

CITY OF AMHERST, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COUNCIL
(440) 988-2420
(440) 988-2570 fax

OLGA SIVINSKI
206 SOUTH MAIN STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001
council@amherstohio.org

Minutes of the Building and Lands Committee Meeting held May 7, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Present were Chairman Winiarski, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Janik, Mr. Miller, Mr. Van Treuren, Mr. Nahorn, and Mr. Cowger. Also present were Council President Wasilk, Mayor Costilow, Safety Service Director Jeffreys, Auditor Pittak, Treasurer Ramsey, Law Director Pecora, Assistant to Law Director Carlson, eight members of the public, Mr. and Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Reichert, Mr. & Mrs. Spellman, Mr. and Mrs. Yuhasz and Mr. Robert Campana.

A-18-21 Authorizing the Community Improvement Corporation to expropriate city owned vacant property located at Terra Lane

The Chair explained the item being discussed. Mr. Pecora explained the function of the CIC. Mr. Jeffreys referenced a letter from Bramhall regarding this. (Letter on file) Mayor Costilow spoke to the letter.

Mr. Nahorn spoke of the research he has done, even going to the Amherst News Times back to the 50's, and expressed his support for this legislation.

Mr. Dembinski said he spoke to a couple of people, had visited the area several times, and relayed that at this time he agrees with going with the CIC.

Mr. Miller spoke and said he has been in this area many times and it is not a safe drive. He believes in more connectivity, not less. He spoke further. He will not support this walkway being removed.

The Chair explained that sending this to CIC does not take away the walkway. It gives that group an opportunity to listen to different ideas and different groups. He likes that idea. Mr. Janik, Mr. Miller, Mr. Pecora spoke to the function of the CIC. Mr. Pecora gave some examples and answered questions. Mr. Carlson, in answering Mr. Miller's question, stated that CIC meeting are all public meetings as defined by the Sunshine Law.

Mrs. Sandra Cruz, owner of the property on 108 Terra Lane, but her residence is 565 McIntosh Lane, said her prior tenant is the one that had problems and they had to move due to problems with some neighborhood children. She spoke further to the problems being experienced.

Mayor Costilow spoke to easements and explained how easements are handled by the City. Mr. Pecora agreed with Mayor's explanation.

Mrs. Marilyn Spellman of 882 Birch Lane said Mayor Taylor was in office when they submitted the original request to have the walkway repaired. While walking, she realized how unsafe the walkway was and worried that someone could fall and get hurt. After City investigated, she was told the City did not realize they owned that property. She spoke further and she is in favor of keeping the walkway, as she never had any problems. She said the path is very convenient and provides safety for many people.

The Chair shared his thoughts - he read the information provided by Mr. Nahorn about what Council's thoughts were in 1957. He shared further observations on this subject. Mayor Costilow said after CIC hears this, they will return the matter to Council for disposition. He noted that not all his decisions are popular but he has to think of the whole city. Mr. Miller felt that this should be handled by the Administration and Council.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to return this to the floor of Council under second reading. Seconded by Mr. Cowger.

Mrs. Nancy Reichert of 886 Birch Lane asked questions about sidewalks and City's liability regarding sidewalks. She said all they were asking for was some updating of this area. Mr. Pecora explained the responsibilities of the City regarding sidewalks and how to handle this situation and correct it as it was not handled correctly in the past by being dedicated and approved properly. Mayor Costilow explained how this came to light, when the County in 2015 didn't recognize it as an official parcel and when doing a cleanup of their tax maps they assigned this property a parcel number and told the City this property now belongs to the City. He explained how this would have been handled in the present time. He feels there is a good solution out there to present to the CIC. Mrs. Reichert asked Council to continue the walkway. Mr. Janik said the CIC would enable them to solicit bids from any contractor and see what they had to offer vs. the City taking the lowest and best bid.

Mr. Nick Yuhasz, 884 Birch Lane asked if CIC could come back with the suggestion that this be kept as an official walkway and keep it as city property? The Chair said they can come back with whatever they want.

Mr. Nahorn said he has been wrestling with this issue for a while and he did obtain copies of many documents and other information and has been taking everyone's comments very seriously. This is not only an issue of convenience but also of safety. He is concerned how it exits out onto Terra Lane. He feels if we send it to the CIC, there may be a better opportunity to have an improvement made in this vicinity that would be a safer path.

Mr. Cowger said spoke of how plans usually go through Planning Commission, but due to the uniqueness of this property, the CIC is kind of like our Planning Commission. They will take that role - not that we are shirking our responsibility. The CIC is there to work out the kinks and figure out what the best plan is out there and makes best sense for the city. They will present it to Council and then Council can agree or disagree with it.

Mrs. Reichert feels we are making a mountain out of a molehill. She spoke of students walking out of the Jr. High School who have no walkway at all. They have to go out onto the streets to do their walking.

The Chair said he feels we need to look at all the minute details so this does not come back on us in the future.

Vote 6-1 to return to the floor of Council with Mr. Miller voting no.

A-18-20 Approve the subdivision plat and final improvements for the Preserve at Quarry Lakes

Mr. Jeffreys spoke to this and how it was similar to Subdivisions 2 and 3. All the items that needed to be taken care of, were. So now they are asking for Council approval.

Mr. Dembinski asked about a turnaround, and Mayor Costilow answered his question. Mr. Miller thanked the Administration and developer for working with us.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to take this to the floor of Council. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Vote 7-0.

Mr. Nahorn motioned to adjourn. Second by Mr. Dembinski. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

Chuck Winiarski, Chairman
Building and Lands Committee

COUNCIL PRESIDENT- JENNIFER WASILK
COUNCIL AT LARGE- DAVID JANIK
COUNCIL AT LARGE- JOE MILLER
COUNCIL AT LARGE- PHIL VAN TREUREN

COUNCIL WARD ONE- BRIAN DEMBINSKI
COUNCIL WARD TWO- ED COWGER
COUNCIL WARD THREE- CHUCK WINIARSKI
COUNCIL WARD FOUR- MATT NAHORN

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Minutes of the Streets Committee Meeting held May 7, 2018 at 8:13 P.M. Present were Chairman Van Treuren, Mr. Janik, Mr. Miller, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Winiarski, and Mr. Cowger. Also present were Council President Wasilk, Mayor Costilow, Safety Service Director Jeffreys, Auditor Pittak, Treasurer Ramsey, Law Director Pecora, Assistant to Law Director Carlson and members of the Public.

A-18-25 Authorize an agreement with ODOT to perform slip repairs on St. Rt. 2 at no cost to the City.

Mayor Costilow discussed his correspondence with the State regarding the project and how it will progress

Mr. Miller motioned to take this to the floor of council with emergency. Seconded by Mr. Cowger. Roll call vote 7-0 take to floor of Council.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn. Second by Mr. Cowger. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 .M.

Phil Van Treuren, Chairman
Streets Committee

COUNCIL PRESIDENT- JENNIFER WASILK
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Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held May 7, 2018 at 8:20 P.M. Present were Chairman Cowger, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Janik, Mr. Miller, Mr. Van Treuren, Mr. Nahorn, and Mr. Winiarski. Also present were Council President Wasilk, Mayor Costilow, Safety Service Director Jeffreys, Auditor Pittak, Treasurer Ramsey, Law Director Pecora, Assistant to Law Director Carlson.

A-18-26 Authorizing participation in the ODOT Winter Contract (2018-19) for road salt

Mr. Miller motioned to take this to the floor of Council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Vote 7-0 to take to the floor.

A-18-27 Increase appropriations in part time wages - by \$6000 - account 600-5002-52113

Mr. Pittak explained the need to add this. It was not included in the budget. Mayor Costilow said a part time person was needed this year to do the extra projects and the money is in place.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to take this to the floor of Council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Vote 7-0 to take to the floor.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn. Second by Mr. Winiarski. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Ed Cowger, Chairman
Finance Committee