

# Canal Winchester

*Town Hall  
10 North High Street  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



## Meeting Minutes - FINAL

August 31, 2020

7:30 PM

## Committee of the Whole

*Mike Walker - President  
Mike Coolman - Vice President  
Jill Amos  
Will Bennett  
Bob Clark  
Patrick Lynch  
Chuck Milliken*

**A. Call To Order**

*Walker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.*

**B. Roll Call**

*Present 7 – Amos, Bennett, Clark, Coolman, Lynch, Milliken, Walker*

**C. Also In Attendance**

*Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples, Lucas Haire, Amanda Jackson, Bill Sims*

**D. Items for Discussion****20-178****DORA - Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area**

*Lynch: Thank you Mr. Walker; I have a guest speaker from Destination Lancaster; Collin, has joined us this evening; I asked him to join to answer any questions you have about DORA; Collin: sure yeah, I can answer any questions you have; I have been with destination Lancaster for over 3 years now; we have had DORA in our downtown special improvement district for a while now; we work with our safety service director and chief of police to get a permanent one; we now apply per season instead of per event; I can't tell you how much of a success it was for Lancaster and our businesses; Coolman: so you had said you applied per event or per season, so you don't have a permanent one? Collin: That's is correct; we do not have a permanent one now; we apply per season; before I started, they applied per event; we are working with City Council to have it permanent; Lynch: They did mention they use to apply per event, but correct me if I'm wrong you just got a 365 day event permit. Collin: Correct, however every four months I have to send an application to our Safety Coordinator for the and he along with Chief of Police will sign off on that, saying it will be in effect every day of the week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Coolman: Collin, how many events does Lancaster have per season; Collin: it is typically about 4 per season; Coolman: and I am sure you don't have many during the winter season. Collins: right, so this last one, and of course this year is quite different; we have a New Year's Eve event, a Winter Carnival, and a Breast Cancer Bra Crawl. Bennett: as you were talking about working with the Police force in Lancaster, what are they looking at to continue the program? Collin: So we have had a great response from the Police Department; one thing is they want the beverage in a designated cup, that way they know it was purchased from a liquor licensed establishment; also, they had concerns about keeping the city clean, we have someone on our staff that keeps the district clean; fortunately we have not seen an issue at all; the business owners are making sure the patrons are being responsible; but the Police Department has not seen any issues. Walker: The 11 to 11; I have talked to the residents here; and they chose that time for better staffing; is that what you found out? Collin: Yes, the 11 to 11 is to keep it more consistent, but also was recommended by the police because of shift change. Walker: but was staffing an issue with the establishments. Collin: when you say staffing do you mean with the bars and restaurants? Walker: yes, they were looking at who they could bring in to serve. Collin: I am not sure if that had anything to do with the timing. Lynch: are toy asking then if restaurants are not open they have to bring people in to work. Walker: I mean, some restaurants have people who can serve drinks but they also have people who can only serve food because of age. Lynch: the challenge is educating the business about the type of cups and the rules. Walker: I asked them about why 11 to 11, and they said it was about having the right staff; I wanted to see why 11 to 11. Lynch: complicity. Clark: you mentioned the cleaning, who pays for that cleaning? Collin: Yes, we have a special improvement district; any business there is an assessment that they buy into; property owners that have a certain amount of square footage, has to pay a tax that goes into our special improvement district; and then they contract snow removal in the winter and then they take out the trash in the summer; we have not seen an issue, we always want to*

*make sure it looks ok; but they are really keeping it clean; Clark: how many police do you have patrolling the area; how many police does it take; and do you have them more so because of DORA? Collin: I would say it would be the same; unless it is a special event, like the Art Walk, where there are thousands of people in one area and then we have six special duty officers; but other than that there is no increase in police force; we have no increase presence. Clark: so there has been no public intoxication arrest in that area at that time. Collin: there probably could have been, but the police department has not told us the DORA was the cause of any issues. Milliken: how big of an area is your DORA? Collin: we have it from High St. to Memorial Drive which is 3 blocks then to Walnut St. which is 3 blocks, I can send you a map if that's helpful. Milliken: I guess I was looking at something to compare to ours in size; if your area is larger, I would think it would be more difficult to patrol, and if ours is smaller, and Lancaster doesn't have any issues, then Canal Winchester shouldn't have and problems. Lynch: am I correct when I say Lancaster has 16 establishments apart of your DORA. Collin: yeah, that is close; Lynch: we are looking at 5, so yeah they are 3-4 times larger than us. Coolman: so this is obviously advantageous for the restaurants and the bars; but what about the other merchants' downtown with revenue. Collin: we host large events but a lot of places host smaller events; some ladies like to grab so wine and then walk around and shop; I think it benefits outside of our events. Coolman: no one has complained how people brining their liquor into their store. Collin: No. Lynch: with the DORA restaurants would not have to enclosed porches; sort of like the European who just set a table and chair on the side walk; no one would have to be pinned in to enjoy a beverage. Collin: yes, that is correct; for example a brewery in town has gotten permission from the owner of the parking garage next door, and people sit and drink and food trucks park there; they said it is what has saved them since the pandemic. Walker: so you allow, beer, wine and cocktails. Collin: yes. Bennett: Mayor Ebert, you are the one who is responsible to send the application to city council for approval, do you have questions at this time. Mayor: no, I don't have any questions for Collin at this time. Milliken: I think that in any other time, I would be OK with waiting and looking at this next year; but I would love to see this happen for our businesses who are struggling, I think this would help them. Amos agreed. Lynch: we have new buildings and room for new restaurants, would this make it look more attractive for businesses to come here. Walker: as much as I would like to see this happen right now too, but Hendershot has express the need for more deputies, but we need to make sure the Sergeant and the Mayor are confident about the decision. Mayor: I think the information that has been gathered and what we heard tonight are good references; but it hasn't changed my mind yet; I don't think it is the right time to start something new that requires deputies; the deputies are under a lot of work stress today, and rightfully so; I don't think it is the right time to be unloading this on them; I just don't have the right feeling for this right now. Coolman: Mayor, I understand what you're saying; how would you feel about starting like Lancaster did, and start slow with special events; we hire special duty officers anyway at the events. Mayor: I think the events that Destination Canal Winchester hold would be OK. Walker: some communities start small with just one day a week. Mayor: I just think at this time we need a break in period, where we can start out slow and work our way into it. Amos: so you're asking Destination to be a ginny pig, if you are applying for a seasonal permit, can a business can apply for an event permit as well. Bennett: at the end of the day it depends on the Mayor and his comfort level. I think it is safe to say he wants to start small with special events. Coolman: it is a complex situation, last meeting we talked about deputies, we already need an additional officer right now. So if I'm reading you tight Mayor, that's where you're getting at. Mayor: I also think the mood of people towards officers; I don't want to take a chance with people and our deputies. I too don't want to lose a deputy to DORA. Amos: I respectfully disagree; from all the communities we have talked they have all said, we have not seen an increase; generally what people do are not going to change; I don't think the DORA is going to monopolize the police force. Walker: and more questions; thank you Collin for coming in tonight.*

*Bennett: let's talk about redistributing the bed tax fund, and looking into..; 6% annually collected, out of that 6%, 1.5% goes directly to Destination, and the other 4.5% we can disperse as we so see fit; I think we discussed the CWICC get a portion of those proceeds, should we be offering services for Human Services or Joint Rec, should we increase the amount we allocate for Destination; Jackson: can I clear something up before we get into this discussion; the way that the current ordinance is written 3% of the 6% goes into the general fund, 3% goes into the bed tax fund; 1.5% of the 3% bed tax fund goes to Destination Canal Winchester, and the other 1.5% is the digression of council; so while we are going around, you guys can do that every year without changing the ordinance. Bennett: but we don't have to put the 3% in the general fund. Jackson: yes, I would caution changing this ordinance and making it too specific; this should be discussed every year while the budget is being made. Bennett: of the 1.5%, what are we projecting that to be; the amount we could divvy out, what is the projection? Jackson: in 2019 we were projected at 70k into the bed tax fund that would be 35k for council; we actually took in 95k so half of 95k would be council's pot from 2019. Coolman: I think we should look at dollar amounts, as the community grows, we will have needs we don't even know about right now; if we earmark it to go to specific projects, but then have to back track, how are we going to do that; I would like council to keep that same dollar amount they give out every year; I would like to see council give out the same amount; and if Lucas needs it to make a purchase it comes through us and we approve it. Clark: I think we are going to build McGill Park, it's going to be our number one tourist attraction; if future council wants to do away with giving it to the park that's their prerogative; I don't really care at this point; its whatever, I just don't think the grants are that worthy. Bennett: Mr. Clark I see where you are coming from, we are building a 6 million dollar park, we should have the funding for maintenance already figured out. Bennett: 20k is a large sum of money for the grant program, maybe take it back to 10k or 12k; potentially I think we could; to a point that is a small pool of money and we need to do make sure we are doing the most we can with that. Lynch: I don't think the money should be used for the parks; we need to find another way to fund the maintenance of the park; the park will be used by the residents, I don't see it brings people from outside Canal. Clark: I disagree, it will bring people from outside Canal Winchester. Mayor Ebert agreed with Clark. Walker: the public was involved with McGill Park I think it will be a fabulous park and will bring people to Canal Winchester.*

### 20-180

### Racism as a Public Health Crisis

*Amos: So we had a resident reach out to us, there was a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis that Lithopolis put through and declaring an emergency; there is some information that has to be changed, the statistics and some things are not sited; overall the big thing is that the community is asking us to acknowledge that racism is in our community and to stop turning a blind eye; it talks about how different races receive different health care; working in a school that this is true and happens across the board; it think we need to consider to make sure the community knows we stand with them; Milliken: where I am at on this is, looking back when we had this discussion; our residents want to see action items; I looked at both the Reynoldsburg's ordinance and the Lithopolis' Resolution; and I feel like the resolution is more of an empty gesture; the ordinance is more of an action item, and I also found a lot of issues with the Lithopolis resolution. Amos: the reason I am touching on the resolution because it wasn't on the agenda I didn't know if I could talk about it; wouldn't you agree the resolution would be a stepping stone; I think we need to dig into the ordinance, there are a lot of things in there as a city; if we say we are going to do this we need to stand and say we are going to do this we need to stand that we will hold to it as well; we have to get law enforcement involved; this is a stepping stone; our community called for action items; we need to look into this and not let it go to the way side. Walker: the City of Canal Winchester's Board of Health is Franklin County; and I think we need to look towards the experts; and Franklin County has already honored a resolution; if we were to move forward with this I would like to see a Franklin County expert from the health department to speak; so they can walk us*

through it. Amos: I think it is an excellent idea; just some statistics; 1 in 1,125 Black Americans have died of COVID, whereas 1 in 2,450 White Americans; that's crazy to me. Bennett: what I would add to Mr. Milliken, it isn't a truly empty gesture, we are asking for inequality training, we are asking community partners to pursue the same training; we are asking can you consider this; the hard part is putting some guidance around what does this look like, how to make this better; it is a stepping stone to acknowledging an issue. Amos: does anyone have any suggestions before I give you a draft. Milliken: are taking this as a template, or are we looking to rewrite our own to be more specific for Canal Winchester. Amos: I was using it as a template. Walker: this might be why we should get more guidance from Franklin County; I think the guidance from the experts would be very important. Bennett: I think we should have the Board of Health come in and share their knowledge on what they have adopted; what is the best way to facilitate this. Jackson: we have some contacts we can get someone. Amos: should we suggest them come in to the next meeting. Jackson: I will let you know what I find out. Milliken: I just want to make sure we get this right; in this resolution the Village of Lithopolis was only mentioned three times; I want ours to be very focused on Canal Winchester.

**E. Adjournment @ 8:49 p.m.**

***A motion was made by Milliken to adjourn, seconded by Bennett. The motion carried by the following vote:***

***Yes 7 – Milliken, Bennett, Amos, Clark, Coolman, Lynch, Walker***