

# **City of Gahanna**

*200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 25, 2000**

**7:30 PM**

**Council Committee Rooms**

## **Service Committee**

*Rebecca W. Stinchcomb, Chairman*

*Michael O'Brien*

*L. Nicholas Hogan*

*Debra A. Payne, ex officio*

*Karl Wetherholt, ex officio*

**Members Absent:** L. Nicholas Hogan

**Members Present:** Rebecca W. Stinchcomb and Michael O'Brien

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**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

Press; Mayor McGregor, Jerry Isler; Col. Hall; Tom Weber; Debra Payne; Karl Wetherholt; Ken Singh; Chief Murphy and David Edwards

**PENDING LEGISLATION**

**ORD-0230-2000**

TO ACCEPT WATER LINE, STREET, AND STORM SEWER, IMPROVEMENT NO. 721; AND SANITARY SEWER, IMPROVEMENT NO. 722; AND APPURTENANCES THERETO, IN HARRISON POND, "THE VILLAGES AT ROCKY FORK, SECTION 10, PART 2"; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

**Recommended for Adoption, Consent**

**ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEETING:**

**6010 Taylor Road - Edwards Property**

David Edwards, 6010 Taylor Road, stated that his father currently owns the property. Edwards presented past and present pictures of the property. Edwards stated he has lived there 17 years with his family. The current pictures show over an acre lot with half of it covered by water. Edwards wants to know what the City is going to do to correct the problem. Edwards stated that he was involved in a serious accident during the widening of Taylor Road, which prevented him from being available to check out what type of drain was being installed. His neighbors, Tom and Melissa Brown, stated to him that a cistern or drain was installed by the City. When they did this, they set it five feet higher than it should have been. Edwards feels the City created this problem. He stated that the City approached him with a solution to bring in dirt and fill in his field. In Edwards opinion, that would create more of a problem for his neighbor, Tom Brown. He feels this is not a good solution. Edwards has no intention of selling the property at this time, he is only here to represent his father. The property value of the home has decreased due to this problem. Their quality of life has decreased because they cannot go outside due to the bugs and geese. Edwards stated that they have made several attempts to work with the City concerning this problem. Spoke with Wetherholt several times; Wetherholt came to the conclusion that the City could buy the property. Edward stated again that the property is not for sale.

Mayor stated that was not what Edwards' father had told him.

Edwards replied that he was not aware of that conversation.

Stinchcomb stated she has known the Browns for many years. Brown has been her eyes and ears regarding this situation. Apparently the people who were putting the drain in told Brown it was going to fail, and they did not know why it was going in that way.

Edwards stated he would just like it to be corrected. Edwards mentioned that he has a good relationship with the pastor of the church next door; pastor has tried to contact City regarding this; basically been ignored.

Mayor stated that he has sent a personal letter to that pastor.

Wetherholt made a presentation on that whole area including the Taylor Road project. He went over maps. Basically the problem comes down to hundreds of acres of water being totally dependent on a 21 inch field tile. The tile is very old and if it were to collapse there could potentially be a 7 foot deep lake, with water running across the road. So far the 21 inch field tile has been able to prevent this, but there are no guarantees. Before the road was built this tile was under pressure and had to come up by 4 1/2 feet to reach the level of the stream. When roadway was built the engineers did the design on this; low point was the bottom of the creek and that's reasonable and standard, and where water level should be. When old storm systems were replaced with new system, it came in to be exactly the level of creek; roadway cut off 21 inch tile. The City could work with the county on this project when they widen Taylor Rd; extending storm sewer with an outlet pipe; still cannot go any lower than the bottom of the creek unless they dredge the creek out; still have an elevation problem.

Mayor stated that the complexity is that this area was an old bog with no positive drainage. 75 years ago farmers put tile in to dry the ground enough to raise crop; rich muck soil; natural drainage problem; Mr Brown's home is built on an old clay tile at the base of his foundation; any failure would flood his house; very vulnerable position; difficult location for Brown; pointed out that they could fill with dirt but that would be unsatisfactory and he would probably be totally dissatisfied.

Edwards stated that what everyone has said appears to make sense. He has been getting misinformation; this problem has not always been there. Everyone has been saying what could happen, but the problem has been for the last 2 or 3 years; never had the problem before.

Mayor made the observation that this is an old problem made worse by the road building; any solution will be very expensive and subject to failure; leaves Browns with a very bad potential flood; overflow will solve problem for Browns with an emergency release; no good solution. Mayor feels the city should buy the Edwards house at fair market value; equal and equivalent.

Edwards asked how long down the road or what type of time frame are they looking at to fix this problem. He does not want to sell property.

Mayor stated that the first solution is to put in an overflow so it would not get any worse; to consider the pipe it would take at least a year.

Stinchcomb felt that they had identified the problem, came up with several solutions and she feels the time frame is realistic.

Mayor would like to, with council's permission, employ someone to sit down with the Edwards and work out the terms for a purchase of the property.

Stinchcomb added that the nature of Taylor road is changing; Edwards needs to think about the long term; that area is going to change and is irreversible; no idea what pipe could cost; may be substantial; does not want city to spend the money to fix it if down the road the Edwards want to find a different place to live.

Edwards stated he has no animosity toward anyone here; this is our home and it is very difficult to live with; quality of our life has been disrupted; not worth what it was before for resale value; wants to try to come to a solution.

Mayor stated he wants to make it right.

Edwards stated he takes pride in their home and the area; close knit neighborhood; still in township; would like a solution.

Mayor would like to meet with Mr. Edwards father to see if selling is an option.

Recommendation: Continue this item on agenda as a monitor matter.

**ITEMS FROM CITY ENGINEER:**

**East Industrial Sanitary Sewer**

Recommendation: First Reading, Consent, Back to committee

**Triangle West Sanitary Sewer**

Recommendation: First Reading, Consent, Back to committee

**Oklahoma Property**

Recommendation: First Reading, Consent, Back to committee

**Price Road Waterline**

Recommendation: First Reading, Consent, Back to committee

**Stacey Bashore, Recording**