

This Special Meeting of Council was called to order on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 7:37 p.m. by John Ruediger, Councilman. There was a moment of silence in place of an invocation and then Mayor Broska lead the Pledge of Allegiance. [This meeting was not recorded.]

PRESENT: John Ruediger, Tim Claypoole, Jessica Timmons, Julie Field

ABSENT: Bridget Pavlick, Steve Michniak, Jeff Allen

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Paul Janis, Law Director
Jenny Esarey, Finance Director
Rob Peter, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
PRCAC Members
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MRS. PAVLICK, MR. MICHNIAK AND MR. ALLEN.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Claypoole. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Special Business

Work Session to Review the Proposed Parks and Recreation Property Tax Levy

- Review Survey Results

Mr. Mytinger explained that the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Advisory Council (PRCAC) had generated some survey questions regarding the proposed Parks and Recreation Property Tax Levy and posted them through various social media channels and random individuals shared the survey further on their own social media pages. It was also linked through the Record-Courier website. There were 255 respondents and Mr. Mytinger reviewed the survey results with a PowerPoint presentation [see attached].

Mr. Mytinger said he had met with school officials today regarding a partnership for a swim team and/or a tennis team. Many respondents to the survey had mentioned an interest in a pool and various other activities and amenities. He explained that pickleball (a paddle sport something like tennis and ping pong put together that used a ball similar to a wiffle ball) was a popular upcoming sport activity, especially with the Seniors.

There were 255 responses with 6 that were non-residents and 6 that did not indicate their residency status and Streetsboro had about 16,500 residents. Of the 255 respondents 75.2% said they would vote for the levy, 19.6% said they would not vote for the levy and 5% did not respond to the question. Mr. Mytinger thought those that would not vote for the levy or those that did not respond might be the respondents that did not live in Streetsboro. He mentioned that for the City to be 95% confident in the survey results (with 6 plus or minus) for a 12 degree margin of error there needed to be 263 respondents.

Mr. Ruediger noted that overall it was a small sample size that took the survey. He also noted that it seemed that most of the people that took the survey got it from the Parks and Recreation Department email mailing list, so they were people that were already involved with the Parks and Recreation Department. So maybe he would not put a whole lot of credence in the survey results as an indicator of the tax levy outcome. Mr. Ruediger thought it was great information to work from.

Mr. Ruediger said there had been an “additional comments” section of the survey and wondered what those results were. Mr. Mytinger said a lot of those comments were geared toward wanting a pool. Some mentioned needing more information on the location/layout of a recreation center and others mentioned that the tax may be out of their personal financial realm.

Ms. Timmons agreed with Mr. Ruediger regarding who took this survey. She asked some questions on the survey process. Mr. Mytinger said the computer survey system only allowed one answer per computer so the same person couldn't do it twice or two family members using the same computer couldn't both answer it. The survey was open for a two week period. Ms. Timmons said there was only one survey question geared toward the levy, but there were more issues. Mr. Mytinger said the survey was for input on what people might want in a recreation center of this size for discussion purposes.

- Parks and Recreation Operations

Mr. Mytinger said the proposed Parks and Recreation Property Tax Levy was not just to fund the construction of a recreation center. The tax levy would fund operations and capital improvements for the whole Parks and Recreation Department. When Mr. Mytinger was previously the Parks and Recreation Director, the department had 2 programmers, but now there was only 1 and the citizens/administration was asking for more programs. The department only had 2 fulltime staff members to maintain 500 acres of land. The seasonal workers just started last Friday so April and May had been very difficult to keep up with grass cutting, lining the baseball and soccer fields (which the City was now responsible for) and everything else that needed to be done in the spring. Another operational issue was that the roof leaked in multiple spots in the Parks and Recreation wing and the Senior Center staff even needed to relocate a desk so they wouldn't get wet on a rainy day. The department wanted to provide more services, but currently were not able to do so.

Mayor Broska said that it was important to note that the Parks and Recreation Department budget was 3% of the General Fund budget. This tax levy would make the department free standing/separate from the General Fund and then that 3% could be used for other City departments. The recreation center may be the biggest/most visible part of the tax levy issue, but it was not the sole reason for the tax levy. He said the tax levy would allow for more personnel, for capital improvements to the fields, pavilion, trails, playgrounds and a fitness community/recreation center. The Police, Fire and Service Departments took the biggest part of the General Fund budget and "what's left over goes to Parks and Recreation." Mayor Broska mentioned that the biggest demographic in Streetsboro was the 25-44 age range most likely with school aged children who would be the ones using the playing fields.

Mrs. Field asked about the proposed membership fees. She understood that they were not set yet, but wondered how much of the operation of the recreation center would rely on membership fees. Mr. Mytinger referred her to Attachment H of the handout he had distributed for the May 22, Finance Committee Meeting. He had proposed the recreation center might open in 2021 (not definite but a point to work with) and used the figures from other community recreation centers and estimated that Streetsboro might have 2,000 members (at various levels) to come up with some expected revenue figures. Mrs. Field said we want to be conservative. She expected a lot of people would want to become members, but if the residents passed a levy and started paying more in property taxes per each household and then had to pay a membership fee per household too, that might become significant per household. She wanted it to be inexpensive for the Streetsboro residents and didn't want the operation of the recreation center to rely too heavily on membership fees. Mr. Mytinger said that was all still up for discussion because the fees did not have to be determined until a year or so before a recreation center would open (not now) and the administration would work with Council to set the fees.

Mr. Ruediger asked for copies of the membership information from the other community recreation centers and Mr. Mytinger agreed to provide them, but he was waiting for two more communities to respond to his request for information.

Mayor Broska remarked that the administration had originally proposed a 4 mill tax levy but Mr. Michniak had suggested a 5 mill tax levy to build in some leeway. Mayor Broska wanted

this project to be net \$0 and cover its costs, but not make a profit. Mr. Mytinger commented that most recreation centers were at 75% operation cost recovery and the tax levy would cover the 25% difference and allow for operations and capital improvements too. Mrs. Field said there were lots of options on different kinds of memberships and Mayor Broska noted that the membership fees could also depend on the money generated from other programs through the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Ruediger listed some revenue sources but Mr. Mytinger noted that a dependable revenue source such as the tax levy was useful to rely on and to use for applying for grants.

Mr. Ruediger asked, since a recreation center might not open until about 2021, what was the expected revenue and costs the year prior to that. Mr. Mytinger answered that the first three years there would be no mortgage or costs of running a recreation center so the money from the tax levy would be used for park improvements to Wilcox Park and Thomas Heritage Park, i.e. walking paths, athletic fields, connecting trail systems and debt retirement (\$750,000 could be put aside each of those first years for project design, a bond, etc.), but all this still needed to be discussed and decided by Council. Ms. Esarey added that \$750,000 was an amount that would leave something for capital improvements and then not have to do a short term bond for engineering, architecture design, etc.

- Parks Capital Improvements

Mr. Mytinger said there were so many things/opportunities the Parks and Recreation Department could provide with the tax levy, for example trails, but there needed to be a feasibility study to plan trails and the department needed money to actually build the trails. Wilcox Park had been planned years ago (2007), but money was needed to make those soccer/athletic fields a reality.

Mr. Mytinger was asked about a timeline for implementation of everything that had been mentioned. He referred to Attachment A of the handout he had distributed for the May 22, Finance Committee Meeting as a guide. He said there were plans for ballfields; parking was an issue that needed improved; Wilcox Park needed the fields and trails that had been planned; Thomas Heritage Park had a dog park, but needed a master plan to determine its best uses; and the recreation center. The first three years of the tax levy would be heavy on park improvements throughout the Streetsboro park system. The survey had mentioned an outdoor pool and/or a splash pad too that maybe could be included in the timeline.

Mr. Claypoole asked why walking paths were not on the timeline until 2019 when the survey indicated they were wanted. Mr. Mytinger answered that a feasibility study was needed to work out the connections to other regional trails, to determine if right of ways were needed (and then get the right of ways), and then engineer and design the trails, so a lot was needed first before construction of trails could begin.

Mr. Ruediger asked if the recreation center location would include the Fire Department and City Hall. Mayor Broska explained that it would be a stand-alone Fire Department and City Hall would be the first floor of an office building, then the recreation/fitness center would also be on the site. He said the current City Hall 10-acre property would become a campus of buildings. There would also be space on the site for "Food Truck Friday," a farmer's market and a boulevard leading into the site. He said there was a layout in a 2003 plan, but various other plans were in the works now and he would present more information/details at the Monday night, June 12, 2017 Service Committee Meeting. He emphasized that no money from the proposed 5mill Parks and Recreation property tax levy would be used for this City Center project; the levy would only be for Parks and Recreation.

- Recreation Center Facility

Mr. Mytinger listed amenities that were wanted from the survey, such as a rentable community room with a warming kitchen (about 60' x 60'), a family locker room, child watch areas, etc.

[see survey results]. Mr. Ruediger said the City needed opportunities to do tournaments and swim meets so he suggested a pool with 5-6 lanes instead of 3-4. He said if we're going to do it, we should do it right. Mr. Mytinger agreed we should try to accommodate that, but he needed to check with other nearby communities and see if there was such a need in the area or if there was another place that could accommodate that need so we didn't compete with each other. Mayor Broska said Streetsboro needed to put amenities in an aquatic center to keep the kids busy, to give them something to do with splash areas, slides, etc. and the pool only needed to have 3-4 25-meter lanes for a swim team to practice or for people to swim exercise laps, especially when there were other communities that offered the bigger pools. He said the revenue lost from not having a few swim meets in our own recreation center would be made up by the families that used the kid's play area all year long, and the cost for a large pool was astronomical.

Mr. Mytinger said the next step would be to get this information out to the public through the City's website. He said he welcomed questions and input on this issue.

-Comments

Pete Buczkowski, 9345 Root Drive, said this was a mighty fine development for the 45% of the population that wanted this. He said he'd been a Streetsboro resident since 1980 and raised his children here without a recreation center. Now he had no children and this center was going to cost him maybe \$300/year in taxes plus fees to use it while there was Lifecenter Plus down the road for free, no fee. Mr. Mytinger told him Streetsboro would have the same free Silver Sneakers program for Seniors as Lifecenter Plus. Mr. Buczkowski said the survey was only available on the Internet; the City should consider everyone else too.

Drew Copley, 2230 Hunting Valley Lane, asked if the City Center would need a levy too. Mayor Broska said No because the Police Station bond would end in 2019 and the City could use the money that had been going to pay that bond to fund the Fire Station and City Hall portion of the City Center. He said City Hall would be the first floor tenant of a medical office building and would pay for it from the General Fund. If the proposed Parks and Recreation property tax levy passed the General Fund money could be used for the City Center project. Mayor Broska said it had been determined that about 10,000 square feet of space was needed for the 15 employees of City Hall and their storage needs. He said construction and rent would not be as much as building a stand-alone building.

Mr. Copley asked if there were any other levies planned or expected in the next 10 years. Mayor Broska said he was not aware of any unless the school wanted to put one on the ballot. He noted that Streetsboro was one of the few communities without other levies, like a Police levy, a Fire levy, or a road levy like most other communities. He said Streetsboro could do it with what we already spend.

Pearl Pullman, 6203 Stone Road, said Mr. Mytinger had listed a lot of amenities for the Recreation Center as mentioned in the survey. She asked what items on the survey would not be included in the recreation center. Mr. Mytinger said a steam room/sauna had been mentioned in the survey results as something that was wanted, but that was not included in his plans. A disc golf course had been mentioned, but that may not be included right away. There were no plans for a community golf course. Mr. Mytinger noted that any capital improvements would go through the PRCAC group in public meetings and be prioritized. This would all take time; it would not all be done at once; there would be continual improvements over time.

Mayor Broska added that we couldn't know exactly when the Recreation Center would be constructed because there was a lot of preliminary work to be done before construction, but there would be lots of changes/improvements in Parks and Recreation in the first two years, and then the Recreation Center would come later, and then there would be ongoing results too.

Mr. Ruediger thanked everyone for coming and offering their input. He said there would be more information presented Monday night, June 12, 2017 and the Third Reading of T-6337 Submit 5 Mill Property Tax Levy to the Electors for Parks and Recreation would be on Monday, June 26, 2017.

Announcements

There will be a Public Hearing-Rezoning, a Service Committee, a Safety Committee and a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, June 12, 2017 starting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

There being no further business to come before this Special Meeting of Council, and upon motion by Mr. Claypoole, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

John Ruediger, Councilman

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