

Canal Winchester

*City Hall
Council Chambers
45 East Waterloo Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110*



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

March 6, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council

Chuck Milliken - President

Bob Clark - Vice President

Laurie Amick

Jill Amos

Steve Buskirk

Patrick Shea

Mike Walker

- A. **Call To Order** *Milliken called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.*
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - *Amick*
- C. **Roll Call** *Present 7 – Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker*
- D. **Approval of Minutes**

MIN-23-008

February 21, 2023 Work Session Minutes

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Buskirk to approve MIN-23-008. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker, Amick

MIN-23-009

February 21, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Amick to approve MIN-23-009. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Buskirk, Amick, Amos, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker

- E. **Communications & Petitions**
- F. **Public Comments** - Three Minute Limit Per Person

Discussion started at 1:19:20 on YouTube Channel

Kay Sargent, 6732 Braeswick Court – Thank you for allowing me to speak. First of all, I want to thank you, Mr. Shea, for acknowledging my email at the last City Council meeting. I was not here, but I heard that you had mentioned it. That was the only official acknowledgement that my email was even received. Thank you all for discussing it tonight. I also want to thank everybody for the community discussions on the 22nd and 23rd, which were much appreciated. That’s not the important part of what I want to talk about tonight. In February, there was a draft TRAC vote for funding that included the highway 33 corridor from 270 to the Fairfield County line. That meeting was very important. It was the first meeting I personally attended, and it was very interesting. I was not even given three minutes to talk, but I was able to talk to Mr. Mike Dittoe, who votes for our area. I also was able to talk to Mr. Dingus, who represents District 9 in the southern part of the state. After the staff had gone through all the proposals and determined what was approved and what wasn’t, we were told that there was an additional \$80 million to play with. Mr. Dingus lobbied for funding for a project that was not approved at all, and he convinced them to give him another \$42 million. Mr. Dittoe from our area did not say anything about our project. We need you, and we need you to lobby for that. Additionally, there is a billion dollars a year for safe roads for all. A billion dollars. Nationwide.

- G. **Reports of City Officials and Staff**

Mayor's Report**Discussion started at 1:22:50 on YouTube Channel**

Ebert – I don’t have anything to add to my written report, but if you have any questions about it, I’ll be glad to answer them.

February 2023 Mayor's Court Report

A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Buskirk to approve the February 2023 Mayor’s Court Report. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Milliken, Buskirk, Clark, Shea, Walker, Amick, Amos

Fairfield County Sheriff

Discussion started at 1:23:24 on YouTube Channel

Sgt. Walker – I have nothing to add to my written report, but I'll be happy to take questions.

Law Director

Discussion started at 1:23:38 on YouTube Channel

Boggs – I don't have a report this evening. There were no requests for an executive session either. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

Finance Director

Discussion started at 1:23:54 on YouTube Channel

Jackson – Just one thing to add to my written report this evening. As much as it pains me to say this, we have started talking about the pool this summer. Just so you know, we are working through no changes to dollar amounts, no changes to membership structures, or anything along those lines. We've been discussing maybe making some changes to the registration process. It is still in the works, and hopefully we'll have something to report to you on that topic in two weeks.

Public Service Director

Discussion started at 1:24:32 on YouTube Channel

Peoples – Nothing to add to my written report.

Development Director

Discussion started at 1:24:41 on YouTube Channel

Haire – A quick update on the TRAC process and where we are currently: the ODOT TRAC Committee did have a meeting on February 22nd. At that meeting, there was a recommendation for the US-33 projects, which include the Bixby interchange, the widening of one additional lane in each direction on 33 from the Franklin County/Fairfield County line to 270, and the reconfiguration of the ramps at 33 and 270. Those three projects were joined into one. The request was for \$31.5 million for preliminary engineering, detailed design, and road right-of-way acquisition. What the TRAC Committee has recommended is that the project be funded for preliminary engineering only. That is \$19 million out of the \$31.5 million that was requested. Their recommendation was that that \$19 million be split up into two fiscal years for ODOT in 2024 and 2025. The request was for \$19 million in 2023, \$6 million in 2025 for detailed design, and \$6 million for right-of-way in 2025. That's a recommendation at this point. The TRAC Committee will have its meeting later in March to vote on those recommendations. I would suggest that any of you who are interested in that project reach out to your state legislators and let them know the importance of the project to not only our community but to everyone that travels on the 33 corridor, and see if they can provide assistance. I know a number of you have done that already, but the more voices they hear, the more helpful they can be. It may not be possible to change at this point where we get those dollars back in this TRAC process, but for future TRAC funding processes, future budgets, and transportation budgets, there are always ways that they can help out, and make sure that everyone at the state knows that this project is a priority.

Shea – We need to have them drive down here on a Friday afternoon.

Haire – Or any morning of the week.

Amick – Was there any commentary around why they only funded the pre-engineering piece?

Haire – It's my understanding that they thought it would be too premature to fund them for the detailed design and the right-of-way acquisition. Some of the projects are very large. Everyone can understand the lane widening. Bixby Road has been designed for years. 33 and 270 are very large projects, so I think they just thought it was too premature to put that much funding into that project until they had a better idea of what the preliminary design would be.

Shea – Would the preliminary design kind of give them an indication of what they're looking at in terms of costs?

Haire – Yes. They did some cost estimates already. It's \$167 million for the total cost.

Peoples – Just an FYI, the TRAC Committee was very consistent. There were two projects in the 70/71 interchange reconstruction that they did the same thing with. They did preliminary design funding only, and I believe that was \$190 million; they held off on the construction dollars. It was a consistent theme throughout their decision-making process.

Haire – It delays the project, yes, but it doesn't have to delay it significantly. Pickerington Road, the interchange there, was in the TRAC process last year, and it moved into tier two status, which is where we are, which was preliminary engineering, and then they got half a million dollars for detailed design. In this TRAC process, they got the rest of their detailed design, \$12 million for right-of-way, and \$47 million for construction. It can move quickly.

Shea – Can you get us a list of all the legislatures that are on this 33 corridor so we can start reaching out to them?

Haire – Yes. Most of them wrote letters of support as far down as Hocking County.

Amick – Were there other projects that got funding for all three phases?

Haire – Yes. There are also other projects in Central Ohio that didn't get any funding. Alum Creek Drive, there's a new interchange proposed on 71 around Big Walnut Road, so there were other projects that didn't get funded at all.

Amick – Without naming names, are the projects that got all three phases approved in one fell swoop, are they areas that are seeing significant growth across the state? Ms. Sargent, I would have liked to have met this guy who could walk up there and say, "Hey, I'd like to have your \$42 million in unused dollars," and they'd be like, "Oh, okay." I'm paraphrasing, but what were they?

Peoples – I can actually address that situation if it's the same one that I'm thinking of. There was other funding tied into this, so they would have lost the other funding if this project wouldn't have moved forward.

Haire – Mr. Dingus is a very good economic developer in southeast Ohio. Mrs. Amick, I'm not familiar enough with all the programs and where their statuses are. I have the spread sheet, but I don't know all

the details of all the projects around the state. It's competitive across the state. There are always more requests than funds that they have available.

Shea – Do they try to spread the money around the state equally?

Haire – Every district puts in requests for funding. They give priority to certain districts. That's why Pickerington Road would be funded before the rest of these because of the impacts, and the safety impacts are probably larger on some of these other projects along 33. Pickerington Road is District 5, it was their main request, and this is District 6, which had seven requests. You can say that these are three separate projects, so it's really ten requests. They just lumped them all into one.

Clark – Matt, with the three projects now all joined together, are they going to try to build them out equally at the same time?

Peoples – Based on some of the discussions that we had with ODOT, they don't know. It depends on who you talk to at ODOT. Some of them believe that the 33 main line should take priority, a couple other fellows feel that the Bixby Road interchange should take priority, and others feel that it should be the 33 and 270. It's a mix, and I think it just depends on how it's going to play out in the future.

Haire – It would be designed separately. They could go separately because they're not all in the same design documents.

Amick – Will you send out to council the information about the March meeting?

Haire – Yes. Also, we did have the request for the Meijer final development plan. Since the last meeting, we amended that ordinance to include the restrictions on truck parking, and there is a map in front of you this evening that shows where truck parking is permitted, which would be in the loading areas. A representative of the owner is here this evening if you have any questions for him. They are requesting consideration from the council to pass this ordinance this evening. They've already started construction on the project, and this could potentially delay it on the pharmacy side of things. We've approved plans, but we haven't included this pharmacy drive-thru in their approved plans. They've got another 30 to 60 days to get those plans approved once council passes something.

Amos – Did we end up identifying the loading zone?

Haire – It's on the map in front of you. It's the area to the north side of the Meijer store. That's the only area that would permit commercial parking.

Shea – She was talking about the loading zone for the landscape area.

Haire – I don't believe they have a loading area currently. Maybe the representative could explain that more.

Aaron Heydinger, Meijer Representative – All the parking spaces that align the whole garden center will be the loading zone. We can rework some of the striping to make it more precise. We'll make it clear that all those loading spaces are going to be right on that south side.

H. Resolutions**RES-23-009***Mayor**Sponsor: Amos*

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE-RECESSION LEVELS

- Adoption

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Milliken to adopt RES-23-009. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 5 – Amos, Milliken, Walker, Amick, Buskirk

No 2 – Shea, Clark

RES-23-010*Finance**Sponsor: Walker*

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEPOSITORY AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK FOR THE DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Adoption

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Shea to adopt RES-23-010. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Walker, Shea, Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken

I. Ordinances

Third Reading - NONE

Second Reading

ORD-23-011*Development**Sponsor: Shea*

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE MEIJER STORE LOCATED AT 8300 MEIJER DRIVE

- Second Reading Only

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amos to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of ORD-23-011. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Shea, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Walker, Amick

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Amos to adopt ORD-23-011. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 7 – Shea, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Walker, Amick

First Reading - NONE

J. Council Reports

Work Session/Council - Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Work Session/Council - Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

CW Human Services - Walker

Discussion started at 1:41:27 on YouTube Channel

Walker – Saturday, April 8th, is the community Easter Egg Hunt at McGill Park. Thursday, May 4th, is the senior prom at Canal Winchester High School. They are partnering with the student council. There will be music, dinner, dessert, and raffles. This year's theme is Cinco de Mayo. In the month of February, Human Services served 410 people and provided 6,150 meals through the community food pantry and market day

initiatives.

CWICC - Amick

Discussion started at 1:42:21 on YouTube Channel

Amick – Our next meeting will be on March 29th at 11:30 a.m., and it will be held here in Council Chambers. It is open to the public.

CWJRD - Amos/Shea

Discussion started at 1:42:35 on YouTube Channel

Amos – Our next meeting is next Thursday, the 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The public is very welcome to come.

Destination: Canal Winchester - Milliken

Discussion started at 1:42:48 on YouTube Channel

Milliken – There is one more winter farmer’s market to go, and it will be held on Saturday, April 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Faith United Methodist Church. The summer farmer’s market will begin in May. We’re still accepting applications from artists for the May 20th Art on the Canal Stroll. Artists can go to the Destination Canal Winchester website to find out more information under the events tab. Canal Winchester High School students will be participating in an annual poster contest to develop the poster for Art on the Canal Stroll. The student whose design is chosen will be given a \$500 award. The first Thirsty Thursday event is scheduled for May 25th. Bring your chairs and friends and enjoy the evening listening to the music of the Poverty String Band from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

CW Chamber of Commerce – Buskirk

Discussion started at 1:43:40 on YouTube Channel

Buskirk – An update on the memberships for the month of February: it increased by two, with a gain of three members and a loss of one. For February, they hosted the Denim and Diamonds annual award dinner. February was filled with preparations for the event, including securing sponsorships and silent auction donation baskets. They also hosted the breakfast workshop. Alexis Donahue was hired on February 6th as a part-time marketing manager. Onboarding has been going very well. It’s been an easy process for her to catch on. Upcoming events: we have a happy hour on March 24th at the Olive Branch. The State of the Schools Luncheon is Wednesday, April 12th, at the Community Center. A golf outing on Friday, May 12th, at Winchester Gold Course.

K. Old/New Business

Discussion started at 1:44:48 on YouTube Channel

Amick – I just would like to give a shout-out to the Canal Winchester High School Student Council members. They attended a portion of the comprehensive plan meeting. They proceeded to give a readout, fully dressed up, and a PowerPoint presentation. They gave that to the steering committee, so I just wanted to give them a shout-out and tell them it was a job well done.

Milliken – Very nice.

Clark – I’d just like to give a shout-out to Mr. Peoples for the award that he won. I don’t have a lot of details in front of me, but I know it’s a prestigious, statewide organization. He’s had a lot of successful years here. I appreciate your service and a job well done.

L. Adjourn to Executive Session (if necessary)

M. Adjournment @ 7:44 p.m.

***A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Clark to adjourn. The motion carried with the following vote:
Yes 7 – Milliken, Clark, Shea, Walker, Amick, Amos, Buskirk***