

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COMMUNITY WORKING SESSION**

**APRIL 16, 2019**

Mayor Jeff Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Council members present were Shawn Reinke, Len Gilmore, Neil Herzberg, and Alicia LaBeau. Others present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Chuck DeWolf, City Engineer with Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Paul Wegner, Police Chief; Kristin Leither, Social Media Specialist; Township Representatives - Steve Lehmkuhl, Butch Mueller, and Mark Dingmann; School Representatives - Matt Bullard, Thomas Pierson, Ashlee Anderson, and Ric Koehn.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees introduced themselves.

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**School**

Bullard stated that the school survey is out and results will help the School Board make decisions. The school has a lot of infrastructure needs at both buildings; costs are being finalized and they will be significant. They are focusing on the next 5 years operating referendum.

Career & Technical Education Program (CTE) – It was asked how the City could help market it. Career pathways and apprenticeships are on the docket for next year.

School enrollment will only increase with affordable/workable housing and available day care. There is a need for both. Night entertainment was also mentioned as a possible issue/need. The starting pay is \$37,000.00 for new teachers.

There were 33 applications for the high school principal position which shows a desire and interest to come to Paynesville.

Day Care – The school's 3 year old preschool program will be cut this next year. There are approximately 75 kindergartener's. The school only has 4 sections for preschool and with the number of 4 year olds there is not enough room for the 3 year olds.

Athletic Facilities – These facilities benefit the whole community and brings people to the community. The school is seeking the City and Township's support on the referendum. The City has the smallest of the 3 entities of tax base.

School Merging – The school doesn't see a merger happening in the future. Districts work cooperatively together to offer special programs. New London and BBE joined with the CTE program.

**Township**

The Township and City have a good relationship on many projects.

Hockey – The school doesn't participate, but New London and Richmond help out. The ice

arena needs a new roof and there is a lot of expenses with the facility. There are so many kids wanting to play hockey, that some are being turned away. The Township would like to see the school reciprocate on things.

All entities bring value to the community; it takes a village to raise the kids. All need to realize each entity's limitations and do the best to bring everyone together.

Township road inspections were conducted today. The Township's web page is current and active.

## **City**

The City projects include:

- AMPI expansion – wastewater
- 2019 Street Project
- Downtown rehab meetings are being conducted
- The Teals/Diekmann Drive intersection is being re-configured
- Housing incentives – eight have been given out
- \$100,000.00 has been approved for park improvements
- Needs include
  - Work force
  - Senior housing – transition housing
  - Industrial park expansion
  - Amenities

Four day work/school weeks are not for all communities. Since July, Bullard has had no one bring it up.

There is a need for open communication and possible annexation. Bullard encouraged individuals to complete the surveys on line.

The group consented on meeting again; however, no date was set.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Renee Eckerly, City Administrator