

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CAUCUS ROOM & VIA ZOOM**

Vice Mayor Dave Grendel called the Council Workshop to order at 4:06 p.m. Present were Council Members John DiGeronimo, Anthony Togliatti, Jim Trakas, Dale Veverka and Chris Walchanowicz. Also in attendance were Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz, Finance Director Vern Blaze, and Joseph Lencewicz.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we have two items on the agenda, and we are going to go to Item 2, and update on the Police Bargaining Unit, and to do so, we are going to go into Executive Session. I will entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for labor negotiations and property acquisition.

Moved by Veverka, seconded by Walchanowicz, to go into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations and property acquisition. Roll Call: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

The Executive Session was convened at 4:07 p.m.

Moved by Trakas, seconded by Veverka, to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Council Workshop. Roll Call: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 4:58 p.m., and the Council Workshop was reconvened.

City Engineer Ramm, Finance Assistant Maggie Osysko and Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek all joined the Council Workshop.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I have until 5:30 p.m. or 5:45 p.m., as I am meeting clients at my law office.

I thought we would work off Vern's memo that he sent us, and there is a copy right here. It's from July 15th.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked if the Five-Year Capital Plan attached to the legislation was different from the July 8th version. It was not different.

Finance Director Blaze said Ordinance 2022-73 has the same Capital Plan attached.

Several people began speaking at once.

Mayor Kurtz said one of the things that we talked about, the three of us, was a garbage truck situation. I think the strategy that we ended up with after going back and forth, was to buy one

truck every year for four years. It stretches it out, but we are still filling our needs. We are putting money away. We are going to buy one, and in this case the first truck would be \$398,910 minus the \$100,000 trade-in; so it would be \$298,310, plus we thought getting a new box so that the can for the front, getting a new can would give us flexibility so that when they break because it's our most valuable piece of the equipment, we can easily and quickly go and swap it out, hydraulic line changing and be able to keep it in service. You can take the can, we would always have one can to be able to utilize what is there. That way we would never be shut down because of a component of the truck rather than the main truck itself. We agreed to, with the Service Director, one truck a year, and we could trade those in, the older trucks.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so the first year for that Mayor would be.

Mayor Kurtz said because of the \$46,000 can, the first year would be \$345,060. That is a new truck, trading in Truck Number 1760.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked which year would that be then?

Mayor Kurtz said we wouldn't get it for 2023, but we would order it now. They would lock into the price. So, we would still use the vehicle. Now the vehicle is 11 to 13 month, and the deal we are going to have is if it takes longer than that, we are going to keep using your vehicle that we traded in, until you give us a new one.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so we are committing to having the service performed in-house as opposed to contracting it out like a lot of the other communities and that.

Mayor Kurtz said warranty work is warranty work, but after that we do believe we can do it in-house. That's a commitment that Council is making. At least it's a direction, it's not a commitment because it's a four year deal, but at least by doing it this way, the direction that you are saying is that we are going to continue doing it in-house.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I talked to so many non-residents that have that service like in Garfield Heights, Seven Hills and Parma, and no one is pleased with the kind of service they get, the treatment that they get from these companies and everything. Jim is saying it's going to be a monopolizing situation, and in a few years it will be worse. The savings that we have initially might in a few years be gone.

Councilperson Trakas said when you look at how do they save money, it's having less people doing less routes. That's their business model, and it's a good business model, it works; but I think our residents expect more. It's not cheaper. You have people hanging around who used to be garbage collectors, and what do they do.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said my whole thing is we go the route of a truck, and we are not going to have as much hydraulic issues as we have been having with either the side loader or the front loader because people fill these totes and they weigh a ton. That's what is causing all the problems with the hydraulics on these things.

Mayor Kurtz said that's why the spare can, so that we can replace the front piece where all the work is, and if there are bearings that go bad, hydraulic lines, something that gets mangled up. We can easily just pop the can off and keep the truck working. Once that can goes down, you are down. That is the strategy behind that.

Councilperson Veverka asked we already have an extra arm right? That was part of the reason we went to the front loader rather than the side loader because we could have an arm on hand, that is what I recall.

Councilperson Togliatti said I think it's all one unit.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said so the strategy is we have four of those units, and if one of them goes bad, we will change it out, put that in the shop, fix it, and we are back in business.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said this may be stupid but, I don't know what those toters cost the City, but maybe if we gave the residents another toter. This way they are not packing one can that can weigh a couple of hundred pounds. They could split their trash up, and it wouldn't be as much weight or pressure on the machine.

Mayor Kurtz asked where would they put the extra toter?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said people load those things up.

Councilperson Veverka said but we used to have a pound weight allegedly for a can, whether or not they would pick it up or not.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said my dad found out when the ash can stayed on the lawn.

Councilperson Veverka said obviously we need to communicate, this is not everything I can put it in it as long as it doesn't break the wheels off.

Mayor Kurtz said that would be the bigger break in the garbage can, rather than breaking the truck. There are some heavy cans.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said there's a lot of trucks that incorporate scales now. I don't know if that exists with the garbage truck.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said you have a scale and loader. It tells you how much. That might help the operator if they knew how much was in the can before they dumped it.

Councilperson Trakas said the Streets & Sidewalks Committee could handle that part of it.

Mayor Kurtz said those are all good questions. The overall strategy is to have the extra can so that we can keep track of everything and keep it going.

Councilperson Veverka said now the trucks, two of them are five years old, and two of them are six years old?

Mayor Kurtz said I think you are correct that the goal was to rotate them off in four years. We had two strategies, buy them all now, buy two now, or buy one every year. We have opted to switch them out one a year.

Councilperson Veverka asked is that planning to start within two years?

Mayor Kurtz said we will appropriate the money now, but we won't get the truck until 2023.

Councilperson Veverka said so that's next year. So, we will be getting rid of a truck that is basically only six years old, or seven. If they are doing the older ones, it's only six.

Mayor Kurtz said it's the oldest truck.

Finance Director Blaze said you better check with Ron, I'm not so sure it's the oldest truck.

Mayor Kurtz said no, it's the one that is causing us the most problems. Sometimes it's just like when you get a car, you get a truck.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said Mayor, the truck they intend on getting rid of was delivered May 27, 2016. The approximate mileage on it is 50,000. You are correct, it's the one that is most problematic.

Councilperson Veverka said and unfortunately I did not get recontacted by the waste hauler that I contacted for information, but the amount that a waste hauler uses a truck, the number of hours that they put on it, the amount of work they put on it; and they still say they get at least eight years out of it. So, I am just curious, it seems kind of light use based on typically 600 homes a day. So, it doesn't work but half of what a regular refuse hauler truck would haul.

Mayor Kurtz said if they do 800, and we do 600, that's three quarters.

Councilperson Veverka said like I said, I didn't get a response or an answer, I just know that I have seen waste haulers out first thing in the morning, and it seems like they are working until forever.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said Mayor Director McKinley received a revised trade-in value on the truck. They offered \$100,000 for it, and they will let us use that truck until the other truck is delivered. We will get 15 months use of the truck.

Mayor Kurtz said that they will do that with us because they know what we are doing every day with it, how many houses we are picking up, and how much mileage we are putting on, and how much wear and tear.

That's the one thing he asked that I bring up. The strategy is now one a year for four years, and this way we can keep them running and be in better shape.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked can we reflect that Vern by next Tuesday to have it in our revised legislation.

Finance Director Blaze said but think that through. I asked Ron to price that out. Okay, the cost, I am rounding it to \$400,000, and I am rounding the trade-in at \$100,000. That's a \$300,000, and I am rounding the can to \$50,000. So, that's \$350,000 that we would have to do an appropriations amendment before the end of this year to get that into the 410 Capital Account.

Vice Mayor Grendel said when we have more information we can amend it.

Finance Director Blaze said but going forward, I believe the price is not held, that \$385,000 is not held. So, I need Ron to estimate what he thinks that truck is going to up the second year, third year and fourth year, and the trade-in value is going to go down the second year, third year and fourth year. So, if we are putting aside \$300,000 net for that truck this year, I have to know what it is going to be year two, year three and year four and it's going to be more than \$300,000 by the reason just stated. The price is going to go up, the trade-in is going to go down, and the gap will go like that. I have a number for 2022 to put into the 2022 column, but I still need numbers for 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Finance Director Blaze said \$350,000 for this year, \$400,000 for a truck, \$100,000 trade-in, that's \$300,000 plus \$50,000 for the can.

Councilperson Togliatti asked but wouldn't you have to appropriate the full amount regardless of the trade-in amount?

Finance Director Blaze said well the check we would be writing would be the net amount, I think we could appropriate what our check is going to be.

Vice Mayor Grendel said maybe the best way to look at this is if we have any concerns, we should bring it up instead of going page by page.

Chris, do you have any concerns as far as the revised plan?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said no, I am good.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Jim do you have any?

Councilperson Trakas said I do, would you mind skipping me right now.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Councilperson Veverka.

Councilperson Veverka said I will pass right now. I have a lot to look at.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Councilperson DiGeronimo.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said I did, and we can continue talking about it. Just my observation about all of this, and you made a comment at the beginning of this when you talk like estate planning, and our company too, we have done some planning and say we are done now. You are never done. So, I guess I look at this and say here's where we are today. Every day we should be a little smarter about what something is going to cost us. I don't know about the process we did, it was very thorough this year. If that's what you are going to do next year, but if this is something we have to bring out every six months and dust off and here's some new projects, and here's where we are.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it might be obsolete by next year.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess Jim is ready now.

Councilperson Trakas said we had talked about trying maybe take the Kleber Court/Longano and take it into two different projects. That doesn't look like that's the case here, but is that still something?

Mayor Kurtz said we could break those up.

Councilperson Trakas said it looks to be, you are talking about almost a \$4,000,000 project. I think I if you did Kleber separately, maybe you can program that more aggressively.

Mayor Kurtz said I will have them break that out into two projects.

Vice Mayor Grendel said didn't you mention that at our meeting the other day. You mentioned that Kleber could go sooner than Longano I think because we are going to have with the bridge down, we might be able to get that done quicker than anticipated.

City Engineer Ramm said I thought the changes (inaudible).

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked so the money to do those couple of projects, is that off the table at this point?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz asked which one do you want to do?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said I think what I heard is borrow and get it done. We understand about this year, but for next year there are a number of large scale projects. We are talking about Brookside, Brecksville, and we still need to talk about Brecksville because it's really in rough shape. Kleber and Longano, those seem to be the highest priority and Stone.

Councilperson Togliatti said well Stone is taken care of.

Councilperson Veverka said and some segments of Brecksville Road are taken care of, at least to put a band aid on them.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I am still in favor of keeping those three together, borrowing to do those three projects.

Councilperson Trakas said I would be inclined to do the same thing.

Councilperson Veverka said Longano and Brookside.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and I think it's important Don to get the engineering done and get them out to bid early in the season.

Mayor Kurtz asked bid them together and separate them? Part A and Part B? Part A Kleber, Part B Longano, and Part C Brookside.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked when that stuff goes out to bid, does the City, okay one company comes in and your bid is the best, you could do all three projects. Do they give the City a break?

Mayor Kurtz said I think their price reflects. If we told them that they would get all of them combined, I think a contractor would say, I'm going to be working right here. I am mobilized and get them all done.

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said Kleber and Longano I (inaudible). GPD is already going on Brookside.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said so the question is say you can have plans for Kleber and/or Longano.

City Engineer Ramm said I can get that done quickly and get an engineer secured for maybe September to have some authorization.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how long would the plans get?

City Engineer Ramm said I could get it surveyed quickly and have the engineering done, I would think over the winter. They are not overly complex.

Mayor Kurtz said then they would already have their contract. It would just be a matter of how you want to play.

Finance Director Blaze said Don, what he is saying he is proposing is to if we wanted to add two lines, we would keep that line existing as Kleber only, and it would \$200,000 in 2022, and \$2,000,000 for 2023. Then we would create a new line Longano, and that would be the 2024 \$1,500,000 that's on Page 24 there. Don said that's the quickest, not the quickest, but the simplest way to present the two projects if you want them separated out.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said this is kind of an unacceptable gap here, this is basically shifting (inaudible).

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if we have to borrow, let's at least get them done.

Mayor Kurtz said Longano, the money has already been put aside for 2022, previous design and engineering. What Don is telling me, in September we will be in a position to pass legislation to authorize some of the engineering so that we can get that going. That is the goal.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so that's going to include the water mains too?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said the next question is going to be sidewalks on one side?

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think there's a practical difficulty there.

Mayor Kurtz said they are both dead-end streets.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said well we will explore that. They won't have eight-foot sidewalks.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said based on what the Finance Director just outlined, we will prepare everything, and we will hopefully have legislation, our goal will be September for both of those projects, and with the recommendation of Council.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said so if we could go ahead and finance that, when would we start that portion of it?

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said I would like to bid everything in February. It's after the holidays.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked when would the borrowing take place? Do we do it earlier than that? Wait until the bids are in?

Mayor Kurtz said we will borrow one package.

Councilperson Trakas said I would suggest Mayor, not to interrupt you,, but I think you are talking about like \$10,000,000 to catch up. This catch up year is going to be critical because we pushed a lot back to 2024, and there is no realistic belief.

Mayor Kurtz said just like the Financed Director said, it's a framework, it's in pencil. So, we are going to try to just work within the parameters, it's a moving target. We are adjusting things all the time. So, I think we are all on the same page on Brookside, Longano, and Kleber, along with all of our maintenance and our smaller projects outlined here earlier that we have already committed to this year.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how soon will those start Don as far as the concrete and the asphalt maintenance?

City Engineer Ramm said we had our meeting on the concrete with Catts just the other day.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it seems like we are getting started later and later in the construction season. They have already set their agenda for the year.

Councilperson Veverka said and the other piece of that puzzle is we need to make sure that we meet more regularly because I think if you look at the asphalt contract because we went with the alternates in an equivalent amount of money that we had from what ended up being the ones that were recommended, I think we are paying more than we would have paid had we gone with the other contractor if the primary roads were the ones that we agreed on. Do you understand what I am saying?

City Engineer Ramm said well we are trying to work that out with Ronyak because the unit prices on the alternates were high. So, we are trying to fix that.

Mayor Kurtz said so you will advise accordingly.

Councilperson Togliatti said and Brecksville Road north of Rockside, it has 2024 in parentheses next to it, but it's got funding all the way out to 2026. Any idea when that is anticipated to be under construction? It is much needed. That is Page 17.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Trakas said you maybe want to borrow that too. I think you have.

Mayor Kurtz said one of the challenges we have there, the right-of-way, it's more cumbersome.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the last time we did Brecksville was with the City of Brecksville.

Councilperson Trakas said we did the whole shooting match.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said I think what we were talking about last time was the culvert out front, and to see if they would tie in some of the maintenance funds into this project and replace the culvert. Is that a possibility? When are they going to replace this culvert?

City Engineer Ramm said 2024 or 2025.

Mayor Kurtz asked do you think they would consider at that point doing this whole area here? They are so far behind on that. It used to be every ten years.

City Engineer Ramm said we checked with somebody at ODOT, and they thought it was ready to go in 2026.

Mayor Kurtz said before we blink it will be here.

Any other questions for Don?

Finance Director Blaze said that Brecksville Road north of Rockside, the 2024 in the account number column, that is signifying the portion of the project that would be done in 2024, approximately the \$7,000,000 that's on there for construction between Rockside and I-480. The \$2,000,000 and \$2,000,000 in 2025 and 2026 is for Brecksville Road north of I-480.

Councilperson Togliatti asked should we break those out in two separate projects?

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said right now there were placeholder dates I would say 2025 and 2026.

Councilperson Trakas said we were just talking, if there's any way we can do that at one time, it would be helpful.

Councilperson Togliatti asked and is the engineering completed for that? It has been ongoing for a number of years.

City Engineer Ramm said we are looking at utilities, right-of-way issues, at a minimum there is some deficient lane width; so we are going to try to get an extra foot or two. That is what is on the agenda, but soon we are to get going. E.L. Robinson's P.O. has been, they were authorized. So, it's been a long time coming.

Councilperson Togliatti said and with our future layout of our new portion of the cemetery, have we accounted for any of this widening of Brecksville Road through that section?

City Engineer Ramm said I think just north near Cavs drive. Those things haven't been exactly (inaudible).

Vice Mayor Grendel asked any other questions Anthony or Dale?

Councilperson Veverka replied no.

I think that answered everybody's questions. Like Vern mentioned, we do it in pencil, and things change. I think we have a plan to go forward. So, Don I think maybe you have marching orders as far as getting the engineering going for Kleber and Longano. Hopefully, go out to bid and get these projects going. People have been waiting for so long.

Councilperson Trakas said and they get flustered.

Mayor Kurtz said no pressure there Don.

Councilperson Veverka said and they think their Councilperson is telling a story.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I know a lot of people from Kleber, I tell them it's coming, and they laugh. You said it when you were five years old. That was 62 years ago.

Mayor Kurtz said that (inaudible) on 21 north, that is temporary. The fencing you see up there is purely temporary. It was brought to our attention, and it's not what is staying there. We are going to switch next week.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Kurtz said so I anticipate that any day now.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said I have not seen the lettering from I-480, but it's there. I don't know if it's covered up.

City Engineer Ramm said you will see it. It's not painted.

Councilperson DiGeronimo said I could see when they poured it, they had the base.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is that the new logo?

Councilperson DiGeronimo said it says Independence.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I have something under other matters. I just want to bring something up that will take two seconds. So, with the air handlers for City Hall. So, a guy that I know Jim Deblock, he came in and looked at everything. He feels that we can rebuild the machines that we have internally, new coils, new pads, new motors, everything. You wouldn't have to cut the roofs open. You wouldn't have to do all the demo to get the old ones out and new ones in. I was just asking if anyone would be interested?

Mayor Kurtz asked is there an efficiency or technology change?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said everything is the same. You could put new motors in that would save on electricity.

Mayor Kurtz asked are they variable speed drives?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said they are all TFDs, and that's how it is. He thinks it would be a huge savings in labor not having to cut the roof open to get them out and all that. That is what he does downtown in those high rises there. Similar they are in locations where it's a pain in the ass to get them in and out, so they use the same outside cabinet, and then they put everything new on the inside of them. It would be a lot cheaper for the City.

Councilperson Togliatti asked does he warranty this work?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said it's all warrantied yes. So, I was just going to see if you wanted a quote on what that would cost compared to going through the whole changing of them. I think we were at about \$230,000 now with Carrier.

Mayor Kurtz asked they are all the same, even today?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said everything has been upgraded, the mechanics of it, the coil, the drain pans, the motors.

Councilperson Trakas said I would say yes.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it would make sense.

Mayor Kurtz said we just have to figure out what the number is that you are willing to spend.

Finance Director Blaze asked is the window legislation coming up?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said it is. Well we talked about that earlier. We are getting the specs, and then it's going to go to bid.

Mayor Kurtz asked did everybody get their shirts?

Several people said yes.

Councilperson Trakas said good job Mayor.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Walchanowicz, to adjourn the Council Workshop of August 4, 2022 at 5:37 p.m. Voice Vote: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Debra J. Beal, Clerk of Council
Minutes Unapproved at Time of Release 08/05/22
