

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

April 1, 2019

East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers Rader, Anderson, Bullock

Also Present: Council President O'Leary, Councilmember George, Public Works Director Beno, Law Director Butler, Matt Demaline (aquatics manager at Rec Department), one member of the public, and Deputy Clerk Lascu taking minutes

Call to Order: 6:06 p.m

Council Budget Priorities

RESOLUTION 9061-19 - A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect at the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an easement agreement with Clifton Park Trustees, governing the rights of the parties relative to a parcel located at Beach Road, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 (PPN#311-02-001) which grants the City of Lakewood access to the parcel for the placement of an emergency generator to serve the Waste Water Treatment Plant and ongoing maintenance of the generator for a payment of \$1.00. (Referred to Public Works Committee 3/4/19)

ORDINANCE 10-19 - 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, establishing rates of admission to the Lakewood municipal swimming pools located at Lakewood Park and Madison Park, and superseding Ordinance 30-09 and all other ordinances inconsistent herewith. (Placed on 1st reading and referred to Public Works Committee 3/4/19; 2nd reading 3/18/19)

ORDINANCE 11-19 - 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 and directing the Mayor to enter into an amendment to the concession lease agreement with HELP Foundation, Inc. for the operation of food concessions at Lakewood Park, pursuant to Section 155.08 of the Codified Ordinances. (Placed on 1st reading and referred to Public Works Committee 3/18/19)

Councilman Rader opened the meeting with discussion regarding Ordinance 10-19, which concerned the pool fee schedule for the city pools at Madison Park and Lakewood Park. Director Beno noted that the Recreation Department is responsible for programming at the pools and Public Works is responsible for the condition of the facilities. The rates for the pools were last changed in 2009. Some small adjustments were requested by the Rec Dept., such as the way the family pass was structured to make it easier for online payment. The Rec Dept. has recommended changing the age and cost admission schedules. In the past, for kids ages 6 and under there was no charge, kids from ages 7-17 were considered students, and individuals 18 and up were considered adults. The proposed ordinance changes free admission to kids ages 0-4. A student would then be considered ages 5-17. It would be the same charge for residents and non-

residents. The Rec Dept.'s costs have risen with increases to the minimum wage and pay increases over the years. Beno stated that the cost of the daily passes would increase by a couple dollars under the proposed ordinance and that there would be a \$5 increase to season passes.

Councilman Anderson asked whether the proposed rate increases were intended to make the pools break even in regard to their costs and revenues. Director Beno replied that the pools will not break even; even with the increase in fee schedule it would not be close. Anderson and Beno then clarified that the pools would continue to be subsidized by other revenues coming into city hall. Anderson asked what the percentage of pool costs were subsidized by other sources of revenue. Beno responded that the revenue brought in by the pools depends on the weather each year. Anderson indicated he would like more opportunity to talk about pool rates. Beno indicated that the matter is time sensitive because the Rec Dept. needs to publish literature listing the fees prior to pool season, but indicated the Rec Dept. would supply Councilman Anderson with information regarding pool costs and revenues.

Councilman Rader inquired as to the impetus for the change in fees. Director Beno stated that the Rec Dept. and the City have pre-season meetings and that it comes up at the meeting for the past 5 years with wages increasing. The Rec Dept. decided to raise the issue now after discussing it in 2017 and 2018. Sometimes the timing of raising the issue was too late or close to the start of the pool opening.

Councilman Bullock asked questions regarding how a student is defined by the legislation, focusing especially on how swimming lessons are run. Matt Demaline, aquatics department manager, provided clarification that swim lessons run through the whole year. The rate increases only apply to the outdoor city pools and not the high school. Bullock stated that the City will find that pools are not self-supporting entities and asked if the fees close the gap in subsidy. Beno replied that they do not, however the rate increases will help the City, as it supplements \$75,000 to \$90,000 to employee operations to support the pools, which does not include the utilities associated with the pool. Bullock stated the people need to understand that the pools are one way that the City gives back to the taxpayers and while we should be cost conscious, he does not think we should make the pool pencil out and cause sticker shock to residents. He also commented that seniors are getting a good deal and does not understand why a 62 year old has to pay only \$2 and a 4 year old has to pay \$4 to use the pool.

Councilman Rader asked how many people use the pools annually and Matt Demaline stated there are about 55,000 individual visitors. Rader suggested that the committee refer the ordinance back to Council without any type of recommendation so the body can discuss the matter during a full Council meeting in the middle of the month. Councilman Bullock proposed that if Council is going to continue studying the issue that maybe the City should give more free days at the pool to promote exercise. Director Beno stated that prior to 2009, seniors were free and rates were lowered to get people to go to the pool. The amount of people that actually attend varies based on the number of high temperature days throughout the summer. He noted that the pool has fixed costs, whether there's 20 people in the pool or 200, and that the number of lifeguarding staff remains consistent.

Councilman Anderson stated that the fee structure for the pools should really be discussed during budget season. He suggested that since the City is already subsidizing the pool for the 2019 season that maybe the rate increases should be held off and passed in the 2020 budget.

Councilman Rader moved that the substitute version of the rate increase ordinance be referred to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded by Councilman Anderson. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote. He then referred to Director Butler to give an overview of Ordinance 11-19, in which the City would enter into a lease with the HELP Foundation.

Director Butler indicated that the ordinance would extend the existing lease for a year with the HELP Foundation to continue to manage the concessions at Lakewood Park. Upon passage, he indicated that this summer would be the second season the foundation has operated as a concessionaire at the park. The general operations of the business were discussed and the Law Department has received 0 complaints regarding the service. Director Beno indicated that working with HELP has been a smooth going process and that the organization runs into similar staffing issues that the Rec Dept. has in the middle of August when college students leave their summer employment to return to school. Director Butler indicated that the HELP Foundation is a local non-profit and that's why there was no competitive bid. It serves as a vocational training center for the developmentally disabled.

Councilman Rader inquired about exploring a long term lease and Director Butler indicated that the City has spoken with the HELP Foundation about it. Councilwoman George inquired as to who operated concessions before and Beno and Butler indicated that the Rec Dept. did previously. Working with the HELP Foundation has expanded healthier snack offerings and longer operating business hours.

Councilman Rader made a motion to recommend the ordinance for adoption, which was seconded by Councilman Anderson. The motion passed 3-0.

Director Beno then focused on a Resolution 9061-19 regarding an easement for water treatment near the Clifton lagoons. He stated that the City operates a sewer pump station that serves Clifton Lagoons residents and that the pump is located on the Clifton Park Association property, showing a visual exhibit of the property and the proposed easement. The purpose of the easement is to install an emergency generator and natural gas meter, which was discussed with the Clifton Park Association and the Lagoons Homeowner Association. If there's ever a power outage, the generator would kick on to allow the sewage to be pumped up the hill and prevent it from going down into the river.

Councilman Bullock asked if this is part of the City's obligations under the Clean Water Act. Director Beno replied that it not necessarily is, but it is a best practice. Councilman Rader inquired as to how long the generator will run and Beno indicated that it would kick on for 15 minutes to test itself weekly. Rader asked Councilman Anderson if he approved of the placement and Anderson stated that he supports it.

Councilman Rader made a motion to recommend the resolution for adoption, which was seconded by Anderson. The motion passed 3-0.

Director Beno then gave a variety of updates on various public works projects. He spoke about updates to St. Charles Green and Kauffman Park and traffic calming on Woodward. Councilmembers Bullock and Rader talked about how to effectively calm traffic in a cost efficient manner. Councilmembers inquired about having input on the updates to Kauffman Park

and Director Beno indicated that there is a step in the process where the Public Works Department will field public input.

On behalf of Councilman Litten, Councilman Rader inquired about curb repair. Director Beno indicated that there are a couple streets on the paving list that are in dire need of curbs and a full curb replacement is expected. Councilwoman George asked if Public Works is coordinating the street repaving and sidewalk programs. Beno stated that the department does if the situation allows it and that the sidewalk program is now in its 7th year of existence. He added that this year appears that less streets are being paved, however this is due to the high amount of square footage that is being paved on Lakewood Heights Blvd. and Riverside Dr.

Councilman Rader made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilmembers Anderson and Bullock.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.