

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 15, 2019**

To Order:

President Kevin Corcoran called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at North Ridgeville City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.

Attendance:

In attendance were Council members Dennis Boose, Martin DeVries, Gregg Westover, Bruce Abens, Michelle Hung, Robert Chapek and President Kevin Corcoran.

Also present: Mayor David Gillock, Assistant Clerk of Council Tara Peet, Clerk of Council Nancy Linden, Engineer Dan Rodriguez, Safety-Service Director Jeffry Armbruster and Law Director Brian Moriarty.

Clerk of Council Linden read the notice aloud.

President Kevin Corcoran has announced that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on **Monday, July 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** in City Council Chambers.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the following:

1. A presentation regarding the 2020 Tax Budget; and
2. T 79-2019 A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION PRIORITIES.
(Introduced by Mayor Gillock)

Discussion regarding the 2020 tax budget information:

President Corcoran turned the meeting to Auditor Wilcheck for a presentation on the 2020 tax budget information.

Auditor Wilcheck stated that the purpose of the budget information was to justify the continued collection of the authorized property tax levies and for participation in the distribution of local government funds. The revenue estimates in the budget information are used to generate the Official Certificate of Estimate Resources, which places a limit on the amount that may be appropriated for each fund. The revenue estimates may be amended prior to and during the year covered. The budget information is the start of the annual budget process. The budget information does not define the amounts to be appropriated. The appropriated budget for 2020 will be completed in the fall of 2019.

For 2020, the Lorain County Budget Commission has waived the adoption of a formal Tax Budget. As part of the waiver, the public notice and public hearing are also waived. In order for the Lorain County Budget Commission to perform its function, they asked that similar information be compiled and filed by July 19, 2019. In past years, the City was required to prepare a Tax Budget, hold a public hearing thereon, and file it by July 20th.

Auditor Wilcheck went through each schedule regarding the tax budget information. He stated that Schedule I lists the voted and un-voted property tax levies. The estimated revenue is based on a \$25,000,000 increase in our assessed valuation (approximately 300 new homes at \$250,000). He noted that the Street, Police and Fire levies are up for renewal next year.

Schedule II is the General Fund. Estimated revenues for 2020 are based on historical trends and other factors whereas the 2019 expenditures are an increase of 2.5 percent over 2019 appropriations, adjusted for certain significant factors.

Schedule III includes all special funds receiving property tax revenues. The anticipated expenditures are driven by the anticipated revenues and the amount of funds needed to cover approximately 2 months average expenditures in the next year. The carryover balance is necessary to avoid the fund incurring a deficit early in the New Year which is a violation of state law. The nature of the anticipated expenditures will be defined as part of the budget process in the fall of 2019.

Schedule IV includes the anticipated revenue and expenditures, by fund for all debt service funds. The presentation includes 2 years of history, the current year, and the next 5 years as well as the resources needed to cover the annual debt service payments.

Schedule V reflects the anticipated revenues and expenditures of all other funds. Estimates are based on current activity. These estimates will be refined as part of the budget process in the fall of 2019.

Schedule VI reflects all bonds and long-term debt of the City separated by governmental Activities and Business Type Activities/Enterprise Funds. The schedule includes the final year of maturity, the current year and the next 5 years of principle and interest payments as well as the balance at year-end each year.

Councilman Boose asked if what is reflected is current City debt and if it includes anticipated debt.

Auditor Wilcheck stated it is only current debt.

Councilman Boose stated additional debt would change the percentages.

Auditor Wilcheck stated yes.

Councilman Boose asked if the increase was 2.5% across the board.

Auditor Wilcheck stated it was applied across the board based on inflation. He also noted that the City usually only spends between 90%-92% of the General Fund. The City usually comes out ahead each year. Auditor Wilcheck stated the percentage can be adjusted in the fall during budget discussions.

President Corcoran moved on to the discussion regarding T 79-2019.

Discussion regarding T 79-2019:

Mayor Gillock stated that the City does an OPWC project every year. Usually the City contributes fifty percent or more in dollars. This year the City is putting in \$500,000 on the OPWC project. There were

two roundabouts on the Capital Projects list – the first priority was Lear Nagle and Mills Road. Mayor Gillock stated they are still in discussions with the City of Avon. He stated the second roundabout was Chestnut Ridge and Alternate State Route 83. Mayor Gillock stated that because the discussion with Avon is not complete regarding the Lear Nagle and the Mills Road roundabout, it was moved back. He announced that Michael Raubenolt and his team from American Structurepoint are present this evening to discuss the project. Mayor Gillock stated the traffic study that American Structurepoint did shows that a roundabout will improve traffic. Mayor Gillock stated the latest estimate is a little over \$800,000 and with OPWC funding; the City will spend what it typically does each year. He reminded the Committee that contingency was built into that figure.

Mike Raubenolt, American Structurepoint, Project Development Director stated they looked at a few intersections. He noted the Chestnut Ridge Road and Alternate State Route 83 intersection was a very simple intersection. He stated they looked at traffic and felt the roundabout was a very viable solution. It is a level of service A and it will function well as a roundabout. He noted that no land acquisition would be required and they felt comfortable from a budget standpoint.

Engineer Rodriguez stated he agreed with Mr. Raubenolt and the roundabout will help solve some of the traffic issues in that area. He stated he heard there were concerns about the roundabout causing additional backup at State Route 83 and Chestnut Ridge Road. Engineer Rodriguez stated he drove that intersection not too long ago and didn't have an issue. He felt the delay of speed in the roundabout will slow traffic giving it time to let the traffic flow rather than the free flow it is now.

Mr. Raubenolt stated a roundabout will slow vehicles through the intersection to 10-15 MPH versus the free flow it is now therefore not backing up traffic.

Councilman Abens asked if there was a traffic study done at Bender and Chestnut Ridge Road.

Mr. Raubenolt stated no.

Councilman Boose stated the roundabouts work fine. He stated that funding for the engineering portion was provided through a grant. He stated when he looked at the capital projects list from 2019 and what the City is looking to fund now –he wondered why it was moving ahead a full year.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the NOPEC grant allowed for the engineering to be completed now. NOPEC thought this was a good project. With NOPEC's grant, the City will pay about \$41,000. The projects are just being switched around. Original estimates for this project came in at \$1.75 million. The new estimates show the project will be around \$700,000 with 25% contingency built in.

Councilman Boose asked if the City receives grant funding every year what isn't the City doing because this project was moved ahead. The City was not looking to do the roundabout at Lear Nagle and Mills until 2021.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the design for that roundabout was slated for 2020 and the construction was set for 2021. He did note that other projects have been shifted.

Councilman Boose asked which specific projects have been shifted.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the Mills Road bridge project has been shifted from 2020 to 2021.

Mayor Gillock explained the construction year. He stated the City is in OPWC's 2020 construction year right now. They are not on a calendar year and after July 1 is the next year.

Engineer Rodriguez stated he just found out the City received 100% funding up to \$776,000 for the Mills Road bridge project.

Councilman Chapek stated the cost for the roundabout is around \$700,000.

Engineer Rodriguez stated yes. The City typically does a 50/50 split with OPWC. The more the City can contribute the more money they issue.

Councilman Abens asked if the City owned the land surrounding the proposed roundabout at Alternate 83 and Chestnut.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the City owns the right-of-way and most of the land needed for the roundabout. There will be no need for additional right-of-way. He noted in the drawing there is a future drive access for the gardens.

President Corcoran asked if anyone in the audience cared to speak. He asked that they state their name and address for the record.

Kim Stermole, 37872 Sugar Ridge Road: stated that the Lear Nagle and Mills Road roundabout is pushed to 2022. She asked what will happen if Avon contacts the City.

Mayor Gillock stated it will be a 2022 project after July 1, 2021. The City is still in conversations with the City of Avon. The OPWC grant application needs submitted by September 1, 2019.

Mrs. Stermole expressed her concerns that with the roundabout, traffic on the east and west end will back up.

Mayor Gillock stated that roundabouts slow the traffic rather than allowing free flow traffic which creates gaps. He acquiesced that it is not perfect.

Mr. Raubenolt stated the roundabout does create gaps due to lower speeds and that particular location makes it conducive for a roundabout.

Mrs. Stermole stated she attends Council and Committee meetings. She stated that Council was elected to be fiscally responsible. She noted that Ranger Way wasn't planned, the Center Ridge overrun costs weren't planned and the City spent money on new fire trucks which weren't planned totaling over \$3 million. She stated that many people were up for election this cycle and asked all of them to vote no on this issue.

Mayor Gillock stated the City has not spent \$1 million on Range Way yet. Right now the City only funded the study. It will probably cost that much to construct but it is critical for safety. OPWC is the only type of project where you spend \$350,000 and get \$350,000 in grant dollars interest free. He noted the City uses this funding every year and it was not something new.

John Tipple, 36655 Chestnut Ridge Road: noted when he leaves work at 5:00, he sits at three light cycles at Sugar Ridge Road. He noted it was bumper to bumper. He added that during the day it is not like that. He did not believe the project was necessary and asked that the dollars be used somewhere else.

Nancy Sharpman, 8576 Avon Belden Road: stated traffic backup is an issue. She felt all that was needed was a turning lane and stated a roundabout won't solve the problem. Mrs. Sharman stated she cannot get out of her driveway when traffic is backed up.

Councilman Boose stated in regard to the comment about being fiscally responsible – he takes fiscal responsibility very seriously. He can assure Mrs. Stermole that he won't spend money that the City does not have or not spend money responsibly. He further stated when the City has an opportunity to save money and get grant funding, the City should take advantage of that opportunity. Many of these projects are discussed in Committee meetings and budget meetings. He further noted that he takes his job seriously and will continue to do that.

Councilman Boose stated in regard to the comments about the backup traffic at State Route 83 and Chestnut; he believed there was a traffic issue there. It backs up because there is no turn lane. He added he would like to understand more how it will alleviate traffic trying to make left turns and see how the City can alleviate traffic issues in that area and what the plan will be.

Mayor Gillock stated that was a good idea and the City will look into it. He stated that the road does not line up in that area.

President Corcoran stated there were two spots in the City where left turn lanes and straight lanes are combined – one at State Route 83 and Chestnut Ridge heading south and Center Ridge and Lear Nagle heading north. He asked why the right turn lane is not the straight lane and then a dedicated left turn lane.

Engineer Rodriguez stated from a traffic standpoint there may not be enough left turns to warrant a left turn lane. He noted that intersection is a level A/B which is ten seconds and functions well.

Councilman Chapek stated that the intersection at Lear Nagle and Mills should have a left turn lane and how it is now does not work.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the City would have to speak to ODOT about why it is configured that way. It probably deals with traffic counts.

Mayor Gillock stated the intersection does not line up perfectly.

Engineer Rodriguez state that Chestnut and 83 were similar to that intersection.

Albert Krage, 37903 Sugar Ridge Road: asked why one side isn't red and why one side wasn't green.

President Corcoran stated that a stop sign at the intersection of Lear Nagle and Mills may solve some of the problems as he has talked to a lot of people about it. He wondered if that would be a better solution at that intersection rather than a roundabout.

Engineer Rodriguez stated he heard that was put up overnight by Avon. He noted the City can talk to Avon about installing a stop sign or a flashing light.

Safety-Service Director Armbruster stated he spoke with Mayor Jenson and the topic of a stop sign has come up but no formal request has been made.

Mayor Gillock stated the City does not want to stick with stop signs and lights – the City wants to make intersections safer.

Mrs. Stermole asked if the OPWC grant funding could be applied to Range Way.

Engineer Rodriguez stated it could as no project has been chosen yet for next year's cycle. At this point there is no cost estimate yet so it could not be put in for the September 1 deadline.

President Corcoran stated this was discussed over a year ago along with two other roundabouts. He noted this discussion was not something new. It was discussed during the budget committee meetings in the fall as well.

Mrs. Stermole asked if the Committee of the Whole meeting was properly noticed.

President Corcoran stated that it was and it was posted on the website, City Hall bulletin board as well as the City's cable channel.

Moved by President Corcoran and seconded by Boose to recommend City Council adopt T 79-2019 as submitted.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Yes – 6

No – 1 (Hung)

President Corcoran adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Approval of minutes on August 5, 2019:



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



CLERK OF COUNCIL