

Paul Dorothy

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Below, please find my responses to the questions submitted by CHAT to the candidates. If anyone would like to discuss them in more detail, please feel free to contact me and we can set a time to meet.



1. Yes or no, do you agree that there should be no significant new traffic introduced into the Colonial Hills neighborhood? How will you ensure this in the future?

I do not support the introduction of significant new traffic into the CH neighborhood. This subject comes up every few years regarding the future of the Harding Campus and the future potential for cut-through Indianola traffic. CH residents have been very consistent in sending the message that such a cut-through movement would be unacceptable. Further, cut-through traffic would not support the current mission of Boundless, the property owner, which provides care and services to individuals with IDD. To date, Boundless has been a good neighbor.

In my view, this provides CH with a fabulous opportunity to work with Boundless to craft a development strategy that benefits the future of all. Perhaps the best suggested outcome would be for the northeast portion of the property to be developed as the new CHES with commercial/medical development fronting SR-161, buffered from Boundless/CHES by an environmental preservation area. As your City Councilmember, I would aggressively pursue making this a reality.

2. What improvements to Colonial Hills do you propose?

There are several specific things that I would support which would impact quality of life in CH:

- Replace existing CH water lines -- we must not forget that our municipal infrastructure and services underpin the health, safety and security of our community. See question 3 for more detailed information.
- Upgrade Selby Park Shelterhouse – the Shelterhouse is one of CH’s best know and used public amenities, but it still remains non-ADA compliant (in direct violation of federal law requiring “readably achievable” barrier removal). This facility sees consistent use throughout the year yet has not been updated in a very long time. I would fight for these funds to be made available and help craft a plan to upgrade the facility intelligently over time.

- Protect our Existing Park Amenities – the Worthington Park Master Plan (2107) identified that a whopping 90% of Worthington residents utilized our parks either daily or weekly, with the Selby playground being the top utilized playground in the city. The Plan identifies that parks only gets about \$90k a year for improvements in the budget. It would cost approximately \$75k a year just to keep our current playgrounds serviceable, leaving a paltry \$15k for other improvements. If this does not change, some playgrounds will have to be reduced or eliminated. This is unacceptable and must be corrected.
- Bike/Pedestrian Connection through Harding Campus – as part of any redevelopment of the Harding Campus a bike/ped connection (not cars) between CH and SR-161 must be included. Without this connection, bikers and pedestrians must detour a full mile to reach the same location. This connection is a key missing component of improving Worthington’s bike/ped infrastructure.

3. How do you propose to upgrade the water system in Worthington?

CH’s existing water mains are in desperate need of renewal. Water lines of the type in service in CH have an expected service life of 50-60 years. That puts us about 20 years overdue for replacement and it shows—180 water line breaks in CH since 2001 is unacceptable.

The City is in the process of hiring an engineering consultant to help evaluate the problems with the current water infrastructure. The consultant would be tasked with prioritizing the replacement locations (~6 month process). Once a location would be selected for replacement it would be programed as part of the capital improvement program (CIP), an engineering design would be undertaken (~6-8 months), contractor bid and selection (~3-4 months) and then construction. Currently, approximately \$500k a year is proposed for dealing with this issue, but depending on the scale of the issue identified in the study, it may be necessary to look into municipal bonding to cover the cost of accelerating the replacement.

As a civil engineer and registered Professional Engineer in Ohio, I have a deep understanding of the needs and challenges of managing, maintaining and renewing municipal infrastructure and service programs. My proven background in planning, engineering and management of municipal infrastructure projects gives me the skill set necessary to directly address this community need and ensure that sensible treatment of this problem does not continue to be deferred. Safe and reliable drinking water is not negotiable.

4. How would you diversify and stabilize the revenue stream in the City of Worthington?

Income tax represents the largest source (73%) of general fund revenue, with property tax (the next biggest contributor) at only 9%. When looking specifically at income tax, 79 percent of this revenue was taxes withheld from employees working in Worthington, 11 percent from individual residents and 10 percent from taxes on the net-profits of Worthington businesses.

We must attract quality employers to Worthington and keep our existing employers to ensure financial stability. Only with a clearly articulated and consistently applied policy toward development can Worthington position itself within the region to attract the best employers to choose Worthington as home. We must better understand what makes up the economic engine of our city and align our approach to growing and stabilizing our economic base to ensure that natural synergies between existing businesses and services are maximized.

The overreliance on income tax to support the City's operating expenses means that the financial stability of Worthington is vulnerable during hard economic times. The last time Worthington faced an economic downturn we were unprepared and, as a result, had to raise taxes to account for the financial shortfalls, something we cannot do again. Since then, the City has built up a rainy day fund. I would jealously guard this fund to ensure that when the next economic downturn comes, Worthington is financially ready to meet the challenge and to ensure that financial shortfalls would not be made up on the backs of residents and businesses through service fees (e.g. the need to purchase stickers to put out a bag of trash) which make up over a third of the operating budgets in many other cities across our country. I believe that ensuring a stable financial future for Worthington is critical to the future success of not only our community as a whole, but the individual residents and businesses who call it home.