

Capital Improvements Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
MAY 17, 2021

The Capital Improvement Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday, May 17, 2021 following the Service Committee with these members present:

Jonathan Lang - Chair
Jeremy Blake sitting in for Dee Hall – Vice Chair
Jeff Rath
Mark Labutis
Sean Fennell

We wish to Report:

1. Consider **Resolution No. 21-33** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 335 Capital Improvement Fund, in the amount of \$3,022,000.00

335.122.5276	Paving	1,500,000.00
335.122.5276.210	Pedestrian Walkway	100,000.00
335.204.5511	East End Fire Station Roof Replacement	17,000.00
335.122.5334	Utility Line Maintenance	1,200,000.00
335.121.5511	City Hall Roof Replacement	205,000.00

City Engineer, Mr. Brian Morehead – The first item is \$1.5 million for an additional paving project, we open our current project this coming Friday, so I'll be putting together another project to get out to bid as well.

Mr. Lang – I know we just got the \$1.6 million project together, what's your anticipated timeline for this project?

Mr. Morehead – About a month to get it ready to go out to bid.

Mr. Lang – So you think by the end of June you'll have it out to bid and then start work on that when?

Mr. Morehead – I'll talk to the contractors on Friday when we open our bids, I don't know if they'll have the capacity to get another million and a half done this year. So, I would say more than likely I would have a next spring completion date on it.

Mr. Lang – Just curious if you can recall the last time we had over \$3 million for paving?

Mr. Morehead – Not while I've been here.

Mr. Blake – Brian, I'm curious, traditionally with annual paving you crank out a paving list and it gets advertised in the Advocate. With this being an additional \$1.5 million, people were calling me concerned about the roads that would be paved and distributed across the city, can

we provide some suggestions of streets that need to be paved in certain areas, I guess I'm asking more about your decision making process and how we can get this money distributed across the city.

Mr. Morehead – If you've got a suggestion, you're more than welcome to send it to me and I'll take a look at it. I'll tell you the list I started with that got cut down started with about \$6 million and I cut it down to \$1.6 million, so there's quite a backlog behind it, but if there's a street that you know of I'll take a look at it and consider it in the list as well and I think quite likely I've already got in on the list.

Mr. Blake – I would just like to prioritize the list. I know when the list came out a few weeks ago there were definitely some areas that weren't on that list.

Mr. Morehead – There's a lot that aren't on the list. If I had my wish to do everything that I felt needed to be done this year, we would be spending about \$4 million, so this would be a substantial chunk of it. There's still going to be some that still need to be done, but they'll get carried over into next year.

Mr. Blake – Thank you. Mr. Chairman I guess I would just like to see some type of war council for input to these lists because we're being contacted directly by constituents and hopefully we can relay that information to you.

Mr. Lang – I would just offer and think all of my colleagues agree that if you have a street to just forward it to Brian. I think Brian and Dave are pretty responsive. Obviously I think there's areas all over the city that need to be addresses. Certainly as those come in I think it's incumbent on us as Council Members to get that to him.

Mr. Fennell – As Chair of the Street Committee I just wondered if we need to meet. If that would be helpful to fellow council members to give an feedback or input. I don't know if that would be helpful at all. I want to make sure that we are voicing concerns we get from our constituents. I don't know about you all but roads calls are the ones I get the most. So, I just feel like it might be a good time to do that.

Mr. Marmie – Brian throughout the years I've worked with you in various things and the main thing I'll say of Brian is if he doesn't know of an area, which with Brian is usually not the case, but if we talk to him about an area that is really bad and is a safety concern he considers it, but honestly Brian does a fabulous job of prioritizing. I can tell you my neighbors want their road paved so bad and I hear every time I see them, but their road doesn't need paved. Does it look bad as far as does it look freshly paved, yes, but they want it to look nice not just be functional and safe. The other thing I'll say also, Pierson Blvd wanted their road paved so badly and they got what they wished for, it used to have little bumps and things and now it's a smooth race track and they would like us to tear it back up again because literally from Mt. Vernon Rd. to 21st Street, they fly down that road now. So, I do appreciate what Brian and his team does as far as prioritizing and everything, but I do know that Brian is open to suggestions and comments. To say that we would want a public hearing of it, work with Brian individually, that would be my advice. Hears the other thing, Brian will be able to tell you the truth about why it's not a priority or if it becomes a priority he'll tell you that and he's very good at that. I've appreciated working with him over the years. He's going to tell you exactly the way it is, he's not going to try to sugar coat it and blow smoke in your face, but he'll tell you about the numerous other streets that are a lot worse.

Mr. Rath – I just want to say in the almost 12 years that I've been here, I've gone to Brian, more than a couple times, about roads needing paved. I am constantly going to him about roads that need paved, he's always responsive. Sometimes it takes 2 or 3 or 4 years because of

the way the list is, but he's never had a problem with giving feedback to council members that I am aware of, he's always been very responsive and I've appreciated that over the years.

Mr. Morehead – This will be in the newspaper today or tomorrow and I'm sure you'll get calls and requests, if you can give me your requests in the next 10 days or so, that gives me time to put a list together and get cost estimates and figure out what all we need so that if there's anything that we might have overlooked we would be open to consider it.

Mr. Lang – Do you want to speak to the next part, the \$100k for pedestrian walkway?

Mr. Morehead – Yes, that's a sidewalk along West Main Street on the north side and will connect from Terrace Avenue, where we have a newly installed traffic signal last year, back to Cherry Valley Road and 40th Street intersection where we're installing new curb and sidewalk on the 40th Street project right now.

Mr. Lang – I'm glad to see that we're putting some additional funds towards sidewalks, hopefully we can continue that trend in next year's budget as well.

Mr. Rath – I'll just say thank you.

Mr. Morehead – The Fire Station roof replacement is self-explanatory.

The utility line maintenance is the project in the downtown area to be able to bury some of the power and cable and other utilities, I came to you earlier in the year to waive bidding on that with Claypool Electric so, that will allow us to move that project forward and provide much safer and better power service for basically the whole north side of the square up to Locust Street.

Mr. Marmie – I would just add that AEP has been fantastic, so I think we've got a great working relationship with EAP that we're able to take advantage of right now and what this is going to do for the downtown is going to be fantastic and I appreciate what AEP has done for it also.

Mr. Blake – I'm sorry, where is this work at?

Mr. Morehead – From North Park Place, north and crosses Church Street and up to the alley just south of Locust Street.

Mr. Blake – The Golden Wok alley?

Mr. Morehead – Yes and the other alley next door here up to the other side of the Arcade between Moe's and the Antique store and on up to the next block on the north side of Church Street as well. We have an excellent opportunity here as well because we got preliminary indication that we are being approved for our OBWC Grant application that we put in last year, which is to re-do the sidewalks and lighting and pavement in both of these alleys through OBWC. We will get formal approval of that in 1st week of July, that will allow us to get that project out to bid. Basically we don't want to move that project forward without the utilities being done underground. So, move the utility project forward and then replace the pavement and sidewalks with the OBWC funds and it will be outstanding.

Mr. Rath – You mentioned to pave the alley in between the antique shop and Moe's north of the Arcade, when will be the timeframe for that construction?

Mr. Morehead – If this is approved, we've been talking with the electrical contractor all along, up to this point we can't have them hold up their schedule waiting to see if the city is going to do something, so, if this gets approved, we'll engage back with them and see what their timeframe is, I don't know right now. Hopefully this year.

Mr. Rath – My only concern is I know that Moe's has in the past turned that into a dining area and I just hope that we would be cooperative and give them forewarning.

Mr. Morehead – We've been discussing it with them all along and they've put their tables and stuff out there with the thought that at some point the city's going to come in there and do some construction work.

Motion to send to full council, second by Mr. Labutis

Rochelle Volen-Smith, 237 Violet Ct. – In terms of some of the pedestrian work, I was wondering how that fit in with the 2028 project that's coming about in terms of some of the streets and sidewalks that had a lot of people in wheelchairs and such that the sidewalks are not in such shape that they can get around easily. I know in our neighborhood a lot of people use the street instead of sidewalks because there are sidewalks that are missing.

Mr. Morehead – In speaking of 2028, I'm not sure exactly what you are referring to, but there was a mobility plan put together by LCATS and the Health Department is that what you are referring to? This is one of those streets that was identified on that plan, it's my understanding. The list is this ring of places that need to be connected and \$100k doesn't go very far. This will take care of one of those small connections and we keep chipping away at those connections anytime we look at projects in a neighborhood. So every opportunity we get we try to look at those.

Ms. Volen-Smith – I also had a question about 40th Street, it's my understanding that it's now going to take 2 years and not a lot of progress and the storm sewers have been removed and there's no indication of something being put in instead.

Mr. Morehead – There is storm sewer on 40th Street, they're installing the last pieces of pipe probably today, so the storm sewer is all new and they are planning on asphalt next week, so I don't know where you heard that it's going to take 2 years to finish it.

Mr. Lang – I would like to keep the conversation to the legislation that we are discussing and I think you've gone a bit beyond that. Certainly, if there are more comments for general conversation at council tonight we can do that. We put an additional \$250k towards sidewalks earlier this year and another \$100k here. I think that's a good start, I'd obviously like to get more money into sidewalks.

Motion passed 5-0

Capital Improvements stands adjourned

Jonathan Lang, Chair