



**CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of Powell City Council was called to order by Mayor Frank Bertone on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:31 p.m. City Council members present included Jon C. Bennehoof, Frank Bertone, Tom Counts, Heather Karr, Brian Lorenz, Melissa Riggins and Daniel Swartwout. Also present were Andy White, City Manager; Eugene Hollins, Law Director; Megan Canavan, Communications Director; Chris Huber, City Engineer; Aaron Scott, Assistant City Engineer; Karen Sybert, Finance Director; Chief Steve Hrytzik, Chief of Police; Elise Schellin, Development Planner; Silas Bowers, Interim Director, Parks, Recreation & Public Service; Officer Brandon Phenix; Karen J. Mitchell, City Clerk; and interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION: [Childhood Cancer Awareness Month](#) presented to Finn Weaver and Tiffanie Weaver

PROCLAMATION: [Prostate Cancer Awareness Month](#), presented to Linda Hoetger, ZERO PCAM

PRESENTATION TO POWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT: Melissa Schiffel, Delaware County Prosecutor recognized the Powell Police Department for its assistance in the lead up, investigation, and trial of the domestic violence and murder of Stephanie Hunter in Liberty Township. Although the events happened just outside the City limits, Powell Police offered assistance throughout.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Brian Blackburn, 867 Wallace Dr., Delaware, OH: I also wanted to thank Officer Phenix. Just over a year ago, I was involved in a car accident on Sawmill Parkway, just north of Seldom Seen Road. It was after dark, the lights were off, and I rear-ended a car that ran out of gas and was stalled on the road. It knocked me out and totaled my car. Officer Phenix was the officer that responded to the call. I have not seen him since that moment, so seeing him here tonight made me a little emotional and I wanted to thank him.

I had a chance to speak to the Development Committee tonight about Covid and I thought I would share a couple of those data points.

As you hear numbers come out in the media, many times context is missing. This context should give people confidence of where we are at as a community, as a county, and where we are at for our businesses and schools. The lack of context is driving fear and keeping our people from engaging in commerce or going back to school. It is also suppressing people's desire to pursue healthy activities that could improve their immune systems. One of the main causes of a negative reaction to the Covid virus is obesity. The longer we discourage people from getting into the community; we are setting people up for being susceptible to Covid. I do not mean to downplay the risk in any way, but it is to bring some context to how we pursue policies.

Today, for instance, you are going to hear that there are 1,400+ new cases. Here is the other side of it. We have had 6,000 more recoveries than new cases in the past month. You do not hear that number. We also have the same type of spikes that we hear about in new cases, but in greater numbers, for recoveries. The way this plays out in another statistic is called the Rt, or the R0 factor. If you look at a website called rt.live.com, you can look this up for yourself. Ohio is the sixth best state in the country right now with a R0 factor, or Rt factor, of .90. The governor has said that anything under 1.0 means that one person is giving the virus to less than one person. Therefore, when you hear 1,400 new cases, understand that 1,500 more recoveries are actually occurring at the same time when your R0 factor, or Rt factor, is under

1.0. On top of that, to understand that it has been under 1.0 since July 28 and 3 weeks before mask mandates were put in place. Our state positivity rate is 3.13 and the World Health Organization says anything under five is well under control. We have been there for over a month now.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 18, 2020

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved to adopt the minutes of August 18, 2020. Councilman Counts seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the minutes were adopted.

SECOND READING: ORDINANCE 2020-15: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FUEL SHARING AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY TOWNSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHARING EXPENSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (EX. A)

Andy White, City Manager: I provided a memorandum in your packet that included a revised contract. All of the items brought up at our last meeting have been reviewed and incorporated into the revised agreement. There were several sections of the contract that were set for modification. Those changes were relayed to Liberty Township and were acceptable to them. I think they are eager to see this go forward. I hope that with these changes, Council will find this acceptable for approval and adoption. I also want to thank the Law Director for his help in this matter.

Councilmember Lorenz: I would acknowledge that the Development Committee reviewed this at our August meeting and it was unanimously supported.

Mayor Bertone opened this item to public comment. Hearing none, he closed the public comment session.

Councilmember Counts: I assume that the attachment as Exhibit A will be exchanged with the revised agreement that was attached to your email.

Gene Hollins, Law Director: Yes.

MOTION: Councilman Counts moved to adopt Ordinance 2020-15. Councilman Bennehoof seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2020-17: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF 9.435 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED AT 2630 CARRIAGE ROAD AND 8061 LIBERTY ROAD, FROM LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF POWELL. (EX. A)

Mr. White: This is before you for a first reading. It has gone through the process and Council is familiar with project. This is the next step in the process to bring these 9.5 acres into the City as part of the residential expansion on the north side of Liberty and Carriage Roads.

Mayor Bertone opened this item to public comment. Hearing none, he closed the public comment session.

Ordinance 2020-17 was taken to a second reading.

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2020-16: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CAMBER COMPANY TO CONSTRUCT A RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION OF TWENTY-THREE SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ON 9.435 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED AT 2630 CARRIAGE ROAD AND 8061 LIBERTY ROAD, AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO PR, PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT PENDING ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF POWELL. (EX. A) (EX. B)

Mr. White: This follows the same conversation we just had. It is another strategic, procedural maneuver to approve the final development plan. The Carriage Farms project is 23 residential homes. There has been some communications to Council from the public via email expressing concerns with the financials. I did want to point out that the model I reviewed is somewhat antiquated. I believe it is roughly 2018 financial activities. I reviewed three scenarios. It is a useable tool in that it expresses the anticipated revenues, which I felt were conservative, versus the anticipated expenditures. The values expressed within the revenue side are light. You are looking at roughly \$25,000 to \$35,000 in income to the City from this annexation. There are a listing of expenditures. For example, under one of the scenarios, in a 50% assumption of retirement of population and 50% of income generating population, based on data the City collected back in 2017/2018, would generate an anticipated total of \$34,432 worth of revenue to the City. Beyond that, there are references to \$34,000 worth of expenditures and the resulting net decrease of \$221. I talked with the Police Department. I do not believe there is going to be an expressed increase in the Police Department's budget of \$14,949 that is the unit expression of the cost. I believe, with further research to come, that the inclusion of this development's footprint within the City and the associated

revenue will be a positive balance for the City moving forward. The expenditures that are referenced are inherent within our operation today. I do not believe that more officers or service members will need to be employed by the City, it is just an expression of the per unit cost of the expenses of the City as it exists today in proportion to this development.

Mr. Hollins: From a process standpoint, we often work the annexation hand-in-hand with these planned district zoning applications so that, in essence, nobody is going to get a pick in a poke. When it is presented to Council, we should have a fully developed application that is fully vetted by our Planning Commission for you to look at. Your policy decision, as the policy makers, is if you want to annex it, we simultaneously zone it to a planned district. A planned district is a zoning category, but it comes hand-in-hand with a specific plan in the text so that the only thing that can be developed there is what is in the plan and text. That is what is before Council at this point. I believe this will go to a second reading. That is how the process is set up to run so that contemporaneously you are presented with both the potential annexation into Powell and exactly what the zoning would be if Powell chooses to accept the annexation.

Elise Schellin, Development Planner: The final development plan was approved unanimously by P&Z in July. It went through the sketch plan, preliminary and two readings for the final development plan in order to allow the public to comment. The proposal includes annexing the horse farm and an additional parcel, which are both currently in Liberty Township, into the City. The plan is to build 23 single-family homes on 7.72 acres. The project is located on the northeast corner of N. Liberty & Carriage Roads where there is a future roundabout discussed by the County Engineer. The homes are on smaller lots so it creates a larger variety in our housing stock and is consistent with our Comprehensive Plan. The road will be a public road with a north stub road that will be helpful for any potential, future annexation into the City. Since the final development plan was heard by P&Z, the Applicant has added a bike path along Carriage Road.

Councilmember Counts: In two of the conditions [of the Ordinance], number 5 refers to any HOA. I was unclear whether that was the HOA set up for this development or another HOA. I know that in many instances, the developer controls the HOA until some point in the future, so I was not quite sure exactly what was driving this condition.

Ms. Schellin: This actually references the Westchester HOA that already exists on Carriage Road. It is Township residents that live on Carriage Road, they were the ones concerned with the development, and this was a condition that came about from P&Z so that the developer and that HOA would work together moving forward.

Councilmember Counts: Condition 1 talks about the intersection. I was wondering about the cost of that intersection. Due to this development, is our share increasing for the cost of that intersection or is the developer picking up their prorata share of that expense? What is the net cost to the City?

Mr. Hollins: That is probably a good issue for Engineering to address. I do not know if they have gotten that far with cost sharing and design at this point.

Chris Huber, City Engineer: We have not gotten a lot of detail on the cost sharing. We had some preliminary discussions that with the annexation this would [audio] for an intersection. It does not mean that the City is going to inherit the entire cost of any future roundabout or traffic signal. The County has verbally expressed that they will be part of that process with future developments, but what percentages [of cost sharing between the entities] has not been discussed.

Councilmember Lorenz: When did the roads in this subdivision become public roads? I always thought this was private.

Ms. Schellin: It was after the sketch plan came for review. It switched over to public roads in the preliminary review phase.

Councilmember Lorenz: What was the reason for that?

Ms. Schellin: I do not know.

Chris Bradley, Camber Company, Applicant: We always intended for them to be public roads. On the initial plan there may have been a note made by Staff that needed edited. Particularly when we have a stub road to the north.

Councilmember Lorenz: Relating to Item 5, I understand the intent here of having a good working relationship with Westchester HOA. I think this comment is going to cause Staff problems or issues down the road. Either I am going to ask to have it stricken or I will probably make a friendly amendment at the next meeting. I think it needs to be reworked if we are going to keep it. It is too ambiguous and we have Code requirements that a developer has to pick up their site, etc. My concern is that if there is an argument between Chris and the HOA, for example, there could be some issues down here at City Hall. I do not want our Staff to have to take the time to be the intermediary again. We have a zoning and development code that takes care of all of that.

Councilmember Bennehoof: There are floor plans in here for some of the units. There is the intimation that there is a second story. There are steps indicated in the floor plan. I do not believe these have basements. Is that correct?

Mr. Bradley: Some may have basements, some may not. There could be an option for a small space on the second level, a loft. Architecture, the scaling of the units will appear to be two-story to the street. There will be an option for the buyers to have a loft or basement.

Councilmember Counts: I would just echo what Brian said. I do not think that in any other development we have ever had a condition like this about an adjoining HOA. In addition, clearly most of our developments have had an adjoining HOA. I would find this to be unusual.

Mayor Bertone: What has been your feedback from the neighboring communities now?

Mr. Bradley: We have collaborated significantly with the community. They have been very involved at the Planning & Zoning level and all the public meetings. We met outside those meetings with HOA president, Amy who has been very collaborative and great to work with. Although you cannot tell by looking at the plan, there were many changes on this plan, particularly as it relates to the landscaping, screening, mounding, and density that we worked together and through. I think that their biggest concern, regardless of whether this project happens or not, is the traffic at Liberty and Carriage Roads, particularly with ingress and egress during the school hours. Since the P&Z meeting, we have created a committee to continue to try to develop a strategy to make a difference at that intersection. For example, by asking if anything routing-wise today can be done such as an operational improvement of how we are loading and unloading school buses and where the buses are going. Mr. Huber has participated in some of that conversation with us. Then when you look at the traffic, as it exists today, this project is a minimal percentage of additional traffic relative to that. What we have done on this project and the other property we recently developed in the area is we reserved land that will be dedicated to the City or Township in the event there will be a roundabout at some point. In my conversations with the Township and the County, I am not sure that this is their number 1 option and this intersection is not on their planning radar as it stands today. Therefore, it is a future decision if it is warranted for a roundabout or a signal.

Mayor Bertone: I think you mentioned a bike path. Is that west bound and south bound?

Mr. Bradley: Yes. That is one of the required conditions.

Mayor Bertone opened this item to public comment. Hearing none, he closed the public comment session. The Mayor recognized that there were some public comments submitted by email.

Ordinance 2020-16 was taken to a second reading.

FIRST READING: ORDINANCE 2020-18: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AWARD A BID TO CARGILL CORPORATION FOR HIGHWAY ROCK SALT.

Mr. White: This is the first time we have gone through this legislation. It is a very competitive bid. Looking through the numbers, if you go through the correspondence in your packet, the bid that was awarded was roughly half of what we awarded at this time last year. For comparisons, looking at what our spend has been for 2020, at the price we bid last year was around \$33,000 or 381 tons. With the new price, that same product could be acquired for roughly \$16,000. I assume it has something to do with the unseasonably warm weather we had last year and the availability of supply. I recommend it for adoption at your pleasure.

Mayor Bertone: What is our stock like at this point from last year to this year?

Mr. White: We have a significant supply available. We will be able to work with that going into this fall. However, this price is very attractive and we should take advantage of it.

Mayor Bertone opened this item to public comment. Hearing none, he closed the public comment session.

MOTION: Councilman Counts moved to suspend the rules regarding Ordinance 2020-18. Councilman Lorenz seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 6 N 0 AB 1 (Swartwout)

MOTION: Councilman Counts moved to adopt Ordinance 2020-18. Councilman Bennehoof seconded the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee: *Next Meeting: September 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m. We met earlier tonight and had many items that we went through quickly. We had a discussion about Armita Plaza and some encroachments in the right-of-way. Just to report back to Council, that is going away, so we will not see that any longer. We had a discussion on the pavement for the bike path at Vinwood Lane. We reviewed proposed bike path guidelines and suggestions that we are going to implement and place signage up. Sawmill Parkway update: the mill & overlay should be starting soon. I believe the project is supposed to be completed by early October. The North Liberty & Seldom Seen intersection: you may notice that the construction is complete there. The poles and signals are at the mercy of the County Engineer because that is their part of the completion. The poles were supposed to be in their position by the end of August, so hopefully we will have those installed soon. Mr. Blackburn came in to talk about Covid numbers and to give us some insight on economic development opportunities and mitigating risk. As a Council, perhaps we should look at pursuing some cause of action on some other things as we are in a recovery phase now.*

Finance Committee: *Next Meeting: September 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. I will let you know if it is virtual or in-person.*

Operations Committee: *Next Meeting: September 15, 2020, 6:30 p.m. We will likely pick up many of the topics from our last meeting.*

Planning & Zoning Commission: *Next Meeting: September 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m. The library is coming through with their proposal for review with the Middlebury Crossing development.*

Powell CIC: *Next Meeting: September 23, 2020, 6:00 p.m. This will be our regular meeting date, the fourth Wednesday of each month.*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/CITY CALENDAR

Mr. White: There is a lot of activity going on as we progress through Covid and move forward. It is hard to imagine that we are this close to fall, October budget season, and a handful of meetings we have left to produce some outcome-related production for 2020. We only have several meetings left between now and the end of the year. I have had conversations with a number of the committee chairs. Most recently, Councilman Counts and I had a conversation specifically relative to our finances and the need to consider the implication as it relates to our budget with a particular emphasis on revenue and the impacts of Covid-19 beyond 2020. We have looked at some unique opportunities. We have identified several variables to flush out in terms of making policy and potential concrete impacts in 2021. That being said, I am not completely prepared to go over everything right now, but I would like Council to know there is a need to pay close attention to that in the limited amount of time we have in the form of actual meetings between now and the end of the year. I think that will be very impactful moving forward with our economic development efforts, our regional partnership and just general infrastructure investment along the way. There is some solid ground to work from.

Last week I participated in a round table that was hosted by Liberty Township. They are putting forth some effort to reach out to the businesses. I think it is a good concept. There was encouragement for members of Council and Staff, because they are going to continue to have this conversation, as a Zoom meeting profile. There was a wide range of topics covered and a lot of discussion relative to collaboration. I was pleased that we were able to move forward with this small piece in that with regard to the fuel sharing contract. There is a host of other items we can talk about, in particular as it relates to development. I did express the need to have a collaborative approach moving forward with regard to development as it relates to the land surrounding the City and some of the conversation we have had relative to joint economic development districts. That would have another impact to our current revenue structure.

I wanted to address some of the communication you may have seen on social media regarding Seldom Seen Park. I would like to provide some element of communication to the community at large about what is going on out there. In the limited time I have been here, there is a wide range of things that are assumed to be going on that I do not believe are accurate. Looking back in the documentation, there have been a number of missed opportunities where we fell short as a community trying to realize this asset. I worked with Staff and reached out to the general contractors on this project. I thought maybe we could resolve this thing over the phone. We were not able to come to any resolution on some of the outstanding items. There is the potential for some additional disagreement and litigation relative to the City's position moving forward. As it stands today, the vast majority of the assets located at the park are ready for consumption. We have the potential to issue some fall programming that could generate activity for the community, but it all hinges on the safety of the park system. As it stands, there have been irrigation problems, electrical problems, problems with the building construction, completion of the ball diamonds, the dugouts and the backstops.

Recently there has been some identification of the fixed wall stone within the playground. There are a series of three tiers of very heavy stone material that are supposed to be held in place by gravity and design. Upon inspection with Staff, we detected that they were not fixed in place. In fact, on some of the visits to the park, some of the top layer of stone has jettisoned into the toddler area. You can imagine what a significant safety issue this is. The general discussion I have

had and believe is that the material that was put in place may not be the spec that we anticipated and could result in a manner in which the wall is failing right now. To try to accommodate an opening of the park, I believe if we can secure the park playground, I would feel comfortable opening all elements of the park as opposed to a systematic piece-by-piece opening of the park. There is the element of potential security and danger of the playground, which is a major feature of the park asset, so I think we would be wise to try to fix the safety issue identified and go through some legislation on some budgetary actions and/or review for further discussion at Operations Committee. Staff received a landscaping proposal, which would essentially fix the issue by creating a mortar base between the second and third tiers from the bottom and replacing the stone so that it was fixed. The quote was for \$5,355 dollars and is simply described as follows: "Remove the top two layers of stone on the existing stone wall in the playground area, add more to the stone, and reinstall both layers of stone to lock them into place." I am not a civil engineer. I talked about it with Staff. I believe there is a good chance that this will work out and be a problem solver. However, I am not willing to make that call without having further discussion with Council.

That is at one end of the spectrum. The other end of the spectrum, there is a consideration of a review of the structure and a new investigation or engineering analysis and potential for design, with everything in-between. With that being said, I wanted to seek Council's direction, but also to try to summarize what I believe can be the outstanding issues effecting the park's opening and recognize that there have been milestones missed on this park's opening. My perspective is to try to open up the entire park, with safety conditions met, that we can get behind, and I am not confident that acceptance of this landscaping proposal accomplishes that. I have a copy of the proposal that I will share with you, but I also wanted to express to you on the record what I see as some of the outstanding items that have been problematic and the rationale the park's status as continuously almost ready to open. There are issues that are still outstanding that supersede, in my professional opinion, opening the park for full public consumption. I would like to open this to you to answer any questions you may have and to ask you what your perception is of moving forward on this landscaping proposal?

Councilmember Riggins: Is the stone structure worthwhile to discuss just having it removed to eliminate the safety issue?

Mr. White: I think anything is on the table. Removing it probably uncovers additional problems because the way the excavation was cut into that area, the park will need to be secured or you will face some further erosion. It is a steep grade change. That is something that could be looked at, but I think it would also then change a lot of the park's configuration and original intent with that natural stone face along with some of the environmental areas that we wanted to highlight.

Councilmember Riggins: And the provider is not willing to come in and fix it?

Mr. White: No.

Councilmember Riggins: Do they think it does not need to be done? What is the rationale?

Mr. Hollins: There is no rationale at this point. They have made it clear to us that they are not performing.

Mr. White: We have talked a lot internally on the communications side. With the Covid-19 shut down and our meeting format, this is the first significant conversation I have had with you in the public realm on the record. My other hope is to try to address some of the concerns because there is a pent up demand to use the park. However, I also sought in my report to put some facts out on that table that may or may not have been understood. Depending on how we move forward, I think that is going to be a key variable with our communications strategy. I also want to reach out and resolve this.

Councilmember Swartwout: If we had the wall issue addressed, are you saying you would feel comfortable opening the park?

Mr. White: Correct. At that point, everything else on our punch list will be more or less completed with a few minor exceptions. Moving forward after we have approval to fully open, there are inquiries that we are receiving from people who want to get out there and utilize it. If we can demonstrate that the wall is secured and is no longer a safety threat, then I think the park is operational.

Mayor Bertone: I am not an engineer so I cannot speak on what solidifies \$5,500 in expense and gives everyone the assurance, but a piece of paper does not do it for you and that speaks volumes to me. I would encourage you to engage with Chris and/or Silas to visit the site and see what makes sense. If you need to engage that vendor more explicitly, see if they can add more meat to this, you have upcoming committee meetings - perhaps Operations can pick the conversation up from there. That gives you a two-week window in order to resolve it and come back with an appropriate

plan. We ultimately desire to get that entire park open. That was a lot of investment from the community in order to make that a reality and it is well past its date in my opinion. I think everyone here would be itching to see a solidified plan in order for us to get that done. I will turn it back to you to work with the team, whomever you see fit, in order to get that assurance that is necessary to say we are ready to go. If your confidence is there, which I am not hearing tonight, then I highly suggest we get that fixed before we open it up.

Mr. White: I anticipated that. That is what we will do next, regroup and try to build upon the proposal to bring something that has more of a definitive outcome and elimination of any liability.

Councilmember Lorenz: I would concur with what Frank said. There are people using that park now. I hope that this area is secure so we do not run a risk of anything happening. I am not a structural engineer either. \$5,500 for a structural change seems strange, so I would implore you to do your homework and do what you need to do. There is the issue that the park needed some maturity from a seeding standpoint, if I recall, but to Frank's point, this has been long overdue.

Mayor Bertone: Is two weeks enough time?

Mr. White: I think we can have more information back to you in that timeframe.

Councilmember Swartwout: Definitely get the information you need. From my perspective, this is a priority. Let's get ready to act because I think we need to open this park. We cannot wait months and months more to open it. It needs to be safe, secure and open. So get the information you need with the focus on opening it as soon as we can in a safe manner.

Councilmember Counts: I was not quite sure what you were saying, Andy. My original comment was if we could secure that area from any kind of use and remove the stones that have the potential for moving, I would be inclined to open up the rest of the park for use and leave that area secured and unavailable for residents assuming that we have no incidents of people trying to use it. Whether it is the investigation of taking care of the problem or taking the necessary legal procedures to make sure that we do not waive any of our rights, that is likely to take more than two weeks. At this point, we are already at the beginning of September; we want people to be able to use the park this fall. I would encourage you to try to figure out if there is some why to secure that area so that the rest of the park can be used safely.

Mr. Hollins: Point well taken. We will discuss potential ways to preserve the evidence and yet secure it in a manner that will still be safe.

Councilmember Bennehoof: I concur with Tom's position.

Councilmember Karr: How close is this wall to the playground?

Mr. White: It is actually a component of the playground.

Councilmember Karr: So to cordon it off or whatever solution you would come up with, is that still going to be a potential attraction for children?

Mr. Hollins: Exactly. We will have to look at that. If we did secure it with some mesh or something [we would need] to make sure that this does not become attractive to children.

Councilmember Swartwout: It almost seems like it would have to be tall enough fencing surrounding the entire thing so that it would be literally impossible to enter. I know my daughter could get into many things when she was five.

Mr. White: That is a concern I have as well. There was some discussion of putting chain link around the perimeter. I think there are some problems with that as well in terms of security access, but also a component of the playground area back up to water where it would be virtually impossible to close that off. I will work on it this week and report to you before the end of the week.

I put in your packet our Request for Qualifications. The concept we have been talking about internally and it relates to a longer term investment strategy. Staff has generated a significant list of capital project items. This measure is simply an advertisement now to professional firms to answer and discuss their qualifications with City Staff. If we went through that process successfully, then there would be required legislation for approval that would bring to Council a resolution to authorize monies for a contract in deliverable terms to produce a capital improvements program. That could be focusing on a 5 to 10 year timeline that could then be tied into the budget and really sets some priorities following up from the

conversations I have had with the mayor and your strategy session. I think this was something that was identified. This would put a little bit more specifics into the plan and give you some oversight and prioritization on what areas to attack first and to place these items over the next 5 to 10 years within the long-term budget that would enhance our financing strategies but also bonding strategies and grant strategies. I would anticipate putting it out tomorrow and come back at our next meeting with an update.

In regards to Parks & Recreation, I shared with you a communication inquiring as to whether or not the entire Parks & Rec budget had been cut for 2020, I think in response to many of the programs that have been disrupted. Obviously, that is not the case. I think there is a growing concern and it relates back to the park. We are getting into the ninth month of the year. We have had a lot of disruption to our programs, but I responded to that [inquiry]. If you are getting any contacts like that, please let me know. I am happy to speak to anyone about that.

Please mark your calendar for 9:00 am - 10:30 am on October 8 for some public records training. We will be doing that here are at City Hall with Staff and anyone from Council that has not been through it lately. It is a good exercise and refresher.

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G) (1) Personnel Matters – to discuss the hiring and compensation of public employee(s).

Councilman Counts requested that Pending or Imminent Litigation be added to the agenda.

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved at 8:42 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(1) Personnel Matters and Ohio Rev. Code §121.22(G)(3) Pending or Imminent Litigation. Councilman Lorenz seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn from Executive Session into Open Session. Councilman Counts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Y 7 N 0

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilman Bennehoof moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Councilman Counts seconded the motion. By unanimous consent of the remaining members, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES APPROVED: September 15, 2020

 10/05/2020 Date
Frank Bertone
Mayor

 10/7/2020 Date
Karen J. Mitchell
City Clerk

