

Minutes Approved

*as circulated*  
*12/20/21*

November 1, 2021  
Regular Council Meeting  
Elyria City Council

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday November 1, 2021 at 7:02 p.m. by President Stewart. President Stewart opened the meeting with a moment of reflective silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Callahan. President Stewart asked audience members to please silence cell phones.

The recording/audio of this meeting is available on the City of Elyria Channel on YouTube.  
(Zoom meeting)

**2. ROLL CALL--COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Baird, Davis, Jessie, Keys, Mitchell, Oswald, Simmons, Stewart, Tollett

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: SSD Brubaker, ASSD Calvert, ASSD Williams, Law Dir. Deery, Asst. Clerk Lotko, Finance Dir. Pileski, Asst. Finance Dir. John Farrell, Police Chief Whitely, Fire Chief Pronesti, Superintendent Terry Korzan, HR Director Yousefi

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Cerra moved, Mr. Baird seconded that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

**5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Council President Stewart:** None

**Mayor Whitfield:**

Mayor's Memo attached- Exhibit "A"

President Stewart congratulated Mrs. Mary Bryan, the Hack- a- thon winner, Volunteer Elyria: Winter Markets

**Safety Service Director Brubaker:**

Safety Service Director Brubaker shared that leaf pick up began the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>. The second update provided was the distribution of an article from The Villager Newspaper regarding Giada Pulig, who set up two blessing boxes, one right outside of city hall, one at south recreation center. Giada built the boxes with her dad as part of her Girl Scout program. The boxes will store non-perishable food items. The box located outside of city hall has been re-filled a couple of times in the last couple of weeks. Giada's parents and grandparents are from Elyria. Her Grandfather was a former street department employee, which is the reason for her give to the

**5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED**

City of Elyria. SSD Brubaker also extended kudos to Mr. Schneider from the Building and Lands Department who helped to secure both boxes in their locations.

**Finance Director Pileski:** No report

**Law Director Deery:** No report

**Police Chief Whitely:** No report

**Fire Chief Pronesti:**

Chief Pronesti shared that unfortunately there was a double fatal motor vehicle accident on Cleveland St. and Route 57. He says this is the sixth fatality to date this year. The other update provided, the fire department will take delivery of the new pumper on November 10<sup>th</sup> to station 4 on the north side. Chief Pronesti expressed his admiration for Police Chief Whitely. He asked that council would thank Chief Whitely.

President Stewart congratulated chief Pronesti and thanked him for the kind words toward Chief Whitely, certainly the words were well-deserved.

Mr. Oswald asked if there is a specific reason for the accidents at Cleveland St. And route 57 that the Chief may have information about. Chief Whitely responded to say that there have been six fatal crashes this year with eight people killed in the crashes and the latest is the first at Cleveland St. and Route 57. The crash was at 2:30 a.m. and one of the vehicles was traveling at an extremely high rate of speed, there is a possibility of alcohol involvement. The double fatality on Abbe Rd. is still under investigation, however no alcohol is suspected.

**Eng. Schneider:**

Engineer Schneider provided an update to street resurfacing. The contractor anticipates working on Gulf Rd. Monday November 8<sup>th</sup>. The road will be shut down tentatively from the wastewater plant north to Windbrook Dr. for guard rail installation. The project should be completed within a week. December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m. in council chambers, a public meeting will be held for Cleveland St.

President Stewart asked for confirmation regarding resurfacing of all of the streets. Mr. Schneider responded all resurfacing will be completed, adjustments for manholes could lag behind however. The Abbe Rd. project from Cleveland St. to route 57 is an Ohio Public works project that has been approved and bid out. The contractor is behind and unsure if the work will be completed. It would be placed on the schedule for the first of the year, next year, along with Burns Rd., from Abbe to Gulf.

Mrs. Mitchell stated that the process for ranking the streets and providing them to the engineering department can start earlier in the year, so that the bid process can start earlier as well. She would prefer to start earlier opposed to street resurfacing being incomplete, because the contractors are running behind. Mr. Schneider agreed, he stated the bid was completed in June, however what they have experienced is backlog from the contractors. The job was pushed back

**5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED**

to October 1<sup>st</sup>, due to schedule constraints and weather related issues. Mrs. Mitchell confirmed that the Utilities committee will definitely start the process earlier for 2022.

Mrs. Keys asked for an update on the University Hospitals emergency room crosswalks project.

Mr. Schneider responded that materials have been ordered, however they have not been received as of yet. He will confirm the status of the material order and provide an update.

**Superintendent Korzan: Exhibit "A"**

Mr. Oswald inquired about two projects: windward siphon and shovel-readiness at pump stations near Briar Lake park. Mr. Korzan provided an update on the windward siphon, flow meters were put in the sewers about a year and a half ago, the information is being reviewed. Once the department has some conclusions, the size of th siphon can be determined. The other project is still in the works, there is no hardcore information to provide.

**6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES:**

*\*Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of allowing South Park T-Ball to utilize the ballfield at South Park for two (2) years.

**REFERRED BY:** Director Carrie Reardon

**REFERRED TO:** Community Development

2. The matter of creating a new Special Revenue Fund per the Court Order dated October 13, 2021.

**REFERRED BY:** Finance Director Pileski

**REFERRED TO:** Finance Committee

3. The matter of adding a line for cemetery fees to ECO 109.07 (A) Add Columbarium Saturday Service fee \$400.00

**REFERRED BY:** Safety Service Director Brubaker

**REFERRED TO:** Finance Committee

4. The matter of a moral claim as submitted by Melanie Houske at 125 Tannery Street.

**REFERRED BY:** Safety Service Director Brubaker

**REFERRED TO:** Finance Committee

5. The matter of a moral claim for an issue at 410 Briar Lake submitted by Mark and Becky Haller

**REFERRED BY:** Safety Service Director Brubaker

**REFERRED TO:** Finance Committee

**6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES: Continued**

6. The matter of disposing of a 2004 Ford F550 Chipper unfit for public use.

**REFERRED BY:** Safety Service Director Brubaker

**REFERRED TO:** Finance Committee

7. The matter of approving the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered the OCJS Violent Crimes Reduction Grant.

**REFERRED BY:** Safety Service Director Brubaker

**REFERRED TO:** Finance Committee

8. The matter of calendar year 2022 Water and Sewer Rates.

**REFERRED BY:** Engineer Schneider

**REFERRED TO:** Finance & Utilities Committees

9. The matter of the bid for tree removal service program.

**REFERRED BY:** Safety Service Director Brubaker

**REFERRED TO:** Finance & Utilities Committees

**Items 10-11 Received and Placed on File in the Clerk's Office**

10. Report of Brookdale Cemetery lots sold for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

11. Copy of the Elyria Park & Recreation Board Minutes from the September 23, 2021 meeting

**7. PETITIONS LOBBY:**

John Gall, 424 Augusta, Elyria, Statistics and Directions- Mr. Gall stated "the destroyed rubble of Vic's, the old warehouse, Shane Furniture store, downtown decay, the midway mall shell and empty restaurants littering the area. The open air Amtrak station, Reaser Pointe Crossing, Chestnut Commons connector debacle, Chestnut commons and route 57 traffic jams. Job situation Riddell 2017 was, we lost 320 jobs, 3M in 2019 150 jobs, Moen 2019, 73 jobs, Bendix 2021 550 jobs. Crime, the chance of being a victim of a violent crime, is 1 in 392. Property crime, 1 in 58. There are 154 sex offenders with a ration of 1 to 353 residents in Elyria. Moneyinc.com rates the City of Elyria the 19<sup>th</sup> most dangerous city in Ohio 2019. Percentage of residents in poverty, 23.1%, median income, \$44,324.00, median house value, \$107,989.00, rent is \$741.00 monthly. The 2020 census shows a decline in population 54,533 to 52,656 residents. Labor force participation, nearly 62.2%. The meantime travel to work is 23 minutes. This city has the synergy of becoming a ghost town. This is a failing scorecard council has accumulated especially over the last two years. This spectacular display of incompetence is as empty as the accomplishments as the midway mall is of shoppers. Things have gotten worse not better. An example of this inept leadership is a failure to address the third ward councilman after his arrest for solicitation of prostitution. You said he has just been a stellar citizen in all ways. Stellar citizen in all ways, really? Human trafficking, really? Your weak call for resignation had Andy

Young, editor emeritus of The Chronicle Telegram say of council that you serve their interest I divorcing themselves from him and protecting your power. It was evident your performance is pitiful and has failed the residents of this city. You're inaction to immediately remove your colleague off committees and demand resignation shows you do not have the stomach for the tough decisions and you now will be called into account. Tomorrow, Elyrians will do just that."

Lowell Cavin, 211 E. River St., General appearance of city related to garbage cans, littering, parking on sidewalks and front yards. Mr. Cavin stated he wanted to make general observations about the appearance of the city. Mr. Cavin stated that one of his main concerns that he has contacted the Safety Service Director and his ward councilman about garbage cans that are left in the streets, specifically in his neighborhood. Mr. Cavin expressed garbage cans overfilled and littering around many business parking areas. President Stewart responded that the attempt to address the garbage cans have been made by placing letters with the sanitation department on the cans as well as knocking on the doors of those owners. President Stewart shared that council will continue to work with the Safety Service Director to encourage residents to remove the cans from the curb lawn, because it is an eyesore. President Stewart promised to meet with Mr. Cavin after the meeting to establish a follow up plan with himself, Mr. Cavin and Safety Service Director Brubaker. Mr. Oswald stated that he and Mr. Cavin have been experiencing this situation for a long time and that they have been constantly doing exactly what they have been told to do. He expressed that the issue is habitual and a solution is needed. Mayor Whitfield thanked Mr. Cavin for sharing his concern. He expressed that internally the City of Elyria will look at staffing structure and job culture ownership where employees across all departments will develop a public service mindset. Mayor Whitfield echoed Mr. Oswald's point of resident accountability, stated in addition that resident would foster enough pride in the city that they would not be responsible for these acts. Mr. Cavin asked about holding property owners responsible. Law Director Deery responded yes, an ordinance does exist, residents may be cited by law enforcement and if cited, they would go to court. Law Director Deery expressed some people are unable to remove their garbage cans from the curb lawn, all residents can be cited, however, there is no way to decipher from residents that are capable or not, or case by case basis. The other consideration pointed out by the Law Director is the utilization of resources. She posed the question of is that how we would like to utilize our police force, to cite residents for garbage cans? Enforcement can be taken against property owners and tenants. Mr. Brubaker stated the Law Director covered the bulk of what he was going to say, what he added was, when a property maintenance complaint (whether it's trash or house) the city has to cite the owner. The notice of violation goes to the owner always, even if it is a rental property, a notice is sent to the property as well as to the owner. The trash can violation carries a \$50 fine per day that is issued by the Elyria Police Department. SSD Brubaker reiterated Law Director Deery's statement in that an internal discussion would need to be had regarding the use of resources. Mrs. Mitchell shared that Mr. Cavin shared a concern about residents also parking across sidewalks. There have been numerous complaints regarding this issue from a repeat resident. Councilwoman Mitchell and SSD Brubaker in discussion have talked about calling the police, however again they believe that is not the best use of Elyria Police force time. However, at the same time, Mrs. Mitchell is

concerned with the responsibility that she has to her residents. She has to tell them to call the police. Mrs. Mitchell confirms there is an ordinance on the books, you can not park your car in the grass or across the sidewalks, but if it is not being enforced, it does no good. Mr. Brubaker co-signed Mrs. Mitchell's statement. He further explained that when the calls come through, they are handled through the building department. The building department cites the owner, the owner has 30 days to comply. When the owner complies, the process starts all over again.

#### **8. PETITIONS COUNCIL:**

Councilman Tollett stated that during this election season one of the very loose words being thrown around was the word character. He stated that wanted to introduce a new word, hypocrisy. He stated that the republican candidates skipped a public debate to attend a fundraiser for Jim Jordan instead of discussing issues publicly, so that the public could understand what everyone stood for, that would be hypocrisy. Mr. Tollett shared that Jim Jordan participated in the largest cover-up in American history of molestation of 1500 students at Ohio State University. He questioned where was the anger. He expressed that "you" fly the flag of a twice impeached president who cheated on all three of his wives including prostitutes.... and attack all of city council for the actions of one. He directed his next statement to his independent candidates, in stating that one of the candidates beat a woman unconscious, breaking out teeth, holds a felony conviction and numerous other domestic violence convictions. He asked again about the outrage. He shared his thoughts of his fellow council members, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Simmons, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Keys, getting beat unconscious. He asked the voters to think about this tomorrow when it's your turn. Voters see through hypocrisy and are much more in tuned to these issues than you think.

Councilwoman Davis shared that she has resided in the City of Elyria for fifty years, she is the second ward councilwoman. She expressed that she finds it difficult to understand these people who want to drastically change the city body, making decisions when the city is governed by a city ordinance. These individuals make sure to stop in and criticize, but they forget to consider the leadership from whom they work. She questioned if there has been any offer to train all employees for human trafficking. She stated this is training that could have been implemented through the Mayor's office. She stated the vocal opposition would rather clap, high five, give big hugs during a pandemic than work on training city employees. They would rather change the city sitting council by showing up two or three times a year complaining and instead of trying to learn the true function of council. The opposition group would like for council to have scheduled times for our constituents to have the ability to speak to council members, she stated that her colleagues and herself have informed their constituents that they are available 24-7, just a phone call away. Council is committed to the city and all of it's residents, with truth and they fight and work together for the betterment of this great city where the lights will never go out.

**9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** None

**10. RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING:**

Sponsored by: **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-28**  
**Finance:** A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FIFTH THIRD BANK  
V. Stewart III AND HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, AS PUBLIC  
P. Tollett DEPOSITORIES, ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT  
M. Jessie ACTIVE, INACTIVE, AND INTERIM FUNDS FOR  
B. Davis DEPOSIT, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION  
135 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, FOR A FIVE (5)  
YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2021 AND  
ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2026, AND AUTHORIZING  
THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN  
AGREEMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF ACTIVE,  
INACTIVE, AND INTERIM FUNDS WITH SAID PUBLIC  
DEPOSITORIES.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by: **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-29**  
**Finance:** A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY HAS UNFIT  
V. Stewart III FOR CITY OF ELYRIA MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY  
P. Tollett PROPERTY.  
M. Jessie  
B. Davis

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

**11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None**

**12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None**

**13. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:**

Sponsored by:	<b><u>ORDINANCE NO. 2021-165</u></b>
<b>Finance:</b>	AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE
V. Stewart III	DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO DISPOSE OF
P. Tollett	CITY PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.
M. Jessie	
B. Davis	
J. Baird	

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by:	<b><u>ORDINANCE NO. 2021-166</u></b>
<b>Finance:</b>	AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
V. Stewart III	ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE TWO NEW
P. Tollett	VEHICLES FOR THE ELYRIA MUNICIPAL COURT,
M. Jessie	THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO PURCHASING
B. Davis	PROGRAM OR EQUIVALENT PROGRAM, AND
J. Baird	DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION:	EMERGENCY:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED



**13. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING: CONTINUED**

Sponsored by: **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-167**  
**Finance:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-50,  
V. Stewart III KNOWN AS THE “2021 PERMANENT  
P. Tollett APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE,” TO CHANGE FUNDS  
M. Jessie IN VARIOUS ACCOUNTS.  
B. Davis  
J. Baird

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by: **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-168**  
**Finance:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO  
V. Stewart III SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPT, IF  
P. Tollett OFFERED, A TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE  
B. Davis COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI) GRANT, SAID  
M. Jessie FUNDING TO BE FOR CITY OF ELYRIA WAYFINDING  
J. Baird SIGNAGE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN  
**Utilities:** EMERGENCY.  
D. Mitchell  
D. Simmons  
B. Davis  
J. Keys  
J. Cerra

Tollett moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION:	EMERGENCY:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 10	AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

C 5

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

ELYRIA CITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

**14. ORDINANCES-SECOND READING: None**

**15. ORDINANCES-THIRD READING: None**

**16. COMMITTEE CALLS:**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** 11/08/2021 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

**VIRTUAL/ZOOM**

**FINANCE** 11/08/2021 Following CD All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Fin. Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

**VIRTUAL/ZOOM**

**UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT** 11/08/2021 6:00 P.M. All Referred items w/ Law Director, SSD, Engineer

**STRATEGIC PLANNING** 11/15/2021 Immediately following Council All Referred Items Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Dir., Law Director, Engineer

**VIRTUAL/ZOOM**

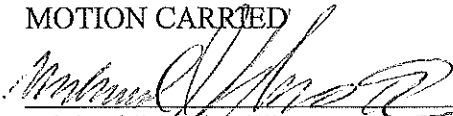
**17. MISC AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Baird expressed that he felt disheartened. He stated that Elyria City Council has always gotten along to take care of the business at hand, bringing up issues that have nothing to do with us and throwing out accusations on both sides is something that he expressed he did not care for. He shared that would be leaving this body at the end of the year and he hates to think this is the way things are going. He believes that the group is better than that.

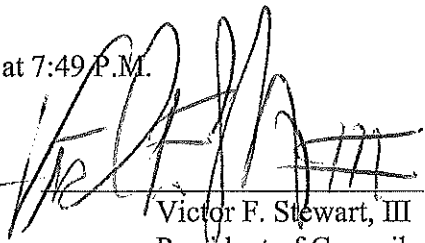
**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

Baird Motion to adjourn, Cerra seconded at 7:49 P.M.

**MOTION CARRIED**



Michael J. Lofko, III  
Clerk of Council



Victor F. Stewart, III  
President of Council

RLP/

## Mayor's Memo

### Midway Mall

The agreement has been signed and is now in the hands of the lawyers to finalize and we believe the property will change hands before the end of the year. Namdar will still own some perimeter pieces of property including the theater and ICP will have full control of the interior of the mall except Johnny Ks.

Our major tenant remains interested and committed to expanding into the mall.

### Parks

- We will continue proceeding with preparation for Oakwood, splashpad at north, and the aquatic center planning. Our goal is to have formal recommendation to council with financial projections for the December 2022
- Parks board has expressed an interest in CIC property 1504 west avenue and the CIC board has agreed to donate the property upon the city's acceptance.

### CDC

Elyria Community Partnership secured the grant from the Nord Family Foundation for \$100,000. Their board will be meeting soon and will be working on their request to the city to conduct community development projects in service to the city of Elyria.

### Personnel

We started a new employee orientation this quarter that introduces new employees to one another as well as orients them to how things work in the city. Jean Yousefi is leading this effort.

Union negotiations are underway and we invite any council member who wishes to participate to do so through Jean Yousefi.

### Body Cams

The committee participated in 3 body cam presentations and is converging around one preferred vendor. Through Tim Williams this will be presented.

### Operations

City Hall traditional doors are back open and available. The new sidewalk is in place.

### Hackathon

Our Winners were

All Paws on Deck - a program to keep youth into positivity by teaching them how to train dogs

Winter Market - developing a winter market that

Study Hall a gaming lounge that combats social isolation and promotes social-emotional health

The Start up Winner which will be referred to Case Western Reserve University's Incubator will be Neighborhood Alliance's Kitchen Incubator

### American rescue Plan Essential Services

Grant application is officially open and round 1 applications are accepted until December 3, 2021 at 5pm. Application is available on the city of Elyria homepage and questions can be referred to [communityservice@cityofelyria.org](mailto:communityservice@cityofelyria.org) or call Community Development at 440-326-1537

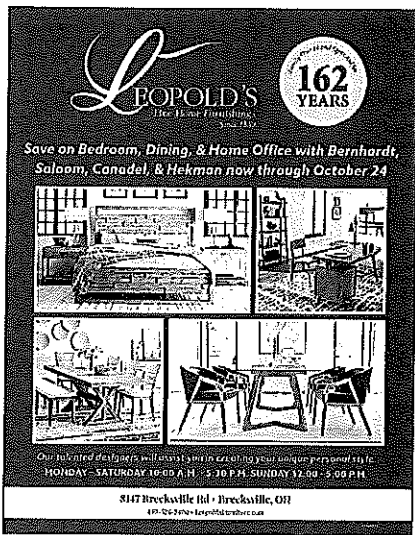
### Community Violence and Crime Prevention

Monthly Community Meeting on Friday at 4pm at South Rec to discuss interventions and solutions to community violence and crime prevention.

**Upcoming Topics:** Budget, Staffing/Organizational Recommendations, Union Contract Recommendations,

to search type and hit enter

### BUSINESS OF THE WEEK



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## AVON GIRL SCOUT CREATES BLESSING BOXES FOR SILVER AWARD

Avon Girl Scout Giada Pulig recently completed her Silver Award project: Blessing Boxes for two locations in Elyria.

Giada Pulig and her family dedicated the two blessing boxes to the City of Elyria last week. A blessing box is an outdoor station filled with canned goods, toiletries and other useful items for those in need.

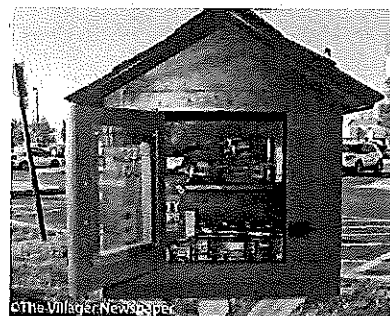
Giada is a 9th grader from Avon. She dedicated and filled both boxes last Tuesday. She is now asking for the community's help to assist in keeping these boxes filled year-round. The dedication was held at the City Hall location.



"This is my silver award, which is basically where you do a project that has a long lasting help to a community," said Giada. "I have to do service hours for my confirmation, so we went around and filled some Blessing Boxes up because we saw a need there. I thought it would be nice to have more, because I saw a need. I saw how fast they are emptied."



Giada Pulig and her family dedicated two blessing boxes to the City of Elyria



Giada and her dad worked on the project together, with Giada helping with assembly, drilling and sanding. They took about 6 weeks to make.

"I got to learn how to use a bunch of power tools that I never really played around with before," said Giada. "But just being able to help people who might not know where the next meal would come from was the real reason for making them."

Boxes are located at Elyria City Hall and South Recreation Center in Elyria. Those in need, please feel free to take and replace as needed.

## Community Solutions Think Tank - Leaders of Today

### Advisors:

Marsalis Hammos - Founder / CEO Leaders  
of Today  
Alex Moen - Board Member Leaders of  
Today

### Student Participants:

Priscilla Yrad - EHS, Senior  
Geon Santiago - LCCC Early College and  
EHS, Senior  
Toviel Jackson - EHS, Senior  
Nataliegh Newhouse - EHS, Junior

### Quick Facts

#### Survey Data

The Think Tank conducted a survey to gather input on the needs and desires of the South Elyria community about the construction of a pocket park. Below are the major findings of the survey from 44 respondents.

- 44 total respondents where 54% either live, work, or visit South Elyria.
- The ages of respondents ranged from 19 yrs to 61+ years old. The majority of respondents were 61+ years old.
- We found that the majority of people want a play area for children, an area to walk, benches, a shaded pavilion, and open green space.
- Some potential programming the community wants to see is walking/exercising, active play areas for children, and a fresh farmers market in conjunction with the community garden.

#### Walkability and Park Access maps - LCPH data

During the Think Tank, students met with representatives from Lorain County Public Health where they discussed walkability and park access in South Elyria. While South Elyria is walkable, park access (within a 10 minute walk) is limited.

South Rec is nearby, but without proper crosswalks it is unsafe for people to walk to the park which may be the only option due to lack of transportation.

#### Walk Audit findings

Students conducted a walk audit of the empty lot on the corner of 15th Street and West Avenue and recorded the following.

##### *Sidewalks:*

- Cracks in the sidewalk cause potential tripping hazards.
- Unlevel and narrow sidewalks causing people to walk on the streets.

##### *Street Safety:*

- No pedestrian signals at crosswalks.
- Distracted drivers
- Lack of street lights

##### *Comfort:*

- Not enough natural shade or tree canopies
- No benches/places to rest
- Litter on sidewalks and in road

## Park Access in 2018

Population living within a 10 minute walk of green space (%)

### Park Access in Elyria, OH

Source: City Health Enhancement Division ParkSense™ 2018



34.7% of Elyria residents had park access compared to an average of 59.9% across the Commonwealth.

Only 20% of residents had a car. Districts with the highest percentage of residents with a car are:

- Northwest City Average
- Westside City Average

Source: City Health Enhancement Division ParkSense™ 2018

### Park Access in Elyria, OH

Source: City Health Enhancement Division ParkSense™ 2018



0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

0 500 1000

0 500 1000

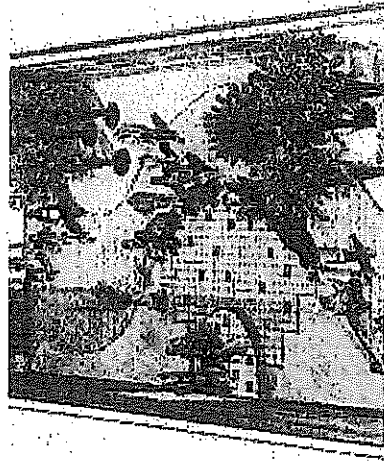
Source: City Health Enhancement Division ParkSense™ 2018

City of Elyria, Ohio  
 10000  
 10000  
 10000

# SWOT Analysis

## Strengths

- Side walks
- Nearby Housing
- A fire hydrant in case of emergency
- Water connection
- On a corner so it's visible



## Weakness

- The fence looks really old
- The fence separating the lot
- Cracked and unlevel sidewalks

## Opportunities

- Outdoor space to collaborate with local community resources (library , church)
- Programs to promote physical activity amongst senior citizen, youth, single mothers, etc
- Improve walkability within the neighborhood (walking loop or pathway)

## Threats

- West Avenue is busy when school is in session.
- Limited parking
- Theft/vandalism
- Property ownership
- No light on the street



# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

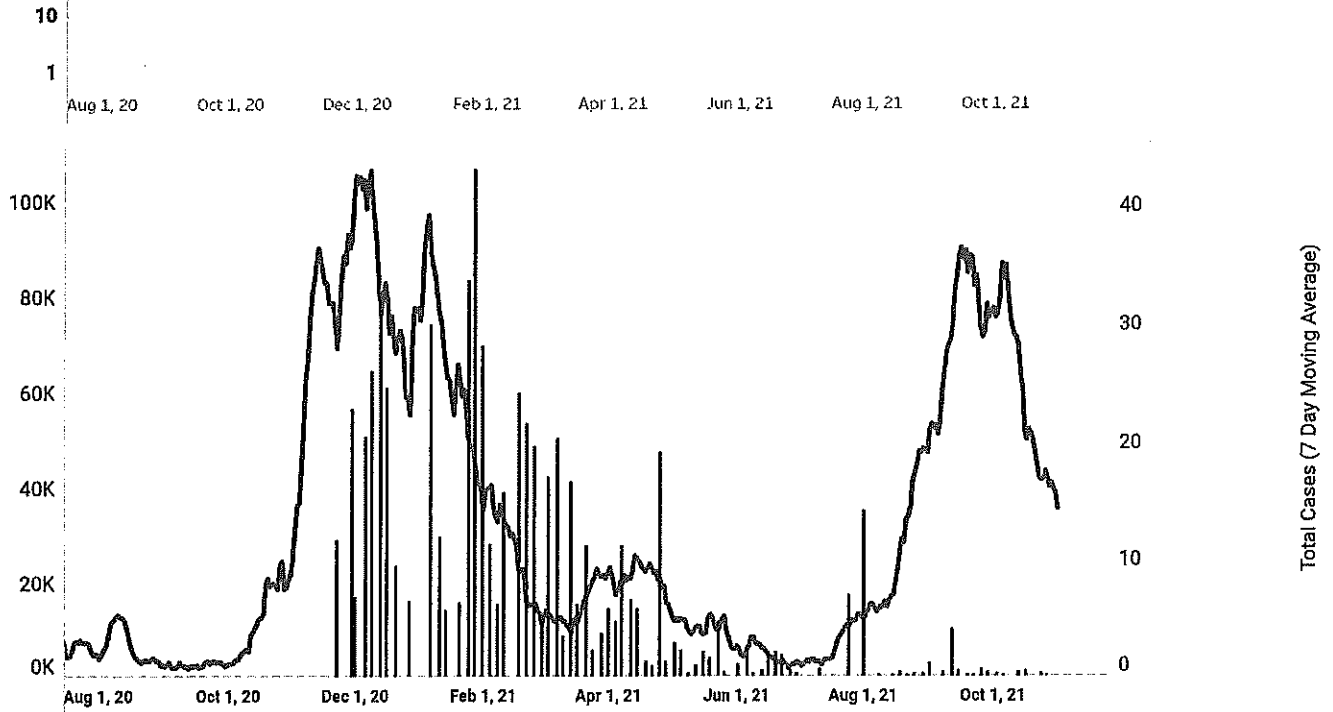
Responsible RestartOhio

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Equity and High-Risk Groups

Families and Individuals

Healthcare Providers and Local Health Districts



Quantification (LOQ): Results below this limit are low and, while detectable, cannot be accurately counted. These are therefore being below the limit of quantification



## Regan Phillips

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**From:** Terry Korzan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:35 AM  
**To:** Regan Phillips  
**Subject:** Wastewater Epidemiology Network  
**Attachments:** ODH COVID-19 Dashboard.PNG

**Importance:** High

Good Morning Regan,

Attached, please find a screenshot from the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard, which can be found at the following link:

Ohio Wastewater Monitoring Network: Updated 11.02.2020  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/wastewater>

In October 2020, the City of Elyria Wastewater Department became a member of the Ohio Department of Health Wastewater Epidemiology Network (WEN). Twice weekly, we send plant influent samples to MICROBAC, a molecular biology laboratory. At MICROBAC, they analyze the samples for the amount of COVID-19 viral RNA in each sample. The results are used to see, as a trend, whether the viral RNA gene counts are increasing, staying the same, or decreasing. These numbers are compared with the number of known COVID-19 cases in Elyria. If the gene counts are going up but the number of known cases are staying the same, it could be an indication that there are a number of asymptomatic COVID cases in Elyria. The data on the dashboard only reflects what is happening in Elyria, and our data has correlated very well throughout the pandemic.

The top graph in the screenshot shows the Million COVID-19 gene copies counted per day, based on plant flow for each sampling day (Sundays and Wednesdays). As you can see, back in December 2020, we were getting above a million counts, and we are currently down to 10,000 counts. This is a good trend in that it continues to drop. It shows that COVID-19 is still prevalent in the community, but it has greatly improved.

The bottom graph in the screenshot shows two things: The black line shows the rolling 7-day average number of actual known cases of COVID-19 in Elyria that have actually tested positive for COVID-19. The red lines show the average gene copies per liter of plant influent sample sent out for analysis. These numbers are what we watch to predict future increases in cases, and also to follow current cases. Persons who are infected with COVID-19 will continue to shed virus particles in the feces for a variable amount of time. You will note that, in November 2020 through April 2021, the number of gene copies per liter were rather high, and so were the number of actual COVID-19 cases in Elyria (as high as 44 cases per day). The August 1, 2021 spike was a forewarning that an increase in cases might be coming, as it did September into October 2021 with a high of 35 cases per day. In September 2021, ODH changed testing labs and the numbers of gene copies reported dropped due to the different test method, but the trend is still there. The new lab also has the ability to test for the different variants of the virus. Currently, the most prominent variant in our area is still the Delta variant. They are working on reformulating the graph to rescale the data to make it easier to see. Once that is done, the red spikes in September through October will be much higher. In the meantime, we are going by the raw data. The spike on September 12<sup>th</sup> was a forewarning of the second peak on October 5<sup>th</sup> where the cases of COVID-19 went back up to 33 per day. The number of cases per day typically lags behind the gene counts by anywhere from 7-14 days. As you can see, our current number of cases is back down to 14 per day. We are looking to see what happens there after Halloween, Thanksgiving Day, and the Christmas holidays – times when we see typically would see additional increases in the data.

We have continuous access to the ODH COVID-19 dashboard. Results are posted to the dashboard within two days after sending out the samples. So, we can see the data rather quickly. In addition, if we get three consecutive increasing data points, or if any one data point increases above a certain percentage, ODH will send us an alert email advising us of the situation. We forward the information to Mayor Whitfield, Safety Service Director Brubaker and Director Williams. They can then correspond with the Director of Lorain County Public Health to schedule additional testing clinics, additional public service announcements, or whatever is deemed necessary.

The costs of the entire program are paid by grants from the State of Ohio so the City pays nothing to participate in this program. Participating in the program has been very interesting and informative. Our hope is that the data continues to show declines in all parameters and that we will be out of this pandemic phase and into the endemic phase soon. The program is funded through June 2023, and we will continue to participate and track the data all the way through.

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at (440) 346-9665 if you have any questions or need additional information.

**Terry Korzan**  
Superintendent/Biologist

City of Elyria  
Wastewater Pollution Control Plant  
1194 Gulf Rd.  
Elyria, Ohio 44035  
440-366-2211 ext. 5100  
440-346-9665 (Mobile)

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