

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
September 10, 2018
East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers O'Malley, George and Bullock

Also Present: Councilmembers Rader, Anderson, and Litten, Finance Director Pae, Assistant Law Director Swallow, Mayor Summers, Planning Director Sylvester, 3 members of the public

Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember O'Malley explained that the Committee will start off hearing from members about their budget proposals. Any proposal not covered tonight will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for 9/24. Councilmember O'Malley hopes to introduce a Council budget priorities Resolution on 9/17 and have it passed on 10/1.

Councilmembers presented the following proposals:

Provide Funds for Council Travel to Conferences

Councilmember George presented her proposal to provide funds for council travel to conferences such as the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Ohio Municipal League conferences. Her proposal accounts for airfare and lodging. She remarked that these conferences are important continuing education opportunities for councilmembers. Those who have attended have gotten a lot from them. The following points were brought up in discussion:

- It has been about 10 years since council had any travel budget.
- Mayor Summer attends the U.S. Conference of Mayors annually.
- The City is not currently a member of NLC but is a member of OML.
- Director Pae stated that memberships or organizations that Council intends to join need to be included in the annual memberships ordinance.

Preserve Intact Slate Sidewalks

Councilmember George presented her proposal to preserve the City's slate sidewalks. She relayed parts of her conversations with Roman Ducu. She acknowledged that logistics may be challenging.

Councilmember O'Malley read from an email sent today from Director Beno calling out the challenges and costs of this proposal.

Councilmember George responded that many residents would like to keep their slate sidewalks if not for the cost. The cost is about double.

Mayor Summers added that currently residents may choose to preserve their slate sidewalks by choosing their own contractor and paying the cost and that the matter is up to the marketplace.

Councilmember George clarified that she is proposing that the City subsidize the additional cost of the slate to maintain the historical character of the City. The following points were brought up in discussion:

- This proposal could add another \$300,000 to the budget.
- The City is currently over budget on the sidewalk program.

Councilmembers expressed interest in getting more information on the costs of the proposal and the number of remaining slate sidewalks.

Clifton Extension Sidewalks

Councilmember Rader presented his proposal to improve the walkability, safety, and aesthetics of Clifton Blvd. Extension by adding sidewalks, making the bike lanes permanent and adding a crosswalk. The project is estimated to cost \$250,000. He described the potential benefits of the project including connecting the different sides of the neighborhood. He described the community support for the project. Two members of the public expressed support.

The Mayor stated that the current infrastructure was intended to be a pilot to understand the demand for sidewalks/permanent bike lanes and to gauge interest from Rocky River in setting up a connection.

Members of the public argued that the current bike lanes are not considered all-purpose lanes by ODOT standards. They pointed out that there are no sidewalks approaching the bus stop. They pointed to concerns about security in the neighborhood.

Mayor Summers questioned how many residents would actually benefit from this large expenditure.

Study Lakewood Transportation Needs

Councilmember Rader presented his proposal to study Lakewood's transportation needs. He described the work he has been doing discussing the possibility of bringing back a RTA circulator route. This route was discontinued in 2008 or 2009 due to RTA cuts. Mr. Rader believes that a study to better understand the community's transportation needs is important before moving forward. While he would like the study to focus on low-income populations without a car, he is open to expanding the scope of the study if necessary.

Director Sylvester provided background information on the work being done within the administration to further this goal. Director Sylvester expressed a preference for a study with a broader perspective and one that considers the fast evolving needs of the future.

Councilmember Anderson pointed out that RTA continues to serve Lakewood with other routes.

Mayor Summers expressed his agreement with this priority.

Purchase Clean Energy

Councilmember Bullock introduced his proposal to purchase clean energy, stating that the proposal was introduced last year and that this is a continuation.

The Committee reviewed Director Beno's remarks regarding the proposal which he shared via email. Councilmember Bullock objected to portions of the remarks, stating that there will not likely be a penalty for amending the City's current electric contracts.

Mayor Summers discussed the City's progress to produce its own energy from methane at the WWTP. He also mentioned that solar power has been considered using City rooftops. Roof repairs had to take place first.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Councilmember Bullock remarked that his proposal to install electric vehicle charging stations is a continuation from last year's budget priority proposal.

Mayor Summers explained that the administration has plans underway to install two such stations by the end of the year using the funds left in the NOPEC grant. One charger is proposed for Lakewood City Center (Marc's Plaza) and another at Winterhurst to attract drivers right off the interstate.

Councilmember Bullock noted that his proposal also involves adding a car share program.

Mayor Summers expressed interest but noted some of the challenges of car share programs. He mentioned that NOPEC may be providing additional grant funds in 2019 that could potentially support such a program.

Resident John Hill suggested that an electric vehicle charger be located in Lakewood Park.

Mayor Summers explained why the two abovementioned locations were selected. One of the biggest considerations is access to electric power. He expressed concern about Lakewood Park due to parking issues.

Speed Notifications

Councilmember Litten introduced his proposal to have the City purchase additional speed notification signs. He explained that this idea stemmed from traffic and speed concerns expressed by neighbors on Franklin. The City currently owns 3 of these signs. They are \$4,000 - \$5,000 each. Solar powered devices are less portable. Other models need to be recharged. Councilmember Litten remarked that residents are very appreciative when these devices are set out in response to their complaints about speed.

Mayor Summers expressed agreement with the budget priority and stated that the administration is looking to purchase 3 additional speed notification signs.

Auditorium Cameras

Councilmember O'Malley introduced the budget proposal to add auditorium cameras to enhance the quality of Council videos.

Mayor Summers noted that there was \$150,000 in investments made to the auditorium in 2017. The initial camera system is adequate but that improving upon this system is the next logical step.

Councilmember O'Malley expressed that the current system is a good first step however it is very difficult to tell which councilmember is talking and the administration and members of the public at the podium are not included in the videos.

Acting Clerk Bach noted that she has researched the equipment and spoken to other Clerks. She is confident the Clerk's Office staff can operate the equipment during meetings.

Edwards Park

Councilmember Bullock requested to combine this priority with the Kauffman Park priority and instead propose an "omnibus parks priority" where all miscellaneous parks corrections and improvements can be included.

It was agreed that Director Beno and Kurt Mate ought to be present for this discussion.

Due to time constraints, Councilmember O'Malley closed discussions on budget priorities. Any priority item not discussed tonight will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on September 24th. Councilmember O'Malley encouraged members to continue refining their proposals and to meet with members of the administration involved.

ORDINANCE 37-18 – AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the transfer and advance of certain funds.

Director Pae remarked that the ordinance reflects third quarter transfers and advances as appropriated in December 2017. She noted that the items under the HB 300 lease was debt service entered into 10 years ago to improve Winterhurst and City Hall lighting and HVAC. This is the last payment on that debt. It will now be paid off.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend adoption of Ordinance 37-18. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

In response to a question by Councilmember Litten, Director Pae stated that the City has received the back taxes payments it was expecting from the Winterhurst lessee and that the lessee's rent will increase effective October.

A member of the public inquired as to the status of the Lake Ave. bike paths.

Director Sylvester replied that there will be a community meeting in 4-6 weeks.

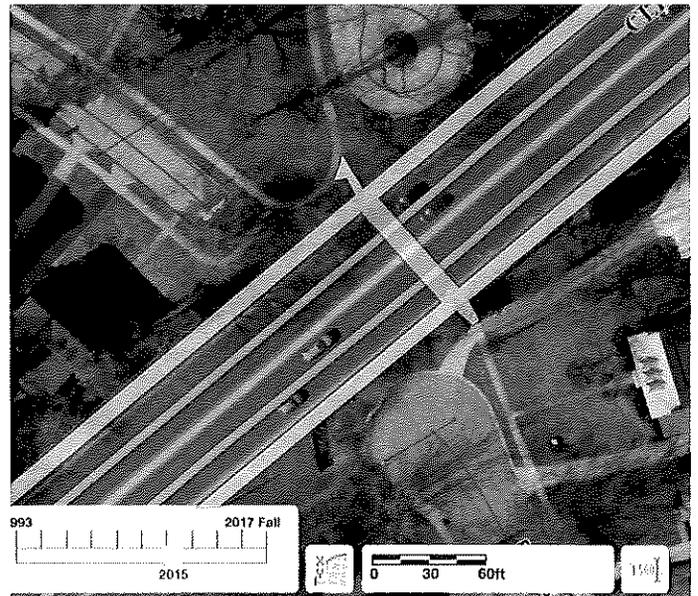
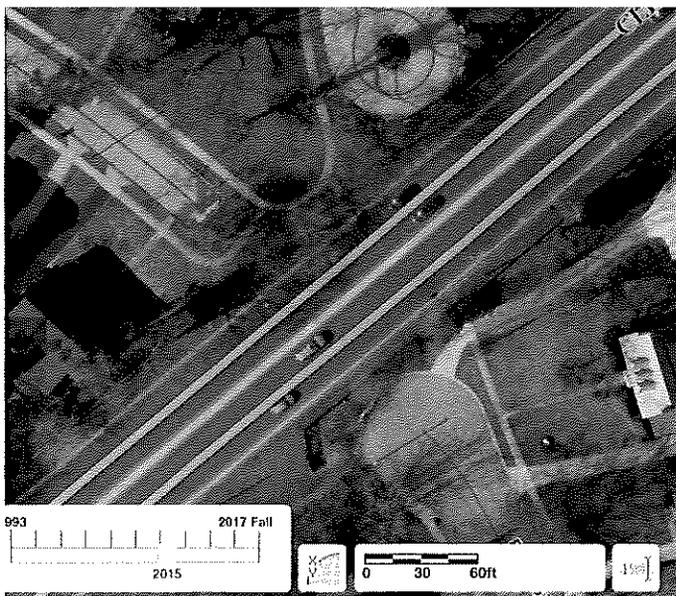
Finance Committee adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Clifton Extension Sidewalk Project – 2019 Budget Priority – Exhibit 1



Forest Rd. Current

Forest Rd. Proposed



Total of eight (8) connection points to existing neighborhood sidewalks. Three (3) connections on the south side of Clifton Blvd, at Lake Rd. and Clifton Blvd, and Forest Rd. Five (5) connections on the North side of Clifton Blvd. at Lake Ave, at Forest Rd./W. Forest Rd, at West Clifton on both sides of the street, and at Clifton Rd. (darker lines indicate existing sidewalks.)

