

Public Lands & Buildings Committee

The Public Lands & Buildings Committee met on Monday March 7, 2022 at 6:15 pm in the Remote Learning & Training Center to discuss pool and spray park operations.

Committee and Council members present were David Frey, Joe Marko, and Steve Grushetsky. Also present were Council members Joe Gambatese, Lane Schlessel, Jeff Price, Chuck LoPresti, Mayor Patrick Ward, Finance Director Mary Kovalchik, Law Director John Luskin, Assistant Law Director Ray Schmidlin, and Assistant Clerk of Council Kelly Miller.

The meeting was called to order with Chairperson Frey stating his intentions are to return pool operations back to normal, pre-pandemic. He aired that the committee has reviewed draft legislation of Ordinance 2022-19 regarding swimming pool admission fees, and 2022-20 regarding compensation for pool personnel.

Mayor Ward shared most of the feedback received last season from residents was positive. They said the pool was less crowded and appeared to be cleaner overall. While there was a learning curve, residents liked the cashless online registration process.

Mr. Frey said he would like to keep the non-resident pool admission to guest only with each pass holder being able to bring up to four (4) guests. He would also like to see the free pass for seniors over the age of 60 re-instated as well as continue with no reciprocity this season.

Mayor Ward noted the section regarding pool parties was added back to the legislation with the change of "MAY" be approved. He would like to have the option based on staffing.

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Grushetsky, to amend Ordinance No. 2022-19 to include 4 guests rather than 3. The motion passed unanimously.

Assistant Pool Supervisor Nicole Reichard joined the meeting at 6:35pm.

The committee then discussed Ordinance No. 2022-20 regarding pool personnel compensation. Mrs. Kovalchik confirmed the State of Ohio minimum wage has increased to \$9.30 per hour. She shared a comparison of the 2021 personnel wages compared to how 2022 will look with that increase. She reported that \$16,352.45 was spent on payroll in 2021; due to the increase of minimum wage, payroll will be \$19,354.61 which is based on hours from last season.

Ms. Reichard stated there has been a significant shortage in staff due to the pay scale not being competitive. She provided feedback from surrounding communities. As of the date of this meeting, only 11 applications had been received; it takes a minimum of 32 employees to operate the pool safely.

Mayor Ward asked what it would look like if Council increased the pay rate to 10 cents above the competition. Mrs. Kovalchik provided a snapshot of those numbers. After a brief discussion, the committee agreed to recommend an increase to the pool personnel pay scale as presented.

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Grushetsky, to amend Ordinance No. 2022-20 approving the increase of personnel compensation rates. The motion passed unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

David Frey, Chairperson