City of Montgomery City Council Public Hearing Minutes June 19, 2019

<u>Present</u>
Brian Riblet, City Manager

<u>City Council Members Present</u>
Chris Dobrozsi, Mayor

Terry Donnellon, Law Director

Lynda Roesch, Vice Mayor

John Crowell, Police Chief

Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director

Lee Ann Bissmeyer

Mike Cappel

Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director

Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/ Acting Community Dev. Dir.

Katie Smiddy, Finance Director

Mike Cappel
Gerri Harbison
Craig Margolis

Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director Ken Suer

13 Paul Wright, Fire Chief

4 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council convened in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding, to consider a request from Champlin Architecture, on behalf of Tree of Life Church, at 6477 Cooper Road for an expansion of their conditional use permit.

Mr. Cappel stated that since his property abuts the Tree of Life Church property, he would recuse himself from the discussion and consideration of the request. Mr. Cappel exited the dais.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked all who attended the Public Hearing for coming. He also thanked those individuals who have worked to bring the project to the point of the Public Hearing and for having the best interest of the community in mind.

Mayor Dobrozsi explained the purpose of the meeting was to hear the recommendation from the Planning Commission and to hear final comments from the applicant as well as the audience. He explained that there could be no new evidence discussed that the consideration was only for the evidence already reviewed by the Planning Commission and incorporated in their minutes which have been submitted for City Council review. He stated that after staff made their comments, the applicant and audience would be given time to present their final thoughts.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked Mr. Donnellon to give a brief explanation of the options City Council can exercise at the conclusion of the discussion.

Mr. Donnellon stated that City Council's role is not to rehear the case, but to review the recommendation of the Planning Commission. He stated that after all comments have been heard, Council could approve the recommendation, modify conditions, remand the matter back to the Planning Commission or deny the recommendation. He stated that since Mr. Cappel has recused himself, there would need to be approval by 4 members for the recommendation to pass.

Recommendation by the Planning Commission for the Expansion of the Conditional Use Permit of the Tree of Life Church at 6477 Cooper Road

Ms. Roblero explained the request by giving the following background. The Tree of Life Church is located on a panhandle lot off of Cooper Road. The Church owns five parcels of land for a total of approximately 10.7 acres. Three of the parcels (approximately 9.8 acres) are located within the City of Montgomery and two parcels (approximately 0.97 acres) are located in Sycamore Township. The property is bordered by Interstate I-71 along the west property line and Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway along the south property line. Sycamore Junior High School is located across I-71 to the west. The property to the east of the subject property is used for the Village Green Subdivision and there are single family homes adjacent to the property along Cooper Road. The Tree of Life Church owns the two church buildings at 6477 and 6555 Cooper Road and both properties have been used for religious institutions for many years. The applicant is proposing to construct an addition of approximately 20,856 square feet to the existing church.

Ms. Roblero explained that the applicant informally came before the Planning Commission on September 17,

2018 to discuss the proposed addition in concept and to get feedback on a potential equivalency in regard to allowing property owned by the Church in Sycamore Township to be utilized in the calculation for impervious surface coverage. At that time, the addition was proposed to be 30,000 square feet in size.

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Ms. Roblero stated that the applicant came before the Planning Commission on November 19, 2018 requesting formal approval of an expansion of a conditional use permit and General Development Site Plan approval for a 24,000 square foot addition. After hearing testimony from adjacent property owners with concerns regarding lighting, landscaping, loss of privacy, traffic and noise, the Planning Commission voted to table the application to give the applicant an opportunity to address those concerns.

Ms. Roblero stated that the applicant returned to the Planning Commission on January 7, 2019 with revised plans. At that time, the proposed addition had been reduced in size from 24,000 square feet to 23,443 square feet. After discussing the revised plans and hearing testimony, the Planning Commission voted to table the application in order to allow the applicant time to provide additional information in regards to the impacts of traffic on Cooper Road and requested that the traffic engineers be present at the next meeting to address questions from the Commission.

Ms. Roblero added that the applicant came before the Planning Commission on April 22, 2019 with revised plans showing the addition being reduced in size to 20,856 square feet addition. The applicant asked for the application to be heard; however, the Planning Commission kept the application on the table as recommended by Staff in order to give the Planning Commission members and residents in the vicinity of the project additional time to review the revised plans. This also allowed time for questions to be submitted to the applicant regarding the traffic study to aid in the discussion at the next meeting.

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The Planning Commission heard the case on May 6, 2019 for an expansion of the conditional use permit and the General Development Site Plan Approval for a proposed 20,856 square foot addition. The meeting was held at Sycamore High School to accommodate the crowd. After a formal presentation from the applicant, concerned residents and comments from persons in attendance, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the expansion of the conditional use permit and approve the General Development Plan with conditions in a 5-1 vote. The conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission are shown below:

1. The properties owned by the Church, which are located in Sycamore Township, be placed in a conservation easement or a deed restriction be placed on the property so that the properties in the Township cannot be developed in the future;

The Church shall provide officer-based traffic control by an agency with enforcement jurisdiction within
the City during regularly scheduled service times and special events as listed in the application dated
December 31, 2018, as well as any event that is unscheduled and anticipated to draw more than 400
attendees;

3. The Church shall give the City seven days advance notice of an event not regularly scheduled on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings to avoid conflicts with events at the Sycamore stadium;

4. The Annex building shall not be utilized for worship during worship time at the main church;

5. The proposed landscape berm, including the landscaping on top of the berm, and evergreen screening along the east property line be installed and maintained with an annual review by the City;

6. The existing fence and landscaping between the existing parking lot and the east property line be maintained and new evergreen landscaping be added, if the existing vegetation is removed; and,

7. The site shall meet Hamilton County Stormwater Regulations and stormwater best management practices

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..0 shall be utilized, as approved by the City Engineer.

Ms. Roblero closed by stating that staff understands the concerns of the surrounding residents; however, Staff believes that with the changes in the proposed addition and site layout as well as the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission significantly mitigate any negative impact of the proposed project. Therefore, Staff is in support of the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Ms. Roblero for her report and asked City Council for questions at this time.

Mr. Margolis asked about the size and placement of the parking lot. He asked if it is changing by moving west or further east.

Ms. Roblero replied that the parking lot right behind where the Annex building is existing and the area that has the green buffer shown is new parking. She stated that the area where the current soccer field is has some new parking spaces as well. She stated there's approximately 131 new parking spaces being proposed as part of the project.

Mr. Margolis stated that his next question would be on the traffic. He stated that the traffic study showed that the Level of Service for Cooper Road does not change after the construction of the building.

Ms. Roblero replied that is correct. She explained that the traffic study studied both the Level of Service on Cooper Road as well as the Level of Service for the entrance and exit to the church. The traffic study indicated that the Level of Service for Cooper Road is currently in "A" and with the building additions would remain an "A".

Mr. Margolis stated that can only be based on today's conditions and that they can't speculate on future traffic conditions.

Ms. Roblero stated that traffic engineers typically will sometimes put in a slight growth factor, but that is based on typical numbers generated by Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments. They do not consider future projects or things that have not actually been approved or under construction at this time.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked Mr. Roblero about the seven conditions. He stated that condition number five talked about a landscaping garden and number six talked about an existing fence and landscaping that may be replaced. He stated that he assumed any landscaping work that is changed as part of this would all be under the annual review that the City will do.

Ms. Roblero replied that is correct. She stated that at this point the landscaping plan you're seeing in front of you is conceptual with the exception of the buffer and the mounting along the East property line. She stated that Planning Commission hasn't confirmed that at this point. The final landscape plan will include selection of materials, what types of trees and bushes, and things will come during the final development plan should the project move forward.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if that would be under the annual review.

154 Ms. Roblero replied that it would.

Mayor Dobrozsi clarified if the review would be done in-house or would that be done by an external party.

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- Ms. Roblero stated that it would be done in-house. She explained that we do that with almost all of our commercial projects within the city annually anyway. She explained that staff also responds to property
- maintenance issues. If something were to happen in between that time, when we have not done the annual review,
- and a resident or someone within the city calls us with a concern, we would respond and issue violations if

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Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that in follow up of Mr. Margolis's concern about the traffic study. She knows that ODOT protocol says that if there are 260 trips there should be a review of intersections within 1,000 feet of the proposed intersection. She stated that would take it all the way from Kenwood Road to Cooper, and then to Montgomery. She stated it wasn't extended that far and has a concern about the lack of study done.

Ms. Roblero explained that the City is not bound to do the traffic study per the ODOT regulations. She stated our traffic engineer did not feel that it was necessary when he originally scoped the project. She stated there was a lot of testimony from traffic engineers, our own as well as the applicants and the residents traffic engineer, and much discussion that you saw in the record regarding that. After hearing all that testimony, Planning Commission felt comfortable that the existing traffic study that was done was sufficient due to the fact that the service times are off peak hours and that that the amount of traffic during the off peak hours was approximately 56 percent less than during the peak hours. She stated that Planning Commission felt comfortable with that and therefore made the recommendation.

Mr. Donnellon stated that as a follow up, he felt there was a lot of discussion about the expanded ODOT study. The ODOT manual says 1,000 feet from the interchange which would be the driveway. He recalled from the minutes included in the packet that Ms. Reed, the Traffic Engineer for the concerned residents, said 1,000 feet would not extend the study to Zig Zag Road.

Ms. Roblero replied that he is correct, it falls just short of the Zig Zag intersection, but it does go to Delray. She explained the other way is just short of the Zig Zag intersection, so it doesn't take you all the way to Kenwood or all the way to Montgomery, but it would encompass the Delray intersection.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for any additional City Council questions to Ms. Roblero. There being none he invited the applicant to the podium, stating that they had 15 minutes to speak.

Pastor Joel Urshan thanked the Mayor and City Council for hearing their application and for all they do in service to the City of Montgomery. He stated that their application has been under review for several months now and has been the topic of spirited debate. He stated that it is important to note that the opposition to the application was generated by a false notion that Tree of Life Church is a megachurch. He stated they are not a mega church; they are quite simply a church. He stated the opposition to the application, likened them to Crossroads Community Church, a great church in our city, a household name, but this is a mischaracterization as it applies to us. Crossroads Community Church is the 13th largest church in the nation. If you approve this application, Tree of Life Church, following this expansion and maximum occupancy, would be the fifth largest church in Montgomery. This notion is the root of the opposition and he feels puts the opposition in perspective. He added that not only have they received opposition, but they have received a lot of positive feedback from neighbors who support the project and did not want to participate in opposing it.

 Pastor Urshan continued by stating that the Church has listened intently to concerns of the opposition and have worked vigorously to narrow the scope of this project so that it is both compliant with code and considerate of those neighbors who are concerned. He stated that they have narrowed the driveways to reduce the impervious surface ratio; reduced the square footage of the proposed facility by 19,000 square feet; dramatically lowered the ceiling height so that the building height is more similar to that of the two story house as opposed to a large sanctuary; and reduced the number of parking spots. He stated that they heard the concerns of those opposed and went back to the drawing board and examined themselves and the project more carefully. He stated that the application was approved by the Planning Commission by 5 to 1 vote and reflects their due diligence in both continuing their mission as a church, while accommodating the concerns of those who have expressed reservations about the project. He thanked City Council for their time and asked to relinquish the remainder of his time to Kyle Campbell of Champlin Architecture.

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<u>Kyle Campbell, Champlin Architecture</u>- Mr. Campbell thanked City Council and the community for their participation in hearing the recommendation of their client's request for the expansion of the conditional use for the Tree of Life Church addition. He stated that he wanted to speak about three main drivers causing confusion.

Mr. Campbell explained that stormwater management continues to be an ongoing concern of the residents. He stated that they had a civil engineer go out to the site and examine existing conditions. He stated that the civil engineer has designed a grading and stormwater management system that will handle stormwater runoff more effectively than an undeveloped greenfield site.

Mr. Campbell said the next concern has to do with the size of the church. He stated that as Pastor Joel alluded to, the reality is that the impervious surface limitations and the parking regulations limit how much can be developed on this site and limits it to about 900 or 950 people if they were to maximize everything completely. He stated the reality is as we have designed a church for about 880 people. And furthermore, the fact is there are two existing church buildings on this site both of which supported 400 attendees about five years ago. Both of those churches were in operation at the same time, so five years ago this site was already operating at capacity for 800 people to worship. He stated they are simply restoring it back to essentially what the site capacity has been used to handling.

Mr. Campbell stated that lastly, is the issue of the traffic impact. He stated that 131 is the number of parking spaces being added to the site, which is the maximum number of cars that can drive onto the site once this project is complete. He explained that under the direction of the City's traffic engineering consultant, a traffic impact study was conducted to determine the effects of this development on nearby traffic. The study determined the size of the project would generate 260 new trips, which is 130 cars coming to and from the church during their worship service hours. The traffic study determined that at the Church's peak time, assuming it is operating at full capacity with every seat filled, the impact on Cooper Road will be 56 percent of what Cooper Road experiences in daily traffic volumes during its rush hour times in the morning and in the evening. He stated that the level of service on Cooper road is currently graded at A and it will remain an "A" after this proposed design.

Kyle Campbell summarized by stating that when looking at the facts and the design of the addition, this is a community church that's expanding its facility to serve 880 people under one roof. At capacity the site has already accommodated that in the recent past when two different churches operated onsite and there cannot be thousands of cars, there cannot even be hundreds of cars, there can be 131 additional cars. No matter how many people are wanting to come, no matter how many things want to be believed can happen, only 131 additional cars can park on the site and that's the limiting factor of what can happen here. He stated he is in attendance tonight in support of the Planning Commission's recommendation of approval for the extension of the Church's conditional use. He stated that recommendation came after an eight-month process involving five Planning Commission hearings and countless meetings with traffic engineers and City officials. He stated that within the conditional use context the Planning Commission is tasked with evaluating the merits of the development against the general and specific to our supplemental criteria as stated in Chapter 151 of the Montgomery Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Campbell stated that no doubt the people of Montgomery are very proud of their built environment, yet that code exists not to prevent development but rather as a standard to ensure development happens in accordance with the character of the place. He explained that on behalf of his client, he first approached the Commission with a concept discussion in September of 2018, at which time they had a code of compliant design with a request for an equivalency for impervious surface coverage ratios. By the May 6, 2019 hearing, they had a code crushing design that no longer sought to seek a variance or an equivalency. The proposed project not only meets every stipulation of the general and supplemental criteria for conditional uses, but it significantly exceeds the majority of those requirements as is demonstrated in the meeting minutes from the May 6 Planning Commission hearing.

Kyle Campbell asked for clarification on the condition that the church have officer-based traffic control for all of their regular services in addition to events that have more than 400 people. At the Planning meeting, 400 became a threshold for when officer-based control became necessary because that was the baseline of determining the need to have officer control versus a dedicated left turn lane. He explained that the Church is seeking clarification if it

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means that at each service. He asked as an example on a Wednesday night service when it's anticipated that 150 people attend, is it in the best interest of the community to bring a police officer out and direct traffic or is that 400 number really the threshold at which officer-based traffic control happens. He asked that City Council consider amending the condition to establishing 400 as the baseline because currently the church operates in a capacity of 400 and they do not have officer control at this time.

Mr. Donnellon explained that he remembers back in the multiple meetings minutes, the proposal was that the Church would have officer-based control for regularly scheduled services, which were Sundays and Wednesdays in the schedule provided by the Church. He stated that Planning Commission added another condition that if the Church does have a service that's not on the regular schedule (such as a wedding, a funeral, or a special event) and if it's anticipated to be more than 400 attendees, the City wants to have officer control in place. He explained it's difficult to plan in advance when it's a Wednesday night meeting and only 150 people show up, so officers can go home. He explained they might have another 150 people who were delayed in traffic on Cross County and are coming later. He stated that we need to stick with that regularly scheduled service as the standard for officer controls, plus when you anticipate 400 or more on the non-standard events, officers are required. If you find out over time, and consistently they are not having that kind of attendance on Wednesday the Church can ask for a modification of the conditional permit use in the future.

Mr. Campbell clarified that is not a conditional use restriction in perpetuity, but it could be reviewed at a certain point in time based on parameters.

Mr. Donnellon stated that they could request and go back through the process and get the condition modified but the officer-based controls must be in place as an alternative to a dedicated turn lane.

Mr. Donnellon stated that discussion was made about there being five lots, three of which are in the city, and two which are in Sycamore. He stated that to his knowledge the plan is to consolidate those three lots that are in Montgomery so this will be one large lot. He asked Mr. Campbell if that was correct.

Mr. Campbell replied that yes, it was. He stated that otherwise his client would have to have setbacks in all of those little nooks and crannies.

Mr. Donnellon stated to Mr. Campbell that he knew the two driving forces are traffic and safety. He explained that it's a primary responsibility of the City to make sure that we have safe streets and control traffic. He stated that in fact the City is required by statute to do that. He further explained that the traffic study that they conducted was based upon the Church's peak hours which were not non-peak hours for the operation of Cooper Road. He asked Mr. Campbell if that was correct.

Mr. Campbell replied that it was.

Mr. Donnellon asked Mr. Campbell that if that were to change in any way, in other words you decide to have a Tuesday night service on a regular basis, that it would warrant additional study because of what impact it may have depending on the time of that service and anticipated attendance of that service. Mr. Donnellon stated that he wanted people to understand that if additional services were to be added, that there is another opportunity to look at traffic and how it would be impacted along Cooper Road.

Mr. Donnellon stated that the analysis was based on, and he thought S.H.A., Ms. Reed and Mr. Korros indicated that the standard for reviewing an expansion of a use like a church is square footage. He asked if he was correct in understanding that the square footage analysis used was the entire additional square footage for the expanded building not just the expansion of sanctuary, but that the welcome center is included in that square footage.

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Mr. Campbell replied that is correct.

- Mr. Donnellon clarified that when the traffic analysis was made the projections were based upon both the square footage of the sanctuary and of the welcome center.

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- 321 Mr. Campbell replied that yes, it included the entire square footage. 322
- Mr. Donnellon stated that as we went through the process, he wanted folks to understand the Church did not calculate the square footage of the separate annex building which is the other church building on the site. He confirmed that it was not included in their analysis.
- 327 Mr. Campbell replied that is correct.328

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- Mr. Donnellon stated that's one of the conditions, that the Annex building cannot be used during your worship services.
- 332 Mr. Campbell replied that it cannot be used for worship, during a worship service.
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- 334 Mr. Donnellon replied that starts to beg the question that if the Church plans to start using it should we start 335 calculating that additional square footage of that building as well in the determination of traffic impact during those regular service hours.

 336 the control of the control of traffic impact during the control of traffic
- 338 Mr. Campbell replied that the traffic study was never updated when the square footage was reduced to 20,000 square feet. He stated that overall square footage of the site development would include the square footage of the annex building under the original traffic study square footage analysis.
- Mr. Donnellon explained that's not the square footage that was used to analyze. He stated that we were asked to analyze the addition to the church including your sanctuary and your welcome center. He stated that right now, there is no plan to use the annex building and if they start to use it for additional services during these times it would warrant additional traffic impact study.
 - Mr. Campbell stated that he did not agree with that statement. He stated that the traffic impact study studies square footage it doesn't matter what building or what part of the site the square footage is. He stated that if you take 8,000 from the blue part and move it down to the orange part, that was already subsumed under the original purview of the traffic study, it doesn't matter where on the site that 8,000 square feet is located.
 - Kyle Campbell stated that the traffic study conducted for this building was based on a larger footprint and has since been reduced. He stated that they didn't think it was necessary to have a change in a traffic study for a smaller footprint building because it would show that there is even less of an impact. The annex building is 8,400 square feet.
 - Mr. Donnellon stated that the revised traffic study from January 2019 was based on a 24,000 square foot expansion. He explained that if the 8,000 feet from the Annex is added to the 20,000 feet requested expansion, that we no longer have a valid traffic impact study if the Church elects to start using the Annex building as part of their services. He reiterated so that everyone understood.
 - Mr. Campbell stated that he would agree that if the scope changes beyond the 30,000 square feet.
 - Mr. Donnellon asked where the reference to 30,000 feet came from.
- Mr. Campbell stated that it was the initial traffic study.
- Mr. Donnellon stated that in this case we are relying upon a January traffic study which is 20,000 square feet.

ر Mr. Campbell replied that he was correct, which is less of an impact.

Mr. Donnellon stated he would agree it's less than 30 and gets down to 20 but this is one of the questions that's been lingering out there for months, is whether or not a broader traffic impact study is appropriate. He stated to Mr. Campbell that if he wants to consider using the initial traffic study, then it is appropriate at this time, or based upon the conditions that we have they will not be using that annex building for services at this time.

Mr. Campbell stated that the Church is not planning to use the Annex building for worship, during a worship service.

Mr. Donnellon confirmed that it's not whether the church is *planning* on using the building, it's that they will not use it at this time. He explained that if they come back to say they want to use it they are likely going to require new traffic impact study depending upon the square footage of use. Mr. Donnellon restated to the audience that the church would not start using the building on Sundays on Wednesday nights without coming back to the City for approval.

Mr. Campbell stated that one of the stipulations of the conditional use is that the church is not allowed to use that building for worship services. He stated he felt the conversation was irrelevant because that's already been dictated that they cannot use that building for worship. So, to use that building of worship would be violating the conditional use at that point it's beyond getting an additional traffic study they would be in direct violation of the conditional use.

Mr. Donnellon stated that if the Church violates the conditionally permitted use the City would fine the Church a sum of money each day and they may see that as a cost of doing business. He stated to Mr. Campbell that the Church is well aware the City's code says that if there is a violation, we also have a right to revoke their permit.

Mr. Campbell replied that he understood that.

Mr. Donnellon stated that we also have a right to go to court and stop the Church's use. So, it's not just a cost of doing business. If we're all vigilant about this, we can revisit it and stop whatever we think is a violation.

Mr. Campbell replied that is correct.

Mr. Donnellon stated that he had concerns about the nuances regarding using the Annex Building for worship services. He asked Mr. Campbell what the plans are for using the building right now if it's not going to be used for worship services.

Mr. Campbell stated that he had no idea what the plans are for the building as he had not discussed that with the client.

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Donnellon if he was suggesting that the conditions be amended again.

Mr. Donnellon replied no, that he wants people to understand that right now there is no plan to be using that during these worship services and that we need to be concerning ourselves right now by the additional volume of traffic that may be created by that building being used. He stated that although he feels they may take some of the kids over there during services, they are already counted as coming in with the traffic with their parents. Would that be a problem, probably not. Mr. Donnellon stated though in contrast if the church decided to open a soup kitchen there as part of their mission during church services, it might be a concern. It's not a worship use but it brings a different volume a different purpose and a different business to that building. So, these are the key uses we do need the Church to understand.

Mr. Campbell stated that they understood.

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Mr. Donnellon stated that there has been a lot of debate going on, but he wanted the church to confirm that it has no plans to operate a school on this site.

Mr. Campbell replied that was correct.

Mr. Donnellon asked if they understood that a school is a separately conditionally permitted use and a new application would be required if they elect to use this site in any way for a school.

431 Mr. Campbell replied that they understood.

Mr. Donnellon stated that there has also been concern about people parking at Sycamore Junior High School and walking over or people getting bussed into the site. He asked Mr. Campbell and Pastor Urshan if they understood that the code states if there is an offsite parking arrangement, they must submit that arrangement to the City for review and approval so they cannot do that without us revisiting this application.

Mr. Campbell replied that he understood.

Mr. Donnellon stated that they heard from the Pastor and there's no question or concern about the conditions that have been imposed.

Mr. Campbell stated that was correct. The only thing was the clarification on the condition about the 400 attendees requiring traffic control.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked City Council for their comments or questions.

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked Mr. Campbell about the 880 seats but they're six pages on your website speaking about a thousand souls being helped all at one time. She stated that the math is not adding up. It also talked about an oversized platform for special events and drama presentations. These things could coincide with the worship too.

Mrs. Harbison stated she has a concern that Mrs. Bissmeyer was bringing new evidence in this that was not in the record.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked Mr. Donnellon if that was new evidence.

Mr. Donnellon stated that there's been a concern from day one that we fully understand the operations of the church. He stated that to fully understand those operations if Mr. Campbell would address that the application says 880, and that's what's been approved is 880. He stated there has been much discussion about the number actually being 1,000.

Mr. Campbell explained that when a church sets up a visioning session on their website of 1,000 people from a year and a half ago, the reality of where they are today is different from what was originally part of that visioning. He stated that they initially set out to create a 1,000-seat worship center, however through discussions with the Planning Commission they conceded to reduce that down to 880.

Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that the website indicated that the Church is still collecting money for a thousand and advertising for a thousand and talking about doing drama presentations and additional worship rooms. She stated her concerns is some of these other events are going to be taking place simultaneously with the worship service and they may exceed the 880.

Mr. Campbell replied that the church is not a place where plays are being held.

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. 14 Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that she was just reading off the website.

Mayor Dobrozsi explained that he felt that anytime the Church attendance exceeds 880, they are in violation no matter in what format.

Mr. Campbell stated that any event the church would want to hold is part of the conditional use that has over 400 people. He stated that they are aware they would have to have officer-based traffic control and notify the City to be sure it is not in conflict with events at Sycamore stadium. He stated that there is nothing in the code or conditions that prohibits the church from having other events.

Mr. Donnellon stated that he wants to make sure everybody understands that we can distinguish between a website that may not have been update and a website that may have been overenthusiastic when the pastor started down this path, but very clearly, they have only 880 approved seats. He stated that very clearly the total traffic impact is based on the total square footage which includes the welcome center and the sanctuary. He stated that looking at the traffic analysis, the impact is based on the total number of 880. Mr. Donnellon stated that if the Church decides to start having regular events that exceed these limits, we need to talk again. Mr. Donnellon asked if there's more truth to the hyperbole, as Mrs. Bissmeyer is pointing out. The concern is that you're giving one message here and one message on the website then let's be understood that if there's changes above the approved 880 seats and the approved regular services and special services, those operations have to be revisited either through coming to the City to get it amended and going through the whole process again or visiting us in the court if we seek sanctions to stop it.

Mr. Margolis thanked Mr. Campbell for his presentation. He explained that another value that the City holds very dear is boundaries. He asked Mr. Campbell how they designed a vegetative buffer that would be effective all year long and what are the issues with light spillover.

Mr. Campbell stated that light spillover came about at the very first meeting back in November and of that meeting they showed the photo metric analysis which determined that foot candles at the property line are zero which in fact is better than the requirements listed in the code. In terms of the landscape buffer, all of the landscape along the edges of the property line is to be built with evergreens and so there will be no deciduous trees or fall or anything like that. Mr. Campbell explained with the plan presented there are two 10-foot-high landscape berms which were designed in an effort to block any sort of view access that would create kind of an obstruction. He stated that since the church does sit so far back on the lot, he felt that when you drive down the road currently, you could barely see the church and so when a 10 foot high berm area is added, he felt there would not be a lot visible at the road.

Mr. Margolis asked if the evergreens will be on top of the berm or alongside and if they would be of adequate, substantial in size.

Mr. Campbell replied that, although he is not the landscape architect, he thinks they're required to have a two-inch caliper at planting with a stipulation to what the ultimate minimum has to be at maturity.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked Mr. Campbell if all water is basically flowing towards the detention towards the highway.

Mr. Campbell replied that he was correct. He explained that the site currently is the lowest point in the neighborhood as the general topography slopes down. He stated that there are some issues at the boundary, which is not on the church's side, which creates some issues with some of the resident's backyards. He explained that the landscape berm is designed to cut down on the back side and create a swell that goes two directions around it so that water that is coming down from the adjacent properties will flow down and then around the site.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that Mr. Campbell talked about height compared to the existing church. He stated that when he looked at the elevation, it appears it's about the same at the peak of the existing height.

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Mr. Campbell explained that the original design was to create that sort of visual relationship between the peak of the existing building and the height of this one, but because of the concerns of the neighbors and the visual impact, the height was actually dropped by eleven feet. He stated that they dropped an entire story's worth of height below that. He stated that the piece that you can see as you're driving down 71, if the trees are in leaf, there's a likelihood you won't even notice the new building to be able to be seen over that.

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Mayor Dobrozsi clarified by restating that the peak of the existing to the top of parapet of the proposed addition. He asked what the difference was.

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Mr. Campbell apologized and stated that it was eleven feet below the code requirement and eight feet for the parapet.

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Mayor Dobrozsi thanked him for the clarification. He stated the two existing churches had a total of 800 seats. He asked for clarification if that was the number of the two existing buildings. Ms. Roblero replied that was correct.

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Mrs. Harbison stated that the second story of the Pangburn house overlooks the trees and can see the church now. She asked Mr. Campbell if he was saying that the sanctuary to be built is going to be the same height as the existing church.

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Mr. Campbell replied that the building would be eight feet below the existing building.

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Mayor Dobrozsi asked Pastor Urshan about his statement that the church would be the fifth largest in Montgomery. He asked for clarification if that statement was by square footage or seats.

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Pastor Urshan replied that it was based on square footage.

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Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a representative for the residents to speak.

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Mr. Donnellon stated that Ms. Naylor previously was presenting on behalf of the residents but did not appear to be present at this time and he asked if there was anybody who wants to give a presentation on behalf of the group of residents.

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Peter Goedde, 7503 Golf Green Drive- Mr. Goedde explained at several Planning Commission meetings, residents were told to quit speculating and get some proof, get some experts, provide some data, and provide some law. He explained that they did. He stated that they hired two traffic engineers, that he felt spent as much time as the City's CT Consultants, and one of the issues that he felt was glossed over was the issue of the left turn lane. He stated the left turn lane isn't going to have a traffic cop directing traffic into a church. He stated that Swaim Park right up the street, has 50 parking spots and the proposal will have seven times that amount of parking, with no left turn lane. He stated that in review of Tree of Life's traffic study, their traffic engineers all said a left turn lane would be required. He stated that two questions still remain. One, is what the projected cost for the addition of a left turn lane would be and who would pay for that. He stated that he didn't know that the residents should be on the hook for paying for a left turn lane. He stated that it was really about safety and he didn't think that was addressed in the conditions. He stated that he felt it was really glossed over because that meeting became about how traffic would exit from the church. He stated he felt it became pretty much laughable at one point. He explained that he doesn't know the code as well as Beth Naylor does, but he believed that it was a code, a conditional use code (the last one maybe item K) that references residents' financial burden. He commented on the issue of the impervious surface ratio throughout that whole presentation. He explained that from the City and from the architect, all they heard about was that it was 57 percent under the first plan and now it's 48 percent. The current impervious surface ratio is 33 percent and that was in the architect's initial application, as given in September. Mr. Goedde stated the engineer stated, "Montgomery ISR is 33 percent", so they are going to increase that 50 percent up to 48 percent. He explained that the architects state that the quality in one of his summary's

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"stormwater quality quantity management is designed to lead the site better and develop green space and we've improved the drainage for Village Green subdivision across the entire site down to Interstate 71". He stated that he showed that whole report to several civil engineers and they thought that was borderline ridiculous to make a statement like that and they questioned that if you take total green space and you cover that with concrete and roof tops and sidewalks, that is better for drainage; that's better for the Little Miami Watershed; that is better for water management. He stated that he seriously doubted that. The grass fields that are there now, they drain. Their purpose is to drain and fill the groundwater and fill the streams. He stated he felt they are going to have to have one massive detention pond when we're suddenly going to be 33 percent current ISR and raise it to 48 percent. He finds it highly dubious and he hopes that the City engineer does a thorough review of this for the residents, especially those that live along the border there where drainage is already an issue. He stated that he wasn't prepared to address the report. He stated that he knew Ms. Naylor had a lot of engineers and realtors that spoke on the resident's behalf and that provided the law, which he was sure she's probably emailed to them and that was all he had to speak to.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Goedde for filling in for Ms. Naylor and asked him to stay for questions.

Mr. Donnellon stated that he wanted to help clarify a couple of points regarding stormwater management. He stated that he was sure Ms. Roblero or Mr. Heitkamp can address. He stated that the City always goes into great detail engineering wise when the final development plan is presented to be sure that it meets our quality standards which mirror a lot of what Hamilton County standards are. He stated that the question of the turn lane, because he knew it's come up multiple times, was addressed by Mr. Korros and is reflected in the minutes on page 35. Mr. Donnellon stated that Mr. Korros stated that the left turn lane is warranted at an unsignalized intersection and which is the standard with ODOT, and he thought Ms. Reed said it was warranted as well as SHA. Mr. Korros explained that when you add a police officer you've added traffic control and it's no longer considered unsignalized intersection. In fact, in Mr. Korros's opinion this was a better way of managing traffic than having a passive hundred-foot Lane where cars could back up and then still interfere with Cooper Road. Mr. Korros felt with the police officer; the question becomes "how long to wait to allow cars to make the turn". Is the police officer going to have a timer? He stated that there is no stipulation in the record book as to how officers manage the traffic coming in and out of the church. Mr. Donnellon stated that Mr. Korros's opinion was not putting a turn lane but requiring a police officer, is a better alternative to manage traffic. He explained that if we did not have the agreement for them to provide police officers, we would have to go back to that left turn lane which was a lesser option.

Mr. Goedde stated that from the resident's point of view, say the church grows it becomes full capacity, who is on the hook to pay for that, and what would it cost because the engineer already said it would be very costly just because of the design of that part of the Cooper Road. But his concern is that if down the road a left turn lane is added and it were to cost \$900,000, would it be expected that the residents would pay for that.

Mr. Donnellon replied that considering the questions and responses by Mr. Campbell on behalf of the church, that we are basing this today upon what is proposed 880 seats, the total of 20,000 square feet, the projected traffic that's going to be associated with that large square footage, that parking, that analysis. If they grow to capacity, they're going to grow to the top of that number and at this time the City has it managed with a traffic officer. If they come back and want to change, he stated that at that point in time if we find further changes increase, there is more square footage, more use is bought up on Cooper Road and the Church expands, we would have to revisit the issue. He stated that we would impose that responsibility on the Church to pay for it if a change warrants a new review and different traffic designs. He stated that we all analyzed it and it just was not practical because we would lose part of the public sidewalk as we move the lanes over at that point. The utilities were also going to be moved. The Church then proposed that they will provide police officers. That's where we have that stipulation that you will provide them during any of your regularly scheduled services, you will provide them if anticipated services go over 400, and they must be police officers with law enforcement authority in Montgomery. So, we're not talking about private security. We're talking about either our police officers or Hamilton County Sheriff's because to some it is violating rules. This option appeared to be a better choice for the City without modifying

ر Cooper Road and it was supported by the City Engineer.

 Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Goedde again for stepping in on behalf of the residents and that we greatly appreciate his comments.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked City Council if they had questions for Mr. Goedde.

Mr. Margolis asked Mr. Goedde if he felt the Church is offering enough screening at the boundary between the residents and the Church.

Mr. Goedde stated that based on what Mr. Campbell said, that with the 10 feet wall or a 10 feet berm and Norway Spruce trees it seemed like that would be sufficient, however he doesn't live there, he lives right on the border. He stated that he felt what was proposed was better than what's there. He stated that one of the engineers said when the berm and swale are created that the existing vegetation that's there is probably going to die. So, he assumes that will be addressed with the new plantings and so forth.

Mr. Margolis stated that it seems that according to the topographical map, the church seems to sit a little lower than the eastern residents. He asked if it seemed feasible that the addition of their drainage system could actually improve the drainage for the residents.

Mr. Goedde replied that he didn't know as far as those particular things. He stated he knew that their yards probably become ponds right now. He stated that increasing the ISR from 33 to 48, that's a 50 percent increase, which is pretty big. He stated that he researched studies where they talk about ISR's going up like that and that it is usually very negative.

Mr. Margolis stated that if the residents owned properties are located uphill, wouldn't it be in the resident's best interests maybe to work with the Church to tie their backyard into that drainage system.

Mr. Goedde replied that he doesn't disagree that it would be up to those residents.

Mr. Margolis asked then if Mr. Goedde agreed with him.

Mr. Goedde replied that yes, he did, and he was sure the residents probably did too.

Mayor Dobrozsi addressed Mr. Goedde and stated that he wanted to fully understand his main two questions. Mayor Dobrozsi stated that he felt the question of the left turn lane had been answered as to who would pay for that if it was ever needed. He asked Mr. Goedde was satisfied with the response.

Mr. Goedde replied that he was.

Mayor Dobrozsi addressed the issue of the water and asked if the main concern with that is that increased coverage is not impacting the adjacent neighbors. He asked Mr. Goedde is that the real issue he was trying to get to.

Mr. Goedde stated that it is. If you make statements that reference a grass field or a concrete asphalt parking lot and taking an undeveloped green space that most people would think its kind of ridiculous.

Mayor Dobrozsi replied that he thought that reference was a technicality. He stated that it's the water that leaves your actual site is what they're talking about.

Mayor Dobrozsi again thanked Mr. Goedde for standing up for the residents.

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Mayor Dobrozsi stated that now he would open the floor up to guests and residents can called for the first speaker. He asked for the speaker to state their name and address. He reminded them that they would have three minutes with a gentle warning at 2:45.

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Ken Pangburn, 6553 Cooper Road addressed City Council by giving them background on his family and involvement in the community. He explained that both of the church's driveways run alongside his property. He stated that his house has flooded three times in the last five years. He stated that it has cost \$80,000 to remediate all that. He explained that while the water runs off, he thinks he shares a collector on the other side towards the Annex which backs up as more water increases. He stated that while he thinks he has that fixed; he doesn't feel this proposed expansion will help.

Mr. Pangburn stated that the applicant stated that a simple number of 131, his sample number is 84. That's the amount of taxes he pays every day to live in Montgomery, \$84 a day. The applicant stated that they're a community church. He stated that the applicant said 6 percent of the people, or 3 to 6 percent, live in the community. He stated it didn't seem very community.

Mr. Pangburn stated that at the Planning Commission meeting, it seemed like a revival meeting. He stated that he felt it was a little odd. He stated that he felt it lasted say 20 hours and that he got home after 1 a.m. that night. He stated that he didn't feel like the Planning Commission met everybody's needs. He stated that he believed that Section 151.2002, general criteria for all conditional use, item B, will not be detrimental to property values in the immediate vicinity. He stated that he was in the immediate vicinity. He stated that he didn't know if one property is affected enough to qualify in that section. He explained that there was a total of 50 years of real estate experience at the last Planning Commission where it was stated this expansion would be very detrimental to property values. He stated this is a year and a half project for construction. He stated that there is also the issue of lighting and screening, while people don't think it affects them. There's no way it cannot affect us. He pointed out that if you examine the plan that you can see his property and that it would be tough to screen the church property so that he couldn't see it.

Mr. Pangburn stated that he didn't think that they were fully treated fairly. He stated that 50 years of real estate experience was overshadowed by one council member who said in 35 years he had a similar situation and his property value went up in the last 35 years. He stated that trying to hold an open house when there's construction going is going to be detrimental to his property value. He stated that he is worried this is the last straw for him to live here.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Pangburn for his comments.

Dan Wilson, 1060 Hayward Circle, Milford addressed City Council by stating that a lot of what he was going to say has already been covered. He stated that he would touch on one point regarding the questions or concerns of the Church website. He stated that the church doesn't have that many theatrical performances. He stated that once a year there is a kids Christmas program. He stated that maybe in the future they may add an Easter production or something of that nature. The setup of the proposed sanctuary design, as with every church he knew of just has one platform as they currently have. He stated it is really unfeasible to have a theatrical type performance during a service in which you had to be an, either in lieu of a service, or it would be an additional time off which of course they have. He stated that as they have mentioned would have to get that traffic control for unscheduled events. Other than that, he would just like to say that the church has really enjoyed their time being a member of the Montgomery community up to this point. He stated that they look forward to a continued partnership with the City and the residents of Montgomery and he agrees with the previous speaker that the number of attendees that we have in Montgomery currently is too low. He stated that they would love to have more of the community come out and join the church. He thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Wilson for his time.

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Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Drive thanked Mrs. Bissmeyer, Mr. Donnellon, and Mr. Margolis for their questions for he felt that they got the architect to drill down on the facts. He referred to the plans and explained to his understanding that where the nine-foot berms were located, the vegetation would be killed once the four-foot scooper dug it out. He stated that he met with Tracy Roblero regarding the plans to talk about how this is all going to happen. He stated that Hugh Pacey and Larry Emerson have properties along the site of the expansion. He stated that nobody on the Commission went and looked at these properties. He referenced the topography of the property and stated his disagreement in the plans. He stated there is a high spot before their properties in the subdivision. He stated that the Director of Public Works came out two years ago to look at his property and determined about three yards into his home which is next to Hugh Paceys, the water falls toward the church. He stated that the Public Works Director saw what was happening with the still water. He stated to Mr. Margolis the he brought up an excellent point. He explained that what is happening with our properties currently is there's a lot of standing water that does not flow. He stated that when they build the berm it's going to be worse not better because it's going to be nine-foot-high and stop the flow of water. His big concern is that nobody went out visually and looked at this. He stated that all Council is seeing is a cartoon picture. He asked Mr. Margolis to recommend that this be looked at before he votes because the City will end up with a lot of people's yards and basements flood and their insurance companies are going to come back and sue the city.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Silverman for his comments.

Brian Duvall, 10746 Dallasburg Road, Morrow thanked City Council, their neighbors and everyone. He stated that this has been an incredibly emotional process for all folks involved. He stated he said as a scripture would say "all peace with all men". He stated that is definitely challenging when you feel like what you're trying to do is being characterized or painted as pulling the wool over someone's eyes or trying to pull a fast one. He stated that as he listened to all of the questions, that he did want to hearken back again to the addition of 131 one parking spaces. He stated that he felt it kind of the inconvenient truth to use an Al Gore statement just that is literally the limitation of traffic. If there is no place for cars to go, there can't be cars. He stated that he wanted to hearken everybody back to that and wanted to say to Mr. Donnellon that he understood every question that was asked and when the conditions were reiterated, that the church absolutely gets it and are thankful to be a part of this community and they look forward to engaging with this community. He appreciated the opening statements from the Mayor about Council's job is to not retry but to look at the case as presented and to make a decision.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Duvall for his comments.

Beth Naylor, Cooper Road apologized for being late due to travel difficulties. She stated that she thought a lot of the materials that Council has reviewed were submitted by herself and a group of residents that live relatively near to the site. The two things she wanted to point out for the record is that as residents they believe there are major deficiencies in what's required under the code for the applicant to establish in order to get this conditional use passed. She explained that she would like to highlight two deficiencies. She explained that the first is the requirement that the applicant provide adequate evidence that there will not be a detrimental impact on the property values. She stated that the code, in black and white, requires the City to do a detailed evaluation of the twelve criteria. She stated that she would like to focus on two. The first criteria are property values. She stated that when the application came in and was given a thumbs up recommendation by the City staff there was absolutely no evidence in the record at that time about property values. She stated that, again, there is a code in the City of Montgomery, a zoning code, for a purpose. She stated, it's black and white and it's up to the City Council to enforce it. She stated to Council that they are the elected representatives that residents rely on to enforce the code as written. She stated that criteria are not put down just to be glossed over. She explained that there's a criterion that says there needs to be a showing that there's going to be no detrimental impact on property. She stated that means zero evidence in the record at the last stage. She stated the applicant realizes the deficiency provided some property value information historic, going back to what she thought was the 90s. She stated there was nothing about what this development, with this conditional use of allowed in the increased traffic, would do prospectively to the property values in the area. She stated, on the contrary, the residents at their own cost and using their own resources did the job that they thought the City should be doing for them and got valued opinions

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from experts, three very well respected realtors in our area, one of which is the leading realtor in the Sycamore School District area Celia Carroll. Ms. Naylor reported that Ms. Carroll appeared and testified before the Planning Commission. She stated that when the Planning Commission went into discussion, Ms. Carroll's opinion and those of the other realtors all opining that this development and the increased traffic would have a negative impact on property values was ignored and the conversation led to one of the commissioner's backyards. She stated that second thing that was glossed over is the requirement that the traffic study has to look at the impact of the traffic on the surrounding streets, not just can the people get in and out of the church parking lot. She stated that the traffic study that's under consideration has nothing to say about what the impact is going to be on the neighborhoods up and down Cooper Road when they can't get out of their neighborhood or into their neighborhood when there's an event happening at the church.

Ms. Naylor stated that as a matter of fact, again the residents at their own cost, money out of their own pockets, did what they felt the City should have done, which is required the traffic to be consistent with the Ohio Department of Transportation guidelines which most municipalities follow if they don't have their own guideline. She stated they follow the ODOT manual that basically says that a development of this size with the projected amount of increased traffic needs to study all intersections within a thousand feet of the ingress and egress. She stated that none of that was done. She stated that nobody looked at Village Green, nobody looked at Del Ray, the Junior High or Swaim. She stated that it goes on to say if there's other major intersections in the vicinity such as Kenwood Road, Montgomery Road or Zig Zag that those are to be looked at as well. She stated that the traffic study just reflected that they could get the people in and out of the church parking lot. She stated that the engineers didn't do anything to look at what the impact is going to be at intersections up and down the road. She stated that, as residents, they are not here to block what a property owner wants to do, but they are asking City Council, as their elected representatives, to look at the black and white requirements of the zoning code and enforce them with the vigor with which they are intended. She stated that the city of Montgomery is not just a premier community because we put it in marketing literature. She stated it requires diligence, it requires attention to detail, and a requirement to do what the code says we're supposed to do.

Mr. Donnellon stated that he had a couple of questions for Ms. Naylor. He stated that the engineer's report, so everyone understands it from Ms. Reed, acknowledged that the City is not required to follow the manual. He asked Ms. Naylor if that is correct.

Mr. Donnellon stated that their expert said it is not required that we follow the ODOT guidelines, that local jurisdictions actually have the ultimate authority.

Ms. Naylor replied that is correct, it is guidelines and guidance but if you talk to the majority of jurisdictions that typically if they don't follow the ODOT manual then they have their own requirements that are similar to the ODOT guidelines.

Mr. Donnellon stated the he apologized, but he didn't remember Ms. Reed saying that and he didn't remember seeing it on the record, but he would take her word for it that other jurisdictions follow the ODOT manual.

Ms. Naylor requested that Mr. Donnellon look at her report in which he responded that he was.

Mr. Donnellon stated that Ms. Reed also acknowledged that Zig Zag is outside the 1000-foot study area that ODOT mandates.

Ms. Naylor stated that she wanted to be clear, to make sure the record is clear that the ODOT guidelines say mandatory within a thousand feet, and if there's other significant intersections they should be studied as well. She stated that they consider Zig Zag to be that.

Mr. Donnellon stated that he thinks it also says that the additional study intersections are to be determined by ODOT. ODOT when they would do their study would indicate what other intersections they would include int he

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study. He stated that he didn't know how many folks remember Mr. Korros's testimony, but the City did incur that cost with the City engineer who said he scoped the work, he reviewed the work, and he determined on behalf of the City that with the minimal increase in the projected traffic that he didn't feel that additional studies would be warranted in this case. Mr. Donnellon stated that he understood that was his opinion and he acknowledged it's his opinion.

Ms. Naylor stated that she understood that. She stated that as she was not a traffic engineer, but she feels that ODOT knows what they're talking about. Due to that fact, she felt if the level of increase is at a level that fits into the ODOT manual that says if you're getting this much increase in traffic you need to do an expanded study, she tends to think that they know what they're talking about.

Mr. Donnellon asked Ms. Naylor if in her own experience, would she agree that in many trials there are multiple experts that have differing opinions.

Ms. Naylor replied that she would, however, the burden is on the applicant. She stated the City has to do a detailed evaluation and to find adequate evidence. As she said at the Planning Commission meetings, she is not saying things need to be overturned or denied or whatever, she is asking the City to do what they should do based on the requirements of the code, which is a detailed evaluation not just a check of the methodology that was used and a finding of adequate evidence.

Mr. Donnellon stated that he thought Ms. Reed agreed with the methodology that was used in this case. He stated that Ms. Reed agreed with the modeling program and she said typically institutions like this use square footage as the standard for projecting traffic. He stated that she also did acknowledge that at times you can go and look at different standards. He stated he thought what she said that based upon her analysis 880 seats would warrant total traffic volume of 475 trips.

Ms. Naylor replied that Ms. Reed agreed with the modeling as far as the projection of the number of trips. She stated that the number of trips according to the ODOT manual requires you to do an expanded study. She stated that there is still an issue of seats. She stated that we keep wanting it to be 880 or 875, but the total amount is that plus the reception area which is a new another 200 plus.

Mr. Donnellon stated that the issue of the seats was discussed prior to her arrival. The 880 is the number of seats proposed but that we went through the projected traffic volume which was based on total square footage, so that traffic volume was projected based upon utilizing that welcome center square footage and the sanctuary square footage. The welcome center does not have fixed seats.

Mr. Donnellon stated that we also went through with the applicant, very pointedly so they clearly understand that if approval is given tonight, it is based on the standard we're reviewing tonight which is 880 seats and projected traffic volumes based upon increased square footage. He stated that if there's any expansion growth, any changes, not only would they have to come back, but we have the ability not just to fine them a sum of money for a violation, but to shut them down under our code.

Ms. Naylor replied that at that point the expansion is already build.

Mr. Donnellon replied that it's built but it's a very beautiful shrine that's empty if it is shutdown for a violation of their permit. He stated that Ms. Naylor's expert didn't say turn it down, she simply said just get more study before final review.

Ms. Naylor said to do the expanded study. She stated that again it wasn't her job, they were just residents here. In new trips at the level of 200 to 499 warrants a turn lane and it warrants the additional level one study limits, which we've already talked about a thousand feet plus additional intersections. The turn lane situation and dealing with that, we have a police officer who is standing there.

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Mr. Donnellon clarified that there would be two officers.

Ms. Naylor acknowledged that there were two police officers standing out there stopping traffic flow on Cooper Road to let people go in and out of the church. She explained that when they stop the people coming out of the church and start letting the traffic flow again on Cooper Road, the downstream folks at Village Green, at Zig Zag trying to get out with Swaim at Del Ray, don't have a break. She stated it's just nonstop traffic and they can't get out. She asked if there was going to be somebody standing there letting them get out of our neighborhoods and replied that there would not be.

Mr. Donnellon stated that argument is based upon the assumption that the officers are going to let traffic back up to the point where it interferes with Village Green or backs up where it interferes with Delray.

Beth Naylor state that she disagrees because what she is saying is if motorists were coming from Blue Ash and traffic is backed up as they're letting people out, people are going south on Cooper Road and as soon as they stop letting people out of the church, then the traffic that's backed up from Blue Ash continues. She stated that there is now a steady stream of traffic coming south on Cooper Road past Village Green, past Swaim, past Zig Zag, pass the two private lanes all the way down. She stated the point is there's no break and nobody's stopping the traffic for us to be able to get out. She stated that's why the ODOT guidelines suggest that you look at the intersections within a certain reasonable area to see how they're going to be impacted by that additional traffic. She asked why that wasn't required here.

Mr. Donnellon replied that one reason is that we are not ODOT, we're the local jurisdiction with the authority and our traffic engineer did not believe it was necessary.

Mr. Donnellon stated that back to her comment that nobody looked at the evidence that she submitted or Ms. Carroll's testimony. The letter that was sent by Ms. Carroll acknowledges that Downtown Montgomery, Zig Zag, Cooper Road, Swaim and Remington are one of most desirable places in the city to live. He stated those are the most desirable places without impact on property values under existing traffic conditions today. He stated that the other study that was submitted by Larson, the detailed analysis indicated that for each 1,000 additional trips, that it impacts property values empirically by one half of 1 percent. He explained that on a \$100,000 value, the negative impact of one half of 1 percent, if there's a thousand trips, is \$550.00. He further explained that under Ms. Reed's analysis, it is projected to be 475 trips. He stated if the math works out linearly, that's an impact of \$250 on a \$100,000 home. If there's a negative impact on traffic, that study also talked about 24/7 evaluation not incremental evaluation on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night. He stated that while there is great evidence, and that he was not disputing the fact that they went to great extremes to provide evidence, Planning Commission has the opportunity of weighing that and making determinations on how much probative value to give that.

Ms. Naylor replied that she did not say that people did not look at the materials they submitted, that she said based on the conversation and the discussion at the Planning Commission meeting, it did not appear as though they took that into consideration. She stated that, second of all the requirement is not "can only have a minimal impact on property values" that's not the requirement. She stated that the requirement is that there would be no detrimental impact on property values. She stated that we could do math and bicker all we want about how much that impact is, but in black and white, what the code says is that there will be no detrimental impact on property value and that there has a detailed evaluation and there has to be a finding of adequate evidence. She stated her point is from a process perspective, how do they get a recommendation when there's no evidence on matter inquiry to it at all.

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Mr. Donnellon replied the evidence is there. He stated that the residents presented evidence and the applicants presented evidence. He stated that Ms. Naylor may argue about the validity of the Church's evidence, but interestingly Larsen's study from Montgomery County in the city of Kettering, came to their conclusion on property values being negatively impacted by traffic volumes upon statistical evidence from the auditor's web page in Montgomery County. He stated that the professors who wrote that study did the same analysis as the

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 Church using the local auditors' values. He is not saying they're right or she's wrong. He is simply adding that they don't know every fact that a judge or a jury weighs because they don't announce it, you just have to assume when the evidence is there and the record that this is weighed in their final decision.

Ms. Naylor stated that in the study there were various controls that were looked at when they were pulled off the auditor evidence. In this situation, there were no controls over the increase in property values. She stated that if we want to talk about increase in property value in the city of Montgomery through the 90s and the 2000's, we need to look at all the improvements that have been done to the city improvements that were designed specifically to control traffic and to reduce the traffic congestion and problems that we've had. She stated that this is going back to the master plan, traffic was the number one issue downtown. She stated there were affirmative steps taken by your predecessors to make this the premier community that it is today largely by controlling traffic. She stated that traffic has been the number one issue of the city of Montgomery since the 70s and 80s. She stated that even in the new strategic plan, one of the top issues is traffic and maintaining a small-town feel. She stated that her point is it's beyond us as residents of how we're not taking a very detailed look at the impact of any development that we have of this magnitude on the city and the traffic flow particularly with everything else that we have going on and changing in the city.

Mr. Donnellon stated that if the traffic study is broadened and the traffic study still concludes that class "A" level service now remains Class "A" level service then, doesn't the argument about the detriment to property values also fail because Ms. Carroll based it upon it being a thousand people traveling that road. He added, if they say the level of service is not negatively impacted, its kind of undermines the argument of value is negatively impacted because traffic is not negatively impacted.

Ms. Naylor stated that the other thing that Ms. Carroll mentioned is not only just the volume and the numbers but the perception. Since Ms. Carroll is a realtor and taking people to look at houses on a Sunday, being caught up in traffic and having a police officer have to direct traffic, the interested individuals right away determine they are not interested in that location. She stated that also in addition to the numbers and the volume, and again she is not a traffic engineer, so yes, they would welcome an expanded study, but she is not sure and she cannot speak for Ms. Carroll or Mr. Sylvester or the other experts that we have on this issue as to whether or not that changes their opinion. She stated that certainly an increase in traffic congestion, whether that is solely volume or congestion caused by something else, such as a police officer artificially stopping and starting traffic because they have to get people in a certain period of time in or out of a church, could still impact value if the congestion is so bad. She stated that she was not an expert in real estate or in traffic engineering. She stated that she is simply asking this body to look at what the requirements of the code are compared against the evidence in the record and she believe that it's deficient. She stated that the application is deficient, and more study needs to be done.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if their three experts had the traffic study when they wrote their statement of opinions. He stated that he referred to them as opinions because there were very few facts included.

Ms. Naylor replied that yes, they did have the traffic impact and reviewed it. She stated that the realtors were not traffic engineers, and those traffic studies are about as clear as mud. She stated that in terms of the impact on the perception of the buyer and the value of the property, on traffic and traffic congestion.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated he is trying to get to what their basis of their comments were since they are being used as experts and there's not a lot of detail or meat but rather there's a lot of opinion on property values.

Ms. Naylor stated that they had all the information that we had available from the applicant.

Mr. Margolis asked Ms. Naylor if she would consider a 130 extra traffics stops in and 130 extra traffics out to be excessive. 260 extra trips will be generated by the exchange.

Ms. Naylor replied that she is not a traffic engineer but she does know that when you're dealing with a large

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church in a confined period of time, such as Good Shepherd or Crossroads, or anytime you are you're dealing with that type of an event center, whether it be for religious purposes or other purposes, it's hard to get out of the parking lot of a high school football game or whatever.

Mr. Margolis asked Ms. Naylor if her expectation is no delay at all.

Ms. Naylor replied that the expectation would be that we could reasonably on a Sunday morning when it's not the business week and we're not expecting a ton of traffic, to be able to get out of our neighborhoods.

Mr. Margolis stated that the traffic studies that their experts agreed on; the amount of traffic would be 56 percent of rush hour traffic on Cooper.

Ms. Naylor stated that over a period of time. She stated that they can mess with those hours or not, rush hour traffic on Cooper is not condensed in everybody trying to get in and out before and after service or an event or whatever it is, it's confined to a specific time period whereas rush hour traffic depending on your job and whatever you have to be, is anywhere from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Donnellon stated to clarify for those who were not able to make the Planning Commission meeting, Mr. Korros, the city engineer, stated that he looked at the scope and felt when the study came back, that based upon the volume of traffic which had been projected, on the standard that everyone agreed upon, he didn't see a need for an expanded study to the other intersections. It's just his opinion. Ms. Reed has her opinion saying she thinks a broader study should be required. So, we've got different opinions among experts.

Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that she is looking at the conditional use and her concern again with the traffic study is that our code says that we are providing more detailed evaluation on all these rather than a standard application. She questioned what the harm would be to expand the study since we have in black and white that we have to do more detailed than normal. She stated that although we did a traffic study, our obligation is to do a more detailed evaluation than a normal application for conditional use spaces. She asked Ms. Naylor if that would satisfy the residents that she's representing. If that's what they're asking of us.

Ms. Naylor replied that it is. She stated that there's other residents here that have other issues with the drainage and things like that but the primary issues that are consistent she feels across all residents, whether you live directly around the property and have a drainage issue or not, is the concern about the increased traffic when there is an event. She stated that she does understand that right now the Church is saying it will be Sunday morning, Wednesday night, and have submitted a list of events, but she feels that the City really needs to study that with the overlay of everything else that's going on in the city and the massive change in the flow of traffic that's about to happen here.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Ms. Naylor for her feedback and asked for a show of hands of who would like to speak moving forward.

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Dan Bissmeyer, Fourwinds Drive stated that he wasn't going to pick on this particular church. He stated it sounds like a great church, a great congregation. He stated that what he is asking the Council members to consider when they're voting that this is more than the minute details of traffic studies. He stated that he doesn't think an additional study is going to find a lot more than what's been proposed here already and put in front of them. He stated that what he's seeing is just another baby step down the slippery slope for Montgomery unfortunately. He stated he has looked at other places that are problems and they're getting away from what he believes community churches used to be. He stated he has a big problem with Good Shepherd and the traffic and disruption that it puts out. He stated that it locks down the whole area when traffic is going in and out of services. He stated that there is a church right outside the back of the Winds neighborhood that includes a school. He stated that during pickup time for school, you can't get in the back of the neighborhood a lot of times from Zig Zag because of the long line of cars. He stated that he could point to one place after another that have grown and expanded services over the

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years and added extra things that probably weren't in the original scope of what their intention was and none of them are really within the spirit of what was communities churches. He stated that when you look back at what they used to be; they were small places for the community to come together to worship. He stated that Tree of Life is not a community church for Montgomery. He stated that they can welcome people from Montgomery, but as of current, it is not a Montgomery congregation. He stated that none of the local churches are solely Montgomery residents and they don't limit their congregations as such. He stated that he sees all of them expanding out and having negative impact on Montgomery because he feels the City code is allowing them to do so. He stated that this isn't about this particular church and feels the ask is for Council to consider if we are allowing churches to get away from what they originally were intended to be and what the code was set up and constructed around for their purpose. He asked if there is a negative impact to allowing them to continue to grow and expand and add services because as a Montgomery resident, he is seeing a negative impact.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Bissmeyer for his comments.

Dave Duvall, 109 Pewter Court, Loveland stated to City Council that he wanted to address two issues, one the traffic, which to him seems so strange that we're talking about traffic when we have a church now that would only add 131 cars. He explained that they could bring that to capacity as we are now and still only have an additional 131 cars that could go in. He stated that's all that can be done, during non-peak hours a few times a week. He stated that in the traffic study it was mentioned how do people get in and out of their streets and houses. He asked how they did that between 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. or 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. How do they do that during rush hour, and school and everything else. He stated that it just seemed preposterous to him that this amount of traffic that's coming out of the church would be a problem. He stated his next issue is the idea about the church currently does not have the greenery that we are proposing to put in. He stated that they do not have trees in the parking lot like is displayed on the drawings nor all the greenery that they have added over these meetings to make this a beautification actually to the City. He concluded by stating that the current property needs the additional greenery and as they build this church that's going be eleven feet lower everything their doing is going to beautify the site and will add only 131 cars. He thanked City Council for their time.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Duvall for his comments.

Judy Lafreniere, 9208 Golf Green stated to City Council that she wanted to correct some points. She stated that the applicant keeps talking about 131 cars, but what they are leaving out is how many are already there in existence. She stated that a misnomer presented early in the presentation was that these two churches always existed there. She stated that, although they did, those churches were never at capacity and she has lived there since 1972. She stated that there was never any kind of flow of traffic in and out of there. She stated that the City used to stage the Fourth of July floats there and most of the people who live in that area never really even knew those two churches were there because that's how low key they were. She stated that now we're talking about adding on so that you now have 880 in this new capacity, and they keep saying, oh well, it's only 131 more cars. She asked what about all the cars that were already there, if you have 880 people, you're going to have more than 131 cars added. She stated that if anyone has ever gone on Cooper Road when the Junior high is leaving, it backs up and yes, there is a cop directing traffic, but you can sit there for a long period of time while they're getting the cars in and out of there and thus it backs up in the other direction and the people leaving Village Green and Zig Zag also have a problem getting out because it's backed up in that direction also. She stated that's a misnomer saying, "oh this isn't going to happen because you've got a cop directing traffic". She explained that she was involved in the Town Hall lecture series and the Montgomery Women's Club used to pay a cop to direct the traffic in and out of the lecture from Montgomery Assembly of God because they knew Pfeiffer Road was a busy thoroughfare. She stated that Cooper is just as busy. She thanked Council for their consideration.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Ms. Lafreniere for her comments and involvement on the lecture series.

Ken Geers, 9204 Village Green Dr stated that Ms. Lafreniere might have clarified this, but he keeps hearing 131 cars and heard 800 plus members and to him if there were four members in a car, four divided into eight hundred plus is over 200 cars. He stated that that told him right away there's 70 more. He stated there was a discussion

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earlier about if there's more than 131 cars and you've got it to move off campus that's going to be an issue. There must be more than 131 one parking places there, is that correct.

1101 Mayor Dobrozsi responded that he was correct.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked Ms. Roblero what the total parking spots were.

Ms. Roblero replied that there is 351 total and the 131 is the new parking.

Mr. Geers stated that he would like to ask City Council to focus on the 351 and get the 131 out of their heads and get back to what the number of parking places are, because that's going to be the traffic flow. He thanked City Council for listening.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Geers for his comments.

Sharon Lindemann, Golf Green Drive stated she had just two quick things. She explained that first, she just returned from North Carolina where every day we have to go through a roundabout and the traffic does move, but that roundabout that the City about to allow it be built right down from where her neighborhood hits Montgomery Road is going to be backed up. Her concern is that there were 50 cars in front of us waiting to take their turn in the roundabout and it's a two-lane roundabout, every time we approached it. Traffic from Cooper Road going to Montgomery Road and getting into that roundabout, is going to slow down. She stated that her other issue is just a curiosity, she wanted to know if there are any regulations or any conditions that have been stated regarding the rental of the facilities. She stated that her daughter from Ursuline graduated at Weiss temple. She stated that her son from Moeller graduated at some church over by St. Rita's School for the Deaf. She stated that churches have the right to rent their facilities or for other events. She stated it's a great way to earn a little extra money. She asked if there are controls or conditions regarding rental of churches or facilities within Montgomery for private events.

Mr. Donnellon replied that the use of the facility for additional events outside of the normal worship is covered in the conditions. He explained that would be one of those conditions in which attendance is expected to go over 400 that the church must have traffic control police officers. He stated there was an additional condition that the church must notify the City at least seven days in advance of any special events so a review of calendar events can be performed. He stated that this type of concern was addressed.

Ms. Lindemann stated that it is quite possible that events down the road, in the future, could be going on more frequently than Wednesdays and Sundays.

Mr. Donnellon stated that if they added regularly scheduled events, they would need to revisit us.

Ms. Lindemann stated that is occasional, a concert here and there.

Mr. Donnellon explained that's why we put those conditions in there and that's why we address those as conditions that if the Church wants to have additional events, this is what you must do in exchange for our permission.

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Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Ms. Lindemann for her comments. He then asked if there were more comments.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that he was closing the floor from public comment at this time since there were no new speakers. He explained that there would be discussion and debate here at the Council level. He asked Mr. Donnellon for clarification on something. He referenced Ms. Naylor's questions or assertions that the City does not meet the code because we have not required a full traffic study A, and B, that was the main topic, and on the property value side that there can't be a detrimental effect. He wanted to state from our code perspective and what Planning Commission has done with all of their work, and what's been presented us tonight, have we met the letter

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of our code in Mr. Donnellon's opinion.

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Mr. Donnellon replied by stating that going back to the traffic impact study. Ms. Reed did not say turn it down because it's false study, she thought a broader study would be appropriate consistent with the ODOT manual. He stated that both she and the other two traffic engineers agreed that it is up to the local jurisdiction. He explained that we control how we scope a study and as he was trying to point out Mr. Korros's, our engineer, was closely involved in all this in establishing the needed scope. He stated Mr. Korros's belief was based on the statistics that came back and that we would just be studying for the sake of studying to look at the other intersections because he believed that there would be no significant impact to drop the level of service down at those intersections. He stated to keep in mind this is level service A, the next level down is level service B, the next level down is level service C, it does not become problematic even with the ODOT code until you get to levels D, E and F. Mr. Korros opinion was that we didn't need additional study. Mr. Korros felt that those intersections wouldn't drop down to detrimental levels based upon the projected volume of traffic. Mr. Donnellon stated that it's a difference of opinion. Ms. Reed felt a broader study was warranted before you make your decision. Mr. Korros felt that we would be doing a study for the sake of studying. Mr. Donnellon stated that regarding the property values, we had competing evidence on the property values. He stated that the Church brought forth statistical studies and yes there is an empirical question relative to the scientific method of the studies that showed that property values consistently have gone up 200 to 300 percent. He stated that it didn't study neighborhoods in Montgomery where there may not have been a church to see if they went up 250 percent. He stated that the bottom line was the property values went up. He stated that study showed that if you live near a church, you have no negative impact as your property values are going up. He explained that based on that evidence that was presented. Ms. Carroll and Mr. Sylvester and Ms. Beyer all said increased traffic could negatively impact property values and Ms. Carroll's basis is a 1,000-event center. He stated that this is that number we're trying to deal with in terms of is it a thousand or is it an 880 and at what time. Mr. Donnellon stated that Ms. Carroll pointed out that under current conditions right now the Downtown Montgomery area is one of the strongest areas in the Sycamore School District. Mr. Donnellon stated that the Church isn't coming in at ground zero, the church is already there near the Downtown Montgomery area at 400 people a Sunday. He stated that the area is already one of the strongest real estate markets as Ms. Carroll has told us in the city with the church in operation. He stated that it's what weight you give it and the Planning Commission had every bit of this information. He stated that if you've ever sat through one of the Planning Commission hearings you know they review this. He stated that Mr. Harbison can cite chapter, verse, and line from every section. He stated that the fact that they didn't openly argue it over the course of an hour doesn't mean that they didn't weigh it in making their decision.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Donnellon and stated that he wanted to get that on the table because it seems that two major questions were water and landscaping. He stated he believes the water issue will be addressed as the landscaping issues will be addressed when we get to the next level of the plans. He stated that we know there's going to be a yearly maintenance check on those, so he felt we're good there. He stated he felt it came down to two major items as we start this discussion are a traffic study, what was put in front of us and what staff has recommended and our experts have recommended, and property values. He stated those were the two issues, he believed everyone was thinking. He stated that he would open up to Council for discussion.

Mr. Margolis stated that his thought on the last discussion on property values and looking at what the Tree of Life provided, Village Green increase it 200 percent. He stated that in his neighborhood, Governors Watch, where there is no church nearby, his property values went up 187 percent. He stated without a church our property values went up a little bit less than some of these other areas. He feels there is other factors other than traffic that people purchase a home for. He asked how do you quantify against the addition of 130 cars to a place that is already built and is already receiving congregants. He stated that the addition of 130 car's over a half hour. How will that impact the values. He stated he had no idea.

Mayor Dobrozsi restated Council's options for this evening. He explained that first, we can approve the recommendations from Planning Commission which the specific conditions that have been imposed. Secondly, they can recommend modifying the recommendation or modify the conditions as appropriate which require a five

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of the seven, or five of the six in this case as Mr. Cappel stepped down. Thirdly, if they believe there's additional information needed that was not answered this evening, they could remand the matter back to the Planning Commission to address the items we specifically asked them to look into, not to start a whole new record. And then lastly, they can deny the recommendation which would take also approval by five members. He stated that he wanted to go over those options again since it had been a couple of hours since he explained them.

Mr. Suer asked the Mayor if he would like Council to deal with the questions of property values and traffic studies, or would he like for each member to report on all aspects of the recommendation.

Mayor replied for Council to report on any of the items they have comments or concerns with.

Mr. Suer stated that he would start with the two items that the Mayor mentioned, property values being the first one. He stated that it was his feeling that because Montgomery is a highly desirable community to live in it seems that property values continue to increase throughout Montgomery. He explained that we have a number of churches in Montgomery. We have other uses, other facilities like hospitals and so forth and despite these facilities, and despite the traffic that comes and goes from these facilities, it seems that property values continue to increase. He stated that people want to live here and no matter where you live there are always some tradeoffs. He stated that if you happen to be held up a bit by some traffic, for a lot of people they still want to live here. He stated that he feels that property values across the board in Montgomery continue to go up. He stated that he didn't think that this particular project will contribute to anyone seeing their property values drastically go down or go down at all.

Mr. Suer stated that his opinion on the traffic studies is that it has been discussed quite a bit and in the huge amount of materials that he read through, 647 pages, that included all the transcripts, meeting minutes and so forth, with several traffic engineers who weighed in as Mr. Donnellon has pointed out. He stated that they rendered their opinions and he feels that with the number of cars that we're talking about going in and out, he doesn't believe that at this point the further traffic study is warranted. He stated that he believes that our traffic engineer summed it up pretty well with his statement that he feels that with the police officers, on the job maintaining the inflow and outflow, for the short period of time that it will take to get these vehicles in and out that will take care of the situation. He stated that it's true whenever any of our facilities in Montgomery have cars coming and going that it adds more cars to that whole network. He stated that he feels that traffic is a part of living in a suburban area like we have as opposed to living in a rural area where you do not have as much population. He stated with these uses there are a lot of cars and we have to get used to the fact that there is traffic. He stated that he felt it can be managed well with what's been proposed. He stated that he went through and took a look at the progression of changes that took place throughout the Planning Commission meetings. He stated changes to the plan and what the applicant was willing to do to modify the plan, with reducing the size of the building, doubling parking lot setbacks, installing or planning proposing a level landscaping berms and so forth, and the improved drainage and so forth provided him with the confidence that the applicant really made an effort over the eight month period of time to modify the plan to meet requirements and in many cases exceeded requirements. He stated that the applicant made a good faith effort to do that. He stated that he feels our zoning code, even though there have been comments to the effect that our code may be deficient, that we are not enforcing the code and so forth and so on, he feels the Planning Commission in particular spent a lot of time trying to apply our code to this application as they always do with all applications. He stated he felt the Church is in compliance with what the city requires.

Mr. Suer stated that it's been mentioned that the congregation of the church is not primarily Montgomery residents but it's primarily residents from other localities. He stated that he didn't think this is that important of an item because with every church that is in Montgomery, they have a mixture people. There are some residents and nonresidents and the whole idea of a church is to try to do good things whether it's with residents or nonresidents. He stated he was not going to pursue that line of argument at all. He stated that he felt it's a good idea that you know the churches that we have are thriving and actually doing good things and serving people. He stated that it should not be overlooked that the seven conditions stipulated by the Planning Commission. He stated that he felt

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they are all worthwhile items and evidence of the amount of work and thought they put into it. He stated with these seven conditions, when they are adhered to and they will be adhered to, this project becomes much more feasible and much more supportable by himself with these seven conditions.

Mr. Suer stated the he took a look at this site a number of times with the proposed addition and increased parking. He stated that he walked the site and tried to envision how everything was going to work out on the amount of acreage that is there. He felt like in this case, they are not trying to put 50 pounds of something into a 10-pound bag. He stated there's a lot of acreage on the property and he feels what's being proposed is going to fit on that site in a very reasonable way. He stated that the idea that churches should not have the right to remodel and or expand their facilities is not a very good argument because, in fact, churches do have the right to remodel and expand their facilities. He stated they have to follow the code, but they can remodel and expand their facilities much like a homeowner can remodel or expand their home or a business could do the same thing with their buildings. He explained that most of the churches in Montgomery have modified their buildings and in some cases several times over a long period of years. He stated that they've got the right to do that and this church has the right to do that. He stated to the applicant that they have to adhere to the code.

Mr. Suer stated that he was in favor of the project.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Suer for his comments.

Mr. Margolis stated that he misunderstood that his comments should have addressed all items. In addition to his previous comments he stated the big question is why we are even involved with this. He stated we are here to listen to testimony and decide on the Planning Commission's recommendation only. He stated that Council's role as elected officials is really to protect the interests of our stakeholders. He stated that Montgomery is a residential community that has business and institutions that serve our community. He stated that a community is said to exist when interaction between individuals has the purpose of meeting individual needs and obtaining group goals. He stated a community is a limited geographical area with features of social interaction structures for gratification, social and physical needs. He stated that a community is not just people living here, more businesses serving the local people, it is the community in general and people make the community. He stated that we have to balance this with property rights. He stated the requirements: the conditions of how a church or institution is sited within the resident community, has to be balanced with property rights. He stated that people may not be deprived of property rights by the government without due process or fair procedures which our Planning Commission spent hours and hours going through. He stated that the rights of the people that acquire use and dispose of property freely is very important and our Planning Commission provides that due process. He stated that we've already discussed how this conditional use is permitted within residents. He stated that though we are a residential community, we do allow under certain conditions, institutions and schools to use their sites within our neighborhoods. He stated that churches investing in our community that shows vigor in our community and as we discussed property values, people are interested in living here in spite of traffic. He stated that he has traffic coming out of Remington every morning and even in the evenings and that is just a feature of living, as Mr. Suer mentioned, in our community. He stated the parking lot and landscaping are being brought up to current code. He stated that right now it's nothing to write home about of how the site looks, and there are improvements here that will be beneficial to the neighbors. He stated that as we've talked about the screening, the improvements of screening, the improvements of drainage, the water going into the retention pond, and being metered out does not impact the environment. He stated there was some discussion if that could be any better than grass. He explained that the water could just shift over the landscape, whereas the detention pond meters it out and provides cleaner water flow. He stated in regard to traffic on Cooper Road, certainly a passive means of monitoring the traffic would be better, but then as we've discussed or heard testimony, it could a third lane could back up, even exacerbate the problem. He stated that his feeling that human intervention of a police officer their monitoring will surely mitigate any increase in traffic.

Mr. Margolis applauded the Planning Commission for their thoroughness and working with the residents and the institution, to work toward that win-win. He stated that not everybody is happy with each situation. He stated that

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there will be a slight increase in traffic, but the church is already there, how do we weigh their property rights versus the resident's property rights and hopefully we've found that middle ground. He stated that legally the church actually meets all of our requirements. He stated that maybe our conditions aren't right, maybe we should look further into how our conditional use setup. He suggested we accept the Planning Commission recommendations.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Margolis.

Vice Mayor Roesch stated that she didn't want to belabor a lot of the points that Mr. Suer and some other folks have already said out here because she concurs with what they're saying, but she does want to take this time to commend the Planning Commission. She stated that they did a fantastic job. She stated that she also wants to commend all the residents. She stated that she thinks they raised a lot of good issues, pushed back, and were able to make compromises. She explained that what we're doing up here is what Mr. Donnellon said, it's a balance test. She explained that City Council has to weigh the interests of a property owner against the interests of the community. She stated that as Mr. Suer said, they have a right to the enjoyment of the property and to remodel it as residents certainly have rights to maintain their property values. She stated that personally she hates traffic too so she can sympathize with that, but she does think that the church has come to the table and address a lot of the objections like the lighting, the noise, the landscaping, the stormwater and she feels that at the final development plan they will. She stated that she trusts that the City is going to take care of enforcing all of the conditions that we are talking about imposing here. She feels that all of the objections basically boiled down to this additional traffic and she thinks the City wouldn't pay an engineer and then say well I don't think this study is worthwhile. She stated that we hire this engineer because we respect his professional expertise and the methods that he uses and as far as she knows these are the same methods, he uses in other traffic studies. She stated that we've always accepted them, and it doesn't look to her to be deficient in any respect. She acknowledged that for people that have to get in and out of Cooper Road may be inconvenient. She stated that she doesn't like it either when she has to sit in traffic on Montgomery Road, but she can say that we are talking about the fifth largest church. She stated that there is Assembly of God which she thinks seats 800 or so. She stated the Church of the Saviour across the street, which is 300-400 maybe and St. Barnabas around the corner which is 450 and there's not a traffic issue on Sunday morning because she lives right up there. She stated that traffic from churches is part of what we live with. She stated that churches are not something that really does affect property values. She stated that those churches existed probably when most of the residents bought their home, although maybe some residents predated the church, however she feels in most instances if you live near the church, you bought there knowing there was a church or two churches there. She stated in her opinion the church has not negatively impacted the property value. She stated for these reasons she is okay with the project.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Vice Mayor Roesch for her comments.

Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that while she is not opposed to the church as it stands, she thinks it has been a great resident a handful of years that they've been here she is concerned with the expansion in a residential area. She stated that her obligation is to protect the rights of our resident's property, their quality of life to ensure it's a better community and the future than it is right now. She stated that we detail a set of 12 criterion upon which will allow conditional uses in a residential area and she feels many of these conditions are not being met. She stated that as a steward of the code, she has an obligation to the residents to meet or even exceed the minimum requirements, especially when so many residents have concerns about whether we're meeting the code or not. She stated that Montgomery is a highly desirable area right now but it's because of the controls we put in place. She stated she would hate to let the controls loosen a bit and then result in a lower quality of life for our residents. She stated that the two we were talking about, predominantly the property values and the traffic, needs more scrutiny. She feels like for our resident's sake it needs an expanded study for both. She feels that having a study showing property values now near a church, near a large organization like a hospital even, and actually have some data to look at. She stated that before she makes a vote, she would want to have hard numbers of how it would impact our residents and also a traffic study. She feels like Swaim area has already been identified as an area that has some traffic concerns, children crossing, people trying to get to the park and she doesn't want any other decisions to

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exacerbate it before we really can expand and see what the roundabout or what traffic at Kenwood, the Junior High would impact it. She stated that quite honestly, she feels like we need to take a greater look at our zoning code because we give our list of 12 conditional uses, but she thinks they're kind of vague. She stated that we've been having this discussion for several hours. She stated that she would love to have greater details in here with exact guidelines of what we can go off of not be detrimental to the immediate vicinity as one of them or not adversely affect existing use of property owners. She stated that we have many property owners who say their property use would decline or their enjoyment of their property would decline. She stated there's nothing in the code that basically gives that criteria. She stated there's 12 criteria and questioned is it the majority of them they have to meet, just one, or all. She stated that she would like to take a look at the code and maybe bring it up to 2019 so some of these decisions are more cut and dry for all of us to look at.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mrs. Bissmeyer for her comments.

Mrs. Harbison explained that she is in a unique position that not many people, or she didn't think any people, in this room are in. She stated that she lives on Pfeiffer Road which is a busy road. She stated she lives directly next door to Church of the Saviour and across the street from Montgomery Assembly of God. She stated if you talk about impact, who in the room is impacted most by churches and that would be her. She explained that she has lived there for 33 years. She stated that when she moved here Church of the Saviour was a very small building Montgomery Assembly of God was a very small building and both have had significant additions. She stated that back in the late 90s when Church of the Saviour had their addition she was not on Council and she came to Council members and asked for help and they all referred her to the zoning code and said they had to go by what's in the zoning code, they can't run on emotion and here's what the zoning code said. She stated that one Council member at the time voted against it in sympathy for her. She stated having said that, living next door to Church of the Savior she can probably count on less than one hand how many times they even have a police officer directing traffic and that's usually their drive through nativity which traffic backs up on Pfeiffer Road to get through the back parking lot and get through the scenarios. She stated that occasionally there is an event such as the Montgomery Assembly God, with the Women's Club, when they have their lecture series during the daytime, they had a police officer there to direct traffic as well. She stated that on a typical Sunday morning, she has never in 33 years had access to Pfeiffer Road disturbed by church traffic leaving. She stated that everybody is very courteous. She stated that there's people walking across Pfeiffer Road to the extended medical parking lot and she has not had a problem in 33 years, so she has to take that into account as well.

Mrs. Harbison stated to Mr. Pangburn that he gives her consternation because he is in a position of being the most directly affected by this situation. She acknowledged that the church was there when he moved in and those two driveways were there when he moved in, but she has sat in the parking lot a number of times and knows that the line of sight from his second floor overlooks the trees and looks down into that parking lot and the church. She stated that she has been a realtor for 33 years. She stated that she doesn't do the level of volume that Celia Carroll and Steve Sylvester do in Montgomery as she chooses to do a broader area. She stated that she chose to work out of the West Chester office for separation of church and state, so to speak. She stated that she does sell homes in Montgomery, but she also would have to argue that having the church would not significantly impact the value of your home. She stated that one would say her house being directly next to Church of the Saviour, maybe there's some impact there, but as a realtor she watched values in Montgomery very closely across the board and knows that her two neighbors who moved in within a month of each other in 2012, property values have significantly jumped even living on Pfeiffer Road across from a church with another church right down the street. She stated that the impact of a major street would be a bigger drawback to value than being next to a church. She stated that she believes there have been multi-million-dollar homes built on Weller Road directly across the street from Good Shepherd and those homes have sold well and continue to increase in value. She stated if people continue to improve their home and continue to improve the value, she always says Montgomery is spent in finishes and floor plan and if people concentrate on those items their home is going to continue to grow in value for its time.

Mrs. Harbison stated that she has not been happy to hear comments that many of the church members don't live in Montgomery. She stated in her opinion; a church is welcoming. She stated that she has been a member of Good

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Shepherd since the late 80s. She stated that Good Shepherd, used to have and still does, multiple zip codes. They didn't cater to Montgomery 45242 or 45249, they cater to Forest Park, they cater to West Chester, they cater to the inner city. She stated that she hopes Montgomery is welcoming to people. She stated she hopes the good people in the room, who go to their church, will love Montgomery so much they'll buy a house here.

Mrs. Harbison stated she is up in the air on what she is going to do with this. She stated that she listens to her colleagues and is really struggling with what to do as far as how she is going to vote on this. She stated that she does believe the Planning Commission thoroughly studied the issue and believes all the conditions were met.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated the he moved here in 1999 and pretty soon after moving here he joined the Landmarks Commission for nine years and then ran for Council. He stated he has served on Council almost 10 years now and loves this community. He stated that he looked up the definition of community and most often it states that it's a place where people live in the same geographical area. He stated that's not community to him. He stated that he continued to search and found a definition that community is a set of people that believe they belong together and love living amongst each other. He stated that to him that is a true community. He stated that this is hard, and Council is elected to lead, that is their job. He stated it's not always listening to the emotion because there's a lot of emotion, as everybody knows, and instances like this invokes emotion. He stated that they have to put that aside and look at it. He stated that Council has to worry about tomorrow or the next day. He stated that although we are a very stable community, they have to look at 5, 10, 15 years from now, are we going to continue to be the community of choice. He stated that sometimes that takes some pretty hard decisions to get to that point.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated he was going to go through the few major items and where he stands. He reminded everyone that he has to deal with the facts put in front of him. He started with traffic. He stated that he has a traffic expert that tells him that we are starting with an A and ending with an A. He stated he has a City consultant that confirms what that traffic study says, the facts in front of him say that, that is not going to be a traffic issue moving forward. He stated that he can't take it any other way because he has to deal with facts. He stated in regard to property values, that all of the realtors were great people, but he saw no facts in their opinion letters. He stated that it talked about general traffic, in general property values, however there were no facts that were delivered to him to say it's going to affect property values. He stated that he truly believes that it's the opposite. He stated long term for us it is not going to affect property values.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that water is a huge issue for all of us. He stated that he lives next to what used to be the Swaim Golf Course and has a river running through his yard a lot of times, so the issue of water is close to home for him. He stated that looking at what is depicted in the plans, water would flow away from the adjacent properties towards the highway which tells him that this is not going to increase water issues for adjacent residents. He stated that more importantly he knows that Mr. Heitkamp and Ms. Roblero will ensure that it does not impact the adjacent neighbors water run.

Mayor Dobrozsi spoke about the seven conditions. He stated that when he initially came into this, he could not support the application without the seven conditions Planning Commission placed upon it. He stated that the seven conditions take care of a lot of the issues that he is hearing. He stated that moving forward it's incumbent upon the City and the Church to comply with these seven conditions of being a good steward and a being a good neighbor for Montgomery. He stated it's on the Church as much as us, so the City doesn't have to police the Church. He stated that one thing he was always concerned about was that he seen those churches not being maintained. He explained for instance the one church to the east, has an old sign that sits out there still and he would like for the church to take care of that. He stated his point is those things were continued to be run down and to him that's an effect on property values as they continue to run down. He stated having someone come in, he believes, maintain what was there or plan to maintain is a good thing for property values not a detriment for property values. He stated with all these comments that he is in support of this application because of the thorough work of staff and residents as well.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that he also wanted to thank the Planning Commission for everything they did as well. He

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acknowledged that maybe the public hearing didn't run as perfect as it could have, but at the end of the day they listened and complied with the zoning code. He stated there might be some learning moments inside all of that.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if Council had any closing comments before he asked for a motion for one of the four items that we've talked. He explained they have four options we can move forward in some way.

Mr. Margolis stated that part of the former planning commissioner in him, he did visit the site a couple of times and went through the neighborhood. He stated that it is not like Council is looking at this abstractly on paper, it is what feet on the ground look like, what does the site look like, and what are the potential impacts.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Margolis for his comments.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that with that he will leave it open to Council for a motion for one of the four items that we previously discussed.

Mr. Margolis moved to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation with all the conditions set forth. Vice Mayor Roesch seconded.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

1482	AYE: Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer, Margolis	(4)
1483	NAY: Bissmeyer, Harbison	(2)
1/04	ABSTAIN: Cappel	(1)
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Mayor Dobrozsi thanked everyone for coming and stated that whatever side of the table you're on in this issue, it's very seldom that people come forward to come to Council on a biweekly basis when we have meetings, it's only when we have issues like this. He stated that we're glad to see engaged citizens coming out to deal with what they believe in and truly hope you all keep on doing that. He stated that it is obviously not an easy thing for Council, but you've got to believe we're all doing what we do believe is in the best interest of this city for generations to come.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Margolis made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council