

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 20, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following Council Members present: Amy Ernst, Chad Cummings, Chris Kielblock and Larry Janssen, and Alaina Kolpin.

Staff members present: Matt Selof, City Planner; Steve Robinson, Pat Shorter, Fire Chief; City Administrator; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Deb Olsen, Finance Director; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others present: Al Ebbers, Chad Nixon, Great Life Worthington; Tom Walsh, Owner Great Life; Nick Ovenden, Great Life; Rick Von Holdt, Honorary Council Member; Ryan McGaughey, Radio Works; Emma McNamee, The Globe.

APPROVED CHANGE ORDER FOR AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT

Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director, said Tri-State General Contracting, has a proposed change order for the aquatic center project. A higher than anticipated ground water table has been discovered as construction has progressed. There is tile around the new pool structure, however, it does not seem to be sufficient for the amount of water that's on site. Mr. Wietzema said the change order would include:

1. Add 6" drain tile, 8' deep, incased in rock, around the perimeter of the new aquatic center
2. Add similar tile to the existing outdoor pool.
3. Add a manhole with casting and two pumps to remove excess groundwater.

The cost of the change order is \$162,674.50

Mr. Wietzema said approving the change order would bring the total contract price to \$6,785,744.01.

Council Member Ernst said it is frustrating that the City would have to pick up the entire amount of the change order as ground water was a concern from the start. Steve Robinson, City Administrator, said tile was installed but enough depth cannot be reached to clear the ground water. Mr. Wietzema said it would have been cheaper if it could have been done before in addition to the tile that is already there but the trench that needs to be dug is very labor intensive and 11,000 tons of rock will need to be brought in. Council Member Kolpin agreed that this should have been anticipated. Council Member Ernst suggested going back to the contractor and engineer and having a conversation with them about the cost and see if there is any way adjustments could be made.

No action was taken and staff will contact the engineer and the contractor and bring back to Council on Monday at the Regular City Council meeting.

EMERGENCY RESPONDERS RESPONSE DISCUSSION

Pat Shorter, Fire Chief, said there has been ongoing discussion regarding responders response to accident scenes. Mr. Shorter explained in the last few months there were multiple calls that the fire department was either not called or received calls late to respond. Mr. Shorter explained that this is happening because of the policy that is currently being used. Unfortunately, these policies are leading to delays which causes problems securing the scene and rescuing people involved in the accident depending on the circumstances. Mr. Shorter said that he has contacted numerous departments about responding to calls and there is not another City that has this type of response.

Mayor Kuhle said this is a concern and big liability issue for the city and wonders if the protocol should be changed by Administration but regardless everyone should be paged to every call right away. Council Member Kolpin agreed that the safety of our community is a top priority.

Mr. Shorter explained all of the members of the Fire Department currently take EMR training which is a large investment by the city as it costs approximately \$2,100.00 per person. Currently there are 30 fire department members which is a total cost of \$63,000.00. Refresher training is offered every other year.

Dr. Alan Ebbers said that he and his wife were involved in an accident in June on Ryan's Road and North Humiston Avenue. His wife had significant leg injuries and he had a concussion and a ruptured ear drum. He could not get out of the vehicle without assistance and feels it's very important that all rescue units are called to the scene of any accident.

Council agreed and directed staff to have fire and rescue dispatched to every call right away.

DISCUSSION HELD ON GREAT LIFE WORTHINGTON

Representatives and owner Tom Walsh, GreatLIFE, LLC were in attendance to discuss the future of the golf course. Low membership numbers and water access along with a facility that needs many upgrades are a large concern. Mr. Walsh noted the offer he submitted to Council back in June that would deed the property over to the City of Worthington and GreatLIFE would continue to operate it. The upgrades needed would cost between \$300,00-\$400,00.00.

Council raised concerns about the potential costs that it could cost the City if they were to get involved. Corporate sponsorships and partnerships were discussed and everyone agreed further meetings and conversations would need to be held to find an appropriate solution. Mr. Walsh said he is committed to Worthington and wants to work towards a solution that will benefit everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Worthington City Council
Special Meeting, July 20, 2022
Page 3

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk