

Brookville City Council
Regular Meeting
March 5, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville City Council was called to order by Mayor Seagraves at 7:30 p.m. on March 5, 2019 in the Brookville Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members Fowler, Kirklin, Letner, Schreier, and Wilder; Police Chief Jerome, Fire Chief Fletcher, Finance Director Keaton, Law Director Stephan, City Manager Burkholder, and Clerk Wheeler were present. Member Zimmerlin was absent.

Mayor Seagraves informed Member Zimmerlin is absent tonight due to an illness.

Roll Call by Clerk Wheeler.

Mayor Seagraves informed Council held a Special Meeting to interview an applicant for the open Board of Zoning and Appeals position and requested an amendment to the Agenda to make a formal appointment.

Motion by Kirklin, second by Schreier to approve the Agenda as amended. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Kirklin, second by Schreier to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2019, the Special Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2019 and the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2019. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Seagraves welcomed Rodney Creech, Preble County Commissioner, and thanked him for attending tonight's Council Meeting.

Motion by Schreier, second by Kirklin to appoint Chip Hills to Board of Zoning and Appeals to fill the term expiring, December 31, 2021. All yeas, motion carried.

Mayor Seagraves thanked Margo Cantrell for 11 years of service to the City of Brookville on City Council. He informed she also served on the Board of Zoning and Appeals and various other boards and projects. He stated he is very thankful for her years of service and all she has done for the City of Brookville.

Mayor Seagraves presented Margo Cantrell with an award of recognition for her years of service to the City of Brookville.

Margo Cantrell thanked the Mayor, current and past Council Members and current and past City Staff that she has worked with over the years.

Mayor Seagraves informed last year the City held two Storm Water Work Sessions on flooding issues. He stated it has been an ongoing process since then with Staff and residents working with FEMA and Montgomery County Soil and Water. He introduced Stephan Bridenbaugh, of Montgomery County Soil and Water, to give an update.

Stephan Bridenbaugh, of Montgomery County Soil and Water, informed the past rain storm on February 6 produced around 1.2 to 2 inches of rain in a two to three hour time frame. He informed flash flood warnings were then issued because the rain water fell onto frozen ground. He reported on February 7, his office received 50 calls mostly around Brookville with flooding concerns. He informed Soil and Water has been evaluating flood issues in the area, but it has to be understood there was 4.7 inches of rain on top of frozen ground received in the two day time frame of February 6 and 7. He stated when there is frozen ground, the water runs off and runs into storm sewers and ditches, which then can cause the flooding of homes or basements. He stated there were massive runoffs because of the frozen ground. He informed there has been recent flooding in a lot of areas, even areas that have not experienced flooding in the past

because of the rapid intense rainfalls we have been seeing and that seem to be becoming more common. He informed his office is still working on phone calls received from the last major rain event, a month ago.

Mr. Bridenbaugh informed at the meetings held last year, the process of Montgomery County Soil and Water was discussed. He informed after the meetings held last year, a request for assistance was filed by a Brookville resident. The request for assistance requested log jams be looked into in Wolf Creek. He explained this started the process to evaluate the Wolf Creek area. He informed the Montgomery County Commissioners recently approved \$7,500 to fund a drone study which would fly up and down the creek, mark the jammed areas, take high resolution pictures and help determine a solution to pull the log jams out. He stated the Study will also help to identify ash trees that are leaning and in danger of falling near the creek. He stated this is the most inexpensive manner to walk the creek. He stated there are a ton of log jams along the creek and this process will help Soil and Water to prepare and estimate for the total cost of at the best solution for the creek.

Mr. Bridenbaugh thanked Montgomery County Commissioners for funding this phase of the project. He informed removing the log jams will help the water to move on down and help to prevent future flooding. He informed the drone study will be the initial phase of everything. The drones will fly from Heeter Road to Westbrook Road, which is about three miles and is tentatively scheduled for March 14. He stated the long term goal is to get capacity in the creek down stream to help it from backing up into the flood plain and increase the flow of the water. He informed there could also be potential funding with FEMA for dredging if needed. He described the video obtained from the drones will help to identify if dredging is needed, which could then be a future phase. He explained this initial investigation and evaluation will be put into a report and the original petitioner will receive a copy of the report once the report is done. He stated this is not a typical small project, it is considered a large project.

Mayor Seagraves asked for a timeline?

Mr. Bridenbaugh stated it will probably be late spring before the investigation and evaluation report will be done. He informed after that would come the field view, which usually takes about 90 days. He stated the actual removal of debris from the creek would probably not be until late fall or winter.

Allen Thrush, of 30 Gaines, asked if there are any deadlines to meet for the process?

Mr. Bridenbaugh informed once the Montgomery County Soil and Water Board accepts a petition state law allows one year for completion. He informed at this point, the Soil and Water Board has only accepted the request for assistance. He stated the petition has not been accepted yet, which means the one year time period has not started yet because Soil and Water has other projects ahead of Brookville's to complete.

Mr. Thrush asked if the Core of Army Engineers will be brought in at any point?

Mr. Bridenbaugh informed they will be involved once the permit process starts. He informed there will be permitting done through the Ohio EPA and the Core of Army Engineers.

Mr. Thrush asked if Soil and Water has a process written out for residents to look at?

Mr. Bridenbaugh provided a handout with information on Montgomery County Soil and Water's process.

Mayor Seagraves stated Soil and Water is working with the City and residents, there is also legwork going on to gather more information from FEMA. He stated the other part to all of this is, how the City engages to help. He informed he has asked Mr. Bridenbaugh to briefly speak on Storm Water Utilities.

Mr. Bridenbaugh stated Soil and Water does not do Storm Water Utility Funds, that would have to come from the City and Soil and Water can't get involved with them, but he can describe how they work. He explained there is a user fee charged to residents that go into a separate fund to be used for storm water activity. He stated a lot of neighboring communities to Brookville have a Storm Water Fund. Money in a Storm Water Fund can be used for street sweeping, catch basin repair, or storm water repair, but the funds are earmarked for those type of things only. He stated the fee is usually only a few dollars a month. He stated this type of Fund would be up to the City of Brookville and Soil and Water cannot say if they support it or not.

Tonya McKown, of 226 South Wolf Creek, asked if residents already pay that in their water bills?

Mayor Seagraves stated no.

Manager Burkholder informed the first reading is on tonight's Agenda for a Storm Water Utility Fund to begin discussions. He stated a Storm Water Utility Fund would be a separate, designated fund. He informed a flat fee would be charged to residential, commercial, or industrial customers. He stated tonight is an educational outreach to help people understand and see how it would affect them. He informed a Storm Water Utility Fund would be to address storm water issues only. He stated if we are going to address the storm water issues in Brookville, we have to have the funding to do it. He described examples of what the money in a Storm Water Utility Fund could be used for catch basins, man holes, and the street sweeper, which it is very important to keep debris out of our storm water system. He stated this fund would also help generate the revenue we need to help initiate studies to identify problems city wide as it relates to storm water and then help to put together a plan to correct the problems. He stated other than the log jams, there are all kinds of other problems including aging infrastructure in town that needs to be dealt with. He described the need to do an I and I study to identify how much of our storm water is getting into our sewer system and in order to start, this type of utility fund would give the City the kind of funding needed to get started. He stated this type of fund has to be used for storm water and nothing else. He reported this past week he attended a Resiliency Roundtable presentation sponsored by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) where the discussion focused on investing in resiliency in our communities. He stated the recent flooding issues are a prime example of the need to address resiliency in Brookville.

Manager Burkholder reported he and the Service Superintendent participated in a webinar on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program presented by the Mitigation Brand Chief with the Ohio Department of Public Safety. In follow up, contact was made with Jeff Jordan with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management regarding the submission of a pre-application relative to recent flooding in Brookville with a pre-application deadline of March 22. He informed if approved through this grant, 75% of the funds would come through FEMA, 12.5% of the funds come from the State of Ohio and the final 12.5% would come from the local jurisdiction, which would be us. He informed if we had money in a Storm Water Fund, we could use that towards the 12.5% we would be responsible for if grant funds were awarded. He stated Staff is doing a lot of research and all of these pieces fit together with the key component being the funding mechanism. He stated the City is working with Soil and Water, the Department of Public Safety and the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and trying to bring everything together.

Mayor Seagraves asked the dollar amounts that a Storm Water Fund would charge?

Finance Director Keaton informed the monthly charges would be \$4.50 for residential structures; \$7.50 for commercial structures; \$10.50 for industrial structures and \$4.50 for governmental or non profit structures. She stated based upon the total utility count, this type of fund would generate an estimated \$135,000 annually.

Mayor Seagraves asked if it would be included in the regular quarterly utility bills?

Finance Director Keaton stated yes.

Member Schreier asked if these funds would be able to offset any future assessments of special projects with Montgomery Soil and Water?

Manager Burkholder informed he would like to look into that further, he would think it should be able to help offset.

Law Director Stephan advised the Ordinance would permit it. He informed if a project has a certain cost and a certain projected assessment for the project and if the City were paying for certain portions of the project like engineering or building materials, that would help to reduce the cost being assessed to the citizens. He informed it would be looked at on a project by project basis and would use the funds to assist, but would not totally eliminate assessments. He stated each project for an application would be different.

Mr. Bridenbaugh informed in the past, if four out of a group of 10 residents in the same neighborhood wanted to agree on a project, figure the cost and material and divide the amount and then cut a check, that amount would lower the final amount to be assessed to the other homeowners.

Ms. McKown asked if it will be put before the citizens for a vote?

Mayor Seagraves stated no, it can be done by a vote of City Council. He stated Council cannot continue to kick the can and avoid these issues, it would be quicker to do a Council vote and there would be three readings, which would take six weeks. He stated citizens without any flooding issues will vote no and this has been traumatic for the residents affected by the flooding. He stated it does no good for the Service Department, the City Manager or himself to go out and look at issues if there is no money to do anything about it.

Ms. McKown asked why the City has never tried to address these issues in the past? She stated she has been reviewing old Council Minutes and flooding issues have been previously brought up, so why wasn't the idea of the storm water fund brought up years ago?

Mayor Seagraves stated the current City Manager has only been here three years and in years prior unfortunately City Officials chose to ignore it. He stated Allen Thrush has described the first major flood to cause problems in our area was in 2004, but most homeowners seemed to just deal with it.

Mr. Thrush stated progress has been made over the last few years and it has taken time to get where we are now. He stated overtime he has had a recent issue, he has talked with the City.

Member Kirklin stated those that may not be impacted today may become impacted if we continue to avoid the issue.

Mr. Bridenbaugh agreed. He stated issues like this doesn't just get better on its own, you have to do something.

Mayor Seagraves stated residents have every right to call out elected officials and ask why something isn't being done.

Ms. McKown stated she appreciates action being taken now but wishes something would have been done a few years ago.

Mayor Seagraves stated the City did take action last year by contracting with Montgomery County Soil and Water. He stated it isn't a quick process. He stated the one thing that can be done is for a Storm Water Fund to be implemented. He stated he knows no one wants to pay more money, but we have to re-invest in our City and the fact of the matter is these issues are not going to just go away.

Kim Cheatham, of 565 Adrian, stated she is a resident of Brookville and does care and she doesn't appreciate the comment that those not impacted do not care. She asked about the areas in Perry and Clay Townships, who is paying for the work that will be done in the townships? She asked if Brookville will be paying their bill?

Mayor Seagraves stated the City of Brookville will be paying for the areas within the city limits of Brookville.

Mr. Bridenbaugh informed the initial study is being done to find out exactly where the issues are and the homeowners within the water shed areas where work will be done will be assessed for the total cost. He stated there are ongoing issues to be addressed. He informed after the study, there will be hearings and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Board will decide if this project will be done. He informed Soil and Water will charge the county for their roads, the township for their roads or the City for their roads.

Mayor Seagraves informed the money in a Storm Water Utility Fund only pertains to the city limits of Brookville.

Ms. Cheatham asked what if we do our part but Clay or Perry Township doesn't?

Manager Burkholder informed Soil and Water can cross jurisdictional lines.

Mr. Bridenbaugh stated all homeowners in the water shed area will be assessed. He explained when the project is done, the logs would be cleared out and then from that point forward there is maintenance done on the area by Soil and Water and Soil and Water also collects a maintenance fee from the homeowners included in the project to help keep the area maintained.

Jessi Sievers, of 122 Antwerp, asked about easements?

Mr. Bridenbaugh informed depending on access points, easements will likely have to be taken.

Mayor Seagraves reminded there will be a hearing held by Soil and Water after the first phase of evaluating Wolf Creek with the drones is done. He stated to be clear he did not say people didn't care what he meant was the City is beyond worrying about everyone as a whole feels and we need to make some decisions, that is why Council Members were appointed. He stated he did not mean to be disrespectful. He stated he is all in on this project and doesn't want any misguided information to get out. He stated if you love Brookville you need to buy into it.

Mayor Seagraves asked for opinions from other Council Members.

Member Schreier stated this is the first discussion had and he needs time to review before forming an opinion. He stated those that may not be personally affected by the issues may care, but still vote no if the Storm Water Utility Fund were to be on the ballot. He stated if we look at money coming from inside Brookville, we want to make sure we are looking at projects that are inside Brookville and not impacted by neighboring communities, which could be looked at and discussed during the vetting process of the project.

Mayor Seagraves stated when working with a limited budget like we are, if we need matching funds for a grant to help with a project, we do not have those matching funds. He asked if the City is not going to implement something like this to help funding then who's fault is it when these issues cannot be addressed in the future? He stated if Council is not supportive then they need to tell the citizens and they need to set a path to address citizen's concerns for these flooding issues.

Mr. Thrush stated mother nature can be nasty and you can't just say we had a big flood so we won't have another one for a while, we have to come up with a way of moving forward.

Ms. McKown stated the first flood for her was in 2004 also. She asked when is she going to be heard? She asked where has money come from in the past to address sewer issues?

Manager Burkholder informed in the past money has always come out of the General Fund but there isn't extra money in the General Fund. He stated with the Storm Water Utility fee, we would have the capital needed to do some of these projects.

Ms. McKown asked why there isn't money in the General Fund??

Mayor Seagraves stated there is money in the General Fund, but it is dispensed out to Fire, Police, and Service. He stated there is a budget that lists it all out and she is more than welcome to look at it.

Ms. McKown asked what is the carryover balance?

Mayor Seagraves explained the Carryover Balance. He stated we couldn't have planned or known that we would lose Payless, which will hurt our General Fund. He stated we have to have a reserve in case of emergency and we continue to see the reserve dwindle. He stated another part is transparency and every single check the City of Brookville writes is available online. If anyone has any questions please call the Finance Director.

Ms. McKown asked why the sewage issue couldn't have been budgeted project for in 2017?

Mayor Seagraves stated a lot of projects for 2018 wasn't done, they were frozen due to funding but yet, they still need to be done. He stated he thinks the City is on the right process by working with Soil and Water. He stated as we move on in this process, Brookville is an older community and everyone is going to find out their storm water is tied into the sanitary system, which contributes to the flooding. He stated an I and I Study needs to be done and it will determine exactly where all the complications are and it will be up to the homeowners to make the changes.

Manager Burkholder informed about two years ago flooding happened on Upper Lewisburg Salem Road that started the discussions, the research and two meetings were held to start the education process. He stated so the last two years the City has been trying to address the situation and it will take the support of the residents and support of the Council. He informed the City of Union has had this fund since the 80's and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars just for storm water to address their issues.

Manager Burkholder stated when it comes to the influent and infiltration system and the negative impact it has on our sewer system, we cannot continue to tell the Ohio EPA we are working on it. He stated when we have contamination because we have too much storm water going through the Sewer Plant, we will start to get fined. He stated that will affect everyone because rates will have to be raised again to cover the costs of the fines. He stated we have to be forward looking and proactive.

Member Letner asked how many gallons run through the Waste Water Treatment Plant on a regular day?

Service Superintendent Homan informed 600,000 to 700,000 gallons.

Member Letner asked how many gallons went through during the February 6-7 rainfall?

Service Superintendent Homan informed 4.8 million gallons ran through. He stated the WWTP is only built for 1.2 million gallons. He stated the rain events are not sewage water coming down, it's storm water. He stated it is illegal, illicit tie-ins of down spouts, sump pumps, and leaking manholes that is allowing storm water into our sanitary system and is overwhelming the system.

Mayor Seagraves stated these problems are not just in Brookville, all of the other communities around us are experiencing similar issues. He stated he just doesn't want to put it off and end up with bigger more costly problems in the future.

Mr. Bridenbaugh stated there are two separate things going on here. He stated the first is storm water and that belongs to the City and the other is the petition process for the log jams, which belongs to Soil and Water. He informed when things are built in a watershed, there has to be storm water retention and the retention pond on new Market Street is a good example of the type of retention that needs to be considered. He stated there is an education process to help with cleanup efforts.

Jean Lathrop, of 222 Maple Street, asked would the utility charge be per structure?

Law Director Stephan informed the Ordinance is written to exclude accessory structures, the fee of \$4.50 would be for one residential structure. He stated he looked at various cities to see how their Ordinances were written and our proposed Ordinance is modeled after the City of Union. He informed there are other jurisdictions that do look at the size of lot. He stated there are other methods that Council could look at that would charge based upon the size of a lot.

Service Superintendent Homan stated he would like to clarify that two different problems have been talked about at the same time, the creek with the log jams, and then flooding from the creek and the basement flooding issues some have had. He informed he has verified with the Ohio EPA that storm water utility funding can be used for I and I studies because it is a storm water issue. He stated flooding on the creek from the log jams would be a separate project.

Mayor Seagraves stated his fear is because of the cold weather one day and then 50 degrees the next week and it rains again, we will be right back to where we were a few weeks ago. He stated with the recent weather patterns, what do we do, there is nothing we can do about the weather. He stated Council will need to step up and make a commitment.

Mayor Seagraves thanked Stephan Bridenbaugh for attending tonight.

Manager Burkholder reported two students from the Wright State University are working on their Capstone Projects and will be doing focus groups for the City of Brookville. He informed they are looking for volunteers to participate and give their opinions on what they would like to see for the future of City of Brookville. He stated there will be three focus group dates and each will last 90 minutes.

Finance Director presented the February 28, 2019 Fund Balance.

Motion by Kirklin, second by Schreier to approve the February 28, 2019 Fund Balance as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Finance Director Keaton reminded the City of Vandalia Income Tax Department will once again have representatives at our City Building to assist our residents with the preparation of the local income tax returns, at no charge. She informed the representatives will be in the office on Friday, March 22 from 8:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, March 23 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Finance Director Keaton informed auditors will be in the City Office this week working on our 2018 audit.

Fire Chief Fletcher presented the February Operations Report.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported a high number of illnesses with flu like symptoms in both the community and his personnel.

Fire Chief Fletcher reported the rescue truck was picked up today, the structural damage has been repaired and now just has minor fabrication to be done locally and then will be back on the road soon.

Fire Chief Fletcher announced a focus this month will be getting carbon monoxide detectors in homes in the community. He informed the Fire Department has received donated detectors. He informed they will do their best to identify those in need of a carbon monoxide detector in their home and the Fire Department will install it.

Police Chief Jerome reported the Brookville Police Department handled 96 Incidents year-to-date, compared to 87 during this same time last year. Police Chief Jerome reported Citations are up a total of 1 Citation year-to-date, for a total of 85 Citations issued year-to-date. There were 145 traffic stops for February compared to 193 during February 2018.

Police Chief Jerome stated it is a busy time of year as his Department has wrapped up employee evaluations, department inventories and their Annual Report.

Member Kirklin stated at the last Meeting she expressed gratitude to the Fire Chief and the Fire Department and now she wanted to personally thank the Police Chief and the Police Department for what they do on a daily basis. She informed her family was recently in a situation they happened to stumble on and had to place a 9-1-1 call for police. She thanked the Police Department for their quick response and all of their hard work and dedication.

Law Director Stephan had no report.

Mayor Seagraves had no report.

There was no Old Business.

In New Business,

Manager Burkholder informed information was submitted to Council on Governor Dewine's initiative to add 18 cents per gallon to the gasoline tax. He informed ODOT has a deficit of about \$1.2 billion per year and will not be able to fix state routes, which will also affect the local level. He informed this gas tax is to help with that deficit and some of those funds will come to the local levels. He informed the Ohio Municipal League is supporting this. He provided Council with the Ohio Fix our Roads document. He stated it is up to Council as to where we stand on this but, he thinks it is an important issue.

Member Schreier asked if this is an endorsement and will it help us in any specific way?

Manager Burkholder informed it is an endorsement and is about showing local support. He stated there are groups for it and groups against it but there needs to be funding for our roads. He informed he has discussed this with Paul Grunner, the Montgomery County Engineer.

Mayor Seagraves asked when the last gas tax increase occurred?

Manager Burkholder informed 2005.

Motion by Schreier, second by Kirklin to read proposed Resolution No. 19-06. All yeas, motion carried.

Member Fowler stated 18 cents is absurd.

Member Letner stated if passed Ohio would be 5th highest tax in the country, but on the flip side, our infrastructure does need it.

Manager Burkholder informed in the past, the state borrowed money against the turnpike's future revenue which is why Ohio is in the position they are in. He stated currently Ohio is lower than the surrounding states on gas tax.

Member Kirklin stated maybe if the state hadn't waited so long to pass an increase, it wouldn't have had to be so high.

Member Letner stated the Arlington Road Bridge is a good example of what the money could be used for.

Manager Burkholder informed this will affect future projects.

Mayor Seagraves asked if there was a Motion to approve proposed Resolution No. 19-06?

Mayor Seagraves stated there was no motion to approve proposed Resolution No. 19-06 entitled, "A Resolution in support of Governor DeWine's recommended increase of the Ohio Motor Fuel Tax, and declaring it an emergency."

Mayor Seagraves asked if Council wanted to have the first reading of proposed Ordinance No. 2019-02 tonight and then have further discussion at the next Meeting?

Member Letner suggested tabling proposed Ordinance No. 2019-02 since Member Zimmerlin is absent. He suggested having the first reading in two weeks when there is a full quorum.

Mayor Seagraves stated he understands Member Zimmerlin is absent, but he would personally like to see this move forward. He stated it is only a first reading, there will still be two more readings and plenty of time for discussion.

Motion by Fowler, second by Schreier to table proposed Ordinance No. 2019-02 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY IN THE CITY OF BROOKVILLE, OHIO." Motion carried with 4 yeas and 2 nays. Members Fowler, Letner, Schreier, and Wilder voted yes. Members Seagraves and Kirklin voted no.

Mayor Seagraves asked for any discussion on future ideas for Fire Station #1 building.

Manager Burkholder informed surplus property is currently being stored there now to be sold in a public auction. He informed the Service Department is utilizing Station 2 to store equipment that previously sat outside. He informed Staff is also cleaning up the mezzanine area of Station 2 for a records retention area. He stated the tentative plan is to hold a public auction at Station 1 in early June to get rid of the surplus items. He stated this topic was requested to be on the Agenda by a Council Member.

Mayor Seagraves suggested tabling ideas for Station #1 and continue to use it for storage until after the auction.

Motion by Kirkin, second by Schreier to table discussions on the future of Fire Station 1 until after the Public Auction is held in June. All yeas, motion carried.

Manager Burkholder reported the STP project applied for at the intersection of Arlington Road and Triggs Road has been approved to go before the MVRPC Board for a final vote in March and then will move onto the State. He informed this project would re-do the intersection of Arlington Road and Triggs Road including the upgrade signals

Member Kirkin, Park Board Liaison, informed the next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Member Schreier, Planning Commission Member, reported at the last Planning Commission Meeting on January 21, 2019 Members discussed rebates to apply for LED street lighting. He informed the City is trying out a few samples of LED lights on Market Street. He reported Zoning Officer Snedeker proposed some ideas for signage and asked Members to review and discuss at next meeting.

Mayor Seagraves thanked audience members for attending tonight's Meeting.

Adam Blevins, the Brookville Chamber of Commerce President, stated the Chamber is very pleased with the conversations on the pedestrian bridge. He informed the Chamber has received a public donation of \$8,000 to be pledged towards the bridge project.

Kim Cheatham, of 565 Adrian Court, asked the final estimate amount received on the pedestrian bridge?

Member Letner informed approximately \$9,255.

Ms. Cheatham asked if there has been any further discussion on changes to the phone system as mentioned at a previous meeting.

Mayor Seagraves stated input has been received.

Manager Burkholder informed not a lot of reprogramming has been done yet, Staff does try to answer the phone as much as possible but if they are tied up, the automated system will pick up and the option to leave a message is available. He stated the automated system will direct a caller to the needed department very quickly. He stated there is a lot of volume that goes through the front office and there are a lot of times when everyone in the front office is on the phone or with a customer.

Member Letner asked why is the first statement heard when calling in about dialing 9-1-1 if it's an emergency? He asked who wouldn't dial 9-1-1 in an emergency?

Fire Chief Fletcher informed the Fire Department receives a lot of calls to the firehouse number that are both emergency and non-emergency type of calls. He informed they do receive calls to the firehouse non-emergency phone number from people who are requesting an ambulance. He described the Fire Department tries to educate people on when they should dial 9-1-1. He stated it is a standard national expectation that most governmental lines that have a potential to receive a misplaced call lead off with a warning to call 9-1-1 if it's an emergency. He stated it is much easier to trace a call if needed through the 9-1-1 system.

Member Letner asked if that happens, do we pay a dispatch fee?

Fire Chief Fletcher informed any call that goes through the center that creates a call for service for Police or Fire gets a dispatch cost. He informed if a call is made to the dispatch center that does not require service, but just asking a general question, then we are not charged.

Ms. Cheatham stated where she works, she has multiple coworkers who all have their phones ring three times each before the call goes to a voicemail and she never has anyone complain about their call ringing multiple phones compared to callers getting an automated system with options to press.

Mayor Seagraves stated several people have voiced their opinions on the issue. He stated this is a small town.

Manager Burkholder informed the Front Office Staff has asked to be able to weigh in on this issue. He stated he can gather their comments and provide back to Council.

Motion by Fowler, second by Kirklin to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.



Meghan Wheeler, Clerk of Council



David Seagraves, Mayor

