

City of Riverside, Ohio
Special Council Meeting
Eintracht Club
June 15, 2019

The special meeting of the Riverside council was called to order by Mayor Flaute at 9:02 a.m.

Those present were: Mayor Flaute and council members Curp, Fry, Lommatzsch, and Teaford. City Manager Mark Carpenter was also present.

A motion to excuse the absence of Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Denning was made by Mrs. Lommatzsch and seconded by Mr. Teaford. All voted 'yes'.

Mr. Carpenter reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Denning arrived at 9:04 a.m.

Discussion occurred regarding the Woodman Drive – Rt 35 bridge maintenance project. Mr. Carpenter informed the council that aesthetic design requests are part of what ODOT considers enhanced treatments and would need to be funded by the city, that they are not items that ODOT would provide funding for. As part of the discussion regarding enhancements, council members were given an ODOT provided guide book showing enhancements implemented at other locations. Suggested enhancements will be sent to ODOT for costing estimates to be included as part of overall project costs. Council can then decide whether to include selected enhancements. Council members were told to send their wish lists to the city manager by the end of the day Monday, June 17. The manager will try to get an extension from ODOT so council members can spend more time reviewing the guide book.

The proposed summer park event was discussed. The Parks and Recreation Commission moved away from a full-blown festival to having a 'Day in the Park' event with music in the park to be held August 31. Discussion was held regarding having a beer garden as part of the event. The concern arose that beer sales work best in the evenings and when music entertainment is occurring, but that music for the event is scheduled for the afternoon and the event is scheduled to wrap up in late afternoon. There was additional discussion over the required permits for beer sales and the viability of farming out the beer garden to be run by an outside group such as the Riverside Jaycees.

Mr. Curp announced to the council that he has applied for the Wall That Heals to come to Riverside in 2020. The Wall That Heals is a three-quarter replica of the Viet Nam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. The requested dates are last week of April, first week of May and third week of September. Announcement of awards to applicants will not take place until October and December. Because of the short gap in time between date of awards and the early requested dates, and because the fee to host the Wall is \$10,000 with \$5,000 due at the time of notice of award, Mr. Curp asked the council to commit to providing the \$5,000 front money which would be reimbursed from funds raised from sponsors that would be solicited for the project. The council agreed to provide the \$5,000 front money should an award be made for the Wall to come to Riverside.

The 2020 budget process was discussed. The city manager stated that capital items requests would be coming from department heads for review by the manager, with a consolidated list of city manager recommendations to be forwarded to the Council for review. The Council will be provided budget revenue forecasts as part of the CIP approval process. The Council discussed the process and indicated they want to see a multi-year CIP with emphasis on first-year needs. Council also wants to see planning for the out years so there is an understanding of the need for planning and budget forecasting purposes. The manager reported that multi-year revenue/expense projections showing operating costs by departments shows deficit expense budgets in each department and the need for a general fund subsidy and/or additional source of revenues.

City manager goals process was discussed briefly, with emphasis on the evaluation instrument and the process and procedures. Council members and the city manager asked for Mr. Curp to provide them with a copy of the performance evaluation instrument developed earlier for the city by Battelle and Battelle.

The street levy was discussed and focused around having a permanent levy versus a temporary levy for a limited number of years. Council discussed the anticipated new money from the gas tax increase by the state of Ohio and also the anticipated revenue from the increase in the Permissive Tax money. Calculations show that anticipated revenue growth to the city from those two sources will not be greatly significant and that the street levy will still be needed in order to pave residential neighborhood streets. It was decided to target the levy revenue primarily for residential neighborhood streets and to target any revenues from the gas tax and Permissive Tax fund for the major thoroughfares.

The council settled on an 8-mill permanent street levy.

There was discussion regarding using bonded debt of anticipated levy revenue in order to front-end load the street paving so as to pave a larger number of streets right away rather than being constrained by paving a smaller number of streets annually based on each year's levy yield.

Managing the tax levy campaign was discussed, with the following items addressed: (1) manning and coordinating the levy activities; (2) importance of messaging; (3) web site articles that point to other pages with supporting details; (4) hardcopy for those who prefer that media as opposed to being social media and computer users. The timing of the first-out communication was discussed, and the need to have something in the hands of voters before early voting.

There council discussed the two tax collection agencies, Regional Income Tax Authority and Central Collection Agency. The next discussion and possible decision on staying with RITA or changing to CCA will be set for the upcoming council work session. Council members are to review Mr. Garrett's comments and be prepared to discuss. Mayor Flaute commented that TaxAct income tax software compatibility with RITA would be lost, but he feels the CCA energy level appears to be higher than experienced with RITA.

Charter Commission recommendations will be on the upcoming work session, and council members should be ready to discuss and perhaps make recommendations as to which ones to forward to the November ballot. Council members talked about whether to submit a change in the number of signatures required of candidates for getting on to the ballot.

The next special meeting work session is set for Thursday, July 11 at six p.m. in the council chambers. A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lommatzsch and seconded by Mr. Teaford. All voted 'yes'.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.