

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
AUGUST 24, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

Vice Mayor Dave Grendel called the Council Workshop to order at 4:01 p.m. Present were Council Members Kathleen Kapusta, Tom Narduzzi, Kenn Synek, Jim Trakas, Dale Veverka and Chris Walchanowicz. Also in attendance were Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz, Finance Director Vern Blaze, Law Director Gregory J. O'Brien, Economic Development Director Jessica Hyser, Building Official Michael Gero, City Engineer Don Ramm, Acting Police Chief Greg Tinnirello, Communications Director Alla Lora, Recreation Director Tom Walchanowicz, Community Services Director Emily Thomas, Service Director Ron McKinley, Technical Service Director Dave Snyderburn, Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek, GIS Coordinator Chrissy Lingenfelter and Fire Chief Steve Rega.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I want to welcome everyone to the Council Workshop of August 24th. I kind of consider this almost as a strategic planning type of meeting for Council, and we will get into that very shortly and everything.

I see Debi we got a Revised Agenda, Mayor do you want to take care of that matter first?

Mayor Kurtz said yes, please let's do that, rejecting the bids.

Vice Mayor Grendel said okay, we have Number 2 on the agenda which is a motion to reject all bids for the supply of Ford Passenger, Police and Commercial Vehicle Repairs, Parts and Labor. I guess we will take a motion and second first and get a little discussion on this. Is there a motion?

Moved by Veverka, second by Walchanowicz, to reject all bids for the supply of Ford Passenger, Police and Commercial Vehicle Repairs, Parts and Labor.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Mayor is there an explanation as far as this matter goes?

Mayor Kurtz asked where is Dennis?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said a little background on this. Legislation was requested in May of this year. The item was removed from the agenda. At the time there were two bidders that had bid on Ford parts and labor. There was a substantial difference between the two. Initially, requested to award to the higher bidder, and after some discussions with Finance Director Blaze and the Mayor, they felt it was best just to remove it from the agenda and re-bid it. It has been re-bid, and I am going to have a request for legislation at the September meeting.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so we did get a successful bid on this Dennis?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said yes we did.

Finance Director Blaze said I guess I'm still confused why it was re-bid? Why we didn't accept the low bidder the first time? It was a valid bid wasn't it?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said well if action isn't taken within 60 days after the bid has closed, it has to be rejected.

Finance Director Blaze asked so the deadline has passed to accept that bid is what you are saying?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said that is correct.

Finance Director Blaze asked and we re-bid it, and we have other bids back already?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said yes, that is correct.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how many bids did we get this time Dennis?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said we just received one. The bid went out to 7 bidders, and 1 responded.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked which one?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said it was Valley Truck.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so they were the high bidder before weren't they?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said correct. Two bids were received last time, one was Liberty and one was Valley Ford Truck. Valley Ford Truck did come down on their labor price substantially. Initially, they had bid \$117 an hour. They came down to \$99 an hour. This is primarily a parts contract anyways, but they did improve their offering.

Vice Mayor Grendel said they have had a successful bid in the past haven't they; they have been the bidder.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said that is correct. We worked with them for as long as I have been here which is about 3 years now.

Councilperson Kapusta asked so how then Dennis did this bid compare with the one that we just rejected?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said it was basically the same bid except they lowered their labor rate from \$117 to \$99. The bid went out to all vendors that it was sent to last time. I think it went out to 8 vendors, and once again this one went out to 8 vendors. It is bid by Ford national

for the parts aspect of it, but the last time we received 2 bids and this time we only received 1 bid.

Finance Director Blaze said I could see why Liberty didn't bid the second time. They were low bidder on every single part price on the initial bid, and then we are throwing out the bids; and they are like why should I re-bid a second time? I am the low bidder, and it doesn't do me any good; and now we re-bid, and we are being told that the prices and value are the same price that they bid the first time around which was significantly higher than Liberty. We messed up by not accepting Liberty when we had the chance.

Councilperson Kapusta asked why did we do that?

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said it was removed from legislation and no action was taken. We would have had to have a Special Council meeting to go out because there were no Council meetings before the 60th day.

Law Director O'Brien said Dennis I'm sorry we didn't talk before this now that I understand it. Technically, in the future if this occurs, if it passes the 60 days, you could reach out to the bidder that Council would accept. As long as they mutually agree, we could extend that 60 days.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said okay Greg, thank you.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I'm not really happy with how it turned out as far as that goes.

Mayor Kurtz said I'm not happy either quite frankly. This should have been managed differently within the Administration. So, Council I apologize for the disconnect. As a matter of fact, if there is a way to accept that first bid still, I would consider accepting it. If that's out of the cards, we will regroup and come up with something better. If we are only getting one bid for something like this, then we should recalibrate how we are applying the bid specifications because this is obviously not working in the market. So, if we reject this, then we are going to re-work the specifications, and Purchasing is going to have to get their arms around a better strategy. So, that would be my recommendation.

Finance Director Blaze said I don't know if I would reject it, I would do what the Law Director suggested and see if Liberty will agree to all of their prices; and if they will, you could still accept Ordinance 2021-71. It was just pulled from the June agenda. It could be put back on the September agenda.

Mayor Kurtz said I'm okay either way.

Councilperson Veverka said I would make that motion.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I would second it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well we have the motion to remove the current.

Law Director O'Brien asked did we vote on the motion to rescind?

Vice Mayor Grendel said no, we had a motion and a second, but we had discussion after that.

Law Director O'Brien said it would just be a motion to table that motion.

Vice Mayor Grendel said okay. Do we have a motion to table the previous motion?

Moved by Walchanowicz, seconded by Kapusta, to table the previous motion. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Vice Mayor Grendel said now we have a new motion on the table I think.

Law Director O'Brien said Vice Mayor if I could recommend that if Dennis could reach out to the low bidder and get something in writing that they agree to hold their pricing and agree to extend the 60 days, then we can regroup and put it on the agenda for September.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good Greg, it sounds like an excellent plan. This just sends a bad message to other vendors from the City what's going on here, and again it's costing more money for things that we already had a lower bid. Any other comments?

Councilperson Kapusta asked please remind me again why did we pull it? I don't remember.

Mayor Kurtz said if I recall, the discussion at the time, there were questions by Council relative to why we were not accepting the other bidder; and so I apologize for the disconnect. I will make sure that we can mitigate this in the future.

Councilperson Trakas said I think the question came down to the fact that the incumbent supplier was a little closer and could provide good service, and I think that's where the some of the questions had come in.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I know we questioned, Maple Heights isn't that much farther than Valley View as far as that goes too.

Councilperson Trakas said they used to be on Rockside.

Finance Director Blaze said Liberty has 7 dealerships across northeast Ohio, so they have the wherewithal; these were all FOB delivered prices anyway. So, where they are coming from really isn't our concern as long as they show up at our doorstep at the price quoted.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and they have a good barbershop quartet for their commercials.

Then Mayor we will see if Dennis can reach out to Liberty and see if we can still have the original bid that they offered; and if that's the case, then we can approve this in September.

Mayor Kurtz said that's correct.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. We don't need any further motions Greg on this?

Law Director O'Brien replied no.

Vice Mayor Grendel said now we are here at the main purpose of our meeting. I previously mentioned that it's kind of like a strategic planning meeting. The Mayor and I did have the opportunity to meet with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, and at least the Treasurer; and we got some of what their future plans that could possibly be and everything. Both the Mayor and I promised them that we would get Council together to see what the consensus is, what the feeling is on Council. It gives us an opportunity. There are no right or wrong answers; you are not going to be buzzed if you are not saying the right things. You say what's on your mind, what's in your heart; and we are going to go over and kind of see what the temperature is for Council because at least 5 of us will be back, or 6 of us will be back for another two year term; so it would be good if we kind of pre-plan and see what the feelings, the temperature is as far as Council with our campus, the school campus, get our ideas out there and see what the feeling is.

There's different ways, we can either take the whole campus, each of us take 5 or 10 minutes of our time to explain what our feelings are, or we can go facility by facility and discuss the future of each facility and then tie it up with kind of a few minutes, each of us giving our overall views.

For example, we can talk about the Service Department, just focus on that, focus on the Police headquarters. Mayor, how would you like to approach it, a comprehensive approach?

Mayor Kurtz said I'm very open. I think you articulated the options very well. Again, this is based on a conversation with the school leadership, and it's an effort to pick everybody's brain and assemble as many ideas and concepts as possible, take all of those and then synthesize those and see where there's a common ground and if there's a common ground and then go from there. So, this is a multi-step process, it's not something that we are going to accomplish today; and each of us may have strong opinions, but over time we may determine through additional data, that may change you one way or the other.

So, I think it's important that everybody has a chance to weigh in, and the framework is our community campus. That entails all of our structures on the campus today. It also involves the school's needs, their existing campus; and they have, and Vice Mayor you can clarify, they would love to have everything on one campus.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's correct.

Mayor Kurtz said a new primary school, modified middle school, modified meaning it could be some demolition, some construction, some of the parts and components may stay there of the existing middle school; but that needs to be assessed in terms of their professionals.

In terms of the City, GPD put the report together. They analyzed all the facilities. We went through their report, and we determined to what extent each facility needs to be upgraded or replaced; and so based on that, the Vice Mayor and I thought you know what, we don't have all the answers. We have opinions, and we have experience in some respects; but it's important that the people who have to make the ultimate decision, City Council, weighs in and has the opportunity to express their opinion and formulate their questions.

So, today's thought was to allow each of you, everyone to address what's a priority for you, what your questions are so that we can synthesize that and start funneling down this information so that at some point we can take to the public a fully thought out, before we get them involved and have them weigh in. Then we at least have a foundation to work off of. Is that fair?

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's fair Mayor, and I think we didn't want to mislead the members of the School Board, their leadership and tell them what our opinions are only to find out that Council, there is no consensus on Council; and it would mislead them and there would be a lot of wasted energy and planning time if there is no taste for that kind of direction from Council.

So, I think maybe if Council agrees, we will allow each member possibly up to 10 minutes to give your views; and hopefully you can touch across many topics as far as the Police headquarters, the Service Department, the park, any kind of expansion of the park, what our needs are and see if we can get a consensus there. I don't know if I should start off maybe and then have everybody follow suit.

I am taking a holistic approach as far as the campus. In talking with some of the School Board members and the Superintendent, the leadership, I know that they would like to have everything, including their Board office and where the busses are, they would like to have everything; and this again, there's no right or wrong answers to it, it's just kind of conveying or being the messenger from the meeting. They would like to have everything up in the campus there off of Selig, and that would entail maybe us thinking about the future of our Service Department because if the consensus is on Council to keep the Service Department and make improvements, have expansion there if it allows it, then that would be off limits to the School Board. Likewise, they could potentially move their Board office to where our Building Department is now if we choose maybe to move on and move to a new location as far as the Police headquarters go which would free up our City Hall to have offices there for the Building Department.

So, again it's something that might be totally off base as to what your feelings are, and that's perfectly fine. There is no pressure for us to lean one way or the other, but I see if the schools; and I see the safety factor. I know a lot of people like the Hillside location for the primary school and to put money maybe into that location; but I just see, I think from a safety standpoint, which I guess with the pandemic we haven't seen so many safety issues for schools as far as any events and that. My feeling is that, and it was brought up in Bob Wagner's email, he had a good point as far as parking goes. Parking is always an issue when there's an event, whether it be a football game or a basketball game, any kind of event up at the schools, parking is always at a premium. So, that has to be an issue to be discussed, but if the schools had, and the other thing I want to mention too and forgive me if I'm kind of scattering here, but it should be taken off the table

anything to do with the land lab. That's going to be for education for our students. We have produced so many doctors and scientists and people who have, our students have excelled in that area thanks to the excellent biology classes and what we have done down at the land lab. That is a gem that I don't think anybody in town would want to see given up, not for housing or for anything else but for our children for future education. We need more scientists, more doctors, more nurses, more people who are interested. So, that shouldn't be in the discussion. That should be a given that the land lab is going to remain the land lab, and the only talk would be whether to put some money into improving the classroom down there at that site; but I don't think that should be ever brought up to put houses there or anything of that nature. It's just too valuable, and being close to the National Park and that, it just doesn't make sense to do anything but retain what we have there.

I can see if we decide to go in a different direction with our Police headquarters, it has not been upgraded I believe Mayor not that much in the years that it has been located at City Hall there, the 40 years I believe. We have of course kept it updated, but I think, and we would have to go to Brecksville to see what they have. Of course, they have something more encompassing because of the dispatch center there; but whether if we need to have our Police headquarters closer to the Rockside area or at least just have our main because that's where there seems to be a lot of the activity. That's a discussion we all have to discuss. Do you want to upgrade and keep the Police station at City Hall, and I think by doing that, then it would generate the Building Department staying where they are and possibly maybe that would be one direction, just to upgrade the campus to the best of our ability and not think about moving anything outside of the campus, except maybe an auxiliary Police headquarters on Rockside or in that area. My feeling is that we want to have the most up to date and modern Police headquarters facilities that we can have, and if that entails going outside of the general campus area, then so be it.

I do like the idea of the school all being in one area, one campus there. That doesn't necessarily mean though that I'm in favor of having the Service Department down at the Hillside site. There could be other sites, and Mayor I think you mentioned even Pleasant Valley would be a possibility if we could locate there, being far from the residential areas possibly or at least somewhere. We haven't had an opportunity, and I would like to have the opportunity to go to Westlake or some of the cities that have a more modern Service Department. We invest millions and millions of dollars in equipment and trucks and vehicles, and to have half of them sitting out in the yard there and getting exposed to the elements doesn't make much sense to me. We should be protecting them and try to extend the life of that equipment as long as possible. So, that's why I am open, if there's a location to move the Service Department that is still accessible, I think we have strong enough leadership in the Service Department, we don't have to worry about them working, they do quite a bit of workload as it is. I think they will still be as productive as ever, even at a new location. If we can preserve and extend the life of our equipment that much longer, trucks and that, I think we would be dollars ahead down the road.

That being said, I think as far as the Police headquarters, I am not an expert on Police facilities; and I guess Chris that might be something together with the leadership of our Police Department, we could find out if there's a better way of having their headquarters. Is there a better way to have it constructed; and if that's the case, that could set the tone as far as what we do with the

City Hall and with the possible moving Building Department or Tech Services or that. It could free up one of the buildings for the Board of Education.

I think as far as our park goes, I think we have an excellent facility. I think we have the potential, there is land circling that, and we have potential for future growth. I think we are in pretty good shape as far as our recreation campus, and again, I think that we should work in collaboration. I still believe that possibly changing our campus and changing some of our headquarters would be, not so much maybe in the next few years; but I think down the road. We are looking at if the schools do get passage and build a new primary school, we are looking at something for the next century. Our buildings last for many, many years. We take good care of them as far as the school system does, and then we have to see if we can coordinate. That's a tough decision because we have only limited land, and we have a City campus and a school campus. So, again is there enough room for both to co-exist, and that's the question that Council will have to ask. Can we fit everything within that campus there, or what can we have outside of the campus area. I think that's again, we might need some expert opinion as far as what we have now is it sufficient or not? I couldn't tell you personally whether our Police station right now is sufficient for the 21st century, or if we need to get something different because it was probably state-of-the-art back in 1980; but we are talking 40 years later. It might be outdated.

I think the Fire Department, I think we are in good shape there. We haven't heard anything about their facility being inadequate.

I know the Building Department, we have done a great job where Building and Engineering is right now. Do we want to upset the apple cart and move it somewhere else where they are operating efficiently right now, at least I think, unless Mayor you feel that we can improve on our functionality as far as the Building and Engineering goes too and what the future holds.

Nothing is off the table, but I think it's something we should examine before we give an answer to the schools, pretty thoroughly so that when we go back to the schools we can say hey this is pretty much what our thought process is now. We might not be able to have your full campus here.

I guess I am an open book. I have to be convinced one way or the other. I see arguments on both sides, and as far as where the primary school is now, if I lived on Hillside or even lived over there on Braewood, I would wonder if the noise would be too much as far for enjoyability of our property. I don't know how it travels up by the Service Center, if it carries over very far. When I was coaching and did things at the high school, I never really paid attention to what was going on at the Service Department. Whether it bothers the residents because you are talking, I think people on Braewood, it would seem the noise would carry all the way to Braewood; but I don't know if the noise carries all the way now. I guess you are competing with I-77 too; so you have the noise of I-77 as well as the Service Department, but I don't think it would carry that far. I'm not an expert on it, and we don't really know with the carrying of sound like that.

I guess the theme of what Bob Wagner says, I take into account what he says because he was an esteemed member of Council. He's not a member now, but he gives his opinions, and he brings

up some good points; and I think you can't just think what's adequate now for 2021. You have to think what's going to be ahead of the curve in 2025, 2030 and whether it's adequate now. We kept kicking the middle school down the road for many years before finally we were successful on that joint use facility there at the high school and Fieldhouse and everything. So, I think that the forward thinking, and that didn't pass by many votes either. I know Mayor the Civic Center passed by just a few votes; so it doesn't matter how many votes it passes by. The question we have is what's good for the City, and I am looking more so for the next generation, the next two generations than myself as far as that goes. I think not that anything is imminent, we have to look for the next 20, 30, 40 years; and the way prices are getting more expensive and everything else, can we do something sufficient now? My thinking is this, if it makes sense for the schools and makes sense for us, I wouldn't mind a new facility for our Service Department, maybe moving our busses up there if we have a location that's ideal for the City as well as the residents; and if that's the case, if we could possibly then think about the Police Department. You have to think down the road. Ten years from now we are going to have a development there on the northwest quadrant; so we have to think about the future there as far as Police headquarters there and things of that nature and freeing up our City Hall for Building and Engineering too.

So, a lot of questions to be answered; and I know people say we don't know what the tax revenue is, and you have to still think long term. You have to think the City is going to be here much longer than we are going to be here; and can we plan properly? Maybe it can be done in segments or pieces, and then can we in coordination with the schools. Basically what I would like to see is working together and not having factions because nothing gets done when you have factions of 50 and 60, you try to build a consensus, try to sell the idea that it's the future of our City that is at stake here, and we want to make it the most forward thinking City and the one that we continue to grow economically and commercially as well as we do for the residents.

It's kind of an overview, it doesn't have any specifics to it, but I would like to hear more ideas. I think when it comes to utilization of property and ideas for delivering services for the City, it's good to hear what everybody, and even our Department Heads, what ideas they have that would make our City function better.

I guess without further ado, I took up my time, and I am going to go right by my panel here. So, Jim I turn the table over to you, if you are ready.

Councilperson Trakas said I'm not, but I appreciate your yielding time my honorable colleague.

So, I guess I provide a couple of perspectives, and I preface my comments by stating I have read the report on space utilization and certainly think that one thing that I think would be helpful is if we did what we used to do for Streets & Sidewalks Mr. Vice Mayor, just take a tour of the City. Take a tour of all of our facilities and potential facilities as a Council and invite the public along with us and the City Administration so we can have an earnest talk about them and physically see where everything is.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Jim you bring up a good idea. Chris, way before your time on Buildings & Lands, we did have tours of all of our facilities. I remember going on the roof of the

Civic Center and heading to all of these different places, you get an idea. I think that's an excellent idea that if you would like to schedule that. We should have a tour of all of our facilities citywide because we can think that everything is in great shape, and all of a sudden you go look at it, and say oh my God this doesn't have much more of a lifetime. That's a good point Jim.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I will speak with the Rec Director and Dave and see what day works well. We will put a couple of dates out there and see when everyone's available.

Vice Mayor Grendel said part of that Chris is maybe a tour of Westlake or some other communities that have state-of-the-art facilities just to take a look at that and see what the price tag is too.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said okay, sounds good.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you. Sorry Jim.

Councilperson Trakas said that's okay, no problem. I want to inspire thought because I don't have a lot of answers just questions mostly.

With respect to the overall campus approach, I like the campus approach because you have both the opportunity to have isolation when it comes to noise as well as convenience that things are stacked together. So, with respect to the school facility being on the campus area, if there is a way that we can keep all of our facilities there, maybe a new Service Department and exploring; I know at one point and time that some of the acreage around there had been for sale, maybe taking a look at that and keeping the Service Department there and being able to move the school district and the bus garage out of the Nike site. I used to be a custodian for the schools, and the Nike site needs some love; and I think if you were able to renovate the classroom building for the land lab that would be helpful; but realistically if we could get the Service Department and the bus garage in the same area and it's close to the highway where the noise is already there so you don't have additional noise levels getting those busses off of Stone Road, I think it would be better for everybody. Then you can share a facility where you are washing and maintaining these types of very large pieces of equipment, storing them inside perhaps and maybe again expanding so that you have more space up in that neck of the woods, I think that would be an idyllic situation because it's all isolated up there. It is a City/School campus so you have limited access. You are not disturbing neighborhoods, and you are not creating issues in neighborhoods. If that could be explored, and if it's realistic, I don't know if it's realistic; I think that would be a good result from that area where you are having a joint facility for Service and bus garage and other types of maintenance. Then you are able to save taxpayer money in the long run and jointly use a facility rather than having two type facilities.

With respect to the school facility itself, I like where Mayor Kurtz is coming from in terms of having a renovated middle school, maybe doing some demolition if parts aren't needed. Certainly you do need an auditorium. I think the levy campaign from two years ago had been a little too aggressive, and I think the public didn't have an appetite for that; but I think if you are

able to come up with some type of more reasoned approach. I also really don't like the idea of the open concept school. I know Dale had taught in a school like that and was successful at it. I just don't think that's good for young kids to have all those outside influences. I like having classroom buildings where the kids can focus, and you don't have too much noise around them. So, I would discourage that type of school.

I know that the school folks have had a strong interest in that in the past, I am in a lot of schools, I do a lot of consulting in the educational field; I have not found that to be conducive learning environments; but obviously we would defer to the school on what they would prefer. I would prefer that not be the case, and some of the feedback that I got from residents were the same type of thing.

As it relates to the Police Department, clearly I think a really strong top to bottom look about our technology and our ability to provide services from the Police Department is really critical. As video technology is becoming more important, we don't have the area anymore for dispatchers; but there's also just a new, when you created that City Hall in 1981 and 1982 when we christened it on the Fourth of July of 1982, we were already almost to space to maximum. So, re-thinking the City Hall is something I think is a good idea. I think we are at a time of the age of the facility where we can do that; but I also think on the Police station, I wouldn't limit it to where it is. I would think about other locations and other flows. I think it's important to have a flow. It's good to have it obviously where the Clerk of Court is, but maybe the court system could be in another facility too. I don't know, maybe you want a Police facility that just might be a little bit more modern and able to handle some of the things you want, or you can renovate the facility we have. I would like to see answers to those things, but I am willing to explore having a Rockside Road or Brecksville Road north of Rockside or on Rockside Woods or something, a sub-station where you just have an EMS and Police that can serve the business community. I think that's important for two reasons; one is we know the boots on the ground are ultimately the answer to policing. We need more people, and we need more people in more areas to make sure our residents are safe and make sure our business guests are safe; but I also think that response is part of it. We have a great response time by Police and Fire and EMS, so there are no issues there; however, there is also symbolism. When you come off the ramp on Rockside Road, and there is a Police presence right there, that sends a message to bad guys right that hey this might not be the best place for me to perpetrate a crime.

We have a hybrid district here in Independence where you have the residents who have been shielded from this for years and who during the pandemic we exposed some of the weaknesses that are out. The hotels and entertainment areas, the more people who come into town, the more possibilities we have for problems. So, I think it's important to at least explore that option, to find out if you have a sub-station there, if it makes sense for us to do that to kind of show the flag; but also we put that investment in cameras down there. Maybe you run the video from that right there, and you have a couple of cars there on the Police side. Then on the EMS side because you always have people who are in need in that area, and it might be able to serve those needs pretty well.

I also think that we should consider some park and recreation area in the business district. I know there is limited land, but there are some opportunities. I think our business guests would like that. I think that's another amenity that we can have, and I haven't spoken about this with Jessica because we kind of just got into this conversation; but I do think that having some type of a park setting where people could go and enjoy their lunch or whatever it might be in a municipal park might be beneficial to them. It might be something that could be another attribute to our community that people want to be a part of, and it's something we can get our business community to maybe participate in, maybe help them to build something like that so that it's something that everybody could use that's in the neighborhood there.

I also have had a strong interest over time in America 250. So, we have the 250th anniversary of the United States coming up in 2026. Many communities are putting together an America 250 project, and one of the things that I would like to try to see done is something we talked about but didn't execute on creating a heritage park in the center of town. I still think that there's space either in the Public Square area on City Hall grounds or maybe in like a business type park where we had a heritage park. Where we had statuary of Mr. Skinner and some of the early founders of Independence, some of Mayor Kurtz's relatives; President Garfield who lived in Independence Township and worked in Independence Township on the canal and maybe had a tribute to our canal heritage and to our stone masonry heritage and the current businesses that we have. We could have some type of an enjoyment where you can utilize those types of assets here in unused property here. We could put more trees up, really make these into some really great destination parks that people can enjoy them. I think that you look at the gardens down on Martin Luther King Blvd.; we could replicate some of those right here and have organizations tend to those needs, some of the businesses could tend to them. I think it would be a great project for America 250 to do something like this to honor the country and honor the foundation of the City and maybe we should consider putting some mini parks across the area. I will have more information about that a little bit later on, some ideas on it.

I don't think there's any wrong answers. Like right now I think there's a lot of brainstorming that we could do, but above all, and I just close with this, let's look at needs. What are the needs of the community and what are the wants of the community? So, maybe you could build some things for needs and have a long term plan for wants; but I think from an educational perspective and certainly from a law enforcement perspective, there are current needs that really do need to be addressed, and all of these things might be able to be accommodated together.

My bottom line is I would like to try to see the campus stay together as a campus if we can and perhaps expand that campus, take a look at what the Police need and how we can better serve the residents and the Police Department from a technological perspective as well as a troop deployment perspective and be able to enhance some of the quality of life features with respect to parks and maybe having some mini parks associated with that. Those are some of my thoughts.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you very much Jim. Mayor, is there the possibility or availability of land north of the current Service Department that we could expand in that direction if the property became available? Is that a potential option?

Mayor Kurtz said I just made a note to look at that. There are some utilities that go through that property that limit its use, but absolutely, that's a consideration.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I know there's a gas line there.

Mayor Kurtz said there's a major gas line that goes through there.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we would have to see the availability to expand the Service Department.

Mayor Kurtz said we are going to look at that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good, thank you. Jim, excellent ideas, good thoughts. We will move right along. Chris you are next on my panel there and everything, and you have whatever time you need to express your thoughts.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said sounds good, thanks Jim. You stole my thunder a little bit with like the Luvison property; I don't know if that's the same property you were mentioning. If that's feasible, that would be a great idea to leave the Service Department there and create a school bus garage up there. I don't remember what the acres are there, but I think it's quite substantial.

A couple of other things. One of the biggest things with safety with the kids and the campus and safety, it's right close to the Fire and Police station. I feel if we were to build a new Police station, that would take away from the safety aspect because like me having kids, I have a first grader and a seventh grader. My thing is if there's a campus, I like the fact that there is a Police station right around the corner. If something happens, they are there quick. If they have to come from Rockside to get to the schools, it would take a little bit more time. So, I am more in favor of the satellite station someplace on the north end of town.

With that, I would also like to see and hear feedback from the Police Department, Fire Department to see what their thoughts are would they want a new station or do they want to upgrade what we have and build a satellite. I think they are the ones that are going to be working in those buildings, so getting a lot of input from them would be instrumental for us.

We go to the schools a little bit, I was in the primary school last night. Fortunately, my little Cameron has Mrs. Lee as her first grade teacher. I am so excited. We were in there last night, and it was sweltering; and the way things are going, these kids are going to have to wear masks again. I know I had mine on for a few minutes, and I just couldn't deal with it anymore. These poor kids have to wear masks for 6, 7, 8 hours a day, it's going to be miserable for them.

I know the primary school, and doing what I do for a living, knowing that the utilities are old in that building, the fact that it is nearly impossible to air condition that building; I think it would really be hard to retro that old section of that building to be more feasible for the kids. At that

point I feel it would be more cost efficient for the schools to build a new building because you never know what you are going to get into when you do a remodel of a building.

Also the classroom sizes, I know for a long time back in the 1950's and 1960's the class sizes were large, and in the late 1980's and 1990's they got small again; but now the class sizes are trending up again. There's just, the rooms are small and with not quite yet knowing what the new norm is with Covid, if the kids can't be on top of each other again, it's a struggle for the teachers to try to space the children out adequately with these smaller classrooms.

I also take Dave like you said about the parking under one campus. Like Jim said, there's a lot of conversations and a lot of ideas that need to be made; but I did support the issue because I feel for the kids, and I know if I was a kid again and I had to go in sweltering heat and try to learn, it would be miserable.

Another thing, I know we mentioned it back maybe one time last year or twice, I don't know if it was every done; but if we had a traffic study done on how much traffic would come in and out of our compound every day in the morning and in the afternoon. You are going to have seniors that want to go to the Civic Center in the morning to work out or use the pool, and then they are going to have to battle all of that school traffic if you have 3 schools going there now. I don't know Mayor if we ever did a traffic study for that area. I think that should be done.

That covers the majority of my notes on what I feel should, or at least what some of my ideas are.

I worry about a Service Department and our residents in the neighborhood like by the middle school. I don't know what the noise factor would be. I know Dave you mentioned that about the noise factor. If we have trucks that have to go out in the middle of the night during a snowstorm, is it going to wake residents up over there? I think there's a lot of thinking that has to go into it. That's what I have.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Thank you Chris, I appreciate your thoughts. We move on to Dale, he's next on my panel here.

Councilperson Veverka said thank you Dave and Jim and Chris. It's interesting to hear your perspectives. I guess I want to start out at the elementary school. I guess the most important thing is if the school decides to move the school and the property becomes available, in my mind's eye that property should remain residential property in a residential neighborhood setting. I just think about the loader loading salt, the garbage trucks firing up early in the morning, the salt trucks, the rest of the action, the diesel fumes and everything else. I know personally that I wouldn't want to be in close proximity to those situations.

An excellent decision was made years ago by planners when they said hey we have some property that backs up to I-77 that is not close to disturbing residents. It seems like that would be an opportune location for a Service Department, and those decisions made were excellent. With the park adjacent to it, you don't have any issues because the kids are playing ball, the kids are

doing other things, other activities; and they are not disturbed by it. The sounds of the highway in some ways provide white noise for whatever sounds happen to come from the Service Department where it is.

Now obviously upgrading some parts of the Service Department, I know one of the things that I found about the Service Department as it currently exists is difficulty for a resident to get into a location to talk with the secretaries who work there. To have to climb the number of steps to get to a place, have a conversation with the secretary; that tends to make it difficult. So, some work on the Service Department the way the offices are set up would be a positive thing for residents who wanted to come in and have a conversation with anyone from the Service Department.

As far as the decisions on the centralized campus, whether or not it would make sense for the school to move the primary building or make whatever decisions they do, I do realize how cramped it is on a Friday night, a basketball game night or any other time; and I would believe that putting the elementary school there potentially could create some serious compromises related to parking and other issues. Obviously, the plus side on that, again for the School Board to decide, is proximity to the Police station which is a big plus; but that would require some serious consideration if the plusses would outweigh the minuses as it relates to having that combined campus. I am not really fond about having the elementary school separated, but on the other hand, if you over-utilize the facility that the School Board currently has by packing everything in, that would then bring in the question of traffic, the number of bus runs, the number of kids, etc. when you have other people trying to approach on Selig Drive. So, that becomes a serious question.

When it comes to potential for property acquisition in the adjacent property of the Service Department, that's definitely worth a conversation; I realize there are limitations because of the gas lines, but I would say that there's got to be some space there potentially for some storage of equipment and other things that would not be directly in the right-of-way. Obviously, we would need to have a pretty good handle on what of that property potentially would be usable and what property could potentially be something more of a temporary basis. That becomes a question of very serious contemplation, but the location as it currently exists to me is a real bright spot in the City. It keeps the noise and all the other activities very isolated from the residents. As I look around the community, I say to myself how would my colleagues feel if the Service Department was adjacent to their neighborhood or very close by, and I have to believe that all of my colleagues would not like to have that Service Department close by with all its related noises, sounds, etc.

When it comes to the Police station, I definitely am in favor of upgrading the Police station at City Hall. To me it goes back to what Jim Trakas said, I believe that the boots on the ground is the most important part of enforcement. I believe that operating out of one main location and not dividing our forces is a good thing. I believe that the combination of the use of the new traffic cameras is a plus. Jim and I have had a discussion as it relates to potential of cameraing other high risk areas of town would be very helpful, similar to the way we camera certain areas of Elmwood Park just as a preventative are excellent things to continue to explore. If you recall earlier when we talked about acquiring the piece of property adjacent to Chase Bank, at that time

I suggested that we camera along that area adjacent to the business area along Rockside simply as kind of a quiet invisible monitoring force that would be assistful.

We circle on back, to me the greatest issue related to Police is that we get our number of officers back up. That we are able to fill the appropriate positions, the Lieutenants, the Chief, the Deputy Chief and so on, whatever is appropriate so that we have boots on the ground as it comes to that.

I am really not in favor of putting a huge amount of money into a new satellite facility and splitting the force. I don't see that as a practical step.

Whether or not it makes sense for the school bus garage to be adjacent or involved with the City's Service Department or not, that basically is a question of legitimately how much space is there. Again, the disadvantage when those busses have to crawl out of Stone Road when the weather is inclement is obviously a big minus. The fact that the Board is dealing with Nike site era buildings; again that's an issue that they need to be aware of; I remember back in the day, the Board office was actually part of the high school which is now the middle school. So, in other words, the Superintendent and related people, related staff, were located in what is now the middle school building. So, I know that the Nike site building is a "newer thing", but I definitely if I am down there as it relates to the land lab being the adjacent property, that to me is another hands off area. Whether or not the Board decides or thinks it's worthwhile to move the bus garage or do something else related to the Board office, that's the School Board's business to make those decisions.

We currently have a Technical Service building that is also adjacent to the Service garage. That puts them in immediate proximity to the campus, that centralization, that forethought; I don't know who we can give the most credit to, but the idea that you have your Service Department, your Technical Service Department, the fact that we put money into converting the old Fire station into the Building and Engineering Departments, having those together and also in close proximity. The fact that we have redone the Fire station not that long ago, but it seems so by reading the plaque on the wall from Ed Teare and realizing it was built before that; but we have very nice facilities there. Everything is close and in proximity; so in my mind's eye to separate and spread out for City services, whether it be a satellite Police station or moving the Service Department to another location off of Brecksville Road does not make sense to me, and I don't even want to get into potential costs for doing those things. That's the other piece of the puzzle. The piece of the puzzle is the money that it might take to build your auxiliary Police station or to build your road into a new Service facility and then build a new Service facility really comes to the question what areas are we going to take the money from to be spending in those areas. Some might say well maybe some of the facilities aren't up to brand new situations, and that could be true; but in the locations they are and the fact that we do have some space where they are located, it seems to me to look at upgrading to whatever level we need to of the facilities we have so that we are best able to continue to serve the residents, continue to protect residents from intrusion into residential areas, those things to me seem to be the critical items as we move on. To me it's really important. We as a Council, or at least me as a Council Member, I want to be able to be willing to cooperate with the School Board and provide what help we can as we have done in the past, providing help and programs along the way and services and other things along

the way, but realizing that we have our role and our role is to be responsible for the City and for what we as a City do and what we as a City spend related to our own buildings.

There you are.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Thank you very much Dale. We will move right along, and Kathleen you are next on my panel here so your time is here and please share your ideas with us.

Councilperson Kapusta said thank you Dave.

First of all, I am listening to my colleagues, I pick up somewhat of a common thread. Obviously, a lot of interest in cooperating, a lot of interest in looking to the future, being cognizant of needs as well as maybe tempering that by expenses. I also hear some unknowns. We don't have adequate information about some of the things, and I realize this is only one step of the process; but there seems to be among all of us a lot of things of supposition, and I think that it seems like much of what we are talking about will springboard off of the schools. Several of the issues directly relate to the schools, and I think we haven't really had the opportunity to sit down with the schools. I heard something about a meeting, and I think the term was with some of the School Board members, so I don't even know if it was a full meeting with our Administration and the Board; but we have asked I know repeatedly over the years during my terms, to have more joint meetings with our Board of Education. For whatever reason, we haven't done that, and I think that for me to really say much at this point and time, it's got to be tempered by an understanding that I am not really sure where our Board is going, and many of these decisions have to, as several of my colleagues have said, have to emanate from what the Board of Education wants.

I also realize that I won't be here when you are making these decisions, but for whatever it's worth I would like to still give my comments; one of which is that I think with our school system we have some issues with the comments on the buildings because we are talking about okay if we don't know what the public will do, whether they will vote for new buildings or if we will even be able to move over to a centralized campus if that's the goal. We also need to look at our current buildings. We talk about that our Administrative building for our Board of Education is sorely inadequate, I concur with that; but then we don't want to lose the classroom part of the lab. So, does that tell me we are going to potentially sustain that building? I don't think that, speaking as a former Board of Education member also, that they would want to necessarily keep on their docket an additional building. So, now we are saying we don't want to lose that classroom, so that sounds to me like part of that building would in fact be remaining open. I don't know how realistic that is.

I think also when we talk about the moves, and again we are assuming that the schools could be on board with some of these things, we will have to see; but when we talk about the primary school, so if the primary school is moved out, we don't know what the thoughts are of the Board of Education. Are they looking at selling that property? Are they looking at retaining it? At one time in the past, there was a comment at one point, and this goes back pre-Covid; so who knows what if the people are still thinking the same thing. There was some thought about keeping that

as possibly for meetings, keeping that building for meetings. Well again, another building sustained on the docket with all its inherent costs, and I don't know if the Board is going to do this; but again, there are so many unknowns that we are trying to deal with.

Related to, again another issue with the school, if it were to move out, I concur with some of my colleagues who have said about putting a Service Department in a residential area. I cannot see supporting that. I think the question was asked would any of us want it? I wouldn't want it, and I wouldn't want it for my fellow residents. I know that there's in response to that, the noise will be less; and it will change the flavor of the residential community if we do that. I wouldn't want that for our residents.

Regarding the Police Department, I again don't know enough about what from a technology standpoint they feel they need and want and so forth. I would 100% support anything with increasing their technology, giving them the equipment that they need; and as several of my colleagues have said, my emphasis, my focus would always be on boots on the ground because I do see when people talk about, you get off, you would see the building. I understand that, but you could also see Police cars. You can see officers. You can see mounted officers riding. There are a lot of other ways to create a high sense of visibility.

One of the comments that was made too is that we don't have problems with response time. So, if we don't have a problem with response time, and I do believe that, why would we feel that we would be motivated to go in that direction. So, the technology, the increasing manpower, I am 100% supportive of all those things.

Additionally, and I think I heard Chris talk about this, if we do, even with our current campus of the educational campus there, but certainly if we move additional students there; I want our main Police close to our children. I think that's critical to have that and to sustain that is very, very important. That would be something that I would definitely support, keeping them there in that respect.

The fifth issue about the park system. I have always been, if you look back at any votes we had on issues throughout the years of my tenor, I have always been a supporter of garnering additional land around our City campus and around our park system, whether it be used for City municipal buildings, functions, things of that nature; or whether it be used for the park. We all know, and we have said this many, many times, a commodity that's limited is land, particularly in a town like ours where we are kind of landlocked. So, I will continue to support the acquisition of land and area to make available for whatever those services are that we feel that would be enhancing either our schools or our City.

My concluding comment would be really to say that I see as I listened to the very good comments that were said before me by all of my fellow Councilpersons, I saw a real dichotomy coming; and the dichotomy in my perception was this, I have always been so proud of the fact that we have a true campus for our City services. I can tell you, and I am sure you have experienced it too when you have had friends or family who have come the area, they will remark isn't this great. It's not like some cities where you have the City Hall over there, and

then 7 miles down the road you might have a Police station, and you have something else. We have that true campus, and that's why I would do anything to support the enhancement of that. We are talking about consolidating the school system into one area potentially because we value and we know the value of consolidation and a singular campus. So, I would not support decimating our campus and putting a park here and park there and a park somewhere else. I think what we need to do is, and I think it was Councilperson Veverka who said identifying what the needs are of the schools and ours; and then we do have to prioritize the City needs. That's what our job is, not to overlook the school needs, of course not; but if we say hey this is what we need to sustain our municipal campus, now oh we have some land here, we can do some things there. What I didn't hear, and maybe our Board of Education is engaged in this conversation, but I don't now because we didn't have any of that presented to us; what we didn't hear about is our high school facility.

I was Board President during the building of our high school, and I know for a fact that we built a school that could hold a capacity larger than we currently have there of students. So, whether it be additional students or whether it be some of like was mentioned earlier, office space being put into that structure; I would want to hear about that before I would say we have to give up this building or that building because we want to move the school. I think we need to also look within their own building, and that one is the one that most strikes me as the potential because of what I know we built it in terms of size.

So again basically, and to summarize, I would support so many of the things we talked about. I don't want to see us taking away residential neighborhoods from people in terms of putting the Service Department there. I also would love to say to retain the consolidated nature of our municipal campus; and if we could do something to help consolidate some of the school things, if that's really the will of the Board, then I would support that as well. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Kathleen. Kenn, you are next on my screen here. Your turn is up.

Councilperson Synek said thank you Dave, and thank you to the makes of Zoom who ordered this so I get to go near the end and get the benefit of hearing all of these other comments and give me a little time to shape my thoughts on this topic.

I have kind of broken it down into two big sections. First being the conditions on the ground in Independence, and then the specific facilities that we have been talking about.

My view on the conditions on the ground in beautiful Independence, Ohio; of course we are a very developed community. We are essentially landlocked. There's not like all of this vacant farm land at the edge of town that's just a blank canvas that we can paint on. We have limited large tracts of land that are available to put a new school on or put a new Service Center on. There are just very limited options there.

My second observation is that the people of our community like, appreciate, expect nice things, the Civic Center, the City Hall, Fieldhouse, all of Elmwood Park. Certainly kudos to the people

who have kept the flowers and the flags being so nice on Rockside Road; they are absolutely beautiful right now. Those flowers are in full bloom, and you have the flags. It is aesthetically very pleasing, very nice. Our community members expect nice and quality and the best of everything.

We are also a very traditional community, both in terms of the financial values and in terms of don't change things much. This is not a community that embraces change quickly and easily and just a final point on some of the conditions on the ground. Our City finances a world away from our school district. As a City we have roughly \$10,000,000 a year to work with for capital improvements. Our school district, if we can get this PI renewal levy passed, is about \$750,000, maybe \$1,000,000 a year to work with for permanent improvements. That is it, a \$1,000,000 is certainly not enough to maintain the buildings that we have now and certainly not enough to take on a major building project. So, anything involving the schools is going to require a vote of the people. The money is just there for the school district. That's the condition on the ground.

As far as the specific buildings and properties, as Councilperson Walchanowicz mentioned in his firsthand report from the primary school last night. The primary school opened in 1955. It was built in 1955, it's been added onto, and it's okay; but construction of schools in 1955, it wasn't built for air conditioning. It certainly, the electrical layout for it was not, they didn't envision computers and smart boards and all the other technology that is such a part of education today. It is unpowered in that regard, and the plumbing system is 60 years old. There are some major system issues in the primary school that are at their end of useful life. I don't we would get much argument from the voters that the primary school is at the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. I think that is a winning proposition with the voters.

Where it starts to go off the rails for me is when you try to link that project with the middle school. Yeah, it would be a very nice thing if you were starting over on a blank canvas, you probably would build a K-8 building together because you get the efficiencies of the bus transportation, the efficiencies of a lunch service. You only need one or two gyms. You only need one auditorium instead of two. There are tremendous efficiencies to a K-8 building versus two separate buildings; but again Independence is a community steeped in tradition and trying to change that is a very, very heavy lift with the voters. Coupled with the fact that so many of us here on this Zoom call went to high school in what's currently the middle school. It's still beautiful. It was built as a high school. It is rock solid. It has some issues where it's aged, but it certainly is not of the condition of the primary school; and it's a much tougher sell if you were to say the middle school is beyond its useful life and should be replaced.

So again, given all those factors, I think we need a primary school; and if I were an Administrator I would be pushing for the efficiency of it; but I don't think our community is going to accept that. It's trying to jam a square peg into a round hole to ram that building into the community campus. It would be nice if we could just wipe the slate clean and start over, but the community is not going to go for that. So, they say politics is the art of the possible, and I just don't see that winning favor with the majority of the voters to try to remake the community campus with one K-8 building all in one place.

As far as the Service Department, if you had the canvas of Independence, if you could plop that Service Department anywhere, I would be hard pressed to find a better spot than exactly where it is, abutting a freeway, some wetland areas around it. There's really not any significant housing close by. I don't see the value of moving that somewhere else unless there were some vacant piece of property down in the Cloverleaf area or Pleasant Valley Road that's already an industrial area that would fit in; yeah maybe, but I don't see the need at this point. Again, not that I have studied it, I could be convinced otherwise; but at first blush, it just seems to me more of a want than a need to relocate that Service Department.

The Police Department, I think policing happens where Police Officers interact with the community, wherever that is. Hopefully, it doesn't have to happen in the Police Department office there at City Hall or wherever the building may be. It's where Police Officers interact with community members, that's the key to policing and community safety to me. I would certainly welcome and enjoy a tour of the current Police facility because I know nothing about how a Police Department needs to operate, the facilities that are needed for a Police Department to operate efficiently in 2021 and beyond. So, having a tour of that would certainly be helpful to help me further make my decisions, or flush out my thoughts about a Police Department building or facility.

As far as the land lab, yeah it's a treasure; and nothing is forever. It is a piece of property that is owned and controlled by the school district; and if that's the only piece of property that's available to build a new primary school, well maybe we have to be open to that possibility because again politics are the art of possible. I wouldn't want to see that happen, but let's do what we have to do, and I think our most urgent need in our town is for a primary school. Again, it's outdated, it doesn't support current technology. We can and should do a lot better than what our current primary school facility is.

There may have been something else, but that's good for now. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Kenn. Last but not least, I have to go to my next screen, there you are Tom.

Councilperson Narduzzi said thanks for making me last Dave. I'm going to take everybody's comments and put them on mine, and that's how I feel.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well Tom you have had many years of service and had some great ideas too; so we saved the best for last.

Councilperson Narduzzi said if I bore anybody, don't get mad at me with what I say; but first of all, if we did nothing, we still have the best of everything. So, keep that in mind, but I also want to think outside of the box a little bit.

It seems to me by listening to all of my colleagues talk, and listening to the Mayor give his speech when he became Mayor, I think you guys remember the meeting we had that one Saturday morning; we are trying to make our City more efficient and help our School Board out

at the same time. So, because the School Board wanted to build two new buildings and move everything to one central location, the City started wheeling and dealing and getting creative on what we could do to help them, and what we could get out of by them moving their buildings to one central location.

That's how this all started. There are great points by everybody, but I am going to hit on a few that hit home for me. Living on the north side of Independence, I don't know if anybody realizes the amount of Police cars and ambulances and Fire trucks that go by daily past my house. So, to move a Police station or a Fire station may not be the best answer, but hopefully we come to some agreement on a satellite station and a satellite Fire Department because if response times are good, they could be great, believe me. It's not one or two times a day, it's probably a half dozen times a day; and it's on Saturdays, it's on Sundays, it's Saturday nights, it's Sunday night, it's all times of the day, they are buzzing by Lafayette going to Rockside Road. Just the fact that I-77 and I-480 are there, I don't know how many accidents are there; but the perfect scenario would be to have a ramp on I-77 right by the Service Department to get there, but unfortunately that may never happen. That would be the perfect scenario. Having a satellite station somewhere down there has to cut down response time. Even if it's good, we could make it great.

The Service Department in my mind, it's an accident waiting to happen. If you are going to move the primary school to the school campus, and you have little kids crossing to go the park, and you have these massive trucks with salt on bad days, one after another coming down Selig Road, I don't know. It's a bad scenario in my mind. We have been very, very lucky so far, but the more kids we bring, the more cars we bring on a daily basis, somehow we have to separate that. Even if we move the bus station where the Service Department is at now, or do we move the Service Department north and have an exit that they exit out to Chestnut somehow, we have to figure that scenario out. I do believe that moving it to where the primary school is would affect the quality of life for people. So, that kind of bothers me a little bit, but that's to be determined. There's all kind of locations that we can move that to.

The safety by the school, I wouldn't want to move the Police Department away from the school. I do believe that having that all on one campus is a great tribute to a city. It's all good, but we can't lose sight of that satellite or something on Rockside Road.

I am just going to talk a little bit about the primary school. I agree with the primary school getting knocked down, I think it has seen better days. I would like to see that land somewhat be homes if possible, but I don't know what the school district has in mind with that.

The middle school now, that thing is a dinosaur. To knock that down would be a shame. I think that whatever they decide, I don't think the City, like Councilperson Synek said, the City is going to buy into that one. I hope that the school district will be moving in the right direction when it comes to, I will give them the primary school; I can't see knocking that middle school down. It will be there for another 200 years if it's maintained right, and the proper roof put back on it. The facilities that it has, no other middle school has. It has an auditorium, a gymnasium, the shop class which is no longer; but believe me in years to come that shop class is going to

come back. It has a lot to offer. I won't give them that one. I will go to bat against that one. I can't believe that one.

Busses, I think that the City as far as somebody talked about the equipment the City has, multi-million dollar equipment, should be under cover to make it last longer; and then again I believe that the school busses should be under cover too. So, the school busses are a big nut for the school district to pay out every year to maintain those busses and keeping them free of salt and weather. All summer long they sit out there and bake in the sun, and all that stuff should be under cover I believe.

I don't think it should be a shared facility with the City. The school district has to stay the school district, and the City has to stay the City; and we always seem to help them as much as possible; but I think we have to keep that difference between the two.

As far as we were talking about moving the Service Department, and the Tech Service building could actually go into a new Service Department. I think that the School Administration office could move into the Tech Services Building.

I think if we put some type of little addition on City Hall, that the Building Department could move into City Hall with the Engineering Department; and then the school district could take over that building. I think there's ways to do it without building a new building for the School Administration. I think the City could combine what they have now, and we could make things work.

It's just a big piece of the puzzle that we have to put together, but on an overall basis, I like the school district having everything on one campus. I like the City having everything on one campus minus the Service Department. That's the only, I always said that was going to be troublesome someday. As it gets bigger, we get bigger equipment, we get more equipment; it's just a lot of traffic. If you put a new school in over there, if anybody ever drives down Hillside Road when the primary school is letting out, it is a shit show. There are cars on every side street. Hillside is backed up to 21. They are sitting in the Sunoco gas station. It's crazy. So, bring all of that onto the middle school now where people are waiting to pick up their kids and busses leaving the high school and busses leaving the middle school; and then throw in the Service Department. It's going to be a little bit too much to handle.

My last comment is, when all this stuff goes down, I sure hope that we have something going on downtown because we will all be murdered. We talk about this, and it's not going to happen tomorrow; but it's great to talk about this and we have to plan for the future, but don't lose sight of downtown. If we are going to spend money and put money into any part of the City, I think the one that is hurting the most is our downtown area. Like I said in the beginning, everything we have right now works. It's not like it has to be fixed, but downtown has to be fixed because it's just not working.

So, that's all I have.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Tom, and thank you each and every Council Member. Everybody had something very good to add to this discussion. Again, there's no right or wrong answer, just we need to, it's a balancing act that we have. It's easy just to say let's not worry about the future, we will just take care of matters as they come, and things are going pretty good as it is. If you can look back in your lifetime, I go back to recognizing back in the 1960's even, I was at St. Michael's and early on how things have changed from downtown when we had a movie theater and a vibrant shopping center at that point and how things are today. You have to put yourselves in the same position, yes we are caretakers and decision makers for the here and now; but we want to keep the City moving in the right direction. There's going to be a lot of changes. I foresee Rockside Road with the northwest quadrant being different. I see our downtown. I hope I'm not just chasing rainbows here and hoping that downtown is going to change. I really do think we hope to have an opportunity to change the whole game there as far as downtown goes.

I think one of the notes that I wrote is that I would love for us if we have an opportunity for us to take a tour of our own facilities like we did back when I was on Council the first 10 years. I know we had tours of our buildings, and we had tours of our streets and sidewalks and roads every year. We took notes, and there were some discoveries that we made that we didn't even realize until we were right down there and looking at it that these things need to be taken care of and changed the priority. I think that's when we started grading the roads and moving forward to taking care of our inventory of infrastructure.

I do know that it would be wonderful to take a tour of some of the other cities' facilities. There is no shame in picking the brains of our more successful suburbs and seeing if there are things that we can fit or even that we can utilize for our community.

Again, we still have hopefully land available in the northwest quadrant, it was pie in the sky 20 years ago when I first got on a Council; we said wouldn't it be nice if Rockside Woods North would hook up with Brecksville Road and open up all that land for development. Well that's happened, and maybe now we can look at the northwest quadrant, and maybe 20 years from now it will be a vibrant sub-center to our community, as well as hopefully downtown. So, there's still plenty of frontiers to take care of, and we just can't say what we have now is good enough, let's just keep it as it is because I think Doc Asseff used to say if we're not making improvements, moving forward, we are falling back. Again, it's a very competitive world that we live in from an economic business standpoint.

So, I would love to see if Mayor you would be able to arrange, and maybe some of our Department Heads, arrange some of these tours if we are available or if time allows to see what other communities have, and say hey we never thought of using a facility like this or having a facility like that and seeing what's wasteful and what's productive. That would be a great idea if we can accomplish that. There's no shame in getting ideas from other communities.

The other thing is that if we can verify that land acquisition north. I know Mayor there is a gas line there and everything else, but is that a possibility that we could move our Service Department in the direction of putting a facility like we talked about there too.

So, there are so many things like Kathleen mentioned that are unknown to us right now, we need a little more facts. I would be willing to spend the time to investigate that.

It would even be nice Jim sometimes to utilize our citizens who might be experts in some of these areas to be part of a committee that will say hey this is something that I think would be productive for our community. This way you have people in the community buying into ideas too and being part of the thought process so we are not the only 7 or 9 that come up with ideas. There are a lot of great ideas.

Councilperson Veverka said just to add to that Dave. One of the big plusses that we had when we did the tours was Dave Snyderburn went with us and pointed out certain things related to the buildings. We had at the time the Service Director that pointed out some of the focuses, and if I remember correctly, I am not sure Don if you attended with some of those to point out some things or not; but the opportunity for Council to be well exposed to those bits of information that only the leadership team is aware of, and it does help us when it comes to making decisions and focusing on what the real needs of the community are.

Vice Mayor Grendel said you are absolutely right Dale. I like the idea Mayor of having part of your team, your Department Heads, meeting with the Council and saying this is totally adequate, we don't need any changes. So, we don't try to change something that's working, but also they can tell us hey we just can't get the job done as well as we should because we need this facility or we need that equipment or that. It's kind of nice for us to get educated by your team and letting us know hey what can we do in our decision making that would make their jobs easier and make things easier or better for our residents in town too because you always can get better. You never just sit on your laurels.

Mayor Kurtz replied absolutely.

Vice Mayor Grendel said then Mayor I want to give you time now. You heard the rest of us speak and everything, if you have anything to add to that or something with that, it would be appreciated too.

Mayor Kurtz said no, I was an attentive listener today. Quite frankly Vice Mayor, this discussion and narrative today exceeded my expectations. It's re-energized, and I am more excited than ever when I think about our bright future and having each of you weigh in the way you did. My team is going to prioritize, and we listened carefully. You can see all the people who are on this call today. We listened carefully to each of your perspectives, your concerns and your challenges, and we will take that information, synthesize it and we will put it together in a simple form and outline that's workable. We will create a framework that we can come back to you and see how close we hit the target in terms of taking what you shared today and show how we can put it together as the framework that is going to be very workable.

I am more energized than ever. We will re-frame some of these things, but it's really important that we were able to put this information together. This Council has been very cooperative, and each of you come from a different perspective, and I value that. I think it's really important so

that the Administration has multiple dimensions in its thought process going into a solution. We may not always agree to the letter of the issue, but in the framework, I didn't see anything that didn't coincide or wasn't consistent with the opportunities before us. We are going to take that information and put it in a framework, like someone said, we are going to take the puzzle pieces that you have outlined today; and we are going to see if we can assemble them to create a mosaic that's going to be good for several generations from now. The goal is to invest in the future using the talent, time and resources we have available to create a plan, implement a plan and then be able to be judged by how successful we utilize our resources that we entrust you with.

I will use the Civic Center as the foundation, it's the crown jewel of our community. We didn't get into any of the specifics, and I appreciate that. We stayed mobile, we stayed big picture because there's a lot of time and effort and money to be spent on each of these individual facilities, but I appreciate the fact that you took a global approach. We will put this together, and in the very near future I hope to come back to Council and get you this information and give you a clear plan to see how close we can hit the target.

So, that's all I have to add today, except that downtown, we will be having a meeting on that if not sooner than the Planning Commission then at the Planning Commission. We are trying to put puzzle pieces together on that one that identify some of the opportunities, but the campus concept, I heard you loud and clear. The fact that we need to work and collaborate with the schools, I heard you loud and clear. To be able to take a tour of our existing facilities to give you a better understanding of the needs and the investment of capital dollars going forward, and to see to what extent we may have to get the electorate involved, it's all going to be transparent as far as I'm concerned. We have to work with our partner, the school leadership. We have to work with the Department Heads, the people that you entrust to provide the high level of service you expect.

By working with this Council, we have a great opportunity to do some great things, and that's what I look forward to. So, we will take this information, synthesize it, frame it up and then we can go from there.

The only one you didn't hear from was the Finance Director, but he's going to get frustrated when we spend all of our money.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's why we kept the muzzle on him there.

Mayor Kurtz said he and I will collaborate. I will fast forward, and we will collaborate so that we can make sure everyone's voice is heard before we go to our stakeholders, the people and ask them for their input; but I think it's our obligation to frame this up so that they can make an informed decision and participate in this process.

Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Mayor.

Councilperson Veverka said Mayor you mentioned Vern, and I had made a comment to Vern recently. I know that Vern a couple of memos ago you had mentioned about whether it made sense to eliminate about \$3,000,000 or some portion of debt where we were receiving basically zero interest; and I just wondered if my colleagues were also aware of that and have responded to you to give you some direction on that particular topic.

Finance Director Blaze said well we will get that direction, that's a great question Councilperson Veverka, and I am working with the Mayor, Finance Advisor and Calfee Halter right now to have legislation, at least on First Reading for the September meeting. We will have time to discuss it. I think there will be time, even if it's adopted by October for us to facilitate the payment December 1 if that's the direction that Council gives us.

Councilperson Veverka said thank you sir.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and Mayor would it be fruitful for us to schedule a meeting with the School Board now, so everybody on Council could hear what their future plans are so that we can help also and give them our advice whether they want it or not; but at least where they can hear firsthand where we are coming from too on these issues.

Mayor Kurtz replied absolutely. I will reinforce to Ben what I heard today so that they are aware of it, but then we should call a meeting. We do meet, we do discuss, but a more comprehensive discussion is in order, and we can schedule that. It's tough though because now even with the convenience of Zoom, it's all hooked up to trying to get everybody on the same timeframe; but we will work on that. That's great.

Vice Mayor Grendel replied very good. Thank you Mayor.

Then Vern as far as when the time comes, the budgeting process, I think we will be starting to schedule whether it be Finance meetings or whether it be Council Workshops as a whole, as we formulate our appropriations for next year.

Finance Director Blaze said appropriations I'm not worried about, and I think the tour that you are talking about, both at our current facilities as well as other cities' facilities, that will help us draft a more robust, comprehensive, thorough capital plan for going forward. So, I know the legislation says it's supposed to be done by the end of the year for the subsequent years; but I don't think there's any harm in doing it comprehensively; and if we take some time in September or October to tour some of the facilities, our facilities, and if we wrap that capital plan up the first quarter of 2022, I don't think that's the end of the world. I think the community would rather us have a good plan rather than a rushed plan.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good, thank you Vern. Then Mayor that's the thing that we need to see if we can schedule some of these tours, both internally and outside just to get an idea to get these things moving and give us a better idea of what we are dealing with here on a first hand knowledge.

Mayor Kurtz said that's not an issue. That's not a problem, we can do that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good.

Mayor Kurtz said we will make sure the Department Heads are prepared to individually share their thoughts relative to the responsibilities they have, so it will be fine.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Thank you Greg. Any other questions or comments from Council before we wrap it up today? I want to thank everyone for their ideas. Again, nobody had bad ideas. There is no idea that's a bad idea. The fact that we were able to share thoughts, it gives us a little better idea. We know that putting a Service Department down by where the primary school is now I think is a moot point. I don't think anybody brought up a good argument for that. So, that should be eliminated from our thought process as far as that goes because we have to be considerate of the residents that have lived there for a number of years, the residents that live on Braewood. Again, we should get that out of our thoughts. You want all positive thoughts from the community, you don't want people having fearful thoughts and thinking that something is going to be a surprise and thrust upon them. We want positive energy from this community.

Mayor Kurtz said if you don't create options as many of you have indicated over the last year and a half; if you don't throw things on the wall, you will never know what sticks. You will miss out on opportunities. So, you need to have these discussions even though they may be a bit disjointed. I think they are still important to have because they give you another perspective, and they give you alternative uses, different opportunities. We will continue to throw things on the wall, and you have to have a vision that's bigger than yourself, but not locked into it. You have to be able to be flexible. It's what we are going to do.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good Mayor.

Councilperson Trakas said I just had two quick questions. This is not related to our topics today, but under other business. The first question I had was one year ago we saw that the old America's Best Suites had been taken over by the new group, the Gaucho people or whoever owns the restaurant there. Have they approached the City with anything? We said we would give them about a year, and it's about a year and just curious if anything has happened with that.

Mayor Kurtz said nothing. Greg, you might have something, nothing of any substance as far as my office.

Law Director O'Brien said no, we have not heard anything Mayor.

Councilperson Trakas said well we gave them a year didn't we.

The second question I had was in terms of the mask mandates and everything. What were we planning to do for the September meeting of Council. The reason I ask is I am going to be at

Camp Sherman but I can drive back up to Independence for a meeting; but I was wondering what you wanted to do with respect to a meeting for Council on September 13th.

Mayor Kurtz said that's up to City Council. I am very flexible, whatever your thoughts are. You know the policy the City is using because we just want to be more cautious than concerned, but we are flexible. It's not punitive, it's more flexible. We are trying to just make people aware that this thing is not going away. We have to be sensitive to it. So, whatever Council wants to do.

One of the conversations by the way is when we discuss City Hall is about a larger Caucus room, more effective, more technology driven Caucus room instead of what we are using today because it's challenging in the current space. We have a lot of different uses for different space at City Hall because of the opportunities that we are growing into. That's not for today's discussion. So, what do you want to do Council? It's up to you.

Councilperson Kapusta said well if employees would be wearing masks, then I would think that Council would need to wear masks too in order to be appropriate, and I personally for one think it's more difficult to speak with masks; but even more than that, I am not comfortable with that large of a group of people being together in the Caucus room. So, I would then request that, if we are going to be together and present in person, that we do that in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Kurtz said whatever Council wants to do. You can see the number of people who are on this right here. These are the people who would be participating in a potential meeting or need to be part of this Council meeting because they are the ones that you would either have questions for or expect answers from or they need to be able to understand where you are coming from so that they can resolve the problem after the Council meeting rather than not knowing or be aware of it.

Councilperson Veverka said my thoughts related to that is that I agree with Kathleen, the Caucus room is a bit tight. The possibility of having the Council Members on the two rows in the large room and have the Department Heads spread out in the lower area. We still should have plenty of room for audience people, and if we have a portable mike, that way anybody who would need to have any input, we could get it covered and still maintain pretty good spacing, I would suggest.

Mayor Kurtz said it's your call.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think we were ready to have it in person this last month before things came up. I am flexible too. I certainly am attentive to what Kathleen's concerns are, and they are very much viable concerns; but I would be glad to meet either way. I would be glad to see everybody in person. I think sometimes the flow of ideas goes better, and especially getting the input from the residents is a lot easier having it in person. Again, we have the function pretty well virtually too; so it doesn't matter to me. I can go either way, and I am perfectly happy either way. I like having meetings in my shorts and not have to get dressed, but again we are not here to make things easy for us, we are here to serve at the mercy of our residents and at their pleasure.

Mayor Kurtz said there's 4,000 new cases in Ohio today.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's the thing. I would hate to have a meeting and then all of a sudden have 10 people get ill from attending it too. It would not help anybody. So, we have been used to these virtual meetings, and for us to have another one in September and October, it would not bother me, or to have a meeting in person wouldn't bother me either.

Councilperson Veverka asked do you want to take a straw poll Dave?

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Well, let's see, Jim what's your feelings, virtual or in person?

Councilperson Trakas said well I go back and forth on this. I heard what the Mayor just said, 4,000 new infections. I think we are supposed to be under a few in order to go back to normal. I guess I would reluctantly vote to go virtual, it's not what I prefer to do; but I don't want to be responsible for people getting sick.

Mayor Kurtz asked do you just want to do virtual next month, and then we can watch it trending and watch what happens, I don't care.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think Dale was voting for in person. Kathleen, you would probably prefer virtual?

Councilperson Kapusta replied yes sir.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Kenn?

Councilperson Synek said I lean toward virtual only because we have to solve the technology in the Council Chamber. The technology is not there. The community has gotten used to being able to see these things remotely, and when we get there, it's going to be kind of a mess because this won't be visible to the public; and this forum is ideal for sharing information with the public. They can connect from home, they don't have to leave their house. They can listen. It's just ideal, but to be able to replicate this technology when we are physically in the Council Chamber is a huge priority, a huge wish of mine. Again, to me it's not the virus, it's the technology and the presentation of the information that this is a better forum.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Tom?

Councilperson Narduzzi said I am flexible either way. I prefer Zoom, but I agree with Councilperson Synek. The public has gotten used to seeing our mugs on their computer. It's very easy for them to log in and see and listen to us, and going back to the norm is kind of shutting them out unless they want to venture out and put themselves at risk. I prefer Zoom. If we go in person like Kenn said, I would like to come up with some kind of makeshift so the public can hear and see what we have to say.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Tom. I think Kathleen you had something.

Councilperson Kapusta said I just had one question. Debi, if I was correct in understanding, didn't you go last week to see a setup? Was that a setup for like the technology that you went over to?

The Clerk said we went to the City of North Royalton to see their technology, and I was supposed to be getting some more information from them as to what they use. They actually are upgrading and getting better cameras in the City Hall and had some quotes that the Clerk was going to send me.

Councilperson Kapusta said thank you.

Mayor Kurtz said we are working on it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think Dale you had a comment.

Councilperson Veverka said just at the bottom of the page, I frequently run my eyeballs down there, that's why you see the top of my head; but for this workshop there were a total of 28 people, and if you count the people on the screen, that meant 3 people attending. If you look at a typical Council meeting where there are somewhere around 35 people of which by the time you take our group and you add the people we bring in that are receiving a grant or some other way, it's a small handful. In some ways we say, well it's nice because we can get the people involved that understand and deal with the technology, but the reality is I am not sure, if anybody is under 50, I get it, they are into the technology. People who are older than 50, and I'm not grouping them as a generality; but there's probably a much higher percentage of people who are over 50 that would just like to sit and listen in person as to not be able to access it through technology. I am just throwing that thought out there because even though we create this technology opportunity, it doesn't mean we have a huge response taking advantage of it.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I agree 100% Councilperson Veverka, in yesterday, but in today's world I don't think those 65 year olds would want come out in a room full of people. That's just my opinion.

Councilperson Veverka said could be.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Chris, I will give you an opportunity to weigh in.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I look out for all of our safety, the safety of our Department Heads, the Administration. We have done Zoom for this long, what's one more month? It almost went up 1,000 overnight. Our next meeting isn't for two and a half to three weeks; it could be at 6,000 people by then. So, I think better safe than sorry. Our kids are going to be getting back in school, things may spread a little bit quicker here; so I think for one more month I would rather see us just on Zoom.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you Chris, and hearing all the input Mayor, I think the best would be to go to virtual for the month of September too. The facts don't make sense that we should put people at risk. Until it starts to come down like it was a few months ago even, I think we are better off, and we have had very productive meetings virtually; and I think we should continue through the month of September.

Mayor Kurtz said okay. Is there anything else on that topic?

Vice Mayor Grendel said not on that topic Mayor, but I know Jim mentioned about the hotel down there. Any movement on the Todt property? Did that sell? Remember there was a potential buyer and everything. Has anything moved on that property?

Mayor Kurtz said we have not heard anything, but I will have the Building Department update Council and myself on both of those issues. We are still working with the Grunts through legal to make sure that we are following protocols.

We have made some progress on the Nestor property. We are still not home there, and the property next to Selig, a slow process and slow progress but definitely this approach is making people aware of the fact that we are working through the community methodically, and it's a slow process. We will keep moving forward.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I have noticed the change in the Nestor property. It is noticeable. I think Jim has done a good job trying to deal with those folks, and Chris you had a comment.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said I was just wondering if we have looked into another property on Brecksville Road. It's just north of the Sutula shopping center. The house is all overgrown. It's a white house. It's very deplorable. I have spoken with some Police Officers who have had to go in there for some domestic stuff, and they said the house inside is deplorable. I just didn't know if you were starting any traction with that property.

Mayor Kurtz said we will have a verbal conversation. That's what we do first. The new protocol is we have a face-to-face contact, and if we can't communicate with them, then we will send them some type of formal communication. We will get on that one too.

Building Official Gero said we have been working with that one and working towards getting a resolution on that.

Mayor Kurtz said perfect.

Law Director O'Brien said just for Council's comfort level. I think, Mike help me out, I think we are on the sixth notice and final notice to the Grunts that was posted today or yesterday that the house is coming down.

Building Official Gero replied right, covering all the bases trying to reduce any exposure.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Dale, you said you had a comment.

Councilperson Veverka said on a slightly different topic. Mr. Mayor for Ordinance 2021-105, did we get the dots on the i's and the crosses on the t's yet for that one?

Mayor Kurtz asked is that the agreements?

Councilperson Veverka replied yes.

Mayor Kurtz said legal has to keep moving on this. Greg, I don't know what's, I expect something on my desk ready by Friday or we are moving in a different direction.

Law Director O'Brien said Mayor we are just waiting on the other side.

Mayor Kurtz said well then Jess make sure that they know that we have to get this thing completed because Council meeting is coming up, and I want to have it on the agenda.

Economic Development Director Hyser said I will make sure it's taken care of. Thanks Mayor.

Mayor Kurtz said great. By the way, it hasn't slowed us up a bit because we had a great groundbreaking. They are moving forward. We have a lot of different moving parts on this deal. We have a couple of more deals coming down the pike that are going to take some fast tracking by City Council; but I think you will be energized by all of it. Keep in mind that we are the caretakers for now, but we are the visionaries for future generations. That sums up all of the collective comments for today, at least that should be part of our vision statement.

Councilperson Veverka said my only comment related to that is as enthusiastic as I am as a Council Member to support the forward thinking and the forward moving, I do get some level of concern when we are asked to deal with items that aren't totally finalized; and I am glad that we are moving in that direction. I will feel much more comfortable when that's dealt with, so thank you very much.

Mayor Kurtz said you are welcome.

Councilperson Walchanowicz asked Mayor is it alright if I mention that ordinance that you and I had talked about?

Mayor Kurtz said I think you are going to have to call a committee meeting, but I think just alert Council as to your thoughts would be very appropriate.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said it would be either next month or October, I want to re-introduce the tree ordinance that we had years in the past with obvious different costs. I just wanted to get feedback from everyone, what their thoughts were on re-introducing it. If the City should pay "x" amount of dollars or a percentage, and I have an idea if we take a tree down, we

give the resident a tree to replant to help Jim's tree canopy aspect. So, I just wanted to let everyone know that we are looking to re-introduce that.

Councilperson Veverka said native species.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Well Chris you bring up a good point, we introduced and passed that program for needed repairs and infrastructure partnerships with our residents; I think this falls right in line with that too. If we can assist and also make neighbors safer. A tree could potentially affect two or three properties.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said and that's the big thing. In talking with Jim Riley, he has had several issues over the summer where trees are almost on a property line, and neighbors are concerned, who is going to pay for it, what if it falls on my house? If he thinks that we have something that it would help him kind of through a bad situation with neighbors.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good.

Mayor Kurtz said if we can follow, I know Valley View, I pulled up Valley View's ordinance. We can't follow the same protocols as in the past, it has to be a shared expense and a shared responsibility; but I can assure you that the investment that we made over the years in terms of decayed or dangerous trees, I am sure we have saved ourselves and some of our residents a lot of potential aggravation. So, I don't get as nervous as other community leaders when I talk to the Mayors, when we have one of these storms come through, and the power goes out because of downed trees and stuff. We are very fortunate in that respect. If there is a vehicle that we can introduce that shares the burden and saves the property and life potentially; I think we should look at it.

Councilperson Walchanowicz said the biggest thing is the cost aspect. I know Valley View, they will reimburse their resident up to \$500 towards it; so I don't know if we wanted to go that route, or if you wanted to go a percentage route. It's something that we should all discuss.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. That's a good thing to be working on, and I look forward to that being introduced.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked any other comments? It's a little bit past 6:00 p.m. now, I think it's a good time for us to wrap things up. Any other comments on the good of the Council and the City?

Councilperson Walchanowicz said great meeting.

Moved by Veverka, seconded by Walchanowicz, to adjourn the Council Workshop of August 24, 2021. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business, the Council Workshop of August 24, 2021 was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Debra J. Beal, Clerk of Council
Minutes Unapproved at Time of Release 08/26/21
