

**Finance Committee**  
**Monday, March 22nd, 2021**  
**6 p.m. Medina City Hall – Rotunda**

**In attendance:** J. Coyne – Chairman, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, J. Shields, B. Lamb, J. Hazeltine and Dennie Simpson.

**Also present:** Greg Huber, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Keith Dirham, Chief Kinney, Kathy Patton, Jansen Wehrley, Kimberly Marshall, Jonathan Mendel, Bob & Debbie Preis, and Chet Walter.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. 18-138-7/9 – Consider Legislation Prohibiting Feeding Deer / Wild Animals

Mr. Lamb stated he had a Special Legislation meeting, they've spent over two years on this topic. Bill stated he has met with the Law Director to discuss the particulars on how to craft an ordinance that would be used effectively but didn't pose too many barriers to people that feed the birds. It was crafted so that it was unlikely that it would pit neighbor against neighbor. Bill Lamb feels what they have put together will be effective, can be enforced, and it is practical but still allows people to have freedom to feed birds without concern of being accused of something. Mr. Lamb read over the ordinance which will be included in the notes. This passed out of committee and he is hopeful that council will support it because he feels it is the best thing we can do for the community.

Mr. Coyne read an email from Shirley Walker as follows to enter it into the record:

Dear Mayor Hanwell, Mr. Coyne, Mr. Heffinger, Mr. Lamb, and other council and committee members.

This letter concerns the proposed legislation of feeding deer and other animals. In reading the material presented to me relative to this matter, it appears most minds have been already made up, and another law will befall the gentle citizens of Medina.

This will be in my opinion, a hurtful law, aimed at a few, but harmful to many citizens whose only intent is to enjoy or assist their backyard critters. Initially it was about the deer, but the issue has now grown to all animals and fowl.

Tell us why this proposal is so immanent. Is it to support the fellow at a meeting who complained that he had 10-14 deer in his back yard eating his thousands of dollars of foliage, only for us at the meeting to find out that his property abutted a park? Fence it in, mister. Handle it.

Is it because deer are getting hit near railroad crossings and some roads, even though the crossings and roads are next to a park or rough area? These animals live in parks and wooded areas. Slow down, drivers. There aren't many lights in Medina you can get through on green anyway.

Where are the statistics showing the many citizens that were trampled and attacked by their backyard squirrels and birds? Has anyone done a study of Tractor Supply, Walmart, Target, Medina Farmers Exchange, Centerra, and other seed and grain selling stores to determine the amount of business these stores do from the sale of grains and seeds? But who cares about the dollar amount these stores are making from these sales? The caring comes in the local citizens who are paying out their cash and Social Security to have the pleasure of caring for and enjoying these animals in their own back yard.

And let us talk about the type of community that is being created. I am referring to the "tell on/turn in/videotape your neighbor" community. Isn't this just the kind of community most of us moved here for? No way. Let's stop this. Leave people alone.

Medina does not need a law such as this proposal. There are other things to be addressed.

Respectfully,

Shirley Ann Walker  
426 South Broadway Street  
Medina, Ohio  
330-321-2712

Bob Preis resides on Meadow Lark Lane in Medina. Bob stated he appreciates council moving forward on this ordinance and feels it is much needed. He has seen over the last five years that he has lived here, people feeding the wild animals. Even wildlife experts will tell you feeding the wild animals is not the right thing to do. They are creatures of habit and will continue coming back to the source of food / the feeding area. Deer destroy shrubs, plants and flowers and that is natural and it will happen, but people putting corn out for the deer causes problems and property damage. Bob encouraged council to support this ordinance.

Elizabeth resides on West Branch Drive in Medina. Her concern is with feeding the birds because it still attracts all the unwanted wildlife. Mr. Coyne stated the ordinance is established for those individuals not for feeding birds although it still can attract other animals, it is to target people who are purposely putting out a lot of corn or doing things that attract an animal that then damages not their property, but maybe a neighboring property, because of the activity of feeding the wild.

Mr. Huber stated that this ordinance doesn't really prohibit feeding animals, it only prohibits feeding animals to the extent that it starts to cause other people property damage or causes a nuisance, and in order to enforce the ordinance, it would have to be a pretty unusual and over the top situation to rise to that level.

Mr. Lamb explained that they need this ordinance in order to deal with cases that really are causing a problem.

Elizabeth asked about the City donation of \$10,000.00 to the SPCA and if that goes towards capture, neuter/spay, and release.

Mr. Rose stated that the SPCA in 2020 handled over 500 animals that were attributed to the City

of Medina and with that it costs them approximately \$200 to \$250 per animal to process and that includes a physical checkup, spay or neuter if appropriate, and any other medical attention it may require - and then they have to care and tend to it to get it back to health and then get it up for adoption. These are the things the SPCA does for the city since we do not have an animal warden.

Mr. Simpson thanked the Special Legislation Committee for coming up with this ordinance because it is long overdue. Dennie lives in Forest Meadows and over the years he has received hundreds of complaints from residents, not only in his area but throughout the city of neighbors feeding the deer. Dennie stated he realizes that this is not going to solve the deer population problem in the City of Medina. There is no easy answer. Dennie also mentioned that there are so many housing developments going up in our surrounding townships that wildlife moves to a better food source. As long as we are planting flowers and shrubs we are going to have a deer population. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

3. 21-057-3/22 – Budget Amendments

#2021-009 – Civil Service / Airport Detention Basin

Mr. Dirham stated that there are two, the first one is for additional testing in Civil Service and the second one is additional costs related to the Airport Detention Project. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

4. 21-058-3/22 – Amend Code 133.01 – Association Memberships, Police

Chief Kinney stated this is the association permission for the FBI National Academy Associates. Two of the officers in our department are desiring to be members. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

5. 21-059-3/22 – Renewal of General Liability Insurance – USI / Argonaut

Mr. Coyne (acting mayor) stated they submitted proposals for different property and casualty insurance and received one response. The coverage is about \$61 million dollars and in 2020 the premium was \$194,198.00. This year it is \$255,135.00. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 21-060-3/22 – PY20 CHIP Grant – Tenant Based Rental Assistance MMHA

Mr. Mendel stated they do this every cycle with the CHIP Grant. The total amount is \$16,000.00. This is to assist people getting into housing with things like first months rent, first month utility payments and things of that nature. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

7. 21-061-3/22 – MCRC Facility Monitor Temporary Assignment

Mr. Wehrley stated he is having a staffing shortage at the Rec Center. They have a number of full time positions that are vacant and are hesitant to fill those due to the reduced revenue at the Rec and are trying to run as lean and as efficiently as possible and at the same time they had an employee notify them that they had to take some leave. They are trying to figure out a creative way to take care of those job duties with limited staff. Jansen stated he is looking to pay two facility monitors 7% premium when they're performing duties of the office administrator or the finance assistance and superintendent. This will allow them coverage during an employee's leave in case other employees decide to take vacation or are sick. Jansen requests it to be retroactive back to March 12<sup>th</sup>. Jansen stated there is no increase to the budget. Mr. Shields

moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 21-062-3/22 – Amend 79-19 – Program & Activity Rates MCRC

Mr. Wehrley mentioned a previous finance meeting where they had this on the agenda for discussion, there were two requests. One was to change the program and activity rates and the other was to establish a variable rate structure and vendor fees for events. With this request, they are increasing the maximum allowable fees for programs. That doesn't mean that is what they are going to charge it just gives them the ability to charge a higher rate.

The other request was creating a private and semi lesson for smaller group classes. (COVID related) also adding a broad category of specialized classes. Jansen stated in the packet there are a bunch of strike throughs on previous rates. They are looking to generalize the rate structure because it was so specific before.

Jansen reported Mr. Huber had an opportunity to review the variable rate structure for special events. What we are looking to do with that is to charge to offset some of our costs. Any event that they have they will take the pricing structure to the Rec Advisory Committee to be vetted first.

Mr. Shields stated he had someone come to him with concern with all those strike outs that we were going to offering less at the Rec Center, but really the plan is to offer more and have more flexibility to do more programming as well as make things more profitable for the Rec Center.

Mr. Coyne stated his concern is the subjectivity to this, having a narrow amount a wide range from a minimum to maximum. Evaluating each of the different events coming in he could see running into an issue that people might start getting upset or something if they don't feel as if they are being treated fairly or charged a certain amount. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

9. 21-063-3/22 – Motion to approve MCRC Sponsorship Banner

Mr. Wehrley stated this is just a renewal for the Medina County District Library \$1,020.00 yearly advertisement banner. Mr. Shields stated he will abstain since this benefits his employer. Mr. Simpson moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Rose. Motion passed 6-0, 1 abs.

10. 21-064-3/22 – Cooperative Purchase – ODOT Sodium Chloride

Mr. Piccoli stated this is their annual request for participation with ODOT for salt to be used in 2021. Emergency clause is requested due to this having to be returned by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

11. 21-065-3/22 – Capital Grant Application – ODNR E. Reagan Pkwy. Lighting

Mr. Wehrley stated they received a State Capital Bill Grant for \$122,000.00 to cover and help offset the cost for lighting the East Reagan Pkwy Street and Multi-Purpose Trail. They have to submit a grant application even though they already have the money. There is no grant match for this we just have to verify that we spent \$122,000.00. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

12. 21-066-3/22 – Ohio EPA Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Grant

Mr. Patton stated last year they submitted a grant application for 8 level 2 charging stations for the City Hall Parking Deck. We have been awarded \$30,000.00 and it is our recommendation to

accept the \$30,000.00 but only do 4 charging stations. Keep in mind, we also applied for a grant with NOACA for 4 fast charging stations. Patrick stated these will get installed this summer. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

13. 21-067-3/22 – Transfer City Owned Property on W. Liberty to Medina CIC

Mr. Patton stated now that this parcel of land has been created it can be transferred to the Medina City Development Corporation.

Kimberly Marshall added a reminder that they applied for a grant of \$5,000.00 from First Energy to go towards this project. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0

14. Executive Session: (Pending Litigation)

It was moved by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Simpson to enter into Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. for conferences with the City's Law Director concerning disputes involving the City which are the subject of pending or imminent court action to include Mr. Huber. The roll was called and passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

At 6:53 executive session adjourned and there being no further business, the Finance Committee adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

John M. Coyne, Chairman