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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**TRANSCRIPT OF
AUGUST 3, 2021, MEETING**

Transcript of Proceedings of the North Canton
City Council, taken by me, the undersigned, Laurie Maryl
Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in
and for the State of Ohio, at the North Canton Civic
Center, 845 West Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio, on
Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 5:02 p.m.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Daniel Jeff Peters, Council President, Ward 2

3 Doug Foltz, Ward 1

4 Stephanie Werren, Ward 3

5 Dominic Fonte, Ward 4

6 Matthew Stroia, At Large

7 Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration

8 Jina Alaback, Director of Finance

9 Robert G. Graham, Engineering Services

10 Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development

11 Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor

12 Benjamin R. Young, Clerk

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1 MR. PETERS: All right. I'd like to call to
2 order the North Canton special council meeting
3 August 3, 2021. The time is 5:02 p.m.

4 Opening prayer. Dominic, would you like to
5 lead us?

6 MR. FONTE: I sure would. Please stand.

7 Lord, thank you for letting us get together
8 on this beautiful Ohio night. Thank you -- thank you
9 for letting us get together on this beautiful Ohio
10 night. Gorgeous weather here in North Canton. Lord,
11 help us to ascertain and guide in the best knowledge
12 that we can provide to the people of the city.

13 In your name we pray. Amen.

14 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

15 MR. PETERS: All right. Ben, would you
16 please call the roll.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte.

18 MR. FONTE: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters.

20 MR. PETERS: Here.

21 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz.

22 MR. FOLTZ: Here.

23 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

24 MRS. WERREN: Here.

25 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

1 MR. STROIA: Here.

2 MR. YOUNG: Members Revoldt and Cerreta are
3 absent.

4 MR. FOLTZ: Motion to excuse Members Cerreta
5 and Revoldt.

6 MRS. WERREN: So moved.

7 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye.

8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. PETERS: Motion carries.

10 All right. Then at this time if you wish to
11 address council, please step forward, state your name
12 and address for the Record.

13 MR. TRIPP: Larry Tripp. 1127 East Maple,
14 North Canton, Ohio.

15 What type of a pattern is North Canton
16 government falling into? Last spring, 2020, our
17 government was gung-ho on the renovating of Bitzer
18 Park. Nothing this year. Absolutely nothing at
19 Bitzer Park.

20 Last year, North Canton government was
21 gung-ho on the purchase of Kmart. What's happened
22 with Kmart? Nothing. Money gone. Money gone.

23 Last year, North Canton government increased
24 salary levels for everybody to raise their salaries
25 this year. With the word going out, We're not giving

1 salary raises. We're raising the levels. Folks,
2 I'll be sending you an e-mail to show you who got
3 raises this year. It starts from DeOrio and it works
4 down to Ben Young. And superintendents, new hires,
5 everything. And now they want \$500,000 to complete a
6 park. That's on top of the \$250,000 from Children's
7 Hospital, which, by the way, is nothing but North
8 Canton money.

9 As you recall, you had an agreement with
10 Children's Hospital that they would pay the city
11 income tax and you would -- the city reimbursed them
12 a certain amount of money back. So much --
13 50 percent the first two years, I believe, X number,
14 I can't remember which. So all we're doing is
15 giving -- we're paying the \$250,000. Not Children's
16 Hospital. So now 500,000, it's costing the city
17 \$750,000. That's on top of grants, that's on top of
18 donations.

19 Where's the money going, folks? What are you
20 paying for? Don't blame it on COVID. Don't blame it
21 on COVID. You can stop that for this year until
22 this -- until the prices go down. Why can't you?
23 Are we trying to make the mayor look good to get
24 something done by October the 15th so he can show his
25 constituents we got a park done this year? Is that

1 the game plan? I don't know. But 500,000, folks, on
2 top of 250, \$750,000.

3 I don't know what happened to Main Street,
4 getting that repaved and everything for a
5 million-one. Is that 500,000 coming from streets and
6 gutters? Drive up and down Maple Street. Look at
7 the gutters. You'll see grass growing out of the
8 streets, as I mentioned to Rob not long ago. It's
9 terrible, folks. And yet, where are the sidewalks?
10 You've got a big, big event coming up. I hope nobody
11 gets hurt on the sidewalks on Main Street.

12 Think of it: 500,000. Thank you.

13 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

14 MR. PETERS: Okay. Is there anyone else
15 wishing to address council? All right. Seeing none,
16 we'll move on.

17 At this point, I'll turn it over to Catherine
18 Farina, who has a PowerPoint for us.

19 MS. FARINA: Thank you, Mr. President.

20 So I'm going to present again tonight -- you
21 know, back in 2017 is when we first started talking
22 about the park program, and I think it was 2020 when
23 I gave another update on Dogwood Park. We're calling
24 this Possibility Playground. We're building a
25 first-class, fully inclusive, accessible destination

1 playground that will bring together families and
2 caregivers of children of all ages and abilities.
3 We're calling it Possibility Playground, a place to
4 dream. Anything is possible in a world where we can
5 see past differences and embrace everyone's
6 individuality. It's going to be a premier park.
7 Parks like this do exist in communities north of us,
8 south of us. It's time that we have something for
9 our residents.

10 So I've given you all a layout. You have a
11 hard copy of the inclusive playground which includes
12 two new picnic pavilions, improved parking, and a
13 brand-new restroom facility. And we'll talk more
14 about that.

15 Briefly, you can see the layout would be to
16 the west side off of Orchard, we have a new parking
17 lot going in there with a picnic pavilion, and
18 there's a pathway up then to the playground area. It
19 also connects to the current existing Dogwood
20 shelter. And then you see the playground with
21 expanded, improved new parking in front of the
22 playground. A new restroom just to the east. The
23 new Seventh Street parking is located as noted on
24 there. And that's also expanded and improved. And
25 I'll continue to break it down a little more.

1 So the playground, what is it going to look
2 like? Well, there it is. It is going to be fully
3 fenced in. It's a steel black fence, nice high
4 quality. It's going to provide safety for the
5 children, especially for children with special needs,
6 and an added level of security for caregivers with
7 children that, you know, may have a tendency to
8 wander. So there will be one main entry. It's an
9 18-foot wide area and there's an opportunity there in
10 the rendition that was drawn if maybe we could maybe
11 later add an archway and pillars for donor
12 recognition.

13 So that is what it will look like. That's
14 actually imposed on our current space. You can kind
15 of see Dogwood Pool over to the left side.

16 MRS. WERREN: So can I ask a question?

17 MS. FARINA: Sure.

18 MRS. WERREN: One entrance, one exit?

19 MS. FARINA: Right. One way in and one way
20 out.

21 MRS. WERREN: And then all of these items
22 that we see are items to go in the park?

23 MS. FARINA: Yes. I'll go into it more.
24 Here we go.

25 So actual square footage of the playground is

1 23,500 square feet. There is some typos. I'm sorry.

2 There's a variety of play equipment. There
3 is 65 pieces of play equipment. There are 10
4 adaptive pieces. And 10 adaptive pieces of equipment
5 is the most in the area. I mean, it's not just one
6 adaptive swing. There are multiple pieces. And
7 they're not pieces just for children with
8 disabilities. There are pieces for all children to
9 play on. But that's the point of an inclusive park
10 is it is mixed in. The adaptive isn't relegating
11 adaptive equipment to one area, it's mixed throughout
12 so that children with special needs can play with
13 their typical peers and interact and socialize. It's
14 what we do today. Schools no longer keep children
15 isolated away in a special education classroom. It's
16 inclusion, which is bringing the children with
17 special needs with their typical peers.

18 MRS. WERREN: Now, when you say we have the
19 most in the area now, are you saying Stark County?
20 Are we, like, Summit? Where are you saying?

21 MS. FARINA: As far as inclusive equipment?
22 Yeah, I'm saying Stark and Summit. I've looked at
23 playgrounds in Jackson and Green and Plain Township.
24 And they all have a bit, but we are really going to
25 have a lot. And we have had calls from parents that

1 have said that. They said, I have a child with
2 special needs. I have a handicap-equipped van. I
3 have a child, and I have my typical children as well.
4 We can't enjoy a park in our own playground. We have
5 to drive to Green or drive to Medina has a nice
6 playground. There's some adaptive equipment, like I
7 said, in Plain and in Jackson, but ours will have
8 quite a bit of really nice, high-quality equipment.

9 Extra-wide ramps with handrails everywhere.
10 That's part of also the adaptability where wheelchair
11 or a child that has mobility issues has the ability.

12 MR. FONTE: The picture I'm looking at, does
13 that represent twenty-three five square feet --
14 23,000 --

15 MS. FARINA: 23,500 square feet.

16 MR. FONTE: It looks small here, I see.
17 Obviously it's huge.

18 MS. FARINA: Yeah, so it's -- and you're
19 looking at -- I also want you to see that square
20 there, that's where the pavilion would be. So this
21 is kind of turned around. The parking lot is in
22 front of the playground there. The playground
23 company provided this rendition. So, you know, the
24 parking is in front of the playground and the mulch
25 area is towards the back of the playground. So

1 that's back by the trees of Dogwood Park.

2 And we separated it into two areas: We have
3 a toddler area. When you come in, the toddler area
4 is to the left and that's for, you know, smaller
5 children, smaller play equipment. That provides
6 additional safety. You don't have the big kids on
7 equipment kicking and knocking over toddlers.

8 We had focus groups. Patrick and I, we went
9 out with Brian Hill, our park superintendent, we
10 visited parks. We pulled parents aside and said,
11 What do you like and what don't you like? That was
12 something that was a concern was that there should be
13 an area for smaller children. So we have that.

14 Then we have in there, we have a music
15 sensory area. That's important to have for the
16 children with special needs. Like I said, the
17 equipment is very high quality. It's from Snider
18 Recreation, and the manufacturer is Burke. The
19 surface that is going down is a ADA rubberized
20 mobility turf surface. That's the green part. So
21 mobility turf surface allows for wheelchairs, for
22 crutches, but, you know, it also allows for a
23 grandparent or a caregiver that may not have a child
24 with special needs, has typical children, but all of
25 our parks currently have wood mulch. That means that

1 grandparent has to watch from a distance. They can
2 pull up and maybe they have to sit in the car in the
3 parking lot, or maybe they're back on a bench. But
4 they can't be engaged with the child at play because
5 they can't get into the turf area. So this will
6 provide what they call multigenerational play
7 experience. And then we do have the turf surface in
8 the back.

9 And the back has the really exciting
10 equipment. We have zip lines. Those are very big.
11 If you speak to the parks director in Green that has
12 zip lines in a few of their parks, they are highly
13 popular. And also rock climbing walls don't exist in
14 any of our parks. We do have a couple of cool, very
15 big rock climbing walls.

16 MR. FONTE: Are those behind the playground
17 equipment?

18 MS. FARINA: You can see them right there.
19 There's one right there with the zip line. The zip
20 line is in the mulch area. And right there this one
21 of the rock walls and there's a smaller one to the
22 left side.

23 MR. FOLTZ: May I make a few comments?

24 MS. FARINA: Sure.

25 MR. FOLTZ: This is a great future facility

1 for so many reasons. One, you use the turf where you
2 need to, you got the sidewalk for handicap
3 accessibility. You're talking about not just
4 disabled kids but you're talking about their
5 siblings, their families, so everybody gets involved
6 with this. This is a great concept. Kids can spend
7 hours out here playing and moving from different
8 feature amenity forward. The zip line, I've
9 experience with that in Springfield Township parks.
10 We wear out that. They wear out the zip lines.

11 MS. FARINA: Yes, I've heard that.

12 MR. FOLTZ: And we have to replace. So be
13 ready for that as far as maintenance. I mean, and
14 that's a good thing. That's a good thing. People
15 use these facilities when you build or the concept is
16 presented and you don't want them not to. So the
17 more people, families, the better for the community.
18 The only thing I see lacking down the road, that's
19 something that will be developed once it's all
20 installed, is some kind of shade structures here.

21 MS. FARINA: Yes.

22 MR. FOLTZ: Because you'll have families here
23 that want the full structure and I'm sure that's a
24 concept that will be developed later.

25 MS. FARINA: Vinyl shade structures will be

1 nice.

2 MR. FOLTZ: And some small trees in that
3 area. But I think that's going to be critical for
4 families to use to just get out of the sun. You
5 know, this is a fantastic, like I said, concept,
6 development. Everyone's worked hard on this. We
7 commented on it in December, so here again, keep
8 going, Cathy. I don't have other comments for you,
9 but it's exciting.

10 MS. FARINA: The one shade area is the
11 pavilion. The brand-new pavilion is going to be in
12 that play area and that will be inside the fenced-in
13 playground. All of it is fenced in, the turf to
14 mulch, everything is fenced in. So if a parent comes
15 in, they brought a picnic lunch and juice boxes and
16 they want a place to just sort of land and sit in the
17 shade, and there will be picnic tables in there.

18 Dominic.

19 MR. FONTE: I think we all can agree this is
20 awesome. But here's the elephant in the room. So
21 the bottom line is, why are we here today?

22 MS. FARINA: Can I finish just going through
23 it and we could probably get into that?

24 MR. FONTE: It's about the money, isn't it.

25 MS. FARINA: Right. I want to show you first

1 what you're buying.

2 So traditionally when we talk about swings on
3 the playground, traditional belt and bucket swings
4 are there. We'll also have the adaptive swings for
5 kids with core muscle strength issues, and a really
6 neat concept called a connection swing for children
7 with autism. Because it's 1 in 50 children today.
8 So it engages eye contact and facial expressions.

9 There's a lot of benefits in therapy for
10 inclusive play. We have a zero-grade inclusive orbit
11 spinner. That's something you can see in the second
12 picture. A wheelchair can roll onto and spin with
13 typical children, have a safe time. And just say
14 that the other items are up there that you can see,
15 if you want me to go through this quickly. You know,
16 more swinging equipment. A lot of these things, the
17 engagements that physical therapists and occupational
18 therapists do work with children with special needs
19 and with the typical kids, too. It's just play on
20 them, and children with special needs get great value
21 from them.

22 So and then if you build it, they will come,
23 I said. And they ask, Where will they all park? So
24 once you build this beautiful structure, now you have
25 to talk about parking. So what else are you paying

1 for? The old parking that we had. Currently we only
2 had two handicap parking spaces over there at the
3 Dogwood. And we have 29 regular spaces. Our Dogwood
4 shelter capacity is 150 plus. If you have a
5 graduation party there, you've seen the cars. So the
6 overflow parking goes into the streets of the
7 residential neighborhood. That equals a lot of
8 complaints. So there's not enough parking, you know,
9 hardly, sometimes for the shelter, let alone when we
10 have community events over there. So and the current
11 parking doesn't really have curb.

12 Our new expanded parking, Seventh Street
13 parking and the playground is going to go from two
14 handicap spaces to nine handicap spaces, and go from
15 29 regular spaces to 51 regular spaces. Then the new
16 Orchard lot is adding an additional 27 regular spaces
17 and 3 handicap spaces over there as well. In
18 addition, you'll have new sidewalks and pathways from
19 the parking lots to the playground, and also to the
20 new restroom facilities. There will also be new
21 curbed parking and also a new, wider entrance into
22 the parking lot. If you ever looked over there on
23 Seventh Street, the entrance to the parking lot is
24 pretty chewed up on both sides. And we're going to
25 repair that, as well as repair the sidewalk in front

1 of the park. Because as we bring many new people
2 there, you know, we want to have a nice sidewalk.

3 The restroom facility. If you've ever been
4 over there, the one that's there has probably been
5 there for 40 years and is nearly falling down, so at
6 this point we're going to have a new precast concrete
7 facility. It will have four individual stalls,
8 unisex individual stalls, that provide safety.

9 Parents today, you don't walk -- you don't send your
10 child in to a restroom. So if you're a dad and came
11 with your little girl and she goes into the restroom,
12 you don't know who's in that restroom because it has
13 four stalls in there. It's one. You can open the
14 door, see no one in, put her in there. It's also
15 unisex or it can be family restrooms. They all four
16 will have changing stations, because this is a
17 playground for children and it's no more just the
18 restrooms for females have changing stations.

19 Sometimes dads have the babies. So the changing
20 stations are all 100 percent ADA compliant, COVID
21 compliant, all electronic flush, faucets and hand
22 dryers. The stalls have anti-graffiti coating on
23 them to keep them nice, and there's a timed
24 electronic lock system so the parks superintendent
25 can set these restrooms to open and close at certain

1 times. So that is the new precast restrooms that's
2 also part of this.

3 MR. PETERS: Catherine, is that going to be
4 the same location that it's at now?

5 MS. FARINA: You can see on the layout I gave
6 you that it's just to the east of the park and
7 there's pathways to all of it. So you can see that's
8 where it is.

9 MR. PETERS: I got you.

10 MS. FARINA: The two new picnic pavilions
11 that are also being purchased are inside the
12 playground. There's a 20 by 20 picnic pavilion and
13 it has a tan roof and black poles. Over on the
14 Orchard lot is a 20 by 34 picnic pavilion. It will
15 have a blue roof and black poles. Those are not the
16 exact. Those are renditions. They have concrete
17 bases; they have low-maintenance metal roofs.
18 They're 100 percent waterproof, they provide shade,
19 and in winter they have a high snow-load capacity.
20 So speaking just shade structures, for example, those
21 have a low snow capacity and sometimes you take them
22 down in the winter and put them back. So these are
23 nice metal roofs, low maintenance.

24 So that's -- I just, you know, wanted to show
25 you briefly what it is and say that's the

1 possibility. Let's make the possibility a reality.
2 And again, you know, these -- I covered this in a
3 previous as far as everything we're improving, the
4 surface, the layout, the parking, making it multiuse,
5 safe.

6 MRS. WERREN: Cathy, can you remind me, what
7 is the state putting in?

8 MS. FARINA: The state. Patrick. The state
9 is putting in --

10 MR. DEORIO: Yes, I wanted to get to all that
11 if you're done with your presentation.

12 MS. FARINA: Just a few other things.

13 New drinking foundations, new benches, and
14 then the timeline. I know people are wanting to
15 know. The Orchard parking lot fencing is up,
16 excavation beginning. End of August we're going to
17 mill the Seventh Street parking lot. Demo the old
18 playground, begin construction of the new playground
19 parking lot. Install the playground turf and mulch,
20 pathways and finishes. Looking at late
21 October/November finish, you know, weather
22 permitting, and the next step will be a
23 ground-breaking ceremony.

24 MR. PETERS: Catherine, on this, can you show
25 me from where the restrooms are, are we going to have

1 a path that goes all the way up?

2 MS. FARINA: We were going to have that path
3 there. Now that path has been cut for now just until
4 we determine what we're doing over on that side. We
5 can add that later.

6 MR. PETERS: Okay. By adding that, you're
7 actually increasing the parking capacity. You would
8 be well over a hundred parking spaces once you finish
9 that path, total park.

10 MS. FARINA: Right. We're not doing anything
11 with the skate park parking lot, basketball and skate
12 park on the east side of that plan.

13 MR. PETERS: As we move forward, you know,
14 that's -- you'll be able to add, because how many
15 parking spots are over there now, 10? 12?

16 MS. FARINA: Oh, yeah. Just a handful over
17 at the skate park.

18 Okay. So Stephanie had a question on the
19 state funding.

20 MRS. WERREN: I don't remember the amount.

21 MR. DEORIO: Yeah, so I would like to just,
22 you know, recap for everybody, and this is for
23 benefit of those members who couldn't be with us
24 tonight that wanted to hear, you know, everything
25 that we were presenting. So I want to, out of

1 respect for them, make sure that we do that. So just
2 give me, you know, ten minutes and I'll be able to
3 answer all your questions too.

4 So I just want to take you back to 2017. Now
5 Playing: We did a presentation to city council.
6 PowerPoint. We put the community boards in the lobby
7 of city hall for months while this was vetted and
8 people could look at this, and we said then, as we
9 submitted this to the state, this booklet that I have
10 here, this is what we submitted, here's what we
11 said -- here's what we said about Dogwood Park.

12 "Dogwood Park is, at its core, a neighborhood
13 park. Although well maintained, there has been
14 minimal infrastructure invested since its creation.
15 There's a very small playground area consisting of
16 four features, an enclosed bifurcated pavilion, and
17 small parking lot." What we had initially proposed
18 to you in 2017 is exactly what we are bringing to you
19 tonight. The Dogwood design creates a dedicated
20 fenced playground that would be, by far, the largest
21 in the city park system encompassing in excess of
22 22,000 square feet.

23 The playground would include standardized and
24 custom play equipment, plus a story walk component,
25 and the library is moving forward with the story walk

1 component. A fence of stone pillar and wrought iron
2 would add a sophisticated decorative appearance while
3 keeping children from wandering too far. There would
4 be a new trail to better tie the park to the Stark
5 Parks system of trails that run nearby.

6 Parking would increase in capacity in a
7 non-methodical manner -- remember that word -- from
8 25 spaces to 87 to support the increased use and is
9 designed with child safety in mind.

10 New outdoor restroom facilities would also be
11 needed near the playground and the trail to support
12 the increased usage.

13 In addition, we would introduce a performing
14 arts facility to support indoor/outdoor childhood
15 productions.

16 That's what we said that we could do. So
17 with what Catherine has proposed, this is, in fact,
18 what we are doing. Now, however, we talked --
19 Stephanie had a question about the state funding. So
20 when we -- when we made our -- we made two requests
21 of three. It was a three-phase ask, according to our
22 representatives in Columbus how they asked us to
23 structure it. The first ask we got 750,000. And
24 that was going to be administered by the Ohio
25 Department of Natural Resources. The Ohio Department

1 of Natural Resources takes a 3 percent administration
2 fee for processing your paperwork. Doug, you know
3 all too well about those things. The second go-round
4 we received 500,000 from the state on the second
5 go-round subject to the same 3 percent administration
6 fee. And then this fall, we've already been in touch
7 with Senator Oelslager and -- I'm sorry,
8 Representative Oelslager and Senator Schuring with
9 the details for our third ask on this phase. We've
10 asked the state for \$2 million on what we believe was
11 a \$6 million project for all three parks. Dogwood
12 was one of them.

13 So we've received 1.25 from the state. This
14 was a public-private partnership, and we have
15 solicited donations from those that were interested
16 in the particular parks. So Dogwood had a lot of
17 interest and we're successful in getting a number of
18 contributions to up our amount. 250,000 from Akron
19 Children's. 250,000 from The Hoover Foundation.
20 Catherine applied for a separate grant on her own to
21 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for
22 playground equipment, received 116,000.

23 We've gone through all these numbers with you
24 all before. This is just to refresh, but there were
25 a lot of smaller, lesser contributions but still

1 important. As you recall, Mayor Wilder led the
2 Community Energy Savings Program and we did a -- he
3 successfully concluded that project, and that
4 resulted in a \$35,000 contribution from American
5 Electric Power towards this park project. So et
6 cetera and so on.

7 Now, back then in 2017 we said hey, this is,
8 you know, obviously going to cost money, and we had
9 put together a projected budget of what we knew at
10 that time. And for Dogwood, what we knew at that
11 time was we could figure out the earthwork, the
12 demolition, engineering, surveying, all the things
13 that would be necessary to do the park, with the
14 exception of the pavilion that Akron Children's was
15 going to do. We didn't have a design on it, we
16 didn't know that number. That number was not
17 included in 2017.

18 The playground. We didn't know then what we
19 know now in the yeoman's job that Catherine has done
20 in researching all of this and working with affected
21 parties, occupational, physical therapists at Akron
22 Children's and other special interests, parents and
23 the like, that were able to give us valuable
24 information. So that playground wasn't configured in
25 this, but back in 2017 with what we did know that we

1 could do, was 1.2 million. So this is not a
2 surprise.

3 MRS. WERREN: Right.

4 MR. DEORIO: This has been out there for, you
5 know, the better part of four years. Now, the parts
6 that we didn't know that's added in now today to
7 compare it to where we are with what we know as far
8 as the project bids.

9 So we know that the playground equipment was
10 something that we were able to acquire through state
11 contract. State pricing. The best pricing
12 available. In fact, we tested that. We got pricing
13 separate from that and compared it to the state
14 pricing to make sure that we were getting the best.
15 We did. So the pricing for the playground and the
16 undergarment that goes with it is 600,000. So you
17 add 600 to the 1.2, you're up to 1.8. The bathrooms.
18 The bathrooms were not configured. We did not know
19 how many stalls we were going to need. We didn't
20 know if we were going to build them, have them made
21 for us, or do a prefab. So we know, based on that,
22 that the restrooms cost us 180?

23 MS. FARINA: 179. That's also through state
24 contract Sourcewell.

25 MR. DEORIO: State contract, the best

1 pricing. You add that in, we're at 2 million.
2 That's right where the bids came in at 1.9 million
3 and change. So that's right where we're at. There's
4 nothing different, unusual, out of the ordinary.

5 Now, in the four years since then, as we've
6 really got into this park and as they have done their
7 field trips around and we've seen, you know, there is
8 a lot of demand for this park. We need additional
9 parking. We're going to need it. And the Dogwood
10 Pavilion, if you remember, four years ago I told you
11 that we did a sample of a 12-month period prior to
12 this presentation then and we had 365 rentals in 365
13 days. That's a lot of people that use this facility.
14 So we certainly don't want to be pushing them out
15 into the neighborhoods to park and walk long
16 distances. So enter an ability that we were to do a
17 ground lease with, fortunately, the Mason's group
18 that stepped forward and leased that spot to us so
19 that we could put in additional parking and an
20 additional pavilion. That's included in that bid
21 number of the 1.9 million and change.

22 As far as the Akron Children's pavilion in
23 what we had designed for them, they felt that they
24 may be able to deliver something more in line with
25 what they were hoping for and also that would meet

1 the community standards, so Akron Children's is
2 running lead on this project now to build the
3 pavilion there. And we said that we would hold space
4 open in between the skateboard park and the
5 playground. That's why that green area is in there.
6 And here's what they said to us: We'll handle this.
7 We design it, we'll engineer it, we'll pay for that,
8 and we'll bring this project in line with what our
9 donation was. And if it isn't, we'll raise the funds
10 necessary to make it happen.

11 MR. FONTE: Sweet.

12 MR. DEORIO: So I think that's a great deal
13 for the city and we'll allow that to proceed. And
14 they have already engaged an engineer-architect to
15 start and they're hoping for construction in the
16 spring.

17 So as far as the funding, the funding comes
18 with deadlines. So the State of Ohio -- this is a
19 good lesson to learn for new members of council that
20 may be coming on -- that you have a certain time
21 frame to use the grant dollars. They are not in the
22 business of giving grant dollars away to see it sit
23 in bank accounts for a decade. There are other
24 communities that can use the projects. So if you
25 don't use the funds, you're going to really hurt

1 yourself. You're going to pay penalties for not
2 using it and you're going to affect your ability to
3 get future grant dollars from them because you'll
4 have that track record. This requires reporting on
5 our end that Catherine handles and provides to the
6 Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

7 So why are we here tonight, Dom? Yeah, that
8 was what you wanted to ask. So it's this: This is
9 our time to put in our portion of this overall park
10 project. So to this date, you know, we didn't ask
11 the city for any funds as it related to Bitzer Park
12 and the engineering, surveying, architects, tree
13 surgeons and tree doctors that we had to bring in to
14 satisfy people that eventually killed the project.
15 So all those funds were expended and they came out of
16 these grant dollars that were there.

17 So what we said back then in our submission
18 in 2017 is that the City of North Canton would put in
19 10 percent of the overall project. The overall
20 project for all these parks is \$6 million, so
21 we're -- we budgeted some money in another line item,
22 as you are aware. Yes, it's in the -- it's in the
23 street department but it was not intended for street
24 paving, it was intended for acquisition of land on a
25 potential eminent domain action. And we've been able

1 to work with the affected property owners and we
2 believe that we're going to reach a solution where we
3 don't need to utilize all of those funds for that
4 purpose. We're going to be able to get, I think,
5 just the portion of ground that we need so that there
6 is available funding that we're not going back and
7 asking for funds that were already allocated for
8 something else.

9 Questions.

10 MR. FONTE: 600K would be 10 percent. How
11 much are we needing?

12 MR. DEORIO: We're asking for 500.

13 MR. FONTE: Okay. So you're a hundred
14 thousand less. That's positive; correct?

15 MR. DEORIO: Well, we do believe the city has
16 contributed in a different way. We started on this
17 project a little bit early when we had some dirt
18 become available so, of course, you know the Dogwood
19 playground is going to be built where the old ice
20 skating rink was. That was very deep. It was 6 feet
21 deep. And then even if you filled that, that is
22 still below grade, so there was a lot of dirt that
23 was required and we were able to do that. And then
24 there were also some trees that were, as a result of
25 the tree surgeon coming in and recommending that we