



**SERVICE COMMITTEE
MONDAY APRIL 20, 2015**

COMMITTEE MEETING:

**PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7232 E. MAIN ST, REYNOLDBURG, OH 43068**

1. Call to Order

PRESENT: Barrett, Kelly, McGrady III, Clemens, Cotner, Long, Skinner, Joseph
ABSENT:

2. Approval of Agenda

Stands as approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Stands as approved.

a. Service Committee - Committee Meeting - Mar 16, 2015 7:30 PM

Stands as approved.

4. Discussion

a. Liquor Permit Requests: Prost, Shell (E. Main)- Transfers, and Dollar General E. Broad (New)

Chief O'Neill: The Prost liquor permit investigation, this particular one does not have to deal with actual change of ownership or take any action.

Mr. Clemens: Do we have any questions? If not, we will not move anything forward. Next Item is the Shell.

Chief O'Neill: This is the Shell that's at 7820 East Main Street. The one up across for the Speedway out East. We have had some issues with this particular location before. None of them come back to the current ownership or current management there. We had Officer Bock handle this investigation, again with our standard work-up on it, and he recommends that we do not appeal this.

Mr. Clemens: That we do what, I'm sorry?

Chief O'Neill: We do not appeal the application.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any questions? If not, it will stand as it is. Next item is the Dollar General out on East Broad?

Chief O'Neill: Yeah this is a new store. It's out East of Taylor Road, on Broad Street. On the south side of Broad. Officer Love handled this investigation. He did meet and speak with the ownership and the management out there. Again, it's in a business area, it's not in an area where we expect it to impact the schools or daycare centers. And we don't think we need to contest this permanent application.

Mr. Clemens: Ok. Thank you Chief. Are there any questions pertaining to this item? If not, we will let this stand as it is and not do any action on it. Thank you Chief.

Chief O'Neill: You're welcome.

b. Sidewalks

Mr. Clemens: Next item is sidewalks. Nathan the Service Director...

Nathan Burd: Thank you Chairman Clemens and members of Committee and Council. I just wanted to point out that last week you heard from Trinity, a student here in the city, who had an idea for new sidewalks, particularly on Main Street. I just received our memo from EMH&T today about her request. You should have a copy of that. It's pretty detailed. It has a cost estimate, design concepts, some of the design challenges, as well as some ideas on potential grants for us. So, I just want to let you know that I am looking into her request from us, and if you would like more discussion from us, after you have had a chance to look at it, that would be fine. I just got his today myself, so, I just wanted to make sure that it was on the radar.

Mr. Clemens: Any more questions for Nathan pertaining to this subject? Yes, Councilman Leslie...

Ms. Kelly: Nathan, when we get ready to talk more about this, would it be possible for you to get us more information about the TAP funding, which is on the third to the last page which says, "is part of the moving ahead for progress for 21st Century" ad? It sounds like EMH&T is saying that could be good alternative funding.

Mr. Burd: That is the only one that looks like we might be eligible for. It would involve us creating a new transportation improvement plan with MORPC, which they would be happy to work with us on, I'm sure. The unfortunate thing about TAP funding is that we cannot apply for a year until 2016, and then construction will be two or three years after that. But, it would cover 80% of the cost, so, you know, honestly this is a \$900,000 project so without some assistance it would be very difficult for us to take that on, on our own. So, I will get any information I can about TAP funds.

Ms. Kelly: Yeah, thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Nathan.

Mr. Burd: Thank you.

Mr. Barrett: I think Trinity mentioned a funding source in her presentation, but I don't recall. Can you explore that.

Mr. Burd: What I recall her mentioning, if anyone remembers, please correct me, was that she was looking to raise money from a source called Go Fund Me. And that's an online website that does surprisingly well raising money for ideas and projects. I think that's the website where somebody raised like thirty grand for potato salad. I could be wrong about that, but it's a creative new way for people to raise money. I don't know if she knew that it was almost a million dollars at the time. We didn't know that at the time either, but I believe that's what she was talking about. And I am communication with her through email. I sent her this information today, so, I will follow up to see if she has found out anything else, as well.

Mr. Barrett: Well clearly, we are not just going be able to get it done but I like the idea that we at least have it on the radar.

Mr. Burd: Yeah, definitely. It's a great idea.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you, Nathan. I do want to bring up to remember when we start talking about millions of dollars and being on the radar, and all that, we haven't finished our sidewalk program yet. And I like to finish things before we start something new.

Mr. Barrett: No doubt.

Mr. Burd: I was looking up information again today on that. And I will send you out something. It's definitely a large project.

Mr. Clemens: No hurry on that.

Ms. Kelly: I have one more question.

Mr. Clemens: Yes.

Ms. Kelly: The Safe Routes to School, you mentioned that they don't think its a feasible option because the city must have a school transportation plan, and the trail must be used by students for the route to school. Wouldn't the sidewalks be something the schools could use?

Mr. Burd: They could, I don't know in terms of, when you ask for assistance with a project, I think that proximity to a school is something that they look at so I'm not sure. Maybe EMH&T was assuming that the closest school to that new sidewalk would be outside of their typical boundary for funding. I don't know for sure, but we will explore that as well. Certainly I would think students could use it. It would connect basically this part of Reynoldsburg, or that part of Reynoldsburg, so I would think you could find ways to maybe

loop that in. I imagine they have certain criteria EMH&T is aware of that they viewed would not be eligible. But I will find out more info for you.

Ms. Kelly: Ok.

Mr. McGrady: I have one question. Nathan, is it possible that we can, the city can incorporate the cracked sidewalks, in this? Or would this be another project altogether to look at?

Mr. Burd: You mean fixing cracked sidewalks as part of...

Mr. McGrady: Broken sidewalks.

Mr. Burd: Yeah it would be, the assessment program that chairman Clemens mentioned, that is to address sidewalks in the neighborhood that are unsafe. So they have large cracks or trip hazards, maybe panels are uneven. It's a separate project from a new sidewalk, so they would be funded from two separate sources and it would be handled separately. I also think that what Trinity is speaking about, is that if we get the assistance, it is probably at least three or four years down the road. We can look at the assessment program maybe sooner than that. Schedule wise they may not line up with each other but they would be handled separately.

Mr. McGrady: Well the reason why I'm asking, I had a, one of the churches, indicated top me that they received some damage from the snow plows. So that is what I am inquiring about there, so my question is...

Mr. Burd: Ok. If you could have them contact me directly, I will look into that for them, and explore that situation to see if there is something we can do to be helpful.

Mr. McGrady: Ok, thank you.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any other questions for Nathan? Thank you Nathan.

Mr. Burd: Thanks, appreciate it.

c. Code Compliance

Mr. Clemens: Next item on the agenda is Code Compliance. This is requested by Scott and also myself. So Scott, do you want to speak up on this?

Mr. Barrett: We kinda went around on this a little bit, over the last couple of years. I was thinking of kinda starting with you cause you have been around for a while. But, what's really the intent of having these codes and ordinances on the books? What's the intent.

Mr. Clemens: Well the intent is to use them as guidelines and to correct the situations that's there. But, I know, and I think you know, it takes additional people than what we have, at the present time to do it. I personally would like to see us make some changes and have full time compliance officers, plus some part time compliance officers. I know that takes financial,

that takes money to do that, but I think that's a must. If I'm not mistaken, I think it falls under our new zoning officer. Which I am sure that he's well aware of.

Mr. Barrett: Code enforcement falls under building. So, they work in conjunction with each other but technically its under our CBO, our Chief Building Official.

Mr. Clemens: That's what I thought, and I'm sure that he needs the additional help. Summer is here and we will have additional problems we will have to take care of, to clean up our neighborhoods and get them looking right. We have tried to address it for many many years and we're trying but I don't think we have the people to do it. That's my thought on it. I don't know how anyone else feels about it but one person cant drive around and do the whole city, or half a person can't drive around a do half the city. If you are going to have a job, or a department you have to have the people to run the department and do it. At least that's how I feel about it. I mean, right now we don't have the people and we are asking a part time person to do the whole city, and you can't do it. I'm from the old school, and what I know now-a-days, everything has got to be on the computer, and they come in and spend half the day on the computer, sending out letters. I know what people do with the letters. So, it just takes longer now. I think to do it correctly we have to have additional personal.

Mr. Barrett: When you are drilling down as to why we have these codes and ordinances, I heard, "To clean up our neighborhoods, and to have it looking right."

Mr. Clemens: That's right.

Mr. Barrett: Why do we do that? Why do we care?

Mr. Clemens: To increase the property values.

Mr. Barrett: Increase the property values.

Mr. Clemens: And the living conditions. I mean that's...

Mr. Barrett: That's what I kinda was thinking this whole time.

Mr. Clemens: That's correct.

Mr. Barrett: That all these are here to protect our property values. Ok, so we have these codes and ordinances, we admittedly are not doing anything to enforce them. Well, we are doing very little.

Mr. Burd: I would argue with that.

Mr. Barrett: Well, we are short staffed...

Mr. Burd: I agree with that totally. But, I wouldn't say 2700 code violations is nothing. I think that is proof of something. When you ask about what the intent is, I can assure, I know

that anytime someone sees something that they don't like immediately this issue arises to the forefront. But, we did a thousand grass violations last year. And, I can assure without us doing those, the grass would be up to here every fifth yard. And it does make a visual impact. It's also for safety reasons. Some of these codes have safety components, we talked about sidewalks. If our Code Enforcement officer sees a trip hazard, they right a violation notice to the property owner to fix that sidewalk. And, so some of them are safety, but they are really considered a minimum set of standards on how a property should be maintained. But, I didn't mean to be argumentative, but I do think they are working hard and they are actually getting a lot done. But sometimes it goes unnoticed.

Mr. Barrett: I think we have full agreement there. For what you have available, to enforce, they are working hard and they are busy. I think the point is, potentially that they are not making a dent. I mean, the last time we talked, kinda breezing through some of the minutes, was that they would pass by nine houses to go to a complaint at a tenth house, pass by nine violations to go cite one guy. I guess, I'm finally to the point, what I'm trying to get my arms around is, we know these things are on the books. The administration has led this, to protect the property values of our residents, and we as a council, have sat here and done, really nothing to correct the situation. And so, I'm just trying to figure the conversation out, on what we can do to potentially move the ball, one way or another.

Mr. Clemens: I think that Nathan's correct on the grass cutting. They have been doing a good job on that part, I'm not speaking of that. I know we spend a lot of money on doing the job. I believe in the old style, you start at the bottom and you go up. There is nothing any worse than driving down the street and seeing garbage cans in front of people's houses. Now, it's minor, but it's the first thing you see. And, we do have ordinances that pertain to that, period. Now, I'm not going to turn in a bunch of them, you drive down, you see it yourself. We don't do anything about that. There is nothing worse than having trash laying beside your house. Not in trash cans, just trash there, or out in the street. I have seen people, and I can show you right now. People put out trash and garbage on Friday evening, after the truck has left. Now it's still there, and it will be there till Friday. And it's about this high now. But, those are the things to me, the minor things that can make the whole property look like heck. And I'm not talking about your siding or your overhang, your big items, I know you take care of things like that. It's the minor things that people see, when they go to buy a house, they pull up and see a trash can sitting out in front of the garage, instead of being where it should be. A lot of people protect it like it's suppose to be. If we push that issue, and I know it's a minor issue, but those are the kind of issues, where you go up and knock on the door and you tell them, "Your trash can is suppose to be behind your house or beside the house and it's blocked.

Mr. Joseph: Thank you Chairman Clemens. Nathan, I understand, we're down to a single part time Code Compliance Officer.

Mr. Burd: We had a job posting for the second expired today, so I imagine tomorrow I will have a stack of applications to start going through. But, what to be very open, what normally happens with code compliance is that you hire somebody and either they are really good at it, and they want full time, so they look for a full time job somewhere else, or they find out that

they did not understand what the job was, they hate it, and they leave quickly. And, so, right now, the reason we have one is the previous officer we had got promoted to an electrical inspector job with our building department. Was certified for that, did a great job, wanted full time, it worked out well. We are now advertising for the second. The Code Enforcement Officer that we have right now is a home run. I met with him this morning, he is doing a great job. He is perfect for this position. Part of the reason we have trouble keeping it fully staffed is, people either want more hours or they didn't know what the job was and it's uncomfortable for them.

Mr Long: I know that we talked as Councilman Barrett said, we discussed this early last year, once again in the Springtime when things were beginning to come up. Some things have changed, particularly the enactment of the Affordable Care Act now requires us to buy insurance on part time individuals. So that is in consideration, and additional cost. Could you do us the favor and perhaps provide us the current cost is now? Man hours? Benefits for the tow part timers? And what the little bit would be to add those other ten hours making those two individuals full time?

Mr. Burd: We started looking at that. The numbers I came up with, was that at what they are paid, if we made them each full time instead of part time, you are getting twenty more hours a week. The grand impact of that annually is about \$17,000 a year. So, you are getting twenty more hours a week and you are paying about seventeen grand more for it. The mayor actually did a report on this today, looking at the current budget that we are in, and if we were to do that, make that change, the second week of May, to make them both full time, with existing funds in our budget, we would only be short about a \$1000, about \$970. So we could probably get through this year doing it with our existing funds, with just a minor increase. So, financially it's not what it use to be because the benefits are no longer the question, you're exactly right about that.

Mr. Harris: I provided those numbers for the mayor today. He and I talked about it. That is for the remainder of this year, it's going to be about \$20,000 more per person for the rest of this year, but since they have had people, jobs unfilled, there is enough in it to pay for it now. What it's actually going to be, by the time you figure all the benefits, it's going to be between \$25,000 to \$30,000 a piece. So, you're basically talking \$55,000 a year from here on out. So over five years that's almost \$300,000 in additional payroll. If that's what you want to do that's fine, but, we keep adding this, we keep adding that, some point in time, somebody's gonna have to start talking about increased revenue guys, cause we can't keep adding this, adding that, and at some point in time, we are going to have to have more money. But my point was, we can sit her and talk about it like we did last Spring, but unless we sit down and we determine what it's going to cost us to fix the problem, all we are doing is talking.

Mr. Burd: The numbers that I referenced are the hourly rate, I was not given the extra benefits that are available to them.

Mr. Clemens: you can have all the chiefs you want, but buddy, you gotta have some Indians there to help.

Ms. Kelly: One of the things that I think that we have got to think about on Council is turnover itself has a cost. Every time you lose a position, and bring somebody else in, there's training, the learning curve, so turnover itself has a cost. It's hard to put in the monetary amount on that. But there is a cost there. Right now, with the staffing we have, and you may or may not know the answer to this. How do we prioritize our code violations? I know some are more than others. But, I would like to say the whole, do they really stop by if you have garbage cans out front. My six year old is in charge of our garbage cans, and I came home one day and there was a slip that said, "Your garbage cans need to go in the back." So they do come around and they do, do that. I know that they are occurring. But, with that being said, how do we prioritize.

Mr. Burd: The way they are doing it right now is our officer is spending an entire day in a certain section of the city. And so, with one officer right now it's nearly impossible for him to cover the whole city in one week. But, his goal is to write any violation he sees in his daily section, that day. And then, usually these violations, you get a week to correct them. Some of them are longer, if its an issue where you have peeling paint. Nobody expects you to paint your house in less than seven days. People don't have time for that. Right now, he is doing it, neighborhood by neighborhood. And there isn't really a protocol on whether we are looking for these violations or not. It's really just whatever he sees. Trash is challenging because it comes out every week, and sometimes people leave them out. Sometimes they don't put them back where they should go. And, honestly there are entire neighborhoods in the city where it is really challenging because you have maybe an eleven hundred square foot house, a one car garage, and you have a car in it, and you don't have anywhere to put your dumpster. So there are legitimate challenges that people have and the code says that you can't see it from the street, or from adjacent properties. And so that's a really big one for us. I do send Council every other month, a bi-monthly report of all the violations. So, if you open to the back page of that report, you can see by category, which ones we do. Trash is always high. Grass is gonna be the highest coming up from May to September. But, they are not out looking for a specific violation. They are out looking for whatever they see. Just one other thing. The statement about driving by nine to write the tenth violation. We're starting to reverse that a little bit. The majority of the violations we write now are not complaint driven, they are things that our officers see out and about. Not to say it doesn't still happen some, because we get a complaint that's an urgent issue, the priority is gonna be the complaint. But, the last time we did a breakdown, about 53% or so of the violations we wrote, were proactively found, and were not complaints. So we are trying to turn the corner on that, but it is tough with one person, or maybe two people.

Ms. Kelly: So, if we have something that comes as a complaint that there is a suspicion that it is a safety issue, would that be something that they would go out right away to look at.

Mr. Burd: yeah, they would try to get to that within a couple of hours, if they could.

Ms. Kelly: Ok.

Mr. Burd: We had a complaint last week that, we were told that there was just trash galore everywhere. Our officer made that his first stop that day and it was out of his area for the

day, but it sounded severe so he went and took care of that right away. They don't have like, they were doing gutters, or it's not like that.

Ms. Kelly: Thank you.

Mr. McGrady: Nathan, Bruce Sowell shared something with me a while ago, and a matter of fact, I shared it with my brother who is also in code enforcement in another state. Rather than have the code enforcement officers come into the office and shift through the paperwork, why don't you give them tablets and download all that and they can do that information right there on site. Which would expedite the process where they can get out to other areas.

Mr. Burd: And it's a good idea, and it's something I think we are looking at. We have actually had a couple of conversations with some different vendors on that. One challenge is that they do leave a notice, and so something has to either print, or they have to write something out so it doesn't go all electronic. Because our code requires us to actually post a notice on the property. And so, it's a little different in cities where maybe that requirement isn't there. Our code says it has to be posted physically on the property. That doesn't mean we can't move to that type of technology, we would just have to find something that would allow us to fulfill our code. But we are looking into that. And I talked to Bruce about it and I admire him for bringing that to us, because modernizing us is something we are all trying to do. And I think that's something that could be in our future, hopefully soon.

Mr. McGrady: Mr. Harris is there a possibility of obtaining more of these tablets, from the means before?

Mr. Harris: Sure, why not. Yeah, we can. Mel said he would give his up. There's one for the guy right now. I don't think the problem is the, we are still using the American Express points for tablets like the ones you guys got. But, I think Nathan's problem is right now, I'm not sure he has the right software. Is that correct Nathan?

Mr. Burd: That's right, we use a system called BDS to track all of our violations that thus far have not been compatible with new devices, but I keep thinking that that has to be possible at some point and so, buying a new software system, that would be a challenge. But finding a mobile device that it adapts with would be ideal.

Mr. Clemens: I agree with Chris, work us up something cost wise so we can talk about it so we know what we're talking about going full time.

Mr. Burd: I will do that, I'll have it next meeting

Mr. Clemens: We do have to do something. I appreciate people putting their trash can... Work out something so we know what we're talking about when we talk about additional personnel...

Mr. Burd: I'll work with the Auditor for a best case scenario, benefits, hourly rate, this is what the ballpark.

Mr. Clemens: Maybe we can scrape up the money from somewhere.

Mr. Sowell: Bruce Sowell, You all know me. I was the former code compliance officer for 4 1/2 years. I did the entire city myself. The biggest thing, problem that I see right now, even the complaints that I brought in, there seems to be what code compliance does and what the Police department does. Basketball hoops is a big one. Now, if they're in a cul-de-sac, it's not so much of a problem, but when they put them in the middle of a parking space in front of a fire hydrant, I went to Code compliance to complain about it, they tell me well, it's not their department, the police department handles that. But, if it's a city code and you are the Code Compliance Officer, as long as it's in the city code, you should be able to act on that. Now I think that's one of the bigger problems. The other problem that I see is that a lot of the city codes haven't been updated in years. And, for instance, if you place a basketball hoop in a city street, that should be called placing an obstruction in a roadway. Code compliance should be able to handle that just by simply knocking on the door and asking the person inside to remove it from the street. That should be, you shouldn't have to call the police department to get that done. I use to do that on my own. As long as I had a code book, I was ok. And, I know that the way they do things are different now that they are working on quadrants and stuff, but I answered every call every day, it didn't matter where it was, if somebody called it in, and I was close to that area, I went and took care of the call. And I think we need to get back to that, along with, if you are going to add more people, to me, you are going to have to hire the people that know the job, must more experienced people. If you look at other areas of surrounding communities like Westerville, their part time people make \$16 an hour. That's starting. I know we are not in that shape to do that, but, yet, when they come into take this job. Yet, that's what usually happens, they come in, they learn this job, they see another opening that's paying more money, and that's where they go. But, in order to fix the problem, we have to get into a situation where every city employee is just like the code compliance person. If you see something out there, you call Code Compliance or the person that needs, that Code Compliance needs to pass to get that done.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you Bruce. You will work that up for us, if you could?

Mr. Burd: Yes.

Ms. Kelly: Nathan, could you also put together the turnover the last couple of years, how many different people have been through?

Mr. Burd: Yes.

Ms. Kelly: That would be great.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any other questions at this time?

Mr. Barrett: While we're doing homework, I can't help but think that the suggestions we are talking about by Mr. Long, might just be a little bit light. What I mean by that is, you said earlier about how many citations are written write now with our knowing short staff and I guess my contention is from my constituents and what not that's definitely not nearly enough. You cant really get through Briarcliff, let alone up into Ramblebrook without tripping over a lot of issues. But my point is, I would be really really interested to hear what you would think, you with the administration, on just, perfect world, what would be the solution. Because, ultimately these are here for a reason, codes and ordinances, it's all about protecting the property values, and I think we owe that to our community. And so, I don't know what the funding would look like, or whatever, but, I'd be interested. Does that make sense guys? And that way we kinda see good, better, best.

Mr. Burd: We've been exploring that. We've gone from everything from making the part time full time to trying to hire a full timer just for commercial properties, and then I have a full timer for residential properties. We have also thought about one per ward, so that they get to know the folks they are working with. That's real expensive, just to go to four. But, we have looked at these, and I'll outline them all for you and you can look at the ones that you think would be helpful.

Mr. Barrett: I'm liking that. To me, I think that's something we could really do for our community.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you Scott. I did have a question, if not, we will move this on for discussion at another time. When you get your, if not, you don't have to do it over.

Mr. Burd: I think we can get it by the next meeting. We have a lot of this stuff already on paper, so I can get it to you.

Mr. Clemens: Get back with me, let me know.

Mr. Barrett: Alright, thank you Nathan.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you.

- d. ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 131-95 ON NOVEMBER 27, 1995 AND AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED – 2277 & 2225 Taylor Park Drive and 0 Reynoldsburg Baltimore Road from the CS- Community Services to AR-3- Multiple Family Residence District, Applicant, Wesley Ridge Residence Corporation.

Mr. Clemens: The next item on the agenda is rezoning request with Wesley Ridge.

Mr. Snowden: President Joseph, Chairman Clemens, and members of Council, zoning staff received an application from the Wesley Ridge Residence Corporation to rezone a portion of their property. Several years ago they purchased a portion of the property that fronts Taylor Park Drive, that was originally zoned C-S Community Services and destined for commercial development. They bought it from Target Corporation several years ago. And, there

proposal is to rezone that property to AR-3, along with what would be the remainder of their property. And their proposal was to construct a wellness center, which you should have received the details of that in you packet. In addition to that, their long term goal is to construct two additional senior housing towers there. The other thing they will be doing is there are three small portions of their property that they're gonna go ahead and rezone to AR-3 as well, and I will get a better map, I have requested a better map from the applicant. But, there are some, it's more of a house keeping thing. And, their timeline for construction would be to begin in September of this year, provided that all approvals go through. So, I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Clemens: I don't have any questions, but like you say a better layout so that we can tell what is going on. But, I have no problem with the rezoning.

Mr. Snowden: Council Member, Did you receive the site plan that showed their specific building they would like to construct?

Mr. Clemens: No.

Mr. Snowden: Ok. I'll be happy to provide one that did not receive that in their packet.

Mr. Clemens: I have no problem with the rezoning. Are there any questions pertaining to the rezoning of this property? Any other questions? If not, who is going to bring the ordinance forward? Do you want to start the rezoning? I can make a motion to...

Ms. Kelly: Just make a motion to send it forward to first reading.

Mr. Clemens: And have the ordinance drafted up. Ok. I make a motion to send that to council for first reading and rezoning.

Mr. McGrady: I will second.

Mr. Clemens: Councilman McGrady. All in favor say, "Aye."
Give us the diagram of it and the rezoning requests for the next meeting, council meeting.

Mr. Snowden: Well, I have their packet in my office, but I will be happy to provide the specific site plan for anyone who did not receive it.

Mr. Clemens: Thank you. Appreciate that.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [6 TO 0]	Next: 4/27/2015 7:30 PM
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward IV	
SECONDER:	Cornelius McGrady III, Ward III	
AYES:	Barrett, Kelly, McGrady III, Clemens, Cotner, Skinner	
RECUSED:	Long	

- e. ORDINANCE APPROVING SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE PERMIT - (6543 E. Main Street; Proposed Use - Semipublic Use); Applicant, Robert Anthony Chandler.

Mr. Clemens: Next item is the Ordinance Approving Special Exception Use Permit - 6543 East Main Street. I requested that be on because I have a few questions pertaining to it, and I didn't know whether anyone else did or not. If, my, it's hard to understand what it is. I understand it's more of a mentoring situation. But, and it's a non-profit, if I'm not mistaken, I understand that. What I'm trying to do is figure out how the city is gonna make some money off of it, which we need. But, the employees, do I understand the employees that work there, they will pay their income taxes to the City of Reynoldsburg? How does this operate? That's what I want to know. Do they operate for nothing, or what happens? Is somebody getting paid? Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chandler: My name is Robert A. Chandler. I'm the..

Mr. Clemens: Name and address please.

Mr. Chandler: My address is, behind the building at, on Main Street

Mr. Clemens: I mean your address.

Mr. Chandler: My address, 485 East Gate Street Columbus, OH

Mr. Clemens: It's Mr. Chandler, is it?

Mr. Chandler: Yes Sir. If I could, I'd like to give...

Mr. Clemens: Yes I have, but pass them out to the rest if you would.

Mr. Chandler: I'll address that question first.

Mr. Clemens: That was one, I read through the special, when you were at the other meetings. But, I was curious on how this, how it works with the people that work there, whether they will be paid, and the city will get their payroll, income tax thing, such as that.

Mr. Chandler: The initial thing when we first looking for a site, to do our mentoring for our youth, I accidentally tripped up on the building..
We didn't look, we wasn't at the time, we wasn't thinking about the employment. Because, we brought in like nine board members that were all, I've basically been around Columbus all my life. Since we had the meeting here the last time, we have incorporated over two hundred

volunteers that have actually volunteered to participate and help us until we get off the ground, so to speak. We do want to employ in the future, as many people as we can. Borrowing donations and funds given to us. Right now I have a couple of staff members that are basically self employed, they basically work off of sub contract. Most of my people that are with me are basically volunteers.

Mr. Clemens: Can I ask you a question on this? And I don't mean to be this way, I'm just curious about the whole thing and how it operates. You're gonna have these people and you are gonna mentor these girls and read where you say you are gonna have a hundred girls, maybe. Or a hundred boys, and so forth. These people, do they have background checks, will they be, background checks turned into the city. Or, will we know what's going on. What kind of background checks are taken.

Mr. Chandler: I think we were kinda going by steps. We were trying to get the building first and I really didn't know how it would operate until I came to the last zoning meeting. And tonight, I'm getting more education on what's required. We want to, our primary purpose, we want to help any youth, our primary goal is thirteen to nineteen year olds. The initial thing, we wanted to help the thirteen to nineteen year old youths with a single parents. Mostly out of volunteer work. After we had our zoning meeting, we went out to try to get donations from various corporations and we were actually told without the 501, there was no help primary to be provided. So, we had to regroup and we provided, at risk youths. The intentions is not to bring trouble to Reynoldsburg. The intentions wasn't to bring trouble to Columbus, if that's where we were gonna purchase a building. We wanna employ people from anywhere in the Franklin County area overall. But our main goal is to take youth pressure off, and also take off the pressure of the single parent.

Mr. Clemens: I understand this and I understand what I read, don't get me wrong. I understand you're trying to do a good thing. That, I guess it's hard to say, I'm trying to get in my mind, the people that's going to handle these, do you understand what I mean, that are going to have these children. And they are children. Are you having background checks on 'em, and so forth.

Mr. Chandler: Yes we will.

Mr. Clemens: Those are the things that bother me on this. And I know that, is this being done in the daytime, you know, when the kids are at school, or certain time in the morning.

Mr. Chandler: Ninety percent of the activities that will be going on with our youth will be primarily outside of the building. We will have some training in there, like computers, some counseling, mostly grown-ups will be there. We will do a lot of adult mentoring and dealing with the adults as far as what they are dealing with, with the teams. That's pretty much what's gonna happen in that building. We'll have a lot of volunteers that are sports related. Experts in what they do. So a lot of these activities will be done outside of the building. We will, it's gonna bring business into Reynoldsburg, you have a number of shopping facilities. We will help that from the beginning. But, we don't know where it's gonna take, as far as

employment. We want to employ, but right now our only goal is to try to concentrate on the youth. That's pretty much all I can tell you.

Mr. Clemens: I understand that. Now is this something new, or is this something you do somewhere else now?

Mr. Chandler: No this is new.

Mr. Clemens: This is new. And is this new.

Mr. Chandler: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Clemens: This is new.

Ms. Kelly: Mel.

Mr. Clemens: Yes Councilman Kelly.

Ms. Kelly: Hi. I just have a couple of questions. The mentoring and the counseling that you are going to be doing with students, you talk about at risk youths, can we define at young people whose background places them at risk of future offending or victimization? Do the people who will be working with these students, on how to make better choices, or how to recover, or how to heal, do they have training? What kind of counseling? What kind of certifications will those folks have?

Mr. Chandler: We have some professionals, but due to our, I belong to a church, I don't want to get off track, I belong to a church, I have been there for fourteen years. I have been a mentor for eleven. When we started the mentoring program in my church, we did a rating, like two years ago, and a percentage, we had seven percent of the youth we were doing, were troubled youth. Two years ago we raised that to 84% just by using people who cared. They weren't professionals. These people had jobs. We just, we did more listening to them. And after we listened to them, we saw them produce. They went from bringing in F's and D's. A lot of these youth started getting honor rolls. They were participating in doing more house chores. They were getting in better activities. And I was, it was brought to my attention that I had done a phenomenal job with these youths. And I really just want to see them prosper. I think God has given me some kind of ability to relate to these youths. If we can get the parents, if we can take the pressure off of the parents, I think Reynoldsburg can very well prosper from this for the simple fact. My mother lived here for fifteen years, on 256. She did all her shopping on 256. She did all her shopping here. She loved Reynoldsburg. She always told me, if I ever do anything, to do it to the best of my ability. I send numbers of people here, to Reynoldsburg, when the KMart opened, just to do shopping. We've sent a lot of people to Reynoldsburg. At 256 at that point, I think there was a cornfield over there. There was really nothing on the strip. When they started tearing down there and building there. My church alone, we're pushing over three thousand members, I can pretty much honestly tell you, there's over two thousand of our members shopping in Reynoldsburg.

Ms. Kelly: I have another question.

Mr. Clemens: You are misunderstanding what I'm talking about. I know you are doing a good job, don't get me wrong. Safety is my issue. That's what I worry about. That's what I've brought up when I'm talking about the children. I worry about the safety part. That's the only thing I was worried about. How you, and who the people are that are going to be doing this. It's easy for, It's easy to see that you're mentoring people, and that you're bringing in other people that are mentoring them and so forth. I've got to be, to me personally I've got to be shown that they do have the responsibility to handle this many children. As I read this you start talking about hundreds. I'm not opposed to this, don't get me wrong. I just was wondering how, how you check on the people that's going to be doing this. That's the only part that I'm asking about. As far as how you operate, that's your business. How you pick the people and how you check them out, I just want to make sure that's done.

Mr. Chandler: We are in the process now of doing the screening for the two hundred youths. We are screening them in their homes. And we are screening them at the schools. And we are getting background checks on them. We have approximately twelve youths signed up for the program right now. We don't think were gonna have two hundred youths in that building at one time, ever. Most of the stuff that we are gonna do with them are gonna be outside. At their homes, schools, most of the activities we're gonna do with them is gonna be in the city. Each one of our members. I have nine board members. Each one is assigned approximately fifteen to seventeen youths a piece. They are gonna take full responsibility for each one of the youths for one year.

Mr. Clemens: I have no more questions for you Mr. Chandler. That's my problem is, I just want to make sure it's safe for the children that you're gonna do it to.

Ms. Kelly: I have a couple more, just real quick. So the adults that are gonna be taking responsibility for the youth, the fifteen youth, will they also, I just want to clarify, they will also get a background check?

Mr. Chandler: yes.

Ms. Kelly: Ok. Are you, did you, become a 501c?

Mr. Chandler: We're working on it right now.

Ms. Kelly: Ok. And then last, I thought I heard you say this, "In your building," but I believe what I heard you say is that, "in that building you are mainly going to be doing adult training." Like parent training?

Mr. Chandler: Pretty much. A lot of the parents that we talk to, they have a chance to talk about what's going on. While their youths at that school, or out of the building. So we wanna have that building pretty much open all day, so they can come in and just their problems off. I wanna answer his question here.

Ms. Kelly: I will let you in one second, I just want to tell you, I think relationships are the most important thing when you're working with kids, and working with families. So I commend you on trying to bring a program in place. It would be great just to see an outline of your structure of the operations.

Mr. Clemens: Councilman Mc Grady.

Mr. McGrady: I have a question. Ok, you made reference to the adult listening process, but then you have down here, babysitting. Correct?

Mr. Chandler: Yes.

Mr. McGrady: You're in the process of establishing a 501c?

Mr. Chandler: Yes.

Mr. McGrady. Now, have you made contact with ODJFS, for babysitting approval of that facility?

Mr. Chandler: There will be no babysitting done in that facility. We have a, one of my board members works at Children's Hospital. They have a babysitting training program that they are gonna incorporate, for us to send the youths there.

Mr. McGrady: Ok.

Mr. Clemens: Are there any other questions for Mr. Chandler? If not...

Mr. Chandler: May I just say one more other thing.

Mr. Clemens: I would make a motion to move this on.

Ms. Kelly: Mel, he wants to say one more thing.

Mr. Clemens: I'm sorry, go ahead Sir.

Mr. Chandler: The safety factor that you spoke of...

Mr. Clemens: Yes.

Mr. Chandler: I have alerted my staff before this even came to put it in writing. I've had a professional business for twenty-seven years. I haven't had one safety accident my whole life. Safety is something I stress. And I have told my staff, that, these youths, safety, and their well being, means the world to me. And I promise God, I will always do everything in my power to help these youths understand that they need to stop rebelling. But, I can not guarantee you, but I can promise you, that we will always so our best to produce safety out of these youths.

Mr. Clemens: Alright, thank you.

Mr. McGrady: I apologize, I misread this. This is the training that you're having, not that babysitting will be provided in there.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, it's gonna be training. I would like to move this onto council for second reading, with a motion for adoption. And, I have a second by Councilman Barrett. And also, put on six month review, six month review will be fine. All in favor say aye. Opposed. Thank you, thank you Mr. Chandler.

Mr. Chandler: Thank you.

Mr. Clemens: That is the meeting at 8:20.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/27/2015 7:30 PM
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward IV	
SECONDER:	Scott A. Barrett, Ward I	
AYES:	Barrett, Kelly, McGrady III, Clemens, Cotner, Long, Skinner	