

**The COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE held a Meeting on MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022 at 6:05 P.M.**

**CD PRESENT:** Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Schneider, Lipian and Oswald

**FINANCE PRESENT:** Chair Stewart, Tollett, Cerra, Davis, Schneider

**OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Simmons, Corbin

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Whitfield, Law Dir. Deery, Asst Dir. Calvert, Interim Safety Service Dir. Williams, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Asst. Fin. Dir. Farrell, Engineer McKillips, Lise Day, Police Chief Pelko, Building Official Farkas, CD Dir. Scott, Supt. Korzan, Com. Mngr. Showalter, Water Lead Jacobs, P&R Dir. Reardon, Fire Chief Pronesti, IT Mngr. Rothgery, Utilities Mgr. Connor

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chair Callahan, asked Law Dir. Deery if she could address council regarding open meetings and the sunshine law. Law Dir. Deery provided a friendly reminder, regarding public record in open meetings, that as members of a public body, any deliberations should be part of the open forum and not termed as a side bar conversation.

**1. Approval of the CD Meeting Minutes ~ November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Motion made by Mr. Lipian, second by Mr. Oswald to approve the committee meeting minutes.**

**2. The matter of a vacation of Merchants Alley between Washington Ave. and Kerstetter Way..**

Referred By: Elyria Block Development, LLC

**\* Note: This matter was passed by Planning Commission on December 6th, subject to a lot consolidation.**

ASSD Calvert explained the efforts to vacate Merchants Alley is to accommodate the developer in developing the entire site for the eSports arena. The request is to consolidate all six parcels into one parcel. Mr. Oswald inquired who will own the property? Ms. Calvert explained the developer will own the property. Mr. Tollett explained that this is not a new precedent being set, that this process was completed for Ridge Tool as well.

**Mr. Oswald moved and Mr. Schneider seconded to recommend an ordinance to authorize the 'said' vacation.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**3. The matter of a continued discussion on the over population of deer in certain areas of the city.**

Referred by: Ward 4 Councilman Oswald

Mr. Oswald provided information from research to provide options. He received information from ODNR, Jeff Westerfield as well as other cities with successful programs: N. Royalton, Independence, Hudson, Mentor, PepperPike and Eastlake. Some of the concerns, are to figure out how do you know if your city is overpopulated? How do you properly manage overpopulation? The migration of deer from year to year

changes and the deer get used to the environment. Mr. Oswald would like to propose that the representative from ODNR come to an open meeting to allow residents the opportunity to ask questions. Chair Callahan expressed this tends to be an emotional topic, he asked if there were any questions. Mr. Lipian stated that weighing the solution is a matter of effectiveness versus humaness and that violence should always be the last resort. Mr. Tollett expressed that he would be in support of the representative from ODNR coming in to answer questions of both council and the public. Mrs. Mitchell also expressed support of an open forum meeting and further suggested that the meeting should be held in the evening, advertised and on a non-committee meeting night. She also stated that as a reminder, that we are taking away the deer habitat as we continue to build more and more homes. Law Director Deery suggested that a special meeting be held of the community development committee, in a townhall forum, specifically related to this topic. With no further questions, Chair Callahan called Chair Stewart and the finance committee.

*Chair Stewart to called The Finance Committee to order and the JOINT Meeting of Community Development with Finance began at 6:23 P.M.*

RLP/