

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 14, 2000

Convene following 7:00 p.m. Committees

7:30 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Development Committee

Sherie James-Arnold, Chairman

Karen J. Angelou

Thomas R. Kneeland

Debra A. Payne, ex officio

Sadicka White, ex officio

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Tom Weber, Sadicka White, Mayor McGregor, Raleigh Mitchell, Jerry Isler. Gahanna Jr. League Sports - Dave Ensman, Marty White, Jeff Armstrong.

PENDING LEGISLATION**ORD-0017-2000**

TO ACCEPT 2.27+/- ACRES FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, KNOWN AS JOHNSTOWN ROAD RIGHT OF WAY, REQUESTED BY CITY OF GAHANNA.

Recommended for Adoption, Consent

ORD-0018-2000

TO ACCEPT 12.4+/- ACRES FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, KNOWN AS 4433 JOHNSTOWN ROAD, REQUESTED BY CITY OF GAHANNA.

Angelou requested that White invite the "Y" to a regular meeting for an update in the next month or so. James-Arnold requested that the "Y" remain on the committee agenda as a monitor item.

Recommended for Adoption, Consent

ISSUES

Members Present: Sherie James-Arnold, Karen J. Angelou and Thomas R. Kneeland

Gahanna Junior League

Marty White distributed memos regarding grounds and facilities, non resident fees and a copy of the memo that had been distributed to Council at the last regular meeting. Ensman stated they did receive information from Jordan and Mitchell.

Jordan reviewed his committee report showing the amount originally billed, the reduction and the modified invoice amounts; had various meetings with Harold Gilbert and the Mayor; after those meetings, the invoices were reduced by 50%; also need to note that the copy of the page of the lease provided by Mr. Ensman was from the draft lease not from the final signed lease.

In response to question from Kneeland, White stated the facility at Friendship Park has a small chest freezer in the back room; use lights and heat (which is kept at a minimum); only water used is in flushing toilets; at Jefferson Elementary we have our own meters for lights and stand; at Goshen we also have an electric meter; there is nothing at Stygler in the way of a separate meter and we make no reimbursement to schools for those utilities; serve 1,600 kids in spring and 400 in fall; is all volunteer; no one is paid. Kneeland stated he did not believe this should be an issue; questioned if this was a policy that we pass on utility costs; how did we get into this position.

McGregor stated the Jr. League used to rent space by the Sanctuary; went to Gahanna Woods temporarily but was looking for more centralized space; we moved some maintenance out of Friendship Park and provided that space rent free; in negotiations they were to pay their fair share of utilities; looked at and came up with a formula and then we reduced it significantly; was still burdensome and we cut by an additional 50% and that's where we are today. In response to question from Kneeland on whether they felt it was an equitable solution to pay something towards the utilities, Ensman stated they were operating on the assumption that it was in the lease. Angelou stated she felt it

was an error; feel they have obtained a much better space. Kneeland stated this was a non profit organization that was providing a service to the community. Ensman stated they occupy 16% of the building and don't have a problem paying 16% of the gas and electric; just don't use that much water. M. White stated that only water used is for flushing of toilets; are Mifflin Township cruisers out there all the time washing their vehicles; don't think we should be paying for that when we don't use the water; possibly waive the water charges.

Kneeland suggested paying for gas and electric in the future; forgive everything in the past; have them pay 16% for gas and electric and waive water. James Arnold and Angelou stated they could agree to that; \$ looks like we'd be forgiving about \$2,600 to \$2,800 and no billings on water and sewer. Ensman stated they felt this is reasonable; was originally calculated at 32%; basically we are a storage facility with a small meeting space.

Discussion then moved to non resident fee. Is a standard in all our leagues; record keeping for the non residents probably needs worked on; realize a lot of fields for baseball are from the schools; but need to keep everything on even keel with that \$10 fee; some players go into draft and then may drop back; can't determine when registering which fields they will play on. Angelou noted she had discussed with Isler regarding soccer; feel very strongly that Jefferson Township, Columbus, Westerville schools, etc. have to pay. Kneeland stated he felt the justification is there. McGregor noted that one way around it would be if Jefferson Township Trustees would be willing to pay their fair share, then we would be willing to pay it; have reciprocity with Columbus but none with the township. Mitchell stated they didn't have reciprocity for years but they do now. Ensman stated they will get a current street list from Mitchell so they can better control the non resident fees; understand that many areas have Gahanna addresses but aren't in the City. Mitchell stated that a rule of thumb is that 4 digit addresses on streets are usually not Gahanna; any 4 digits addresses we have usually begin with 1. McGregor stated they could propose to the Central Ohio Municipal Council a reciprocity agreement and see if we can work something out; establish a fee where townships could buy into; if they don't then residents have to pay.

Weber stated we needed an ordinance regarding the utility fees; start this February 1 and anything owed as of January 31 would be waived; need a lease addendum stating Jr. League will pay 16% for gas and electric and no water.

Discussion moved on to parking and lights. Mitchell recapped parking situation; feels we have solved our parking issue; willing to wait and see but think except for opening day and special events we should be covered; soccer has been moved out of Academy Park; are 200 spots there now; will add head in parking at north end by 10 places. Marty White asked if, when full, they could open the gate and let people park in grass area. Mitchell stated he did not think we should park down at that end of fields where people are constantly walking across if cars will be moving through there; think the better solution would be at north end of lot on grass where we've been playing soccer; park in grass wouldn't have to worry about people walking past all the time; is not supposed to be any soccer there; that is no guarantee that there won't be; will get signs posted. In response to question, Mitchell stated the Christian School no longer has a lease there but has moved to another location. Mitchell continued that with regard to 45 cars parking on Cherrybottom and in subdivision he only knows of 1 evening that was the case; don't see anything wrong with people parking in the neighborhood and walking; if this doesn't solve the problem we will need to address again; park is not just for baseball; other people use that open field; may need to look at scheduling alternatives; am not willing to pave that whole park; don't feel bad asking people to park

in the neighborhood and walk. Ensman stated the concerns expressed to Jr. League have been about people walking through the yards of residents instead of around. Angelou stated they need to make it known to parents that they shouldn't be walking through people's yards; does cause hard feelings; start on a positive note. Kneeland noted that they hand out a lot of information at signups; would it be possible to raise the awareness level at that time; also can understand Mayor's point of view; don't want to get rid of the green space by putting blacktop in; need to monitor this. McGregor noted that the balance of the lights will be up this year and could extend playing time. Ensman stated this doesn't solve the parking problem; problem then arises when you have one group still playing while the second group is arriving. In response to question whether they were short of fields, Ensman stated they were not; in the fall don't play with as many players per team and that does help; have 12 on a team in the spring and only 10 or 11 in the fall. Angelou stated that car pooling should be encouraged; if they choose not to that becomes their problem. In response to question, Mitchell stated the industry standard is 30 parking spots per field; adding 10 spots this year will give us 206 plus handicapped. James Arnold noted we need to keep under a monitor item and communicate with people. Angelou stated that in looking ahead to future needs, have purchased the Hannah property which is about 28 acres; keep abreast of these needs and making sure we are not falling behind; that 28 acres is going to be there for the future.

McGregor noted that it is difficult to keep up with; per capita have more fields than anyone but Dublin; still not enough; don't know how we can build enough to keep up with the need; know that the alternative travelling team turned down Pizzurro Park. Ensman stated they had been contacted by them as wanting to lease from us some of the schools; reason they split off from us was they wanted to start travelling teams younger than we wanted to. Angelou stated that these are recreational sports are to be fun and not for advancing to pro type status; is not high school athletics. Mitchell stated that the traveling team coaches think it will help the kids be a starter at high school and possibly obtain a scholarship; don't necessary agree; my kids have played in the leagues; they can learn as much playing every day than they can from traveling; repetition is more important.

Discussion then centered on the lights. Mitchell noted his memorandum of 2/11; only thing holding us up is Jess Howard getting the work done; they lost their staff; had some people assigned and they quit right before fall baseball; had a date set and then bad weather hit; basically set to go now.

Mitchell stated last issue is Woodside Green Park; can squeeze a little more parking opposite the head in parking; just isn't room to do much more; did put three bollards in there on purpose; one in middle has a padlock; we will do the majority of the work; understand that someone may need to drive a car back there and unload for the concession stand and they are welcome to do that; don't see any reason why the coaches have to drive their car back there; that park is truly multi purpose; that is not alternate parking; seems to be a bigger problem when the shelter house is rented out; possibly not schedule the shelter house during the peak season. McGregor stated they could look at that. Mitchell stated problem is during tournaments in July; shelters are heavily used in the summer; have thought about the double activities; don't think we should keep people from using the shelter house; are limited places to hold family reunions; have a problem with prime middle of the summer weeks and not allowing other residents to use the facilities. In response to question, Mitchell stated there are 2 fields down there; is a walkway from Sumption Court;; could utilize parking in that area and then walk from there. McGregor noted they could paint out the area in front of the bollards; can put up a no parking sign.

Mitchell stated they will monitor parking; light issue is being resolved; non resident fee has been discussed. Isler stated he and Ensman have agreed they are current; referenced his memo of 2/14. Legislation will take care of issue on utilities.

James-Arnold stated the legislation will be on for first reading, consent agenda; no need to come back to committee.

Recommend for Introduction

Coalition for Equitable Annexation

Payne noted memo dated 2/3 from McGregor and Weber; requested a \$3,000 contribution to the Coalition for their work; check to be sent payable to the Coalition in care of the Mayor of Pickerington; legislation to be prepared for 1st reading; no need to come back to committee.

Recommend for Introduction

ISOBEL L. SHERWOOD, CMC/AEE, Deputy Clerk of Council, reporting