

Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Ted Haskins

Present: Ted Haskins, Ben Redman, Kyle Mitchell
Staff: Michael Doss, City Manager; Jackie Bain, Administrative Assistant
Visitors: None

Elect Chairperson: Mr. Redman made a motion to elect Mr. Haskins as the Committee Chairperson. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. All yes

Discussion: Future Park Funding

Mr. Doss discussed funding for a potential levy to put on parks to continue and enhance the services that the city provides and make acquisitions of equipment or other park improvement projects. It was presented at last year's budget for this year. Reviewed was information that the city has expended since 2016, 2017 and 2018. The park budget for this year is \$207,289,000 was budgeted for the park expenses. The city does transfer monies into the park. There are some direct revenues that go into the park: shelter rental fees, and events. The bulk does come from General Fund to offset the park expenses. If we spend \$207, 289,00 we would transfer in funds to cover that amount. Clermont County Auditor mileages (see attached) were discussed if Council and the committee were to approve putting this levy on the ballot. There is a process that we go through if committee and council decided to put a levy on the ballot. It must go through a first reading, then to the County Auditors to get a valuation, then approximately 2 weeks to get that back to us and then council would pass another ordinance to put this on the ballot. This would have to be done within 90 days of the General Election that is in November. This is something to talk about and to start discussing pertinent information. This levy would either compliment or take a way a bit of the subsidy in General Fund which could be used for other things in General Fund, from paving to other park projects. The goal is to at least get those expenses offset. Or at least have those expenses in place to afford the city the opportunity to go after Capital projects. This could assist in the Five Points Landing project/Milford Main. It could also help in making other improvements at our other parks. It would give us leverage with other grants as well. Mr. Doss would advocate a 1 mil levy. The committee would like to identify what the public would want to see the money spent on. Possibly schedule another meeting encouraging the public to participate and come up with a Master sheet to present this information to council. And then recommend for example a 1 Mil Levy for five years and inform what you want to do with the money.

Mr. Haskins would feel better to sit with a five-million-dollar plan and have a discussion and then present the information at council meeting. Specifically, to discuss plans for Milford Main.

Discussion of how Clertoma Park needs to be cleaned up. Will a levy help clean up the parks and if not all parks, which parks? Discussion of continuity with the parks was discussed. Mr. Doss said that there are Playground Equipment Grants available to use. Maybe a visioning committee

meeting with a plan on how to proceed with a levy. There are funds out there to utilize for the Milford Main site. It is our central park for the City.

There was lengthy discussion regarding a levy, how much, for what project when and how to proceed.

Mr. Doss recommended if attacking MM then if all is in play, 1 mil, 1 ½ mil or 2 mil levy and for council to hear the minutes from this meeting and then convene back and possibly have MSP comeback in to help with a presentation. Once everything is on the ballot,

The goal is to get some of these expenses offset or at least have those expenses in place to afford the city the opportunity to go after Capital Projects. We could also go after Grant monies that are available. Since it would be a new levy it would be on all current assets values of properties including commercial properties. This levy would benefit the city and enable the city to do some things that have been discussed in the past few years with making park improvements. The committee agreed that they would want money to go towards a particular expense. The shelter pavilion, clock tower and other items at Milford Main were discussed. A true green space and walking path at the site was discussed. The Committee Agreed to have the City Manager gather additional information and to report back to the committee.

Sparks in The Park

Mr. Doss gave an update for the event. This year the event will be on Friday, July 3rd. We have ordered fireworks, a stage, and having the Billy Rock Band performing at the event this year. The event will be held from 7pm until 10pm. Also discussed was having vendors at the event. Right now we have vendors available to sell beer, wine, water, soda, Snow Cones, an Ice Cream truck and another dessert truck. In the past we have had vendors sell food. At last years event most of the people attending were there about an hour before the fireworks. By moving the event to 7pm this will be past dinner time and should encourage visitors to eat in the downtown area or eat before heading downtown for the event. The committee recommended to use vendors and food trucks at this year's event and see how they do this year. We will not charge them a vendor fee. And move the vendors more towards the American Legion Location. Keep them in one section. We will solicit businesses to provide donations.

Discussion: Oktoberfest 2020

The Committee discussed if the City should take over the Oktoberfest 2020 event. We can do this, but it will be a big undertaking. The event will be structured differently. Also understanding that we would have to go after sponsorship to help coordinate this event. Information regarding the DORA was discussed. We would like to at least break even and ask vendors to pay for booth space. We will be supplying Police and Service assistance during the event. We would like to set up booths for multiple style beers. We would set up music and different booths for the event. By this time, we will have an event coordinator to assist. Beer tickets to be sold to then be used at different booths. 50 to Mill Street to be the location of the event to have enough space for the event. Suggested to have it on Mill street and wrapping around Main Street. This event will be held on a Saturday in September.

The location suggestion is to place it on Mill Street and to wrap around Main Street and stop at the intersection of Garfield. Hours from 11am – 11pm. This would be a great event for the city! We would have control of the event and legalities. Also concerns about the logistics of the event. Will we have enough Police and Service coverage for this event? Possibly have a bratwurst eating contest, dancing and other entertainment. The committee would like to make it the intention to make money at this event and for the city to take on this event. We cannot sit on this for very long. We need to move forward quickly if the city is to take this on.

There being no other business, Mr. Redman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell All yes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Bain