



OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 17, 2017  
6:30 p.m.  
Village Green, 47 Hall Street

Attendance: Frank Bertone, Brian Lorenz, Dan Swartwout, Jim Hrivnak, Brendan Newcomb, Jon Bennehoof, Tom Counts, Steve Lutz and representative from Delaware County Tobacco Free Coalition.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Brendan Newcomb commented that he had a couple of suggested changes regarding the meeting meetings from the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. These included leaving the City Manager the discretion regarding telecommuting for employees, conducting a Murphy Parkway study in March and the 2017 Sidewalk Program.

II. AGE 21 TOBACCO/NICOTINE RESTRICTIONS

City Manager Steve Lutz informed the Committee that proponents of raising the age for tobacco use helps to prevent young people from smoking. Opponents of the legislation cite that unless restrictions are imposed in a large regional area individuals can just buy tobacco products elsewhere.

Glen Fisher of the Delaware County Tobacco Free Coalition, distributed a packet which included survey results and legislation which has been enacted in central Ohio communities.

Jim Hrivnak inquired whether there was any movement by the state to increase the age of tobacco products? Mr. Fisher stated he was not aware of any.

Frank Bertone inquired as to whether any other central Ohio communities were currently considering such legislation? Mr. Fisher said he was not aware of any.

Brendan Newcomb inquired if there were any communities in the United States which exceeded the age of 21 restriction? Mr. Fisher stated he was not aware of any.

Brian Lorenz commented that the fact sheet identified seventeen establishments in the 43065 zip code which has tobacco licenses. He inquired how many are in the City? City Manager Steve Lutz commented approximately five of the seventeen establishments were located within the City limits.

Brian Lorenz inquired as to whether townships have the authority to increase the age for purchasing tobacco products? Mr. Fisher commented that townships do not have such authority.

Dan Swoutwout commented that Grandview has an affirmative defense for parents/spouses in their legislation. He inquired whether the coalition has taken a position

on the affirmative defense clause? Mr. Fisher stated that they have not discussed this clause and would leave it up to each community to decide for themselves.

Jon Bennehoof commented that he struggled with increasing the age and imposing additional restrictions. He stated that he hoped there is lobbying at the State House to consider this matter on a statewide matter instead of just local communities.

### III. LECHLER BUILDING COST ESTIMATE

Steve Lutz informed the Committee that a resident, Jill King, has offered to contribute \$60,000 towards the \$180,000 cost of residing the Lechler Building. He stated at the current time there is approximately 1.7 million left in the voted bond issue that could be utilized for this project.

Tom Counts reminded the Committee that if the City spends \$100,000 for the Lechler Building it leaves \$140,000 less for some other project.

Jon Bennehoof stated he would be happy to approach others to see if there is a way additional donations could be received for this project.

Dan Swoutwout commented that he is tending to lean towards erring on the side of construction of Seldom Seen Park. He does not want to reduce too much funding for this project.

Brendon Newcomb commented he would support approaching others to try and get funding for the Lechler Building.

Frank Bertone commented that he hears that the Committee believes that the Seldom Seen Park is paramount. He would like to continue to look at ways to fund the Lechler Building in addition to Seldom Seen Park.

Tom Counts said we should talk about the need for funding City Capital Improvement Projects on a City wide basis not just a project by project basis.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.