

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES 8/13/2024

Circleville City Strategic Planning Committee convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Chair Sheri Theis, Committee Members: Zack Brooks and John Moats, Clerk Melissa Burns. Other guests present: Council Members Tom Duvall, Tom Klitzka, and Jeff Hallinin. Invited Guest: Mayor Michelle Blanton and Lexi Heidish

Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Moats motioned to approve the Strategic Planning minutes from June 25, 2024. Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

New Business:

a) AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR TED LEWIS PARK.

Discussion: Larry Logan the chairman of the Friends of Ted Lewis Park stated in the last 10 days they have received \$130,000 in donations. They are moving ahead to complete projects at the park. Mr. Logan request Council to pass the Ordinance amending the master plan to add basketball courts at Ted Lewis Park. The basketball court will be paid for by Forjak Industrial. Theis stated she is also in support of basketball courts for the citizens and that is why Emerine Park was created. Theis stated the master plan was created in 2015, after 856 citizens responded to a survey. Many comments were shared about foul language, drugs, and fights at the basketball courts at Ted Lewis Park. Theis stated that is why the master plan did not include basketball courts. Theis stated if they are going to change the master plan then a new survey should be done to poll the majority of citizens and not just a few citizens.

Logan stated the survey was over 10 years ago and the demographics went out to people who pay water bills. Logan stated the people filling out those surveys were not kids and most likely landlords.

Moats stated the park has changed significantly since that survey was done. Moats asked what could be done to circulate another survey. Theis said the administrations could circulate a survey. Brooks asked if we have demographics for the citizens who filled out the survey. Theis said yes and it encompassed many different age groups.

Moats asked if any children were a part of the survey. Theis said yes, there were many different stakeholder meetings performed. Moats stated he hasn't seen any documents related to the survey and in his opinion if families would like the basketball courts and they have the ability to add the courts, then he would like to see that happen.

Mayor Blanton spoke to state she is also in support of adding basketball courts to the master plan for Ted Lewis Park. The Mayor stated she hears people ask for basketball courts frequently. The Mayor stated the Police Department is patrolling more, there are cameras up, and the basketball courts would be away from the playground equipment.

Mr. Logan stated Forjak Industrial is donating time and material between 11/15-12/15. This is the time frame the company would have available.

MOTION - ROLL CALL – VOTE

Brooks motioned to forward to Council on September 3, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Moats Seconded. (2-Yeas 1-Nays) Motion carried.

b) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OHIO THE GREEN CIRCLEVILLE INITIATIVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE USDA, FOREST SERVICE EASTERN REGION, STATE, PRIVATE AND TRIBAL FORESTRY TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO CREATE TREE EQUITY AND IMPROVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: This is a Grant the Tree Commission received for a million dollars. This is a reimbursement grant, and funds will have to be allocated to get started.

MOTION - ROLL CALL – VOTE

This motioned to forward the Ordinance to Council on August 20, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Moats seconded. (3-Yeas 0-Nays) Motion carried.

c) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXECUTE AND FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR POSSIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Stanley stated this Ordinance would allow the City to move forward with asking for a grant to purchase property. There are two different properties the City is looking to purchase, each costing approximately \$500,000. The properties are located on Court Street and Pickaway Street. It would be a total of approximately 50 acres of parkland/green space. The Pickaway Street property would be prioritized over the Court Street property. The City is asking for \$750,000 in grant funds and would be responsible for 25% of the total project cost, or \$250,000. The City would find out if they are approved in January of 2025, with funds available closer to March of 2025.

MOTION - ROLL CALL – VOTE

Brooks motioned to forward to Council on August 20, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Moats seconded. (3-Yeas 0-Nays) Motion carried.

d) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND 101 AND SAFETY FORCES .5% INCOME TAX FUND 227 OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE

Discussion: This stated \$3,000 is for personnel software training for the Auditor's office and \$21,000 is for contract services for the CPD consultant.

MOTION - ROLL CALL – VOTE

Moats motioned to forward to Council on August 20, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Brooks seconded. (3-Yeas 0-Nays) Motion carried.

e) Tree Commission Vacancy.

Discussion: Roman Cline has resigned from the Tree Commission. This announce they will be accepting applications through the City's website for anyone who is interested in serving in the beautification of Circleville.

Other Business: This announced there is a DRD applicant, Gary Dean. Mr. Dean stated he would like to be a part of this board and keep the City moving forward.

MOTION - ROLL CALL – VOTE

This motioned to forward Mr. Deans application to the Council meeting on August 20, 2024, with a recommendation for approval. Brooks seconded. (3-Yeas 0-Nays) Motion carried.

Moats motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. Brooks seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.