



City of Independence, Ohio

"THE HEART OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY"

6800 BRECKSVILLE ROAD

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

(216) 524-4131

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Members of Council

From: Finance Director Vernon Blaze

Date: Friday, March 18, 2022

Re: Finance Office Updates

Capital Funding Application

Working through State Senator Matt Dolan's and State Representative Phil Robinson's offices this week, the Finance Office coordinated with Recreation and Economic Development to apply for capital grant funding through the State of Ohio Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 Capital Budget.

Council Person Trakas, with his intimate knowledge of and experience with the inner-workings of state governance in Columbus, has graciously provided this internal team with some valuable guidance that will hopefully increase the chances for success.

Current indications are that approximately \$25 million will be available for capital grant funding in Cuyahoga County, but closer to \$100 million of applications will be submitted by today's deadline.

There is a list of the types of projects that are eligible for funding and an even longer list of the types of projects that are not eligible for funding. Working with the list of eligible projects still limits the scope of an application from Independence, as Independence does not have an Agricultural Society Fairground, a Juvenile Detention Facility, a Zoo or Aquarium, etc.

Therefore Independence is submitting for capital grant funding within two related categories:

- Playground/Recreation Facilities
- Community Recreational Facilities

The City will know by later in the spring or early this summer if its efforts were successful.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Collections

The Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office has distributed first-half property tax collections, which includes TIF collections as well.



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Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Collections Continued

TIF Collections in 2021 totaled almost \$2.5 million exactly, or \$1.25 million each half. The first-half 2022 collection totaled \$1.262 million, or just slightly higher than in 2021.

However, the City is supposed to be receiving the school district's share of the Top Golf TIF collections, and if so, is to then make compensation payments to the school district in lieu of those TIF payments going directly to the school district.

The Finance Office and Economic Development Director Hyser are working with School District Treasurer Eric Koehler and the school district's real estate law representative, David Seed, to determine what amount of that \$1.262 million, if any, the City will need to reimburse to the school district.

Parade Magazine – Dolly Parton

A recent edition of Parade Magazine featured Dolly Parton and author James Patterson, who Dolly worked with on a book that just came out on March 7.

Background material on both of them can serve as inspiration for others to not stop, not quit, and not give up on still being productive, contributing members of society even when many people think they are long past the age of being able to functionally contribute to society.

In the last 1.5 years, at the age of 76 this year, Dolly:

- Worked with Patterson on the above noted book *Run, Rose, Run*
- Released a Christmas album, which debuted at No. 1 on the billboard country chart
- Published a bestselling collection of song lyrics and stories
- Launched a perfume
- Continued her Emmy-winning production deal with Netflix
- Continued to oversee the Dollywood Foundation, which includes the Imagination Library, which gives out millions of free books to children around the world
- Continued to be involved with Dollywood Parks and Resorts

On the subjects of having talent and being “successful” with that talent, Dolly had the very insightful observation of:

- *“Celebrity is 24/7. You give up a lot. Many people in my own family have more talent than I do, but they were too shy to get out and do it. Some want celebrity, some don't. I did.”*



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Parade Magazine – Dolly Parton Continued

Author Patterson had the following to say about his and Dolly's work ethic:

- *"My grandmother used to have a saying: **"Hungry dogs run faster."** Dolly and I are both driven."*

There are some great lessons in there for all of us – "retirement" from our "income" jobs doesn't necessarily mean that we have to completely disconnect from still giving back and contributing to society.

If we're like those "hungry dogs," we can keep driving forward giving back and contributing to society as long as our mental and physical health allows us to!