

Finance Committee
Monday, June 22, 2026
6:00 p.m. Medina City Hall – Council Rotunda

In attendance:

Also present: Mayor Shields, Keith Dirham, Greg Huber, Patrick Patton, Police Chief Kinney, Fire Chief Walters, Andrew Dutton, Jarrod Fry, Kimberly Marshall, Dan Gladish, Cindy Lastuka, and Kathy Patton.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. 26-022-1/12 – Modify Current Sidewalk Program

Mr. Coyne stated he submitted the request and added some changes to the current ordinance. Duty to remain the residents for driveways and continuing to keep their sidewalks free and clear of snow and ice and nuisances of debris.

Duty to repair sidewalks is suggested that the City of Medina be responsible for repairs. The city shall create a calendar each year called a Safe Sidewalk Program. This program will include both the replacement of sidewalks and the shaving of sidewalks in various locations within the city. We would try to use our service dept and purchase a shaving machine to shave any sidewalks that are 1 inch or less. If it is more than one inch and has 3 or more fractures in them it would have to be identified as being replaced. We have a GIS program that would help to locate these areas and put them on a map and then be able to bid out the repairs. We have to determine how many per year we want to do and what time of the year is best for less disruption as possible. This would be kept on a rolling year-to-year program. We want to set up webpage on the city website where residents can notify us of areas that are in dire need of repair or replacement. We would also like to have annual inspections of the sidewalks, either doing it in-house (intern), which is the most cost-effective way, or if that doesn't work out, then look at the cost of having some company do that. We want to try and use the #108 fund and have something put on the ballot this November.

Ed Isabella has similar thoughts on what a city should be doing, sidewalks are for the public good and are basically a public utility in his mind and as such we need to do all we can to make our city accessible for folks.

Chet Simmons agrees with most everything said, he has taken a look at 18 cities and their ordinances and of the 18 there are only three that pay for the repairs/replace of sidewalks. The majority are private property owner responsibilities. Chet feels giving two years to fix sidewalks is unrealistic as it's difficult to get anyone to come out and replace 1, 2, or 5 panels in your sidewalk. Chet's thoughts are it should remain to be the cost of the homeowner and not paid by the city.

Dennie Simpson knows it will be costly at first. He is also in favor of using the #108 fund and moving forward with getting the issue on the ballot this November.

Ms. Haire agrees with the aspect of the sidewalks being a community asset, especially when they're nice and being used by all. Regi is looking for an efficient system in which we can maintain our city sidewalks. She receives a lot of messages from residents on sidewalks and their condition.

Mr. Lamb agrees with John Coyne 100% and stated that it is long overdue. It is the reason of making people's lives better, and that is why we are here. The condition of some of our sidewalks are really bad.

John Coyne stated the majority of the problems arise from the street trees and utilities.

Jansen stated as this program rolls out, one of the issues that they've always had is you have to deal with the tree issues, does the tree need to be cut down, do the roots need to be ground out, and that turns out to be a little more complicated than just concrete replacement. Jansen stated as long as they've had a Forestry department, they've tried to look at those locations to make sure they select the right tree for the right spot.

Mayor Shields wants to make sure the public and council understand that the city was mitigating things, they just didn't have time or the resources to get ahead of and ended up falling behind. Mayor Shields mentioned that we have been really fortunate to get a lot of federal grants on our streets and our roads and that's where our engineering department has been focused on and so you balance not wanting to lose that federal money doing those projects, but something has to give.

John feels we made a mistake back in 2004 with the ballot issue on allocation of a ¼ percent of the income tax increase and didn't add sidewalks to that.

Matt Lanier mentioned that it doesn't spell out who will do the inspection, and the other thing is where the homeowner has created the situation which caused the problem.

John stated the homeowner will be responsible for their own damage caused.

Mr. Lamb stated he had one more comment, and that is you are right that council did have a responsibility in that time and we certainly didn't exercise that responsibility and he was here as well as some others, the weight of this does not fall on the Engineer, the weight does fall somewhat on council because they didn't follow up but on the other hand, when the finance director comes to us and says lets do a transfer of funds, he presumes that he is actually going to transfer the funds. It's more a question of leadership. It's not a department's responsibility. It's important to recognize how important this is now, that like other issues that have been ignored, this council is committed to working on infrastructure issues in the city that have an effect on the general population in a very large way.

Mr. Simmons stated he remembers when Mr. Lamb was mayor in the 80's with Mr. Amer spray painting his sidewalks to have those corrected, so it goes back well beyond any 13 years that this has been either corrected or let go, much longer than today.

Mr. Hanwell resides at 157 Hartford Dr. reviewed some history, stated a program was put together to start in the historic district and work our way out it was never ignored. He is confident we could show history since the ordinance passed of what we did. Dennis takes exception that nothing was being done, in fact when Mr. Lamb was council-at-large he came to council, convincing them to do sidewalks every other year. Because of paving the state routes over and over again and the curbs got depleted and you wanted to institute a curb program, and we told you then that we didn't have the staffing for both curbs and sidewalks, but we could do them

every other year and that is what we then implemented after council passed it.

Why are we asking for legal advice from the City of Dublin's law director? You could be looking at a taxpayer lawsuit for everybody that has paid for their own sidewalks in the past, now the city is changing midstream. Mr. Huber has advised you already that there is a potential of people saying you owe me now. Dennis feels the residents voting on this is the right way to go but also letting the public know that we could be at risk for some civil liability changing course midstream.

Sally Gardner 170 Woodland Dr. spoke on Homeowner Associations and that they are privately owned property. Will they be covered by the sidewalk program?

Mr. Coyne stated that is a great point made, but if it is a private road the city doesn't maintain it and if it is a private sidewalk which some of them are the city won't maintain that either. It's not in our right-of-way. We should put a provision in there that says the city is only responsible for the sidewalks that are under its jurisdiction and not privately owned as streets are privately owned are not under the jurisdiction of the City of Medina to plow or maintain. We will work with the law department to make sure that language is included in the ordinance.

Ms. Haire moved to approve subject to the Law Director's approval, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 5-1 (C. Simmons cast a nay vote)

3. 26-021-1/12 – Modify Current Deer Abatement Ordinance

Mr. Coyne is looking to modify this ordinance to make it more transparent and more comprehensive as far as the solutions that are provided to solve a lot of the deer issues.

Talking about bow hunting in the City of Medina and adding sharp shooting as part of this program. Sharp shooting will be done by the USDA and will probably take place after the bow hunting season is complete. We will have to get a cost estimate for that service. Sharp shooting won't occur on private properties. Public property areas have to be approved by council.

Jansen would submit a list of where all the public properties that we have and where they want to do bow hunting. Thinking of forming an advisory committee that will promote the education of the Comprehensive Deer Management Program to the residents and promote community engagement and implementation and management of resident issues and concerns.

Made up of 2 from administration, 2 from council and those four will select three people from the community to be on the advisory committee. The success of this program is to eliminate deer car vehicle incidents and reduce the residential property damage and damage done throughout our parks.

- Have a sign up for harvested deer meat.
- Adopt rules and regulations for the program. Both through administration and council.
- Giving notification as to where and when the culling will occur on public properties by providing the city with your email address.
- Keep detailed records of all the hunters both on private and public properties for accurate count on deer culling.
- More signage in high deer traffic areas. We already have 54 deer carcasses hit by cars in the city this year.

Mr. Huber suggests the redraft contemplates a comprehensive management program. It needs to be written out at the time we adopt this ordinance so that it is set as to what the program is.

John Coyne stated the program is the ordinance. We can just outline the ordinance because that is the program.

Jansen stated they've been working with the state on the management plan and some of these changes in here they can incorporate that into it. It outlines the data collection that is necessary, which is also in this ordinance. We just need to get the changes aligned with the management plan because the state has to approve the management plan in order to get the tags for the sharp shooting program.

That's where they look at all the metric, numbers and population modeling to arrive at how many deer need to be harvested as part of targeted deer removal.

The way the two pieces of this puzzle work together is the hunting program will happen in archery season from the end of September through the cutoff of end of December, then the targeted deer removal would take place from January 1st through March – anytime during that. Both programs go together hand in hand so that 5 to 8 years down the road we can work in conjunction to manage the deer as efficiently as possible.

Chief Kinney expressed a couple of concerns; grammatical error in 505.11, under the penalty section whoever violates any provision of this section he would like it to specify section C. Best way to handle the notification is an opt in program where people can sign up for an email.

Mayor Shields thanked everyone on council and the administration as we have put a lot of time and effort into this and are making great strides forward on it. We've come up with a good plan and we did it together.

Dolly Yowler – resides at 1151 N. Jefferson St. – stated it certainly did not help the situation when the “No to the vote” issue came up as it delayed things by a year or more. Dolly questioned what the #108 fund account is.

Ms. Haire stated we still have residents that are feeding the deer, she just received another phone call last week from a resident stating their neighbor is still feeding the deer in their backyard despite all the effort we have put forward to eliminate this problem.

Kerri Huff – resides on West Mill St. – stated they get about 20 - 25 deer every night and she does feed them stating it keeps them in her yard and not going down Baxter St. She feeds the animals because she is a sentient person. No one is going to tell her on her property that she cannot put out food for the animals.

Mr. Lamb stated this is a hard subject for him. The first year the bow hunting was thrown together and in his opinion it didn't work. The second year didn't work either and it was not a comprehensive program. If you total up the number of deer that have been killed in the two years, there are more deer here today than before these started.

Ms. Haire moved to approve subject to the Law Director's approval, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

4. 26-124-6/22 – Transfer Request – Railroad Fund

Mr. Dirham stated this is increasing because the MOU was approved at the last meeting and so our share increases also. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

5. 26-125-6/22 – Transfer Request – Parking Fund

Keith stated this is a transfer that we do every year, because we don't charge for parking and have to cover the money somehow. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

6. 26-126-6/22 – Transfer Request – Cable TV Fund

Keith explained they discussed this at the budget meeting the other day and this is the transfer we have been doing every year of the RITA refund. Less than 20% is mandated to go to the #108 Fund. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

7. 26-127-6/22 – Budget Amendments

a. # 2026-025

Keith stated this is to cover the fore mentioned transfers and then a couple of other things. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

8. 26-128-6/22 – Increase Exp. P.O. #26-235 – Hall Public Safety – Police

Chief Kinney explained it is an increase for vehicle outfitting. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

9. 26-129-6/22 – Water Rates & Utility Rate Review Commission – Finance

Keith stated he can happily withdraw this request; he attended the meeting last week and there is no increase in our water rate that we pay Avon.

10. 26-130-6/22 – 2026 SPCA Funding Request

Mr. Simmons stated he has been trying to get information on this, he spoke with Ms. Huff, communicated with the director at the SPCA. The two sides are far apart. The request from the SPCA is \$12,000 and he would like to postpone this decision for a future meeting while we continue to get the information we need to work toward an end goal. Mr. Coyne stated we usually get the information as we donate to the SPCA every year because we do not have a dog warden or an animal warden to handle any of the issues a warden would handle.

* hold until next finance meeting.

11. 26-131-6/22 – Medina Municipal Courthouse Change Order #03

Patrick Patton stated they are requesting council approval of a change order #3, however they do not need any additional funds allocated. It is all covered within council's existing allocation for this project. This change includes three different items; the lettering on the outside of the court building, some technology upgrades and putting a roof over the area well on the west side of the building. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

12. 26-132-6/22 – Construction Agreement – US 42/Lafayette Rd. – Engineering

Patrick explained the mobile home park on Lafayette Rd. is planning an expansion and they need to put in a turn lane on Lafayette. Mr. Coyne will abstain from voting as he represents the developer. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 5-1 (J. Coyne abstained)

13. 26-133-6/22 – Engineering Design Services for Job #1189 SR 3 North

Patrick stated this is another resurfacing project and ODOT is giving funding to complete the work. They do have to go through the required selection process for the consultant, they

completed that and decided to go with Chagrin Valley Engineering as they are most qualified. Patrick clarified that this is resurfacing, starting at the square and going down East Liberty and then up Weymouth Rd. to Huffman. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

14. 26-134-6/22 – Amend S&B Code 31.02 & 31.05 – Service Dept.

Nino stated they have a few updates to be made with pay code for section 31.02 in accordance with the Teamsters contract. We don't need to have a Sign Technician and want to make them both part time laborers. For the Public Buildings Dept., we gave our maintenance employees an increase with our union negotiations, and we need to reflect that increase in the pay code with the teamster's contract. The last item – currently the service dept. with our custodial operations share the custodial with municipal court and have been doing that for years. Now that municipal court is moving and that employee is a Municipal Court employee, they will be going with the move.

We have a part-time custodial person we would like to move up, and that person will be taking care of City Hall and the Police Department. We will also need this employee to be a back-up for the Municipal court custodial person when needed. Right now, we are only able to maintain trash, vacuuming and cleaning restrooms, we need to get to the point where we maintain at a higher level. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

15. 26-135-6/22 – 2027 Tax Budget

Keith stated that most of this is routine, he needs a memo from council, the legislative body has to look at it and determine if this balance is necessary so he will write a memo and can work with John Coyne for a drafting. Ms. Haire moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-0.

16. 26-136-6/22 – Proposed Ballot Issue - Sidewalks

John Coyne stated they spoke about this earlier. Mr. Huber's assistance is required to help put this together to add language to the November 2026 ballot to add words; and sidewalks, to the appropriate use of funds from the #108 account. Ms. Haire moved to approve subject to the law director's approval, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 5-1 (C. Simmons voted no).

Mr. Lamb asked Chief Kinney about the feeding ordinance and questioned how many times police have gone to a residence regarding feeding deer.

Chief Kinney stated he will look into that and get back to him.

There being no further business, the Finance Committee adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

John Coyne III, Chairman