

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, December 30, 2020
Special Session

Opening:

After due notice according to law, Medina City Council met in special, remote session Wednesday, December 30, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President of Council John Coyne.

Roll Call:

The roll was called with the following members of Council present: E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and J. Hazeltine.

Also present were Mayor Dennis Hanwell, Greg Huber, Teresa Knox and Nino Piccoli.

Introduction and Consideration of Ordinances and Resolutions:

Mr. Coyne entertained a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings on Ord. 222-20; so moved by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Simpson. The motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings passed by the yeas and nays of P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, and B. Lamb.

Ord. 222-20:

An Ordinance Proposing and Providing for Submission to the Electors of The City of Medina, Ohio at a Special Election to be held May 4, 2021, A Request for Approval of Locating The Medina Municipal Court inside of the Medina County 1969 Courthouse Located at 93 Public Square so as to Preserve the 1969 Courthouse as a Court Building Located on the East Side of Medina Public Square. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 222-20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Coyne stated for many years the City has been involved with Medina County working to do a joint courthouse project. In the interim the initial petition was filed and it was entitled required vote on courthouse and it went through the mechanisms of a vote in November and basically the petition language at that time said that the City of Medina must obtain authorization to appropriate or spend any funds for or use any city resources to carry out or facilitate carrying out any demolition or construction activity, internal or external, at the Medina County Court House or any structure located on the east side of the Medina Public Square including but not limited to 72 through 99 Public Square, Medina Ohio. That was the ballot language people voted on, the vote was to not to permit the City to continue to move forward unless we went back to the voters and got their approval which brings us to today's meeting. Our objective has been modified a little bit. The new court facility that we were planning on participating in we are no longer participating in but that opened up a new opportunity to participate in the 1969 building and move into an existing facility and just renovate that facility. That is what we are looking at and that is what our ballot language will provide.

We will vote on our ballot language that will provide, in part, that the City of Medina, Ohio is authorized to appropriate and expend funds and use city resources to locate the Medina Municipal Court inside of the Medina County 1969 courthouse located at 93 Public Square so as to preserve the 1969 courthouse as a court building located on the east side of Medina Public Square. We still have an opportunity to collaborate with the county, we will be able to share at least some common entrance ways and save some money in officers and security protocols, but have to go back to the voters.

Mr. Simpson wanted verification that if the voters were to approve this, that we are not going to

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be using the entire 1969 courthouse only about 27,000 sq. ft. Mr. Coyne stated yes, that is correct.

Mr. Coyne read an email from Pat Walker into the record as follows:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Medina City Council.

Holding a special meeting between the Christmas and the New Year holidays and giving the public less than 28 hours notice, is not an appropriate way to consider important and costly public issues such as relocating the Medina Municipal Court. Further, this is not an issue that should be decided by the City Council as an emergency. The Council has until February 3, 2021 to put this matter on the ballot. This important and costly issue deserves three readings at regularly scheduled Council meetings.

Has the County agreed to have the Medina Municipal Court in the 1969 Courthouse? No resolution of the County Commissioners has been passed to permit this. What basis does the City have to represent to the taxpayers that the Municipal Court can be relocated into a County building?

The Medina County Domestic Relations Court is currently seeking to move its operations into the 1969 Courthouse. Why would the County give the City space in the 1969 Courthouse when the County Courts are in need of the space?

How much would the County charge the City to use the 1969 Courthouse for the Municipal Court? How much would the renovation of the 1969 Courthouse for use as a Municipal Court facility cost the taxpayers of the City?

Has the expansion of the current Medina Municipal Court into the now unneeded surface parking lot next door to the Court been studied? Would that cost less than having the Municipal Court relocated to the 1969 Courthouse?

The answers to these questions should be determined and publicly discussed and debated before Council takes any actions.

Respectfully,

Pat Walker
523 East Friendship
Medina OH 44256

Mr. Coyne stated for clarification that when we use the emergency clause it means we forgo the 30 day waiting period after an ordinance is passed to permit the public to bring up objections. If we don't hold the meeting today then we would have to pass this ordinance with an emergency

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clause next month because we have to get it in front of the filing deadline for the Board of Elections by February 3rd, 2021, so this is not being passed with an emergency today.

One of Pat Walker's questions was how much would the renovation of the 1969 courthouse for the use of the Municipal Court facility cost the tax payers of the City. John stated we are getting the information to determine that but our preliminary projections are something like maybe \$200/sq. ft. so somewhere around \$5 million. This is workable for the City compared to the \$8 million previously. Most of Pat Walker's questions have been previously answered.

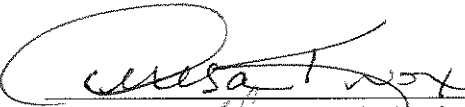
Mr. Rose wanted to make clear that the tax payers will not be paying any of the \$5 million dollars that is estimated now, the majority of the money will be coming out of the Courts' Special Projects Fund.

Mr. Coyne stated we have saved the money up over the years. About \$4.3 million dollars will be spent through the Court Special Projects fund and it can only be spent on court related projects, we can't spend that money on any other city function, and we did reduce budgets by 10% this prior year to anticipate any recessionary impacts that the City may have on income tax collections. We are in a strong financial position. We are very fiscally responsible and watch our money very closely and are one of the few cities in the state that have money.

The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 222-20 passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, and E. Heffinger.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.



Teresa Knox – Acting Clerk of Council



John M. Coyne, President of Council

