

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 8, 2013

7:00 PM

Council Committee Rooms

Committee of the Whole

*Ryan P. Jolley, Chair
Beryl D. Anderson
Karen J. Angelou
Brian D. Larick
Stephen A. Renner
David L. Samuel
Brandon Wright*

Members Absent: Karen J. Angelou

Members Present: Stephen A. Renner, Ryan P. Jolley, Brandon Wright, Beryl D. Anderson, Brian D. Larick and David L. Samuel

Additional Attendees:

Isobel Sherwood, Dottie Franey, Mike Andrako, Jennifer Teal, Joann Bury, Anthony Jones, General Williams, Chief Murphy, Tony Collins, Sue Wadley, Shane Ewald, Mayor Stinchcomb, Brandi Braun, Leon Younger of Pros Consulting; Doug Maddy for Meadowbrooke; Press.

PENDING LEGISLATION:

ORD-0091-2013

TO REZONE 3.9+- ACRES OF PROPERTY AS ROD/SF3, RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT/SINGLE FAMILY 3; SAID PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5593 HAVENS CORNERS ROAD; KNOWN AS THE MEADOWBROOKE SUBDIVISION; BROOKWOOD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., DOUG MADDY, APPLICANT.

Jolley called the meeting for Monday, July 8, 2013 to order; first item on the agenda under pending legislation is the rezoning of 5593 Havens Corners.

Jones said I am here to report that Planning Commission did pass the modification to the zoning change request; it was originally 15 lots and was modified to 14; it was remanded back to Planning Commission per Council request; they have passed it so now it is before you in its modified form; the applicant, Doug Maddy and his attorney, David Hodge, as well as their engineering firm Watcon are here to answer any questions or comments that Council may have.

Renner said I would like to reiterate to the Developer that we thank you very much for your leadership on this project and for going through the re evaluation of this with the Planning Commission; overall I think this is a much better feel for the area; ask again for lots 12 and 13, you have a sizable detention basin and a couple of weirs; since it straddles 2 lots I am a little concerned; as you know this area is a very important detention basin; can you speak to that and how it will be kept and maintained over 2 lots. Maddy said thank you for your comments; because there is going to be an HOA (Home Owners Association) in place and a forced run HOA, we have great expectations that the HOA will oversee these rain gardens and weirs and see that they are maintained properly, whether it be self run or run by an outside firm; a couple of weeks ago in Planning Commission a question came up; there was a note on one of the plans that said rain garden, detention basin, or equal; want to explain to Council that our definition of equal is not that we are going to change the design in any way shape or form from what is on the plan; the intent of putting equal here was when we made the original proposal to Planning Commission, we proposed to put native plants in here; due to the feedback we got from neighbors and Planning Commission we took the plants out and made this a grass area; they will stay a grass area; that was our intent with the word "equal" when it was added to the plan.

Renner said are you saying it is not going to be a rain garden. Maddy said it will be a rain garden and it will still percolate and function as a rain garden but due to the feedback we removed the plants.

Renner said it will still function as such and the water will still percolate through the soil; I am not an expert on rain gardens, but I know enough to be dangerous; I know cat

tails and plants like that are very important because of the long root system needed to go through the clay soils you typically find in Ohio; what guarantees do we have that this is still going to function properly and that the water will percolate through the soil. Maddy said it will still work and percolate through the soil by design from our Civil Engineer and the way that they are constructed and erected will cause them to percolate. Renner said when you do sell off these lots, will it be made clear from day one to these buyers that these absolutely must stay in their form as you have them designed. Maddy said absolutely.

Anderson said for this operation, is this a certain time frame or for perpetuity. Maddy said the operation is continuous.

Anderson said so it will work for 20, 30 or 50 years. Mayor said it is in the overlay. Maddy said that is correct; the soil will continue to percolate; they will not silt up or fill up. Anderson said and that is per a horticulturist or engineer. Maddy said per our Civil Engineer. Anderson said thank you for your interest and vision; since you have an opportunity here today do you have any final thoughts or do you want to make any closing statements addressing the opponents to this design.

Maddy said we have been at this plan a long time; we have massaged and changed and altered it so much we are wearing out the Engineer's computer; we have made a lot of fabulous changes and addressed the concerns of the neighbors; we changed the lot lay out several times; we have cut down trees and altered engineering specifications to accommodate the FSWCD group and the recommendations they passed on to us; we made changes to accommodate comments from staff and the engineering department; this is a fabulous plan before you folks and I hope you can support it next Monday night. Anderson said and you think that the reduction to 14 lots will also address the concerns about density and traffic as well. Maddy said I do; they enhance this plan, less water, less traffic than the previous plan.

Samuel said we have looked at this for a long period of time and listened to all the information; believe it is now time to move on and decide on this next Monday.

Sherwood said this does need amended by substitution because it was introduced with the original plan.

Recommendation: 2nd Reading, Regular Agenda; Amend by Substitution.

Recommended for Adoption

ORD-0101-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH PROS CONSULTING FOR UPDATING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN TO ADD A COST OF SERVICES STUDY; AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$10,000.

Mayor asked if we could modify the agenda to do the Parks Master Plan update first prior to this ordinance; it would go a long way in explaining this item; if Council is willing to do it this would make a whole lot more sense to you. Jolley said the change was fine.

Collins said for the agreement with Pros Consulting; Younger talked about looking to the future and building the parks and recreation vision; as we look forward over the next 5 years, we will be making decisions as to where our funding is and where it is not; we have begun the process; we have analyzed the data that we have in order to determine a cost per user of each of the operations that we have; what we have found is we don't have all the data; to source that data and do the calculations takes a considerable amount of time; we asked Younger during the planning process if there would be a benefit to doing a cost analysis of our services; everything from mowing to field lining to recreation programs to operating our facilities; we believe this will help determine a true cost per use basis that will be beneficial in future planning and priority decision making; we have a lot of the direct data now; I report every year on how we are doing; what our

financials are; I can tell you where the golf course is and where the pool is; but to look at the total cost to the City for the pool, the golf course, or a hiking trail, we need some assistance to do that; we submitted a request to authorize the Mayor to amend our current agreement to add this cost of services study to this planning process; we believe there is a benefit to having Younger do it as he is here on the ground and he knows our department very well; his staff has the expertise to do this; they just finished one at Five Rivers; I gave you an example of a recreation study that was done; we would be looking at both parks and recreation services here; if we can incorporate it, it would help us in our planning processes.

Samuel said will you be looking at fee structures and recommendations on how to change those and will there be recommendations on how to save money.

Collins said we are looking more at a cost analysis; out of that information we may find areas and ways to save money that will have recommendations to go with them.

Samuel said my concern is when you look at government, there are a lot of changes in personnel; we will have changes in Council members and there will be changes in employees; need long term commitment to follow through on any recommendations that come out of this; I see a big return on investment but you do have to stick to your guns about the follow through to these things; don't want a waste of time and money; need that commitment.

Collins said we have proven that we have been successful at that with the 2006 plan; I mean the City including Council, my staff and volunteers; everyone was committed to making sure the 2006 master plan was part of our process; this document never sat on a shelf; that is why we want this included as part of the plan; to be brought together as a document and adopted by Council and Planning Commission moving forward for the next 3 to 5 years.

Renner said I overwhelmingly support this ordinance; I think it is the right thing to do; I would like to see every department in the City do this; they all need this level of granularity and review; and I would say to Mr. Samuel that you will see once you get the data the long term commitment; we will have this for all to see and that will force all to commit to it.

Recommendation: 2nd Reading, Regular Agenda.

Recommended for Adoption

Update - Parks & Recreation:

Parks & Rec. Master Plan Update - Leon Younger

Collins said hope many of you remember Leon Younger; last time he was here he was involved in the meetings on our planning process; as a reminder, in 2006 Council adopted the Comprehensive Parks and Rec Master Plan; in the years following 2006 we have used that document in every budget process to help guide our priorities and decisions; when we had to make funding decisions, we looked at this document for what the priorities were that were defined there, as well as public input and staff expertise, to present what we wanted in our budget; in 2012 we requested to update the plan; many items had been accomplished; the ones remaining had a lot of questions to them; need to know where is the community today; are the priorities the same; do we want to relook at our vision; we requested to bring in Younger's firm, Pros Consulting, to look at this plan and update it for use over the next 3 to 5 years; this would help us to make those priority decisions once again; we have obtained public input; today I have asked Younger to give

you an update on the planning process; to present the public input findings that came in through survey as well as stakeholder meetings; and to tell you some of the early conclusions and issues that we need addressed; he will do that and then we will talk about the extra component of cost analysis.

Younger provided a power point presentation; a copy is available in the Council Office.

Questions and Comments:

Anderson said one thing highly recommended in previous surveys was a Community Center; this did appear but it wasn't in the top 10. Younger said I found people in your town really want things, but they are reasonable about what they can afford; they are recognizing that it would be nice to have this, but most who really want this go to the YMCA or they use Westerville's facilities; we did Westerville's plan; in that process we found it amazing how many people from Gahanna are members of the Westerville facility. Anderson said I did see it on a slide and I hear from residents why can't we have a Community Center like Westerville. Younger said we talked about a Field House; it could be a combination recreation center and have indoor and outdoor space; your community uses the term Field House; I use the term Community Center; where this shows up is as a multi generational recreation center and they have many elements in them; they have indoor aquatic facilities; they have indoor fitness equipment; we are listing them by amenities; the reason we do that is if you ever do a plan, we know what amenities are most important. Collins said it is also important to understand where this information is coming from; the first set of slides is from stakeholders, those who use the facilities and participate in our youth leagues; leaders in the community; folks who understand what is going on; more apt to look at what we are currently doing; the public survey is an open document; could be anybody in the public; they may not have the same understanding; they would be more apt to indicate the community center; the swimming pool comes up in those responses; there are also charts that are the weighted and a combination of those with Pros' expertise coming into play as well using best practices; it is important to understand the data set.

Mayor said is the relevance for this not necessarily the wording recreation center but multi generational; is it key that people want to see all generations represented there. Younger said the movement in this country is this, for a brief history; in the 60's we built little tiny 10,000 square foot centers that were neighborhood centers; in the 70's they moved to community centers at 25,000 square feet; in the 80's and 90's we moved to more regional centers and people broke those into pieces; we had field houses or recreation centers and senior centers; in the 2000's people are going to multi generational centers; most people who are 60 feel 20 years younger than they are; you design and create facilities based on how people feel, not actually how old they are; so the movement is to combine facilities instead of having them separate; if you follow Florida or Texas or Arizona and California, they are all moving to multigen centers; they can't afford all the separate centers and also people want to play together.

Samuel said aren't they also bringing in wellness and counseling to the centers. Younger said yes; it has become a recreation mall; that is what people want; they stay longer; they see the investment and are willing to invest in it.

Anderson said was the issue of finance in any questions; people may have an idea of how to put it together and finance it so it is not just City expense; the people spoke to partnerships. Younger said people are very, very sensitive in this town about financing government; people want to live here and love this town; they want what other people have but understand there is a reasonableness associated with everything; if they can find

a way to get access to a facility that others have invested in; that will still get them a facility and they will be happy. Anderson said so they were thinking we want this, but they are open to private funding. Younger said absolutely; no one says the City has to do it all; you have a good town here; it is family based; they want this town to be successful; they recognize there are some issues that they have to overcome; they don't want to limit what the parks system can be and they do want to see the parks system lead the way in terms of livability.

Larick said generally how do parks impact demographics; changes and growth over time; with the amenities that parks provides how does that impact the direction of a community as it moves forward. Younger said parks are here in perpetuity; as neighborhoods get older, it is OK to take out one thing and put something else in that the neighborhood desires based on who is there; neighborhood parks are built around a 1 hour experience, community parks around a 2 to 3 hour experience; regional parks are built for a day long experience; then you have trails that take 20 minutes to 2 hours; economically what parks need to do is to relate to the people who live there; people who see themselves in the park will advocate and use it; also if the park looks better than the neighborhood it lifts the property values; if it looks worse it pulls the property values down; for the user, each amenity requires a length of stay; when we assess a park we look at how many experiences are in this park; if there are only a couple, then you won't get a lot of use. Larick said I meant for the overall parks and recreation programs of a community as opposed to park land. Younger said it's usually in the top 4 of what is most important; police and fire are most important; schools right beside that; roads and safety; then parks and how the community looks, how proud people are and how they manage their public space; and then what are things to do; the intent is if you have an active town, people running and doing activities, it energizes everybody; if nothing is happening and people are laying low and afraid to come out of their houses, that is not a good sign; what you want to do is create spaces that people feel comfortable in with amenities they want to use; make it a relationship type park for people to gather; your community wants events and tradition here. Larick said you had a slide comparing Gahanna to a national picture; do you have any with a comparison of us with Central Ohio communities. Younger said we have done bench mark studies for Orange Township and for Westerville; it wasn't part of our scope but I will be glad to share with you how Gahanna compares with other plans that we have done. Larick pointed out which slide showed the data he was looking for and said he wanted that for peer communities. Younger said he could put that together. Collins clarified the source of the data was ESRI. Younger said they are a national demographic company that we buy information from; they are enormously accurate.

Collins asked Younger to scroll to the slide with the list of priority improvements with the age breakdowns; said one of the things Younger was sharing with me today was the correlation between the swimming pool age group and the indoor fitness age group and showing from our perspective, if the swimming pools close, where does that need go; it is a significant number of people; we don't provide indoor fitness facilities, but that does sometimes drive that age group in the community; if those amenities are available people are looking for those. Mayor said sounds like we are sending them to Westerville. Younger said you would be surprised. Collins said no; we have heard that.

Wright said thank you for the informative breakdown; I have read Westerville's Master Plan and you are doing that for them. Younger said we are doing an update for them to be delivered this week. Wright said Westerville has done a very good job of taking their master plan and making it transformative for their city; you see the return they are getting; are we set up or on the path to where, once we update our master plan, we could use it as a transformative tool to bring us to a tier one kind of city. Younger said

Westerville has a dedicated funding source for their parks and recreation system that really helps; that alone has brought recognition of the improvements that people are looking for and they have delivered on those; a plan like this, it behooves all of you once you adopt it, to commit to it; it doesn't mean you have to do everything; it is a road map; when we did the 2006 plan, we didn't know the recession was going to hit in 2008; in the process, do you just plan for the current situation or for the future; my feeling is you plan for the future; you describe a preferred future, what parks and recreation can do for this community so when and if money is available here is where I invest it. Wright said do you know from your work of cities that have done a really good job with their plan and it then changed the city; can you point to examples.

Younger said there are a lot; the city of Kettering is an example; they have in Ohio used their parks system to leverage the value of living there; it is a first tier city near Dayton; your wealth here is a lot greater than theirs but they put a lot of emphasis on recreation and parks and made that town very livable; when you look across the country, people who recognize if you don't have mountains or lakes, what do you have; what makes a town special; it is usually the connectivity of neighborhoods, schools are all part of the system but it is the trails and the parks that knit the community together; communities that have done that really understand the presence of what a park system does for the community; still have to have good safety forces, but the idea is if people are happy and they recreate and use the facilities, you don't have increasing crime rates; people don't trash pretty parks.

Jolley said can you explain the mailed surveys to the 2000 recipients; where did those 2000 recipients come from. Younger said we bought it from a mail house; they follow your demographics and income levels; in the plan there is a full report that shows the demographics and how closely it is tied to people who got the survey to your existing demographics.

Renner said I am curious about the indoor fitness idea; Gahanna has the YMCA and there are other businesses that offer indoor fitness; the question says what are the 4 important issues for your household, not the 4 that the city should provide; why would we build a facility for indoor fitness when that already exists provided by the private sector; I understand outdoor trails and green space, but not indoor fitness. Younger said is there an obesity problem in this town. Renner said you could say that for anywhere. Younger said if the private sector was solving it, then we wouldn't have a problem. Renner said that doesn't address why should the city provide that. Younger said only 8 to 10% of people actually belong to something that is club driven; you have a lot of people who don't want to belong where they have to pay a membership; but they want access to something; the intent is, if I don't want to belong to a club, what are my alternatives; the city doesn't have to do that, or you could provide the land and let someone else build it; or you can say this is not our core business; whatever you want to do; it is not for me to judge; it is for me to assess what the community says is important to them and put it up there; doesn't mean we have to recommend it; it was recommended in the previous plan and you didn't act on it then; the idea is it is up to you; it is about what services you want; there are communities that want a library but towns won't build them; the intent is a community like this would have 600 to 700 people go through a recreation center if it was available.

Collins said we have wrestled with this question since I have been here; in 2000, it was when are you going to build a community center; there is a difference between a community recreation center and a health club; health clubs are awesome and they provide a tremendous product to those who are adult fitness oriented; there are a couple in Central Ohio that are more like a community center; for example Lifetime Fitness;

there is more of a family opportunity there; most other clubs are fitness clubs; what you see that gets talked about here is more of the community center model where you have a leisure pool, senior space, indoor walking and running track; it is these indoor spaces where a community would come together; when you look at the surrounding communities with these facilities, everyone is using them; it has a wide demographic appeal; that does not mean this community is willing to pay for that; that is where we have always been stuck; we understand the appeal, why it looks great and why it works; we also understand that they are subsidized; the community has to make a significant decision as to whether or not they want to do that; this community is very conservative and we respect that; that is why it is one of those things that has never been brought up to Council; that is the difference between a fitness club and community center. Renner said I did not want to open a debate on a recreation facility; it is good to hear you define it; it is a curiosity for me.

Mayor said I think it is important for all to remember that the City paid for the land under the YMCA; I was on Council, not Mayor at that time, and the community wanted a place to recreate and meet; to get a Y here, rather than build a recreation center, the City spent over a million dollars to provide land for the YMCA; at the time that was a first step in how we could do this with a public/private partnership; our conservatism goes way back; that was attempted and the Y serves many people. Renner said they do a fantastic job. Mayor said that is one not for profit partnership that we have successfully done in the City; the question is do we need to go farther.

Younger said the same thing could be applied to golf; there are public courses and private ones; there are always people who want to go different places and it is about what is important to them; I don't advocate for anything; this is about your town; my job is to put out the best strategy for you.

Renner said my final comment is the YMCA does a fantastic job; a little secret is that there is a whole floor in Clark Hall that is an extension of the YMCA and has fitness facilities and it's hardly used; I looked at the stats on that and it is just amazing; is that a communication problem or what; another thing that drives me bananas is that public funds go to build schools, and they and their gyms are empty for 3 months of the year; why isn't there a gathering around using those.

Anderson said one of the slides spoke to survey results for play grounds for children 2 to 5, there is a request it be for ages 6 to 10; I have gotten feedback that we need playgrounds that go beyond that; people use Westerville as the example; there is something for teens and adults to do as well. Younger said no one brought up adding outdoor fitness elements within a playground; most only wanted age appropriate equipment for older kids.

Jolley thanked Younger for the information.

ISSUES - From President of Council:

ORD-0083-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATED LABOR AGREEMENT TITLED "AGREEMENT BETWEEN OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION DISPATCHER UNIT AND CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2015"; TO REPEAL ORD-0060-2011

Renner said I thought it was time to bring these forward again; we delayed this based on the premise we needed a checkpoint to see where we were on our finances; we have seen that; now I wanted to bring it back to my colleagues to find out where we are; it is set right now for August 5; wanted to see if we could reach a consensus to just go ahead and put this up for a vote; should we do it now or do we need to wait until August 5; what

say you.

Jolley said it is my understanding that we may have a couple of Council members absent on August 5; so it might be prudent to make a motion to bring these to the table for our meeting on July 15 to vote on these at that time.

Samuel said I agree. Anderson said I agree and will be in support of them at that time. Samuel said will it go to consent agenda. Sherwood said you can't. Jolley said because they have to have a motion to bring them back to the table; they have to go on regular agenda.

Larick said the original intent of delaying this until August 5 was to have the opportunity to see what the administration presented; whether the impact of these numbers were incorporated within a sustainable plan; while I think there needs to be more discussion on that plan, it does show that these can be accommodated; even if the opinion is it cannot be accommodated, at least we have information data to identify the decisions folks are making.

Jolley said I agree and feel we should discuss it when all of Council will be present rather than when a couple are absent; I or someone else can make the motion to move it to the table.

Anderson said I would like to say for the record that I will be in support of this when we next discuss it; I agree we should move it to July 15.

Recommendation: 2nd Reading, Regular Agenda.

Recommended for Adoption

ORD-0084-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATED LABOR AGREEMENT TITLED "CONTRACT BETWEEN CITY OF GAHANNA AND FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, CAPITAL CITY LODGE NO. 9, JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2015"; TO REPEAL PORTIONS OF ORD-0165-2010

See discussion under ORD-0083-2013.

Recommendation: 2nd Reading, Regular Agenda.

Recommended for Adoption

ISSUES - From Clerk of Council:

Accept Deed/Clotts Road ROW & Utility Easements

Sherwood said back in 2008 there was a SWP (Subdivision Without Plat) approved on Clotts Road; part of that approval was to obtain some ROW (Right of Way); it is right at the curve on the northern end of Clotts Road; they recently recorded the SWP and in so doing they gave us and recorded the deed for the ROW; there are also several utility easements that were recorded at the same time; I am requesting 2 ordinances; one to accept the ROW and one to accept the utility easement.

Recommendation: 1st Reading, Consent; no need to come back: 2nd Reading, Consent.

ISSUES - From Previous Committees:

Hamilton I-270 Bridge (Structurepoint Contract)

Franey said in the last committee meeting, the administration brought forward a

recommendation to have the new Hamilton Road bridge over 270 prepped for 8 decorative poles and a vandal fence when ODOT rebuilds the bridge deck; those additions would come at a later date; the design for 2 contracts has passed through Council and those contracts could be paid through the TIF; the remaining cost was to be less than \$10,000 from the General Fund to possibly be reimbursed from the TIF; know that Council was uncomfortable with that and had some concerns; so Wetherholt went to ODOT and had a conversation with them sharing the concerns and the challenges we were facing; ODOT said for joint projects on items less than \$10,000 that they find to be beneficial, they have the ability to not pass that cost on to the municipality; in this case they believe these enhancements are good for the community and the state; they liked the fact the opportunity to do these enhancements could be done at a latter date when we would be able to fund that and they have agreed to not pass these initial costs on to the City; where we are now, the legislation that has already been passed for contracts is being paid through the TIF, and the bridge will be prepped for 8 decorative lights and the vandal fence at no additional costs to the City thanks to Wetherholt and ODOT.

Renner said congratulations. Franey said Wetherholt did a really good job. Jolley said this is a huge positive; speaks to the importance of a structure that will be at our entryway for half a century; to foreclose on the possibility of these enhancements would have been foolish; it speaks volumes that a State agency would absorb the costs of that preparation to make this possible in the future; appreciate you and Wetherholt's work on that.

Mayor said I am very happy the State saw the value in this; there has been a lot said about the decorative nature of the lights and fence; it is good to keep our options open because a vandal fence is just what it states; we are very fortunate that at this point in time we do not have the issue, like some communities, of people throwing things off the bridge; there may be a safety need for fencing and/or additional lighting in the future; there is a safety element to this and ODOT recognized that; there are multiple other reasons but this is important as to why we leave the option open for the future.

Samuel said would you re-emphasize what TIZ money is; it is not income tax money; just want to educate and repeat that. Mayor said it is from the businesses in The Industrial Zone (TIZ) formed 30 years ago; they paid rent and that money was received by the City over that 30 year period and this is the last of that money. Samuel said could future maintenance issues be funded from that same money from those same businesses; money could perhaps be escrowed. Mayor said there is very little maintenance costs that go to it. Franey said it would be the cost of maintaining those 8 lights which would be rolled into our current street light maintenance costs; the bridge has a 20 year life and would probably go beyond that before it has to be redone. Jones said TIF's cannot be used for maintenance, only new investments.

2014 Tax Budget

Mayor said we have presented the Tax Budget; we have a State requirement to pass this at our next meeting; we can answer any other questions.

Samuel said I have a question that has been answered already, but I want it on the record; for Creekside, there was \$200,000 a year set aside for 5 years which will total a million dollars; if there is extra money that is carried over, perhaps this is under a million in 5 years; or if there are emergencies and you have to have supplementals into the fund, can you explain how that works. Teal said the \$200,000 a year is for Creekside maintenance and repairs; it was an item in the Capital Needs Assessment; the description for the uses and needs for this money is included there; there is general knowledge that there are going to be ongoing needs at Creekside due to the nature of the

project; rather than wait and fund these one at a time as they happen, we choose to have this pool available each year for that activity; our common practice is to release unencumbered funds at the end of the year back into the appropriate fund; there are a few exceptions like the vehicle replacement program that were vetted through Council over the last couple of years; at this time that approach has not been discussed for these funds; it could be done this way or not; it is currently just a placeholder as we work on the finalized requirements.

Samuel said we mention in the Parks and Rec report about the pools; I asked could we contract them out or could someone just buy them. Mayor said we tried; they were for sale and there were no takers in the past. Samuel said I want that on the record.

Jolley said there were dozens of questions that were answered by email regarding the tax budget and the 5 year forecast.

Recommendation: Motion Resolution, Consent Agenda.

Income Tax Increase

Samuel said I strongly recommend that we move forward on this; I am suggesting that we bring it forward to put it back on the ballot; Mr. Wester gave an impressive talk in public comments at the last Council meeting; it was about roads and increased costs; there are so many other things, like the cost of petroleum products and how they affect so much of what the City does; also the cost of contractors; and our Service Center, if you drive to the complex, it looks like something from the 2nd World War; the walls are caving in; it is rotting and full of mildew; don't know how people work down there; we have been letting that go and we are in the worst shape of any city in the area as far as that complex goes; it is ludicrous that we do this; we need to reconsider and get this back on the ballot; we need to move on it.

Larick said the administration has put together an outlook where they identified a use and a need; with that, it seems very American to allow the public to determine whether that is the future or not whether it is the 1st, 2nd, or 22nd time; I am in favor of allowing the electorate to make that decision.

Renner said I think everybody knows how grim the presentation was; it is a reality and I wholeheartedly agree that the question needs to be back on the ballot and we let the citizens of Gahanna decide; is this really the future they want where it closes everything down; we clearly are not able to pay for what we need; don't care what anyone says, I can't wait to go out into the public and do battle in the electorate field; the citizens of Gahanna must absolutely come into play; if they come back with a resounding no, then so be it; we will go forward with what has been painted for 2015.

Anderson said I ditto the comments; it is important the citizenry weigh in on this because it is the city they live in; people will decide if they are going to live and stay based on what reality they choose; even though we are their representatives, it is incumbent for the citizens to weigh in and the November election historically has more people that turn out; I think that since it didn't pass it is important to try again; people have to decide, as the Mayor says, what kind of Gahanna do you want to live in; they have to decide what the normal is going to be, what it was when you moved here or something different; one could argue that this should have been on the ballot a year ago, 2 years ago, 5 years ago, but we are at this juncture now; the citizens will give us a response; nobody likes to increase taxes; this is not about the general concept of lets just increase taxes; it is about this is our City and what do you want to do with regard to our services that are provided; the citizens will decide and based on that determine what our new normal will be; I am

in support of putting it back on the ballot; it is not that I want to increase taxes; I am fiscally conservative; please underscore that for the record; people need to decide what it is they want for the City they have chosen to live in.

Samuel said we need to be watchful; if there is a campaign in favor of this, it needs to be paid for by private funding; also separate the federal government from the local government; a lot of people who are irritated with the national government will take it out on the City; everything we do is directly affected by this and we need to remember that.

Wright said we have to point out to the citizens what you are getting for voting for this; feel it is extremely important; people don't like to vote for a tax increase; you show them the benefits of what they are getting; it needs to be somewhere in the legislation; it would be a valuable tool; like the City of Columbus with their bonds, say this is what you are getting so people have a concrete vision of what exactly they are getting for any type of action they are voting for; we are at a point where we have talked about being the lowest tax rate and for people who come in to the community, it is not the first thing that they say; we say we are one of 2, there is us and Reynoldsburg; look at them and where they are; they are battling the same problems we have; if you look at which communities are suffering, it is the ones who have a 1.5% tax rate; when we talk about when this should have gone on the ballot, it was when all the other suburbs put their's on; now we are in this situation; in summary, I would say I would like the legislation to say what benefits the citizens will be receiving if they vote this through.

Jolley said I echo the comments said; it is important to reiterate for those in attendance, reporters and others, that Council does not have the authority to raise taxes; all we can do is give the citizens the opportunity to answer that for themselves; it is our duty and responsibility to give them that opportunity; they can choose to or not to exercise that option; then we will do what we can do; everyone would agree we have a unique exceptional community and we want to keep it that way and keep moving forward; anyone could look at the graphs that we have seen and clearly recognize the need for increased revenues that we have in this City to maintain an exceptional quality of life; citizens can vote against this if they don't want to maintain that; if we want to keep Gahanna an excellent city and a destination, then the sad and difficult reality is we need additional revenues; a lot of this is based on what happens at the State level which is completely out of our control; anyone who doesn't understand that has not been reading the news the last 2 or 3 years; you have seen the communication sent out from our Clerk regarding the resolution to present this to the Board of Elections; the ordinances will be introduced on the 15th; at that point if there are changes in the wording or rates or anything, we can have that discussion and make any amendments that anyone would like to make; at this time I plan to ask Council President to introduce on the agenda the same formula as before which is an increase in the income tax rate from 1.5% to 2.5 %; and an ordinance to increase the credit for taxes paid to another municipality from 83.33% to 100%; any discussion we can amend those at that time. Sherwood said it would work better if you let me know by Monday morning if you want any amendments to this so I can have something drafted. Jolley said as written is what will be introduced; any changes provide them to the Clerk.

Anderson said the feedback I have been getting says keep any explanations simple. Sherwood clarified this meant keep it simple on the ballot; the Board of Elections has the final say on the ballot language, but I can recommend.

Jolley said please take a look at what Sherwood sent out; it follows the guidelines. Mayor said I have been working with the City Attorney; after the last ballot, questions

came up on the language and could we put certain things in the language; like could we put the credit idea in the language; could we guarantee the money is used for something; the Board of Elections has said they do not allow compound questions. Ewald said it has to be single ballot issues; can't have a credit and a tax increase in the same issue. Mayor said just wanted this out there; nothing simple about it when you go to draft it. Jolley said we will follow the guidelines and the ORC as closely as possible.

Recommendation: Resolution, Ordinance for 1% increase; Ordinance for the tax credit; Regular Agenda.

Meeting Adjourned

Della Brandenberger, Reporting