

**Community Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Ted Haskins

**Present:** Ted Haskins, Ben Redman, Kyle Mitchell  
**Staff:** City Manager - Michael Doss, Finance Director – Pat Wirthlin  
Administrative Assistant - Jackie Bain

**Proceedings:** Approval of the April 15, 2021 Community Development Committee Meeting Minutes Mr. Haskins made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Redman

**DISCUSSION: PROPOSED PARK AND RECREATION LEVY**

Mr. Doss presented information on the proposed Park and Recreation levy. The committee referenced the Opinion of Probable Construction Cost page 46 from the 2018 Five Points Landing (Milford Main) Master Plan. Mr. Doss spoke to Randy Murrell-Head Engineer with MSP on this project for some 2021 numbers and to also break down the project a little bit more into separate phases: For example, **Phase I** /walkways, sidewalks, greenspace, vegetation and water feature. **Phase II** /Farmers Market, Putting Green. **Phase III**/Rec Center, Pavilion and **Phase IV**/Clock Tower.

There are other parks within the Milford Park System that we could utilize funds for playground equipment, expansion of the walking path, and upgrades to canoe/kayak at Jim Terrell Park. Mr. Doss felt that if we identify just Milford Main then the levy is restricted. We have to be careful of how we word this and how it appears on the ballot since this will be the way we can use it. Milford Main is a big component of this and if this advances through council and ultimately gets on the ballot, we will do our due diligence to educate the public on the intent of the levy. It may go back to Community Development Committee or Council as a Whole to have another Work Session.

Mr. Doss discussed different valuations of different mileages that was provided by the Clermont County Auditor's Office. Mr. Doss recommended a 1.5 mil levy for a term of five-years to make the Five Points Landing Park at Milford Main a great park and also to make other improvements in our park system. A levy timeline was reviewed with the committee to advance (if approved by committee), Ordinance #1 – an Ordinance of Necessity, to go before the next City council meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. If passed by Council, it will then go to the County Auditor's Office and they will then issue a Certificate of Revenue. It will then come back before City Council for another Levy which is called an Ordinance to Proceed. Council would then consider if they would want to proceed for that levy to go on the ballot. If approved, we have 90 days prior to the elections to get that onto the November ballot.

The committee discussed how they would like this ordinance to be specific to Milford Main or to all parks within the city. The amount of 1.5 mil levy over five years does not cover 25% of what is proposed for the Five Points Landing project. There was discussion whether we want to make Milford Main the centerpiece of this levy and how do we get this done in timely manner. Do we get grants and other funding? It is a seriously levy but if we cannot get the project done then what is the point. Do we have to start considering selling that property if all we are going to have is grass and maintenance on the property. Mr. Doss mentioned that at the Milford Main site there is a lot of room for compliant walking paths with a lot of greenspace and vegetation available to place there. A park. But you could build up on the bigger costlier features later.

The committee determined to let it be up to the citizens to decide if they want to pass the Park and Recreation levy. It will then be determined if we sell the property or we do not. Ms. Wirthlin discussed that we need to start this process now to get it on the ballot at this meeting. Mr. Doss mentioned that if this levy is exhausted and is up for renewal, people are going to be much more apt to, typically, to renew a levy instead of starting with a whole new tax/levy. The amount of the Levy was also discussed based on how to fund the Milford Main project and the return on the citizens' investment.

Ms. Rebecca Shundich – Milford Ohio

As a resident who walks throughout the City she believes that this will get huge support for the parks and developing the corner/Milford Main. They don't want that developed into buildings. She believes that a park in that site is critical for this area.

The committee was concerned that if we pass the levy will we start a project and complete the project at Milford Main. A walking path would be a great start with nice landscaping. Do we want to do all or nothing or piece it out? The costs of the project were reviewed and how we could possible do some of them in house.

The committee asked Mr. Doss that if we take this recommendation before us and move it forward, and in the meantime we get back the value per each Phase, and we don't like it as a group, can we shoot it down at that point? Mr. Doss explained that this is just to start the process to put down a mileage amount to advance to the ballot. And there is still opportunity to discuss and comment regarding this levy. The committee agreed to proceed with the process and get the proposed Levy started.

***The Committee Agreed To Recommend That The Law Director Draft An Ordinance Declaring A Necessity For An Election For An Additional 1.5 Mil Tax Levy As A Single Levy And Ballot Issue In Excess Of Ten-Mill Limitation For Parks And Recreation Purposes For Five Years For The City Of Milford, Ohio.***

**AGREEMENT WITH ARTWORKS CINCINNATI RE: RUTHVEN MURAL PROJECT**

Mr. Doss brought to the committee's attention the agreement authorization for the Artworks project. Mr. Doss also discussed having the City added as an additionally insured to the Certificate of Insurance. The project is slightly over \$66,000, budget wise. With \$100,000 the Ruthven Foundation will absorb which is in the agreement. There was some discussion from Council regarding possibly adding some funds to assist with the project. There is some repair work that Artworks needs to apply towards the wall railing prior to painting the mural. A quote for the repair was approximately \$10,000. If any contributions were added to the project, the money would assist with adding another art panel or two. Mr. Doss would not recommend anything over \$5,000. This mural will identify Milford in the Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky area. The committee agreed with Mr. Doss and all approved moving forward with the agreement and contribution of \$5,000.

There was additional discussion of a Levy for the Public Utilities/Water Tower and discussion regarding a Pre-Construction meeting with J.K. Meurer regarding the Walking Path at Riverside park and the Paving project at Jim Terrell Park and Jonas Park. Building of dugouts at Riverside I park. Also, a concrete walking path from Cash Street to the Jonas Memorial as part of our commitment to Wendy Farsing and the Farsing/Jonas family. Picnic tables will also be placed in that area as well.

There being no other business, Mr. Haskins made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Redman. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jackie Bain

*"These minutes have been approved and adopted by Mr. Haskins, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Redman via email on May 14, 2021."*