

Ms. Bishop noted that it seems that Findlay is only concerned about how the downtown looks and does not really care about “we the people” or what it does to the people who support all of these projects, which is what she is concerned about the ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) that was quoted is going to be the City’s share, which is quite a burden on the people of Findlay. She is a landlord and has some tenants that are having a tough time in this economy paying their rent, food, car, etc.. One of her tenant’s car broke down that is beyond repair and had to get a new car which is already a financial burden for that lady. When she is hurting, Ms. Bishop is hurting. Last summer, or perhaps it was two (2) years ago, the high hazard dam that on the south side of town . . .

President of Council Harrington interrupted stating that Ms. Bishop’s allotted time was up. Councilman Niemeyer moved to allow Ms. Bishop more time to continue, seconded by Councilwoman Frische. All were in favor.

Ms. Bishop continued stating that all the printing of money that the Washington politicians do just causes inflation for everyone and makes everything cost more. She sees this happening more and more every day, even in the City of Findlay. She is concerned about it because at some point in time, this whole thing is going to come crashing down like a house of cards. Filed.

Patty Klein – downtown recreation area

Ms. Klein is before City Council tonight to oppose the passing of the current plan for the downtown recreation area. Everyone wants nice things. Given the choice, Findlay would want to buy a Mercedes if money was no object. The current plan for this park is a Mercedes. The City has not presented any plans for the park within a reasonable budget. While she does not oppose having a nice park for the community, Findlay does not need a park found in St. Louis or Chicago. Please vote no on proceeding with the current park plan and instead use the money on current parks so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors without a future tax burden or dependence on outside resources. Say no to the Mercedes and take a look at a Chevy or a Ford.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked Ms. Klein if she is in favor of something there, even a Chevy of a park. Ms. Klein replied sure. If she were in Council’s shoes, her plan for that area would be to make it look nice, cut the grass and remove the houses on Main Cross along the park and then possibly put something there later within a budget. Right now, the economy is unpredictable to propose such a huge legendary plan for that area. She does not think it is the right time for it. Findlay already has nice parks and would appreciate updating their local neighborhood parks instead. Her son would have loved to have some batting cages over at Riverside Park when he was younger. There is things that can be done to Findlay’s current parks. She does not understand why this huge legendary park has been such a priority at this time when the economy is not that great. Councilman Wobser asked if Ms. Klein agrees that the City needs to study the process more. Ms. Klein replied that the community could be presented with options instead of one big huge, money is no object, park. Filed.

Wanda Fruth (on behalf of Katie Erickson) – park issue “referring to today’s newspaper”

Ms. Fruth is before Council tonight speaking for someone else, Katie Erickson stating her letter:

Hello, I have been a resident of Findlay since 2007 and am reaching out to encourage you to not proceed with the large park project north of the river in downtown Findlay without letting the citizens vote on it. While I am in favor of parks in general, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is a lot of taxpayer money for one giant park when there are so many issues in our City that need to be addressed. For that price tag, I believe the citizens should have the opportunity to vote on it so that everyone’s voice can be heard and not just the few who do take the time to learn about what is going on and share their thoughts. On June 28, 2023, the Mayor’s Facebook page posted about this downtown recreation area which was in the paper. I left comment on that post asking three (3) questions: 1) where is the money coming from for this park. 2) does the City already own all the properties that this would affect. 3) will the general population have an opportunity to vote on this, not just provide comments, but an actual issue on a ballot. If so, when? If not, why? The response I received from the Mayor was that I should review the proposal which I had already read twice and that there will most likely be various rounds of community input as the design is refined which implies that this project is moving forward even if some of the details may change. My reply on Facebook was I read through that document a second time and am still unable to find those specific answers hence why I asked the question in the first place. All I can find on the funding is that page 12 says simply appropriate the funds. Does that mean appropriate or appropriate the funds. What does that mean. This is a no/yes question which I would think someone close to the project could easily answer. If many people speak up and say they don’t want this project to be done, is that still an option or is the City moving ahead regardless and may only changing details based on the public’s feedback. I never received an additional response while the City wants to create the illusion of listening to the constituents. I do not feel that this is happening in this scenario.

Discussion:

President of Council Harrington interrupted stating that Ms. Fruth’s allotted time was up. Councilman Palmer moved to allow Ms. Fruth more time to continue, seconded by Councilman Niemeyer. All were in favor.

Ms. Fruth continued stating that she does not feel that this is happening in this scenario as her questions were basically ignored. Findlay has larger issues that need to be addressed, primarily a wage problem. The City is bringing in a lot of warehouse jobs, but nothing in the higher paid levels. This results in an economy that is skewed to the lower income levels and housing market where people are struggling to pay the rent. There is an incorrect mentality surrounding Findlay that rent is too high, even though the actual data shows that Findlay is below average rent for the state. The real problem is that there are not enough high paying jobs due to this issue, there is also a strong problem with homelessness, crime and drug abuse in our community which is often related to mental health issues. I suppose this fancy new park would provide more benches for the homeless population to sleep on and more areas for drug transactions. I do not feel that spending millions of dollars on a park is the way to solve these issues. I am unfortunately not able to attend the City Council meeting this evening in person or else I would share these comments there, but I wanted to be sure to send this email to let you know my thoughts. I moved to Findlay as a young adult and have enjoyed its small town charm, but it is sad to see what is happening to this once lovely city as the real problems are not being addressed. Thank you for reading this.

Councilwoman Frische replied to Ms. Fruth that one of the questions in Ms. Erickson's letter was asking where the money is coming from. The Mayor has mentioned that it is unknown at this time where the money is coming from or what the dollar amounts are. In looking at her Capital budget book, nothing has been appropriated into the five (5) year capital other than one hundred thousand dollars plus (\$100,000+). Those numbers are unknown. It was asked if the City owns all the properties – not yet but are working on that still. It was asked about the general population which is nothing the City is doing at this time. Filed.

Randy Otermat – downtown north river development project

Mr. Otermat is a candidate for the Fourth Ward Council seat this fall and that Katie Erickson is part of his committee. Most of what he was going to say tonight was already stated. One thing he wanted to stress that has already been pointed out is that the City is moving forward with a lot of expenditures without getting much public input on. He hears a lot of talk about getting public input and listening to the public. Those he has talked to are not real keen on spending forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) just to design a park and then not knowing how much more it is going to cost after that. If someone is going to come up with a four million dollar (\$4,000,000) design, it is going to be a multi-million dollar park or else it will not look like it was worth the expenditure. He is putting trust in City Officials as they have more knowledge about this than he does as far as where this money is coming from, how long it is going to take to get it going, and how quickly the City is going to need to spend this money. He looks at it like a house remodeling project and should not necessarily jump in and do it all at once. This project could be done in stages. The City needs to get more input about this. Getting input from the public and serving the public is mentioned often, but not always obtained before making decisions. There was a whole room full of people at the last City Council meeting that were opposed to a project that got passed anyway. Council is leaving some black eyes out there that he is hearing a lot about when he goes around talking to people who feel there is not the support for issues that Council thinks there is. While he does not necessarily think there needs to be a public vote on it, but seek public input before deciding to spend forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) on a project and appropriate one million five hundred dollars (\$1,500,000) tonight. It is jumping in with both feet and might be hard to get back out once that is done. Filed.

Melissa Humphress (on behalf of Renee Leguire) - \$40M park

Ms. Humphress is concern about this proposed park. She has been in Phoenix lately where she has seen some of the most beautiful parks. They do not have a lot of stuff. They are just beautiful parks where people can go, but are still riddled with homeless, riddled with needles, and riddled with murders happening on a daily basis, but are beautiful parks.

On behalf of her sister Renee Leguire – her son-in-law is a salesman with Musco Lighting for states Nevada and Arizona (cities all across it). The City of Findlay CUBE has Musco Lighting. A forty million dollar (\$40,000,000) project for a park should be like a Taj Mahal. He is shocked that the price tag for such a small park if forty million dollars (\$40,000,000). He asked if it was put out to bid. Ms. Humphress is asking why the City does not maintain the parks they already have. The fields at the CUBE are very nice, but that the area for spectators is extremely dangerous with pavers and steps that are loose and wobbly, no shade, dugouts without electricity, netting with holes and not placed well to intercept pop-up foul balls. She asked Council if they can please table this for now and fix what the City already has, put in a splash pad at Riverside Park on both the east and west side, and take time to rethink this. This is not what working class of Findlay wants. Findlay has beautiful parks. The City should maintain and improve the parks they already have. This is a frivolous waste of taxpayers money, just like the bumpout islands and bike path down Blanchard Street. She asked Council to please vote against this or ask to table it. Filed.

Thomas Shindledecker – in favor of the riverfront recreation project

Mr. Shindledecker is before City Council tonight to speak in favor of this project. He has been in favor of it long before it was even talked about when the buildings came down on the north side of the river and figured it was what the City really needed to do. In his opinion, this is the most important project this Council can undertake. It is vital. Yes, it is a lot of money, but it is worth it. He has some suggestions: the City should go slow in developing it and add on as needed. His first choice would be to have an amphitheater, food truck accommodations, a playground, fencing along the riverbank with shrubbery because there will be kids in the playground, etc. covering up the fencing, and some health amenities like the hiking path that is already included in this project. He has been asked why the City needs this when they already have the Marathon Center and Riverside Park, etc. He cannot imagine all the possible activities that could take place in this park (OctoberFest, Rib Off, car shows, 4th of July and Veterans Day parades aftermath, art show, community and church picnics, farmers market, outdoor concerts, receptions honoring sports teams that did well at the state level, political speakers and rallies, homecoming for the University of Findlay and other schools, etc.). Riverside would not be affected by this. One that intrigues him is Christmas markets. Anyone that has been overseas, particularly in Germany or France around the Christmas season, there have been Christmas markets there for decades. It is a place where you can get something to eat, buy small trinkets for Christmas gifts, have entertainment, and opportunities to talk with friends. They are beautiful and are well attended. Cruise lines will often schedule Christmas market tours of some of them. Findlay already has a tradition of buying Christmas trees on that property. There are dozens more activities that could take place there. Some have been critical about the parking problem, but he does not think it really exists. Findlay is spoiled. Motorists will drive around the block three (3) or four (4) times trying to find a parking place directly in front of the location they want to go to. People downtown would not go across the river for parking, as some have suggested that Findlay needs more parking, and that is what it ought to be, but won't do that. He wouldn't do that. There are those that are downtown that would walk across the bridge to go to a concert or some other event. The parking problem is almost non-existent. He mentioned OctoberFest in which he had been on the board of Hancock Historical Museum for several years, when they set up for that and set up for the rib-off and other activities that have been downtown. The setting up is more congested and causes more problems than the actual event. The events take place in the evenings, but beginning about noon or even earlier than that, the streets are blocked off while tables are brought in and stages are set up, etc. He does not think that is a great problem or a vital problem for the community. It has been said that perception is reality and that the perception of a project such as this for the community is outstanding.

He asked Council to picture someone coming up 68 from Kentucky and deciding they do not want to go on the interstate and make a leisurely trip through Findlay, what they see. Starting at the south end, they see several beautiful churches . . .

Discussion:

President of Council Harrington interrupted stating that Mr. Shindledecker's allotted time was up. Councilman Palmer moved to allow Mr. Shindledecker more time to continue, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor.

Mr. Shindledecker continued stating that if someone were coming to Findlay and were unfamiliar with the community, coming from the south end, north end, or from 224, what they are going to see as they come off of 15 at South Main Street. They will see new housing developments at all levels, three (3) or four (4) magnificent churches, a hospital that is second to none for a community this size, and the gorgeous South Main Street homes. After they go past that, they will be on the edge of downtown. There are storefronts that are occupied, people on the streets, the Marathon property, and two (2) downtown hotels. He asked how many cities Findlay's size have even one. Then, as they cross the bridge, all of a sudden there is an eyesore. Beyond that, there are several blocks of average commercial and housing projects, and then they would come across the University of Findlay campus. If they continue north, they would go by the CUBE and would see all the businesses. He is mentioning this only because in the spring of 1966, he and his wife drove four hundred (400) miles to Findlay for a job interview and came down the turnpike, went to Fremont down to Fostoria and came in Fostoria Avenue, which is nice, but not breathtaking. They then drove about a half (1/2) mile and thought it felt like home and have been there ever since. He thinks this is a vital project that needs to get started now. Council should pass this legislation and get it done. Filed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Willard Camm – water bill. Filed.

Email from Don Emmert – stop the variances 300 block of West McPherson. Filed.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS:

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for Ten Start Enterprises Inc. dba Scramblers, 516 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio for a D2, D3, D6 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

James H. Mathias, Chief of Police was unable to provide background check(s) for the criminal record(s) for those that applied for these liquor permits due to no applicant name(s) or social security number(s) provided by the Division of Liquor Control stating that this is a master file, therefore, the Division of Liquor Control will not provide applicant name(s) and/or social security number(s) for master files.

Councilman Slough moved for no objections be filed, seconded by Councilman Wobser.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that he has not seen anything like this since he has been on Council, but suspects Council has ran into this before. It appears that Council has two (2) choices, at least what is written by the Department of Commerce per the back of their form: notify the Division whether Council objects and wants a hearing or ask for more time so that they can get the additional information they need. He does not think that this is up for approval. President of Council Harrington replied that Council is deciding whether they are going to file an objection or not.

Councilwoman Frische noted that Law Director Rasmussen informed Council in the past that Council can file an objection, but that it really does not get Council anywhere and requires someone to go down there. She asked what is to be done with a corporation that the liquor license is not tying directly to an employee and asked how that is normally handled. Law Director Rasmussen replied that it can be done with an individual or a class of people. Council received this request last year for this same establishment in which Council did not act on it. This is the same one that the Liquor Control did not supply the information that Council would like to have. Councilwoman Frische asked if this is a renewal. She does not recall ever seeing the redline before. She is sure that Scramblers is not an issue. She asked if a check is done for Council's benefit or if it is a requirement that a background check is done on social security numbers. Law Director Rasmussen replied it is not a requirement and is something the City suggests is done by obtaining the information of who is going in where. Councilwoman Frische asked what the risk of not having it. Law Director Rasmussen replied that the risk is that there may be some that are selling alcohol for some other reason.

Councilman Hellmann asked if Council has approved these when the information is provided. Law Director Rasmussen replied always, every time. Councilman Hellmann asked if Council will continue with that and if they do not provide the information, not approve it. President of Council Harrington replied that it is a Council decision.

Councilman Russel noted that during his time on Council, they have approved all except for this one from Scramblers last year. In conversations during that time, Council's discussion was about what happened if Council does not recommend approval. In essence, the Ohio Liquor Board takes it into account and apparently grants the permit anyway. It has been asked what this step is for, which is a valid question. He asked Law Director Rasmussen if it was Scramblers last year. Law Director Rasmussen replied correct.

Councilman Wobser asked if Scramblers did or did not get a liquor license last time when Council did not vote in favor of it. Law Director Rasmussen replied they did not. Councilman Wobser noted that it appears that they are back asking for it one more time for the exact same thing and are not selling alcohol there now, so his is guessing that if they would have gotten the license, they would be selling it.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the Liquor Control's form is from the City or the State and asked if anyone has tried to reach out to them or if that is not the City's job to do so. Mayor Muryn replied that to her knowledge, the City has not reached out to them. She recommend this be tabled and can follow up. She was not aware of this issue until she received the Council packet on Friday, so there has not been an opportunity to discuss this further with the Police Chief to determine if the City wants to reach out to the business and thinks it is a good practice to continue to have a specific individual(s) that is/are responsible for maintaining responsibility of the liquor license that Council would be able to vet.

Councilman Russel moved to table this until Mayor Muryn looks into this further, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Niemeyer. The liquor license request is tabled.

Councilman Niemeyer noted that he talked to an attorney about this. It is a TRES type license. It is in his ward which means it comes from out of town because there are none available in the City of Findlay and Hancock County. This would be no different than a corporation like Kroger. President of Council Harrington replied that Mayor Muryn is saying that it needs further investigation. Law Director Rasmussen added that it is just to get information for the application. There is no reason to deny it except for not having the information. He has only gone down to the liquor board and defended the City once. If they supply the information and if there is a permit available, they will most likely still get the permit.

Councilwoman Frische asked Councilman Niemeyer what a TRES means and that nothing for Krogers, Beverage Barn, or anything like that comes to Council. Councilman Niemeyer replied that they are just applying for a liquor license to keep up with competition and that no liquor licenses are available. Krogers, Meijer or big corporations do not actually change hands. This is the same thing. He is unsure how many Scramblers there are in the State of Ohio, but if a corporation is doing the same thing, there is one in Findlay. They would like to have a liquor license in Findlay just to compete with competition. There are other Scramblers in different cities in the state which have liquor licenses. If Council were to ask the State, they would not have any one social security number for Krogers, Meijer or Walmart.

Councilman Palmer asked if a background check is done on a single individual for chain restaurants such as Applebees or if theirs is similar to this. Mayor Muryn replied she is not sure which is why she requested it be tabled so clarity on it could be researched. The City wants Scramblers to be to be able to be successful. She does not think anyone has any concerns with them and just wants to better understand where the accountability in the community lies. Filed.

Officer/Shareholders Disclosure Form from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for NNDBHUI LLC dba Cigars N Stuff, 710 South Blanchard Street, Findlay, Ohio for C1 and C2 liquor permits. This requires a vote of Council.

James H. Mathias, Chief of Police – NNDBHUI LLC dba Cigars N Stuff, 710 South Blanchard Street, Findlay, Ohio. A check of the records shows no criminal record on the following:

Mahesh P. Lalji

Councilman Palmer moved for no objections be filed, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Filed.

City Planning Commission agenda August 10, 2023; **staff report** – August 10, 2023; **minutes** – July 13, 2023. Filed.

City Income Tax Monthly Collection Report – July 2023. Filed.

Findlay Fire Department Activities Report – July 2023. Filed.

Findlay Police Department Activities Report – July 2023. Filed.

Treasurer's Reconciliation Report – May 31, 2023, June 30, 2023, July 31, 2023. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – HAN-Blanchard-Lincoln Paths, Project No. 32876000

City Engineer Kalb is providing a quick update on the status of the traffic study for Blanchard Street. The City of Findlay Engineering Department has been working with the consultant to schedule the desired traffic study on Blanchard Street to see if the roadway configuration had a positive or negative impact on the traffic flow. The consultant has the City on their schedule and is expected to start this fall to obtain the necessary data to compile the traffic study. In order to obtain the most accurate data, the City will not be able to record traffic counts until school is back in session. The City of Findlay Engineering Department is expecting to have the completed traffic study by the end of the year. He will provide the results of the study once it is completed. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – HAN-Bigelow Avenue Resurfacing FY24, PID117611 (32833800)

The City of Findlay is eligible for Federal Highway Administration (FHA) funds administered through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). This project is eligible for this type of funding. The project will consist of the resurfacing of Bigelow Avenue from Main Street to Melrose Avenue. Project cost is estimated to be nine hundred thirty-five thousand seven hundred twenty (\$935,720) with eighty percent (80%) being funded by ODOT and twenty percent (20%) from the City. The City's matching share is included in the 2024 10-year Capital Improvement Plan. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to enter into a project agreement with ODOT is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-075 was created.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked if this is going to be for Bigelow and Broad Avenues. City Engineer Kalb replied yes. Part of it is officially Broad, but for the project, it is called Bigelow and then the following year it will go from Melrose Avenue to Trenton Avenue. This is another multi-face project. Councilman Russel pointed out that the layout of the road is a 2-2 similar to Blanchard and asked if the Administration looks at it as an opportunity to a Blanchard type treatment with center turns and adding bike lanes on the side. He asked if it will be opened up for potential State funding or TAP funding. City Engineer Kalb replied, yes it can be considered for that. With the Transportation Alternative Plan (TAP) funding that is already out to FY27, but that there are safety funds that could be used for that. A lot of funding has come out with that such as Safe Streets For All, etc. It is something that could be studied to see the effects like the previous project for Blanchard/Lincoln. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Ohio Public Works Commission Grant Application Morrival Boulevard Waterline Replacement

The City of Findlay Engineering Department is preparing to submit an annual grant application to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for a waterline replacement on Morrival Boulevard from I-75 to Bliss Avenue. The current waterline is a six inch (6”) line that is in need of replacement and upsizing to a twelve inch (12”) main line for water quality and flow. Legislation authorizing City representatives to execute the necessary grant application(s) and/or agreement(s) to receive the grant funding is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-076 was created.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische asked if this was part of the 2023 Capital Plan. City Engineer Kalb replied yes. Originally, it the waterline was for Logan to Bial, but saw immediate water quality issue for Morrival Boulevard and changed it. Morrival Boulevard was the original plan. It was for 2023 and just pushed it back a year. Councilwoman Frische asked if it is Ohio Public Works Commission funds and if the City applies for more than one thing a year or if the City is limited on how many applications they can submit. City Engineer Kalb replied that depending on how much funding comes in from other communities such as McComb, will determine how many applications will be submitted. If funding for more than one project is available, he will submit two, but that it all depends on how much grant funds are out there, the City’s match, etc. The City was wanting to do the Morrival Boulevard waterline anyway, so it fits. It will score good which is why it is going through the Ohio Public Works Commission process. Councilwoman Frische asked, that under the original plan before it got moved, if it was upgraded to a twelve inch (12”) line or if it will be staying a six inch (6”) line. City Engineer Kalb replied it is going to be a twelve inch (12”) line. Councilwoman Frische noted that the only reason she asked was because there was a project that the City applied for through the Ohio Public Works Commission that she saw in the Capital Plan via an ordinance to go out to bid the end of 2022. City Engineer Kalb replied that there is a couple of them. They do not have a set timeline and can carry over from year to year. If this grant is accepted, grant funds will not be given until July 2024. There is a fiscal year difference since it is state funding. Councilwoman Frische asked if this will be a benefit to the potential project site for Habitat and help with infrastructure. City Engineer Kalb replied that it would help with that project, but that is not the main goal of the project. That whole area out in West Park is needing water pressure, water quality, and water flow through there. Because this six inch (6”) line is a main feed through, installing a twelve inch (12”) on Lima Avenue will improve that whole area. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – FY22 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award (31933100)

The City of Findlay Fire Department was notified on July 21, 2023 that the FY22 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application has been approved. Authorization to apply for this grant was passed by City Council on February 7, 2023 via Ordinance No. 2023-017, however, at that time, no funds were appropriated for the project. The AFG award is to purchase a SCBA Fill Station & Compressor to be installed at Fire Station 4 at a total cost of sixty-four thousand four hundred twenty-two dollars and seventy cents (\$64,422.70) with the Federal share awarded through the grant being fifty-eight thousand five hundred sixty-six dollars and nine cents (\$58,566.09), and the required local share is five thousand eight hundred fifty-six dollars and sixty-one cents (\$5,856.61). An appropriation of the full amount is necessary to facilitate this project. Along with the appropriations of funds, it is desired to waive the formal bidding process to allow the Findlay Fire Department to purchase the SCBA Fill Station & Compressor from Breathing Air Systems. The City of Findlay Fire Department currently has a Bauer unit from Breathing Air Systems who provides maintenance on the unit twice a year. By purchasing a new Bauer unit from Breathing Air Systems, the City of Findlay Fire Department will have the same technician service for both units at the same time which will help streamline the maintenance on both of the fill stations. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, and/or City Engineer to waive all formal advertising and bidding requirements, and enter into contracts, as well as appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-077 was created.

FROM:	FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant FY22	\$ 58,566.09
FROM:	General Fund	\$ 5,856.61
TO:	FFD AFG FY22 #31933100	\$ 64,422.70

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser noted that this request is asking to waive the formal bidding processes and asked if the reason the City wants to use Breathing Air Systems for a Bauer unit is because it will help streamline the maintenance. City Engineer Kalb replied that is correct. The waiving will be for Breathing Air Systems to provide a Bauer unit. The City already has a Bauer unit right now who comes out twice a year to service it. This request is for the same type of unit, so they will be able service both of them at the same time twice a year for both of them. Councilman Wobser asked if the Administration is confident that the savings gained on maintenance will outweigh potential savings of bidding this out. City Engineer Kalb replied that he cannot say for sure what those savings would be. It is a unit that the City already has, so it is not a new unit that they would have to be trained on, but he is unsure what the benefits of that would be. As of the daily use, he can see benefit from that. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Rawson and Swale Restroom Construction (CDBG), Project No. 31933300

The City of Findlay was notified on July 19, 2023 that the CDBG-CV grant application has been approved. Authorization to apply for this grant was passed by City Council on March 7, 2023 via Ordinance No. 2023-031.. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant will fund one hundred percent (100%) of the design and construction of new park restrooms at Rawson and Swale Parks. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to advertise for bids and enter into contracts, as well as to appropriate and transfer funds is requested so that design work can commence. Ordinance No. 2023-078 was created.

FROM:	Department of Development Office of Community Development	\$ 996,400.00
TO:	Rawson & Swale Restroom Construction (CDBG), Project No. 31933300	\$ 996,400.00

Filed.

A set of summary financial reports for July 31, 2023:

- Summary of Year-To-Date Information as of July 31, 2023
- Open Projects Report as of July 31, 2023
- Cash & Investments as of July 31, 2023
- Financial Snapshot for General Fund as of July 31, 2023

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak had a conversation with Councilman Wobser on the mid-year review with everything going on with strategic planning and some other things that are happening. It has gotten to the point that it is pretty late in the process. It was discussed to combine it with the pre-budget meeting as it was done last year for not only that reason, but are also seeing a normalization of the income tax receipts from everything that happened to the large corporate changes with Marathon and Cooper Tire over the last couple of years. President of Council Harrington has stated that he would like to have an audit review meeting of the City's coffers. The State contracted audit firm would like to do that September 5, 2023 at 5:00pm, which conflicts with the STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE. He asked Councilmembers to email him if interested in attending because how the meeting is conducted would depend on how many Councilmembers are interested. The date and time came from the audit firm. Councilman Wobser asked City Auditor Staschiak if he wants it combined with the other portions of this or just for the audit review. City Auditor Staschiak replied that each year, Council is offered the opportunity to have an explanation of the management comments and audit questions Council has. The meeting in years past has gone from no one attending to one or two attending, and lasting thirty-eight (38) seconds to lasting forty-five (45) minutes. It all depends on how many want to go and will then adjust how they do it accordingly to make it as efficient as possible. Councilman Wobser asked if City Auditor Staschiak will schedule the pre-budget meeting for a later date. City Auditor Staschiak replied yes. Filed.

Findlay Municipal Court Activities Report – July 2023. Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – fourth Capital Improvement appropriation of 2023

The fourth Capital Improvement allocation of the year is to transfer funds into capital projects so that the City can continue with projects that have been bid out for construction and to have funds readily available for City crews to start various projects that were scheduled to be completed this year. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to advertise for bid and enter into contracts, and to appropriate and transfer funds is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-079 was created.

FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 22,825.00
TO: Police #21012000-other	\$ 6,825.00
TO: Park Maintenance #21034000-other	\$ 16,000.00
FROM: CIT Fund – Capital Improvements Restricted Account	\$ 425,000.00
TO: Rawson Park Tennis Courts #31933400	\$ 45,000.00
TO: CUBE Parking Lot Resurfacing Phase III #31933500	\$ 80,000.00
TO: ODOT FY24 HAN-Bigelow Ave #32833800	\$ 2,000.00
TO: South Main Street/Hardin Street Intersection #32823100	\$ 40,000.00
TO: South Main Street/Crawford Street Intersection #32823200	\$ 40,000.00
TO: West Main Cross Street/Cory Street Intersection #32823400	\$ 43,000.00
TO: West Main Cross Street/South West Street Intersection #32831600	\$ 175,000.00
FROM: Water Fund	\$ 2,000.00
TO: East Street Waterline Repair #35732900	\$ 2,000.00
FROM: Sewer Fund	\$ 4,000.00
TO: 2023 Annual Sewer & Manhole Lining #35633600	\$ 2,000.00
TO: Large Diameter Sewer Cleaning #35633700	\$ 2,000.00

Filed.

City Engineer Kalb – Findlay Airport FAA Grants AIP-34 and AIP-35

The City of Findlay was recently notified that the pre-applications for grant funding from the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) were accepted and was provided a full grant agreement to execute. On July 28, 2023, the City received information on the grant documents, but due to a couple of vacations and personnel out of the office, the email was not seen until after the previous Council meeting. Grants that are administered through the FAA have a quick turnaround. These grants had an execution deadline of August 8, 2023. This quick turnaround did not allow for enough time to go through the Council process, but did not want to lose out on the grant opportunity for two (2) AIP projects. Contact was made to the FAA requesting an extension if the grant was pulled and reapply, but would put the funding in jeopardy since it is a very competitive grant that all airports use. The City of Findlay received funding for two (2) airport projects that are included in the Capital Improvements Plan. The first project is in the reimbursement of alternates No. 1 and No. 2 for the North Apron Project, and the second project is the design work for the rehab of runway 7/25. Both of these projects received funding that will cover ninety percent (90%) of the cost and plan on applying for an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Aviation Match Grant that will cover another five percent (5%) of the projects. When all completed, the City of Findlay will only have a five percent (5%) match for each of the projects. This letter is to inform Council that FAA AIP Grant No. 34 (North Apron Rehab Reimbursement) and No. 35 (Rehab of Runway 7/25 – Design) have been executed due to the deadline of August 8, 2023. Legislation will be needed to acknowledge that Council agrees with signing for the two (2) AIP grants. An appropriation will come at a future date when all final award notices are received from the FAA. Legislation authorizing the Mayor, Service-Safety Director and/or City Engineer to apply for funding from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Programs (AIP-34 and AIP-35), as well as enter into a grant agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration is requested. Ordinance No. 2023-080 was created.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische noted that when she picked up her Council packet last Friday, she got a little upset as it was the icing on the cake. There is a loss in process. It has been clear in the last several months that the Muryn Administration lacks the respect of communicating with the community and Council by going rogue and making decisions without following process. The Hancock Park District, where the City assumed the Civitan Park property without going through Council, is now trying to wrestle through everything. The documents were drawn up and were signed with the City assuming property from the Hancock Park District that could have an EPA issue. Then, recently, the Muryn Administration entered into an agreement with Findlay City Schools to use City employees to . . . President of Council Harrington interrupted asking Councilwoman Frische if this has anything to do with . . . Councilwoman Frische interrupted stating yes it does and that she'd be glad to finish. President of Council Harrington replied to get to the just of the letter rather than being accusatory. Councilwoman Frische replied that she is speaking as a Council person and appreciates finishing. President of Council Harrington replied that he is making sure Councilwoman Frische is keeping on track. Councilwoman Frische continued stating that City employees are to do asphalt and concrete work/labor for Findlay City Schools and entered into a contract for the City to use the school's bus garage for storage with the City doing the demolition of that when they want that done, again without Council approval and process. So, tonight's letter from the Muryn Administration as an oops because they had people on vacation and missed an email before the last Council meeting for a FAA grant, which is great because the City wants to improve the City's Airport, which she is not against, but when she is told in a letter that the Administration went ahead and signed the contract without Council's approval yet again. She asked why there even is a City Council if the City has an Administration that continues to do things without following process that Councilmembers or the majority of Councilmembers allow for it. Council is a rubber stamp. Later in the Council meeting there will also be a nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) request to regionalize the water system. What should have happened for today's oops request letter is that there should have been a Council meeting. A special meeting should have been called and followed process. So, for that reason, she cannot vote for it because there has to be a stop to processes not being followed. There is some serious discussions that the community needs to be aware of because there is a process, and the process is for the people. City Engineer Kalb replied that he understands Councilwoman Frische's comments and clarified what is happening. Grant applications for the Airport are not just sent in. They are pre-applications that go to the FAA who determines if they will fund it or if it is a project that does not qualify. The City has airport consultants and engineers who sends in the pre-applications. Sometimes the City receives notification of that and/or once the funding is there. The FAA is fast moving with them with quick timelines. Sometimes the FAA allows time for letter to Council and sometimes they do not. Last year's letters for the north apron project was the same scenario in that the City received the request on a Friday with a quick turnaround. The benefit of last year's request was that there was a Council meeting that week so he was able to have a letter in that Council packet for it, but in this one, there was not enough time for a letter to Council. He understands and respects the process. When he put a call out to the FAA asking to extend the submission deadline because it has to go through the Council process, he was told by the FAA that the way their funding works is that the City would have to withdraw their application and then re-apply. It is a very competitive atmosphere and will probably not get funded again. The AIP-34 project is a reimbursement for the alternates one and two of the north apron projects, so he felt comfortable with it because it had been discussed that it would be reimbursed during the capital projects and budget hearings. It was part of last year's ordinance, but the City Auditor's Office informed him that it is under last year's Council letter, but that each AIP is separate. AIP-35 is the design work for taxiways. It is in the Capital Plan and the budget, but has not been discussed outside of that. It is just the design portion. The City's match money for AIP-34 is ten thousand five hundred forty dollars (\$10,540) and AIP-35 is fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$14,900). An appropriation of funds was not included with this because it only allows the City to apply and accept it. The appropriation will be requested at another time. If Council decides they do not want this and do not want these grant funds, then the City would not be utilizing them from the FAA. This is the normal practice with it and did not want to risk losing the ninety percent (90%) FAA funds the City receives with these projects and instead be funded by all Capital Funds. Councilwoman Frische replied that she understands everything that City Engineer Kalb has said and she hopes he understands where she is coming from in that there is a process that has to be followed, so next time, he should call the President of Council to schedule a meeting to make sure Council dots their Is and crosses their Ts properly. There are too many things happening with this Administration that cannot continue going this way. While she agrees that it is something the City should be doing, but that there is a process which is why she is stuck because Council is not taken seriously. The Administration continues to have oops that they are going to fix later. For example, with the Findlay City Schools situation, the City did not get permission from Council and got caught and then asked for forgiveness, but continued sending City workers out to work that whole time. There is a problem there. She understands where the City Engineer is coming from, but hopes he hears her saying to follow a process. Mayor Muryn replied that the Administration team has done a great job of owning up when there are process errors. The legislation before Council tonight for the Findlay City Schools is completely unnecessary. She has great respect for City Council which is why she continues to bring legislation to Council that technically does not need Council's approval, but that it is important that there is discussion about it. There are certain abilities that she does not lean on frequently, that she that she has as Mayor of the City to enter into agreements and partnerships that are in the best interest of the community to get things done. Conversations and committee meeting are held here frequently. She sends out emails and other means of communication. There was a process issue on the FAA grants because she did not see the email from the FAA while she was sitting in the hospital. She appreciates the issues brought forward that will be addressed, but with Councilwoman Frische's continually stating that the Administration does not have respect for Council and the work they do is completely false and that it is inappropriate to try to convey to the community. If the Administration and Council sat down and looked at every single item that has been accomplished in the past five (5) years, the margin of error is very low. While she appreciates what Councilwoman Frische is saying and is happy to have this conversation, she wants to state that the Administration is doing nothing wrong. When the Administration makes an error, they acknowledge it.

Councilman Wobser noted that he is not going to vote against this as the City needs the money. It is unfortunate that it has gone this way and asked if the process has been looked at. He asked if the process is to put an email address on the applications which is where the response goes to. He asked if it is known how to fix this the next time around. Mayor Muryn replied that there has to be certain designated emails. One thing that the Administration sees a lot and that Council acknowledges is that these grant timelines are not very considerate of community public process.

When the City receives a grant timeline that only gives a week and a half turnaround time to submit the application, sometimes the Administration has to make a judgment call. There are times when the Administration has to be pre-emptive and get approvals, which is why projects are sometimes put in the Capital documents in an attempt to preempt Council so that in situations where the Administration was not able to get Council's blessing ahead of time because of the timeline given. Yes the Administration could try and call a last minute meeting, but could run into the public meeting notice timeframe and not get an application submitted by the deadline. The Administration will continually evaluate it, but sometimes the FAA will change the timeline and not tell the City what the timeline is going to be ahead. There have been occasions when the City was only notified two (2) days in advance. The Administration does their best to adjust and make it work ensuring that all the Is are dotted and Ts are crossed with everyone in the loop, but sometimes that is just not possible and have to make a judgement call. Councilman Wobser replied that according to City Engineer Kalb's letter, the email came in on a Friday and had a meeting the following Tuesday which is only two and a half (2 ½) business days, so it was a tough turnaround time, but had until the 8th to get it done. He agrees with Councilwoman Frische in that someone could have tried to get a meeting together, at least an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting to vet this and obtain some approval on it. No one is going to vote against this, especially with a large portion of the FAA paying for it. It is his hopes that the next time around, the email will be received by the Administration in a timely manner. City Engineer Kalb replied that the next step on this is the pre-application portion of it. More applications may come through. The normal process for these is to wait to know that it was a good project to apply for. To prevent that, it will go through the pre-application process. Council might ask why the City was awarded some and not others and possibly see multiple ordinances for them which should clean up a lot of it. They are starting to go through a secured electronic approval process so that they only go to one person at a time before the next approval signature is needed electronically. There are a lot of moving parts to these that Council will see more pre-applications for. Filed.

Service-Safety Director Martin – farmland leases

The City of Findlay has farmland located in the vicinity of the Airport (approximately 181 acres), the Reservoir (approximately 64 acres). The land is leased to local farmers for cultivation based on bids received through the formal bidding process. Legislation authorizing the Service-Safety Director to accept bids and enter into a lease agreement(s) for a period of three (3) years beginning in 2024 is requested. [Ordinance No. 2023-081 was created.](#)

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked if this is the same property that was talked about last week. Service-Safety Director Martin replied no. The Carlin property was excluded on purpose not knowing the outcome of it. There is paperwork prepared to move that lease forward separately than this. All of the farmland properties are typically included, but that the Carlin property was purposely excluded not knowing the outcome of the conversation. Councilman Wobser asked if that will be brought to Council at a later date pending further conversation. He asked if there is any legislation pending on the Carlin Street property. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that is correct. Councilman Wobser asked if there has only been initial conversation from Habitat for Humanity's last meeting. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that there will be enough time to have legislation for that contract if the City moves forward with agriculture. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – downtown recreation area

Ordinance No. 2023-071 for the Downtown Recreation Area is up for its third reading during the August 15, 2023 City Council meeting. This letter is to confirm the status of the various points of discussion over the past few months. As a reminder, this project has been in discussions for multiple years and has taken shape more specifically over the last year and a half. The full business case proposal is available at: www.findlayohio.gov/community/downtown-recreation-area

The most recent items that need addressed were:

- The contract to be put in the City of Findlay's short form contract format (attached).
- The Law Director's Office to review City Auditor Staschiak's questions on the contract (attached).
- The two (2) remaining properties that are not currently owned by the Hancock County Commissioners are currently in negotiations in good faith and the necessary technical information has already been obtained to Strand to begin design work.
- Another full environmental review to occur in tandem with the design process. This is in process as planned.

As previously shared, this project is a generational opportunity for the community. She has faith that significant dividends from the City of Findlay's investment will be seen. Her primary focus continues to be the flood mitigation efforts that the City of Findlay will continue to support, as necessary, the currently planned projects to see them to completion. She appreciates Council's support on this project and looks forward to working together to change the landscape of downtown Findlay for the better.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak pointed out that he has been pretty consistent with his comments all along on this with regard to this contract. Investing a million dollars (\$1,000,000) when it is known that the City does not have thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) to do this project seems inappropriate, however, if it is ten percent (10%) of the contract price (he has heard that more than once), then it is assumed that the contract price will be no less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) even if it is only a third (1/3) of the design. He does not find that completely defensible at this moment being that the City has no idea how it is going to be paid for. It is clear that there are environmental considerations for this project. He thanked Mayor Muryn for working towards obtaining quotes and proposals to evaluate those environmental considerations, but that even Anchor Park across the river from this, which is included in the park design, was a junkyard. It is clear from the Sanborn Insurance maps.

There is a lot of environmental discussions that need to happen that are not included in any of the floodway river studies. When he spoke with Hancock County Engineer Steve Wilson, he told him that he has nothing to do with this and cannot comment on it because it is not part of what they are doing, so the City will have to explore that themselves. He feels very comfortable in the conversations he has had with some experts in environmental projects, but believes the City has the cart before the horse. Everyone wants to see that cleaned up and wants it to look nice. He is recommending that Council consider pausing and not enter into this contract until there is clarity on the environmental components of it. It should be tabled until he and the Mayor get a little more in-depth with responses that the City is to receive based on the one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) that has been appropriated in order to have a good idea what it is going to cost the City. It would be wise to do. He recommends that Council pause because it does not mean it will not be done and means that Council wants to be prudent with a one million three hundred thousand (\$1,300,000) expenditure that will likely cause the City to spend another two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) in design, if that number holds. If nothing else, it would be significantly more in design. It makes sense and nothing is lost or harmed and would have answers that Council would not have to get during the Phase 1 benching stage, but that in this case, Council needs to have them because the City owns the properties now.

Councilman Hellmann asked if this same discussion took place a meeting or two ago about environmental concerns that the City was going to look into. Mayor Muryn replied that this has been an on-going discussion. It was discussed a number of times at the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE as well as COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meetings. The City is very much aware that there are environmental items that are going to need to be addressed. The sentiment of the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, in which this was discussed at length, was that the City is fine with continuing to go forward and evaluate as the Auditor has requested, and that there is already extensive information on the majority of the properties and that those things can be done in tandem with the design because this is going to be a long process. Phasing of this is a possibility. The whole process of moving forward with design, concepts, and refining the processes so that it is understood what the specific elements are, what they are going to cost, and how to phase it if necessary. It will take a year to a year and a half to work through the design process for the thirty percent (30%) design, and then go through the sixty (60) which is the more detailed aspects of it. This is two (2) years out regardless and will provide a better understanding of all of the different elements in the benching area that are going to be removed as part of the benching project. This is a conversation that has taken place multiple times. The Mayor and City Auditor differ on their perspective of the timing. Mayor Muryn believes they can be done at the same time because they are items that are going to need to be done regardless. They are aware and are going in eyes wide open and are happy to continue to investigate to make everyone more comfortable. Councilman Hellmann asked if the City is confident that whatever environmental issues there are, that they are going to be able to be addressed. Mayor Muryn replied yes she is. Some of the properties in the area the City owns, they would be responsible for with the others being done per the Memorandum of Understanding with the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District and the Hancock County Commissioners who would be responsible for the properties within the project area as they are doing the work which has already been part of it as it was in Phase 1. Another benefit of it is that as the work is being done, it can be adjusted. For example, if at Anchor Park, and there are issues related to an oil spill that was minimal, it is safe for the continued use as it has been now. The City would not be breaking into the ground, so it is right and the Brownfield grant programs out there through the State would be able to get them cleaned up. She is confident that the information the City already has will allow it to move forward and that she is comfortable that there will not be any significant huge issues and will be able to move forward with remediating anything that were to come up.

Councilwoman Frische noted that at the last APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting during the Phase 1 and 2 discussions, she asked how long it was going to take and was told it would be a really quick turnaround and asked if those phases have been started on the properties the City already owns. Mayor Muryn replied that there are a significant number of phase 1s already completed, as well as a number of phase 2 that have already been shared and mapped out on the spreadsheet where it defines Phase 1s as already completed. On the properties that the City Auditor had requested additional environmental be done, she and City Auditor Staschiak worked to put out a scope request. There were three (3) firms that responded that they are reviewing those. She is expecting a contract that takes about a month and a half to generate. It is something that can be done in tandem because that information would be available in order to continue to move forward. Councilwoman Frische asked if the City will know in a month and a half if they cannot move dirt or if it is going to be a feasible project. Mayor Muryn replied it is a feasible project. The aspects that the City would be doing would allow for the potential reposition of something or not break ground in a certain area, however, based off the fact that the City already had these as parks and properties, the biggest concern was the RaNik property which is currently in the process in the next two (2) weeks and will be completed because of the chromium. There are concerns with landfills, wastes, and old river bench, etc. Those that have evaluated this area also note, related based off of what is seen on this parcel, it is believed to be this because of that. There has been extensive review of these areas. The message that continues to be put out to the public is that the City is being irresponsible with moving forward on this which is not the case. The term the public uses often is out of an abundance of caution, but in fact, the City is moving forward with additional reviews which is going over and above by investing money in these additional things. She understands the concerns, but that the City has a history in this area that the City is not digging up anything that shouldn't be. Councilwoman Frische replied that Mayor Muryn stated she is confident, which is great, but as a Councilmember, she cannot obligate City money on the word confident, but does like hearing that in a month and a half the City's Is will be dotted and Ts crossed to be able to move forward, but that this should be tabled until it is confirmed that the money is not being spent too quickly and putting the cart before the horse.

City Auditor Staschiak noted that he is disappointed to hear the Mayor claim knowledge about environmental that she certainly does not have. At best, her statements are misleading, at worse, maybe deceitful. This is a situation where there have been reports all the way up and down the river from east to west that were done because of the Corp Engineer's involvement, those Phase 1s are clear. There are issues. Steve Wilson himself acknowledges that they have no idea what filled in the spots for Civitan Park where the river used to exist and that the City won't know until they start to dig unless it is tested. It is clear from people who know that is wise to know what the City is getting into before turning dirt. The statement that if the City finds something, it will be dealt with, but possibly forgets one thing, that the deal with it then costs money.

All he is saying is to be patient so that the City has a handle on how much money is needed, because to say that the City thinks they'll get Brownfield or that will get this or that is not a definite and instead the City should be responsible with taxpayers dollars. He is all for doing the park and all for moving forward. He thinks it will be wonderful and thinks it will be wonderful for the community. Mr. Shindledecker did a great job painting a picture of those walking or driving up Main Street. Council should allow due diligence and proper process to occur which is very important and that the City has one other option that they do not even know about – he spoke with Bond Counsel because Council is in a position where they have the opportunity, in this case because they are a municipality, to put this issue out for a non-binding public vote as to how Council should proceed. The Law Director could provide some language that states that Council, as citizens of this community, are in favor of a full blown park and development in this area or a green space, or that Council can write it and put it out to the public which would be non-binding. Council is not obligated to do it. He is sharing that with Council because once it hits the paper, the City Auditor's Office will likely receive a request to provide the full initiative petition information from the Brandman site which he has been told is going to be used as a template for this site to go to the voters to restrict any investment of capital money on this without a vote of the people. If that happens and that initiative language is turned into the City Auditor's Office in the next short period of time, as it is being told to him, it is going to be that it is being written by legal now. If that happens, Council will have no choice as to what they do without vote. He suggested Council slow down a little bit. He is not telling Council how to do their business, but that they might want to consider involving the public a little bit more as has been suggested in this room even tonight. He does not presume to tell Council what to do, but can share with Council what has happened in his perspective that Council has the cart before the horse. One of the things he heard tonight is that the public is concerned about the level of investment that they are considering. When multiple individuals got up and spoke, they stated that they want to understand what is going to be done with this or what the cost of that will be, if it can be phased or known where the donations are coming from, which is exactly what is being considered to move forward tonight. Mayor Muryn replied that the City has to move forward in the process to begin to refine that. The concept before Council is just that – a concept of the conversations that happened in public meetings with the PARKS & RECREATION BOARD over multiple months where it was discussed what things the City would like to have, what things the City has to have, and what the City does not want to see resulting in ideas of what it can be. They provided a range that she has provided a couple of times, but bears worth repeating that one of the big components is a pedestrian bridge. Replacing and updating an existing pedestrian bridge, which some time in the not too distant future is going to have to happen, regardless if it is going to be a part of this project, or will just put lipstick on the pig and let it limp along. Also, the Riverwalk is another component that is going to be a significant part of this project at the south bank. She has heard that some are dismayed with it, but that it is going to have to be replaced and can be replaced as part of this comprehensive project. She hears some asking about the dog park or better areas for the farmers market – all components that the City wants to work through and refine. An expert will need to be brought in through an RFQ process because they have the expertise to develop in a flood area to ensure that it continues to be the primary focus and that it is complimentary of the existing park system so that the City can refine the components and determine what they really want, what they want it to be, and what the design is, and if the City wants these other things, what the estimate costs will be and how to plan that out. She appreciates the City Auditor stating that this can wait to gather more information in that every meeting she has with him, he says that and things get drug along. So, at this point, the City is re-dotting Is and re-crossing Ts. The insinuation that the City is trying to be irresponsible, manipulative or deceptive is ridiculous, and instead conversations with Council in all of the meetings that have taken place to understand that in these properties there are environmental risks based off of all the information the City has, regardless if whether it is done as part of this project or not, they are items that are going to have to be addressed. Both can be done moving forward with the very rudimentary early stages of moving this contract forward so that they can get things together and can start discussing elements while also doing these other things. To be clear, she is in no way rushing this, being irresponsible and is taking it seriously. She takes this very seriously as it is a huge amount of money which is why the City needs to step into the process to better start refining it and be able to seek support and better determine the plan. For example, if someone were to build a house, once the decision is made to build a house, you then have to chose the neighborhood and how the driveway should be positioned, what shingles to put on the roof, what light fixtures to have, etc. All details that cannot be done until a contract is signed because the City is not the experts. Some of these things have been discussed and discussed, but then during Council meetings, it is mentioned that it is not being discussed enough, but cannot have further details right now engaging conversation with the public until the next step is taken.

Councilwoman Frische noted that what she is hearing from the public on this park is the big dollar items such as the bridge and walkway. When a design is created as a "Mercedes" instead of a "Ford" or a "Chevy" with things being put into the plan that may not even be needed or the public as a whole does not want to see because of the fear of increasing taxes down the road in order to pay for things, and wanting to make sure that their tenants can pay their rent. People want to see something there, as well as Councilwoman Frische wants to see something there more than just green space, but that it would be irresponsible to keep this car moving before it is ready and spending this money because it is roughly ten percent (10%) of the cost of the entire project which is forty million dollars (\$40,000,000). The public would like to take it back to something more reasonable and see something done with the green space on Main Cross that has never had anything done. Or that Riverside needs some updates. She thinks it is great that restrooms at Swale and Rawson Parks are being updated, but people want to see it spread around more than in just one spot. It would be irresponsible to not have all of the EPA issues figured out. If this would go back to the PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD or another committee and re-evaluate the City's wants and needs, the public may be more receptive to moving forward with something there on a smaller scale. Mayor Muryn replied that she appreciates this conversation because it is extremely important. The City is doing investments in the parks through the community. The bandshell has had improvements the last three (3) years. Shelterhouse #15 has gotten a complete facelift. The City is meeting with West Park next week to talk about playground equipment and some changes that have been made there. A new playground has been put out in Bernard Park. The tennis courts in Rawson Park have been upgraded, so by no means is the City neglecting the other parks. It is important to distinguish the scale of this as it is a connector downtown. Downtown is an easier spot to work with. It is where all the connections are. Study after study shows that downtown is the heartbeat of a community. Any downtown is going to represent the vibrancy of the community. When talking about creating a community that attracts professionals, this is exactly the thing that has to be done to attract professionals. She cannot speak specifically to what level this investment is because that is what needs to be refined.

Councilwoman Frische mentioned to connect the pedestrian bridge and connect it to Crawford Street, but that is not where anyone wants to spend the money and have to refine because a bridge to Crawford Street is a lot different than the cost of a bridge to Anchor Park. A similar bridge in Dublin is different than a similar one to what Findlay has right now which is why those elements have to worked through to be able to define it. The way the contract is written, it is for that thirty percent (30%) design, assuming that the scale and costs and elements because they are not going to have to design every single element to thirty percent (30%) while working through it. If ten (10) options are given for the restrooms and start deciding what we don't want, it then quickly helps to start eliminating cost and refinancing. That is the process that has to be worked through. That is exactly what she believes. This is a generational opportunity to invest in the community to attract the professionals that want to be a part of this community to create that gathering space to create recreation in the community. Findlay is not Arizona, not Lake Erie, or the Rocky Mountains, so Findlay has to create recreation in a very different way. She thinks the public will be very pleased as the City works through the process for them to continue to engage and be able to provide feedback to help determine what this space ends up looking like. It continues to be stated that it is forty million dollars (\$40,000,000) which is not necessarily the case. This has to work through the process to refine it if we buy all the things we want at the "Mercedes" level. That is why the City has to move forward to be able to work through that process. Filed.

Mayor Muryn – KPIs

Year to date 2023 City of Findlay Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are now available at: <https://www.findlayohio.com/government/transparency-performance>. The attached KPI Dashboard shows a few key metrics. These KPIs are a critical tool used to measure service delivery and operational effectiveness. They show progress towards goals set for continuous improvement. The City of Findlay is proud of the work the City of Findlay team is doing to ensure targets are met.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noticed that there was some concern on the overtime number and appreciates the explanation that was included. He explained that the overtime budget is higher than expected. The primary reason is the continued challenge to find and hire Police Officers and Firefighters which will be a continued challenge for the City. The City needs to continue to be aggressive, creative, and non-stop in recruitment of Police Officers and Firefighters.

Mayor Muryn informed Council that on Monday, there was a swearing-in for two (2) Firefighters and four (4) Police Officers. Two (2) of those Police Officers were lateral transfers which is something that was implemented late last year/early this year, which has definitely helped. It allows those that are serving in another Police Department to transfer in without all the Civil Service testing, keep their seniority, etc. She thanked Council for their continued support of the STRICT Center as it has gained the attention of potential candidates across the country showing that the City supports, both at the beginning and throughout their careers, to make sure that they are safe and well trained, which is extremely important to them and their families.

Councilwoman Frische asked if the overtime number includes the City's Water Department or if it is separated and asked if someone can provide more information on the twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) in overtime for Water Billing this last month of why it was so much higher. Service-Safety Director Martin replied it is because of the transmitter project that was front loaded to get all of the transmitters in the ground in order to move forward in order to have true readings that will level out as it moves forward the rest of the year. Councilwoman Frische noted that the budget for the Water Department from the beginning of the year to show employee performances and are now getting closer to the end of the year. She asked when their annual report will be available. Mayor Muryn replied that their annual report should be on there, so she will follow up on it. Filed.

Fire Chief Eberle – PUCO Hazmat training grant award

The Findlay Fire Department was notified that the application for the Hazmat training grant has been awarded in the amount of twenty-three thousand five hundred dollars (\$23,500) which will allow the department to host two (2) Hazmat Technician/WMD training classes for up to forty (40) personnel. This award is in the form of a reimbursement grant. These classes will most likely occur in both 2023 and 2024. Deputy Auditor Sampson has created a project to facilitate this training. Since this award is from a State of Ohio agency, City Council must first appropriate funds into the project in order to be reimbursed later. Ordinance No. 2023-082 was created.

FROM:	PUCO Hazardous Materials Training Grant Program	\$ 23,500.00
TO:	FFD PUCO Hazmat Training Grant #31933900	\$ 23,500.00

Filed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meeting was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 to discuss the Carlin property (Habitat for Humanity). Service-Safety Director Martin introduced Wendy McCormick, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity. A PowerPoint presentation describing Habitat's desire to transfer two (2) parcels located on Carlin Street to the Blanchard Valley Port Authority from the City of Findlay. After that transfer, it would then be transferred to Habitat for Humanity. The PowerPoint presentation was introduced by Scott Rhodes, Board President. Two (2) handouts were included.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Russel.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser asked for the status of this. Mayor Muryn replied the next step is to talk to Council about if they want to proceed with it. One of the follow up questions was if there were any actions items coming out of it or any other information Council wanted in which Councilman Wobser replied that nothing came up from the meeting that were action items. The overall conversation was about the overall process of giving this property to Habitat for Humanity.

He appreciates what Habitat for Humanity does, where they are coming from and what they are trying to do, but do not believe this is the right thing the City should do with the property, but that something on that this property could be done for the way it is platted out for what Habitat for Humanity showed the City on the type of houses and the type of format. While it is a great thing to look at, it should be opened up to all builders to build on with the builders paying the City back over a period of time. If Council wants to do that and deed some of those properties to Habitat for Humanity, Council can look at that too. He is having a hard time turning this whole situation over to Habitat for Humanity when their best work is done when they do infill work on old properties that have been taken down and put up nice new places.

Councilman Russel noted that Service-Safety Director Martin will be obtaining a comparison of some estimated costs and values of the land. He is not clear if Habitat for Humanity's intent is that the roads would be privately owned by Habitat for Humanity similar to a Home Owners Association (HOA) of if they are public roads that will be created to the City's road standards that the City's Public Works Department would maintain (i.e. snow plowing, etc.). He asked if the next step for this is a further discussion in either an AD-HOC COMMITTEE or an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting. President of Council Harrington replied that he thinks it should be referred to the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that she was not able to be at that meeting but has received feedback on it. Residents living out in that area would like to see their infrastructure completed first before adding more infrastructure out there. It is on bedrock out there which could be a very expensive project to put the infrastructure in for water and sewer. A next step should be to have a meeting with residents of the West Park area to obtain their feedback on this. Habitat for Humanity does not own the properties. At the end of the day, the goal is for the individual to eventually own that home and not just a pass through. The City is giving away land as a pass through.

Councilwoman Warnecke's first thought was to gift the land, but has never heard of a City or government doing that. If she was not on City Council and just a citizen, it would be a negative thought to her. She drove out to the land to see it and was told that farm ground was going for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or higher an acre as farm ground, so the value of the land for these properties would be a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000) and not just the one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) that the City originally paid for it. They are now valued high if selling to build on. Mayor Muryn replied that going to a committee is beneficial and that she would be happy to have the discussions on it. She heard from a couple of private builders' concerns that it wouldn't be property that they would be interested in for the price point of homes that they would be wanting to sell. It is great for the City to look at the benefits of the community as a whole and not just the short-term return on selling a property for the City's benefit. Those are all things that can be worked through in an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE or an AD-HOC COMMITTEE, or a PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE because it is talking about the property itself. Having that further discussion and being able to work through the details makes a lot of sense.

Councilman Russel believes an AD-HOC COMMITTEE makes more sense than a PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE or an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE meeting for this. When looking at parts of the strategic plan, the AD-HOC COMMITTEE will potentially get a lot more use when tackling more specific items in the strategic planning document as this is like a precursor of one. He moved to form an AD-HOC COMMITTEE of members to be determined to further study this question and report back to Council, seconded by Councilman Bauman.

Councilman Hellmann reminded Councilmembers that Habitat for Humanity does a lot more than put people in a house. They provide financial consulting (i.e. make sure that they are aware of what their debt is, what their income is, etc.) and counsel them on what it is to own a home, helping those who are normally in the housing market. If going another route, Council needs to be cognizant of that and may be serving a different clientele than what Habitat for Humanity does.

President of Council Harrington reminded Council of the rules on an AD-HOC COMMITTEE: that a President Pro-Tem shall appoint members to all AD-HOC COMMITTEES. Confirmation for the creation of an AD-HOC COMMITTEE and membership thereof, is required by the majority of Council. All AD-HOC COMMITTEES meetings shall be open to the public, and no AD-HOC COMMITTEE shall have a number of members equal to or greater than the majority of Council.

Councilman Russel noted that if Council's desire is to have an AD-HOC COMMITTEE, then those interested in being on that committee should contact him. He will then present the members of that AD-HOC COMMITTEE at the next City Council meeting with Council voting on that membership. He asked Councilmembers if they want this to go to an AD-HOC COMMITTEE. Councilwoman Frische replied that she does not understand the point of an AD-HOC COMMITTEE for this. Usually, when there is an AD-HOC COMMITTEE, it is to change Council's rules or to come up with something out of the ordinary or policy. She asked what Councilman Russel is looking to get out of an AD-HOC COMMITTEE that wouldn't come out of an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE or a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting. Councilman Wobser replied that this is about as out of the ordinary as anyone can get when looking at a piece of property that the City owns and has been asked to give it to a separate entity, so it falls in between the APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE and the PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE. It is a great item for an AD-HOC COMMITTEE to discuss and report back to Council on. Councilwoman Frische replied that these discussions do not typically take place in the public and are in executive session before getting to this point. She is not in favor it being discussed via an AD-HOC COMMITTEE and would rather see it discussed in a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE or an APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Motion to form an AC-HOC COMMITTEE: Ayes: Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Frische Motion approved.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked that if any Councilmembers are interested in serving on that committee to contact him and then he will provide a letter to Council for the September 5, 2023 City Council meeting.

Motion to approve the committee report: all in favor. Filed.

A **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** meeting was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 to provide a demonstration and discuss body worn cameras. Police Chief Mathias and Sergeant Walters presented a PowerPoint presentation describing the City of Findlay Police Department body worn cameras, manufactured by Axon Enterprise, a demo by Sergeant Walters, Hardware, software, record retention, and policy were discussed.

Councilman Russel moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Greeno.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel asked if the body worn cameras were turned on Monday. Service-Safety Director Martin replied they were turned on at shift change at 7:00am on Monday. Everything is going as planned and is working very well. Councilman Russel asked if the efficiency of shift change was affected. Service-Safety Director Martin replied that it is too early to tell. They are in the docking stations, so it is just getting used to grabbing that new tool. The back office is working as it is supposed to. Councilman Russel asked if there will be a status report after the first month, possibly the second Council meeting in September. Service-Safety Director Martin replied yes, he will have the information available.

All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request from Findlay City Schools to rezone 200 West Lincoln Street from R3 Small Lot Residential to C3 Downtown Commercial.

We recommend approval as requested.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Slough. All were in favor. Filed.

The **PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to review changes to the Zoning Code.

We recommend with recommend changes included, that the zoning code go to the full City Council for consideration and approval.

The complete zoning code update is also saved as: <https://www.findlayohio.gov/government/city-departments/zoning/zoning-code-update>

Councilman Russel moved to adopt the committee report, seconded by Councilman Slough.

Discussion:

Councilman Russel noted that the revised zoning code was included in the packet which is why the packets were so thick. He referred to the couple of pages immediately after the committee report which details a summary of the changes that were made. This is a process that has been going on since the first of this year. If Council desires, a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting can be scheduled with Hancock Regional Planning Commission Director Cordonnier attending to give a summary overview of the changes. If that is not desired, Councilmembers can reach out to Mr. Cordonnier, Mr. Mercer or Councilman Russel.

Councilman Wobser feels a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting is a great idea. The changes equate to a huge amount to work through. He appreciates the effort that has gone into it. He would like some additional details on it and the opportunity to ask questions.

President of Council Harrington informed Council that in order to have a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting, there must be a motion and a second.

Councilman Wobser moved to schedule a COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE meeting to review the zoning code, seconded by Councilman Palmer. All were in favor.

President of Council Harrington informed Councilman Wobser that by him making the motion, he will be chair of the meeting and will make sure that a date and time is scheduled for it.

Councilman Russel noted that he will coordinate a date and time with the Hancock Regional Planning Office. Due to his travel plans, the meeting will not take place until after the next City Council meeting on September 5, 2023, most likely between September 5-19, 2023.

Motion to approve the committee report: all in favor. Filed.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 016-2023 (*Phase 2 Benching Project – environmental work - testing*) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**
A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN APPROPRIATED FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Slough moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Russel. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-2023 **tabled after the first reading on 8/1/23, then adopted on 8/15/23**
(*adoption and implementation of Strategic Plan*) **requires one (1) reading**

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK, FINDLAY FORWARD.

Councilman Russel moved to lift the Resolution from being tabled, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. Nays: Frische. Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Bauman.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische thought this Resolution was to be given three (3) readings since it is to adopt the strategic plan. Councilman Wobser replied that it only requires one reading, and that this is the third meeting that it has been on the agenda. Councilwoman Frische pointed out that the agenda lists it as its second reading. Councilman Wobser replied that was a typo and was tabled after the first reading during the first July meeting City Council meeting, so this is the third meeting.

Motion to adopt: Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. Nays: Niemeyer, Frische. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXIV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2023 (no PO) requires one (1) reading

first reading - adopted

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE AUDITORS OFFICE ON THE ATTACHED LIST OF VOUCHERS WHICH EITHER EXCEEDED THE PURCHASE ORDER OR WERE INCURRED WITHOUT A PURCHASE ORDER EXCEEDING THE STATUTORY LIMIT OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3000.00) ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.41(D).

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Slough. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno.

Discussion:

City Auditor Staschiak noted that the second item on this is a due course of business that tends to happen every year because of the timing of the insurance renewals. He has some concerns with the first one as it is a request for a nine thousand dollar (\$9,000) expenditure for Christina Cross at Bricker to a pine on potential conflicts for the Law Director on regionalizing the City's water system or Water Department. It is time to shine a little light on this. On October 22nd, the Economic Development reported that they met with the Village of Arlington to discuss the possibility of becoming part of the City's water system or to put the water systems together. The Alliance has stated that they have plans for City roads utilities long-term vision. It is time for Councilman Greeno and his committee to figure out who is running the City's water system whether it is the Alliance or the City because none of the committee members knew about these types of things going on. The regionalization is a direct threat to the cost and supply liability long-term for water users who live in Findlay. Not only that, but many of Findlay citizens remember the drought in the 1980s that there was not enough water, and nothing has changed with the supply and source since that drought, but is something that needs to be remembered. The City's water and sewer system is effectively paid off. This is a legacy of a lifetime for the community. The strategic plan is clear that the community wants to stay a small town no matter how that is spinned, it is what they want. When this meter project was started, which was not and did not properly follow the design build process, the Administration promised that Meter Reader employees would be out to read the meters, but that did not happen and this is a mess. The City Auditor's Office spent fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) on an internal control review for the Utility Billing Department. The follow up report to that is about to come out. He saw a view of that follow up, the draft review about twenty-four (24) hours ago. The City is still not fully compliant with the recommendations, so there are things to do in that department. Multiple times, the Mayor has talked about raising the rates, not only the water and sewer rates, but the storm water rates as well and potentially moving millions of dollars from the General Fund. He encouraged Councilman Greeno and his committee to get control of this and get a handle on what is going on with the City's Water and Sewer Departments. Mayor Muryn replied that she cannot remember exactly how long ago it was, but believes it was about two (2) years ago that she informed this committee that she was having conversations with both North Baltimore and Arlington regarding water regionalization and that it is not something she has been hiding, nor is it something new. It is something that is worth vetting because the City does have supply and have neighboring communities that recognize that an economies of scale are essential for long-term management of their systems. The Alliance had a conversation with other communities because they serve the entire county. She has shared those documents multiple times with Council and has pointed out that it is good that they talked with other communities on planning and to have discussions which are completely two (2) separate conversations. A couple of weeks ago, she reached out to City Auditor Staschiak asking to have a meeting with Chairman Greeno and Chairman Wobser to discuss such items as the ones he just brought up, but he refused. She does not appreciate City Auditor Staschiak continuing to play games and make it appear like she is trying to hide things or leave him out of conversations when she explicitly asks him to do his job and be a part of a conversation, but then refuses.

President of Council Harrington interrupted stating that Council will move on.

Councilwoman Frische asked the audience to show a raise of hands who has heard of regionalizing the City's water system since 2019 when Mayor Muryn came in. Only one (1) individual in the audience (former Councilman Shindledecker) raised his hand. She has not heard it publicly discussed. President of Council Harrington interrupted calling on Councilman Bauman to speak . . . Councilwoman replied that she is not done speaking and called a point of order because she has the floor. She asked Mayor Muryn if it was a priority to regionalize the City's water when she came on as Mayor in 2019 and to spend the money without having committee meetings with Councilman Greeno. She asked if Councilman Greeno knew the Mayor was having these meetings and that she is getting legal counsel from Bricker Eckler regarding this, and if there are more bills that will be coming. Mayor Muryn replied that the majority of Councilmembers were aware the conversations were happening. The emails may have been sent out when Councilman Frische was not on Council as there was a gap in her tenure. Yes, they are aware that there were conversations that were appropriate to engage legal counsel on, especially experts in which Bricker Graydon has the experts to be able to provide the City with what type of contract structures would be appropriate, what type of items, and what the process looks like for integration systems. All of those items are appropriate due diligence for the Administration to do before bringing all of that detailed information back in order to have a productive conversation with the committee. Council and the City Auditor was informed, but that it is not quite ready for more detailed conversations. It is frustrating that public conversations happen. Both North Baltimore and Arlington's Councils have had conversations in public meetings about this topic which is one of the reasons she reached out letting them know that there have been initial conversations and that they will be bringing this topic up at their Council meetings. It was not being intentionally hidden. There are somethings that have to be done behind the scenes to make sure that it gets to a certain point.

If she were to bring up an idea and not have a full vetting of it, she would be crucified for not bringing all the details and making sure she does her due diligence.

Councilman Bauman called the question, seconded by Councilman Russel. Ayes: Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Frische. The question is called.

Roll-call to adopt the Resolution (second vote): Ayes: Hellman, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno. Nays: Frische. The Resolution was declared adopted and is recorded in Resolution Volume XXXV, and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-043 (Phase 2 benching project) **requires three (3) readings** **tabled after third reading on 5/16/23**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ACCEPT PERMANENT OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTIES IN ORDER FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO, TO TRANSFER THE PARCELS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT TO THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-071 (Downtown Recreation Area – design & engineering) **requires three (3) readings** **tabled after third reading on 8/15/23**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STRAND & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES OF THE DOWNTOWN RECREATION AREA PHASE II BENCHING OF THE BLANCHARD RIVER, PROJECT NO. 31913700, APPROPRIATING FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Slough.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische noted that traffic and pedestrian concerns have not been addressed of a citizen that came to the last City Council meeting who spoke about her situation, and that there are EPA issues going on and that the Mayor has mentioned that the County is short on their flood dollars for the Norfolk Southern Bridge Project for flood mitigation with a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) earmarking for it above and beyond this project.

Councilman Wobser moved to table the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Frische. Ayes: Wobser, Frische, Greeno. Nays: Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Bauman, Hellmann. Motion failed.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Warnecke noted that comments frequently are stated that Council is not listening to citizens which is not true. Council does listen to them, but that there are two (2) sides to every story. While only Tom Shindledecker spoke in favor of the downtown recreation area, she herself has been to meetings at 50North, church, etc. where she has heard a lot of positive comments about the park, how it will be wonderful for the community, some wanting to get it seen through, and some saying they cannot wait to get it started. It is similar to the vote that happened at the election last week – there are two (2) sides to every issue. So, no is not the only thing Council is hearing on this.

Councilman Bauman noted that it is no secret that the community has a workforce issue. As a younger person, the average workforce out there looks like him, the City Engineer, Mayor Muryn, and Councilman Palmer. So, in order to keep and retain a healthy and vibrant workforce, amenities such as this park are necessary.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that if the majority of Council wants to move forward with this, she will make a motion to amend the Ordinance to remove the declaring of an emergency on this piece of legislation so that if the public does want to do something, they have that option.

Councilwoman Frische moved to amend the Ordinance, seconded by councilman Wobser. Ayes: Russel, Slough, Wobser, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. Nays: Palmer, Warnecke, Bauman. The Ordinance is amended.

Discussion:

Councilman Wobser feels this is a great project and needs to be done. Council needs to move forward with this, however, it is not time yet to move forward with it. A couple more things need to be done first and are less than thirty (30) days away from getting that done and then can move forward. It is just on the precipice of having all of the Is dotted and Ts crossed and will vote no on this because it needs to wait and can be reintroduced at a later time after everything is in place.

Councilwoman Frische echoed Councilman Wobser and rebutted Councilwoman Warnecke's statement. She has not heard anyone that is against the project, but that things are being lumped together where everyone wants to move forward, but does not know what that looks like and what the costs are. She would like to wait until everything is ready.

Councilwoman Warnecke noted that this Ordinance is not saying let's build the park for forty million dollars (\$40,000,000). This Ordinance is to get the plan so it is known what is going to be coming. That is why it needs to get started.

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that if this were to wait thirty to forty-five (30-45) days, it would then be known if spending one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) to get started was a smart move if all the other pieces are put together.

Councilman Russel served with Councilman Wobser on the PARKS & RECREATION BOARD three to five (3-5) years ago when the concept of this park was in discussion at that time. Board members then discussed the future of the skate park with suggestions that this would be a good location for it. The beginning of this idea has been around for a long time and could see the opportunity there. He echoes Councilwoman Warnecke's comments and has received input from many in support of this project and wanting to go forward to see what the next steps are.

Ideas are being mentioned for possibilities at the park that he had never even considered, one being the farmers market and all the different opportunities they could think of for that. During the strategic planning plan process that was just passed, he heard citizens talk over and over again about the riverfront and recreational opportunities during items 2.7.5.3 and 2.7.6.3. 2.7 is about a well-run City government with the overall objective to maintain investments in capital assets to ensure they are safe, affordable and high quality. The big one is 5.3 under the objective of an attractive place. Item 5 is reimagine the riverfront throughout the community which is exactly what this project is. 6.3 is about an active community to continually improve accommodations and accessibility of existing parks and recreational facilities. Those three (3) items specifically address the strategic plan that talks to this and all of the citizens' input that he has received. He also agrees with Councilman Bauman that the City is in a fight for workers. One of the ways that fight is done now is with recreational infrastructure. This project is vital. The next step is to get more detailed plans that can happen in conjunction with environmental review.

Councilwoman Frische noted that Councilman Russel brought up the strategic plan and marking off some numbers, Councilwoman Warnecke talked about the warm fuzzies that she hears, and Councilman Bauman is for the project, which she has stated that everyone is for this project. She asked if those that told other Councilmembers that they are for the project tell them to jump the start of the race before Council has all the information or if they said to wait thirty to forty-five (30-45) days.

Councilman Niemeyer will vote no because his constituents voted for him to represent them and can see that some Councilmembers do not represent the people that voted for them and should take that into consideration. It is not what he himself thinks. He represents the Sixth Ward.

Councilman Russel noted that after hearing Council's comments on this, it might be better to reconsider tabling this at this time to give it more consideration.

Councilman Russel moved to table the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Wobser. Ayes: Russel, Slough, Wobser, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer. Nays: Warnecke, Bauman, Palmer. The Ordinance is tabled.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-072 (*FCS storage unit MOU*) **requires three (3) readings** **third reading - adopted**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GRANTING THE CITY OF FINDLAY PERMISSION TO STORE VARIOUS CITY EQUIPMENT IN THE FINDLAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION'S VACANT BUILDING LOCATED AT 0 BLANCHARD AVENUE (PARCEL NO. 610001017675) AS SET FORTH IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Wobser moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Hellmann.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Frische pointed out that the Mayor stated that she does not need permission from Council to do these types of things, however an ordinance is suddenly brought to Council to make sure everything is a-ok now. It is extremely inappropriate to be using City workers outside the City for Findlay City Schools or for any school. It is no different than her having a City worker come plow her own driveway or mow her grass because she didn't have time to do it. That is not what City workers are for. They are here for all citizens. That is what our tax dollars are for. The bus garage agreement was not vetted through Council. It is inappropriate that Council has not had a conversation on storage shortage in any meeting as she has a text from Mayor Muryn confirming that with her. The City has a property that they are looking into for Habitat for Humanity that was originally supposed to be for the City Street Department that is out by the County garage and centrally located in which she is unsure if that is a reason not to use, but that this whole transaction is completely inappropriate and does not earn her vote to pass it as an oops after the fact.

Ayes: Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer. Nays: Frische. Abstains: Russel. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-072 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-075 (*HAN-Bigelow Avenue Resurfacing*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE THE NECESSARY GRANT APPLICATION(S) AND AGREEMENT(S) TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE RESURFACING OF BIGELOW AVENUE FROM MAIN STREET TO MELROSE AVENUE, PROJECT NO. 32833800, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-076 (*OPWC grant application – Morriscal Blvd waterline replacement*) **requires three (3) readings** **first reading**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE THE NECESSARY GRANT APPLICATION(S) AND AGREEMENT(S) TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR A REPLACEMENT WATERLINE ON MORRISCAL BOULEVARD FROM I-75 TO BLISS AVENUE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-077 (FY22 AFG grant award) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO WAIVE FORMAL ADVERTISING AND BIDDING AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH BREATHING AIR SYSTEMS TO PURCHASE A SCBA FILL STATION AND COMPRESSOR UTILIZING THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FUNDS, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Warnecke. Ayes: Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-077 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-078 (Rawson & Swale restroom construction CDBG) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO UTILIZE THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARK RESTROOMS AT RAWSON PARK AND SWALE PARK, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERING FUNDS THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion:

Councilman Palmer pointed out that since this is one hundred percent (100%) paid for by a grant, he will make a motion to suspend rules and give it all three readings tonight.

Councilman Palmer moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Bauman. Ayes: Bauman, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Bauman moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Palmer. Ayes: Frische, Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-078 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-079 (4th 2023 Capital Improvement appropriation) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR AND THE SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS WHERE REQUIRED AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS PROJECTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2023 DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT LIST, APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR SAID CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-080 (Findlay Airport FAA Grants AIP-34 & AIP-35) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading - adopted

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR AND/OR CITY ENGINEER OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO TO APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS (AIP-34 NORTH APRON REHAB REIMBURSEMENT) AND (AIP-35 REHAB OF RUNWAY 7/25 – DESIGN) AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

Councilman Russel moved to suspend the statutory rules and give the Ordinance its second and third readings, seconded by Councilman Hellmann. Ayes: Greeno, Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman. Nays: Frische. The Ordinance received its second and third readings. Councilman Russel moved to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Greeno. Ayes: Hellmann, Niemeyer, Palmer, Russel, Slough, Warnecke, Wobser, Bauman, Frische, Greeno. The Ordinance was declared adopted and is recorded in Ordinance Volume XXIII, Page 2023-080 and is hereby made a part of the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-081 (farmland lease) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT(S) TO FARM APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE (181) ACRES IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT, APPROXIMATELY SIXTY-FOUR (64) ACRES IN THE VICINITY OF THE RESERVOIRS, ALL OWNED BY THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-082 (PUCO Hazmat training grant award) **requires three (3) readings**

first reading

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

First reading of the Ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Frische requested to go back to when Council was having an ordinance discussion when the question was called in the middle of her discussion. She feels it is very inappropriate when any member of Council cuts someone off when they are speaking on behalf of the public. She is beginning to wonder if it might be something to do with her being a woman or being a woman that works for the public. She would appreciate it going forward that there are better manners during Council. President of Council Harrington apologized to Councilwoman Frische stating that he was taught that his manners were to appreciate all male and female no matter what persuasion. He follows the HUD rules in all his business. For Councilwoman to make a comment like that was very inappropriate.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Muryr thanked everyone for their understanding the last couple of weeks with her family situation. She appreciated the kind comments and notes that were sent.

Councilman Hellmann moved to adjourn City Council at 8:30pm, seconded by Councilman Bauman. All were in favor. Filed.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT