

Canal Winchester

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



Meeting Minutes – FINAL

August 21, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council

Chuck Milliken - President

Bob Clark - Vice President

Laurie Amick

Jill Amos

Steve Buskirk

Patrick Shea

Mike Walker

City YouTube Channel – [CityofCW YouTube Page](#)

City Council will also continue to accept written public comments prior to a council meeting. To be included on the Council agenda, comments must be received by noon on Monday before the meeting. Comments received after the deadline will be included on the next agenda. To submit a comment to City Council, click on the link below.

[Submit A Comment](#)

- A. Call To Order** *Milliken called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.*
- B. Pledge of Allegiance** Clark
- C. Roll Call** *Present 6 – Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Milliken, Shea, Walker*
A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Shea to excuse Mr. Clark from the City Council meeting. The motion carried with the following vote:
Yes 6 – Walker, Shea, Amick, Amos, Buskirk, Milliken
- D. Approval of Minutes**
- [MIN-23-032](#) August 7, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes
A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Buskirk to approve MIN-23-032. The motion carried with the following vote:
- Yes 6 – Walker, Buskirk, Milliken, Shea, Amick, Amos*
- [MIN-23-033](#) August 7, 2023 Work Session Minutes
A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Buskirk to approve MIN-23-033. The motion carried with the following vote:
- Yes 6 – Walker, Buskirk, Milliken, Shea, Amick, Amos*
- [MIN-23-034](#) August 7, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Walker to approve MIN-23-034. The motion carried with the following vote:
- Yes 6 – Amick, Walker, Amos, Buskirk, Milliken, Shea*
- E. Communications & Petitions**
- [COM-23-012](#) Madison Township Police Statistics July 2023
- F. Public Comments - Three Minute Limit Per Person**
Discussion started at 1:48:01 on YouTube Channel
Bob Bennett, 769 Groveport Road – These are photos of Groveport Road. We’re here to speak about it. We have lived right across from it for the last 6 years. You can pass the photos down. You’ll get a copy. We’ve tried numerous phone calls and emails to various administrative folks and are getting really nowhere. You’ll see from the photos that there needs to be a tremendous amount of work done. I just think it’s a matter of civic pride that we get this place cleaned up and make it look like it is part of a city, not just a dumping area. In the last 60 days, we had a crew come over there and whack out some weeds, and where the end of Groveport Road ends at Gender, there’s a new pole there. It goes back about 35–40 feet and down a hill. They basically just came in with somebody else’s yard waste and dumped it in there. It’s full of trash, leaves, and stuff like that. It smells. I don’t know what the purpose of that is, but at any rate, please look at those photos. All the photos basically just show the entire third of a mile. We’re right across the street. There are five of us that have joined in, and we have all joined together and formed a Groveport little group to help. Let’s show some civic pride and get this road cleaned up. Please take your time with those photos, and please get over there and take a look at this. I think you’ll be amazed at how disappointing it is. There are two photos in there from where my son lives in Hilliard. It’s a very similar trial, and it’s very well kept. We need to plant a lot of grass. We don’t need a pollinator area. It’s too narrow to be a pollinator area because of the bees and wasps. We really just need to bring in a lot of prairie grasses. They put out a tremendous amount of O2. They also absorb a tremendous amount of CO2. If we want to do something for our environment, even around this building, we need grass. Let’s just start doing our part to reduce CO2 and bring in some more oxygen. Please call us if you want to just get in

our driveway and walk that area where the trail is, and I think you'll be amazed at how unsavvy it really is. I thank you for your time.

Kay Sargent, 6732 Braeswick Court – I appreciate the fact that you're looking at the area from Gender Road West at Winchester Boulevard. It is an area that does have a lot of bad traffic. Anyhow, one thing I would like you to consider and I would like the engineering firm to consider is that there are a lot of options out there right now in terms of computerized traffic lights that have cameras that sense how many cars are lined up and how far the traffic is lined up. There are other sensors that are in developments that are actually embedded into the road base. You can have lights that aren't set on a set program, but depending on how traffic is lined up, if it's backed up in an area, it will change the light to green. Today I sent the council and Mr. Peoples an email with some of this information. I'm sure that there are other opportunities out there, but I think that needs to be looked at. They can be set up so that a number of lights are in conjunction with one another. I think that would be a better option for Winchester Boulevard and going into the Winchester Square area. Another thing to be aware of is when there's additional traffic going right in front of businesses and you have pedestrian traffic, which really is a safety issue and problematic. Also, I hope that decisions are made with the businesses in the area. I think traffic going through that parking lot, which is already problematic, is going to just get worse. Please take those into consideration. I am hoping that, in addition to these comment forms, we'll be able to present our comments online or electronically.

G. Reports of City Officials and Staff

Mayor's Report

Discussion started at 1:54:30 on YouTube Channel

Ebert – I need approval of the July 2023 Mayor's Court Report. I don't have anything else unless you have any questions.

July 2023 Mayor's Court Report

A motion was made by Milliken, seconded by Shea to approve July 2023 Mayor's Court Report. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

City Administrator/Public Service Director

Discussion started at 1:55:06 on YouTube Channel

Peoples – I have one thing to add to my written report. The ODOT sound wall is under construction. They started drilling some of the shafts for the pillars that go out there.

Buskirk – Do we know a completion date when they propose to have that completed?

Peoples – I can get you that before the end of the meeting.

Shea – In regards to the resident who lives on Groveport Road, I know you're just now hearing about it tonight, but there are a couple things on here that probably should have been fixed when things were constructed in terms of seeding around light poles. Unless you have a practice of killing everything to make mowing easier, is this something you do?

Peoples – Generally yes. I have had conversations with Mr. Bennett. I understand his view. We just have a different view out there. We do have plans to do some planting out there. It's not the planting that Mr.

Bennett spoke of. We've already started the planning process. Obviously, it's under construction right now, so the conditions right now aren't exactly standard out there.

Milliken – Is there anything that is part of those plans that we can do to alleviate some of the flooding issues?

Peoples – There's not really a good drainage system out here. We've actually looked at the Groveport corridor at Thrush Drive for an OPWC application to add drainage improvements as well as turn lanes into Hanner's Park. It did not score very well on the mock that we did. It's not something that we have pursued at this point. It is old canal land, so there is a lot of fill out there; the fill is of varying quality, if you will. I know there were dumps out there at some point. If you recall, not too long ago, it was overgrown with multiflora rose, honeysuckle, and other invasive species. We cleaned that all out and started to put in redbud through there, as well as evergreens and conifers. We're enhancing that on the east side with strips of pollinator gardens or wildflower areas.

Amos – Has our arborist had input on what's going in over there?

Peoples – Yes. Dick Miller has worked with the Street Tree Advisory Board on some of those plantings. The newest member is a master gardener and is working with Dick on the procedures to go through the pollinator garden. I believe that we scalped it, basically mowed it all the way down, and put the herbicide on it to kill it off and get all of the existing plants out.

Amos – Have you had a chance to share Mr. Bennett's concerns with Dick at all?

Peoples – I believe he has spoken with Mr. Miller. I'm not positive. I know that they were trying to communicate at one point.

Fairfield County Sheriff

Discussion started at 1:59:45 on YouTube Channel

Sgt. Walker – I do not have a written report for you today. I figured out how to do the new system, so I will have one for you at the next meeting. I'd be happy to take any questions if you have any.

Law Director

Discussion started at 2:00:03 on YouTube Channel

Shamp – I also have no formal report but am happy to take any questions.

Finance Director

Discussion started at 2:00:12 on YouTube Channel

Jackson – I have just one item to add to my written report. I got notification today from the Ohio Municipal League that their annual conference registration is now open. This is typically something we extend an invitation to council for, so look for an email from me with that information. I will need a response back by mid-September in order to get anybody who's interested in attending registered in a timely manner. It is being held at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown, and it is Wednesday through Friday, October 18th through the 20th. You can choose to attend the entire three days or whatever your schedule allows. I will get that information out to all of the council tomorrow.

Development Director

Discussion started at 2:01:04 on YouTube Channel

Haire – I did send out the draft of the comprehensive plan to everyone today. Again, that is an initial draft that was meant for the steering committee, but since it was going to be the item of discussion this evening, I just went ahead and forwarded that on to you. If you do have a chance, take a look at the overall themes of that. There are edits that are currently underway based on the steering committee's feedback. We'll get to a point where we have a distribution draft; probably by the middle of next month, we'll have that done. The goal is to take that to the Planning and Zoning Commission and distribute it for public review and public comment in late September or early October. Take a look, and if you have comments, questions, or concerns, let me know. A subcommittee of the steering committee is meeting this evening to discuss the vision and values, as well as to refine the final statements. We're going to have another meeting to talk about the implementation strategies and rank them as a steering committee, so those are still ongoing. There are still a number of edits that are going to take place on that.

Shea – Do you anticipate any material changes to the draft?

Haire – Yes.

H. Resolutions

RES-23-028

Finance

Sponsor: Amick

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LABOR DAY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE TO OPERATE THE ANNUAL "CANAL WINCHESTER LABOR DAY FESTIVAL" ON THE VARIOUS STREETS AND SIDEWALKS OF THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER

- Adoption

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Amos to adopt RES-23-028. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Abstain 1 – Walker

RES-23-029

Development

Sponsor: Buskirk

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DEED OF SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CANAL WINCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Adoption

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Amos to adopt RES-23-029. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

RES-23-030

Development

Sponsor: Buskirk

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT AN EASEMENT FOR WATERLINE PURPOSES FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CANAL WINCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Adoption

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Amick to adopt RES-23-030. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

RES-23-031

Public Service

Sponsor: Amick

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN/MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2024-2028 FOR THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER, OHIO

- Adoption

A motion was made by Amick, seconded by Buskirk to adopt RES-23-031. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Discussion started at 2:04:36 on YouTube Channel

Walker – I’m wondering about the crosswalk in front of Shade’s, where the canal boat is in the brick. I believe the brick has been there since 1993. It is hard to see that imprint now. I wanted to talk about maintaining the brick or concrete. I know that’s where the crosswalk is, but if we were able to move that crosswalk a little bit one way or the other to keep that boat there, I know every time I take someone new to Shade’s, I show them both sides of the sign to read the history and point out to them about the stern there. I know it’s important to me. I don’t know how many people it’s important to; it’s just that it’s a piece of our history with that canal boat being there.

Peoples – As we talked a little bit, we definitely saw the vision they had in 1993 for the work. It was to signify where that canal was. We’ve talked internally as we are looking at the project, which, by the way, is not designed. We have a concept plan for it, but we are trying to figure out how we can show the distinction of the canal. We don’t have any answers for that now, but one of the things we intend to do as we’re going through the concept plan is have a bump out across the street from Shade’s. The front parking lot there would no longer be there. We’ll add a curb all the way across the front of that. We’ll bump that curb out to where there’s a shorter crosswalk or shorter travel distance to get across the travel lanes. What we want to do is make sure that right now, we’re making it safer to get across there as a mid-block crossing. We have to take a few extra measures there. I definitely want to figure out a way to signify that. It is a large area. It’s very difficult to see the actual boat there. I’m on an aerial photo right now, and I can’t make out a boat. I know what it is because I’ve been around long enough to know what’s there. We just need to figure out how we’re going to signify that canal land.

Walker – So, no final decisions.

Peoples – No. Like I said, there’s no design being done at this moment. We just did the concept plan.

RES-23-032

Public Service

Sponsor: Walker

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TRADE-INS OF A 2008 CHEVROLET 4500 CABOVER STAKE BODY TRUCK AND A 2011 FORD F-150 PICKUP TRUCK

- Adoption

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Amos to adopt RES-23-032. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

I. Ordinances

Tabled

Third Reading

ORD-23-024

Development

Sponsor: Amos

AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE DEDICATION OF REAL PROPERTY FROM BD33 PARTNERS, LLC FOR USE AS PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

- Adoption

A motion was made by Amos, seconded by Shea to adopt ORD-23-024. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

Second Reading

ORD-23-025

Finance

Sponsor: Shea

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #22-041, AMENDMENT #5

- Second Reading Only

ORD-23-026

Public Service

Sponsor: Buskirk

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SEEK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR FUNDING OF THE WINCHESTER BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Request waiver of third reading and adoption

A motion was made by Buskirk, seconded by Amick to suspend the rules and waive the third reading of ORD-23-026. The motion carried with the following vote:

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

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

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

ORD-23-027

Development

Sponsor: Walker

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE THE PLAT OF CANAL POINTE

- Second Reading Only

First Reading

ORD-23-028

Development

Sponsor: Amick

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CANAL WINCHESTER, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 16.36 ACRES OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY PARCEL 042-0388810, OWNED BY SHRIMANGESHI, LLC, LOCATED AT SOUTHEAST CORNER OF DILEY ROAD AND BUSEY ROAD FROM PCD – PLANNED COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO PUD - PLANNED UNIT DISTRICT

- First Reading Only

J. Council Reports

Rules Committee - Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Work Session/Council - Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Work Session/Council - Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

CW Human Services - Walker

Discussion started at 2:14:10 on YouTube Channel

Walker – This report is from Aletha Mullins, Director of Human Services. Some updates: they are seeing a steady increase in the numbers at the food pantry. In July, we served 446 people and provided 6,690 meals. Transportation is also seen increasing steadily each month. July provided 326 one-way trips and drove 2,637 miles. Last quarter, 81% of the clients that they served lived within city limits, which is the highest we have ever served. Typically, we are around 73% to 76% each quarter. Through the Tools for School program, we've prepared 160 book bags filled with grade-appropriate supplies for the students in

Canal Winchester. Thanks to our bed tax funds, we are able to purchase some high school-sized book bags to complete the request. We're so blessed to have such funding from our city. We have already surpassed what we did last school year, which was 156. This program will run throughout the entire school year.

CWICC - Amick

Discussion started at 2:15:32 on YouTube Channel

Amick – I have nothing new to report. Our next meeting will be here in Council Chambers on August 30th at 11:30 a.m.

CWJRD - Amos/Shea

Discussion started at 2:15:45 on YouTube Channel

Amos – Our next meeting is Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. We have some potential partnerships on the horizon, so we're excited.

Destination: Canal Winchester - Milliken

Discussion started at 2:16:05 on YouTube Channel

Milliken – Mrs. Amick, you asked last meeting about attendance for Blues & Ribfest, so roughly 25,000 is what I'm being told. It was a good turnout. Thirsty Thursday is coming up this Thursday, the 24th, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Stradley. Plain City Dads will be performing, and Fun'l Frenzy and Fully Loaded will be the food trucks. The farmer's market will continue through the end of September. October is coming up, and we have the Skelton competition again this year as well as a new event called Boo's & Brews. I don't have any other information on what that is currently. I'm guessing they may have something on the website, so for any information, go to www.destinationcw.org.

CW Chamber of Commerce - Buskirk

Discussion started at 2:16:58 on YouTube Channel

Buskirk – Since our last meeting, we've added three new members. We have another group that we are targeting as well. Upcoming events: on August 23rd at 11:30 a.m., we have Intel on Intel. This event is sold out. It will be fully attended. On September 13th at 11:30 a.m., we will be working with different generations in the workplace; that's the topic for the luncheon. It will be held here at the community center. On September 21st, at noon, we'll be doing a ribbon cutting for Crumbl Cookie.

Milliken – If it's not too much to ask, I'd be curious to know who those members are when you report on new members.

Buskirk – Barber Insurance Group, FSH Services, LLC, and Champion Pest & Termite Control

K. Old/New Business

Discussion started at 2:18:09 on YouTube Channel

Peoples – Just a response to Mr. Buskirk's question on the sound wall: the completion date from the original pre-con was October 15th. I think they're just a touch behind. It was all based on the fabrication of the wall.

L. Adjourn to Executive Session (if necessary)

M. Adjournment @ 7:48 p.m.

A motion was made by Walker, seconded by Buskirk to adjourn. The motion carried with the following vote:

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