

Canal Winchester

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



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

June 19, 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 7:01 p.m.*
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance** Amick
- C. **Roll Call** *Present 7 – Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker*
- D. **Approval of Minutes**

MIN-23-023

May 30, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Amos to approve MIN-23-023. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

MIN-23-024

June 5, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Clark to approve MIN-23-024. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker, Amick

Abstain 1 – Amos

MIN-23-025

June 5, 2023 Work Session Minutes

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Clark to approve MIN-23-025. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Shea, Clark, Milliken, Walker, Amick, Buskirk

Abstain 1 - Amos

MIN-23-026

June 5, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Shea, seconded by Buskirk to approve MIN-23-026. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Shea, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Walker, Amick

Abstain 1 – Amos

E. **Communications & Petitions**

COM-23-009

Madison Township Police Statistics May 2023

COM-23-010

ZM-22-001 Recommendation From Planning And Zoning

Discussion started at 1:35:13 on YouTube Channel

Haire – The Planning and Zoning Commission has forwarded a recommendation on a rezoning application. We need to set up a public hearing for that. My recommendation for that public hearing is August 7th.

Amick – We were contemplating the Rules Committee's annual meeting on that date. Is that negotiable for you, Mrs. Amos?

Amos – No. It's fine. The other date I said was because school's starting, but we'll make it work.

Clark – Can you explain what this is?

Haire – It's a rezoning application to rezone from a PCD Planning Commercial District to a PUD, which is a Planned Unit Development. It would permit up to 244 residential units to be constructed on 10 acres with 6 acres of commercial in front. Don't quote me on those numbers.

Milliken – Okay, so we will have the public hearing on August 7th at 5:30 p.m.

F. **Public Comments - Three Minute Limit Per Person**

G. Reports of City Officials and Staff*Mayor's Report***Discussion started at 1:36:47 on YouTube Channel**

Ebert – I have nothing to add to my written report, but if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

*Fairfield County Sheriff**Law Director***Discussion started at 1:37:08 on YouTube Channel**

Boggs – I do not have anything to report this evening, but I have been asked by Mrs. Jackson to share the following: the city's audit has been completed with no issues found. The auditors are asking if the city wants to have a post-audit meeting. That question is posed to the council to determine whether there is a desire for a post-audit meeting. Generally, with no issues being found, the answer given is no need to meet. I'm throwing it out there for you to respond, and if there is a desire not to have a meeting, then there's a form we need to sign and return.

Milliken – It would be my recommendation that it would not be necessary. I don't know how everyone else feels about that.

Amos – Mrs. Jackson has been more than able to answer all the questions we have.

Clark – Agreed.

Shea – Mr. Boggs, can you share with the group the question I asked you about CWJRD report and what you found?

Boggs – Yes. House Bill 47, which was referenced in the CWJRD executive director's report, has been introduced in the Senate. It has passed the house. The chief sponsor of it is Representative Brown of Canal Winchester. It has, of course, had testimony in the house as it went through its opponents. The testimony was delivered by the Ohio Municipal League on the basis of it being an unfunded mandate for cities. That is what I have found out about it so far.

Amos – I think the bill is specifically targeted to schools at this point, correct?

Boggs – The summary references schools, but the text of it does not. It refers to the controlling authority of a recreational facility, which can be a school or a city, township, or recreation district.

Amos – I know most schools already have AEDs. That's probably why there isn't much funding because most of them already have it in place.

*Finance Director**Public Service Director***Discussion starts at 1:40:10 on YouTube Channel**

Peoples – The only thing I want to highlight in my written report is the Winchester Boulevard reconfiguration. As I said in the Work session, we were going back and forth on the Gender Road Phase 6 project for an OPWC application. Since we identified other funding through Safe Streets for All, we are

looking to submit an application for OPWC funding for the Winchester Boulevard project. We did have EMH&T perform a mock score on that. It did score rather well on that. We have a couple points we may be able to still get through some economic development or cost sharing, but it looks like it is a viable project to get some funding. We're still working through that, and we'll have legislation similar to Safe Streets for All authorizing the application. We'll have a public meeting on the project as well to try to get some input. We'll be doing some letters of support to send around as well.

Clark – Do they anticipate how many people are going to apply for that and how much money is available?

Peoples – I believe one billion dollars were available for the Safe Streets for All program. This is the second year that they've done this. Last year they had money left on the table, so they're definitely drumming up some support for this. I was not aware of this funding last year.

Clark – Do you think it'll be more competitive this round with more people knowing about it?

Peoples – Yes, but I think what helps us out is that we're going for an actual implementation grant rather than a planning grant. I think the planning grant was utilized a lot in the previous cycle, so being able to have a project ready to go that is eligible for this type of funding would help us out.

Development Director

Discussion started at 1:43:01 on YouTube Channel

Haire – Thank you to the council members who were able to join us on Friday. We took a tour of some library branches in the Columbus Metropolitan Library System. We went to the Reynoldsburg branch, which is under construction, and the Gahanna branch, which is newly opened and was rebuilt. We stopped at the Whitehall branch as well to kind of review what the library hopes to accomplish on the site that they've purchased on Groveport Road. They were asking for feedback on local priorities for that library, so thank you to all who participated in that. We had some folks from the Planning and Zoning Commission that participated as well. Their goal is to have their site plans and architecture determined by late this year and then be prepared to start construction in the spring or early Summer of next year. That's their goal right now, but they're at the very beginning of the design phase for that project, so we'll be working closely with them over the next few months to kind of make sure that it meets not only our requirements but also the library's requirements as well. They're looking at a 30,000-square-foot branch. They're currently in 4,500 square feet, so it's quite an upgrade from what they're operating in currently. Also, some of you may have seen that the Sweet Harmony Canal has started. That's at 30 Liberty Street; the new bar concept that they've started there has started construction on the interior of that facility. There's also a sign on the building now. I'm sure you'll start hearing about that, but I wanted to make you all aware that they did start construction there last week. I'd be happy to answer any other questions you all might have.

Milliken – With Sweet Harmony, my understanding is that it's going to be kind of like a venue where other vendors are able to come in.

Haire – It'll be operated as a bar. They will have entertainment on certain evenings as well, but it'd also be a place you can rent out. They have meeting rooms and things like that that you can rent out.

Milliken – Do they have a speculative open date?

Haire – I'm not aware of exactly when. There are pretty extensive renovations they need to do there. They're putting a fire suppression system in the building; they have a lot of drain line work and restrooms, so there's a lot of work to do.

Amick – Do we have a food truck policy? If they hire a food truck to come to that facility, is it okay with us?

Haire – We have a special event permit that's required if you have a food truck.

H. Resolutions

RES-23-023

Development

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTRACT FOR CREATION AND OPERATION OF A JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WITH VIOLET TOWNSHIP

- Adoption

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Buskirk to adopt RES-23-023. The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes 6 – Amick, Buskirk, Clark, Milliken, Shea, Walker,

Abstain 1 – Amos

I. Ordinances

Third Reading - NONE

Second Reading

ORD-23-021

Finance

Sponsor: Shea

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2024 TAX BUDGET

- Second Reading Only

ORD-23-022

Finance

Sponsor: Amick

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #22-041, AMENDMENT #4

- Second Reading Only

First Reading

ORD-23-023

Public Service

Sponsor: Amos

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM FOR FUNDING OF THE GENDER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE VI PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Request waiver of second and third reading and adoption

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Clark to suspend the rules and waive the second and third reading of ORD-23-023. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Clark to adopt ORD-23-023. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

J. Council Reports

COUNCIL RECESS - No meeting Monday, July 3, 2023

Work Session/Council - Monday, July 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole - Monday, July 31, at 6:00 p.m.

CW Human Services - Walker

Discussion started at 1:49:11 on YouTube Channel

Walker – Update from Aletha Mullins, Director of Human Services: We’re hosting a workshop on June 21st from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer’s. All are welcome, and the location is 80 Covenant Way. Brock Walk was a success, bringing in 19,830 items for the Community Food Pantry. Loose Rail is giving 10% of all sales on Tuesday in the month of June. They’d like to invite everyone to come out and show their support.

CWICC - Amick

Discussion started at 1:50:03 on YouTube Channel

Amick – I have nothing new to report since my last report. Our next meeting is August 30th.

CWJRD - Amos/Shea

Discussion started at 1:50:12 on YouTube Channel

Amos – Our meeting unfortunately got moved last week due to attendance, so we are meeting this Thursday at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Destination: Canal Winchester - Milliken

Discussion started at 1:50:30 on YouTube Channel

Milliken – We have another Thirsty Thursday coming up this Thursday at Stradley Park from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be Mclans Celtic Rock Band performing as well as the Grilled Cheese Gangsters food truck and Weldon’s. Be sure to check out the community calendar on Destination.org for this event and other happenings around Canal Winchester, which would also include the Farmer’s Market coming Saturday and every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Historical Complex. There’s also the Canal Winchester Farmer’s Market Facebook page, which you can check for more information. We are getting closer to Blues & Ribfest, just over a month away on July 28th and 29th. We’re currently looking for volunteers for the information booth. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Stiles at info@destinationcw.org.

CW Chamber of Commerce - Buskirk

Discussion started at 1:51:30 on YouTube Channel

Buskirk – The chamber continues to reach out to new and potential members each week, trying to increase their membership. Recent events: they recently held at the Community Center a networking and hiring night that was on Thursday, June 15th. Upcoming events, "How to Market Your Business Digitally," are going to be Wednesday, June 21st, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. here at the Community Center. Their next event is Brews and Blankets on June 22nd from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at BrewDog for a networking happy hour with a twist. The chamber and a network throughout Central Ohio are coming together to see how many fleece blankets they can make in one afternoon for foster families. I’m unsure of the date for the next meeting right now.

K. Old/New Business

Discussion started at 1:52:33 on YouTube Channel

Ebert – Going back to the audits, I’d just like to point out that for the last five or six years since Amanda has been the Finance Director, she has received the highest possible achievement for her audits every

time. It's not just about numbers. It's not about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing; it's about the procedures she has put in place. Not only for her but for all the staff to follow. She has done a fantastic job at that. She is the city. She gets the credit. Well, the city kind of gets the credit, but she deserves the credit for putting everything in place to make that happen and make us as financially stable as we are today.

Milliken – I couldn't have said it better myself.

Shea – Did we figure out that fee waiver for the eagle scout?

Boggs – This could be done through legislation. There is a fee schedule that is adopted by ordinance. My understanding from talking to Mr. Haire between Work Session and this session is that there are exceptions that are already laid out in the fee schedule ordinance, but this does not fall into one of those exceptions, so new legislation would be needed to waive that or add it to the list of exceptions. Is that something that you'd want to see at the July meeting or have further discussion?

Amos – He can't start unless they pay for the permit, correct?

Boggs – Correct.

Buskirk – What's the cost of the permit?

Amos – \$495

Milliken – Let's just bring it forward and vote on it. That's a step forward, right?

Boggs – Correct.

Shea – How would you structure this particular type of exemption legally?

Boggs – I'd have to give it some thought, but probably in terms of a community project that's not for profit, maybe even that, if council was comfortable allowing it to be something that's an application to the Development Director to be approved by the mayor, if it meets these criteria, then it wouldn't have to come back before council if this situation should reoccur.

Amos – In this case, would it be more beneficial if we did a transfer of funds from bed tax because this is a...

Shea – We're looking to waive it.

Amos – I understand that, but he's saying we need to have legislation in place to waive it. We don't want to hold this kid up; is it in our best interest to take it from bed tax funds for the \$495 and just reappropriate funds in this case only so we can expedite it?

Boggs – For one, I wouldn't want to make any commitments or representations to you about the bed tax fund and what's available and what's not encumbered at this moment. To do that, it would require an

appropriation ordinance, which itself is doable, but we could do that just as easily at the July 17th meeting, just as we could do the fee waiver provision at the July 17th meeting by suspension of rules and adoption by emergency.

Amos – I think my only concern was just holding him up. That was my biggest concern because that's over a month that we're asking him to wait.

Shea – What has he done since then? I mean, I know he came in and talked to us, but what has that young man done since?

Amos – Just for the record, I will be abstaining from the vote because I have been talking to this kid and mentoring him on some of this stuff. He's been approved. He's at the part where he can receive a permit, and he has reached out and received quite a bit of funding. He also has concrete and electric work donated. He is getting close to the part where he can roll out.

Shea – I'll give him \$100 for his permit.

Amick – Has he actually solicited either companies or individuals for funding?

Amos – Yes.

Amick – Has he actually raised anything towards the permit cost?

Amos – Not towards the permit because he had approached us and, based on conversations here, kind of got the impression that we were going to be able to waive it. We did not include that in his proposals.

Clark – I mean, this is a very worthwhile project, as are a lot of them, but how many non-profits and other groups like this come before the city and waive a permit? If it's not a lot, I don't have a problem with it, but if it's a lot, are we opening ourselves up to every non-profit or every group to waive their permit? We can't waive one and not do another.

Haire – The most frequent non-profit users would be every church in the city, and the schools typically get permits for everything they do. Whether it's amending something with their fire alarms or changing something in their buildings, I would say probably the most frequent are the churches because we have approximately 15 churches in town. In the past, we've waived portions of their fees. The fee ordinance allows the mayor to waive fees when the project exceeds over \$100,000 in investment or the building has been vacant for more than one year as an incentive to get them to update buildings. That's been on the fee schedule for quite a while. That was put in basically as an incentive for economic development because it allows a smaller business that's making an investment to get an incentive as well.

Buskirk – I'm with Mr. Shea; I'll donate to his costs.

Milliken – So, I guess based on those two voices I'm hearing, we'll just tell the kid to work on fundraising.

Buskirk – I will work with him to make sure that he gets the funds that he needs.

Clark – I'm on board with that.

Shea – How many Eagle Scout projects a year do we get?

Amos – On average, you get 3 to 4 a year. That's a really good year. Most years, it's 1 to 2.

Shea – I know what an accomplishment an Eagle Scout program is, and I think as a municipality we should do everything to support it. I would say if you want to limit it to Eagle Scout projects that would be very narrow and limit you from getting sucked into the non-profits asking for help.

Boggs – It would be very narrow; it might, in a sense, be too narrow if it had the effect of tending to favor one sort of protected group over another.

Shea – Is it cleaner just to make an emergency motion to add a \$495 appropriation ordinance this evening to cover the cost of this and not have to change it?

Boggs – It would certainly be a quicker way of getting it done. I don't know if I'd call it cleaner because I don't know if that would solve the problem that you'd have with any other worthy cause coming in and asking the same thing. Without going back and looking, I suspect that's not how we've approached it with the schools.

Buskirk – It sounds like there are enough members of the council willing to pitch in to cover his fees.

Clark – If we get the money in the next few days, he can walk in the next day and apply for it, right?

Haire – Yes.

Milliken – Lastly, we have a Committee of the Whole scheduled for Monday, July 31st. Do we have agenda items that we want to schedule for that meeting?

Amos – Not to my knowledge.

Peoples – We've not had any from a staff standpoint that I know of.

Milliken – Okay, so if there's nothing for us to discuss for that meeting, is everybody okay with canceling that meeting then?

Shea – Yes.

Milliken – We'll cancel the Committee of the Whole for Monday, July 31st.

Walker – At the last meeting, I don't believe it was on here, but I was asking President Milliken if we could keep the sound system on Old Business and the Hometown Hero Banner Program. I was reading on the city's Facebook page about the Hometown Hero, and it said there was an \$85 fee for that veteran, unless I was reading that incorrectly. If that is the case, I was hoping that there might be another way for that \$85 to not be paid out of their pocket. My thoughts are that they've already paid back their time. It would be a reward. We're not acknowledging, as a city, that person who's serving in the military and honoring that

person by having it paid out of their pocket.

Peoples – Just from a background standpoint, \$85 is what the banner company charges. They are all individualized banners with the name of the individual as well as the picture and branch they are serving in. It is what the banner company charged us. The city covered the shipping fee, but it was a straight \$85 for that. We just modeled our program off of some of the other communities that do this as well.

Amick – The city, I assume, absorbs the cost of hanging them.

Peoples – Yes. We hang them. We return them to the veteran or their families after Veteran's Day. It's actually their banner; if they choose to give it back to us next year, if it's in good condition, we'll continue this program and put it back up for them.

Clark – How many banners can we put up?

Peoples – What we've done this year is set up every other pole. We're going to start on South High Street first. I don't have a count of how many poles are in the downtown area. I would say we would easily be able to have 75.

Clark – I think having banners downtown is a beautification to downtown, and obviously, recognizing a veteran would bring families down to see them, and they might go into Shades to eat. I think it could be an attraction to bring people downtown. I think the bed tax could be used for this. If you did 75 of them, you're looking at \$4,960. I kind of agree with Mr. Walker that these veterans have put in a lot for our country and for our freedom. I kind of hate that we're going to honor you, but we're going to make you pay.

Milliken – I would agree with that as well. Mr. Walker, with Jordan being out this week, that's probably why these didn't make it. Did you want to keep this on for old or new business?

Walker – I guess it's already out there.

Peoples – The program is live right now, and there's a deadline on it. I think it's the end of July, if I'm not mistaken. We need to get this figured out if we are going to change it midstream. Also, in my opinion, we need to put a cap on this. If it's the first 75 or whatever it is, because if not, I mean, we're going to have more banners than poles. That is something that we need to do.

Milliken – First come first serve, is that fair?

Shea – Absolutely. I agree with Matt's opinion about capping it too.

Clark – Mr. Boggs, do we need a resolution, or can we do this tonight and make a motion?

Amos – Well, it's live, and they're collecting fees from people already.

People – I do not know how many we've had submitted. Our program was set up for us to purchase from the banner company, and we would purchase based on the orders that we received from them.

Amick – Do we have any idea how many Hometown Heroes we might have?

Peoples – It is rather popular with the VFW, even though some of its members are not eligible for it. The idea for this program came from the VFW.

Amick – Because there's no limit as to where or when you served, correct?

Peoples – Correct. Do we know what the cap is going to be?

Clark – The first 75.

Shea – I concur.

Clark – How do we need to do the legislation?

Boggs – What I'm hearing from Mr. Peoples is that funds have already been appropriated, and it's more about the administrative determination that had been made to seek that the city be made whole on those purchases. That being the case, there's no legislative action that would need to occur because that money can already legally be spent on these items. When we come back in July, if there's money that needs to be moved from one fund to another, we can address that then.

Peoples – I also have some information on the speaker system. This is just one of the companies; roughly, to do High Street between Columbus and Waterloo, we would have to put up five units with some antennas, the computer, and a subscription. I'm not sure if this includes the computer, but we're looking at about \$12,000–\$13,000 for the equipment. It does not look like it includes the computer, so we'll just say \$15,000, and then the subscription would be a monthly charge for the streaming music. I don't know of any other community that's doing this, so if we know anyone, we could take a look at someone else's program. We do not have anything like this budgeted either. The subscription was \$35 a month.

L. Adjourn to Executive Session (if necessary)

M. Adjournment @ 7:49 p.m.

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