



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes

March 9, 2020

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2020, 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 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Peter Bucher, Rachael R. Dorothy, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers David Robinson, Douglas K. Smith, and Bonnie D. Michael

Member(s) Absent:

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

There were eight visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

Michael Bates, 6560 Evening St.

Mr. Bates stated that he was there on behalf of WARD, who presented Council with a white paper in 2018. With Ohio Health proposing to build on the UMCH site, it seems like a good time to look at that paper again. He understands that UMCH will be discussed at the Council Retreat this weekend. He stated that WARD wants to be able to provide public comments during that discussion and asked if that was acceptable.

President Michael read through the Agenda which members received at tonight's meeting. There was no mention of UMCH specifically.

The following amendment was made by motion and approved at the City Council meeting of April 13, 2020.

~~*Mr. Robinson understands that the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed during the retreat.*~~

~~*President Michael commented that the retreat facilitator, Marty Jenkins developed the agenda based on comments he received from Council members.*~~

~~*Mr. Robinson stated that he does not think that public comments are welcome. President Michael acknowledged that comments have not been allowed in the past since the floor would have to be opened for anyone and everyone.*~~

~~*Mr. Myers shared that the retreat is not a public hearing. It is an opportunity for members to speak uninhibited. It is the one time that Council members can just talk. He assured Mr. Bates that there will be multiple opportunities for residents to participate in public comments, but the retreat is not the appropriate time.*~~

~~*Mr. Bates stated that the answer is "no" then. Members agreed.*~~

Mr. Robinson stated that he remembers the issue of the Comprehensive Plan being brought up at Council and it was agreed that it would be discussed at the retreat, so he was a bit surprised...

Ms. Dorothy answered that she was going to say the same thing, that she expected that the Comprehensive Plan would at least be brought up, and maybe not thoroughly discussed but at least talked about briefly.

Mr. Robinson asked who established the agenda for the retreat?

President Michael said that everybody gave comments to Marty Jenkins and based on those he had organized them. She said that she's sure the Comprehensive Plan and other topics will come up.

Mr. Robinson stated that UMCH is nothing less than the most important topic facing the city, and that Council would be remiss to not specifically discuss it and allow time for it.

President Michael stated she is sure we'll have some discussion.

Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. Bates for coming and bringing the issue to Council's attention. He added that he thought Mr. Bates had asked a specific question as to whether Council would in fact welcome public comment. His understanding is

that it will not be allowed, but that this should be explicitly stated if that is the case.

President Michael stated that the retreat is an open meeting, and if residents want to come and listen that is OK, but the focus is a very intensive time for Council to come to terms with Council's plans and vision.

Mr. Bates stated that he understood that he has been to retreats before and listened, but what is different is the opportunity to comment and that is what we're asking. He asked, yes or no? If the answer is yes that would be fine, and if no then he guesses they understand that.

President Michael stated that in the past we haven't had that, and that she knows that this is such an important issue, and if we had one group to discuss we'd have to open it up to all the different groups that have thoughts and interest in it, and there are several different groups beside WARD that have very definite, strong interests. She said if nothing else the project community park group, so if Council lets one group, they should be letting the others, so she thinks we should keep this to Council.

Mr. Bates stated that he understood this, but asked what is the problem if other groups are allowed to comment?

Mr. Myers stated that this is not a public hearing on any issue and that the retreats are more freewheeling. This is the one time when Council can speak in a little more uninhibited manner, and there's always some structure and framework based on goals and vision, and in that context, Council almost always touches upon the significant issues confronting us. But this is the one opportunity that Council can sit down and discuss among themselves. He stated that there will be opportunity if this comes up, and he hopes it will, in a public session and not just as an application, that we will actually have a discussion in public on this particular subject. He stated that it is not just UMCH—that there are fundamental issues underlying UMCH that we have never addressed as a community that need to be addressed in a much broader context, and he would ask for Mr. Bates' courtesy to allow Council to have that discussion among themselves. There will be opportunity before anything happens for the public to give input on multiple occasions on this subject. But this is not a deliberative meeting. This is more of a goal-setting meeting, and Council needs that one opportunity a year to carry that out.

President Michael stated that, echoing Mr. Myers, there is no way Council would have something regarding UMCH and the Comprehensive Plan without having extensive opportunity for public input. She stated that we all know this is too important to this community and it's only right and fair that we have meetings and opportunities for people to express their views, express their thoughts in dedicated time to these issues. She added that, rest assured, as long as she

has something to do with it there will be meetings and public opportunities for input regarding these topics before anything gets forwarded and finalized.

Mr. Bates asked, just so he was clear, whether the answer was No?

Mr. Myers stated that in his opinion, yes.

Mr. Bates thanked Council.

Mr. Robinson stated that, for the record, he found Mr. Bates' question to be very understandable and justified given the absence of dialog publicly for the last four and a half years since the meeting at the W.E.C. He thanked Mr. Bates.

Mr. Myers stated that he took issue with that comment. He said that there had been more dialog on this subject than any other subject that has come before Council in his 18 years of sitting behind the table. He asked whether this had been directed and focused and appropriate and had it accomplished anything? He answered, no. But he stated that this subject has been discussed more than any other topic before Worthington at least in the time he has been here.

Mr. Robinson stated that he didn't recall the subject being on the Council's agenda for the last few years, and asked if it had been. He said maybe he had missed it. (pause) He concluded with: Enough said—thank you.

End of Amendment

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Community Visioning Committee Update

Joe Sherman, Chair of the Community Visioning Committee stated that he was last before Council on February 2nd. He explained how the Committee has been very busy since that time. They have completed the data gathering part of this process and are now heading into the public engagement and outreach campaign. He emphasized how their goal is to engage at least 80% of the community. They will be reaching out through the website and giving people an interactive opportunity to engage. The Committee will use that information to help see if they are reaching that goal.

The Committee's activities have also been showcased in the Village Talks newsletter with a great front-page feature talking about who they are, where to find the website, and inviting people to the outreach meetings and upcoming workshops. We also have a committee member going out into the community and distributing the Vision Worthington brochure to fifteen predetermined spots. We will be monitoring those location to track how many people are picking them up. There have also been individual business cards printed up with committee member's names, contact information, and a QR code that will take you to the website.

Mr. Sherman detailed how the Committee wants to reach out to as many people as possible and asked if they could have a listing of all the people who have applied to serve on various boards and commissions for the City. They would like to put out an email asking them to be a part of a working group. There are eleven neighborhood areas, and they would like to take the group and have them become teams that will be assigned to each of these individual neighborhoods. These neighborhoods also have Facebook pages where they will begin to reach out to them.

Mr. Sherman detailed how currently the website is undergoing a redesign where it will be reinvented. There will be improved navigation and areas showcasing upcoming events in the community. There will be new features that will be targeted to drive specific questions around the past, present, and future of Worthington.

He explained how they have also had tee shirts created so that people who are part of the group will be visible and accountable.

Mr. Sherman presented how there are upcoming in person events. They will be working on having focus groups with two in April and two in May. There will also be the visioning charette which will be more intense in June. The interviews and applicant surveys have also been completed.

President Michael expressed her thanks for the work of the Visioning Committee and Mr. Sherman's leadership. It is wonderful the work you are accomplishing and how quickly you are doing so. She appreciates all the community outreach. It is great that Council is informed as to what the Committee is doing so when they talk to people in the community, they can point them to the different ways to engage in the visioning process. This is one of the most important things we are doing this year.

Mr. Sherman brought up one point he forgot to mention and that is in July, they will dive into the website and find out what neighborhoods they have not been getting feedback from, and they will go door to door.

President Michael asked if it is okay to give out the contact information of the people who applied for positions with the city. She does not want us to violate anything as far as a promise of confidentiality. Mr. Greeson responded that he views this as being an appropriate City purpose, but we will take this request under further advisement.

President Michael noted that she has talked to different individuals and groups and that the Speakers Bureau will be an excellent way to let people know what opportunities are out there and how to learn more about the process.

Mr. Sherman brought up how he has also talked with Dr. Bowers with the Worthington Schools about how to get in front of the seniors at both high schools. He wants to develop five questions that would go out for them to answer. The questions are going to be based on what they want to see.

President Michael brought up the ambitious goal of 80% engagement with the community. She asked what exactly engagement means. Mr. Sherman replied that means having a meaningful conversation with people.

Mr. Robinson expressed how he likes the business card idea. He asked if they created a generic card that Councilmembers and others could carry and handout to people. Mr. Sherman responded that they created 250 generic cards and he can bring some to the upcoming Council Retreat. Mr. Robinson asked about the survey that will be going out and when they will be able to see the survey. Mr. Sherman explained that it is part of the engagement plan. They are looking at May 1st realistically. Mr. Robinson expressed that the questions are important in terms of what answers and data will be obtained.

Mr. Bucher thanked Mr. Sherman for the presentation. He said that he has completed his phone interview and he thought that the questions were thoughtful. He then asked about the Committee's work with the schools. Mr. Sherman explained how Dr. Bowers has presented to the Committee and has been very gracious helping with this process. Their involvement so far has been about getting the seniors involved. They are hopeful that the information from the seniors will be something they can build on. Mr. Greeson noted that information could be pushed out through the school newsletters and other materials if it is an option. President Michael mentioned the option of sharing information on the school's website. A lot of people might not go to the City's website who do go to the school website.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 17-2020

Amending the Staffing Chart of the City of Worthington to Provide for Seven (7) Fire Lieutenant Positions in the Division of Fire for up to a One Year Period.

Introduced by Mr. Bucher.

MOTION

Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 17-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson explained how there are exciting things happening in our Division of Fire and EMS. We currently have a vacancy for Fire Lieutenant, and we know there are going to be additional vacancies above that position, so we are recommending increasing the staffing chart to promote two fire lieutenants in anticipation of having two vacancies in the future. We have a list of currently eligible employees for promotion.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 17-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 18-2020

Amending the Position Descriptions for Deputy Director of Safety/Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Greeson explained how when we have vacancies, it is our custom to review and update those job descriptions. With the open Fire Chief position, we are making recommended amendments to that job description. One relates to years of command and management experience. The second is related to a management training program requirement to provide some flexibility related to that. We are also looking at amending the job description for Assistant Fire Chief to broaden the preferred qualifications related to having the EMS or Fire Instruction Certification.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-2020 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Discussion Items

- McCord Park Renovations Project Update

Mr. Hurley explained how the City Council approved a conceptual master plan for McCord Park in 2018. Since then, staff has secured the services of POD Design to lead our design development process that begins to drill down into the details of the concept plan that was approved. Our focus has been on the playground, the train observation area, and the community garden. Council directed us to look at phased options and further cost estimating. POD has been working with the Parks and Recreation Commission, attending public meetings, and they held an open house in January. At the March Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, they made a motion supporting the design development of the updated conceptual master plan and recommended moving ahead with preparing construction documents for Phase One of the project. That is currently funded in the 2020 Capital Improvements Program. Tonight, is an update to see if Council is happy with the progress and to answer any of your questions.

Steve Kolwicz – POD Design

Mr. Kolwicz thanked Council for having him here tonight to give an update on what they have been up to for the past few months. They have conducted a lot of community engagement which is the base that any good park design is built on. The overall master plan that was done a couple years ago called for a renovation, a refresh of the baseball and softball complex, updates to the playground, and enhancements to the community garden

amongst other things. He explained how the field hockey and soccer field would be expanded. The playground is at a point where there is enough wear on the equipment that there is a difficulty in keeping it operable and meeting safety requirements.

Throughout this process there has been a lot of engagement with adults and youth. With it being a playground, they wanted input from children across the community and notably the children in the neighborhood, most of which go to Wilson Hill Elementary School. They held an open house at the Community Center during the Halloween event where kids and parents could vote on features they would like to see. They took the same boards to Wilson Hill and met with the third-grade classes, talking to over 150 kids and over 60 adults. They all pointed in a similar direction to their preferences for the playground. One theme that came out of the process was the idea to build something that plays off the “Ninja Warrior” obstacle course idea. Almost everyone also showed a preference for more natural looking play elements. However, they also heard that many people still wanted the traditional elements such as slides and swings that you would normally see in a park. This plan is directly based off the feedback we received from the people who participated in the process.

He explained how there is a path going towards the Community Center and then another path that goes off to the rest of the park and the planned loop. They have purposely designed around all the topography and existing vegetation because nothing makes a more unique playground than the variation in topography and having shade. People are attracted to the idea of not just baking in the sun. The other element detailed in the process and through conversations were the plans for how the caboose could be set in a way that enhances the ability for anybody to see it from the outside and use it as an observation point for activity on the tracks. It will essentially be at the parking lot level with a ramp that goes to the sunken area that serves as a rain garden. Throughout the space there will be information regarding all aspects of train activity in the area and the history of why we do not see cabooses anymore.

The next thing he discussed were the priorities and their understanding of the likelihood of available budget. One of their tasks was to determine Phase One for the project, including the garden, the playground, and the green space behind the Community Center. The playground in order to achieve its full design, part of it sits in the cul-de-sac of the current driveway that comes into the park. That starts a snowball effect where if you do that, you must get parking for people to use the field. They ended up putting the parking lot into this first phase. As they have gone through the process of refining the design and working with team members in the fields of architecture and engineering, they are hovering around a little under \$1.5 million for Phase One. He pointed out that they are anticipating breaking Phase One into two components. They are looking to take the paving work and trying to incorporate it into the bids for this year’s paving done throughout the City in the hopes of getting a better price. They hope to have a contractor in place that will have an end date of Fall 2021 to have the Phase One improvements completed.

President Michael asked what the City has budgeted in the CIP for Phase One. Mr. Hurley explained how the total number was \$2.8 million in 2020. However, of that \$1 million was

outside funding. We have applied for state capital funding, which we have not heard back about yet. There was \$1.8 million allocated from the City's CIP. President Michael asked if we would be able to do the ball fields. Mr. Hurley responded that he did not anticipate being ready for the ball fields. One of the thought processes when determining the alternatives was figuring out what we needed to do first. We know we needed to get the playground done. When having conversations about priorities at the Retreat and afterwards, we will try to leave as much flexibility in the budget but move ahead with some level of a Phase One.

Ms. Kowalczyk explained how she appreciates the focus on ADA accessibility for all ages and abilities. She asked if there are plans for seating so people of all ages can enjoy the park in all ways. Mr. Kolwicz responded that in the video you will see a variety of seating options such as picnic tables and benches. There are groupings of boulders intended to be either seating areas or choose your own adventure play areas. Ms. Kowalczyk stressed how she believes that we should have enough options for older people to enjoy the park as well.

Ms. Dorothy expressed how she is not noticing places to park bicycles. Mr. Kolwicz explained how that was a comment that came out of their process that has not been updated in the video yet. He assured her there would be adequate places provided.

Mr. Robinson stated that he found the functionality in the design to be exciting in the playground. He is glad to hear about the garden and the train feature is exciting. He noted Mr. Myers's dogged support for this project over the years. He is confident we would not be at this place were it not for his recognition of the importance of this project.

Mr. Greeson expressed how he hopes that we will hear later this spring about the status of our request for Capital Bill funding from the state and whether our request was successful or not. In these alternatives there are opportunities for foundation or corporate support in our community and from around the region from organizations that like to invest in park and recreational activities. He believes it would be wise for staff to pursue those and he would like to begin doing so if there are no objections. The entities we approach would need to be compatible to the City's interest and consistent with our sponsorship guidelines.

Mr. Myers asked about the community garden enhancements. Mr. Kolwicz said that from their conversations they have zeroed in on a storage facility of sorts. Following their work with them during the master planning process, the garden made a concerted effort to enhance the aesthetic value of the space.

- Joint Recreation District Update

Mr. Greeson stated that he did not prepare a formal PowerPoint for this topic tonight, and the memo provided was intended to answer a series of questions that Councilmembers had posed. He asked what the most fruitful way would be to overview this topic and what should be focused on for discussion.

Mr. Myers expressed that when reading ORC 755, there are two provisions which say what a City and a Joint Recreation District can do. It does not give much guidance as to how it is set up, how it functions, who owns what, and who has control. He does not want to appoint five members, tell them to run a pool, and then dump a whole bunch of work on them with little guidance. He has questions about who would have ownership of the property, what the City's role would be in this going forward, will there be a charter, and those types of questions.

President Michael said that the wording is so vague, when looking at what other communities have done, there is a lot of open space when developing this within parameters.

Mr. Myers asserted since we are using public tax dollars, that is what makes him nervous.

Mr. Greeson explained that it would be beneficial and desirable to get to the point to say we are comfortable with the concept. Then we want to begin preparing the legislation that would answer all those details. When looking at examples of legislation around the state, it does not necessarily answer those details. However, we could craft a statement of policy that attempts to answer as many of them as possible.

President Michael suggested that it might be helpful to go through some of the concepts such as the composition of the board of trustees. Mr. Lindsey answered that the statute is very broad in what it allows you to appoint. It is also confusing in that there is a board that the City Council could create by itself, then there is another version you can create with another governmental entity. If the school district and the City were to create it, it does not fall under the category that sets the number and who appoints those members. It has the option of the two contracting entities to determine the number of board members and the method of their selection.

President Michael asked if Councilmembers prefer the City doing this by itself or in conjunction with the schools. Mr. Myers said he does not think we have a choice since the schools own the land.

Mr. Greeson explained how he has had several conversations with Dr. Bowers and SwimInc about this. His intent has been to work through each of these issues with them before we start turning this into legislation. The way the statute works is that we both must pass identical legislation. He is not going to present to the Council something that has not had the school's involvement as well. The next step may be to have a resolution that is general and consistent with the types of legislation from around the state. The document that goes alongside that would articulate the intent of the two governing bodies.

Mr. Myers asserted that legislation will help answer some of these little things such as who is going to hold title to things and who is going to be responsible for drafting those underlying contracts and leases. He stated that maybe if he can see the context of the legislation, that would answer many of his questions.

Mr. Greeson suggested taking an approach that has legislation that provides future school boards, city councils, and joint recreation districts flexibility. Council can debate how much you want to put into the legislation itself and what you want to be in a statement of policy.

Ms. Kowalczyk explained that we also need to think about what is important as this moves forward. To her, there needs to be some oversight and accountability baked into this. There may be other things we think are important to include in this policy statement. She personally thinks there should be accountability back to us. How much accountability can we get in terms of raising funds, where are they spending the money, and how are they planning. The reason we are here is because of sustainability and the lack of planning for the future effectively.

Ms. Dorothy agreed with Ms. Kowalczyk's comments. She asserted that one of the reasons we are going down this path is because we agreed it is a community asset, but why. What goal is this furthering in making it a community asset.

President Michael explained how that with any City funding that we would give, it could be handled like it is for the McConnell Arts Center or the other groups where they come in with a proposal, explain why they are doing something, along with a budget. The other thing is that she would hate it if the goal was limited to just the swimming pools. If this gets up and going and in ten years everything is running smoothly, then this also leaves the opportunity for the Worthington Youth Boosters to work with the JRD to create programs that would serve within the school district, but not necessarily be in the City.

Ms. Dorothy said that if we wanted to do that, then it would be put into the purpose of why we are creating it.

Mr. Myers brought up that when looking at the statute, if it is drafted broadly, then the JRD can carry out the purposes that it sees fit. The downside is that we are ceding control to another governmental entity and the only way we can exercise authority long term over this is based on who we appoint to the board of trustees. We can tell them they can do whatever the law allows, and we will give them suggestions, but they are free to ignore those because they are an equal branch of government now. That is something we will need to get our head around.

Mr. Robinson asked about whether we would have the ability to not only appoint board members, but also to remove those board members. If so, then co-equal would not fully describe the relationship.

Mr. Lindsey responded that the various resolutions and by-laws that we have examined for other districts across the state have allowed some aspect of that ability to remove board members in varying degrees. The other option under statute, that could be described as the "Nuclear Option" is the ability to withdraw from the district. By statute, if the number of entities forming the district becomes one, then the district dissolves, subject to any bonds that may have been issued and any levies that have been passed and will continue to be

collected until they are paid off. There is included some malfeasance language as being one basis to remove board members, but that is still subject to a vote of the board itself to determine whether there was any wrongdoing. However, that does not speak to group malfeasance of the board, which would be a separate question. Board members not fulfilling attendance requirements could also be grounds for removal.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Greeson if there are other options to raise this type of capital or is this the best option to get a large sum for long-term sustainability. Mr. Greeson stated that he believes this is the best option for several reasons. When looking at the master plan for the pools, the costs involved, and the expectations from the community, we are looking at a need of about \$24 million. That outstrips our ability for financing. When you look at fairness in creating an equitable model for funding public assets, you need to look at who will be the beneficiaries of the recreational asset we are creating. The reality is that it is not only the residents of Worthington, but all the members of the larger Worthington area. The JRD represents the best way to have all the potential beneficiaries cover the cost of the public asset. The other option would be to split responsibilities, with the City working with SwimInc to fund the outdoor pool, and the schools would potentially place a levy on a future ballot for the natatorium. The downside to that approach touches on the fairness and equity issue, where only Worthington residents would be investing in the outdoor pool and not all the potential users that could benefit from it. Also, we may not be able to contribute enough funds to meet expectations in terms of amenities at the outdoor pool. If we do, that would be at the expense of other projects that are beneficial to the Worthington community. If we plan the project as a whole, that can yield efficiencies in design, construction, and operations that you would lose when completing the project piecemeal.

President Michael asked what kind of timeline we are looking at. Mr. Greeson presented that we have a little flexibility in timing for this. After talking to Dr. Bowers about the school's levy cycle, they will not be on the ballot until 2022, so there is time to decide if a JRD goes to the ballot in 2020 or 2021. We need to keep moving on this issue and need to bring legislation back for review in coming months.

Mr. Myers asserted that it does not seem realistic that we could create the new entity and have them get together and be able to file in August to get on the ballot. He does not think they will have an operational organization for a levy to get passed. He believes that 2021 would be much more realistic. He asked if SwimInc would be okay to get through this year. Mr. Greeson responded that they are, and they are a viable, successful organization.

President Michael asked about the million dollars they received from that state and if they can capitalize on those funds. Mr. Greeson explained they met with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources last week and they are developing a plan to utilize those dollars. To one of Mr. Myers's questions in the memo, one of the critical questions is whether the JRD would need to have an interest in the property. If they do, the question becomes whether the JRD needs to assume the lease currently held by SwimInc, they would then need to oversee the construction project, and contract with SwimInc to manage it as they have for the past 50 years. The next time we are talking about the statement of policy and a resolution, that is a critical question that will need to be resolved. Back to President

Michael's question, he explained that SwimInc can draw down the state dollars for design, for further site investigation, and have every intent to collaborate with the City and the schools in the further development of the project.

Ms. Dorothy asked what was needed from Council to keep this process going. Mr. Greeson asked if Council is comfortable with staff preparing legislation and a policy statement. Ms. Dorothy emphasized that she would like to move forward and she thinks that is a good way.

Policy Item(s)

- Financial Report – February 2020

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Bartter about why year-to-date tax collections are above estimates by 5.3%. Mr. Bartter responded there is no singular driver. A large portion is from net profit receipts which are up significantly. That cannot be attributed to one single taxpayer, but multiple taxpayers making estimated payments on the corporate side. Mr. Robinson asked what accounts for the significant drop in the general fund balance. Mr. Bartter answered that primarily occurred in January with a large payment being made to the Northwest Regional Emergency Center of \$1.2 million and the fact there were three pays in January that contributed another \$600,000 to the drop. We have also not received property tax revenues which will not come in until March or April.

MOTION Mr. Robinson moved, Ms. Dorothy seconded a motion to accept the February 2020 Financial Report as presented.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson brought up that Marty Jenkins has provided an agenda for the City Council retreat. There is a framework in there he uses to approach the ideas and issues that will come up. He has proposed using this element of strategic decisions framework to help discuss and frame the various issues being raise. Considering Mr. Jenkins's long track record facilitating city council retreats, he believes this will be a good process.

Mr. Robinson asked about number three regarding the three imperatives of public organization. Mr. Greeson explained how Mr. Jenkins has a piece he does when he facilitates a board or council retreat about the things, which he thinks are important for elected bodies to know or to focus on when doing the public's work. President Michael noted that the three are civility, consensus, and credibility.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the timing of the retreat on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Greeson explained that he would send out the details to Council since it is not on the agenda that was sent out.

Mr. Greeson explained how Life Care Alliance has an event from eleven to noon next week where they could use help delivering Meals on Wheels. That is a great way to see how the City's grant dollars are being used in the community.

Lastly, he brought up that at your place is a Rush Run study and a memorandum from Mr. Whited. We plan to schedule this for the Committee of the Whole meeting in April. Additionally, we will discuss our waterline assessment at that meeting.

Ms. Dorothy brought up that there might be some money available within a very tight timeframe for Rush Run. Mr. Whited said he had that indication today from Ms. Fay. He is not sure if it is possible considering the timeframe.

Mr. Robinson asked if this study is available publicly. Mr. Greeson said it is not, but we would be glad to share it with the property owners who have their properties referenced.

Mr. Lindsey explained how next week, we will be presenting a resolution regarding the opioid settlement and the One Ohio memorandum of understanding. The purpose will be to seek Council direction indicating the City's support of that approach to the division of funds. We will provide additional background information.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Bucher gave an update on the AEP and Columbia Gas energy efficiency campaigns that Sustainable Worthington has been pursuing along with the library and other community partners. There was a significant planning meeting last Friday to get final details in place. The group intends to launch community education enrollment on April 1st. It will be a four-month campaign. He thinks it would be wise to get something from AEP or Columbia Gas and update Council soon.

Mr. Greeson explained that it would be beneficial since it is consistent with one of Council's goals which is community energy efficiency. It is best that they explain it because it is a program that they run throughout communities. The more people that participate, the more energy we save in the community and they provide grant funds. This would give them a public forum to share with a broader audience what the program is and what we would be up to. It would also give staff a signal to support the effort through helping communicate through our various communications channels to the community.

Ms. Kowalczyk brought up how she has the privilege of participating in a meeting with the Franklin County Commissioners on Age-Friendly Franklin County. Age-Friendly Franklin County will release their strategic plan on how to serve the County, including mentoring and supporting Age-Friendly communities like ours moving forward. As soon as they release the plan tomorrow morning, she will share that with all the Councilmembers.

Ms. Dorothy stated that she attended the Upper Arlington Historical Society's presentation on March 4th. They brought in Richard Roth Stein, the author of the Color of Law, which demonstrates how residential segregation was created by racially explicit and unconstitutional policy that subsidized with only suburbanization. One of the most important things he mentioned centered on repealing exclusionary zoning that prohibit the

