

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
APRIL 26, 2022 3:00 PM  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM/VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**REV. 1**

Vice Mayor Grendel called the Council Workshop of April 26, 2022 to order at 3:12 p.m. Present were Council Members John DiGeronimo, Tom Narduzzi, Anthony Togliatti, Jim Trakas, Dale Veverka, and Chris Walchanowicz.

Also in attendance were Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz (arrived at 3:45 p.m.), Finance Director Vern Blaze, IT Director Jim Gibbs, City Engineer Don Ramm, Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek, Technical Service Director Dave Snyderburn, and Finance Assistant Maggie Osysko.

Vice Mayor Grendel said this is about the fifth workshop we had on the Five-Year Plan, and there's been a lot of information that we have had to absorb and make decisions on, so I think it's time well spent and a chance for us to evaluate our Directors that we value very much and everything and Vern and Maggie and your department. Also, the advice that Jim Gibbs provides us.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we will look at Ordinance 2022-61 first since the IT Director is here and then discuss the Five-Year Plan.

**PRESENT:** Vice Mayor Grendel, Councilperson Narduzzi (Remote), Councilperson Trakas, Councilperson Togliatti, Councilperson Veverka, Councilperson Walchanowicz, Councilperson DiGeronimo

**ABSENT:**

**FIRST READING**

Vice Mayor Grendel said Ordinance 2022-61 is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2021-164 accepting the proposal of NPi Audio Visuals Solutions to partner with the City's MSP to upgrade the AV capability of Council Chambers. I think everybody had a chance to go in there and hear Dennis, Dave and Jim as far as what we want to do. If we are going to do it, we are going to do it right. We need to do it the way it should be done. I think it's a pipe dream to think we are going to expand Council Chambers. This is beautiful, and I think we need to take advantage of what we have there. It will make it suitable for people who can't get out of their homes to be able to watch on their computers and everything. I think what has been planned here as far as the aesthetics and also the workability of it, the microphones and everything else. It's something we want to make sure that we are spending money wisely, but spending money that we need to do it right for not only Council and our Directors but also the residents when they attend meetings either virtually or there in Council Chambers. Without further ado Jim, I don't know if you want to give a brief overview. I know Dennis we got your memo too.

IT Director Gibbs said just to give you a brief summary from the email that I sent last night. Obviously, we had some things that were going to be performed in-house that due to the workloads and that, we don't have the personnel, so we felt that it was best to go outside the City and outsource that to do the electrical, and then the second part of that was maintaining the

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aesthetics in the setup of the monitors. It ended up creating an obstacle of getting the microphones close enough to the members for them to be effective. Right now the microphones are going to be at a distance of almost 18 to 24 inches, and that's not really going to be close enough for them to pick up well. You want to be at 12 inches or less distance from the microphone to get a good pickup.

So, we are proposing new microphones that would come on stands, and then again also with that, we can have a programmable button on there that could allow for you to either have to press it in order to speak, and again that makes people have good microphone etiquette because they have to lean up and push the button, and then they are automatically heard very well. It's a good experience for the audience and people at home, or if you prefer, we could set them up so they are always live, and then if you need to cough, there are other comments that aren't really meant for public parts of the meeting, you can tap on the button to mute your microphone as you see fit. That's it in a nutshell.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked could you do a combination of the two. If we have our Council Caucus there and constantly talking and everything, but could I have mine so that I just push the button to mute it where everyone else could just push it if they want to talk. Does it have to all be one way?

IT Director Gibbs said each individual base can be set up either way that we want to do that. The only thing I would caution you is, and I don't recall how you set up all of your meetings in that space, is if you have other participants come in and use that same room, if they are used to sitting at Vern's space and move to Dave's spot, and that microphone is set up differently.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we hopefully will have Planning Commission and Zoning there and everything, so that could potentially be an issue.

IT Director Gibbs said they would just have to know that your mic is set up differently than the one next to you. Usually, the only one that I like to set up differently is the Council Clerk because that person is generally working with both hands doing a multitude of tasks. I tend to leave his or her microphone live all the time so that when they call the roll and so and so forth, they can use both hands.

To your point, you can customize each base if you really want to, but then again I caution you against other people using the system.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked any questions for Jim?

Councilperson Togliatti said the question I had that I asked you earlier was justification for \$11,500 worth of these microphones, and Jim showed me out in the Chambers the current position of them is obstructed with the screens that were installed. I guess the question I had, and I did ask Jim, can the mounts be relocated on the existing mics and just work with those? They seem to function fine. I don't know what the cost would be to move them 6 or 12 inches and then put a blank over the existing mount hole. I have worked with these push to talk and push to mute microphones in other meetings, and I can tell you that they are problematic because people, if it's push to talk, they forget to push it, you can't hear them and they are shouting. It depends on the

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end user on the push to talk, and I have seen issues with those. I guess my question would be what would it cost to keep the existing microphones that we have, move them over 12 inches and whatever low voltage wiring is required?

IT Director Gibbs said I don't know what that cost would be. I don't know where they would have to move them in order to keep them close enough to the person speaking and also whether or not the wiring that's in place there is long enough to move it to the new location. I don't know. We would have to get that quoted out.

Councilperson Togliatti said it just seems like \$11,500 is a lot of money for new microphones when there is nothing wrong with the existing microphones other than there is interference from the new technology.

Councilperson Trakas said that's a good point.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how long would it take to get quoted out?

IT Director Gibbs said I would just have to call NPi, they were planning on being out here I believe Friday because some of the work that was part of this was being done then. I would have to ask them about that then.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we could check with them.

Councilperson Togliatti said it might be something that HDG did because they are doing some low voltage and other wiring, they may be able to do that as well.

Several people began speaking at once.

IT Director Gibbs said because NPi is doing all the audio setup, unless they go extremely high on the cost, I would really like to get their opinion.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said so just as a clarification, could we authorize up to \$11,500 pending this review? Does that make sense?

Vice Mayor Grendel said this way we will see, if it costs just a little bit, it's not a big thing, and we will go with the original; but if it's a substantial savings like half or that, it would make sense.

Councilperson Togliatti asked so who is going to make that decision?

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think, like you said, approve it up to this \$11,500, and then I trust that Jim as far, we want to make sure there are no problems with it. We don't want to save a few dollars and see that it doesn't work either. So, we value your expertise and everything. If Jim thinks it's a savings, save \$5,000 or \$6,000 on it.

Councilperson Trakas asked is that a decision you could make Jim?

IT Director Gibbs said if Council would like me to, absolutely I can. The only thing I want to make sure I have clear direction from you is what is a reasonable amount? If it's a savings of

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\$1,000, and it takes an extra week, do we have a number in mind?

Councilperson Trakas said well we have lived with the setup since 1982, I wouldn't be too worried about that part of it. I would say if it's under \$11,500, if it's \$500 or \$5,000, I would do it. The microphones aren't problematic themselves.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if it's a savings, you could use your judgment as far as that goes.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked how many microphones are there?

IT Director Gibbs said 18.

Councilperson Narduzzi said so if it was \$200 apiece to move the microphone, that's \$3,600. I can't be much more than that. You are drilling a new hole and putting a new wire in.

Councilperson Togliatti said if that's the case, I would say keep the existing microphones then.

Vice Mayor Grendel said there's no difference in quality. If we could save some money on it, we will go that route.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said so the \$11,500, I get that's a lot of money, but I don't know if there's a life span of what is existing in there. Debi, I think at one meeting I think they said they couldn't hear something on the microphones. If those things are 40 years old, do they have some life to them?

IT Director Gibbs said I believe they have been replaced in the last 5 years.

Finance Director Blaze asked wasn't that modulation problem in Chambers just being the owl trying to pick up too great of an area?

IT Director Gibbs said if that's what they were referring to from a Zoom meeting, yes that sound system.

Finance Director Blaze said with the Zoom, it's not as good as it is in here because it's a smaller area.

IT Director Gibbs said we are overdriving what the owl was meant for in the space of Chambers. If it was what was being referred to during one of the Zoom meetings we conducted in there, that could be a multitude of issues, but was most likely the owl.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and not with the microphone or anything.

IT Director Gibbs said probably not.

Vice Mayor Grendel said because that's relatively new equipment and everything and get the advice from the one company that's doing the work.

IT Director Gibbs said we will get the approval for the electrical and finish work as part of this, and then we will (inaudible).

Vice Mayor Grendel asked any other comments? Any other questions for Jim?

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Councilperson Walchanowicz asked do we want to wait until tomorrow to vote on this or do we want to do it today since all of us are here and we talked about it? We were supposed to vote on it tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we were going to do First Reading today, and then vote on it tomorrow. Whatever Council would like.

Finance Director Blaze said you aren't going to have that information back from them by tomorrow are you?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said no, we are going to leave it to Jim's discretion.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked what does Council think? Do you want to vote on it today or just keep it on First Reading and put it on the agenda for tomorrow?

Technical Service Director Snyderburn said we could start it once you vote on it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I don't think anything is going to change. We will entertain a motion to approve.

The Clerk said we need to read by title only, suspend the rules and then vote.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we need to read by title only.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-61** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-164 ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF NPI AUDIO VISUAL SOLUTIONS TO PARTNER WITH THE CITY'S MSP TO UPGRADE THE AV CAPABILITY OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS (I: COUNCILPERSON WALCHANOWICZ, COUNCILPERSON TOGLIATTI, COUNCILPERSON TRAKAS)

**Moved by Trakas, seconded by Veverka, to read by title only. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.**

**Moved by Narduzzi, seconded by Grendel, to suspend the rules. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.**

Councilperson Togliatti asked what is MSP?

IT Director Gibbs said it's a generic term for the service provider that Fairsite provides.

Councilperson Togliatti replied thank you.

Councilperson Trakas asked for a motion to amend to add the language that we were talking about in paragraph 3, not to exceed \$11,500. I would say in the opinion of the IT Department if the current microphones can be retrofitted and still effective for less than \$11,500, then that would be the preferred method.

Councilperson Narduzzi said but we have to take into consideration the cost of the new microphone, not just the installation cost, so it's got to be way less than \$11,500.

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Councilperson Trakas said we don't know that yet. I just don't know what the number is.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well we have the not to exceed \$11,500, and Jim knows what our concern is and what our hope would be and everything. I think we are fine here. It's in an open meeting that we discussed it. Jim knows what Council's wishes are.

Finance Director Blaze said I am sure once he has the decision, he will email all of you.

IT Director Gibbs said I could do that absolutely.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so I don't think we need the motion to amend. We will have an answer by Friday then.

Councilperson Trakas said I withdraw my amendment.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dave Grendel, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Chris Walchanowicz, Councilperson
<b>AYES:</b>	Grendel, Narduzzi, Trakas, Togliatti, Veverka, Walchanowicz, DiGeronimo

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN**

Vice Mayor Grendel asked now Vern are we on Page 25?

Finance Director Blaze said correct, yes.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Don has the floor here too.

Finance Director Blaze said the last thing we talked about was Brecksville Road North bridge aesthetics, right here in the middle of Page 25 and where we needed to pick up next was Brecksville Road Rockside to Sprague.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess we do get some assistance from the State on that, right Don?

City Engineer Ramm said we have reserved some money. Basically, it's just a resurfacing. It's an 80/20 most likely because it's a State route. That's probably a fraction of the overall cost and scope of the job.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is that the water line?

City Engineer Ramm said for sure, it's one of the oldest in town, so that will need to be part of the project, and then I think to Council's prevue relative do we want to continue the improvements that we are doing on Brecksville Road north of Rockside in terms of the full-blown streetscape look. We are replacing the curbs, replacing the aprons, new sidewalks, decorative street lighting, all those elements. If you want to carry that forward, the costs will go exponential, so it's just a matter of what we want to do, but for now because the job is out there a ways, it's hard to pin down on ODOT. They have that program, but it's at least 2026 is what I think. If not, further back.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it would seem like a job that you almost have to borrow for like we did

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for Rockside. The magnitude, and that would be impossible to finance it. Again, we probably want to, and the cost isn't getting any cheaper, but you probably want to do it the right way. It's been close to 20 years since it was last resurfaced.

City Engineer Ramm said we have been trying to figure that out. It was done before I took over.

Finance Director Blaze said John was here though, so it was at least from 2000 or after. He felt Brecksville's came out better than ours.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Brecksville spent a little more and got high quality.

Finance Director Blaze said here's a question then. It's hard to pin ODOT down, but you said at least 2026, so even if it's beyond that. Even if it's 2027, that's 5 years from now, and it's not very scientific, but I will ride my bike around the streets in town, and I have skinny tires so any bumps are magnified, and I was just on Brecksville Road Monday morning; and that's now in 2022. By 2027 we are going to have to do something stop gap prior to that because I can't see that road lasting another 5 years given it's current condition and being the main drag in town with the use of gaps.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked are you talking the center of town?

Finance Director Blaze said this is from Rockside Road. Where I rode was the center of town to Hillside.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said you can tell, it's starting to show its age.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Veverka asked Don how many years ago was the road patching done, was that 4 years ago?

City Engineer Ramm said that sounds right.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it's going to be a few years down the road before we are able to do that. We probably need some pricing on that too, how much we have to plan for it.

Finance Director Blaze said fortunately we put \$1,000,000 last year, and if this survives the 2022 process, so then we would have a second year. So, at least we would have \$2,000,000 to work with, either waiting all the way to 2027 or 2026 or using some or all of that to buy us some time until the big job comes. That is a decision to be made, but I guess it depends on what kind of pricing.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked when the State came in last year to fix this, they did a couple hundred feet there, do we have any control over that, or they just came and did what they thought had to be fixed up?

City Engineer Ramm said the City did that under one of our maintenance programs.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I thought it was the State.

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City Engineer Ramm said I am not aware of them being in town.

Vice Mayor Grendel said some of that was done with the gas line.

Finance Director Blaze said so he could have seen ODOT doing a different job.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I wasn't 100% guaranteed that was them, I might have saw ODOT trucks at one thing. I just thought it was them because people were complaining how it was done. I think everybody was blaming ODOT.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked how do you phase a job like this Don? Is it one project continuous, or can you take chunks at a time?

City Engineer Ramm said anything that is locally funded, we can direct and phase it as we so choose. I think the State would prefer to catch it all in our municipal limits or at least from Rockside, they would like to bite it off, but I think they probably would if we chose to split it up, give us a proration of the amount for the square footage and areas, probably no sooner than they were going to give it to us for, 2026. After that they would probably release it if we want it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Don so beside the pavement and the water lines, you mentioned other work like curbing and stuff like that too.

City Engineer Ramm said the stuff on the surface for sure. I think that's newer than the stuff on the north end of town. I think the stuff on the north end hadn't been touched in many years, but maybe the last time this section was resurfaced in the early 2000's, maybe there was a lot of curbing, aprons that maybe were done at that time so they are not in as bad condition. Maybe you don't need to do all those other things. We are going to have to look at internal conditions of the storm sewers, they are old. Maybe they need to be either replaced or re-lined. I am sure that we need to do some investigation leading up to the project.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think we need to see the full scope of what needs to be done, how much it's going to cost and maybe then Council could decide if they want to do it in segments or do you want to do the entire stretch from Rockside all the way down to Sprague. We need to know from a dollars and cents standpoint what we are talking about, and if we need to borrow, and when is the right time to borrow, sooner rather than later.

Finance Director Blaze said a couple of months ago when interest rates were down.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's another big thing too. There are a lot of factors, but we need to have preliminary information from the Engineer in order to know what we are talking about.

Councilperson Trakas asked so they would want to come in and do the whole street, is that what we were thinking?

City Engineer Ramm said that's generally, that's easier. It's more efficient that way, you could get better pricing when you are looking at full curb to curb long stretches.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is Brecksville on the same timetable? Last time they had it done at like the same time.

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Finance Director Blaze said close. Do they prefer doing different communities?

City Engineer Ramm said I am not sure they would have a preference. They deal in highways so I don't think it would even matter to them. It wouldn't be anything they would feel uncomfortable doing, much like they did back. I think it was the same duration but different contractors was what I understand when it was Brecksville's project and our project. It was just different asphalt.

Councilperson Togliatti said there was a clear division between the two communities and the color.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Brecksville Road is just as important as Rockside for our residents.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said with this project on the horizon, I think it's a great opportunity to do something downtown. Maybe it's not right to say Rockside to Sprague. I look at isolating Daisy to Selig or something.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said to do anything there and not look at the function of the street as the best use of that area, I would say that's a project in itself.

Councilperson Togliatti said and Don considering the fact that we are going to have to invest money temporarily to mill and fill some of these portions, would there be any consideration on ODOT's part to move this up or bump it up?

City Engineer Ramm said it would be the opposite. They might push it back. I would hope not, but I think the reason, the justification that we are going to do that because it's in bad shape and should have been done.

Councilperson Togliatti said we have had the ODOT scheduled date for Brecksville Road north of Rockside which has been pushed back numerous times, 3 years at least.

Finance Director Blaze asked pushed back by ODOT?

City Engineer Ramm said by us as we have been trying to get our ducks in a row and get that project to be what we wanted it to be. I think ODOT had it a couple of few years back.

Finance Director Blaze asked are they okay with that?

City Engineer Ramm said they kept pushing it back as they asked us how we are doing and where we would like it to be. They know we have other work that we want to include that's more involved, more complex, and the resurfacing is kind of on the tail end of the way out. They are okay with it. They have been so far.

Finance Director Blaze asked do you know in Parma on Ridgewood, is that ODOT involved or is that just strictly Cuyahoga County? I know they got some outside funding for that, but I bring that up just because I don't think we can let Brecksville Road get in the condition that Ridgewood did, but all Parma kept saying is it's a County job, and they were kind of at another

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public entity's mercy to get done. They would field all the calls for the terrible condition of the road, and they were probably the 20% contributors, so they didn't drive that bus. I don't think we could afford to wait until it gets that bad.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Vern is that correct we have \$1,500,000 set aside for the downtown?

Finance Director Blaze said we do. That was anticipating, but predominately the big cost if we are going to do downtown right is getting rid of the overhead power lines and the wooden utility poles which was a quite expensive part of doing Rockside Road the right way when it was done, but that money is there and can be reallocated for anything, but it's \$1,500,000.

Vice Mayor Grendel said a little different than Rockside when burying the utilities. For commerce I think it's much safer to have the utilities underground as far as any wind event or any other storms that could do damage. I don't know if that would be a good selling point to try attract somebody downtown if you have it.

Finance Director Blaze said it would probably get done in conjunction with development of that middle school property. I don't know if we could take it on completely ourselves, but it's probably something that lends itself to working out an agreement with a developer and the TIF and all of that. It's pretty critical.

We are on Page 25.

City Engineer Ramm said actually Vern I was hoping to go back and revisit some of the streets.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Mayor we were talking about the Brecksville Road project, we just got as far as there and then the downtown streetscaping and planning that so if we have to borrow or whatever, but I think that's a priority to have that done right. Don had mentioned that there would be water line work, curbing and gutters, a major investment on that. There would have to be borrowing to take place with that.

Councilperson Togliatti said so coming to year 2026 we would have \$7,000,000 for that project, and based on the cost of the Brookside project at \$5,500,000, we are going to need more. Realistically, what do you think that project would cost us if we were to do it today?

City Engineer Ramm said I think it would help if we go back to some of these other roads, I want to revisit the numbers. I think I might answer that question when you carry it forward and extrapolate to this next long stretch.

Finance Director Blaze asked are you going to add the numbers to the previous page?

City Engineer Ramm said that's what I'm looking at now.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said it's better we deal with it, it's better to have a better number up front than to have Don go through the bidding process, and then we hand you a recommended bid, and the engineer's estimate was here, and the low bid is up here. It's better that we just estimate right off the bat.

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City Engineer Ramm said on Page 22, the sheet that has Ash, Poplar and Midland at the top. Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said coming out of these ODOT meetings where inflation was off the charts, and I just wanted to get a better level of the original numbers that I am looking at plus inflation and particularly since these jobs are queued up for 2023, I felt that I needed to revisit these projects.

So, that Ashwood, Poplar, Willow will feel very much like the Lafayette subdivision in terms of resurfacing and water mains. The base pavement is in good shape. Curb and gutters are in nice shape. They were done not too too long ago, so they are very salvageable and in very good condition, but when you use those unit prices and add inflation, these numbers go up. I am looking at for 2023 for construction, the \$2,785,000 should be more like \$4,600,000, and then that means I need another (inaudible). That 2022, the \$265,000 might be a little light for engineering. I would like that number to be \$350,000, that would be the recommendation. That's using those prices from Lafayette, plus about a 33% increase with inflation. It's painful, but it's what we are seeing with some of these ODOT bids initially.

Then moving down to near the bottom on Kleber. That's another one on the program for next year. That wasn't as bad. The numbers were a little bit more current, but I think in 2023 it should be \$3,500,000 or \$2,000,000 in 2023 and \$1,500,000 in 2024 because I am sort of thinking that Kleber might go first, and we might be able to break Longano out second, but might hear pushback because of improvements on Brecksville Road.

Finance Director Blaze said so \$1,500,000 this year or \$2,000,000?

City Engineer Ramm said well \$2,000,000 in 2023, and \$1,500,000 in 2024.

Councilperson Togliatti asked and is Longano in a condition to last for 2 more years before this project?

City Engineer Ramm said I think so. Kleber is probably worse, so Kleber is getting the attention sooner. I saw the Service Department down there patching some holes a day or two ago.

Vice Mayor Grendel said at least I don't think you have to worry about sidewalks on that street at all, it makes no sense.

Councilperson Trakas said you can't on either one of those streets.

City Engineer Ramm said well it would be something to look at. These are going to be reconstructions so the ordinance as it reads reconstruction we take the opportunity to study the feasibility of sidewalks with respect to practical difficulties, right-of-way, the major reasons.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas asked is that a conforming street?

City Engineer Ramm said Kleber is narrow. Longano might also be.

Councilperson Trakas said neither one of them are conforming.

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City Engineer Ramm said that's probably why.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said Longano could grow because there is room down there at the end. I don't know who owns that.

Councilperson Togliatti said it's a pretty steep ravine back there. The Dalad Group owns that property.

Finance Director Blaze asked how about the engineering for \$200,000 in 2022.

City Engineer Ramm said because I believed you blocked out \$200,000 already, so \$400,000 should be enough. That covers those two subdivisions.

Meadowbrook is the last project on the page. EGD is looking at our RFP for the design build and working through some things, and \$350,000 might be a better number than \$300,000 for 2022 for that bridge/culvert.

There was \$200,000 already locked down in the prior year, I believe it was designated for the pavement. I'm not sure we could get it all done in one year because of the lead times for the structures for the precast culvert, depending on how we decide to build it. That was what the \$200,000 was for, and the \$350,000 was for the culvert, the standalone bridge/culvert.

Councilperson Trakas asked so this whole thing is \$550,000 now?

City Engineer Ramm replied right.

Councilperson Trakas said \$100,000 was a lot more palatable.

Finance Director Blaze said look at Kleber, that in itself is a seven-figure job, and there is no bridge. So, \$550,000 is (inaudible).

City Engineer Ramm said turning the page to the t-ball drive, we have \$200,000 already encumbered in 2020. We have seen some informal pricing on that road, it's probably getting to the point where it needs to be reconstructed. We might need to add another \$100,000 in 2022.

Vice Mayor Grendel said you said \$400,000.

City Engineer Ramm said oh really.

Finance Director Blaze said we could take \$100,000 away.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how about Second Street?

City Engineer Ramm said that one is out a little ways. I haven't had a chance to look at that. The water main will definitely need replaced.

Councilperson Veverka asked did we get any thoughts related to the cost of concrete versus asphalt? That was a question for the price of whether it got to the point where it might be equal?

City Engineer Ramm said I haven't had an opportunity to do that yet, but that is the thought for a few of these, to look at it both ways.

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Councilperson Trakas said if you could put more concrete and a little less, (inaudible) that might make a difference with some of them.

Councilperson Veverka said potentially (inaudible). It doesn't usually seem to work out that way in northeast Ohio.

City Engineer Ramm said now I think I'm ready to go back to Page 25.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so no commercial, nothing on Rockside?

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said Brecksville Road, north of Rockside, so again we are looking to update those numbers to count for inflation and given the fact that we think that project is going to be broken up yet in two more phases, one south of the intersection of AAA, going south to Rockside and then north of the bridge, it's kind of like it's own standalone job. I think we are going to have these numbers using Fabrizi, the price is coming out of the intersection job from a couple of years back, and add for inflation. Again, it's a project very similar and identical, resurfacing, water main improvements, streetscape elements, curbs, sidewalks.

Finance Director Blaze said the longer his prelude is, the higher the number is.

City Engineer Ramm said street lighting. So, those two numbers that are sitting there in 2023 and 2024, I think the two top numbers in 2023 is \$2,000,000 and \$3,500,000 in 2024. I think those both need to be \$3,500,000 in 2023 and 2024.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so \$7,000,000.

City Engineer Ramm said but with the caveat that it gets you from Rockside to just north of Longano looking at it is just really that segment of the project. I am hoping to be conservative but based on pricing and inflation.

Mayor Kurtz said and Rockside, the existing upgrade.

City Engineer Ramm said right, north of Longano.

Councilperson Togliatti asked \$7,000,000?

City Engineer Ramm said that's what I am thinking. It's a much better number than what is there. Then the inspection fee I would make that \$350,000 and \$350,000 instead of \$250,000 and \$250,000, the numbers are low.

Mayor Kurtz said you would add \$1,500,000 to 2023 and \$100,000 to each of the inspections.

City Engineer Ramm replied right.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so not only the materials and all that has gone up, the engineering.

City Engineer Ramm said I'm kind of using the same 10%. Again, I am hoping that is high.

The big intersection job, that job is pushing \$10,000,000. The inspection costs were \$750,000, so less than 10%. I think 10% is conservative.

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Finance Director Blaze said and then \$550,000 for engineering, would that work then?

City Engineer Ramm said that's the current E.L. Robinson contract that we have been kind of stretching them out on, so right now I don't think we need to revisit that, but there's a possibility.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so there's nothing even in the Cloverleaf area as far as construction. It would be nice that we can coincide with a project down there that would make sense then with the new pavement and everything, and then somebody is coming in 10 years from now.

City Engineer Ramm said in 2025 and 2026 I have additional numbers, looking at that northerly section, and that's looking like a \$4,000,000 job with \$2,000,000 and \$2,000,000 in 2025 and 2026, and \$200,000 and \$200,000 for inspections for those years.

It's about a \$4,000,000 project north of the bridge, so spread out over 2025 and 2026.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and how much for inspections?

City Engineer Ramm said \$200,000 and \$200,000.

Finance Director Blaze asked for the engineering?

City Engineer Ramm said we are going to stick it to E.L. Robinson, that many years out I am hoping that \$4,000,000 is high.

Councilperson Togliatti asked and has any of the engineering been done on that stretch of the roadway north of Rockside?

City Engineer Ramm said preliminary surveying because that was always part of the original scope from the Cloverleaf all the way to Rockside. So, initially surveyed preliminary with the water line alignments, and that's where we pretty much start shifting gears with the intersection job at AAA. We sort of (inaudible) with the uncertainty of the wider intersection there at Old Brecksville Road.

Finance Director Blaze said just north of the Cloverleaf where Cuyahoga Heights, Valley View, Brooklyn Heights and Independence all have some land area there, who is responsible for that stretch between there and the freeway, in between East 71st Street? Is that considered part of I-77? Or is that ODOT? Is that the beginning of Route 21?

City Engineer Ramm said it's still Brecksville Road, Route 21 all the way. We do it to the ramp to I-77. It's still a State route.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said ODOT should be the one that helps drive that thing, the upgrades, the County, that would be ODOT too up Route 17. So, technically the Cloverleaf is really ODOT. The County has managed that over the years.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked who cuts the grass and maintains the landscaping?

Mayor Kurtz said Valley View does their own corner, Independence does one corner. You see people on the northeast and southeast. Independence has the southwest, and I am not sure who

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has the northwest.

City Engineer Ramm said the corp. line is really crazy. I know the Police are really challenged. They asked for signs (inaudible).

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is the farthest north where they had that demonstration on the river there? That's still Independence.

Mayor Kurtz said the river and the horseshoe underneath, and it immediately moves over to Cuyahoga Heights and Valley View.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the old Value City was in Independence. At least we got accurate figures so we can be more realistic on our planning.

City Engineer Ramm said they are painful and not going in the right direction, expensive.

We talked about the downtown redevelopment, and I didn't have much to offer there, but at that point Councilperson DiGeronimo, when we are in there, we will patch the road.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said while we are on that Don, I think all of your projects are starting in 2023, so I don't know what you are going to do this year, but one thought there while we have Meadowbrook and I understand that one has increased from where it kicked off, if we are doing the apron on Meadowbrook, if we want to look at utilities. We have no Home Days, if we want to take a stab at various utilities from Meadowbrook to get you through the Square, that would be the easiest stretch.

Mayor Kurtz said the problem that everybody is having with utilities is trying to get the utilities to do anything on a timely basis. The major construction projects are working around utilities because they can't get approvals. So, it's become a real nightmare to try to get approvals for relocation, and I imagine this would take, probably do that (inaudible) this year, I would guarantee it would be a minimum of 2023 if we started today designing and asking for approvals.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said it would be an easy stretch as far as not interrupting businesses. You would get to do the Square at least.

Mayor Kurtz asked how long would it take to get approval for the design portion?

City Engineer Ramm said I know CEI went out of their way to tell us not too long ago that they were aerial electric company. They didn't want to hear about it.

Finance Director Blaze were they in 2000 when they buried them on Rockside?

Mayor Kurtz said it's going to be a longer journey than just going in there, how long would it take to even design plans?

City Engineer Ramm said that would all have to go through CEI because it's their main.

Mayor Kurtz said let's explore, at least find out from them how cooperative, a timetable. They could give us some estimate, and at least we can report back as to some type of timetable, even if

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we have engineering drawings ready, and then Council could decide of that's, rather than stabbing at it right now trying to figure out costs and a timetable.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said that would be a quick changeover for Meadowbrook.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked did we get contributions from some of utilities with the conduit and everything when we did Rockside back in the 2000's?

Mayor Kurtz said we got some money from the fiber companies.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I thought Greg was working on contracts.

Finance Director Blaze said the one we got from property owners over the years, the right-of-way.

Mayor Kurtz said so we didn't have to go through that dynamic.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I know we had different chambers in there.

Councilperson Togliatti said we did do an audit for our fiber conduit on Rockside Road to see if there were any trespassers, and I don't remember the outcome from that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I remember we had the Law Department look at it, we had some kind of money back, whether it be AT&T or some of them that used that conduit.

City Engineer Ramm said I thought this came up when we were entertaining burying within the limits of the intersection on Selig and 21. I believe the initial estimates were almost as much if not more than the intersection construction costs was. So, that was only 2,000 feet, so \$2,000,000; it was like \$1,000,000 every 1,000 feet. That was more of estimate.

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said you have to leave what is up there live, and you have to have real estate to put it in. It makes it complex. It's more involved than just putting cables in the ground.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Vern is any of that infrastructure from the Federal Government, none of that is available for any of these?

Councilperson Trakas said we haven't allocated all of it.

Finance Director Blaze said no, and most of the initial guidance from the Treasurer and the ARPA money, it was infrastructure related. It was focused more on the storm sewer for some reason. They did expand the scope of what that money could be used for, but if you saw the article in Sunday's paper I think it was, look nobody will look a gift horse in the mouth, and it's money from the Federal Government; but there are so many tentacles to it, a lot of communities are retaining consultants now to help them go through the process. I am not advocating for that so far, I think we can manage it on our own, but it's unfortunate that assistance in finances that it is so complicated that some cities are forced to hire consultants to help them prioritize and then make sure they are complying with the U.S. Treasury and other entities regulations. No, we

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didn't get the second tranche yet for 2022. We did get the \$375,000 for 2021, and I know you had a Utilities Committee meeting last June or July, and to your credit, you knew we were going to get \$750,000, and I think you probably working with Engineering, outlined \$750,000 worth of storm sewer projects that would comply with the use of that money. I will talk to Council about that a little more soon. I don't want to do it in this venue.

City Engineer Ramm said now the interchange gateway, that was money that we were hopeful to incorporate into the ramp widening project, the ODOT project. We felt like that would be the time to try to get that accomplished, but some of the nuances and challenges with ODOT and them changing their guidelines and guidance for what they would and wouldn't allow in their limited access right-of-way meter changes. It ended up pushing our landscape gateway project off. So, I think it's appropriate that the dollars are sitting still, nothing to add or change there.

The Hillside Road culvert, we just looked at that from a straight 33% inflation increase, and we are hoping to get the \$750,000 bumped up both in 2022 and 2023 to \$1,165,000.

Finance Director Blaze said that's pretty specific.

City Engineer Ramm said I tried, \$2,500,000 or \$2,800,000 was the overall project, and we just did 30%, and not being able to adjust the \$1,300,000.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked where is this project?

City Engineer Ramm said the water main will be from 21 all the way to Seven Hills, plus there is a large culvert that we have had occasion to have to fix. We had the section right opposite Vineyard that collapsed on us. It was the old rectangle corrugated metal pipe. So, it's a combination of the culvert and water line.

Councilperson Togliatti asked it can't be lined?

City Engineer Ramm said it's very odd, the bottom is in bad shape, but a precast box at the downstream end, and we did replace it with a corrugate metal pipe, emergency repair, because it was easy and quick, knowing that it would be temporary until this job came through.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked are we looking at next year for this job?

City Engineer Ramm said this one has been pushed many, many years, and we are hopeful to get it designed and bid out this year or next year.

Mayor Kurtz said this Hillside Road, I see culvert replacement. It's not a culvert replacement. It's a culvert replacement in addition to a water line.

City Engineer Ramm said it's mostly a water line with a little bit of the culvert section.

Mayor Kurtz asked did you factor in any of the undulation along Hillside Road? Or are you just going to put a new water line in, and someday resurface the whole thing? The safety issues between the culvert, it would be the culvert, Vineyard and Filip, that undulation. It has nothing to do with this.

City Engineer Ramm said we hired an engineering firm years ago, and they actually designed it,

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and we got some cost estimates. It was really expensive, and so we shelved it. I think we can resurrect those plans and try to see. Now would be the time.

Mayor Kurtz said the fact that it should be reclassified as a water line project. We should really see with Cleveland Water, look at our contract and see if there's any support. It's kind of like not fair to the suburbs to have to pay all that money for your water lines.

City Engineer Ramm said there's not a job we aren't doing, all these jobs we are talking about have water mains.

Mayor Kurtz said it's kind of the construction of the entire infrastructure, but this is one that is different though. It's really just a water line with a culvert. There is no real surface treatment upgrades.

City Engineer Ramm said but for if we are cutting up the road to put the water line in. It is a water main job.

Finance Director Blaze asked does the road surface need to be redone after all of this is done?

City Engineer Ramm said it got beat up pretty good with the sidewalk job that we did, and it's coming up on probably 10 or 12 years since it was resurfaced. It was done in 2011 or 2012, so it's coming up. With all the new Chestnut Woods subdivision.

Mayor Kurtz asked did Pulte have to put a bond up or something with working on that subdivision? I thought there was some money, or did we utilize that to upgrade the intersection at Hillside?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz asked could we look at the TIF as a vehicle to help fund the reconstruction of this?

Finance Director Blaze said all of this project is listed in the TIF. Realize the Chestnut Woods TIF, as good as it is, it's a residential TIF. It's not a commercial TIF. It doesn't spew off the dollars like a new office building will.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz asked Don are you saying the \$1,300,000, plus you are saying \$1,165,000 and \$1,165,000 for 2022 and 2023?

City Engineer Ramm replied yes, but again just for the water line and the culvert, I don't believe it included (inaudible).

Mayor Kurtz said realistically it is suggested that this is going to be done in 2022. I don't see it.

City Engineer Ramm asked 2023?

Mayor Kurtz said you said 2022.

City Engineer Ramm said for the engineering. That is the hope that we could get the engineers lined up and get them going on the design project that would be set to go in 2023.

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Finance Director Blaze said if you break it up in two years, then we have to come up with the whole amount.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked what do we have for construction this year?

City Engineer Ramm said it was pretty light but for the maintenance contract work and Meadowbrook and the t-ball drive, and the ramp project.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the one year you were able to do Cherry, Hemlock and that area there. Is there something we can take a look at and get something that doesn't take a lot of engineering. What we did there was fantastic for that area. If there is another area in town that we can utilize that for.

City Engineer Ramm asked as far as neighborhood resurfacing?

Councilperson Togliatti said Stone Road as I mentioned earlier is not on this plan, and it really needs help.

City Engineer Ramm said yes, it's better to incorporate those in our asphalt contract.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that would get us through a few more years.

City Engineer Ramm said I think we looked at a couple of the neighborhoods, Dora, Filip neighborhood and also Sunset, and what that would cost if we could get that funded this year. I think \$400,000 is allocated, budgeted in the contract, plus some unused funds in the old contract. We have some flexibility to do some work.

Vice Mayor Grendel said at least it will make them last a little bit longer, and be able to have something that we did this year. Like you suggested, that was a big plus for that area there.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked did you ever see what's inside the water lines on our streets? Like what it looks like in the piping? This was in front of my house two years ago. That's the bottom of the water line. So, all the water that goes into our houses.

Finance Director Blaze asked do you drink that water?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said the water company, they wouldn't even bathe in that water, the guy who fixed my water line.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked you didn't have any problems, or you did?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said there was a water main break right in front of my driveway. So, I filter my water like three times before it even hits the refrigerator or a faucet. So, that's just my street, let alone.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said the old copper lines.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked what's the average life, are these like 75 years old?

City Engineer Ramm said the ones on Brecksville Road are old, pushing 100 years.

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Finance Director Blaze said here's the question though. We are financially better off than a lot of other communities, but these other communities, their water line replacements, are they totally at the mercy of when Cleveland would get around to doing it and just patching them when they explode? Does anybody else have the financial wherewithal to take care of them prior to Cleveland?

City Engineer Ramm said I think communities have kind of given their system over to the Cleveland Water Department, and I don't know what that agreement looks like, you might be more apt to get some work done, but the problem with that is you get put into the whole system of evaluation in terms of the worst. So, I think you lose the ability to dictate what gets done when, so you are at their mercy. At least here, we can control local funds to decide when, but the problem is we have to pay for them. So, it's a trade off. I think OPWC is another venue, but traditionally we are not successful. That water line and culvert at Hillside, that was an OPWC grant. Kleber and Longano was a OPWC grant. We have applied, and we just don't score well. Not that they are not valid projects, they are crazy valid, they are the very intent of what that program is for, infrastructure replacements, it's just the other categories of scoring, we just don't do well.

Finance Director Blaze said they are at zero percent interest. We just have to pay the principle back.

City Engineer Ramm said we have even tried to tap into that source, and we were always told that not many communities, they are all looking for the free money and not the low interest loan or zero interest loans. We have heavily weighed our applications towards the loans, and even then we don't get those.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the last one was Pleasant Valley. We got the OPWC money.

City Engineer Ramm said yes, and there was a good reason for that because it was a County route and County initiative. When it's in the interest globally of the County, it's different.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked why do we score low? Is it because of us, or do they just rank us?

City Engineer Ramm said it's so competitive. It's very competitive. There is a limited amount of funding, and they look at the overall economic health of the community. So, that's one of the drivers.

Councilperson Trakas said the funds were intended for rural and poor communities, and really not intended for us. They opened it up years ago, and it's not our venue.

City Engineer Ramm said we have to have the right project at the right time. So, we have tried.

The next real projects here on the Five-Year Capital are Pleasant Valley, the interchange upgrades. That was to help with the overall efficiency of that area. The hope is that we could get some ODOT or NOACCA funding to help us with getting these approvals. Basically try to construct it, pretty much what we are doing on the I-77 ramps at Rockside, the driving ramps, combination dual turn.

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Councilperson Trakas said along those lines, I know Don we have talked about a little bit if there was any possibility that ODOT might be able to help us on Rockside. Was there any expectation that they could with some program dollars that they weren't going to use somewhere else?

City Engineer Ramm said they pretty much answered that question back, no.

Councilperson Trakas said because NOACCA said they don't want to help anybody with interchanges. So, it's really sickening how they have really taken a bend there.

City Engineer Ramm said the benefit we see at the Pleasant Valley interchange is the congestion and the traffic, the peak hours in the morning and in the p.m., rush hours, drastically improve with some efficiencies of the ramps, signals being able to allow more traffic at any given cycle. It does get pretty jammed up there two times a day.

Councilperson Veverka asked Don why do you suppose when they did all that work on the Pleasant Valley ramp coming southbound, they didn't push it out to two lanes then?

City Engineer Ramm said I just think ODOT didn't have it programmed. I do believe, I remember Dave Snyderburn arguing with Brian Blaney when that job was coming through town, arguing for that improvement because it was obviously needed, and they were right there.

Councilperson Veverka said and it backs up almost to Rockside.

City Engineer Ramm said how they treated it was they just added some shoulder widenings so now you can sneak cars through unofficially.

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said it got us what we needed, but not officially. It's better, but all it takes is one person who is a little bit not on their game to kind of jam everything up.

Finance Director Blaze asked is it striped so it could be two cars wide?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said people know that are going left to go left, they pull to the outside, and then the people going to the east.

Finance Director Blaze asked could they put some signage up there encouraging that, we won't ticket you for straddling the white line?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Togliatti said Don, the Patriot's Way, it says 2022, is that just a grind and overlay on that stretch there?

City Engineer Ramm said that's really a private little stretch behind the restaurants. I believe that is what it was designated for. I would probably treat it like that.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said it's getting awfully rough back there.

Councilperson Togliatti asked how about that cut through from Chase Bank there?

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Councilperson Walchanowicz said that's a joke. Is there a way to push on those companies because that road is terrible.

Mayor Kurtz said well we did once. I think right now we are looking at McDonalds. They have a projection to come in and put a double lane drive-thru. It complicates their footprint, the parking, but it also provides an opportunity for us to look at adding a lane. We have talked about this, but adding a lane on the south side of the intersection where PNC. So, we are trying to review that and see if from an engineering standpoint to widen that. What happens is when one person goes straight, it just stops all the traffic. So, if you added a lane, if you pull everything a little bit north, add another turn lane where people could just turn out and a dedicated straight through line. You would have your dedicated left lane. They own that property too, McDonalds, not the bank. So, we are looking to see if there's a way to modify that tight area on that side of the street, and then ideally you would have the same thing on the other side of the street because the dedicated lane again stops anybody from turning right on red. It's more of a challenge. It might be an opportunity, so we are looking at that.

City Engineer Ramm said that road is pretty beat up, by Red Robin.

Mayor Kurtz said whoever owns that property, they need to resurface that. So, we are going to reach out to Milstein and ask them what their strategy is on that. I think during emergency situations in the winter, we may have thrown some cold patch. It was dangerous because you try to make that turn to Panera, to the bank, and it was that area there. I think we may have thrown some cold patch there on a temporary basis just to eliminate a potential hazardous situation, but it needs to be resurfaced. So, we will reach out to them and ask them when they are going to do that.

City Engineer Ramm said (inaudible) Panera.

Mayor Kurtz said that might be a joint use type thing where everybody contributes that owns.

Finance Director Blaze said I don't know which Milstein owns that.

Mayor Kurtz said we should find that out and reach out to them.

Finance Director Blaze said Jeff Milstein. There's a Jeff and Gary. They actually owned that property (inaudible). Jeff was always the one that represented them in front of the City.

Mayor Kurtz said we will reach out to try and see if we could find out.

Councilperson Trakas said it was a Volkswagen place before that.

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said Rockside corridor maintenance, that's really just designated for concrete slab replacements, catch basin repairs and anything on Rockside Road because of the eligibility there. It's been a couple of years since we have done anything up on Rockside. I think it's time. The joints are starting to widen out, and it's ready to tap into that money, probably incorporate it into our concrete road program.

Mayor Kurtz said you are going to do that at 4:00 in the morning.

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City Engineer Ramm said or on weekends.

Mayor Kurtz said there's a lot more traffic there all of a sudden.

Vice Mayor Grendel said getting back to Patriot's Way, is there some way we can do something at least because that's been neglected.

Mayor Kurtz said I have to find out who owns that.

City Engineer Ramm said it's not us. It's part of the restaurants.

Mayor Kurtz asked are you sure?

City Engineer Ramm said I'm positive. We own the portion that's concrete, Oak Tree North to West Creek.

Councilperson Trakas said that's still in good shape.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said first we will determine who is responsible. If they are responsible, they may let us do it under our contract and just reimburse us.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if we could get ahold of them.

Mayor Kurtz said let's try one of them. That was in the early 2000's. Everybody has to be responsible, so we will follow up on that.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked that Rockside Road bridge lighting, is that with Valley View, and we talked about it. Dr. Asseff was very angry about that. Is it ever going to go through?

City Engineer Ramm said that's a County bridge project, and they keep oscillating it or changing it with Pleasant Valley bridges. It keeps changing priority.

Vice Mayor Grendel said because Valley View asked us for money even though it really didn't benefit us.

Mayor Kurtz asked wasn't it designed?

City Engineer Ramm said I don't know if it got that far.

Mayor Kurtz said I thought it was approved.

City Engineer Ramm said that's Old Rockside, and this is Rockside.

Mayor Kurtz asked were they still going to do that project?

City Engineer Ramm said there's a little bit of work to do with utility relocation first. We have noticed that CEI put new poles up.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said by the way Don when they take out Old Rockside, they are going to have a portable bridge there. It's going to be pretty cool. They take the portable bridge, they put it in,

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they demo the existing bridge, put the new bridge in and take out the portable bridge. It's pretty cool to watch.

City Engineer Ramm said that's why it's so expensive.

Mayor Kurtz said that's the one with the lawsuit. They tried to say it was our responsibility.

City Engineer Ramm said relative to the lighting, because so many years have passed, and with inflation, the lighting when we do resurrect this project, they will be asking for more. So, I don't know if you want to start throwing money in it or not. I just put it out there.

Vice Mayor Grendel if money is tight, why are we spending money for something like that.

Mayor Kurtz said well this is the first run through of this guys. It's going to set in pretty soon.

City Engineer Ramm said a lot of these projects have funds that are already covered with P.O.'s

Heritage, there are values there, unless there's a desire to advance that project sooner. That's to extend Heritage from currently the Embassy parking lot and extend it out to Rockside Woods Blvd. That is what that project is.

Councilperson Togliatti asked do we have the engineering completed on that?

City Engineer Ramm said well we started it. We got a little bit ways along, and it just ran out of steam, and we didn't follow through with the right-of-way. There was going to be a donation. I think Cox Cable owns most of that land, and it just stalled. Then there were discussions about sidewalks, the street lights, what the project was going to end up being; so it just got put on the back burner.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Don the \$958,000 that we have in Purchase Orders, how much of that will be utilized?

City Engineer Ramm said I was looking at a lot of those. E.L. Robinson still has some money, but all of it is going to be needed when we wrap up the Brecksville Road design.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked could we shift some of that money for other projects?

Mayor Kurtz said well we will never have enough money for this project Don.

City Engineer Ramm said I can't imagine where that's out (inaudible).

Mayor Kurtz said it's the \$958,000 right. We should look at that. Come back to us with something. Why don't you look at that.

City Engineer Ramm said the Rockside Woods North street light and sidewalks (inaudible). Basically, when we budgeted, we were looking to build a 5 foot sidewalk just on the west side, the Embassy side. Now we are talking about 6 feet, and potentially on both sides. There are a lot of people who walk on that street.

Mayor Kurtz asked are you sure 6 feet is enough? Okay, it sounds like 6 feet is enough.

Several people began speaking at once again.

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Vice Mayor Grendel said we should with that CBIZ project going in there. We are going to have a ton of people walking up and down that road.

Councilperson Togliatti asked is that a project we could potentially get done this year?

City Engineer Ramm said I think we can do it in phases. I was proposing to make it \$225,000 and \$225,000 where you see \$135,000 and \$135,000 and populate another \$225,000 in 2024. There are already street lights there. They are old, and we want to continue the decorative black street lights by Topgolf, that lighting.

Vice Mayor Grendel said you would like to have that all match up because that's our big thing now.

Mayor Kurtz said that's true. Council is right, they are all about the walking trails, so I think it's important.

City Engineer Ramm said we actually put it in as an alternate bid to put that 5 foot walk in the 2020 concrete program. So, actually that \$135,000 was from that bid, but knowing the increased pricing, it was only 5 feet. So, now we are going 6 feet on both sides of the street.

Finance Director Blaze asked how wide is the one on Oak Tree South?

City Engineer Ramm said that's probably 10 feet.

Councilperson Veverka said well there's two-way traffic though.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked how did you like in the pandemic staying 6 feet apart on the sidewalk and people were walking on the grass?

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said I thought Rockside was 5 foot and then its 2 foot brick pavers, which was more like 6 or 7 out there on Rockside.

Finance Director Blaze said if we took a little tour right now and walked down to the front of City Hall and walked around the corner, Selig this whole area, it's terrible, absolutely terrible.

Councilperson Veverka said they get (inaudible) like crazy.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said we will have to replace them or come up with a different strategy.

City Engineer Ramm said we were just looking at legislation to see, the question came up was if we have to do a water main. That water main was put in 1998 or 1999 in advance of the major street project, the sewers, but that whole road, it has been 22 or 23 years now. Those brick pavers probably went in 20 years ago.

Mayor Kurtz said they are original.

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City Engineer Ramm said they have seen their time.

Finance Director Blaze said I don't know if it's the pavers themselves, they undulate, and now weeds and grass are growing through them.

Councilperson Veverka asked is there a lot of maintenance on them?

Mayor Kurtz said you almost have to pour a slab and do it right.

Finance Director Blaze said that sidewalk in the middle of Oak Tree, I know it can't be that wide. The one benefit there is that it is so wide, you don't use the whacker, the bombardier. I think the Service Department just runs a 150 or 250 down there and takes care of it.

City Engineer Ramm said and that was the intent.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it's really utilized too. I have seen a lot of people.

Mayor Kurtz said it's the future, trails and other things we would like to talk about. Council allocating some funds, or at least consensual for trails through the City. That way you can look at them and bring them back, have some idea. First, a concept, and then if Council says this area makes sense, then we allocate funding for engineering, and then we could do the construction portion.

Vice Mayor Grendel said you have that EPA and all of that, that's what we spent a lot of money with all the preliminary work that was on there.

Finance Director Blaze said that's new trails like Hemlock Trail and that, but I think the best way we can get the best bang for our buck is we have an existing sidewalk network in town already, and not every street lends itself to it, but using some of the main streets, and instead of rebuilding with a traditional 5 foot sidewalk, they can get the trail because every article you see that talks about trails it uses the word connectivity or connect all through it. So, it's great to have some, okay we will build some trails for off-road bikes down off the Hemlock Trail or something, but it's all about connectivity.

Mayor Kurtz said it's a different strategy.

Finance Director Blaze said we already have sidewalks, to me that's what we can make the best leverage.

Mayor Kurtz said looking from a concept standpoint, bring it back to Streets or Utilities and start talking about realistically allocating some funding for engineering. After we do the concept, if we have authority for the concept, then engineering and design build and just construct them.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it would be nice to connect with the downtown area too.

Mayor Kurtz said there are all kinds of locations. We should just throw a map on the table and everybody can play, put your trail in.

Councilperson Veverka said the other problem with the sidewalks though we have legislation that you are not supposed to bike on them.

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Finance Director Blaze asked really?

Mayor Kurtz said that's why we call them trails.

Councilperson Veverka said what I am saying are the sidewalks, it is legislated that you are not supposed to ride your bike on the sidewalk.

Finance Director Blaze asked in Independence?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said change the law.

Councilperson Veverka said that's why I brought it up. I was as illegal as anybody else when I was campaigning because going out on Brecksville Road and some of these other roads, it was nuts. Pleasant Valley, hey guess what, my bike is on the sidewalk.

Finance Director Blaze asked does Debi list you as the introducer for the May Council meeting amend that ordinance?

Councilperson Veverka said the only thing I would say is if bicycles are legal on the sidewalk, you need to yield to pedestrians, but the sharrows are nice, but people are nuts. Particularly on that section from Rockside up. They are totally crazy. The lanes are narrow, and it's nuts. The other portions you have to dodge around sewer gratings and things like that. You know as well as I do.

Finance Director Blaze said you don't want kids on the sharrows anyways, you want them on the sidewalks.

Councilperson Veverka said absolutely.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Veverka said Mayor you were on the sidewalk with your bike right?

Mayor Kurtz said I went in the road, I went off the road.

Councilperson Veverka said off roading, you have those big tires right.

Just a question Don while we are on a little tangent here. We have that agreement related to replacing the lights in the light fixtures. What about the decorative lights we have in those new sections? That is not connected to that correct?

City Engineer Ramm said it was my understanding when we build those, those are 100% City assets because they are unique and special and typically higher end, and all the decorative street lights, my understanding is we fund them to build them, and forever maintain them.

Councilperson Veverka said well the reason I go back to that is when you are talking about burying utilities, then you have to put up the decorative lights instead of the lights that are up there, and then you are dealing with, that's another additional item that you have to maintain. They are ours, we are stuck with them. So, every one of the pole lights we take down because the poles disappear is an additional cost forever as compared to the pole lights.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Don, there's only one item on Page 28.

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City Engineer Ramm said the West Creek trunk sewer. It's the sewer under I-480, knowing that it's an 18 or 20 inch sewer. It's the sewer that takes all the flow from that side of I-77 and Rockside and West Creek, Patriot's Way. We have the northwest quadrant that ultimately will tie this development, the sewage will come to this same trunk line. There is no real good way to assess the condition of that sewer because of the flow that's in it. So, this was just a thought to build it.

Mayor Kurtz said you know what we would like to do Council at some point in time consistent with this, we should at least take the engineering while we can and look at the northwest quadrant, the sanitary at some point. We couldn't develop our property there if we wanted to without the sanitary sewer network. So, we should consider. We will put a rough draft of something together for Council to review, and then you could determine if you would like to invest some planning funds for the northwest quadrant.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked what's the status of that lawsuit? Anything new on that?

Mayor Kurtz said one thing we should do is look at the possibility of infrastructure, looking at conceptually the infrastructure, and then I know it's an assessment, 40% our property and 60% for the adjoining property to do an assessment for the infrastructure to put sewers, roads, the utilities. That's the assessment formula for that area. So, I think we ought to just look at a concept so that if in fact there is an opportunity, we are at least within striking distance of doing something consistent with the design build plan if somebody would come in with something. So, we should look at that today rather than wait, and come up with an investment strategy. So, maybe we will rough that up because if we don't do anything and an opportunity comes our way, we won't be ready. At least if we have some engineering design plans or some expectation, at least people will know that we are thinking down the road to come up with an investment strategy as in an engineering strategy. Does that make sense?

Vice Mayor Grendel said it sure does because now like the northeast section has been taken with Rockside Woods North, that's pretty much, that's the last piece. You would like to look into the future, that would be the northwest quadrant.

Mayor Kurtz said at least we would have some framework of the utilities necessary to assess it or design build it. We will put together a framework of the costs to go from concept to at least some engineering because I know that there's tied into this, we have to have sanitary for that property.

Finance Director Blaze asked should we re-allocate the money that is currently appropriated, that \$143,000 or are we talking about allocating a whole other line item for the northwest quadrant engineering and trying to appropriate additional funds?

Mayor Kurtz said I would use it for both because this is going to be just a partial cost for engineering.

City Engineer Ramm said it will be more than the encumbered funds for 2022.

Mayor Kurtz said get all the engineering. That way we will do our concept, look at that and then do the engineering. We will put that together. If it's okay with Council, we will look at this as

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wholistic for the northwest quadrant rather than just a sewer and trunk line.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I agree.

Mayor Kurtz said okay Don, do you have that one?

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked Don what's the path of this sewer?

City Engineer Ramm said well right now this sewer is really parallel right next to the one that's presently there. It's under I-480, it's where the CEI towers cross over.

Mayor Kurtz said the lower section of West Creek. All the way down at West Creek at the bottom.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said it's right at the bottom of the gully and goes underneath I-77. It ends up somewhere by (inaudible).

Councilperson Togliatti asked so that sewer just doesn't have the capacity to handle future growth?

City Engineer Ramm said I am not saying that as much as it's just the condition. It's been there a while and knowing how that sewer under I-77, how bad that was, and that one we were able to televise because of the low periods of flow. It was only an 8 inch, and this thing is 18 inches. It's a bigger pipe.

Mayor Kurtz said you are going to bore that anyways. What was the size of the one we bored underneath? Was it 12 or 18?

City Engineer Ramm said it was 16.

Mayor Kurtz said so we would just put it right next to it here.

City Engineer Ramm said we would check. We would want to make sure. I have to believe that the 18 was sized.

Finance Director Blaze can you entertain on camera to ascertain that?

City Engineer Ramm said typically you bypass pump, you take the sewage somewhere while you televise, but there is nowhere to take it.

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said we never tried. It would be quite an endeavor and probably cost a lot. We could take those funds and put it into a redundant sewer.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it's at a good point. It's getting near 5:00 p.m. Do we stop here at Page 28 and pick up tomorrow?

Finance Director Blaze said that would just leave the engineering for the miscellaneous projects there on Page 29 and then real estate on Page 30.

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Mayor Kurtz asked are you stopping at 5:00 p.m. because you have something going?

Vice Mayor Grendel said we said two hours.

Mayor Kurtz said we are going to have to change up our format for tomorrow. I know we have time allocated for tomorrow, but we are going into Executive Session tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we did approve that one piece of legislation today, so we didn't keep it on First Reading, for the Council Chambers. That's been approved.

Mayor Kurtz said this is for legal issues.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked was that on the agenda?

Mayor Kurtz said for tomorrow, it's not going to be a decision tomorrow. Actually, we are going into Executive Session. I think it was posted.

The Clerk said the meeting is posted. I just need to add the Executive Session. I did not know if I had to add that piece of legislation, but since it was voted on today, I don't need to put it on the agenda for tomorrow.

Mayor Kurtz said just check to see if we can go into Executive Session tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if we could do Page 29.

Mayor Kurtz said if it's okay with Council, we can keep going.

City Engineer Ramm said Page 29 starts with the Cuyahoga River Army Corps project. I don't have anything to add to that. Just trying to set up our 35% share.

Vice Mayor Grendel said (inaudible) Valley View on that. Remember they sent us that letter.

Mayor Kurtz said we had a conference call last fall I believe, Valley View, Independence, the engineers, the Army Corps. The Army Corps outlined the logic behind and the dynamic and engineering behind the project that they are going to build in Independence. Valley View obviously was concerned about flooding. They went on record with a letter to the City. The Mayor has an engineering background, so he let the Army Corps explain in detail to the Engineer from Valley View which was Bohning. It was the Mayor, myself and whoever else was on the line, the impact of this project on Valley View, primarily the residents; and all said and done, it's a minimal impact, insignificant impact based on their engineering studies. So, that was the last conversation we had.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so that issue is diffused?

Mayor Kurtz said it was explained in detail to the engineers. I thought the engineers in Valley View did a real nice job, asked the appropriate questions. The engineers from the Army Corps did a nice job explaining, and all said and done, insignificant impact. I haven't heard anything else. I could follow up on that, but I think there was an increased comfort level. I am not sure there's agreement, but there's an increased comfort level that the Army Corps engineering analysis was a major factor in why they funded this project. Were you on there Don?

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City Engineer Ramm replied yes.

Finance Director Blaze asked is Bohning the engineers for Valley View?

Mayor Kurtz said yes. I think they answered all of their questions. They were definitely concerned what was going to happen to adversely impact them. We went on record that we would want to participate anyway. So, that was the last conversation. I didn't hear anything after that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Mayor.

City Engineer Ramm said so no change there. Those amounts in 2022 and 2023, although again with the economies of things and inflation, when the Army Corps gets further along in their design, and when they get to the point to bid the job out, I am sure there will be a revisiting of the total cost for this project. That is still always away.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked will that be bid out next year?

City Engineer Ramm said we had always asked them to push it behind our bridge job, the Rockside Road bridge which is still just getting going. So, I think we were thinking 2024 or 2025 was when that flood wall would start, which would be right about when the bridge job is wrapping up.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and all that discussion started in 2006 wasn't it when we had that big flood?

Finance Director Blaze said the pace of Government, two speeds, slow and slower.

City Engineer Ramm said the stormwater compliance, that's pretty standard. We have funding every year for our stormwater program partnerships and then memorandums of understanding with the Stormwater Conservation District. No changes proposed there.

I and I, inflow and infiltration, that money has been getting squirreled away. We have some areas in town that we would like to start to pool that money to make some improvements. We intend to start tapping into it, but have no changes proposed for any of those values.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked you just have \$50,000 right now?

City Engineer Ramm said correct. There was \$50,000 put away last year.

Rockside Road is just there because we have a revolving fund there with all the accounts. Cuyahoga County reimburses us for all the expenditures for that job.

Finance Director Blaze said you still have to front the money, you have to appropriate and everything. It's good to know we have a backup.

City Engineer Ramm said we tapped into this \$75,000 for the retaining wall. It is going to get moved forward. I wrote \$50,000 for 2022. That's when we cut that P.O. for Geotech.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so \$125,000 altogether?

City Engineer Ramm said yes, I believe so.

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Councilperson Trakas asked which retaining wall was this for?

City Engineer Ramm said the timber retaining wall on the south side of Pleasant Valley just west of I-77, the southbound entrance ramp.

Mayor Kurtz said it's been there for as long as I can remember.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said real estate acquisitions as far as Concordia situation.

Mayor Kurtz said right now I will update you tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Grendel said okay then.

Finance Director Blaze said that's about a third of the number listed for 2022, and then I believe we had \$1,000,000 listed for 2021 that did not get encumbered with a purchase order so that's why it was added to that for 2022, and it was generally to finish off the (inaudible) piece, the residential piece that was on the north side of Stone Road, the City's property.

Councilperson Trakas asked we had \$1,000,000 that we were carrying over?

Finance Director Blaze said no, this would be a total new encumbrance. I would say a third of that is the property that you just inquired about Vice Mayor, if that deal goes, we need about a third of that, \$1,500,000 for that purchase alone, let alone anything on the north side of Stone or any adjacent properties. So, it's not an unrealistic number.

Mayor Kurtz said we will go through that tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked anything further on the ODOT property?

Finance Director Blaze said we still don't own it yet.

Mayor Kurtz said they apologized for the confusion on their part.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we will need to set aside some money there to make that functional or usable.

Finance Director Blaze said the check for that one has been written already.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we will probably know a little bit more after that meeting as far as that.

Finance Director Blaze said no, but it could start the allocation and prioritization process.

Councilperson Trakas said we are over by a few million.

Finance Director Blaze said a little more as of today. It is what it is. We joke about it, and we think it's a bad thing, but I think a personal home budget, private sector business, any public sector entity, there is always a finite amount of resources, even if that finite number is very large. There is always a great amount of uses for those finite uses. So, the process of allocation is nothing unique to Independence. It is every other public sector entity, they are doing it, they have

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to do it, and I think a lot of them would like to at least have the numbers we have to work with that we could afford to fund internally every year. You can tell that a lot of cities have let the operating budget grow so much that there is not just a lot left after debt services for capital purchases and infrastructure projects. So, I think we are in a good position that way. We want to do a lot, and that's good, but there's a finite amount of money, so that will be a good project for tomorrow after Executive Session discussion topics.

Councilperson DiGeronimo asked Don with all the engineering work and work that has to happen on the front end, at the beginning of the year you had hoped to add some staff to your team. How is the process going?

City Engineer Ramm said there was a little bit of a setback in the one position. I just talked with Bridget, and we will post another Engineering Tech, so we do hope to still make that happen.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said but the goal would be to help to do some of this engineering in-house.

City Engineer Ramm said to better manage it, better oversee a lot of the work that is going on, both from engineering and construction.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked right now what's the staffing at the Engineering Department?

City Engineer Ramm said well we did bring on Amy Stacy, she is the replacement full-time for the Office Coordinator position when Janine retired. That was really just a person, body for body there, but last September we brought on Jacob Dean as an Engineering Technician. He is an Akron University graduate, Civil Engineer, and we were still hopeful to get another Engineering Tech, more of an inspector type individual with some experience and that didn't pan out. That's the position we are going to be advertising.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked would it reduce some of our inspection fees that way?

City Engineer Ramm replied yes.

Mayor Kurtz asked are we going to go into Executive Session first tomorrow?

Debi, does it matter if we go into Executive Session first?

The Clerk said no, you can go into the Executive Session first if you would like.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we will start at 3:30 p.m.

Finance Director Blaze said if Council wants to get a jump on things, you see the one page for 2022. Vice Mayor this would be right up your alley because you are the one with the multi-colored highlighters. For the amounts listed, maybe just in your head, if it was just your decision only, green or little check or dot or highlight the ones that you would definitely say we have to do this in 2022. Maybe a yellow like it could go either way. Red, I can't see that happening in 2022. That way you have a little jump on all of us putting some thought that if it was solely up to us, how would we make the numbers work. Then our task would be to get all of our input to put it into a document that has a consensus to it.

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Councilperson Togliatti said Don the one project that I noticed that you moved along with Stone Road was the Poplar outfall. It doesn't appear to be on this document anymore.

City Engineer Ramm said yeah, it was a separate standalone little project. I think it was a \$50,000 expenditure, and we thought that we would just incorporate that into the actual Poplar major improvement project since there is going to be a lot of focus, energy, resources there, we would capture that. Whatever the need was. I think it was an erosion issue. An outfall was on the east end of North Ash or then north end of Poplar. We could incorporate that into the project.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Vern we should look over all the items on this?

Councilperson Togliatti said it's going to be over \$5,000,000 that we have to cut.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Togliatti asked so that would be added to the \$4,290,000?

Maggie Osysko said right.

Councilperson Trakas asked how much did we add today?

Councilperson Togliatti said \$425,000.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said the total is \$12,875,000.

Councilperson Trakas asked how much do we actually have?

Finance Director Blaze said to explain that sheet, it's across the top, all the capital infrastructure projects. There are five. That's the amounts that are appropriated into each fund this year, \$12,875,000 total, and then the first one-fifth of the page, say above this line, and projects already committed. That's legislation that has been adopted.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we don't have any flexibility there.

Finance Director Blaze said no, that's done. Every time we pass an ordinance, we are committing to that, so that's spoken for. That leaves the balance remaining for the rest of 2022, \$1,700,000 in the capital fund, \$2,300,000 street resurfacing. So, we have about \$8,000,000 to work with, but if you look at the bottom, everything below that line as of this morning totaled \$12,400,000. We have to add a little bit, so that's going to total a little bit more.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said so we are pushing \$5,000,000 that we have to.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so we have to cut about \$5,000,000 from there?

Finance Director Blaze said I don't want to use the word cut, we either have to remove or it has to be taken to the right, or Council has to make a decision like if there's so much on the bottom portion of this page that it is important, and we can't get that number to zero, so that represents money that we can fund internally. If Council wants to borrow \$1,000,000, \$2,000,000,

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\$4,000,000, pick a number to do more, that's entirely an option. That's a big deviation right now, but it's entirely an option. I just caution you to look at the version of each document. As much of a decision we have to make for 2022, 2023 is like a decision that is double that magnitude. So, right now there's \$26,000,000 plus worth of projects, and we just added some in 2023 this afternoon. If I am comfortable telling everybody at this table, look we can fund internally \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 a year based on our past income tax collections, we will see how it's going forward. We have a number sitting there at \$26,000,000, well there's a big gap there. So, as much as we have to put our thinking caps on for 2022, we really have to put it on for 2023.

Mayor Kurtz said we should focus on 2022 as we are prioritizing because we are here now, and 2023 we have to look at that as a second, next because realistically we are not going to do all those projects. We are not going to do over \$20,000,000 in capital improvements. It's not in the cards, unless Council wants to borrow. So, we have all these projects scheduled for 2023, and 2023 comes along and you say hey it's on your list to do this road project. I said go talk to the Streets & Sidewalks Committee, just kidding.

Councilperson Veverka asked Vern what's the money right now? You threw out the idea of just borrowing. If we were to go out today for \$1,000,000, and I am picking that number out of the air, what is the municipal rate that you would end up paying? You are watching it all the time I assume.

Finance Director Blaze said a one year note BANS are going up. Last week 3 cities in Ohio, 2 of them Grove City, 1.90% one year BAN. Keep in mind, when we did our refinancing in 2020, we locked in for 15 years at 1.6%, so that one year rate has already jumped where we locked in, so that's proving to be an excellent decision. I thank Council for that support at that time.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked what was it last year that we locked in at?

Finance Director Blaze said at the end of 2020 actually.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so had we waited and gone with the one year.

Finance Director Blaze said it was 1.9% last week, Kirtland went out to market yesterday for a one year BANS 2.05%. It's just like up, up and up.

Mayor Kurtz said and what did you find (inaudible), you can sleep at night.

Finance Director Blaze said sleep better knowing that it is locked in.

Councilperson Veverka said it's a proportional increase.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Veverka said it's a proportionate increase in our savings.

Mayor Kurtz said so realistically 2022 has to be the focus, and 2023 has to be realistic.

Finance Director Blaze said we are going to go through this in the fourth quarter anyway, and I really hope we can devote the time fourth quarter, starting as early as September and go September, October, November and December to do this whole process we have been doing, the

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operating budget and capital. My goal since it's not an election year and there's no term switching, we have the Five-Year Capital Plan and the 2023 Appropriation Ordinance on the December Council meeting agenda for adoption and be ahead of it instead of trying to push like we are now.

Vice Mayor Grendel said things could change so rapidly like you say, you almost have to meet on a regular basis. What we talk about today, a month from now might be obsolete even.

Councilperson Trakas said obviously one of the biggest problems we have is almost everything we are talking about has money set aside from previous years and the next year.

Finance Director Blaze said valid point, that kind of commits you. What we are going to do if Chief Rega, he's buying an expensive piece of equipment a couple of years out. He has put some money away already, and he needs to keep putting it away. What are we going to do, stop that midstream? It's an important task, but you have read by writings, and I will quote Warren Buffet again. He's worth \$90,000,000,000, and he is 93 years old and is the Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, tons of companies. They asked him what do you spend the most time, what's your primary job, and he goes I allocate capital. That's the task we have here.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we are looking at this, and we have to have close to \$5,000,000 to, not to eliminate, but at least.

Finance Director Blaze said it can't all go to 2023 because 2023 is over.

Councilperson Trakas said if you just didn't do the streetscape and Brecksville Road, that's \$2,000,000, but they have to be done. There is no low hanging fruit I guess.

Finance Director Blaze said that's probably the easiest. You could be tempted to say hey real estate acquisition don't do that, but anybody is sniffing around the middle school piece, and it would make a project that much more viable to have those 4 homes on Stone Road included, having us on the front end of that curve would help that process instead of telling a developer that we will work with you, but you have to go buy it. It could happen. We don't have to get involved, but that will just take more time.

Councilperson Trakas said so some of this might be predicated on tomorrow's discussion.

In terms of vehicles, if you try to delay vehicle purchases like we do sometimes, it doesn't add up to a lot, but it has to start somewhere.

Mayor Kurtz said I think Vern made a very valid point. Everybody going through it with Dave give us some of your markers would you. Some are green, some are yellow and some are red.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said it's the easiest way if everybody around the table has a cell highlighted in green, okay that decision is pretty easy, but the problem is if everybody greens everything, then we are still over.

Councilperson Trakas said you can't nibble, you can't say let's cut everything by 10% because that's not a real world allocation.

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Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said the Directors are playing their part.

Vice Mayor Grendel said what's happening with the world situation, a year ago you wouldn't think about Ukraine and everything that is going on there, and all this stuff that we have no control over, but we are going to pay the price for the pandemic.

Finance Director Blaze said I remember you asking about the ODOT and some improvements there. If you look at the Page 16 notes, I do have the ODOT property fence at \$55,000, so we did because we discussed it at one of the meetings, I tried to get that in there to be pretty accurate of what we are discussing here.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well I guess tonight we have our work cut out for us. We will take a look at this.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said the other question I had, were there operational funds that we are saving (inaudible)?

Finance Director Blaze said that's a good question, and I will take a stab at it and the Mayor can jump in. There is always the hope that we over prorated the operating budget and that there are some funds there that could eventually be transferred over to capital and infrastructure. That is the hope. I can't guarantee it because an appropriation sets the maximum amount that can be spent, and the spending is controlled by all of us; but you have done your job with the appropriations. Now it's the administration okay how are we going to manage this budget. So, the ball is kind of there to see if we can have a little bit of wiggle room there from the operating budget to transfer to the capital budget.

Councilperson Trakas said and you are only 5 months into it.

Mayor Kurtz said the reality is it's too soon. Everyone knows the sensitivity, the flexibility we have to have because we programmed that based on this discussion relative to revenues. So, we are trying to be very nimble with this process.

Finance Director Blaze said if nobody is in a hurry, I have a two minute Mike White budget story I found very interesting. He was the Mayor of Cleveland for a long time, and Council kept talking a budget that called for more spending than he wanted. It's usually the other way around, the Administration is proposing more than what the legislative body wants to support. It's the other way around, and he finally signed the budget that Council, he felt was to the point, and they asked him why did you sign that budget if you don't agree with it and you think it's going to be too much spending? He had the greatest answer. He goes because Council could appropriate it, but they can't make me spend it. So, he kind of took the attitude, okay you budgeted whatever, \$200,000,000, I am only going to spend \$175,000,000, and he knew what his internal limit was. I don't care, the appropriation sets the maximum number. It was good on his part how he dealt with the legislative body dynamics.

Several people began speaking at once again.

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Mayor Kurtz said he came up to support his guy and got him elected.

Councilperson Veverka asked are we at a point, do you want a motion?

Vice Mayor Grendel said we will meet tomorrow. We will start at 3:30 p.m. with Executive Session. So, we should wait on this until you have the updated.

Finance Director Blaze said I was taking notes. There are just a few on there I have to change. There are a couple of numbers, but the number is the number. You have to know in your head, hey I am kind of in for this line item or I am not and there are only 5 numbers I have to change here. Page 22, Ashwood, Poplar, Willow, I am going to change that \$265,000 to \$350,000. A couple of lines below that, Meadowbrook, I am going to change \$300,000 to \$350,000. The Hillside culvert replacement project is going to be renamed to water main/culvert project. That's down on Page 26, and instead of \$750,000, I am going to put \$1,165,000. Then \$225,000 on Page 27 Rockside Woods North sidewalks and street lights, I am going to make that \$225,000 instead of \$135,000. Then Don had me adding \$50,000 on Page 29 in other engineering for some of that other work. Minimal changes.

**Moved by Veverka, seconded by Trakas, to adjourn the Council Workshop of April 26, 2022. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.**

There being no further business, the Council Workshop of April 26, 2022 was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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Debra J. Beal, Clerk of Council

**Minutes Unapproved at Time of Release April 29, 2022**