



## **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 11, 2015 ~ 7:30 P.M.

Louis J. R. Goorey Worthington Municipal Building  
John P. Coleman Council Chamber  
6550 North High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085

## **City Council**

*Bonnie D. Michael, President*  
*Robert F. Chosy, President Pro-Tempore*  
*Rachael Dorothy*  
*Scott Myers*  
*David M. Norstrom*  
*Douglas Smith*  
*Michael C. Troper*

*D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council*

**CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance**

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, May 11, 2015, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of the Louis J.R. Goorey Worthington Municipal Building, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 P.M.

Ms. Michael appointed Tanya Maria Word as Temporary Clerk of Council for this evening's meeting.

**Members Present:** Robert F. Chosy, Rachael R. Dorothy, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, Michael C. Troper, and Bonnie D. Michael

**Member(s) Absent:**

**Also present:** Deputy Clerk of Council Tanya Word, City Manager Matthew Greeson, Director of Law Pamela Fox, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, City Engineer William Watterson, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Hurley, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Chief of Police James Mosaic and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were approximately 32 visitors present.

*President Michael invited all those in attendance to stand and join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**VISITOR COMMENTS****SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- **Leadership for a Lifetime Awards**

**Resolution No. 15-2015**

Expressing the Congratulations of Worthington City Council to Reilly Herold for Being Recognized as the Elementary School Winner of the 2015 Leadership for a Lifetime Award from Leadership Worthington.

**Introduced by Councilmember Norstrom.**

**MOTION**

Councilmember Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chosy.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 16-2015**

Expressing the Congratulations of Worthington City Council to Bianca Crank for Being Recognized as the Middle School Winner of the 2015 Leadership for a Lifetime Award from Leadership Worthington.

**Introduced by Councilmember Myers**

**MOTION** Councilmember Dorothy moved to adopt Resolution No. 16-2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Troper.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 17-2015**

Expressing the Congratulations of Worthington City Council to Grant Smith for Being Recognized as the High School Winner of the 2015 Leadership for a Lifetime Award from Leadership Worthington.

**Introduced by Councilmember Norstrom**

**MOTION** Councilmember Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 17-2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chosy.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

*Mr. Greeson stated it is nice to really be able to do this this evening, this is really consistent with one of the goals that you've had as a Council to recognize students not only for their athletic achievements which is something we've done historically over the past, but for their academic achievements and their leadership contributions in our community.*

*I'm going to ask Kathy Sparks who is retiring next year from the Worthington School District, but has been an active component of Leadership for a Lifetime to talk a little bit about the program and to help facilitate our ceremony this evening.*

*Ms. Sparks explained that the program was started in 1994 with my Leadership Worthington class; it was not my particular project that year, my project was actually tracing The Underground Railroad through Worthington which was a phenomenal thing we did back then. When we first started we asked for nominations and based it on the nominations; after a few years we thought why don't we have the people that were nominated to say their thoughts about leadership, because initially it was just based on what the nominator said about them and not anything the student or the adult had to say.*

*So after a few years we decided to put in the question component so they were nominated then we sent out letters or applications for the nominees to write their thoughts about*

*leadership and then we were able to glean more about each of the nominees and what they thought and some of the activities they've been involved in.*

*The mission of Leadership for a Lifetime is to identify existing and emerging teen leaders. It will develop their potential for school and civic responsibility, enhance their understanding of leadership issues and motivate them to work toward resolving these issues for the betterment of the Worthington community.*

*The focus of the Leadership program consists of four components:*

- (a) Self-Assessment – to enhance self-awareness and leadership styles, self-expression and social interaction. Students will be led in multiple activities by national leadership trainers that will help them to discover their ultimate leadership potential.*
- (b) Team-Building – students will participate in a series of team-building activities offsite in order to understand that effective teamwork is an integral part of the leadership process.*
- (c) Community Service – to emphasize the importance of community involvement through volunteerism. Students will participate in an offsite service project to benefit the Worthington community.*
- (d) Service Presentations – to implement what has been learned about effective communication, public speaking and presentation techniques, and to share information about the service learning experience. This is presented is at the graduation event.*

*I will now have the nominators present our winners.*

***Reilly Herold ~ Elementary School Winner***

*Jimmy Roherbocker – Nominator*

*Mr. Roherbocker commented that Reilly Herold is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Wilson Hill School. She progresses/runs through life at school and the community. Her peers and teachers respect her opinion and presence. She leads daily morning announcements with a friend, with positive messages to all. Volunteering in the cafeteria is a combination of high 5's, hugs, setting up tables with paper products, and helping to dismiss the students out to recess, and then preparing for the upper elementary students by cleaning tables and the floor area.*

*In the afternoon Reilly helps tutor the kindergarten students with writing exercises, numbers and math concepts. She is her own "cheering squad" for the K-students, wanting them to do well to start off their school years. On Friday afternoons, she becomes part of the recycling team as she moves from classroom to classroom to sort*

*paper for the recycling boxes. She practices and provides safety as one of Worthington's finest patrol at Wilson Hill.*

*Outside of school, Reilly is active in her church as a volunteer with so many activities. The Worthington Public Library is another arena for her volunteering. In the community Reilly participates in many local 5K races, and finds time for her schoolwork and homework! Reilly finds a nice mix of school, church and community opportunities to show her leadership. As she moves into Middle School we can guarantee that her spirit of volunteerism will continue on a high level....as they will be so pleased to have her. She gives 110% as she helps others to do well, be accepted and to be her special "cheering squad" for the students in her school.*

*Reilly expressed thank you Mr. Jimmy for nominating me for this prestigious award; I would not be here tonight without your time and effort. I think you are one of the biggest leaders at our school. To be a leader it takes honesty, Mr. Jimmy appreciates the truth, I see that when I am there helping him throughout the cafeteria. Another thing it takes to be a leader is communication. My principal Mr. Keller knows how to get students quiet without yelling, he raises his hand up and says "Hands Up For Leadership" and students put their hands up and become silent. Thank you Leadership Worthington for this award, I look forward to continuing my leadership work in the years to come.*

#### ***Bianca Crank ~ Middle School Winner***

*Kelly Cox and Kathy Sparks – Nominators*

*Ms. Sparks shared that Bianca is a wonderful self-motivated 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Kilbourne Middle School. As a leader in their Leadership Club (i.e. Student Council) she has helped plan dances, philanthropic activities and school-wide Spirit events. Bianca moves to being a WEB Leader (Where Everybody Belongs), to being a mentor to a group of 7<sup>th</sup> graders. She is a strong academic leader who is always looking for ways to express her learning in creative directions. She is self-motivated and dedicated to pushing her academic learning beyond the classroom expectations. Bianca speaks four different languages. In the community she connects with Brilliant K-9 dog Harness Company, dog training and dog sitting. The library loves having her as she volunteers and baby sits when she can. What a fine leader!*

*Bianca commented when I think of leadership or what good leadership qualities are I always look for someone who is responsible and tries to keep everyone together, leaving no one behind or someone who communicates well getting everyone together to get them to do whatever they need to do. I believe a good leader is comprised of three components Organization, Communication and Responsibility. A good leader helps everyone and tries to see wherever they can help and what they can help with.*

**Grant Smith ~ High School Winner**

Julie King – Nominator

*Service to community and school – this is Grant. School drive and positive energy – this is Grant! I look behind me and his entire team (his family is here), this is his support group. He assists others academically as a tutor, and in the leadership role as a mentor. Teachers have provided a space for Grant in the school to continue his tutoring in Math and Science, as he has a gift for explaining things that are difficult to understand. Key points to highlight Grant's high school years includes saving students academically, to planning the Annual Honor The Veterans Event, and many high school events from Homecoming to Student Staff BB Games. He lives and breathes TWHS and makes time for everyone. The excellent leader inspires us to be more than we thought possible – this is Grant!*

*Grant thanked Leadership Worthington for this amazing award. To me leadership is three things; the first is helping others reach their full potential, I have done this in many roles, one of those being Vice-President of the Senior Class this has allowed me to help my fellow classmates to reach their full potential every day. The second is through Mrs. King's freshman mentoring program; one of the aspects of this program is tutoring freshmen students who struggle and help them achieve their goals. Mrs. King has provided me unlimited opportunities to lead whether it be mentoring or heading the Veterans Day Event or running school assemblies, she is always there. I've also done this through sports whether it's captain of the Varsity Water Polo team or being on the basketball team as a varsity member helping others even if you're aren't part of the end result; after all a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Leadership is also setting an example for others to follow, Stephen Gussler was a prime example of this; he taught us all to live GussStrong, always doing our best. One of my favorite quotes of his is "Every day is not perfect, but every day has a purpose." He set an example that all of us ought to follow and because of him and his lessons I live this way as well. I want others to look to me as a model.*

*Finally I think involvement in the community is huge in leadership not just in school, but bigger than that; it starts with one person, even if it's just your neighbor helping them with whatever they need; and from there it moves on to the larger scale of helping organizations who will help better the community as a whole. Thank you again for this award. I am truly humbled and cannot thank Leadership Worthington, my family and Mrs. King enough for helping to reach my goals. Mrs. King is a prime example of leadership and has passed those qualities on to me.*

*Mr. Norstrom asked Grant what university he will be attending in the fall. Grant replied Miami University. Mr. Norstrom exclaimed "CONGRATULATIONS!" Mr. Norstrom commented I would like to say something on leadership because all three of you exemplified it in your speeches; I did not hear the word "I", I heard the word "we" and what you do is making other people look good, and that's the quality of a great leader. Don't be afraid to fail, because when you're out in front sometimes it will happen. You make people like us proud that we serve people like you.*

*Dr. Chosy shared that the students are simply amazing and I am very proud of them.*

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

### Policy Item(s)

- **Request to Bid: 2015 Street Improvement Program**

*Mr. Greeson asked Mr. Watterson to overview the request to bid the 2015 Street Improvement Program*

*Mr. Watterson reported that last Friday afternoon the annual driving tour of the street improvement program was held. At this point and time we are requesting \$765,889.15.*

*Ms. Michael asked Council if they had any questions. Ms. Dorothy commented when we went on the tour, Mr. Watterson knew Worthington like the back of his hand and it's going to be very sad when he is not with us next year; we did a lot of street concerns that we think we might have to address next year but we can get around it this year with our limited budget and there are a couple areas that might get put in at the very last minute just to make sure that roads are up to snuff; but I appreciate Mr. Watterson's dedication and thorough knowledge of all the city streets in Worthington. Even with the reduced scope I think we are making sure we have a very safe and positive environment to live in.*

*Ms. Michael commented one thing that we did learn on the tour is that this year we had a lower budgeted amount, but as we move forward into future years we may have to look into our CIP and go closer to \$1 million mark per year in order to keep our streets maintained to the level that our citizens appreciate and brings good vehicular safety. Dr. Chosy remarked I totally agree with that and I remind everybody that's what the CIP is for.*

**MOTION** Councilmember Dorothy made a motion to authorize staff to bid the 2015 Street Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chosy.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

- **Monthly Financial Update**

*Mrs. Roberts stated the fund balances for all accounts decreased from \$20,033,156 to \$19,632,293, with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$400,863. I am happy to report as of the middle of last week and after this report was prepared we did receive the 1<sup>st</sup> half property tax settlement from the Franklin County Auditor so our May numbers should be a little more in line with our projections and prior year revenue.*

*Year to date fund balances for all accounts decrease from \$20,023,436 as of January 1, 2015 to \$19,632,293 with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$391,144.*

*Expenditures for all funds tracked at 88.5% of anticipated levels. Year to date revenues for all funds are below 2014 revenues by \$1,343, 298 and below estimates by \$1,676,836, primarily related to the late release of property tax revenues from the Franklin County Auditor. The General Fund balance decreased from \$9,799,313 to \$9,712,591 for the month of April, with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$86,722.*

*The year to date General Fund balance decreased from \$10,245,729 on January 1, 2015 to \$9,715,591 with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$533,138. General Fund expenditures tracked at 85.5% of anticipated expenditure levels. Total General Fund revenues are below estimates by -\$969,083 or -11.83% and below 2014 collections by -\$720,239 or -9.07%.*

*Ms. Michael asked should we be concerned with everything being so low. Mrs. Roberts replied I really do feel this is primarily attributed to the property tax distribution settlement not being received earlier; we just received it the middle of last week and the general fund distribution was slightly below my estimate of \$1.3 million dollars, it was \$1,238,000 (about \$61,000 dollars less.)*

*April 2015 income tax collections are above year to date 2014 collections by \$717,235 or 10.77% and above year to date estimates by \$580,103 or 8.54%.*

*Mr. Norstrom commented I have a question on the all revenue line is that something is not unusual that we're off for like a quarter because it's not a steady state of income or is there something else contributing to that \$145,000 shortfall. Mrs. Roberts replied nothing is standing out to me at this time; I will check into this matter and get back with you. Mr. Norstrom stated I guess the question is, is it a timing issue or is really something that the estimate we made is way off. Mrs. Roberts replied part of the timing issue, part of that line item reflects cable TV franchise fee. Mr. Norstrom replied okay, if you can look into this for us, it would be greatly appreciated.*

**MOTION** Councilmember Norstrom made a motion to accept the April Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith.

**The motion carried by a voice vote.**

## **OTHER**

*Ms. Michael explained that normally during Committee of the Whole meetings we don't have public comment; acknowledged a guest in the audience and asked if he wanted to speak to something on the agenda or just watching the meeting. Mr. Palmer said he would like a few moments to speak regarding the UMCH property. Ms. Michael replied we will give a couple of minutes, please state your name and address for the record.*

*Mr. Nathan Palmer, 410 Pittsfield Drive, stated I know there is a plan for 350 apartments and 200 townhomes that is slated for the UMCH property. My wife and I and some friends in our neighborhood are just a little concerned about the density of the development there. I understand that is a property that has a high value. My concern is that I would love to see us make a commitment as a community to single family homes; it seems like the number of single family homes that is slated for that potential development is pretty low in proportion to the community. I know there are a lot of apartments going in at Linworth and 161 and I'm concerned about my children's schools; how are we going to find appropriate ways to get these kids into schools where they are not overburden.*

*Ms. Michael replied the first place this proposal is going to go is the Municipal Planning Commission. History has shown us that what initially gets submitted to Municipal Planning Commission maybe significantly different when it comes to Council. We have had numerous times (especially the larger projects) when what has been initially submitted is not the exact same product that comes to Council. Secondly we have a Comprehensive Plan that I don't imagine the Municipal Planning Commission or City Council agreeing to something that varies significantly from the Comprehensive Plan, we spent a good 1+ years getting it together, it had community input from the entire community and it included a mixture of some apartments and single family homes and then also some type of condo/townhouse type development; we have a lot of people who want to retire and stay in Worthington and be able to have first floor living space but not have to take care of a yard.*

*Mr. Norstrom asked Mr. Palmer are you aware of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Palmer replied I'm not aware of all the details, do you mean zoning. Mr. Norstrom replied no, it's an entire city plan that was adopted about five years ago. Mr. Myers commented it was actually adopted two years ago and amended this past year. Mr. Norstrom explained it was a multi-year process to amend it just looking at that sight and as Madam Chairperson has stated what is being proposed is in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan which called for less single-family homes than what you're advocating.*

*Mr. Myers shared if you tracked at all the Showe Development in downtown Worthington that development was not the same at the end as it was at the beginning in large part because of citizen involvement. The Municipal Planning Commission is delegated with the task of listening through a series of public meetings to citizen input exactly what you're saying. Then they ultimately will bring it to us and we have another round of listening. The plan that we've heard about has not been submitted to the City, so we still don't have anything official yet. Read the Comprehensive Plan, you can link to it on the website, if you read the whole thing it gives you an idea of where Worthington wants to go and that's a good place to start your arguments from.*

*Mr. Norstrom asked are you aware of WARD. Mr. Palmer replied yes. Mr. Myers said get involved with WARD.*

*Ms. Michael commented there's no problem coming here and talking with us, but we strongly encourage you to go to the Municipal Planning Commission meetings after this has been submitted because that's where the first round of changes and first round of public input will take place.*

*Mr. Greeson commented we the staff (Lee or me) would be glad to share any details about the process and share the comprehensive plan.*

*Mr. Palmer commented I appreciate everyone's comments and openness; I would hope that we as a City choose a developer that is committed to Worthington as we are. Ms. Michael said we don't own the property, therefore United Methodist chooses the developer and we work with them.*

## **REPORTS OF CITY STAFF**

*Mr. Greeson commented we distributed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly report of 2015 and if you have any questions about it now or later, please feel free to ask.*

*Mr. Myers asked about the decrease in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter case volume in Mayor's Court. Mr. Greeson replied you will also note that we had a decrease in some of our traffic stops. Ms. Dorothy stated she would be very interested to know how the end of the Master Planning for the Park Process is coming along. Mr. Greeson replied we can give you an update on that. Mr. Greeson indicated I would like to highlight on page 3 the vacancy rate for Huntley Road in particular; I think Mr. Harris is reporting from COCIE/Xcelligent a 2.4% vacancy rate in their database. Ms. Dorothy asked is this where we've been doing our ReCap projects. Mr. Greeson replied yes, and hopefully our ReCap will also start to drive rent rates up – economic vitality. We will follow up on the two items raised by Mr. Myers and Ms. Dorothy.*

*Mr. Greeson commented I also want to highlight that we conducted an RFP process for the Old Worthington Mobility Study; this is a scope of services that you had a great hand in. We brought it to you to make sure it met your needs. From a procurement standpoint we followed the updated procurement process that you amended with us last year; the funds were appropriated in the CIP so we don't need to run an appropriate Ordinance through the process and the dollar amount for the fee is within the authority for the City Manager to award.*

*There was a committee that included a number of staff which included Mr. Brown, Mrs. Stewart, Mr. Watterson and a few others. The firm that has been identified for selection is DLZ with a sub-consultant Burton Planning Services. We will get started in the not so distance future; we know that we need to start first looking at Stafford and High.*

*Dr. Chosy asked what this process will entail. Mr. Watterson indicated there would be 4 phases:*

- (1) Evaluate Stafford & High*
- (2) Update current flashing Beacons*
- (3) Looking at all pedestrian access*
- (4) Improving bike mobility*

*Mr. Norstrom asked when this study is expected to be completed. Mr. Watterson replied we are hopeful that we will be able to make a presentation before the August recess on Stafford Avenue and then the remainder of the work as far the study is concerned by next fall (October or November). Ms. Dorothy asked are you saying this fall 2015. Mr. Watterson replied yes, October or November 2015.*

## **REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Councilmember David M. Norstrom** – *indicated he would like staff to look at the possibility of lowering the monitors down. It makes it hard for Council to see out into the audience and a few meetings back we had people from the audience comment they could not see Council members.*

*Mr. Greeson replied that is something staff will look into, it will require a lot of carpentry; we can get an estimate as to how much it will cost.*

**Councilmember Michael Troper** – *asked for an update regarding checkbook online. Mr. Greeson replied we've been inquiring with the Treasurer's office, I'm not sure if we have a report at this point. Mrs. Roberts shared that I've been in telephone conversations with them and told them that we would be willing participants, just need some further information from them as to what format they need our data to be in. Mr. Greeson commented then ended up having to work with our software vendor in order to fit with them.*

*Mr. Norstrom stated based on presentations that we had a National League of Cities if I remember correctly theirs is output, so I think they can take input from almost any software.*

*Ms. Dorothy commented if the City puts the information out, they will create the program to take the information in. So that will be no cost to us.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Councilmember Troper made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss negotiations for economic development and boards and commissions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dorothy.

**The motion carried by the following voice vote:**

**Yes 7** Troper, Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Chosy, Michael

**No 0**

Council recessed at 8:25 P.M. from the Regular meeting session.

**MOTION** Councilmember Myers made a motion to return to open session at 9:09 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Councilmember Dorothy made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chosy.

**The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned.

/s/ Tanya Maria Word  
Temporary Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
15<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
President of Council