



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

January 31, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tim Horton's – Stylger/Agler Rd.

Topics of Discussion

Governance Commission

- Resident asked what Council will do regarding different form of government/governance commission.
 - Depends on recommendation; commission is set up to review forms of government; a change will require charter amendment; will be put on ballot and public will have chance for input.
- Resident asked about city manager style government.
 - City manager will serve under contract; report to council and mayor is a member of Council.
- Resident asked about petition that was brought forward to get this idea on the ballot.
 - That was one of the reasons this commission was initiated; have to be sure; could cost more in the long-run

Safe Routes to School

- Resident spoke about Safe Routes to School
 - Pleased with what came out of the meeting about a year ago; will do both north and south end; it will run up to 62; roundabout is big deal; happy Gahanna listened and resident happy with result.

Widening 62

- Resident asked about widening 62.
 - Columbus said it's on the radar; not in city's control.
- Resident asked about grant approval; Hamilton Road needs it.

Landscape Review Board

- Resident asked about changes; a lot of the plan was removed; any contractor can cut down any tree; think it needs to be researched; worried about developers taking care of trees; it's coming back and Council will be looking at updating tree ordinance; talking about trees by Rocky Fork South; want to stop clear cut; litigation right now on a few projects; would like to see that expedited.

Walnut Creek Expansion

- Resident asked about Walnut Creek expansion.

- Next phase is upcoming; the largest one is far off.
- Resident asked when golf course will be connected.
 - Not sure of time frame; they are working on that phase; that part has been funded; still working out issue with property owner south of the cemetery; that's the only thing holding it up.

Shopped at Rocky Fork Traffic

- Resident asked about traffic generated by new shopping center across from Kroger
 - Working on pedestrian safety; looking at putting a sidewalk in; walkability is needed for community and could be part of the bike path being extended south; goes across to the pools; also looked at the traffic and ways to maximize safety.

Sidewalk Notice

- Resident asked about sidewalk assessment; received notice to fix sidewalk; how does City determine who gets notice to fix or get assessed.

Apartment

- Resident asked about apartments; seems like a lot are being built; how to stop so many being built.
 - Property rights are a unique situation; those types could be part of a development plan; the Development Department supports projects that are designed in the plan; look at Planning Commission on the website; applications are on website; applicant would submit to Development and Planning Commission; need to meet criteria; a lot of those come to Council; all zoning changes come to Council; be involved with Planning Commission; go through Public Hearings and your voice is heard all the way.
- Resident expressed concern that Council passes so many variances; Creekside has a lot variances; parking issues; handicap have to go through apartments; if Council keeps approving the same variances why isn't it changed in the code.
 - Code is changed on a regular basis and those matters are taken into consideration.

Objection to Cell Tower

- Code is conservative on fall zone; need to tighten up on cell tower code to protect residents; residents need to be protected from these businesses encroaching on residential property; Verizon said they would come back until they get their tower in Gahanna; Planning Commission can postpone to a date in the future; this project is too big to let go; Towers by the bowling alley; went to every meeting; Verizon was unstoppable; citizens protested and gave options; Planning Commission passed it; asked if there was demonstrated need that have come from residents; not determined by City; resident said that she always loved Gahanna but will move if that tower goes in; wanted to know how Council would proceed with objection.
 - Response started with Planning Commission; Council will look at this code.
- Residents afraid that they will accept this fall zone; Giant Eagle gave them an option to use their store for their tower; residents suffering repercussions from the project that everyone has a decision on but the residents; brought up reason; making emergency calls is the reason that

Verizon said they want the tower; resident experience with usage and data and Verizon wasn't being truthful; Planning Commission needs to be educated on this.

- Council encouraged residents to come to Planning Commission.

Pools

- Resident thanked City for keeping pools open.

Communications

- Corvette club having meeting again; that money raised goes to Children Hospital
 - Saturday, August 1
- Parks & Recreation meeting on Pools, Trails and Programs 7-8 p.m. at Clark Hall
 - Wednesday, February 11
- Bicycle & Trail Advisory Committee regarding Safety for walking, biking and transit meetings held at City Hall 5-7 p.m.:
 - Monday, February 9
 - Monday, February 23
 - Monday, March 2
- Watch City website and Rocky Fork Enterprise for upcoming meetings.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

February 28, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Location: P a n e r a – Clark Hall

Topics of Discussion

Senior Center

- Resident just received Gateway; pleased to see spring break is moving from the Senior Center to Clark Hall; have a problem with perception; regarding rental facilities, on page 4 it's 8 to 11 p.m.; golf course says available, but senior center perception is that with those hours, the Senior Center will close.

Parking

- Resident expressed concern about a truck out of compliance at 260 Amfield; truck sells euros; neighbors don't like it; owner threw tarp over it; he doesn't understand; he does have concrete; it's an eye sore.
 - Council said they spoke with Brian Reynolds about campers; suggested public awareness campaign; getting Police Division and Public Information Manager involved so people know that it's improper to block sidewalks, park commercial vehicles and other routine code violations.

Angling with an Officer

- Resident referenced a new Angling with an Officer program in Gateway; thought it was very good that Police Division will fish with kids and adults; at Woodside Green; to learn the basics of fishing; 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 2; nice way for citizens to interact with officers.

Cell Tower

- Resident announced that the cell tower was pulled at the New Life Church; nothing is proposed at this time; there are discussions about looking at the cell tower code; our code was written for federal regulations; residents listed a report on other codes in the community; they are willing to volunteer their time to help with this process; taking best zoning practices to Gahanna.

Staffing Changes

- Resident expressed concern with staffing changes being proposed; think it is needed, but has a problem with taking money from Council for it; let Administration use it; Council will now need to take a supplemental; find money within Administration.
 - Council responded by stating Council and Administration are working together; some of that money was allocated to accomplish this task; this was Council driven; freeing up time to work on Council initiatives; could have hired our own person in Council; earmarked for temporary; work their tail off and becomes vital part have ability to say goodbye; hadn't streamlined hadn't work to get the lean process; expanding Jennifer's role; definite performance for Government module that will be successful; probably a

wise use of money; contract model is one concept and the other organically grown model to start to grow internally; one is added role for Jennifer for day to day manager function and other is a person who will be able to capture data for market, efficiencies and streamline processes; debate on whether it's something that need to be performed; or have broader scope; one council has issues; skill set and background is not the skill set to accomplish what is needed; the reason he objected is it crystal clear this is not the skill set; concerned about where the money is coming from; position could be very temporary.

Governance Commission

- Council announced the Governance Commission will be setting up interviews; not something that can happen quickly; close to getting the Commission set up; it's only one section, but it will be hard to finish by July; time limit is six months; city manager form of government question will need to be on ballot in August; they will make a recommendation; Governance Commission has a very broad capability; they could come back with what we have or come back with language to go to ballot; one Council Member stated they think it will be difficult to receive a recommendation in July and get ballot information by July; the wording is much too complex; even if the Commission met and Council voted on it; doesn't believe it is enough time; would be oversimplified and will not be ready.

Communications

- Council brought up the Hamilton Road widening; Johnstown Road is not going; announced businesses:
 - Fresh Thyme Market coming
 - Rocky Fork expansion
- Council gave additional update on Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN) lease; GRIN is not using Hamilton House; not sure where they are; Council isn't convinced that property won't work; money could be raised; maybe Habitat for Humanity; there is vacant commercial property on Johnstown (Dr. Bing's place); maybe that might be an opportunity; place by Creekside; house that had businesses; the general store location; that might be an option; looking at every store front along the way; doll house on High Street is for sale; one of the old houses like Herb Center might be an option.

Water Billing

- Resident had questions on water bills; there is a charge for storm run-off fee; where does that money go and is it held for certain projects.
 - Council explained those are proprietary funds that can only be used for stormwater for management and treatment; it is mandated that it is used for specific purpose; the water comes from Columbus and inundates the water basin; portion of the piggy back tax credit is earmarked for stormwater.
- Resident continued he lives in Hunter's Ridge; EPA insisted on it; then it changed and believes they don't really need to do anything; City made a big to-do about someone's pool; if there is no need, should not have to pay it; unless it is used for something more beneficial; looks like they are looking for ways to spend it; looked at the numbers; fund has \$2 million in it; if we have more money than we need, there should be some expectation and concept of where it will be spent in the future.
 - Council responded with the Engineering Department manages this area; had major stormwater issues over the years that have been ongoing and they have been

addressed; there are a lot of EPA regulations; that is the challenge of managing proprietary funds.

- Resident believes this charge doesn't benefit him; lived here for 44 years and does not see a need for it; Fleet Run Park made a big mound of dirt and there was no free standing water; it doesn't accomplish much.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

March 25, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Location: D o n a t o s – Johnstown Road

Topics of Discussion

Local Funding

- Business owner just stopped by to say hello. Learned why Gahanna lost their money; Governor hasn't given back money; for years out almost \$1 million that they held; will eventually get back; had that money today asked council what they would do with it.
 - Council said they would buy more capital improvement.

Hamilton Road Widening

- Resident asked about the time line.
 - Council responded it should hit end of this year and next year.

Creekside

- Business Owner asked why the person who bought Creekside bought and is now building apartments; he owned that property and it was re-zoned; asked if he owed the City money.
 - Council responded Creekside went into foreclosure; the city is protected and will get their money back; the city will get paid first.

Granville/Mill Traffic Light

- Resident expressed concern about the traffic light at Granville Street heading south on Mill Street; everyone turns left and they are the only one that gets through after waiting; would like that to be changed for better traffic flow.

US 62/Hamilton Traffic Light

- Resident stated a light issue at 62 and Hamilton Road; angles are so bad; no turn on red; dangerous to turn; should be no turn on red going south on Hamilton Road.

Fresh Thyme Market

- Resident asked about Vista Plaza and Fresh Thyme Market; worried about traffic flow; traffic will always get worse.
 - That issues was postponed until next Wednesday, April 8;

Foxwood

- Resident asked about the Foxwood project; wondered why they cleared out the trees.
 - The ash trees will be taken down.

Open Town Hall

- Looking to find better ways to communicate; partially interactive; this was a small step for effective communication; come to meetings to find answers.
- Resident said people want to complain, but don't want to volunteer.

Development

- Resident expressed concern about Tech Center Drive; other than the Urology Group, there is nothing to the end of the street.
 - Economic Development communicates and markets properties; it's timing and position and getting the right business in that area.
- Resident remembered when City didn't want development; there is a lot now.
 - Type of development is important; looking for positions working 8 to 5; higher paying jobs; with retail, you get more traffic; one key piece we want to emphasize is Suburban Office; low impact on traffic; a lot of development going east.

Morrison

- Resident said nice improvement on Morrison; Tech Center bridge was a huge improvement.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

- Resident asked if they will redesign bridge going to golf course down to Creekside because wooden rails always get water damage; City spends so much money, they should raise the bridge; they are down low.
 - Golf course side is due to be redone; Academy Woods to Woodside Green; beauty of Creekside but there is a trade-off when you build in flood plain.

Storm Drain

- Resident asked if they should throw things back in sewer drain.
 - Not a good idea; could create a dam.
 - Street sweeper cleans gutter; people insist on parking on street; can't clean up properly and end up clogging sewer; end up flushing the storm drain.

Potholes

- Resident noted the street crews doing good job getting things patched; pot holes are getting patched really fast.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

April 25, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Tim Horton's – Agler Road

Topics of Discussion

House Bill 64

- Resident brought up HB64 – budget bill includes removal of sales tax exemption for local governments; cities and village currently provide that which we believe could be effected by the removal of the sales tax exemption; could include but may not be limited to:
 1. memberships for municipally provided recreational activities including swimming pools, parks, and golf courses;
 2. commercial and residential building an inspection fees and other permit related documents;
 3. auxiliary or special duty safety service personnel engagements;
 4. municipally-owned parking fees including parking meters.
 - Council responded that they will review the budget proposal and act accordingly.

Save the Pools Committee

- Resident on the committee announced that there are a lot of event coming up like movies, aqua day and other activities; there are 6 members on the committee.

Wireless Communications Towers

- Resident asked about towers.
 - Council responded by stating communication towers are currently being reviewed; looking at alternative ways to avoid towers in residential areas; City is working on proposed code changes; looking at new technology for communication towers.

Agler/Stygler Intersection

- Resident expressed concern about the traffic at Agler and Stygler Roads; traffic backs up on 670.
 - City is working on ways to control traffic; did have traffic study; there might be some re-development and things will change on that corner.

Hamilton Road Widening

- Resident asked about Hamilton Road widening being City funded.
 - Council explained that project is county and state funded; project will start this year.

Council Updates

- Bond sales: passed legislation and will be bidding soon; once bonds are sold, the roads, curbs and sidewalks will start getting repaired.
- Safe Routes to School Phase 2 will start soon and build new sidewalks.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

May 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread – 91 N. Hamilton Rd.

Topics of Discussion

New Pastor

- Resident said he is a new pastor in the area and wanted to stop by and meet the Council members.
- Wanted to know how to serve the community and how they can partner with people to help out and be responsive to everyone
- Said they will help with GRIN
- Council said being involved in a neighborhood and having public engagement

Minimum Water & Sewer Bill Charges

- Resident asked what the minimum charge for their water and sewer bill is and when legislation changed that there was a minimum fee.
- Another resident said his son was charged when he traveled and would turn off his water but would still incur a fee.

Hamilton Road North of Morse Road Widening

- Near Meijer the road will be widened; projected outlook date is 2018.

Strategic Development Plan Launched

- Will review in the next month or so; review of what work has been done
- Bring some new undated guiding principles for Economic Development for the City to identify areas that can be invested and/or developed
- Bring really good tools to the City's Development Department.

AEP Leaving

- Resident asked when AEP is leaving; Council said looking to fill that building; they moved because they need more room to integrate with other businesses.

Taxes

- Resident said they looked at taxes and the City received \$114 and the school received \$3,000; pointing out Gahanna does not receive the bulk of taxes being paid but you do not realize it unless you see the bill.

TIF's

- Resident asked about TIF's
- TIF's establish property value and are used for infrastructure.
- They are improvements to a property; a portion of the taxes would stay in City and keep money locally.
- Looking at different ways to generate revenue for the City, not a new tax.

Long Term Development

- See the next five to ten years; there will be issues to address; will look to Strategic Economic Development Plan
- Complex answer; too much commercial and too much residential; need to evolve and allow for economics; would like to see new enterprises in the community
- City is looking to plan
- Looking at how to drive activity on west side no matter where something sits or how old it is
- If the property owner is willing to invest there is value; looking at it is effective for community to take on risk so they can see a return; continuing and evolving initiative; looking at ways to address vitality

Open Town Hall

- Explained the process
- Encouraged people to get engaged and participate

Sidewalk issues last year

- Bringing back some issues that need addressed; last year issues were brought up about sidewalks and City resolved it at public outreach meetings (Coffee with Council)

Parks Master Plan

- New director will continue to invest and collectively use our parks and recreation area
- We will have soccer and baseball presence
- Always events for racing and other events

Senior Center Closing

- Closing again in June for one day
- Resident expressed concerns with programs taking over Sr. Center.
- Resident wanted information on why the center was closed for a week in April and not used by the City.

Bond Sale

- Good rate was given
- Allows us to get a good return on street programs
- Currently implementing street and sidewalk programs as they are badly needed
- Streets and curbs are on the 25 year rebuild program and it is called the "Detroit Rebuild"
- The way some streets are built they are draining poorly and causing roads to deteriorate and crumble.
- The program information is available on the website.

Recruiting New Businesses

- Working hard to recruit new businesses and fill those spaces

ODOT

- Pushed back repaving US-62 for an additional year.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

July 25, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tim Horton's – 365 Agler Road

Topics of Discussion

Economic Development on the west side of Gahanna

- Resident asked if there were homes being brought in behind CVS; said not by the City.
- The CIC has been involved and has some plans for redevelopment down the road.
- This area is in need of rehabilitation; the CIC is very committed to working with the Development Department in the City; there is a lot of initiative.
- Resident said she is happy to see businesses in the area are busy; said the Mexican restaurant always has a line which helps the Chinese and ice cream shop in the area.
- City is in the process of implementing an economic development plan and a strategic plan; will be putting a lot of work into getting more businesses here.

Street access on the west side of Gahanna

- One resident said there is only one way over here; said no plans to have another route; this area is isolated; some residents like it being that way.
- Council said redevelopment can be difficult; nothing has been able to take off; this might be the time that the CIC can get it moving.

McCutcheon Road Property

- Resident asked if it was purchased; Council said not yet; if the property is acquired it will be park land which is outlined in the Park Master Plan; have a nice park at Woodside Green, but need something on this side of town.
- One resident didn't agree with purchase; already have enough parks; another resident said that park land was dedicated by developers.
- City is looking at getting rid of some of the parks so that the City does not have to take care of the small properties and can then build up the bigger ones.

Creekside Live

- Resident said went to Creekside Live and noticed that people are going through the motions instead of being passionate about moving forward with a vision; he said we are stagnate; need to rehab what we have.

Westerville & Dublin VS. Gahanna

- Resident compared Westerville and Dublin; they have a lot of traffic.
- There are over 88K people working there; resident said she loves being able to pop in the City and find out what's going on; those two Cities are not transparent and information is hard to find.

Gahanna Parks

- One resident wants to see Fleet Run Park stay in the City; the City is trying to have residents have accessibility to parks for everyone to enjoy; look at the big picture.
- One resident asked if that park is purchased if a cell tower will go up there; City said that is not in the plan; are working on tightening up the code; resident said they have options other than cell towers; can put communications on top of churches or buildings; City is trying to protect residential areas; want to minimize impact on homes.

Big Walnut Trail & the Golf Course

- Resident said against the golf course being modified for the Big Walnut Trail; Council said was disappointed about the lack of communication; make sure we are more transparent in the future.

Street Rebuild Program

- Council brought up the Street Rebuild Program; 3 year road program that is very aggressive; Flintridge and Brookhaven are being constructed this and next year; have funding now and plans to get the roads improved; is why the City sold bonds this year to get the City engaged; addressing roads that are crumbling; we need to look at the ratings on each street and get the aging streets up to par.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings

August 29, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread – 91 N. Hamilton Road

Topics of Discussion

Economic Development Plan

- Currently on the agenda for first reading for Council to adopt; said we are not actually built out for economic development; plan recommends 7 areas of the City to reinvest in; very happy with the west side area; keep in mind this is not a project just a strategy plan; resident asked if it was City project to re-do the road; yes but we need the businesses first; resident said the problem with plans, people think it is a project; said on the west side the traffic flow is increased; the owner of the property impacted is on board; resident said roundabouts are being taken out in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; wish we would have looked at those first; the plan addresses the concerns of the roads on the west side; the City needs to decide what to invest in.

Strategic Plan

- Headed by Jennifer Teal, our Assistant City Administrator and Director of Finance; taking two firms to get what we want and need; one firm was better at community engagement and the other was better at measuring the results; said Hilliard spent nearly a million dollars on their plan; resident said there should be a big difference in what the firms do with their price difference; all about transparency and getting a good idea of who our community is; we did an RFP to get firms to respond; we are spending money to be able to come up with more funds in the future; believes we spent \$400,000 in the 1980s for a master plan; this plan will be strategic and not tactical projects; resident asked how many focus groups there will be; have not focused on that yet; still working out all of the mechanics; resident said the communication with the public and advertisement of the meetings is the biggest problem in this community.

Governance Commission Public Hearing

- Only a small turnout; people are really busy; resident feels commission should be more welcoming with Q&A from public.

Committee Room Renovation

- Resident said he came to Committee on Monday and the room was too full so he went home; another resident said she could not hear anything in Council Chambers; have to make it welcoming to get residents to come; there is a proposal to open up the room and get a new microphone system in Council Chambers; resident suggested microphones in the meeting or having Committee in Council Chambers; said Committee is supposed to be informal; will work on hearing and the setting.

Hamilton Road Widening

- Morse Road widening is part of the project; resident said she thought she heard a portion of the widening was put up for bid; not sure it is in the works; will check the status of the Hamilton Road widening north of Morse Road.

Shops at Rocky Fork

- Resident said the development on Hamilton Road is disturbing; the City does not have the right to mandate who can build in the City; there were offers to home owners north of the shops but the application has dropped off; resident upset that there are no new shops on the west side; shops do not want to do business there and the City cannot make them; this plan will address those concerns; said we want jobs and full time jobs at more than minimum wage.

Good Samaritan Property

- Resident asked what happened with the purchase; heard they are finishing the contract and the City will purchase that land; will be used for parkland; the feedback showed that apartments in the area was not received well; resident asked about what is being purchased; they said 8 acres, which is the vacant land; resident does not believe the west side is suffering from lack of parkland; does not believe we should own more than we can maintain or afford.

Citizen Initiative Petition

- Resident upset the City is asking to raise taxes; Council is not putting this on the ballot; this is a citizen initiative tax; does not involve the City.

Big Walnut Trail Section 5

- Resident asked if it will be on the Golf Course side; yes, the City is moving forward with it; will be down lower near the course; will not alter the greens; resident said could have eliminated the fence and the golf course issue by going on the other side of the road; would have had to involve more people; resident would like the Parks Director to call him to discuss; the fence is required because of the location; resident said would not have to deal with this if it was on the other side of the road.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings
September 23, 2015 – 6:30-7:30 p.m
Location: Donatos Pizza – E Johnstown Road

Economic Development Strategy Discussion

- Resident on Imperial; asked if there is a time table for the houses to be purchased; worried about losing his home; Council said nothing has been slated; the CIC often considered land bank properties; the two properties that were purchased by the CIC does not have any plans at this time; Anthony Jones, Director of Development brought the City's Economic Development Strategy to be passed around; MORPC recently said this Agler & Stygler was the most congested in the City; this plan will spur commercial development on the west side; there is a need for economic development; no easy way to do it; partnered with Royal Plaza property owner; the new configuration and the use of tools to benefit the community; will analyze the traffic flow and understand growing needs 20 years out; this is in the long run and this is the first step to resolve problems; resident said he doesn't want to invest more money into his home if there is a chance his property could be affected by the City's plan for that area; Jones said that any money invested should get a return; Jones said they will meet with the community and work with Council to decide how to move forward with that intersection; the end result is not definitive; Kneeland said this plan is a concept for a planning purpose; people want to know about what is going to occur with Royal Plaza; it's a very difficult piece of the plan; traffic is a problem and is difficult to address as it relates to cost and planning; this piece is the most expensive in the Strategic Plan; Jones said this project provides a number of options; understanding that there are multiple pieces to the project; is estimated to be at 6 or 7 million dollar project; Angelou said Council wants to invest in the west side; there are noted problems there; Leeseberg said as an engineer, he sees how big the problems are regarding traffic.
- Jones said the City tries to establish geographical areas; those taxes paid for those properties would go into investing and improving the area; the projects help generate revenue; this plan will hopefully get people to want to invest; no additional new taxes, will bring investors who build facilities; the businesses will benefit of that side of town; will identify areas that need help; Leeseberg said the data was used to see where areas need developed; we have the data now to sell and bring in developers; any changes made to land will be vetted through the Planning Commission process; if residents don't want to sell they are not required to sell; what does the community want; Council would not prioritize one area over another if the community doesn't warrant the change; Jones said the whole Strategy is laid out for options and will be receiving community input; a final layout needs to be determined; Angelou said Buckles Tract can go and that money be used for other areas; Council will need to look at priorities;

- A committee was formed to discuss matters like this called the Economic Development Community Engagement Committee; get the communities views; will probably focus on what has drove the most interest.
- Resident said the traffic on the west side is the biggest problem right now; it's congested and needs to be looked at; said forget about everything said in the past and get fresh new ideas on the traffic issues; Leeseberg said developers will come in with their own plans; what will the market bear; resident said nobody will want to purchase property with all the traffic issues at hand; Jones said this effort was to try to reduce the impact on the community;
- Resident curious about other development projects; the one downtown and Hamilton Road and 270; how have those impacted the City; the Shops at Rocky Fork went pretty good; resident asked if Council would change anything; asked if the City has made mistakes; resident lives on Shull Avenue; disappointed at the business; been in business for years; understands how real estate works; she loves her home and her property; enjoys some of Creekside; Jones said they are seeing a lot of more interest in Creekside; there have been challenges; the residential piece is working very well; they live close to their family and can establish roots and do not need to maintain their property; Jones said he's seeing an improvement on the retail interest; resident said anytime you have development there will always be challenges; not everyone will be happy.
- Resident said he lives in a very old house; he wanted to put in a shed; didn't like the plan because he could not build a shed on the set back; his whole house is on the set back; there is no logic to the reason he can't build; he felt the City was so large and that is why they wouldn't be flexible; he said the City didn't want to come out and look at it; he said it is a very nice shed; he felt he was getting a big business answer; Jones apologize for his experience; he said that variances and mechanisms are put in place to get things like that approved; he said that is going to cost more money; Jones said sheds and fence have the most impact on neighbors; Jones said he's happy to meet with him after the meeting and come up with a solution.
- Resident said his neighbor is bed-ridden and he mows her grass; if he doesn't mow then she will get fined; is there anything the City can do for seniors who need their grass mowed; Council said GRIN might be able to help or maybe a church or Boy Scouts; he said these residents have been in the City a long time and need help to keep from losing their homes; he said without the elderly we wouldn't be where we are today.



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.



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings
November 30, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.
Location: CITY HALL

Jess Howard Pond – Taylor Road

Trail – Olde Ridenour Road

- Resident would like update on Big Walnut Trail; the timeline; painting the fence and grand opening information

Sign Code

- Resident raised concerns about enforcement of sign code

MORPC – Italian Tissue Factory

- 400 jobs – resident asked if Gahanna in running ever; Council will get with Anthony for information

No parking – Creepside

Economic Development Areas

- West side concerns; good data, aging, what's next in path; Council said two sections have been reviewed by the EDCEC and there are 3 sections to be discussed 12/1/15 at meeting; large amount of information; very technical; can start work with document and language of document

New Business in town – new business “The Weldon”

M/I Homes – concerned about Annexation off Darling Road; will get more information

Impact fee to schools for new build