



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings
October 31, 2015 – 9-10 a.m.
Location: Tim Hortons – 376 Agler Road

Mayor/City Manager Public Hearing

- Resident attended one meeting, said about 8 people came up to speak; said the Commission did not give any feedback, they said nothing; Council said they want to look at both sides and the strengths and benefits; said they were holding those public hearings so they could get feedback from the community; the Commission has a job to take all the input and put out a report and recommendation to Council; that report should also include reasons why; said they just interviewed all Council members; right now it is just fact-finding, which is why there was no feedback given at the public hearing; resident asked if they should have relayed that information to the groups who attended; asked who makes the decision if we go one way or another; Council said the report will be recommended to Council and then the citizens can vote; the report will be a very public document; said there is a Charter Review coming in January; will be something that is likely citizen-led based on what the Commission comes up with.

Grant for ODNR for Kayaks

- Resident asked who generates that need for kayaks in the first place; asked what drove the need; Council said would have to look at specifics of the grant; it came from Parks and Recreation as a request; in the summer there is a program that they teach kayaking and safety; said they will allocate that \$30k spending, it will not all be spent on kayaks; resident asked when citizens give input on what they want for the community; Council said at any time; reach out via mail, email, coffee with Council, Council meetings; resident asked how can they understand paying their tax dollars for an activity they do not use; Council said more involvement, and more visibility brings people to Gahanna, which will in turn bring in dollars; said some of that grant funding can be to cover ramps and ability to get in and out of the river; resident asked where all the information about what we need comes from; Council said this specifically comes from the Parks & Recreation Department; can come from any department, as to what they need; said they have a couple committees that involve the community and they get feedback on what they want

Cleaning the Big Walnut Creek

- Resident asked why they cannot clean the creek up; Council said there are organized clean up days; said there are county-wide groups that are dedicated to the Big Walnut Creek; said we are getting trash from up north, and not just the within the City; resident concerned with the brush and trees in the creek, asked why we were not cleaning that out; said the City is afraid to hurt the environment; Council member Renner, said his day job relates to this and he has a strong interest; recommended the resident go to Franklin County Conservation District to get a lot of this information; Council member Leeseberg, said he was at Franklin County Soil and Water this past week and Gahanna was mentioned several times in good name.

Economic Development Plan

- Resident asked if there was a paper copy that can be signed out to read; Angelou said she can lend hers out;

Northeast School Voting

- Resident asked if it was still open for voting; Council said that is a question for Franklin County Board of Elections, but things are open on our end in terms of the road.

“No more apartments in Gahanna” – ad on page 3 in Gahanna News

- Mr. Gergley cited “no more apartments in Gahanna” in a recently featured ad in the Gahanna news; other than the issues about the apartments off Hamilton Road; asked what other apartments might he be referencing; said there are some outside of Gahanna being built, that will impact the schools; said he is upset about the apartments on Taylor Road by Donatos Headquarters; Council said that specific complex is complicated, they were approved as an extended stay and changed to apartments; had to do with approval by Ohio Revised Code; being looked at by our City Attorney; resident asked about Good Samaritan Church being turned into apartments; Council said the Church made contact with a developer and told the community and then it came to Council; Council was not involved in the apartments being discussed; said there are no apartments being planned to be built in Gahanna at this time; resident said he also discussed no more high-density housing; Council said Mr. Gergley would have to define that; said there is a high-density housing issue being discussed, is on Darling Road in Jefferson Township; said Royal Manor when built was considered higher density homes; cannot speak to what Mr. Gergley considers high-density; Council said all of these things are brought forward by developers; resident asked about the Creekside apartments across from the car wash; Council said that is an older file with Planning Commission, there is a cap on how long that file can be active, it will expire;

Sidewalks & Realignment

- Resident asked if there were any bike paths or sidewalks going in or being improved in the area of Morse Road and Hamilton Road; Council said they talked with City of Columbus; will be building an s-curve and realignment; storm sewer ditch on the north side is rather deep; resident asked if it included the widening of the rest of Hamilton Road; Council said it is on the books, but not in 2017; said realignment of Hamilton will be 2017; does not really impact us; there are a number of things that are external to us;

Hamilton Road Construction Project

- Resident asked when Clark State at Hamilton road will fully open up; saw it was open with a temporary light now; wants the continuous right lane open as soon as possible; Council said the schedule is available online; resident asked about the widening of Hamilton Road in front of the Northeast School; Council said they do not have the schedule specifically, but all should be completed in 2017; resident asked why they needed a roundabout in front of Northeast School; another resident said likely to slow drivers down.

City Hall Council Chambers

- Resident said the room is terrible; said if you want to promote openness and communication, that room does the opposite; lights are in everyone's eyes; Council said it is about spending the dollars; resident suggested temporarily sit down with the audience like they did at a forum; another resident said we can get rid of the computers now that everyone has a tablet; should be funds in a five year plan to renovate the room; resident said that Council can talk among themselves but no one in the audience can hear; Council said that room also serves as our Mayor's Court; said there is a good reason why it was designed like that.

Piggy-back Tax

- Citizens who work outside of Gahanna; their revenue should go toward roads; asked for a count on that; keep hearing people ask for money for roads; Council said they are asking those same questions; said some of those also go to police; agree that it needs to be audited with that in mind; said the quarter of a percent is a small percent; would be easily covered; from an accountability point, we need to watch those dollars; residents said it is just the way it is worded.

Staff to look at the big picture for City events:

- Person in the City to look at the big picture; could use some cohesiveness overall; each have a department who focuses on something specific; needs someone overlooking everything; said Creepside was a good example; Parks and Recreation did a great job but there were some other issues; also the proposed Veterans Park, putting in softball fields, the traffic to turn left is backing up to the creek; Council said Creepside is such a large event; trying to fix things with the growth; discussing many different options; said we are very happy it is such a big event with such a great turnout; said Westerville goes through some of the same things with a few of their events; as these things evolve we will evaluate the changes that need to be made; will adjust the detours, traffic patterns, and street signs; resident asked who is involved in the permitting of a big event; Council said all departments coordinate and are involved; can contact Planning and Development; resident said she works in New Albany and they have a Special Events Committee that involve a number of departments that come together during business hours.