

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2020 3:30 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

Present: Chairman Chris Walchanowicz
Councilperson Tom Narduzzi
Councilperson James Trakas

Also Present: Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Vice Mayor Dave Grendel
Councilperson Kathleen Kapusta
Councilperson Kenn Synek
Councilperson Dale Veverka
Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek
City Engineer Don Ramm
City Planner Jeff Markley
Economic Development Director Jessica Hyser
Police Chief Michael Kilbane

Chairman Chris Walchanowicz called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m.

Chairman Walchanowicz said we will get started right off the bat. Number 1 on the agenda is an update on Maple Shade Cemetery. The Mayor and Vern discussed the fund we put together for the fencing, and then I know Jeff has looked into some of the stuff as well.

Mayor Kurtz said why don't we get right into the maps, the visual aids to show everyone the overall opportunities so that we can break it down.

Chairman Walchanowicz said sounds good.

Councilperson Trakas asked Don, in addition to preparing for Council meetings, do you do anything else over there?

Mayor Kurtz said he bailed on me for a Suburban Council of Governments today, so I had to attend that; and by the way Don, I created the quorum. They were short, it's a good thing I got on. So, I covered for you Don. Now he's not going to respond. You guys shut his budget down, so now he's not going to talk to us.

City Engineer Ramm said sorry I was muted. Thanks for filling in for me Mayor.

Mayor Kurtz said by the way, I cleared the quorum. Any time Don.

City Engineer Ramm said just to get into here like the Mayor said. This slide kind of talks about a lot of the different components; there are a lot of moving parts and getting up to speed with Jeff Markley for the expansion area, the overall cemetery boundary. He had mentioned a lot of different elements that had been previously discussed by way of columbariums and mausoleums and yield studies for the expansion area; and so one of the things that we gravitated to, he emphasized the importance of having a good survey for the property that we acquired and also for the overall property. That was the focus of some of our concentration here recently with some survey companies, but I will just blow through some of these slides just to remind everybody the significant topography we are dealing with on these parcels and the steep slopes.

We had showed you how a lot of the area, 15 acres over the hill and 14 on the flat, the potential for 29 acres. The parcel we acquired was 12 acres overall, 6 ½ on the flat and 5 ½ over the hill. We won't speak too much about that.

Just to give you an idea too, Bohning & Associates is the consulting firm that has a good amount of history in this area. When Dalad did the lot split to create the Cavs' parcel, that was the time when this parcel was created, and the City acquired it. This was an alta survey that Howard Sallee & Associates had prepared also for us I believe when we were acquiring the cemetery parcel. So, there's some good information but not a complete and total topographic and boundary and location survey.

We did reach out to Bohning & Associates because we felt they could give us a really good price; and also we reached out to Dempsey Surveying Company that is a company that we have occasion to do a good amount of work with here recently. We asked for some pricing, and basically we tried to ask them to give us some pricing in three ways. One was just to kind of look at the usable flat area at the top of the 12 acre parcel, do a topographical location survey. I wasn't sure if we were going to do much over the hill.

Part 2, we asked them, since we are doing (inaudible) here, it wouldn't make sense because I don't believe one exists to catch the whole rest of the existing cemetery boundary that's at the top of the hill to kind of give us a nice uniform survey of the entirety of the area on top of the hill.

Then lastly, if there was a desire or an interest to try to do anything with the steep slope areas. I know that there was some prior discussion about getting creative and building some potential columbarium/retaining wall elements into the slopes that the survey could be a third part to add, get some detailed topography on the slope areas.

So, that was really the framework of how these quotes were solicited. They kind of build upon each other; this first Phase 1 was \$6,500 for Bohning. The existing cemetery portion was another \$8,500, and then down over the hill so to speak was the remainder. You quantified all those up in total, they were at \$22,500 for those elements.

Dempsey, we tried to get them to structure their fee proposal in an identical way. They packaged it a little differently, but still were ultimately providing us in total what the request was; and they were at \$27,000 even.

We did solicit Kole & Associates, and they were still working on a quote for us to get a third proposal, but we hadn't received it yet in time for this meeting.

So, those are the prices, and it's for discussion regarding how to move forward. We feel that of all the elements that we want to consider, in order to do a Master Plan of the whole area, a good survey is the starting point. I think it would be money well spent. The data that you would get from the survey will forever be used for anything we do going forward relative to fencing, relative to columbariums, mausoleums. We feel a good survey is warranted for the Master Plan.

Mayor Kurtz said you are saying this information could be put into the GIS for future reference, even if we want to locate boundaries for a fence.

City Engineer Ramm said correct. The survey in itself; we are going to get the survey in a traditional format. We will get auto cad drawings, we will get hard copies; but certainly I think it could easily be implemented into our GIS platform that we are working towards.

Mayor Kurtz said members of the Committee, the purpose of this is to determine, we know we have properties that aren't flat; but there's always been the thought of what would it take to do a mausoleum over the edge, not the steep slope area, but the area between the old section and the newest section as one vehicle to expand. The location of a columbarium wall or any one of several potential columbarium walls would be identified. The third area would be the 12 acres depicted on the map for future expansion of the traditional burial opportunities. Then do we tie roads in together, the loop? Do we create something different? By having a survey and creating a Master Plan, I think that's something that gives us a lot of flexibility; but it also gives us a road map or a pathway for the money we are going to need to get to the next chapter of our burial needs. We are down to 50 plus or minus remaining burial locations, and we want to incorporate as many different opportunities or options to give us a more flexible burial opportunity.

City Engineer Ramm said Mayor I think my request in just bringing the survey proposals together was to try (inaudible) for either all of it or some certain components because we could phase it. We could start small and gather information for smaller amounts of money and just to keep things moving in the right direction and getting traction on the whole Master Plan forward.

Mayor Kurtz said so initially we need approval for this survey and data, and then meanwhile at the same time, we will start looking at our options in terms of what we talked about at the last meeting. What do we want to do? A columbarium wall might be the quickest way to expand our capacity. The 12 acres obviously would be the second biggest; but the mausoleum and the potential to use that area or reconstruct our shop area, repurposing that. We could draft a Master Plan, Jeff has put that together or put something together so that we can present at least an overall strategy that you can then start to layer in your thoughts. We could eventually get to a point where we all agree to move forward with a strategy and a cost.

Councilperson Trakas said Mayor and Don, thank you very much. I think this is a great start here. I would suggest we take the best bid, and in my view the lowest bid, to start out with. In terms of the priorities, my only point, I think all of them make sense to kind of find out where we

are going if we are putting together a Master Plan. We can then phase in what we actually do versus once you have a plan.

I think on the steep slope end of it, I would be cautious about trying to do anything other than allowing that to be water flow. I think the whole idea of having steep slope rules in this town is to not develop it, not to try to find ways to get around those rules that we put in place about three years ago. That would be my point, but I would embrace going forward with it; and I do think it makes sense, particularly to give residents choices of burials. We are still in the traditional burial slot where most people for the past 20 years have kind of moved into a different direction. So, I would support the concept of the first proposal. I think it was \$22,000. The only suggestion I would have is I just hope that we would not really mess with the steep slopes. I think let's leave that be in my opinion and see what everyone thinks. The whole idea behind that is not to develop those types of areas, and I hope we would continue that.

Mayor Kurtz said we would not touch the steep slope area. There is a segment beyond, just near the area of the road with the loop. I am not sure it's considered a steep slope area. I am not talking about building over the edge, I am talking about embedding ourselves into the edge. That will be something that once the survey is done, and we understand what we are dealing with. I just want to give a comprehensive overview, and then obviously Council could cherry pick this thing to come up with the best strategy, short term and long term.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I would agree with Jim as far as having the survey done of the entire property. It would enable us to do a proper Master Plan for this, and I agree that probably the first thing we should concentrate on is the traditional as well as a columbarium wall because I think those are more easily attainable; and I think with the trend going towards more of cremations. I think that is really attainable, and I think that should be a priority of the Master Plan; but I agree with Jim too and the Mayor also. We shouldn't be touching the steep inclines there because we certainly don't want anything happening to anybody's beloved one's remains and that. That would be a nightmare that we wouldn't want to face. I think that should remain what it is and concentrate on the new area and concentrate on the columbarium and the traditional and maybe go from there to see as far as the mausoleum because that would be the most expensive form of burial.

Mayor Kurtz said and what we would do is like the Catholic Diocese does. If there is going to be an appetite that we would have pre-sales to see if there's enough need determine by pre-sales. We need to explore everything, and we will look at the gas line and the gas well. We will look at every other aspect of it and come back with a Master Plan, at least a phased in Master Plan that will give us decades of potential service.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I liked the idea that Councilperson Veverka had mentioned too like a scatter garden or somewhere, maybe you can plant a reflection garden where you could go to reflect and pray and remember the deceased. So, have an area there that could be multi-purpose.

Mayor Kurtz said that was more like along the lines of where the shop is right now, converting that into a scatter garden, meditation area along that buffer of Rockside Road. There's a lot of opportunities, but again all we are going to do is throw it on the wall, and we need to quantify in

terms of our location. We need to quantify in terms of traditional burial site, a columbarium wall and locations and then scattering areas, meditation areas. There are just a lot of opportunities, but we need to define the parameters; a fence, how we are going to install a fence. What type of fence. This will give us the first step, the survey approval.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Thank you Mayor.

Chairman Walchanowicz said I have a question, maybe Jeff knows. Is there any type of EPA requirements for a scatter garden?

City Planner Markley said I don't know the answer to that. I don't know that it's EPA. It's probably a health services question. I can find that answer out for you.

Chairman Walchanowicz said if anybody does not like the idea, maybe we can have legislation for January for the survey. Is anybody opposed to that?

Councilperson Narduzzi asked are we going to wait for that third bid to come in or just go with what we have presented in front of us?

Mayor Kurtz said I think that the two, they can do a quick job, get it ready so we can get in queue on this. If something comes in where it's a lot cheaper, obviously we will reinsert that; but right now we would just go along with the lowest bid that we have.

Councilperson Synek said Mayor or Engineer Ramm, I am not sure who the appropriate party is, how urgent is the situation of the cemetery right now? How many plots are available? Are we three months away from running out of space? Three years? Do you have any feel for that?

Mayor Kurtz said I am going to say roughly 50 plots left to sell. We sell only as needed anymore. You can't come in off the street and say I need three plots or two plots. We encourage people to double up if possible, a double burial. We are capable of doing that. I believe 50 is a comfortable number. Some day we are going to have to survey and determine all the unused plots that have now been dormant for generations, and some people don't realize that there is a potential to be reimbursed or have them bought back at today's value. That being said, that's about what is left. We probably have two or three years at the normal rate, but I can't predict who is going to die and how many. That's a guess.

Chairman Walchanowicz said well if I remember correctly when we spoke about this earlier in the year, we were like 75 or 77 left.

Mayor Kurtz said I could be off 20.

Chairman Walchanowicz said we have had a lot of burials this year. What I am getting at is if we have had over 20 burials, we are already down 20 sites in a matter of a year's time.

Mayor Kurtz said a lot of them have their plots pre-bought already though.

Chairman Walchanowicz said okay.

Councilperson Kapusta said I understand why we have to do the as-needed; but I think that should not be what drives us to make our decision. I think we are wise to go forward with the survey and proceed because while as-needed is a necessity now, that in my opinion and in my background, is not the ideal way for people to have to do their burials. So, in other words, when we are encouraging people to start to look at pre-planning for their funeral with their undertakers and so forth; it would be nice if a part of that package could be afforded to them to have the burial sites purchased also. So, hopefully with what we are talking about, we may someday come back to that timeframe of being able to do that.

Mayor Kurtz said yes.

Councilperson Veverka said it seems to me a couple of years ago we got a comprehensive list of each section and the number of empty gravesites at that time. Do you have access to that Chris?

Chairman Walchanowicz said I had sent that to everybody earlier in the year when we had the discussion. Marie had printed everything out for me.

Councilperson Veverka said because at that time as we discussed those, some of them were like right up to the street, and other ones were isolated plots in various family sites. Even though the number may be 70, 50 or whatever, some of those, the ability to try to do anything with them might be difficult.

Mayor Kurtz said by the way, the majority of these sites are unsold sites. There are a lot of them throughout this entire cemetery that are unused, and they have been in families for generations. We want to clarify that.

Chairman Walchanowicz said well if it's okay with the Mayor, I can see if Marie can print us out a current list of what is available; and I can see if that can go out Friday in the packet so that all of Council knows.

Councilperson Narduzzi said and also Chris if you could put the unused ones in there too. They may be purchased, but the unused ones.

Chairman Walchanowicz said okay.

Mayor Kurtz said so we will start on the survey side of it and get that going, and then at the same time, simultaneously we will continue to look at our options, at least from an overall perspective relative to master planning.

Chairman Walchanowicz said sounds good.

Councilperson Kapusta said I have one question. Is there some protocol that is typically used in the world of cemetery management to contact estates, individuals or families when plots have been purchased but unused for long lengths of time?

City Planner Markley said the Ohio Cemetery Association has guidelines for that. Fifty years seems to be a common number; if they are unused for 50 years, there is a notification process by which we would put a notice in the paper that we are looking to re-acquire the unused space. You can also be proactive and reach out by public media that the City is interested in buying back unused graves. That is something that is pretty common. Maybe you could buy back those unused graves and put them back into circulation.

Councilperson Kapusta said thanks Jeff.

Chairman Walchanowicz said if I remember correctly, we had quite a substantial number of unused sites.

City Planner Markley said and Chris to your question, there are no State or Federal regulations regarding scattering. It's really up to the local municipality to write in their rules whether they are prohibited or permitted.

Chairman Walchanowicz said perfect. Thank you.

Don, was there anything else you wanted to show on the cemetery?

City Engineer Ramm said no Mr. Chairman. I think we will move forward with getting legislation requested for January's meeting for the survey work.

Chairman Walchanowicz said okay, that sounds perfect. If there are no other questions, we will move on to Item 2, the progress at 6248 Brecksville Road.

City Engineer Ramm said this is the captioned property. We have had a good amount of action here lately, and we are looking towards this demolition along with some other parallel components of work, fencing and some drainage work. We can give you an update on a lot of that.

These are some of the things that we have been working through. We took care of the asbestos survey on the house. There was some minor amount of materials that have to be carefully removed and disposed. So, we have that handled. We are working with the utility companies, a major element of the work is making everything dead, killing all the utilities. There is an EPA air quality permit that needs to be secured. We are working with our demolition contractor on that. The demolition contractor has been identified, and they are queuing that work up. Ideally, our goal was to get it handled late this year, the last two weeks of the year, try to get that house knocked down. We have a lot of things that have to fall into place in order to do that; if it's not before the end of the year, then early, early into the new year we should be in a good spot to start that physical activity.

The Service Department will be involved in some of that work to assist, and of course we have the fence and the drainage plans that we are going to try to dovetail in.

This is the asbestos report. Here's some good coordination, the electric has been handled. It is disconnected. The gas company was out there just late last week excavating and killing the gas service. We have a local rep in town with AT&T that is helping us to manage the disconnection of the phone lines as well as the cable company lines that are still connected to the house.

Chairman Walchanowicz said I saw them there today.

City Engineer Ramm said okay good.

Chairman Walchanowicz said there were trucks in the drive.

City Engineer Ramm said we have been getting a lot of good cooperation and coordination with the utility companies. Lastly, we are working with Cleveland Water. We just learned today via some e-mails and through this coordination that there is a fee for them to plug the 5/8 inch water service connection. So, just today we requisitioned a purchase order to be able to pay this. We will drop the check off downtown to avoid the snail mail and delays with getting things put in the mail. They need the payment before they will facilitate the physical work. So, we are working through that with them. They would be the last ones that we need to be disconnected.

Mayor Kurtz said Don, just go shut the water off.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I can plug that for you for nothing. It would take about ten minutes.

City Engineer Ramm said we have a curb stop, I am sure we can access the curb stop and shut it off for the curb stop back. I don't know if this will hold us up, but we still have to march through the process.

This is the air quality permit, the document. Once this gets submitted, there is a 10 day waiting period by the City of Cleveland and/or the Ohio EPA; and I don't believe that has started yet, but we hope to get this document submitted very soon. Our demo contractor is facilitating this form and the submittal of it to the City of Cleveland.

This again are just some photos of the property.

Here is the obvious problem that we have been contending with. I will jump to the fence quickly. We have reached out to the Corporate Plaza property about this fence because some of it is located on their property. We do want to extend the existing board-on-board due east. This is the plan we arrived at, go due east across the property line and into the Milstein development corner and quickly come over to the City's parcel. We do believe we need to offset the property line by 7 to 8 feet for this proposed fence for two reasons, to stay away from the drainage swale and the storm sewer and catch basins that occupy very near to the property line, as well as to try to save as many of the existing trees that are there.

We did speak specifically with the management company of the Corporate Plaza, and they have already given us permission to put the fence in; and there are some trees that we feel may have to

come out in this corner. They have also given us permission to handle that. We are going to work with the Service Department and/or their contractor, Van Curen if necessary, depending on the size and number of trees that need to come out in this area. So, that is active and ongoing, the coordination work that we are working through. We do need to contact Milstein yet to discuss permission to put this little piece across their one corner; but at that same time, we will engage them also to help encourage them. So, this is on their property. It has been rather neglected over the years. There is significant debris and leaves that have been piling up in there; and I think that's a major cause of how the water is unmanaged, why it spills the way it does and runs the way it does. So, we are going to engage the Milstein Group and see if we could participate perhaps in some of that work; and we do also want to entertain and try to re-secure an easement, an ingress/egress easement that at one time we had with them. It expired because there was a specific duration, and we would like to engage them to see if we can't re-secure that easement. We think this would be an appropriate time to reach out to them and try to coordinate some of this work in that easement.

Chairman Walchanowicz said I have a question. I have actually witnessed their landscaper, their landscaping company actually blowing the leaves into that wooded area. Once that is all cleared and cleaned and everything is set, what steps can we take to prevent any landscaping company or anything that would keep them from blowing fall leaves into that area if we are going to spend the money on cleaning it out.

City Engineer Ramm said Mr. Chairman just to have a good meeting with the owners and their management company; and even if we have to meet with the people who are in charge of the maintenance activity.

Mayor Kurtz said also we can post it, when it's all done we can post it. If I may Mr. Chairman, just to deflect for a second. This is how we bring things up methodically; but Don if you could take your cursor, that easement you mentioned. We had an easement here when we approved this 15 or 18 years ago starting at Route 21, the existing road that services that shopping center on the south side. We had an easement that went like that, swung around to the north; and then we have an easement on that property going all the way to the west. We have an easement there, and we have one that goes to the north.

So, the problem was a marginal road system to create from a safety standpoint, give us some flexibility if we had a situation on Rockside or we wanted to manage traffic that didn't have to get onto Rockside Road that was going south. So, that's why we are going to try to re-secure that easement but understand that we do have the ability to put a marginal road right along there to tie into Rockside Woods South.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked Greg that was the easement that had the sunset clause to it? I think it was in about 2015 or so?

Mayor Kurtz said that's correct. The other thing, just talking, when we meet with Milstein Don, we want to see if he's willing to put another turn lane at the intersection right there because what happens is there are cars that if we had the rear marginal, we wouldn't need a turn lane because they could come to the rear marginal and then go out to go south. Without that, right now traffic

stacks to go across the street to McDonalds or the bank; and it precludes people from a right turn on red. Anybody who has sat there at the light knows it's a long light.

Several people replied yes.

Mayor Kurtz said so if we could secure the easement and do something, and the rear marginal went all the way and tied into the north side to Rockside; if not, then we can see if they would entertain putting in a dedicated turn lane there.

Councilperson Veverka said one of the concerns related to putting a marginal road so close to the residential area; it would seem like it would make it much easier for somebody to get in and up the hill and at the back of those homes on Lafayette.

Mayor Kurtz said that's why we are putting the fence in.

Councilperson Veverka said I understand, but I am saying that a fence is not much of a discouragement; and by putting the road there closer, that could be a problem.

Additionally, there are some areas down by the hotels where the fence has holes in it, big enough areas that readily people could get through that area. Has contact been made with the owners of those particular fenced areas?

Mayor Kurtz said I know the fence was repaired per Council's instructions at the end of Daisy. That area was upgraded. It did have holes in it.

In terms of the marginal road, there's an existing road right there now that for the Chase Bank and Red Robin; but this would give us some flexibility from a safety standpoint. It's already there at the mouth of it, so that wouldn't change.

Councilperson Synek said I wanted to ask, who is paying for the cost of the fence and the landscaping improvements on the property that's privately owned and not owned by the City?

Mayor Kurtz said well we are paying for the fence because we want the safety and security. We are going to work with the owner of the shopping center because we identified the dumping of debris as one of the sources of the problem; and then we have already hammered and researched and worked on the road under Route 21. This is all part of that original Master Plan to clean this up and to create security as well as drainage.

Councilperson Synek asked is the City going to start installing fences for other parts of the City on private property when there are security issues?

Mayor Kurtz said probably where there is a separation of zoning it's probably more appropriate than just installing fences on anybody's property.

City Engineer Ramm said Mr. Chairman while we are talking about the fencing, we did a quote; we asked for three or four different companies to give us numbers, and we only received one.

This is the one we received, and we did move forward with the requisitioning of P.O. That contractor is ready to go. We are just working through some logistics on our side and still need to reach out to Milstein on this little corner piece. So, we are working through it, but they are in queue. They are ready to go; they are just waiting for us to give them the green light on that.

Mayor Kurtz said we have to make sure that we get it fixed up and cleaned up related to the drainage.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked will it be the same fence all the way to Brecksville Road then?

City Engineer Ramm said no.

Councilperson Veverka asked have we done any examination of that segment of Brecksville Road directly across from the property? I had somebody there that was looking at the grade, and actually the water does shed away from the gutter area toward the middle and across Brecksville Road. I am just wondering whether or not it makes sense to get that particular little segment of Brecksville Road so the water would shed back west toward the drainage and not shed across, any water that comes there goes across all the lanes.

City Engineer Ramm said that's really a function of the State route. It's super elevated at the curb; so the entire pavement is pitched to the northeast, so that's really the premise. There's no easy, cheap way to prevent that. The key we feel to capture that water and manage it better before it gets across the sidewalk or spills into this driveway and traverses over the pavement. If you recall, this was a concept that we had. It's real preliminary. It was really just a nice little picture.

Jeff Markley and I met on site; he did help us kind of capture a nice way to try to mitigate and kill two birds in this project with some nice landscaping; but also to help mitigate the drainage. This is a depressed area that he is proposing, and underneath this drawing the grading plan that he has prepared is the house foundation, the house actually sits right here. So, the thought was that it does have a shallow basement, and in the grand scheme of things, that the basement elevation out of it we do have a storm sewer that drains the foundation by gravity. So, there's a small six inch storm connection that we feel can be utilized to help drain a small little surface basin; and we feel like we could pick up some of the water that is trying to run down the swale. Once it reaches a certain elevation, we can try to manage it and get it to run over land southeasterly towards this depressed area that can then be used to store water during peak events. The small drain that will be placed in here and then drain it through the six inch, all the while a lot of the water will still be coming through the storm sewer. So, we really feel it's a way to offset, provide that water an area to store and be properly managed. It will come up like a bathtub and then go down during events. It will be meant to drain and dry in times when it's not raining. It's not meant to hold water all the time. So, it won't be any nuisance in that regard.

So, we feel these are flat grades, 5, 6 to 1, nothing excessively steep that can be easily maintained, mowed and with some nice trees, a board-on-board fence. So, we feel like it's conceptual, but we feel it can definitely work that it will be something we work on after the

house is demolished and in the summer when the weather is more conducive to final grading and finalizing a site to shape it to this contour.

City Planner Markley said we also have drainage coming from the southern properties across on a diagonal there Don.

City Engineer Ramm said there's a good amount of water shed that comes from the backyards of Lafayette that is trying to work its way through the site; so in addition to peeling off some of the main ditch water, we will also be intercepting the overland water that also does ultimately makes its way and spills out over the same area. So, it will be mitigating that as well. We will be pulling that in. Good point Jeff.

City Planner Markley said the idea of the landscape is just to create a green space, nothing something accessible. The City could decide whether they retain the driveway, one of the two driveways or service vehicle access only so they could bring in their trailer and mow the property; but other than that, it's not a pocket park. It's not for gathering or anything like that. It's just a green space. It's a buffer separating commercial from residential.

Finance Director Blaze said I have a question for Don. My apologies, I had to step out when you first started the conversation, but when I came back in, did I catch that the demo won't occur until January?

City Engineer Ramm said we are trying to line things up to get it down in the week between Christmas and New Years, but a lot of things have to fall into place. That 10 day waiting period has to be initiated; and that's really right now the driver, and the Cleveland Water. We did talk about being able to work around that.

Finance Director Blaze said the only reason I asked is from our end I received a propose value increase on that property from Cuyahoga County; and we paid what we paid for it. If you are going to make a filing to just get the property off the tax records so we don't pay tax on it because it's going to be used for the stormwater management purposes. It's not like the pre-school or that which is generating revenue for us where we do pay taxes. It would be a cleaner, simpler process if I did the filing on December 31st, and I can tell them it's a vacant piece of land already. So, if it stretches into next year, it's not impossible; but if those stars do line up, it would help just the filing process on our end to get it off the tax rolls if that demo does occur before the end of the year.

City Engineer Ramm said understood. We will work on that.

Mayor Kurtz said this project will qualify for our shared program with the Regional Sewer.

City Engineer Ramm said oh yeah, it probably would, the local community cost share. We would have to put in the application in advance and get their permission but absolutely.

Mayor Kurtz said so we will make our money back.

Councilperson Veverka asked do I recall that property having a substantial ramp in the front of it?

City Engineer Ramm said I don't believe it's there anymore.

Councilperson Narduzzi said that ramp is gone. Hey Don, getting back to that fence, is that a 5 foot fence?

City Engineer Ramm said it's a 6 foot.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked and how far from 21 does it stop?

City Engineer Ramm said we kind of show this segment. If it does go all the way to the sidewalk, we feel it would have to be a 3 foot just for sight distance; and we probably would have to give ourselves a variance for that portion. We stopped the 6 foot kind of behind the back of these parking aisles just to try to create a space that would again keep this open for visual hazards.

Mayor Kurtz said you would have to do that Don for kids coming down that hill on bikes and stuff.

City Engineer Ramm said right, and we could not perform this piece altogether. It doesn't need to be there, but if we wanted to kind of continue it and get it to the sidewalk, we would knock it down in height.

That pretty much concludes my update. We are working hard at a lot of these moving parts and trying to get all of our ducks in a row to get demolition completed here this year.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked is there any other questions on this piece of property?

We will move on to Item 3, the progress on the center of town and possible projects. We will let the Mayor and Jessica discuss this one.

Economic Development Director Hyser said hello everyone. So, I just wanted to give you guys an update about where we are in the downtown project. Since I have started here in June, the first thing that we were able to do is meet with the folks at St. Michael's. Father has been very gracious with his time. He is very supportive with regard to the redevelopment in downtown. I believe as we have spoken over the summer, the concepts of including both the east and west side of downtown have been a large part of that project.

So, after we met with the folks from St. Michael's the first time over the summer, we also met the residents on Second Avenue. It was a great informational meeting in July. Really what came from that meeting was that there was some concern about parking, some placement of some dumpsters, some weeds that had been overgrown at the church and I guess general concern about the property.

So, we had a follow up meeting with the folks at St. Michael's to kind of discuss those concerns. Since that meeting the dumpsters that they had some issues with have been relocated. The access on Second Avenue to the church, the gate has now been closed limiting that access; and that is supposed to be only for bus traffic. So, that has been addressed, and then afterwards I think those are all good outcomes from that meeting; and St. Michael's has been really serious about making those changes.

St. Michael's is also in the process of bringing on their own consultant to do some updates to their property. They are still working through that process. It was somewhat delayed, and they are still working through it because of the change in the Bishop. So, the new Bishop coming on board more recently, they were able to get a little bit more traction; but again, they are still working through the process in terms of hiring an architect.

As you know in September City Council did approve the legislation to allow the City to enter into a Purchase Agreement with the Kindls. We are still working through that process to close on the property on the corner of Stone and 21. We have also engaged Dimit as you guys know, and Dimit has been looking at some of these downtown plans, making tweaks which we would hope to be able to share with you in the coming months.

At the same time, we have also been sitting down with some developers, trying to get their feel of the possibility of developing in downtown. One of the major developers that we sat down with is Carnegie Companies. They are the owner of the plaza, the Independence Town Square Plaza, and we thought we had some good traction with them going forward. However, when the Governor made the announcement at the end of October, beginning of November kind of tightening restrictions on restaurants and on the retail sector; it really gave them a bit of pause. I think we can all appreciate the fact that Covid has really impacted retail focused businesses; and therefore, real estate holding companies that are focused on the retail sector are a little bit more apprehensive about making major investments not knowing the true outcome of Covid quite yet.

We do have some folks that we have been talking to, and I think that we are very optimistic about seeing some potential partnerships going forward.

Mayor, do you have anything else to add to that?

Mayor Kurtz said you were pretty comprehensive. We are trying to line up the dominos so that we can pick something off that is the best for the community and keeping residents in Independence. We are still sorting things to the point where, when we get to the point where there is any traction, obviously the first group that we are going meet with is City Council because ultimately it's your decision. Right now I think we have had some good frank discussions, and there is some traction.

Economic Development Director Hyser said the concepts still revolve around retail up front, residential in the back.

Councilperson Narduzzi said just looking at it and being involved in it for a long time, 90% of it is going to be a residential component I would think. So, that I think we should try to keep

moving forward with because not all of us might be here again in another year or two years or whatever. So, I think with this group of people, we should move forward to try to at least get something set in stone on the residential part and focus on the commercial part at a later date.

Economic Development Director Hyser said the advice that we are hearing from some of the real estate experts that we have been meeting with is that having a developer do both parts is key. However, they do see what you said is that the residential component would happen first, and then the retail office is more of a secondary component.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I just think if we are going to wait for everything to come together and work perfectly, it may never happen again. I would like to try to move one part of it forward, and that to me would be the residential component.

Mayor Kurtz said even the residential could be done in a couple of phases, it's going to be a phased approach it looks like, but there is a lot of synergy around it.

Councilperson Kapusta said and I think that in spite of all the challenges we have seen with the Covid 19 virus, including the impact on retail, we certainly know on restaurants and things. It appears to me in my layman's following of the events that the real estate market for housing is still fairly comfortable and strong. So, while sometimes pause and take a step back on some of our ventures, I agree with Councilperson Narduzzi. I think that timing is there now, and I think we have the interest; and it doesn't seem like we would be halted necessarily by the Covid as we know it today.

Economic Development Director Hyser said no we are just concerned about developers who have a strong interest in the retail sector. That's why Carnegie when we met with them, they have pulled out is because their focus is solely on the retail sector; and so their appetite for investment in a project like this doesn't align. There are however other developers who have a mix of interest, this I think will align well with.

Councilperson Kapusta said go find them Jess.

Economic Development Director Hyser said we are.

Chairman Walchanowicz said none of us know how long this pandemic is going to be here, and it's just going to keep prolonging things the longer it stays. Finding a developer that would be interested in doing residential first, I would be all for that as well.

Mayor Kurtz said absolutely. We are not sitting still. We are not waiting for anything. We will bore ahead.

Economic Development Director Hyser said it's also key to make sure that whatever we do here with the residential development because we all know that the residential is going to happen first; but they also know that there is commercial development that will happen on that front; and I think showing that transparency is key so that a few years later people aren't saying well why is this commercial on the books.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and one thing to remember too is we always had planned some park area or some buffer area I think for the middle school property and have that between the residential and the retail up front where we can have some parklike area or grass where people can enjoy. Even now that property, the track and that, it seems to have a number of people who come to visit there to walk it and to enjoy it.

Economic Development Director Hyser said so some of the amenities that we are trying to incorporate in that would be that green space that you talked about Vice Mayor Grendel and to make sure that it is incorporated, the ability for the green space can be programmed thinking about amenities like should there be a splash pad or fountain, some sort of amenity so that it attracts families who want as an option to bring their children to play; but also walking paths so that the folks in the back part of the property are able to walk to the front part of the property and it can connect to other walking paths throughout the City. So, it gives that connectivity to bring people to and fro.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Thank you.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked is there anything else on the downtown?

Let's move on to Number 4, the upgrades to the 40 year old Police Department.

Mayor Kurtz said I started this discussion earlier this year, and right now I think Dennis can speak to where we are at in terms of taking the GPD report and honing in on some of the specifics. For example, the priorities would be City Hall, upgrading from a security standpoint and then also the next phase would be as part of this would be the Civic Center. We are going to use this kind of like more dormant time to try to get this security and some of these upgrades in the queue rather than just waiting until we are going crazy again.

I don't know if Dennis wants to speak to it.

Chairman Walchanowicz said so basically Items 4, 5 and 6 is all going to be discussed under one security conversation I would assume, correct?

Mayor Kurtz said that's correct.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked Dennis are you on line to discuss?

Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek said good afternoon everyone. GPD Group has also, they have revised their proposal to include the Civic Center as part of the upgrades to the facilities for City Hall, the Police station, Rec and Community Services side.

They also provided a cost estimate for security additional upgrades to the building which would include windows, doors, a keypad and so forth. Initially, I had hoped to get this before Council for the Special Meeting today, but unfortunately I didn't get everything I needed in time; so I hope to have a request for legislation after I run things over with the Mayor, Police and Fire

Chiefs and Dave Snyderburn to make sure that we are including everything that we need in the scope of this plan.

The final thing was, I know there was some interest by the Administration to have Norm Casini, being the original architect on the building to kind of oversee the project and to ensure that the building's character and integrity remain intact. After a discussion with Mr. Casini, he also presented a proposal. I think he has a lot of valuable insight. Actually his fee initially what he had requested on an hourly rate, I guess as a courtesy to the City, he even reduced that substantially more. I will get into all of that once I have everything to request legislation. I will make sure I get all this information to Council Members in advance of the meeting in January.

Councilperson Trakas said I have good news for everybody. I just received a message from Senator Matt Dolan, \$100,000 for the City of Independence Civic Center upgrades were included in the State Capital Improvements Budget.

Councilperson Kapusta said that's good.

Mayor Kurtz said that's great news. Is that part of the kitchen upgrades or can it be used anywhere?

Councilperson Trakas said for our kitchen Mayor.

Mayor Kurtz said that's great. We are going to have to call another Public Lands & Building Committee meeting and finalize and get Council to buy into and help us take the original proposal and expand upon that now since we have something of substance. That could dovetail into this too.

Chairman Walchanowicz said great job Jim. Thanks.

Councilperson Trakas said thank Senator Dolan and the great people of the State of Ohio who are paying for this.

Councilperson Kapusta said I would like to just add my appreciation to Jim. As part of the Community Services Committee, I know he was always advocating for that and kind of led us in that direction. So, thank you as well.

Chairman Walchanowicz said it's going to be a tremendous help for our improvements for Community Services.

Councilperson Trakas said I would like to have at least one of the ovens named after Marilyn.

Mayor Kurtz said again, this is perfect timing in that we can quickly mobilize the proposal and implement before we are fully functional again.

Chairman Walchanowicz said right.

Councilperson Narduzzi said in all of that, we are going to need extra money in there to put this canopy up that we have been talking about for 20 years.

Mayor Kurtz said we are putting that proposal together in terms of the City Hall, but the Civic Center is the second element of consideration; and what we would propose is that at some point we would just have the design put in place, and Council could then review that. We could have a budget, and once you would accept, we would have the departments weigh in terms of function. Then we would bring it to Council and Public Lands & Buildings could then modify, adapt or approve; and then we can begin that process.

There's two components, there's the kitchen, and then there's the canopy and security.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked so if Norm Casini is designing, I would have him for the extra money have him design that canopy, and then we would be ready to go when we have Council's approval to move forward.

Mayor Kurtz said it's in the queue.

Procurement Coordinator Zdolshek said in our discussions with GPD, what their thoughts were, Mr. Casini does the concept design; and they would end up doing the drawings for the schematics and so forth. I think it will be a good partnership for everyone involved.

Chairman Walchanowicz said okay. I was just going to mention that with Covid, now is a great time to try to get as much done as we can with not a lot of residents in our buildings and not a lot of traffic.

Mayor Kurtz said Norm has done a number of sketches that he has put together over the years relative to some of these, playing what if. He does have sketches for that canopy area with a fully functional second floor too. Putting them in place would be perfect timing.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked is there any other questions or comments about Numbers 4, 5 and 6?

Councilperson Narduzzi said so in the Police Department, what do we use the old dispatch area for? Is that being used for something constructive?

Police Chief Kilbane said right now it's being used by Ryan in IT. He is storing some stuff down there, but we don't have any operational use for it. It's available, and that was one of the areas that we assessed as part of the survey addressing some of the needs to expand our current facilities.

Mayor Kurtz said Mr. Chairman, the Chief is correct. We did a survey to get granular with our employees to ask them to weigh in with regard to what they think would be important as an upgrade to the existing Police station; and we are going through that information. We will probably have a few more rounds of questions for them, and so this would be a part of this whole process.

Vice Mayor Grendel said this is just my feelings about it. It might not be anybody else's feelings on Council, but my feeling is we should concentrate on upgrading the Police Department there at City Hall. That should be our main area of concentration. I think any thinking of having something on Rockside Road at this point is not warranted unless we have more development maybe in the northwest quadrant or something. I think we should have, and Brecksville just upgraded their Police station if I am correct on that Chief? The Brecksville Police Department has upgraded their headquarters.

Mayor Kurtz said they built a new one.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we can draw from their new facility and maybe implement a lot of that into our facility that is important to our people; but I think we should concentrate on our investments and our future in the headquarters at City Hall. I am kind of against putting something on Rockside Road because right now the statistics as far as the response time and everything else, it doesn't warrant it; but again, that's just my feelings. I know Mayor that's dear to your heart, and again I think we should have, if we are going to do anything, otherwise we should upgrade City Hall if we have plans for a second facility; but I still think we do need to have our facility here at City Hall top notch, top rated. Give our Police force what they need, and that along with personnel, increase personnel and have boots on the ground like Jim would say sometimes, have more presence on Rockside to keep that area safe.

I do think it's important Chief that your headquarters there at City Hall gets upgraded to what it deserves at this point in 2020 and beyond. That's my two cents worth.

Mayor Kurtz asked how about if we let data and safety drive that decision?

Vice Mayor Grendel said definitely, but I think that's a huge investment; and I would like to see personnel there dictate the safety of our guests and our residents. That's just an editorial though.

Mayor Kurtz said I think when you get granular you have to let some data and safety drive this decision, whether Rockside Road, existing facility, new facility, locations of it. There is a lot of data that has to go into that and drive that decision.

Vice Mayor Grendel said thank you.

Councilperson Kapusta said although in human years I want this noted, 40 is not old; in the years of a building it is. So, I strongly support us updating what we have and getting the best technology and resources for our safety forces as well as for our residents.

Without going into a lot of detail at this time since that's not the topic, I too agree with what the Vice Mayor is saying. I am more inclined to really bringing up to top notch where we are right now with our buildings, and then looking at, I realize that data should be a driver; but also am a strong advocate of feet on the grounds, cars on the beat too.

Councilperson Veverka said I would echo what both of my colleagues have mentioned. We are going to put the time and effort into upgrading our facilities, the Police station in town; and we

have such remarkable response times as it currently exists that again, I go back to the boots on the ground is probably our best emphasis.

Mayor Kurtz said I will remember that when it comes to Council appropriation.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I agree with the boots on the ground thing, but I am looking more long term; and I see a developed downtown area with a little bit more driving people there or whatever the case may be and living down close to Rockside Road, if you hear the sirens go by my house, a minimum 8 to 12 times a day. At some point, although the response time is excellent, we are going to be asking for trouble because we have high speed Police cars, ambulances, Fire trucks coming through the center of town. Although it's empty right now to a point, it's not going to be that way forever.

I am all in favor of boots on the ground, and I think that is a key element in keeping Rockside safe; but I also think that a facility on Rockside, not very big, just enough to house the necessities would be very appropriate because of the number of calls that we get on Rockside, and it's only going to get worse. We are going to start to develop north of Rockside, it's going to be more and more calls going down that way. I don't think we need it tomorrow, but it's something that I wouldn't want to pass over. I think it's going to be needed at some point and time; and I think that we should be getting ready to do it.

Mayor Kurtz said if you are either for or against a new facility, upgrading the existing facility, build a new facility in the center of town, these are all going to be data driven and actually function driven. If we can find a safer way to get to people on Rockside Road, you would think differently. There are going to be a lot of different information needed before we can determine; and the first step was to get input from our people who are in the facility, and we will continue to look at that data. Once we have something more substantive, then we will come back to Public Lands & Buildings and Council.

Councilperson Trakas said just a question and a comment. By the way I am sorry my dumb computer decided to update on me while I was in the middle of the call here, and my apologies about that.

I am open to the idea of a Rockside or some other type of auxiliary station. I look at what communities adjacent to us do, and they have multiple facilities and they are able to do it properly and respect the chain of command. I also look at the factor of you come off the ramp on Rockside and you see a really strong Police presence which we do obviously through our vehicular Police and sometimes even our bike Police; but around this time in 1944 my dad was in Germany fighting really viciously as they were in the center valley. There is still an American air base in Kaiserslautern. What do we know about our friends in Germany? They are our friends and allies. There hasn't been any problem breakout ever since.

So, I think when you have a presence like that, you are able to both intimidate as well as make friends. I think if we had something like that in our business sector, I think that could be beneficial to us, but I also have to think that we are talking about a safety center, not just Police; and so our Police response times are excellent, but we also have a nursing home facility not too

far down the street. We have emergency services for our Fire and Rescue; and with all those things, these things make a big difference.

December 15, 2015 my mom was laying on the floor in our house, and I went and found her on my way to my military obligations that night; and the Fire Department saved her life. She has been with us ever since. So, it's seconds that cause these things.

I am open to looking at those types of arrangements and recognize that they are not the complete answer; but I think they should be part of an answer, and we should look at all of them. Ultimately, it is about that boots on the ground, having the people deployed in the areas where they are needed, and I do think we do a great job of that and we continue a great job with it. I do think we should increase our head count in all of our emergency services because that's really critical for us.

I don't want to preclude the discussion this time, but let's see what comes of it because I think there's some value to that, at least having that information out there as well.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if I may add, and Kathleen you could correct me because you were on Council at the time, the City's ratings for insurance has gotten better over the last few years. For insurance purposes our rating now, and Chief Rega would reinforce that; but I believe we went down to a 2 or whatever. It's better for insurance purposes because of our response time, not only the residential area but also on Rockside Road. So, we do have an excellent response time, but I do believe that if activity picks up, if we are going to be building more on the northwest quadrant, definitely like Tom mentioned, the future may be 5, 10 years from now would definitely warrant a second facility for that area of town and maintain our present facility primarily for our residents and other areas that would require it.

Mayor Kurtz said every one of you has made a great point, and I value the perspectives. It really helps. You are putting it altogether and funneling it into a pot to mix it up. Those of you who haven't weighed in, if you would like to, I am all ears.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked anybody else?

Mayor Kurtz said but I will say, you are right; you look at it fully developed, and you might have a different perspective than to what we have today. So, part of our purpose is to have a vision and have goals and have it match up. So, we will continue this dialogue, and I think this is great. It's great to have a variety of perspectives because we can always blend them together and find some common ground, and that's really how we run this organization. I appreciate all of that.

Meanwhile right now to go back to the premise of our discussion; we are going to focus on the building itself right now. We will focus on their existing facility, and again we will work on what we have to do to use technology, to use our existing facility, our physical facility so to speak to make it more user friendly for our Police, protecting our Police, protecting our assets, our Police assets from sitting outside. There are a lot of different things that we may need to do to update using technology and reformat some of our buildings.

I appreciate the robust discussion relative to the Police Department at City Hall. I think Dennis it's safe to say you will continue to work on framing up the information we need for January's meeting; and Mr. Chairman if we need to call a meeting before that just to get some information out, if you have some flexibility, I would appreciate it.

Chairman Walchanowicz said absolutely.

Mayor Kurtz said now the latest thing is we probably will be coming back to Council for some type of professional services, contracts for both City Hall, the Police Department as well as the Civic Center only to facilitate some of these opportunities. That probably would be the first step to bring in some professionals in an organized manner so that when it comes to a contract or comes to contracting with contractors, we will fully vet it, and we are in a position to secure a contract and do the renovations. So, some of that might even be done early January.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked is there anything else?

Mayor Kurtz said I have a couple of more things. How are we doing with time?

Chairman Walchanowicz said I know Vern and Dave want to talk about the publicly owned buildings and lands for a portion of this meeting.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think we have about a half hour until the Public Hearing.

Mayor Kurtz said just an update on some of these. I think the last conversation we had last meeting we had we were looking at some of these depressed properties, and just to give you an update on a couple of things just for you to think about.

We made some progress, but very limited in terms of Route 21. We keep getting promises, but every time we get promises they seem to change in terms of by Kingscote. So, we may be coming to Council with a little more aggressive approach on that.

The roof has fallen in on the Grunt house; so we are probably going to come to Council with a portion of it I should say. That's my understanding, so we may be coming to Council to clean that nightmare up.

Also, I only bring this up as just for your review and your thought is the house on Sprague Road that floods by where the big pipe comes underneath Sprague Road from Broadview Heights. I see a For Sale sign on it. It was brought to my attention. I don't know if that's something if we can buy it and land bank it and do some type of retention there so we mitigate some of the flooding further east or if it's something that there is no appetite for. My job is to again, don't shoot the messenger, just make sure that you understand that my job is to bring these things to you; and the only group who buy and sell property is City Council. So, if you want me to do some more research, I will. If you don't, no problem staying away from it; don't all speak at once.

Councilperson Narduzzi said if we could Mayor, if we could get something from Don Ramm to show how it would help, who it would help. If it's reasonable to buy it and do something with the land and who it's going to help downstream; it would help me make that decision.

Mayor Kurtz said great idea. This is what I love about working with this Council. They throw things out. I will throw an idea, but then you just gave us a strategy to move it forward so there's a comfort level. If Council agrees with that, we will move money into at least doing the examination of the potential benefits from a stormwater standpoint. If it warrants a further discussion, we will bring it back to Council and say here's our analysis.

Councilperson Veverka said Mayor a number of years ago we had a rather robust discussion related to the house on Highland that basically flooded out three times in the last 10 years. So, if we are entering into any discussion related to potential relief, that should be a home that would be one would be a good idea to consider.

Mayor Kurtz said we will add that to the list, that's another one. Does anybody else have anything?

Councilperson Trakas said so this is an interesting discussion. General Wagner and I have been out to that site several years ago with some rather substantial flooding and just up the street from there on the low house. I think at the time it was represented to us that there was project that Broadview Heights, Independence, Seven Hills were all involved with; so maybe it's a good time to revisit that project as well because I think controlling that water coming in off of Sprague would really substantially help us. I don't know how much that particular property would help us, but I am willing to take a look at it because that is a real problem. That cascades all the way through there, and it goes all the way through all the properties on my street and others and goes into Braewood. I am not sure, I might be wrong about that; but it's not an insubstantial problem, but I thought it emanated from a little higher up. So, maybe kickstarting that conversation as well with Broadview Heights and Seven Hills; that might be a nice approach to it as well because I think a lot of that if it was controlled upstream from where we are, that might negate some of these types of problems.

Mayor Kurtz said there was a major basin upgrade planned for that area, and maybe Don this could be one that maybe we do that stormwater multiple community type investment. Let's talk about that. Maybe we can look at that in concert with this.

We also will look at the Hazel house on Highland and get a summary on that one too.

So, those are the houses we are looking at, and I just wanted to bring that to your attention as we move down the road on that.

I don't have anything else. I appreciate the clarity and the direction on a variety of issues. You have given us a lot more work to do as is your prerogative, and now if we just get a budget passed where I can have enough people to do it, that would be great. Just kidding, maybe I'm not.

Don't forget what you guys just all said okay, and Kathleen too.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked is there anything else?

Councilperson Trakas said I just have one quick question. I would request if we can Mr. Chairman that we invite the developer on the northwest quadrant into an Executive Session of Council to be determined to discuss what their intent is. I don't think Council has had that conversation. In talking to Jessica, I know she has had a couple of conversations with the developer. We all know that there is not a lot of developing going on thanks to Covid-19, and people being a little concerned about the future; but I think it's pertinent that we at least get an update from them as to what direction they would like to go. We do have an agreement with them, and it's been well over a year and a half since we have had discussions with the developer directly. I would just request that perhaps we put that together at a subsequent public meeting of Council, not just this committee. I would like to see if we could get that going. It's been some time.

Mayor Kurtz said I am the new kid on the block on that one, but I can tell you there hasn't been a lot of activity; and if there's anything of substance, we can share it with Council. We will look into it. Like you said earlier, it's really hard to pull open the book and stuff right now when people are trying to hold on to what they have got going; but we will put that together. We will work on seeing where we are at.

Councilperson Trakas said but there is a timeline associated with it, that's why I thought it might be a good idea.

Mayor Kurtz said we will put it together. We will review that, and then once we have something of substance we will call a meeting with Council.

Councilperson Trakas said thank you.

Chairman Walchanowicz asked anything else from anybody? Vern, you had mentioned about discussing part of, I don't know if it was the Five-Year Capital with publicly owned buildings; you mentioned something that we would piggyback off of to this meeting.

Finance Director Blaze said I think that was more if the goal was to still try to adopt the Five-Year Capital Plan today; but since it was deferred until January, it will give the Mayor and Dennis and Dave time to still frame up and integrate this latest proposal for GPD about the security at both this complex at City Hall plus the Community Center. So, the recommendation would be if we want to shoot to have a Finance Committee meeting that first week of January, and then we can finish up the Capital Plan, and then on January 12th the Regular Council meeting then, we will be in a good position to adopt the Five-Year Capital Plan.

Chairman Walchanowicz said okay.

Don, if you could get over to Debi the information that you screened shared today about Maple Shade so that we can put that in everyone's packet so they can keep that with them for next month after we decide with the survey of the property.

With that being said, I have nothing else. Does anybody else have anything before we adjourn?

Councilperson Narduzzi said no, good meeting Chris.

Moved by Trakas, seconded by Narduzzi, to adjourn the Public Lands & Buildings meeting of December 15, 2020. Voice Vote: 3 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business, the Public Lands & Buildings meeting of December 15, 2020 was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Debra J. Beal, Clerk of Council
Minutes Unapproved at Time of Release 12/18/20
