier. Mr. Hurley replied that all of the playgrounds that are in the current CIP were identified with a list of priority. Often it is the serving of playgrounds that begins having issues. That is why Selby which originally wasn't listed as one of those playgrounds. We have had more issues because it is one of the highest used playgrounds. We discovered in our inspection program this year some failing components to that so it got thrust into this conversation as well. But all of those playgrounds are in that window. Staff anticipates that we can maintain them until then in terms of our standards and safety. However, aesthetically and how they look and feel are well past due.

Mr. Greeson reported that staff would look at the cash flow impact of Mr. Troper's request and make any suggested changes and identify the consequences of that if any from both a cash flow standpoint and other projects that may need to be impacted in order to accomplish the request if that is something that members want staff to look at. Mr. Troper requested the evaluation.

Mr. Greeson commented that at the end of the meeting staff is going to request some time to go over the capital bill. Members see in the CIP document in total about \$850,000 for McCord Park, which we are in the process of doing a long term master plan for that property. While that amount is significant, it will not be enough to cover all of the ideas that are emerging in that master plan. It is however what we thought we could afford in the five year CIP so we thought we could accomplish some of it. We have applied for the local share for the Northeast Gateway project to be funded by OPWC and will likely know if we are successful sometime in December. We are very optimistic about receiving some significant funding for that project. If we receive significant funding from OPWC that offsets our local share of that project, which has been our

plan all along, we have three priorities that we would suggest applying those funds to. 1) reduce the total debt, 2) aesthetic features of the Northeast Gateway Project and making sure that the aesthetics have a positive impact; and 3) look at potentially accomplishing currently unfunded aspects of McCord Park. Those would be the three areas we would seek to address as we are significantly successful with OPWC funds. So while we recommend that members adopt the CIP in large part the way it is, we have some potential influx of revenue that would cause us to come back and look at a few things either during the year next year or with next year's CIP.

Ms. Michael asked if we are looking at seeking some state funding for any of our projects. Mr. Greeson replied that we have received two communications on that front. One is due January 1st and one has a very short turnaround (this week). Staff would recommend that McCord Park be the one that we apply for. We have \$850,000 proposed in this five year CIP. Mr. Hurley can speak to how the master plan estimates are shaping up but we should ask for at least a million dollars from the state capital bill fund for that project.

Mr. Hurley shared that the Parks and Recreation Commission is nearing an end to what we call a conceptual planning process, which many saw at both the public open house and during his presentation afterwards. They are currently working through some of the resident concerns that were brought forward during that process and trying to finalize that concept plan. Kind of parallel to that the consultants at Pod Design have been working on some cost estimating. We anticipate the plan as it is being shown right now in the \$2 to \$2½ million price range. That includes the playgrounds, field renovations, the walking path around the park, the restroom facility, etc. Obviously in a concept plan the price can be driven higher or lower once the design work begins. So that is a placeholder but it gives us some idea of the scope of the ideas that the Parks Commission and the community have shared. Ultimately the Parks and Recreation Commission will be passing along the final concept to Council. Staff anticipates that occurring either at their November or December meeting. He would therefore expect the concept plan to come to Council by the beginning of the New Year. As Mr. Greeson noted, we believe that by going ahead and making this initial informal request and then certainly in January a formal request of at least \$1 million dollars to obviously help fill the gap of what we feel we are able to show now in the CIP would be a great path forward.

When asked by Ms. Michael if any Council members had a problem with McCord Park being identified as the project for the City, no one objected.

Mr. Myers added that he thinks he stated a couple of weeks ago that he is kind of excited about McCord Park as it is kind of close to his heart. He thinks it complements the Northeast Gateway Project. He wants to make certain that we don't do either one of these two on the cheap. We are already looking at spending somewhere between \$12 and \$20 million dollars so he really doesn't want to cut \$100,000 and have concrete block restrooms instead of stacked stones restrooms. He wants to make it look nice.

Mr. Hurley shared that the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Michelle Miller is here tonight so she could also speak to that process. He thanked Mr. Myers for his comments.

Ms. Michael reported that Mr. Greeson has Council's consensus to move forward with the request for McCord Park. Mr. Greeson commented that staff understands the Northeast Gateway and McCord Park offer an opportunity to really enhance that whole part of our

community. We have attracted significant federal funding already to that area and are progressively pursuing both the OPWC money and we will do the same with the legislative money because every dollar that we attract helps us achieve Mr. Myers' goal of not being chintzy.

Information Item(s)

- Godown Dog Park Parking Lot Expansion Update

Mr. Hurley shared that one of the priority park improvements from that parks master plan was the addition of parking at the very popular Godown Dog Park. So we have been working with our partners, the City of Columbus. Actually this conversation moved forward quickly as a result of WOOF, who has since disbanded but in one of their final acts, their contribution of \$30,087 to kind of kick start this parking expansion really got this conversation started. We had initially shown in our CIP some matching funds as our current lease agreement shows that we will match with the City of Columbus any capital improvements. As the parking lot project grew and as the price tag grew we were able to work with Columbus and they are fully funding the gap between WOOF's donation and the cost of the project. The exchange is that they would like to negotiate further years out of our operation which is what we have currently been providing. This improvement, other than the WOOF contribution, is being fully funded by the City of Columbus, which is great for us as we are already in the process of maintaining the park. The bids came in at \$208,585 for the total project. That will add thirty three spaces. There are currently forty eight parking spaces so not quite double. If members have been out there on any kind of a decent day you will know that people are parking in mud and on the side of the road and across the street at the apartments so it is a much needed improvement. It is already underway and weather permitting will wrap up before the end of the year.

When asked by Ms. Michael if people are still able to park there in the meantime, Mr. Hurley replied yes but there will be some limits while they are working. We have asked them to maintain the lot as open. The work is being done by Strawser Paving who we have worked with on some of our projects so we are staying in touch with them and have weekly meetings to monitor the progress. There will be some inconvenience but we are under the impression that we will be able to keep the park open.

Ms. Michael commented that she was informed today about a deadly flu that dogs can catch. She asked how that affects the dog park. Mr. Hurley reported that he and Mr. Norstrom actually had a conversation about that. Staff has become aware of that from some of our other dog park partners and we have had information posted out at the dog park just to dog owners to make them aware. We certainly encouraged them not to bring any dogs to the park that are showing symptoms.

Other items

Mr. Greeson shared the followings items:

- Worthington Chamber of Commerce is having their business after hours on Thursday that recognizes public officials.
- Graduation of the first Citizens Academy is next Wednesday (November 15th)

- The offices are closed this Friday for Veterans Day
- Robyn Stewart has participated as a designee to the Technical Advisory Committee of the OSU Airport. He asked her to share about an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Stewart shared that a year or more ago when Dean Williams came he mentioned that they would be looking at updating the OSU Airport Master Plan. They are kicking off that process. She attended a Technical Advisory Committee meeting last week where they really just got input from various people on that committee about interest, desires, future vision for the airport but they are about to kick off a public dialogue around that. They have indicated that they will hold a public meeting on December 5th in the evening at OSU airport. She will work with Anne Brown on our staff to get information out through our channels. They will be announcing a great deal of information themselves but it is really an opportunity for the public to come and learn about the process and a schedule for how they plan to tackle the master plan update process. They are looking to get input from people who attend regarding their thoughts on the airport and any concerns or values they have related to the airport that they want to communicate. So this is kind of the start of that process. It looks like the schedule will take about a year to get through the entire process but it will be kicking here soon.

- Third Quarter Reports have been distributed at members' places.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Smith shared that last week he attended several sessions at the Ohio Municipal League Conference here in town. It was very interesting that the big topics were the same as what our City has been talking about the last few months with the State House Bills. Something that was of extra interest was the next generation of self-driving vehicles and self-driving drones, which apparently already exists in action in Dubai. The speaker from Connecticut believes this will happen sooner than anybody thinks currently and it will have a major impact on our tax revenues because of license tax and gas tax.

Ms. Michael shared that she went through a tour and a hearing of Smart Columbus and they are actually testing those types of vehicles and retro fitting some vehicles in one area of Columbus. It is closer than you think.

Mr. Myers informed members that their hard working MPC/ARB, the last two meetings have gone until 11:30 p.m. and the last one was 12:45 a.m. when we got out and they start at 7:00 p.m. So your boards work pretty hard for you.

Ms. Dorothy shared that the school facilities citizens committee that she was a part of wrapped up their recommendations on the 25th to submit to the Board and staff. They submitted a recommendation with the preface knowing that it would be changed but we have been meeting for almost a year and a half. The body's recommendation was K-5, moving to four middle schools and getting a great deal of money for rebuilding and maintaining existing school buildings so that still needs to go to the school board. There will be a levy request for the schools probably in 2018.

