

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 15, 2020

The Second monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on Tuesday,
September 15, 2020 at 7:52 PM via Zoom Meeting,
due to COVID-19 pandemic

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Council.

Councilman Lawrence led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered present at roll call, via Zoom: Burns, Meier, Van Harlingen (in Chambers), Davenport, Lawrence, Taddie, Scott, Falquette, and Mears.

There being no objections, the reading of the Journal and Correspondence was dispensed with.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Here is the time for public comment. If any Council persons have received emails or any comments for Council; has anything been received that a Council person would like to address right now at this time?

CHERYL MEIER: President Mears, I do.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay, Councilwoman Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: I received an email this past week. It came from Mr. Keith Bacin. He is the son-in-law of Edward Voytko of 1125 Briarwood Road. Ms. Meier, My wife sent you an email regarding storm drain issues at my father-in-law's house. I want to thank you for the quick return email you sent her and the quick response from the Engineer's office at your request. Chance Barnett, project Engineer called us yesterday and I met with him this morning at the house to discuss the issue. He not only recognized that there was indeed a problem, caused by the resurfacing, but was able to explain not only why it happened at this time, but also the last time it was resurfaced. He will explore a remedy and hopefully get it corrected soon before the next monsoon. The Second Ward of Mansfield is lucky having you representing them. Thanks for your quick action and general concern for your constituents. We would appreciate if you would pass this along to Mr. Barnett's superiors; how impressed we are with this young man and what a great asset he is to the City of Mansfield. His initial contact, by phone, with wife Susan showed not only how serious he takes his job, but the level of empathy and understanding he had for our problem. My phone conversation and eventually in person contact with this young man was great and went far better than one could anticipate when dealing with bureaucracy. His demeanor was professional and courteous and didn't he didn't offer excuses, but explained how and why things happened and that they would be addressed. Thanks again for the assistance. Keith Bacin. I just wanted to make sure that, Mr. Bianchi, I of course, forwarded the letter immediately to Mr. Bianchi, but I thought it was important that everyone knew just how appreciated his office and Mr. Barnett's representation of such; that he had done such a great job.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you Councilwoman. It's nice to get positive words from our constituents within the city.

END OF DISCUSSION

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

DIRECTOR REMY: At the last meeting I believe that Mr. Falquette requested a report on the Water Meter project. There are in the neighborhood of two thousand of them, have been installed to this point. In the last couple of weeks, we've had some serious issues with being able to set up appointments and road blocks in setting up appointments by some of our customers and residents. We've had a serious meeting last week over that and to determine what the problem was and is and it came down to the call center service that was being used. That has been addressed and the format in addition and address some of the serious issues with getting back with people and setting up appointments and not keeping people on the phone for an hour or an hour and a half, which was happening. So, hopefully those problems will resolve themselves. The company SUEZ and the on round people are working extremely hard to try to rectify a lot of these issues and address them directly. The meters at the water plant itself, have been installed. They were installed last week. The company that installed those meters is going to be hired by SUEZ to do all of the commercial installations accounts that we have. They're targeting to get the commercial accounts metered and in place. We're shooting for November, but realistically it will probably be by the end of December that they have those in place. Once we had those issues and I know Councilwoman Meier had her own issues with this call center...confrontations... hopefully, I haven't since those occurred and since we addressed those issues I haven't heard or received of any other problems of a serious nature. There are currently seven crews in town to do meter installments. They are ready to ramp up to ten. They are doing everything possible in addition to responding to mailers and responding to call center calls being made. There are in fact installers going door to door and knocking in neighborhoods to try to install meters. The other thing that we decided to do was take the apartment complexes that we have and knock the apartment complexes out all in one swoop, at one time. In other words, if you go in to do one apartment in a complex you make arrangements with the manager or the owners of the apartment complex to do all of them at the same time; knock that building or knock that complex out and move on. So, we're diligently trying to ramp up the numbers and get close to where we should be by the end of the year. That would be ideal.

CHERYL MEIER: Director...may I make a comment to Director Remy's uh...

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please, do.

CHERYL MEIER: I did have an issue which, I had called into the call center and a delayed time-frame, it was an hour and a half. They called me back, she said they didn't have a work order for the area...we got it all straightened out. They came on Friday. The gentleman came, he was very prompt. He was here maybe twenty minutes, twenty-five minutes and changed out the meter and was on his way. So, once we got the kinks worked out it was as good experience after that.

DIRECTOR REMY: Right. I know she was...Ms. Meier's was not the only one that had those issues and that's why we had a little more than a two-hour meeting, to try to solve and resolve all these issues and to find out what was causing them and I think that we have found out what the problem is and we've rectified it. Hopefully.

LAURA BURNS: Mr. President, may I also address Mr. Remy?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Councilwoman Burns.

LAURA BURNS: Mr. Remy I want you to know that whatever your meeting entailed, it was very effective because I called in and scheduled mine today and I was not on the phone with them for less than three minutes. The person I spoke to was very pleasant and professional and very eager to help, so you did a good job.

DIRECTOR REMY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: This is sounding better and better. Any other comments about the water replacement program or Director Remy's update?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Mr. President, if I could real quick?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: I would say, under my control I've had four water meters that required replacement and my experiences were pleasant. I would have to say on my side, we were good.

JEAN TADDIE: If we're talking personal experiences...the beginning of last week I got hung up on three times and then left a message and never got a call back at all, but by the end of the week I did get through to someone. However, the quickest they could change my meter out was the last Monday in October so...I don't know. Cheryl you got the express route. Maybe they have made all those appointments interim, I don't know.

DIRECTOR REMY: Ms. Taddie I will look into your issue there should be no way that it would be the end of October before they install your meter.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes Sir, Councilman Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: I want to thank Mr. Remy for the update. I'm glad that we're making progress. I am concerned that we're only about ten percent of the way through after several months and I understand that you're wrapping up, but I would appreciate to have you to continue to bring us information on the data on how this is progressing, because this could take a real long time and we're not increasing the speed over the next month or so. I, thank you.

DIRECTOR REMY: I completely, sorry Mr. Falquette, I completely agree with you. And that was a concern of mine and the engineering department, that we weren't putting them in with the rapidity with which we should and hopefully the ability to contact people and get feed-back and get appointments set up; the crews will be able to fully...they'll be able to deploy the ten crews fully on a weekly basis and get to where they should be or close to where they should be, considering everything that's happened.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you, Director. Any further comments about this issue for Director Remy? Okay, thank you all very much.

END OF DISCUSSION

MONDAY DEADLINE

LAURA BURNS: I move with respect to Bills 20-189 and Bill 20-190 that the rule that legislation be submitted by Monday at 4:00pm be suspended and that Bills 20-189 and 20-190 be allowed on the floor this evening, seconded by David Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7, Nays: 1 (Falquette)

SUSPEND RULES

COUNCILWOMAN BURNS: I move with respect to all the bills that the rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended and that each bill be read one time by title only, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0.

AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF 1997 TO REVISE SEWER USER RATES

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL # 20-158 *Amended

ORDINANCE #20-153

Amending Sections 937.11 and 937.12 of the Mansfield Codified Ordinance of 1997, as amended, to revise sewer user rates by measurement, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence that Bill 20-158 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF 1997 TO REVISE WATER USER RATES

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL # 20-159 *Amended

ORDINANCE # 20-154

Amending Section 941.08 (Water Charges) of the Mansfield Codified Ordinance of 1997, as amended, to revise water user rates by measurement and to increase rates, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence that Bill 20-159 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 1 (Davenport)

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Is there any discussion?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: I would just like to make a quick comment Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Councilman Van Harlingen.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Thank you, Sir. With all the concerns going on right now, Mr. Mayor, Public Works Director, with our water meter program; water rates sewer rates...all these things going on; I

understand in the legislation it says the rates should be revised, looked at reported every couple of years. This has been in past legislation; no problem. I personally, sincerely believe that the chair of the Public Utilities Committee or the Finance Committee; if the Administration does not we should call a special meeting to review these rates more often considering all the things that are going on with our citizens and these utilities at this time

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you Councilman. Any further comments? Any further discussion on this Bill?

JEAN TADDIE: Mr. President, if I could?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: Right in line with what Mr. Van Harlingen was saying, ...If we scroll down to the second page, it talks about that biannual, what is it...the second paragraph of text: "the water rates shall be reviewed at least biannually". I'm mindful of the comments Mr. Van Harlingen made in the past that were referenced by the public comment, read here and that we as a Council and particular Mr. Van Harlingen suggested we look at these rates; look at the water rates after the meters are placed in to see where we're at. So, I would like to see us link our first review, our next review, of the water rates to some date relative to the water replacement project being finished. Let's say the quarter after, when we have enough numbers to see what percentage of the water we're processing; we're actually billing out and how our revenues are compared to what our targets were. I mean, I thought of something like, we could say: "the water rates shall be reviewed upon the completion of the water replacement project and then pick up biannually following or do it one year after the replacement project. The timing might be up for discussion, but I think we should make a point to review this, when we have some numbers, when the water meters are up and running.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Further comments or discussion?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: I think Councilman Falquette was first.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you. Just a quick comment. I understand where Jean's coming from, but I think Council is and should be able to call for that information at any time. I'm not sure at this point and time that I'd actually want to take time to modify the legislation. I'd rather have this on the calendar and let's get this done with a calendar reminder, but that's my suggestion.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Now, Councilman Davenport, you had a comment?

ALOMAR DAVENPORT: Yes. Over the last week I really become torn, with this piece of legislation. I'm someone who understand that with the increase costs in business there is an increase cost of goods and initially I explained that to constituents that had concerns about what this is and I explained, the real motivation behind this is, the \$35,000,000.00 bond that we have to go after. And these increased rates will make that Bond more attractive to investors. However, I understand that my job as a Councilman is to not vote or express my opinion, but rather the opinion of my constituents and my constituents are having a very hard time with the fact that we are doing this prior to the water meter project being even half way done. As we don't know how it will affect, not only our revenue, but how it will affect the bills that our constituents will face in the future. This is not a matter of not being or wanting to pay what is owed or this is not a matter for me where I think we should stay with these meters that are inaccurate. I do believe that people should

pay what they are supposed to pay and my constituents also understand that. However, a lot of my constituents are low income who understand that water in something that will have to pay for and they will find means to pay for it. But, it is very difficult to budget for something when...with all the uncertainty that is now coming. They don't know how much water they're actually using, or how much they were using or you know. I'm very torn. I'm very torn, because my constituents are saying one thing and my feeling is something completely different. In a perfect world we would wait until the meters are done. I understand we cannot. I understand we have to vote on this. I understand we have to have that bond. But, at the same time our constituents should not feel the pain of us as a government body's inability to have any type of foresight. A lot of this is because we didn't act prior and because we're acting so late now, it's all heaped on us. So, we in the Fourth Ward are going to allow democracy to work. We do not want to vote against this because we don't want it to happen. We don't want to vote against this because we don't want the bond to happen. We understand that we need the bond. We also understand that there are seven other voting members of this Council who we expect to vote in a certain way. But, we in the Fourth Ward cannot support this piece of legislation now. Not because we don't want it to pass. Not because we don't want to pay. But, because of the uncertainty that is created by the fact that this water project is so far behind, we don't know what that will in turn; what that will entail. So, I just want to make that known. We may not support this legislation, but it is not because we do not want it to pass. We want our administration to understand we have to have foresight so these kinds of things do not happen and the constituents that are most vulnerable to these types of things are not affected so greatly.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Any further discussion on the bill?

LAURA BURNS: May I say something? I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Councilwoman Burns.

LAURA BURNS: Councilman Davenport stated that very well. We are in this situation because there was no foresight and no planning and it's a very frustrating position to be in knowing that you have to make a vote for something that has to happen...but that we shouldn't have had to have been in this position. So, Councilman Davenport, thank you for your words.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Thank you Councilwoman Burns. Any further comments or discussion?

JEAN TADDIE: Well, if I could Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please do, Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: Thank you. Did I hear that comment just previously that this statement; "that these water rates shall be reviewed at least biannually", I mean that's red. I assume that's new language. Has it always read that we should review it biannually, but it just hasn't been getting done or is that new language?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: That's been in past legislation, Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: Well, then we need better safeguards so that we can make sure that this doesn't get skipped. What's the process? How do we put it on the calendar that when the water meters are replaced, we're going to review, not just the metrics from the water meters itself, but the rate-structure? How do we get that, so it doesn't get skipped?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: If nothing else, I feel, at the very bottom line, during budget talks and budget hearing, they come up every year; our water and sewer funds have become a concern, where in past years they were not. We are now at a point where they are concerned and as I've said in the past, they should be

a very strong part, not just the general fund, but our water and sewer and that would be a good time, if nothing else through Finance or Public Utilities committee.

JEAN TADDIE: And of course, we have experts that work for us that are on top of all of this and I would imagine that the Mayor has put this on his follow-up calendar as well so we can revisit this structure and under the advice and guidance of our experts.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you. Any further comments or discussion on the bill?

END OF DISCUSSION

AUTHORIZING INS. BONDS FOR RENOVATING & IMPROVING WATER SYSTEM

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-157

ORDINANCE # 20-152

Authorizing the issuance of bonds in the amount of not to exceed \$35,000,000 for the purpose of constructing, renovating and improving the water system, including facilities, water mains and other structures and appurtenances related thereto; furnishing and equipping the same; improving the sites thereof; and acquiring land and interests in land necessary in connection therewith and authorizing and approving related matters; and declaring an emergency

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-157 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

AMENDING ORDINANCE TO UPDATE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION USE

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-170

ORDINANCE # 20-174

Amending Section 109.06 of the Mansfield Codified Ordinances of 1997, as amended to update Construction Authorization Use of Construction Manager at Risk Delivery for Construction of Public Improvements, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-170 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mrs. Burns. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

AUTHORIZING PWD. TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH DEBT RECOVERY SOLUTIONS

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL# 20-181 2nd Read

ORDINANCE# 20-182

Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a professional services contract with Debt Recovery Solutions, to be the third-party debt collection agent for the City of Mansfield to collect delinquent water and sewer accounts, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-181 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette.

DISCUSSION: NONE

APPROVING ADOPTION OF PARKS MASTER PLAN

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL # 20-185 * Amended **1st Read

ORDINANCE# 20-186

Expressing approval for the adoption of the "Parks Master Plan" a plan created by EMH&T Engineering, Surveyors, Planners & Scientist encompassing all city-owned park land.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier, Bill 20-185 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette.

DISCUSSION:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Is there any discussion?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: It's up to Mrs. Meier, of course, but this is the plan, the Master Parks Plan. I think we could vote on it at the next meeting. We wouldn't have to wait much longer. But, it's up to you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Any further comments or discussion on the Bill?

JEAN TADDIE: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilwoman Taddie.

JEAN TADDIE: I have a couple of comments that will make sense after we talk about the next bill; is it okay if I lump them since they're both about the parks?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Why not. Go right ahead.

JEAN TADDIE: Well, I mean when we get to the next bill can I refer backwards, is that okay?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Oh, okay. So, you want to make your comment when we discuss the next Bill 186, correct?

JEAN TADDIE: Yes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Any further comments on 20-185, which again, is not up for vote tonight? Okay.

END OF DISCUSSION

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF 10 PROPERTIES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PARKS

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL # 20-186 *Amended

***1st Read**

ORDINANCE # 20-187

Authorizing the City of Mansfield to transfer to the Richland County Land Reutilization Corporation ten properties located within the City, specifically identified in section 1 of this Ordinance, which no longer serve a public purpose and are unneeded and no longer required for public park purposes.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier, that Bill 20-186 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette.

DISCUSSION:

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. So, this is not up for a vote, but is there any discussion?

JON VAN HARLINGEN: If I could Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Certainly. Councilman Van Harlingen.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: For clarification purposes: in section one we're looking at the very first line talking about authorizing transfer, ten properties known as; and it begins with Straub Road address unknown, and it gives a parcel number 0569214302027. If I could just get that in clarification. (Map pulled to screen by Clerk) Thank you, Amy. This is like 350 yards off Straub Road. Are we looking at the correct parcel number, considering this starts out "Straub Road"? This is actually on River Ridge. Is this the right property? It's basically, excuse me, Riva Ridge in York Street. It's right behind a couple houses there.

MARK ABRAMS: If I may.

CHERYL MEIER: Yes.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Please.

MARK ABRAMS: Actually, that is a Park in name only. It is a retention pond. That is something that Mr. Bianchi and I have talked about. He's a little more familiar with the situation, but I believe the condo association down there is looking to take possession of that. So, it's not really a Park, but it is the Riva Road address, so it is the correct location and I have no idea why it has a Straub Road address.

JON VAN HARLINGEN: Okay. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Abrams.

MARK ABRAMS: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you both. Is Mr. Bianchi in? Do you have any comments on this lot as it is?

ROBERT BIANCHI: I would just say that this lot is kind of an ideal situation for the city to divest itself of. It's expensive to maintain and we have an end user that's willing to maintain it; enter into a maintenance agreement with the city so that they will maintain it in perpetuity. So, it's a win-win situation. They would like to spruce it up and make it look nicer than what it is.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Great. Thank you, Sir.

ROBERT BIANCHI: Yep.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Councilwoman Taddie. I believe that you had a comment that you wanted at make at this time?

JEAN TADDIE: Yes, but now I'm confused because the ten spots that I went to on the map, none were call called Straub Road. What Park would you call that one Mark? What's the name of that Park?

MARK ABRAMS: As far as I know, the only name I have, and it's not even really a Park and Mr. Bianchi will attest to this it's more of a retention pond. So, if you went down, it's actually on Riva Ridge, but it has a Straub Road address. But, if you go down Riva Ridge it should be on the left-hand side and it's kinda just a wooded area with kind of a retention pond, drainage area in it.

JEAN TADDIE: Well, I guess I'm confused. Maybe I'll have to do a side-by-side comparison. So, I will do that. We have another week to look that over. But, I want to check that map. I want to appreciate the EMH&T folks for doing that map where we could go to all those GPS points and I have some observations, cause as I've previously expressed, I'm not in favor of selling, sorry, giving ten properties away immediately. Especially since we were to be on the book to maintain them until they have an end user. And I can't answer to my constituents what's going to go there. So, however, as I was looking through the ten parks I thought there were some easy ones that I would call the no sign parks. And they're places that probably that nobody identifies it as a park. And they seem like they would be easy to move along and no one would be upset about that. We wouldn't get calls from constituents about why is my park gone. So, some of those no sign places was the Sherman Estates, the Linden Woods Park, if I was in the right spot. It looks like a blank space between two houses according to the dot on the map they had. Is that correct?

MARK ABRAMS: That is correct. That is correct.

JEAN TADDIE: So, I'll call that a no sign park. Nobody's using it as a park. No children are playing on swing sets. There's no assets to remove at that one either. Um, Harvard Park was a no sign park, hard to find. And so those seem to me easy, no one's going to be upset from the community if those are no longer

parks. Cause they're not functioning as parks. And I think we could even throw Vine Street, Dewy and Vine; I mean maybe there's a sign somewhere and you can see there's that ball diamond, there's the fencing, but I don't think it's functioning as a park either. So, that's five right there. And the pool would be another good one. If the Landbank has funds to tear the pool down; it's not functioning as a pool. It's a broken park. I think that one would be easy to let go of as well. So, my suggestion then is the other ones have assets there already; community garden, play grounds, basketball courts etc. and I would recommend that we be a little more thoughtful about the people that use those and try to, you know, be a little more strategic about letting those go. So, those are my original thoughts, but I do have a couple questions if I could?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Please, do.

JEAN TADDIE: What happens, Mark perhaps you could help me with this. Mark what happens to the useful assets? For example, there's a newer playground at Hamilton Park? That park also has lights; on a lighted diamond. I think you previously mentioned that those could be moved. Julia Hunt Underhill has a memorial stone there, for someone who passed apparently...

MARK ABRAMS: If you don't mind Miss Taddie, could we take these one at a time, because I don't want to have to try to remember the list you're going through.

JEAN TADDIE: Okay. Hamilton Park: newer playground.

MARK ABRAMS: Okay.

JEAN TADDIE: It's not mowed over there. There's an older playground and a newer playground. Also...

MARK ABRAMS: Your definition of newer. That playground, I believe is at least ten to fifteen years old and I believe that by park standards that it probably needs to be replaced.

JEAN TADDIE: Well, to me, newer means it doesn't look like one of those old metal ones. Because, when you come in the door, or come in the park that's definitely older. If it's older than me I consider it older.

MARK ABRAMS: I understand that. We have a lot of those older situations around the city. Julia Underhill, there is a revision clause in that and I believe Amy from the Landbank is on the call and we'll get to her in a minute. There is a revision in that. We actually got that property from the Friendly House, so that property would actually revert back to the Friendly House possibly, as long as that revision clause is not necessarily expired. So, they wouldn't exactly just go away with that memorial stone sitting there. It's not like we're going to just destroy that.

JEAN TADDIE: Okay. Thank you. The other question; might be you or might be engineering, but which properties have easements? Some there was drainage, like Ritter's Run has a really lovely ravine there; wooded ravine. I noticed some (inaudible)... covers at Harvard Park, tow man hole covers, I don't know if that's water and sewer.

MARK ABRAMS: I actually believe that the only one that's on the list that has an easement, and it's in the packet that you were given, the only one that's on that list would be Betzstone and I believe which is either a water or sewer easement through that through to Malabar Trace Apartments. So, that's the only one actually, that's wrong. I'm sorry. Hamilton Park just got a utility easement for the powerlines that they're putting up. Is that correct Mr. Binachi?

ROBERT BIANCHI: That's, that's correct. We got, they have an easement for First Energy.

MARK ABRAMS: Yeah. So, those are the only two, Ms. Taddie that I am aware of with the title searches that are showing any kind of an easement.

JEAN TADDIE: Okay. Thanks for clarifying that. So...

ROBERT BIANCHI: Can I make a quick, real quick comment about the easements?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, please do.

ROBERT BIANCHI: There may not be, there may be a utility through a park, but it may not necessarily have an easement. But, we will make sure that we get an easement prior to that land being transferred. That would be important for us to do that.

JEAN TADDIE: So... thank you for clarifying. An easement persists no matter who the owner is, once they're set up, so, I get that. So, Mr. Mears...Mr. President referencing back to the Parks Plan.

PRESIDENT MEAR: Yes.

JEAN TADDIE: Where all these properties are is just a blank page saying get rid of them. I know prior version of the plan did have actual ideas of what we could do with those parks. I would like to at least say where there are assets that these parks have, functioning park... like I say assets: ball diamonds and etc... that we put in the plan that they're under study for removal, rather than they are going to be removed. So, that is my comment about the prior bill and thank you for allowing that.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you.

JEAN TADDIE: Does that make sense?

PRESIDENT MEARS: It does to me. Yes. Comments from anyone else on 185, actually or 186, the one under current discussion? No further discussion on 20-186?

CHERYL MEIER: Mr. Mears?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes, Councilwoman Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: I think there had been some question about what the possible end users were for these Parks that we're considering divesting ourselves of; I believe that Amy Hamrick from the Landbank is with us this evening. Is that true Mr. Abrams?

MARK ABRAMS: I think so. I see an Amy that was on the discussion that wasn't our Clerk Amy....

AMY HAMRICK: Am I allowed to talk? I am on the phone. I am listening.

CHERYL MEIER: Amy, would you mind going through, quickly, with those of us on Council here what you know could possibly be end users for these Parks.

AMY HAMRICK: Okay. Yes.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you.

AMY HAMRICK: I've talked to a couple developers on several of them for new development. The Linden Pool the Area on Aging is very interested in building senior housing. We've got three or four different investors looking at the Hamilton Park; to building different types of housing. Everything from low income to homeless shelters. We've got, let's see, the Newman Park; I actually have an investor interested in looking at possibly building there. I'm trying to go through each one. Betzstone, I believe that one of the neighbor's is very interested. Dewy and Vine; I'm not really sure although we do have a business in the area that's looking to expand, so we've got more; so, we're talking about talking to them. The Sherman Estates will, I believe go back to one of the neighbors. Linden Circle; we actually have a couple of the different adjoining property owners that would like to split that. Of course, Linden Pool, Newman, Julia Underwood, Underhill Park I have not really looked at too close yet, but it appears that it might be a nice place for new home development.

JEAN TADDIE: I'm sorry. Which one was that?

CHERYL MEIER: Julia Underhill.

AMY HAMRICK: Yeah. Julia Underhill. That is an area we have an investor looking at possibly wanting to build single family homes.

CHERYL MEIER: Any interest in Harvard at all?

AMY HAMRICK: I'm trying to remember which one that is, I keep bringing this stuff home with me.

CHERYL MEIER: Harvard is just a.... it's not much bigger than a city lot.

AMY HAMRICK: Oh, okay. That one we've got to still look at. I haven't gone out and looked at to see if it's something that's developable or what exactly is going on with it.

CHERYL MEIER: Mhmm.

AMY HAMRICK: I have talked to tax map about it and her opinion that we could possibly build on that front part, but she doesn't believe that back part is developable, but we have actually not walked through it to see actually what's back there.

JEAN TADDIE: Can I throw in a conversation that I had with one of the Park Board members? That they were interested in seeing if this property was adjacent to the county park ward lands along the B&O trail.

CHERYL MEIER: Oh, okay.

AMY HAMRICK: I can find out if it is. I don't know that for a fact, but I can check that out for the next meeting.

JEAN TADDIE: That would be great.

AMY HAMRICK: Okay.

MARK ABRAMS: Mr. President, if I may?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Yes Sir, please do.

MARK ABRAMS: Last week I sat down with Amy and the treasurer Bart Hamilton. We actually renegotiated the tentative agreement between the City and the Landbank about the care of the property. I'm not sure if that got out or not or if you've seen it. So, there is actually an expiration date on the care that the City would have. It was, I believe that we agreed to the three years. There's also a clause in there that. God forbid, something happens to the PRIDE levy or the Parks department goes to funk, that the Landbank would care for that property so that it does not put any undue burden on any other City department. So, I just wanted to bring that up as a point of clarification that we did kind of hammer that out and thank Amy for (inaudible) with us on that.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Thank you.

AMY HAMRICK: And I just, I do need to point out that has not gone in front of my Board of Directors yet. Our Board meets on October 6th or 7th, but I'm not sure which date. But, we don't feel the Board will object to that, knowing that I have end users for quite a few of them already lined up.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Great. Thank you, Amy. Good information.

JEAN TADDIE: Sorry. Mr. President, can I make one final comment, a question?

PRESIDENT MEARS: Absolutely.

JEAN TADDIE: Amy, thanks for being here. This really helps reduce some of the questions that I've been getting; to have a vision to what might be there. Did I miss Ritter's Run? That's an interesting property. It would be hard to put a house on and with that steep ravine there I don't know that we would want people, like reengineering that hill, but did you have anything for that spot?

AMY HAMRICK: Ritter run is not included on that list, I don't believe

MARK ABRAMS: No. It's not.

JEAN TADDIE: It was on the map that we got from EMH&T. I just followed their ten points.

MARK ABRAMS: I believe that one was probably inadvertently put in there. We were wanting to deal with these first ten before we went any further with anything else. So, Ritter's Run is not actually on that list as of right now.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay.

AMY HAMRICK: It is a property, I can look at and see if I can find interest and possibly, you know, see if someone wants to retain a Park or retain ownership of it, something, but I've just now started looking at it.

JEAN TADDIE: I'm thinking we should. Don't get me wrong, I'm not asking us to do that. It was just among the list that I was following. So, I'll correct that.

PRESIDENT MEARS: Okay. Any further discussion or comments? Nothing else on Bill 20-186? Again, Amy, thank you for attending the meeting and giving us some valuable information; much appreciated.

AMY HAMRICK: Thank you for having me.

PRESIDENT MEARS: So, this is not up for a vote until, at this point until October 20th.

END OF DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AMOUNTS, RATES & TAX LEVIES FOR TOWNSHIP FROM BUDGET COMMISSION

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-187

ORDINANCE # 20-188

Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. (Mansfield Township)

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-187 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AMOUNTS, RATES & TAX LEVIES FOR CITY FROM BUDGET COMMISSION

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL # 20-188

ORDINANCE # 20-189

Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. (Mansfield City)

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, that Bill 20-188 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

AUTHORIZING P.W.D. TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR YEARLY CITY NEEDS

BY: MR. LAWRENCE

BILL # 20-189

ORDINANCE # 20-190

Authorizing the Public Works Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for certain yearly needs of the City, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Lawrence, that Bill 20-189 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

AUTHORIZING P.W.D. TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO COMPLETE THE CITY'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT

BY: MR. VANHARLINGEN

BILL# 20-190

ORDINANCE# 20-191

Authorizing the Public Works Director to enter into a contract to complete engineering services and provide construction administration services in connection with improvements to the City's Water Treatment plant, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen that Bill 20-190 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

APPROVING CARES ACT EXPENDITURE OF \$845,193.07

BY: MR. VAN HARLINGEN

BILL#20-191

ORDINANCE#20-192

Approving the expenditure of \$845,193.07 of funds newly received under the CARES Act in the manner prescribed by and consistent with the requirements of the CARES Act, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Van Harlingen, Bill 20-191 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The bill was placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Mr. Falquette. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8 Nays: 0

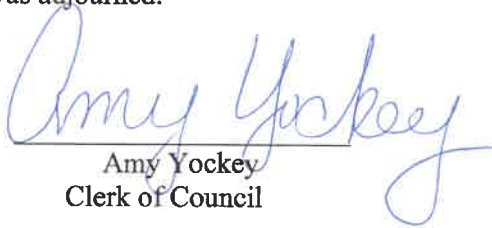
The bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

DISCUSSION: NONE

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT MEARS: I do want to make one comment at the end of our meeting. Thanks again to Amy and James for doing all the technical work behind that scenes and making it so smooth and effortless looking. So, thank you again very much for that.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Falquette and passed by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.


Amy Yockey
Clerk of Council


Cliff Mears
President