



Proposed purchase of the Elks Property

At the December 21, 2020 City Council meeting, council members heard a presentation about the proposed purchase of the Elks Golf Course and properties by the City.

Late summer, The City was approached by the Elks Lodge expressing their concerns about their ability to provide long term sustainability to the golf course. They have explored various options, and they thought city ownership and operation of the course would provide the best stability for this community asset.

The City recognizes the importance of the golf course as a community asset and an important component to quality of life, and began to explore the benefits of the golf course. Here are some of those findings:

- Recreational Benefits:
 - Golfing is an all-ages recreational activity.
 - The pathways can be utilized as safe walking trails and the course can be utilized for cross-country skiing in the winter.
 - The Elks Course can also be easily connected to the City's planned bike path.
- Environmental Benefits:
 - Courses offer open, well-maintained green space and The Elks Course is an excellent use of flood plain.
- Economic Development Benefits:
 - Golf outings and other special events generate much needed revenue for a wide variety of non-profits.
 - Golf courses are also an important recruitment and retention tool used to attract businesses and professionals.

The City staff also did an assessment of the long term viability of the course as a municipally owned property and their preliminary findings were part of the presentation.

The City and Council recognize that the purchase is a big decision and undertaking, and are not taking this process lightly, knowing there will be challenges. It is anticipated that the financing of the purchase and operational costs will be mostly covered by revenues from increased usage and rents, and therefore should not affect other municipal projects and budgets.

The purpose of the December 21 presentation was to present the idea and tentative proposal to council and to the public. Action was not taken. There is still a lot of work to be done on the project.

The City Council meetings are being held in accordance with the governor's disaster proclamation orders and current mitigations. Information on the meetings are posted with the agenda. All council agendas are posted physically in front of City Council Chambers (115 W Howard St) and on the City of Pontiac website www.pontiac.org under the Agenda Center. The entire meeting is available for viewing on the City's YouTube channel: Pontiac Illinois.

