The Public Hearing for Zoning Case 2020-01MA was called to order at 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Miller presented the case explaining the request is by the Myers Y. Cooper Company for a Major Adjustment to a PUD for the Sycamore Executive Center II. He noted the development contains two buildings each having two entrances. He said each building has a maximum of six tenant spaces with a maximum of three tenants sharing one of the two entrances per building.

Mr. Miller explained the development is permitted a maximum of two building signs per building. He said, due to the configuration of the buildings, the applicant requests to split the permitted square footage of signs per building among six signs per building. He showed examples of the type and style of signs proposed. He pointed out the development is already approved to have a freestanding monument sign with nine tenant panels. Mr. Miller stated a major adjustment is required because the request is in direct conflict with the Zoning Resolution.

Mr. James asked why Zoning Commission member Mr. Swanson voted against the Major Adjustment.

Mr. Miller answered Mr. Swanson was concerned about the possibility of a cluttered aesthetic. He went on to point out the Zoning Commission placed several conditions on their approval recommendation.

Mr. LaBarbara asked the applicant to step forward to address the Board.

Mr. Jeff Baumgarth, the applicant, of Myers Y. Cooper Company, 9301 Montgomery Road, Suite 2B, Cincinnati, OH 45236, addressed the Board. Mr. Baumgarth discussed the need for additional signage to avoid confusion and aid customers and deliveries in finding individual tenants in the buildings.

Mr. Weidman asked how many tenants there will be.

Mr. Baumgarth stated they have two tenants who have signed leases and are negotiating on four more. He noted one tenant is interested in a three-bay space.

Mr. James asked if the font sizes on the signs will vary.

Mr. Baumgarth noted the boxed area of each sign will be the same, the lettering may vary due to the length of the tenant’s name. He pointed out they are not requesting an increase in the overall square footage of signs permitted, only to spread out that area over more signs.

Mr. Miller reported in an effort to streamline the process, staff had multiple versions of a resolution available should the Trustees wish to approve or deny the request tonight.
There was no one present from the public who wished to comment on the case.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara. Mr. Warrick called roll.
Vote: All Aye.

Mr. LaBarbara closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

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Jim LaBarbara, Chairman

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Thomas C. James, Jr., Vice Chairman

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Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee

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Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
03/05/2020
The Public Hearing for the Tax Incentive Review Council was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mr. LaBarbara.

Mr. Greg Jarvis, Chairman, of the Hamilton County Auditor’s Office, introduced Beth Weber, Treasurer of Sycamore School district, and Chris Peter, Treasurer of Princeton City Schools who were also present.

Mr. Warrick said there are three properties that have not paid taxes yet and Hamilton County will pursue getting them paid.

Ms. Weber addressed the Board requesting a copy of the report the Township submits to the State of Ohio for the TIF.

Mr. Warrick said the Township will get them a copy,

Mr. Weidman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James. Mr. Warrick called roll. Vote: All Aye.

The public hearing was closed at 6:47 p.m.
The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The invocation from Brecon United Methodist Church was read by Mr. Weidman.

Pledge to the Flag.

Present for the meeting were Chairman LaBarbara, Vice Chairman James, Trustee Weidman, Fiscal Officer Porter, Law Director Desai, Administrator Warrick, Superintendent / Assistant Administrator Kellums, Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller, Fire Chief Penny, Lt. Smith from the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office and Beth Gunderson.

The receipts, in the amount of $744,823.75, and disbursements, in the amount of $1,020,629.84, for February 18, 2020 were read by the Fiscal Officer and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

I hereby certify that the money for payment of these bills is in the fund provided and duly and properly appropriated.

Signed: ____________________________
Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to accept them. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye.

Mr. Warrick reported the checks are now being electronically signed noting Mr. Porter will sign the check register. He said there are some manual checks for the CIC grants that must be signed.

Mr. Miller reported he had resolutions available should the Board decide to make a motion regarding Zoning Case 2020-01MA whose case was heard at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Weidman made a motion to approve Case 2020-01MA with the following conditions:

1. New wall signs shall comply with Chapter 13 of the Sycamore Township Zoning Resolution, unless superseded by the following conditions.
2. Maximum total signage area of 92 square feet will be utilized, per building.
3. A maximum of six (6) signs shall be permitted per building.
4. Each sign shall have maximum dimensions of 15” tall by 12’ long.
5. Sign designs shall be limited to non-illuminated white stud mounted letters and must be consistent font and style.
6. Signage shall be placed on building façade facing Kenwood Road only.
7. No more than one wall sign per tenant.
Mr. LaBarbara seconded the motion.

Mr. James commented the property in question is not part of a JEDZ district as it was zoned residential when the JEDZ districts were formed. He noted it is unfortunate the Township did not create a JEDD for this property when the development was approved. He said the Board could make that a condition of the approval but said he is not inclined to do that now. He said the Board should think of that in the future when approving zoning cases.

Mr. Weidman stated the JEDZ districts that are in place were approved by 82% of residents and no longer exist except those that are grandfathered. He said the Township spoke to the property owner about a JEDD and the owner was not inclined to do it. He agreed it is too late to go down that path.

Mr. LaBarbara asked if Sycamore Executive Center I is in a JEDZ.

Mr. Miller pointed that property out on the JEDZ map.

Mr. James said the CIG development will be part of a JEDD and noted the Board has the authority to make the owner’s consent to be a part of a JEDD a condition of a zoning approval.

Mr. Desai stated he had a resolution prepared which mirrors Mr. Weidman’s approval motion.

Mr. Weidman withdrew his motion.

“A Resolution Approving a Major Adjustment to a Planned Unit Development for the Myers Y. Cooper Company Real Estate Development, Located at 8250-8300 Kenwood Road, and Dispensing with the Second Reading” was presented by Mr. Desai. A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to adopt the resolution and dispense with the second reading. Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye

Ms. Becky Ganis, of 4687 Largo Drive, addressed the Board about making the exit from the CIG development to Happiness Way right turn only if Happiness Way is reopened. She also requested a meeting with someone on Township staff about an idea from the Netherlands to help reduce speeding and cut through traffic in neighborhoods. Ms. Ganis submitted a petition from neighbors in support of re-opening Happiness Way.

There was discussion about re-opening Happiness Way.

Mr. Weidman suggested holding a public hearing on that subject.

Mr. J. Janus, Jr., of 4462 Daffodil Avenue, addressed the Board saying March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month and requesting those in attendance reflect on that issue. He also informed those present of Sunshine Law Training taking place March 19th in Springdale, Ohio from 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. noting anyone may attend and the program is free of charge. Mr. Janus stated the minutes and resolutions posted online should include attachments. He then thanked Mr. James, Mr. LaBarbara, Mr. Warrick and Mr. Miller for their transparency efforts.
Mr. Chris Monzel, of 840 Van Net Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45246, addressed the Board saying he is running for State Representative District 28. Mr. Monzel noted some of the top issues for that district such as public education, job creation and public safety. He encouraged people to reach out to him about any other issues in the community. He stated he would like to bring common sense solutions to Columbus.

Ms. Paula Brehm Heger, of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, addressed the Board in regard to the Library’s Facilities Master Plan. She brought copies of the portion of that plan having to do with the Deer Park Branch Library in the Dillonvale Shopping Center and spoke of plans to move that branch to a larger tenant space within that shopping center. She noted expanded services may be available in the future in a larger space which she hopes will open by the end of this year or beginning of next year.

Lt. Smith reported he was asked by a couple of residents to speak about the Sheriff’s Office domestic violence protocol. He said, unfortunately, he did not see those residents in attendance at the meeting. Lt. Smith said the request stems from the murder/suicide which took place on Kemper Road in Sycamore Township. He reported the Sheriff’s Office had not had frequent contact with the people at that address and it was not on their radar.

Lt. Smith went on to explain that domestic violence calls are priority runs noting there will always be two officers responding and they will break from lower priority calls to address them. He stated their number one priority is to establish the primary physical aggressor and the course of action is a physical arrest of that subject. He went on to read some crime statistics for the Township and noted what differs in domestic violence calls, is that most of them end in an arrest. He said he is happy to answer any questions and residents may call or email him.

Chief Penny reported the monthly report had been sent to the Trustees and is posted on the Fire Department website.

Chief Penny distributed a handout about the Coronavirus and reported on the background of the virus, its symptoms, recommended preventative actions and what people should do if they feel sick. Chief Penny went on to report that the Fire Department and EMS have a good stock of the supplies needed to deal with Coronavirus patients. He pointed out the Hamilton County Communications Center has questions to ask to screen 911 callers who may possibly be exhibiting symptoms of the virus.

Mr. Kellums reported the first of two legal ads soliciting bids for the 2020 Curb Replacement Program would be in the newspaper on Friday, March 6th.

Mr. James asked Mr. Kellums if he had spoken with Jewish Hospital about the Happiness Way closure.

Mr. Kellums answered he had a meeting with CIG and Jewish Hospital, and they have decided to move the fence past the first driveway to allow access there for the hospital.

Mr. James asked Chief Penny about the Fire Department’s access to fire hydrants behind the fence.
Chief Penny answered there is a knox box on the gate to allow the Fire Department to gain access.

Mr. Warrick presented a conflict waiver from Dinsmore & Shohl Law Firm that they have requested the Trustees sign. The waiver discloses that the law firm represents Fifth Third Bank and the Township in unrelated matters.

Mr. Weidman made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaBarbara, to give Mr. Warrick permission to sign the conflict waiver.

Mr. James asked Mr. Desai if he had any concerns about it.

Mr. Desai answered he did not.

Mr. Porter called roll. Vote: All Aye

Mr. James reported the Indian Hill Historical Society would be holding a presentation for the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage on March 18th.

Mr. LaBarbara read the event changes from the calendar.

A motion was made by Mr. Weidman, seconded by Mr. James, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: All Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Jim LaBarbara, Chairman

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Thomas C. James, Jr., Vice Chairman

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Thomas J. Weidman, Trustee

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Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer
03/05/2020