

CITY OF OLNEY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2021

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The March 8, 2021, meeting of the Olney City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall located at 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois, with Mayor Mark Lambird presiding.

AGENDA #2 “PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG-PRAYER” Council members and visitors joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Zachary Caress led the group in prayer.

AGENDA #3 “ROLL CALL” The following Council members were physically present: Mark Lambird, John McLaughlin, Belinda Henton, Morgan Fehrenbacher, and Greg Eyer. Also physically present were City Manager Allen Barker, City Treasurer Jane Guinn, City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi, and City Engineer Mike Bridges. Several State of Illinois Executive Orders allowed for attendance to take place via video, audio, and/or telephonic means as the COVID-19 crisis continues. Attending by audio/video was City Attorney Bart Zuber.

AGENDA #4 “PRESENTATION OF CONSENT AGENDA”

4-A “Approve Minutes of Council Meeting on February 22, 2021”

4-B “Approve and Authorize Payment of Accounts Payable March 9, 2021” Pooled Cash \$89,133.63, Manual Pooled Cash \$113,616.90, Petty Cash \$8.60, Foreign Fire \$598.00, Utility Refunds \$426.29, Tourism \$2,524.85, Christmas Light Display \$653.12

4-C “Raffle License: Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapter 3”

4-D “Resolution: Support SWAN Grant Application” **2021-R-15**

4-E “Ordinance: Authorize Sale of Scrap metal from the Park Department” **2021-04**

AGENDA #5 “REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No items were requested for removal from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #6 “CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to approve the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Eyer. Councilmen Eyer, McLaughlin, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #7 “CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA” No consideration was necessary since no items were removed from the consent agenda.

AGENDA #8 “PRESENTATION OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.”

8-A “Resolution: Accept Bid for Jasper & Lincoln Street 10-Inch Waterline Replacement Project” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would accept a bid for the Jasper & Lincoln Street 10-Inch Waterline Replacement Project. The Council was also provided with a bid tabulation.

Mr. Barker stated that on February 24, 2021, sealed bids were opened for the Jasper & Lincoln Street 10-Inch Waterline Replacement Project. Three bids were received. B&T Drainage of Marshall, Illinois, bid \$511,850.00. Haier Plumbing & Heating of Okawville, Illinois, bid \$445,850.00. Kieffer Brothers Construction of Mt. Carmel, Illinois, bid \$443,613.00. Mr. Barker recommended accepting the low bid from Kieffer Brothers Construction.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2021-R-16, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher.

8-B “Discussion/Possible Ordinance: Designate Handicap Parking Space in the First Parking Space on the Northeast Side of the Municipal Parking Lot with Parcel ID 11-03-207 004” The Council was provided with a request letter from Kelley Eyer, APRN, of Market Street Medical, requesting a handicap parking space in the municipal parking lot to the west side of her building at 115 E. Market.

Mrs. Eyer was present and told the Council that some of her patients had difficulty walking and/or stepping up the curb from the parking spaces on the North side of her building. She believed that a handicap parking spot in the Northeast portion of this municipal parking lot would provide some of her patients with easier access into the building.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve Ordinance 2021-05 which would designate a handicap parking space in the first parking space on the Northeast side of the municipal parking lot with Parcel ID 11-03-207-004, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Councilman McLaughlin, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. Councilman Eyer abstained. The motion carried. Ordinance 2021-05 will be prepared.

8-C “Ordinance: Authorize Execution of Lease Between the City of Olney and Richland County Farm & Fair Association, Inc.” The Council was provided with a proposed ordinance that would authorize execution of a lease with the Richland County Farm & Fair Association, Inc. (Fair Board). The Council was also provided with a copy of the proposed lease.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council that the State required that any leased fairground areas must have a lease with a term of 20 years. Because of this, the Council renews the lease with the Fair Board each year to keep them in compliance.

Councilwoman Henton asked if anyone from the Fair Board was present. Mayor Lambird had been contacted by the Fair Board President and was asked if he should be in attendance. The Mayor told the President that he could not guarantee that there would be no questions, but thought it might be alright to not attend.

Councilwomen Fehrenbacher and Henton requested that a representative of the Fair Board be present to discuss the lease before taking action. This item was tabled.

8-D “Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for Pacific Cycle Repairs” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the 2020-2021 budget for repairs at Pacific Cycle.

Mr. Barker reminded the Council of their past discussions regarding a block wall that was in need of repair at Pacific Cycle. The work was completed on March 3, 2021, and a budget amendment was needed to cover the cost. An amount of \$8,600.00 could be taken out of Contingencies for this purpose.

Councilman Eyer moved to approve 2021-R-17, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, Mayor Lambird, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher and Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-E “Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for Computer Upgrades” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the 2020-2021 budget for computer upgrades in the Park Department and at the Water Plant.

Kemper Technology had notified the City that computers on unsupported operation systems would need to be updated because Microsoft was releasing a patch that would prevent the computers from communicating with supported operating systems. Given the ages of the computers at the Park Department and the Water Plant, in addition to them being on the unsupported Windows 7, it was determined that the best solution would be to replace the computers instead of updating them. Funds could be utilized from the Mulch for Playgrounds and Carbon Replacement line items to cover the purchases.

Councilwoman Henton asked how the Park Department computer was utilized. Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley replied that it was used for e-mail correspondence, Microsoft documents, cemetery records, etc.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to approve 2021-R-18, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. Mayor Lambird, Councilmen Eyer, McLaughlin, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher and Henton voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-F “Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for Additional Sewage Grinder” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the 2020-2021 budget for an additional sewage grinder.

At the previous Council meeting, a bid of \$29,856.00 was accepted for a grinder at the Sewer Plant. An amount of \$54,000.00 was originally budgeted for that single grinder. Mr. Barker reported that the second grinder at the Plant was also in bad shape and would need to be replaced soon. He recommended purchasing a second grinder at the favorable price of \$29,856.00. A budget amendment that would move funds from the Chemicals line item would cover this purchase.

Councilwoman Henton moved to approve 2021-R-19, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilwomen Fehrenbacher, Henton, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

8-G “Resolution: Amend Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for Work to Sewer Pump Station Near Love’s Truck Stop” The Council was provided with a proposed resolution that would amend the 2020-2021 budget for work to the sewer pump station near Love’s Truck Stop.

Earlier in the year, the City purchased and replaced some valves at the pump station by Love’s Truck Stop. The cost of those items exceeded the budget by \$3,252.00. A budget amendment that would move funds from the Chemical line item would cover this purchase.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve 2021-R-20, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. Councilwomen Henton, Fehrenbacher, Councilmen McLaughlin, Eyer, and Mayor Lambird voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #9 “REPORTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS”

9-A “Status Report-City Manager” Mr. Barker said that work had started in the City Park with replacement of pavilion roofs on the North side.

9-B “RCDC Report” RCDC Executive Director Lauren McClain stated that Brad Ederer would be present at the next Council meeting to discuss a potential project. She would have information for the Council to review before the meeting.

9-C “Chamber of Commerce Report” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher had nothing to report.

9-D “Parks & Recreation Board Report” Parks & Recreation Board Chair Courtney Hunt told the Council that the Board had been hearing presentations from the Pickleball Advancement Working Group regarding placement of a pickleball complex in Musgrove Park. The Parks & Recreation Board’s Comprehensive Plan referenced adding pickleball courts at the City Park some time before 2025. Ultimately, a majority of the Parks & Recreation Board had voted to recommend the Pickleball Court Complex Project to the Council for their consideration. They did not believe that changing the proposed location that was listed in the Plan would be of any concern.

Parks & Recreation Board member Morgan Henton noted that the vote by the Board was not unanimous, but did pass. He noted that he voted “no” on the action in the meeting simply due to the proposed location.

9-i “Discussion/Possible Action: Pickleball Court Complex Project at Musgrove Park” Spokesperson for the Pickleball Advancement Working Group, Trevor May, was present to speak to the Council. Mr. May had prepared a slideshow for the Council to view during his speech.

In order to collect data, the Group had created a survey regarding pickleball. There were a total of 100 survey respondents. Of the respondents, 77% were from Richland County, 55% were aged 51 years or older, and 30% of respondents were retired.

Mr. May then detailed how many times per week that respondents played, why they liked to play, and if they would be interested in donating to the cause.

The ultimate goal for the Group would be to develop dedicated pickleball courts for the community. The courts would be ADA and tournament compliant. The proposed design would be in an L-shape, would include a commons area, lighting and fencing.

The Group had investigated three potential spaces in Musgrove Park for the courts. It was decided that the area directly east of Florence Avenue would be the most ideal due to visibility, access to utilities, parking, and restrooms.

Regarding the lighting, Mr. May indicated that focused lighting would be installed. This would mean that lighting would not bleed more than four to six feet from the courts and would diminish rapidly from there. The lighting would have little to no bleed by the time it could reach the lawn of a nearby resident.

Mr. May expected that the ideal scope of the project would cost about \$400,000.00 in total. He expected that \$50,000.00 could be gained from foundation support, \$200,000.00 could be gained through capital partners, and \$150,000.00 could be gained through crowdfunding. It was noted that “capital partners” included a \$100,000.00 commitment from the City of Olney with \$50,000.00 contributed in fiscal year 2021-2022 and \$50,000.00 contributed in fiscal year 2022-2023. It was hoped to have the site shovel-ready by Spring of 2022.

Videos played during the slideshow showed different individuals talking about how they enjoyed the game of pickleball. Ages of those shown ranged from children to elderly.

Councilman Eyer said he had never seen or received such a survey to provide a response. He wondered who was targeted on the survey. Mr. May indicated that pickleball players were targeted as this project was the wish of the pickleball community at-large. The Councilman had concerns with the fact that members of the community who were not involved with pickleball were likely not aware that the project was being proposed and could have strong opinions regarding the topic.

Mr. May understood, but pointed out that his Group was presenting the project on behalf of the pickleball community. He was aware that it would be the job of the Council as elected officials to represent the other people of the greater community.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher wondered how many tax-paying, Olney residents were involved in pickleball. Group member Richard Leneer stated that they would need to dive deeper into their survey results before providing that answer. On a given night, about 16 to 24 individuals would play, and not the same individuals would be playing each night.

The proposed layout would include eight pickleball courts. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked how many courts other communities had. Mr. May replied that eight were located in Vincennes, Indiana, eight were located in Washington, Indiana, and six were located in Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Currently, some of the tennis courts in the City Park were able to be utilized as pickleball courts. From the audience, Jim Pottorff wished to speak to the conditions of the courts in the City Park. Mr. Pottorff described that there was not enough area on the back of the courts to

properly return a serve. Backswings typically landed in a net or a fence. He felt the pickleball courts at the City Park were inadequate and not ideal for tournaments.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher then asked how the project totals were calculated. Mr. May replied that the numbers were compiled based on the costs of other courts in the surrounding areas based on similar contractors and actual bid numbers. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher then asked if the numbers included Prevailing Wage rates. Mr. Lenear indicated so.

Councilman Eyer wondered if the foundation support was pledged in writing or if it had just been discussion among the Group. Mr. May indicated that there were no formal pledges but recognized the great opportunities that were available for such funding.

Councilman Eyer expressed concern with having the City of Olney provide \$100,000.00 in funding. He was not sure where the money could be pulled from based on what was available. He had a difficult time agreeing to a costly new project that may serve about 100 citizens. Mr. May understood but also felt it was difficult to say how many Olney citizens played tennis, used the skate park, or went walking in the parks. Additionally, Mr. May believed that there were more than 100 citizens that played pickleball, but only 100 responded to the survey for any number of reasons.

Councilman McLaughlin agreed that more than 100 people played pickleball. He also noted that several children and families liked to play the game. Councilman McLaughlin also stated his opinion that it was the job of local government to promote infrastructure, recreation, safety, and quality of life. He felt that the City should want to add pickleball courts for recreation and quality of life, but was aware that funding was an issue. Like with other projects, private group fundraising, grants, and City funds had been utilized to bring great features such as the new ballfields, Together We Play Playground, walking trail at the City Park, etc.

The Council then discussed how the City paid \$56,000.00 for the bathroom portion of the Together We Play Park Project. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher also pointed out that those restrooms were utilized by visitors to all portions of the park and not just one group. The City did not provide any funds for the skate park.

Mayor Lambird asked what collected dollar amount would trigger construction. Mr. May felt that the money should be in-hand before breaking ground, but Mr. Lenear felt that having \$350,000.00 in-hand could trigger construction. He also pointed out that several existing verbal commitments were contingent on the City "having a slice of the pie."

Councilman Eyer asked if the Group would go through with the project if amenities were cut to make the project about \$300,000.00. Mr. May stated the Group would not move forward at that dollar amount.

Councilman Eyer felt that the City was already contributing. If the project was approved, the City would be providing valuable park space. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher agreed and added that the City would also be paying for electricity, use of public restrooms, water access, and future maintenance. She continued by stating concern with the chance that the pickleball interest could die out in a few years.

Councilman McLaughlin felt that the project would be done for all residents of Olney and not just for 100 people. If placed, the courts would not be the Pickleball Association's courts, they would be the courts of the citizens. Even so, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher commented that not all residents would play. While true, Councilman McLaughlin argued that not all residents played at the ballfields, for example. He felt that the project proposal would be a benefit to residents, and felt that it was a benefit to the City to get a \$400,000.00 project while only paying \$100,000.00.

Mr. May then told the Council that while 15% of their total budget would be going to lighting, only \$500.00 per year should be spent on the cost of electricity. He also expected that the courts would not need maintenance work for at least 15 years. Mr. May then explained that the Pickleball Advancement Working Group would continue to fundraise and collect tournament fees to be used towards future maintenance.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher was concerned that the Group would not be able to continue raising as much funds as they anticipated. She felt that future money "couldn't be promised if it's not there." Mr. May explained that the project was set up for success. No one within a 50-mile radius had ADA and tournament-compliant courts. The development would make Olney stand out and be a destination site for pickleball play.

From the audience, Dr. Tanner Miller wished to address the Council based on his opinions related to health. Dr. Miller recognized that pickleball was popular among the aging population. The benefits of pickleball play included cardio, musculoskeletal, and mental health. Such exercise would reduce the risk of death by heart attack, lower or prevent hypertension, and help control blood sugar spikes. Additionally, pickleball would help address the loss of strength and stamina. He stated that he was in support of the project due to the promotion of outdoor, physical activity.

Also from the audience, Sissy Leggett told the Council about her pickleball-playing habits. She also felt that there were many people who may have lost a spouse that could use pickleball as a way to reconnect. She continued by stating that a complex such as the one proposed would also bring additional revenue into the City through tournaments by way of hotel, gas, and restaurant expenses. Ms. Leggett also agreed with Mr. Pottorff that the courts at the City Park were not ideal.

Next from the audience, Pastor Tim Loomis wished to speak. He told the Council that finding pickleball had changed his life and that he was in the best shape he had been in since his early 40s. He believed pickleball provided good physical benefits, and also felt that pickleball was the fastest growing sport because of how it appealed to a wide age group.

Christa Jennette then approached the Council. Mrs. Jennette felt that pickleball was a great family activity. She and her family had even driven to other towns to play. She felt that the courts at the City Park were an embarrassment and would rather have the opportunity for Olney to stand out in the future.

Councilman Eyer clarified that he had no issue with pickleball itself. Rather, he was concerned with the City providing \$100,000.00 and whether or not the project would serve

enough of the population to justify the cost. Additionally, the Councilman had issue with the proposed location.

Councilman Eyer was not certain that Dr. Musgrove would have wanted Musgrove Park to become so populated with sports development rather than nature. The Councilman personally wished to be able to keep some of Musgrove Park as an area of green space for trees, walking, meditation, prayer, and engagement with nature. He felt that better placement for the proposed courts would be on the Southwest side, leaving the east side more open with green space.

Councilman Eyer also had concerns with placement on the East side due to traffic. While the Group desired visibility, Councilman Eyer was aware that N. East Street was heavily trafficked, and that drivers typically sped along that stretch of roadway. He felt that drivers would try to rubberneck in order to see who was out playing pickleball and that could lead to a safety issue.

According to Councilman Eyer, the Southwest site could also be an option because of access to several parking spaces. Additionally, he had spoken with the City Engineer who also believed the site would be suitable. The layout of the courts would need to be altered, but other than that he felt that the site would fit the courts very well. Visibility from N. Silver Street should also be acceptable as it was also one of Olney's most traveled streets.

Councilman Eyer also had issues with the lights from the ballfields. As it was, he stated that he could easily read a newspaper in his driveway in Meadowview Subdivision just from the lights from Musgrove Park. He felt the park was already well-illuminated and had great concern with adding even more lighting.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked Mr. Bradley for his input on a location for the courts. Mr. Bradley stated that he would also recommend the Southwest location, if possible. Mr. Bradley had concern that the proposed location would be eliminating the overflow parking area off of Florence Avenue.

Councilman McLaughlin moved to approve the Pickleball Court Complex Project at Musgrove Park, as proposed, and to support the Pickleball Advancement Working Group's attempt to raise funds. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Councilman Eyer moved to approve the Pickleball Court Complex Project at Musgrove Park, but to have the location moved to the Southwest site, seconded by Councilwoman Henton.

Councilman McLaughlin asked what a change in site location would do to the Group's willingness to move forward. Mr. May indicated that the change would affect their budget numbers and would likely affect some of the financial support of the project. Mr. Lenear added that the Group would need to do months worth of work all over again.

Councilman McLaughlin wondered if flying baseballs would be an issue with court placement in the Southwest area. Mr. Bradley did not believe that would be an issue. Mr. Bradley also clarified that the originally proposed site on the East side would be fine, but he just wanted consideration to also be given to the Southwest location.

To address Councilman Eyer's concern with safety due to visibility, Mr. May explained that the 10 to 12-foot fencing would include a windscreen/guard that would prevent seeing any play inside of that fencing. Mr. May strongly felt that the East area would be a missed opportunity. He wished to pursue the main proposal because it would not affect the amenities.

Mr. May also stressed that the lighting would be state-of-the-art and that Councilman Eyer would not see spillage. Councilman Eyer argued that refracted light would still cause a problem.

From the audience, Mr. Henton felt that amenities would still be found near the Southwest location.

Councilman McLaughlin asked the Group if they were in favor of moving the site from the East to the Southwest. Mr. Lenear stated that he was not in favor. Mr. May indicated that he would need more time to do research before giving the Councilman an answer.

Councilman Eyer, Councilwomen Fehrenbacher and Henton voted yes. Mayor Lambird and Councilman McLaughlin voted no. The motion to approve the Pickleball Court Complex Project at Musgrove Park being placed at the Southwest location passed.

9-ii "Discussion/Possible Action: Financial Commitment from the City of Olney for Pickleball Court Complex Project" Councilman McLaughlin moved to have the City contribute \$50,000.00 to the Pickleball Court Complex Project in fiscal year 2021-2022 and \$50,000.00 in fiscal year 2022-2023, seconded by Councilwoman Henton.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher explained that she had no trouble with the project overall and wished the Group the best of luck. However, she did have a problem with the City providing the \$100,000.00. She explained that the City began its budget planning process for the new fiscal year in January to pass in April. The City Treasurer had already been working on the next fiscal year's budget for a few months. The Councilwoman was also aware that the City worked off of a five-year capital plan. Mrs. Guinn confirmed. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if new pickleball courts were included in the plan. Mrs. Guinn indicated that such courts were not included in the five-year capital plan.

Councilwoman Henton asked for more detail on what the \$200,000.00 included in the fiscal year 2025-2026 five-year capital improvement plan for "Rebuild Tennis Courts #4-#6." Mr. Bradley replied that project would completely re-do the north tennis courts at the City Park.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher asked if Mrs. Guinn would even be able to re-arrange the budget this late in the game to accommodate the \$50,000.00 towards this project in fiscal year 2021-2022. Mrs. Guinn replied that she could probably work the budget around enough to accommodate the Council's wishes.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher felt that the Group had come in way too late in the game for the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget since so much time had already gone into the planning. Being aware of the intentions of the Group, she noted that she may be more willing to discuss the financial issue a year from now. She did not like the last minute feel of trying to ramrod the project into the budget when it was so late in the game.

Councilman McLaughlin pointed out that even though work had started on the new fiscal year's budget, the budget was not yet finalized. He recalled that the Council has changed the budget several times in the past from the time of the Work Session in January to the point where the Council votes.

Councilwoman Fehrenbacher recalled how past organizations had been passionate about certain projects and were able to completely raise all funds needed to build without asking the City for money. After construction, the City then took over and maintained the additions. She felt that the Group should be able to do the same.

In addition, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher was familiar with a list of the City's pending projects that had not yet been paid off. She noted that \$100,000.00 could easily go towards such necessary projects. She was aware that people typically did not get very excited over infrastructure projects because something shiny and new was not readily visible. However, she felt it would be difficult to tell taxpayers that \$100,000.00 went towards pickleball courts when multi-million dollar projects were on the horizon. She then specifically pointed out that Councilman McLaughlin should be conscious of better uses of funds since he frequently complained out City road conditions.

The Councilwoman felt that Mrs. Guinn could find "extra" money in the budget to move around to accommodate the pickleball project, but looking at the list of desperately needed City projects, the Councilwoman did not feel that the money was extra at all.

Councilwoman Henton asked if the Group saw any reason that their efforts on fundraising would need to stop once \$250,000.00 was reached. Mr. May did not believe so and felt that the funding approach was fairly conservative.

If the Group exceeded its own fundraising efforts, Mayor Lambird asked if the City's pledge could then be lowered. Mr. May replied that there would be opportunity to appropriate from the Group's working budget regarding funds above and beyond their goals. However, Mr. May still strongly felt that the City would need to make a pledge in order for the Group to make good on some of their other verbal commitments.

Mr. May then suggested that the City could re-appropriate the \$40,000.00 that was slated for the 2021-2022 budget for repairs to tennis courts #1 through #3. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher felt that maintenance of the tennis courts had been pushed back far enough already. Councilman Eyer agreed.

Mr. Bradley explained that \$10,000.00 was included in the 2020-2021 budget for crack repair to the North tennis courts. The proposed \$40,000.00 for the 2021-2022 budget would help hold off the \$200,000.00 project that would be necessary in fiscal year 2025-2026.

From the audience, Gene Brauer recalled coming to the Parks & Recreation Board warning that the tennis courts would need future funding for maintenance. Mr. Brauer was in support of the pickleball project, but warned against taking money from tennis court repairs.

Councilman McLaughlin did not feel that any funds should be re-appropriated out of repairs to the tennis courts. For example, he felt that \$15,000.00 could be utilized towards the project instead of installing protective bulletproof glass at the front window of City Hall.

Mr. Brauer then stated that he was with the understanding that the \$40,000.00 would actually cover work to six tennis courts and not three. He felt the work would cover coating and re-lining. Mr. Bradley disagreed and stated that the \$40,000.00 would only cover the South tennis courts.

Mr. May then explained how he did not believe the Group's requests were late in the game. He recalled reaching out back in August of 2020 in asking the City Manager how to go about proposing the project. At that time, Mr. May said the City Manager's only question was on location. Mr. May then offered that the full \$100,000.00 could be planned for in the 2022-2023 budget instead of splitting it into two fiscal years.

Councilman Eyer was aware that additional federal funding should be coming to the City. While he was aware of the current City needs, he felt that a portion of the money could go to a want.

Mr. Pottorff then voiced his opinion that upcoming repair work to the North tennis courts would only last a couple of years and felt that a better investment would be towards the pickleball courts. He felt that the pickleball players were the main people that utilized the North tennis courts anyhow. In the Summer, he told the Council that the pickleball courts were always full and that there was never anyone playing tennis.

Even so, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher explained that the tennis courts were already in existence. Because of this, the City had an obligation to do their best to maintain what they already had.

Mr. Brauer also believed that \$200,000.00 was not even close to the amount needed to properly rebuild the courts. He felt the cost would be closer to \$400,000.00 or \$500,000.00. Mr. Bradley explained that the \$200,000.00 number was given from the vendor himself.

Councilwoman Henton, Councilman McLaughlin, and Mayor Lambird voted yes on the motion to allocate \$50,000.00 to the Pickleball Court Complex Project in Musgrove Park in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to allocate \$50,000.00 to the same project in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Councilwoman Fehrenbacher and Councilman Eyer voted no. The motion carried.

Mayor Lambird then called for a brief recess. The meeting went into recess at 9:05 p.m., and the meeting resumed at 9:13 p.m.

9-E "Tourism Board Report" Councilwoman Henton had nothing to report.

AGENDA #10 "PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS" No one from the public wished to speak.

AGENDA #11 "2021/2022 Budget Discussions"

11-A “Water Fund” Mrs. Guinn ran through a slideshow of the Water Fund’s proposed budgets for 2021-2022. For the next fiscal year, Mrs. Guinn anticipated total income to be \$2,346,890.00. She noted that the main reason for the increase was the Jasper/Lincoln Waterline Grant in the amount of \$411,530.00.

For the Water Plant, Personnel Services would see an increase of \$30,267.00 due to IBEW negotiations. Contractual Services would remain fairly flat, and an increase in chemicals factored into the Supplies line item.

The only Capital Outlay item proposed was a Tower Mixer for the Brentwood water tower in the amount of \$30,000.00.

In Water Distribution, Personnel Services would see an increase of \$26,651.00, also due to IBEW negotiations. Contractual Services was increasing by \$29,569.00 due to engineering costs. Supplies would be fairly flat.

The Capital Outlay for 2021-2022 included \$100,000.00 for Water Main Replacement, \$23,500.00 for a Pickup Truck, \$25,000.00 for the GIS Project, \$507,167.00 for the Jasper/Lincoln Waterline Replacement Project, and \$6,500.00 for a Line Locator.

Debt Service in this department would continue to budget \$27,724.00.

In total, Mrs. Guinn showed that the Water Fund projected \$2,346,890.00 in revenue for 2021-2022, and \$2,178,469.00 in expenditures. The Fund should be \$168,421.00 favorable.

11-B “Sewer Fund” Mrs. Guinn ran through a slideshow of the Sewer Fund’s proposed budgets for 2021-2022. For the next fiscal year, Mrs. Guinn anticipated total income to be \$1,980,050 compared to this year’s projected income of \$1,313,252.00. She noted that the main reason for the increase was the expected receipt of \$600,000.00 in loan funds for the UV Treatments. Additionally, Utility Income would be increasing as the 2020-2021 fiscal year only reflected partial numbers from the Sewer rate increase last Fall.

Personnel Services would increase by \$30,676.00 due to IBEW negotiations. Contractual Services were also increased by \$74,798.00 as some work on sewer lines and equipment

The Supplies line item included chemicals. Each year was being budgeted a bit higher because the Department was unsure what would be needed with changes regarding UV treatments, and phosphorous/zinc testing.

For Capital Outlay, \$600,000.00 was budgeted for Ultra Violet Treatment. This would be offset by the same amount to be received in income from loan funds. Capital Outlay also included \$23,500.00 for a Pickup Truck, \$100,000.00 for rebuilding final tank spurs, and \$25,000.00 for Sewer Line Replacement.

Overall, the Sewer Fund was expected to end up favorable by \$309,346.00.

11-C “Tourism Fund” Mrs. Guinn ran through a slideshow of the Tourism Fund’s proposed budgets for 2021-2022. For the next fiscal year, Mrs. Guinn anticipated total income to be \$97,295.00 compared to this year’s projected income of \$101,410.00. She noted that the main reason for the decrease was due to conservative projections on Hotel/Motel Tax.

Mrs. Guinn pointed out that some changes would be made to this budget before the final viewing for action. Mrs. Sterchi had informed Mrs. Guinn that a majority of the proposed expenditures for the revised Walldogs project would not be spent in the 2020-2021 year. A majority of the expenses related to the new scope of the project would now be taking place in the 2021-2022 year.

Overall, Mrs. Guinn projected the Tourism budget to come in (\$10,015.00) unfavorable due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

Councilman Eyer asked about the budgeted \$10,000.00 for Community Events. Mrs. Guinn and Mr. Barker explained that was a placeholder item for various events that could come up throughout the year.

Mrs. Guinn then told the Council that the Tourism Fund currently held a total of \$234,210.00. Of that amount, \$87,688.00 was earmarked from Walldog donations.

Mayor Lambird asked why the Tourism Convention Bureau line item appeared to have such a large increase from the projected \$8,600.00 expense in 2020-2021 to \$20,000.00 in 2021-2022. Mrs. Sterchi replied that budgeted funds for that line item had increased over the past few years towards the \$20,000.00 amount. Due to COVID-19 in this fiscal year, there was not much to promote with the Tourism Convention Bureau, so less money was spent.

AGENDA #12 “Closed Session: Sale or Lease Price of Real Property; Acquisition of Real Property; Appointment, Employment, Compensation, and Performance of Specific Employees; and Collective Negotiating Matters” Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to adjourn to closed session to discuss sale or lease price of real property; acquisition of real property; appointment, employment, compensation, and performance of specific employees; and collective negotiating matters, seconded by Councilwoman Henton. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 9:22 p.m.

AGENDA #13 “Reconvene Open Session” Upon return of those who were in closed session to the Council Chambers, Councilwoman Henton move to enter back into open session, seconded by Councilwoman Fehrenbacher. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Open session resumed at 10:47 p.m.

Mayor Lambird reported that RCCU #1 Superintendent Chris Simpson had invited the City Council and City staff to have a one-hour tour of the renovated Richland County High School. If interested, the Mayor requested to get in contact with Mr. Simpson.

AGENDA #14 “ADJOURN” With no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Fehrenbacher moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman McLaughlin. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk

DRAFT