Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 14, 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, September 14, 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.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith made a motion to appoint Robyn Stewart Temporary Clerk of Council for this evening’s meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chosy.

Ms. Michael appointed Robyn Stewart 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

Also present: Temporary Clerk of Council Robyn Stewart, City Manager Matthew Greeson, Director of Law Pamela Fox, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, Service and Engineering Director William Watterson, Director of Building and Planning Lee Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police James Mosic, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were 10 visitors present.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Policy Item(s)

(1) Grant Request – Old Worthington Partnership

Mr. Greeson stated that the Old Worthington Partnership is one of our great not-for-profit partners that helps make this community a great place to live through its many activities and events. They were formally known as the Old Worthington Business Association and then last year they had been discussing their interest in receiving City grant funding to support their invectives and really to support the vibrancy and vitality of our downtown area. They are here this evening to present a revised request to you; we distributed back in late June, early July a grant application packet, that’s a packet you had approved the format of earlier in the year, they have some minor changes to that and will be requesting about $12,500 through the remainder of 2015. Many of their Board of Directors are here with us this evening and I’ll let Aaron Brown the primary speaker introduce them.
Aaron Brown would like to spend approximately 10 minutes to brief Council on what we’ve been up to and then close with a refocus of our ask and then open up to any questions Council might have. We were here in February when Matt was proposing a grant application and what that could look like; we would like to think that we listened and all the things that was important to you and we’ve appropriately entitled our presentation “Impact.” We’re asking what impact does the organization have, What impact would a grant request have on the City and then how would impact be measured; all of this was very important to us, so thank you for that outline you gave us, it was very helpful.

Focus – we are clearly focused on advancing the Old Worthington Experience; this is something that we have worked hard on in the past year to refine focus; in order to have impact, you have to have focus from our point of view. We think we can add impact in this area in three key ways: Collaboration, Engagement, and Sustainability. In the following slides we will walk you through the impact we believe we’ve had to date in these three key areas and the impact we hope to have moving forward.

Jamie has been our part-time Executive Director for more than a year and our full-time Farmer’s Market Manager. Jamie is one of the main reasons why we’re able to make this friendly request today; she will continue in the role as full-time Farmer’s Market Manager; however Jamie has decided not to be our full-time Executive Director; we appreciate her focus on the Farmer’s Market and continuing in that role. Our Board of Directors are:

Staff
Jaime Moore
Part-Time Executive Director
Farmer’s Market Manager

Old Worthington
Partnership
One important thing to note about our Board of Directors is that these are individuals throughout our community people who have a shared cause in the well-being of our community and we’re quite proud of that direction. In fact we have more and more people of the community who seek to be on our board; for example John Drego is here tonight who has applied to be on our board as a CPA and John will help us with our fiscal management responsibilities moving forward. Hopefully his application looks good and he can be a member of our board.

If I were to try to quantify the investment of time that this board gives over the past three or four months we’ve been doing our best to log every quarter hour that we spend in support of the organization; and our math is subject to scrutiny as it may be on the average of 85 hours per month in support of our community. If you strap late that across the year, that’s more than $1000 annual using formula from our modern organization main street, we’re upwards of $18,000 - $20,000 when you think about the time we’re putting in. I think I should note as well that our staff Jamie and we had someone to manager the Arts Festival; Jamie is working a part-time job that is logging more than full-time hours which is one of the reasons why we’re here, so if you were to add her contributions to this, I have no doubt that the number would be higher; and frankly this number continues to rise; and so we’re just grateful to our team for the volunteer hours that they continue to put in in support of our mission.

Three of us live in Old Worthington, the rest of us throughout the surrounding community and again we think that’s important for the different perspectives which we bring into the shared interest of this community. Should our funding request be approved we would welcome involvement from City Council on our board at your discretion of what that may look like; but we think that is an important part of our continued growth and again as we
look at other model organizations, most of them have involvement from City Council on their Board of Directors. We will move on to Collaboration.

We believe some of the greatest value we have brought is in bringing organizations together as independent group to share in the common goal of a positive experience; for example no one had been gathering the merchants in the Old Worthington area to discuss happenings and events going on; we have, we’ve done that now consecutively for more than a year. We’re meeting regularly with Jeff Harris and Lee Brown. We’ve attempted to gather organizations to look at benefits of Co-Op advertising and developing materials, again we all share the common interest, let’s pull our resources and try to get the best bang for the buck, so we’ve started to make some progress on that particularly our Parks and Recreation team. Some of the priorities starting out this year as you will see on the PowerPoint screen below. The Food Truck Policy seem to run smoother this summer than last, but that was an important issue for our group that we identify and we said you know what, we can play a role here in educating and collaborating; and so we brought together through some of the resources we have on our board and other connections key stakeholders together to set a policy with the Central Ohio Food Truck Association and its resources; we’re proud of the progress we made on that. We continue to work with landlords in the Old Worthington area and trying to get them together to talk about a vision for the future of our community.
Collaboration: 2015 Priorities

- Food Truck Policy
- Landlord Council
- Community Events
  - Worthington Farmers Market, The Shops at Worthington Place
  - Green on the Green, Big Green Head
  - Wedding Walk, Old Worthington Businesses
  - Worthington Art Festival, McConnell Arts Center
  - Holiday Open House, Parks and Recreation Department

Moving on to Engagement.

Engagement: Farmers Market

Outdoor Season
May-October
8 am - 12 pm
Old Worthington

Indoor Season
November - April
9 am - 12 pm
The Shops at Worthington Place

- 49 = number of Saturdays the market will be open
- 204 = number of applications in one year
- 140 = number of vendors who participate
- 271 = number of volunteer hours at market
- 262,500 = number of visitors to the market in 2014
- 5,900+ = number of Facebook likes
- 2,500+ = number of Twitter followers
- $8,000 = number of sponsorship dollars from Chipotle
- $12,200 = number of dollars in tokens in 2014 (6 months)
- $22,430 = number of dollars in tokens through July 2015
Engagement: Farmers Market

70% of farmers market customers also shop at neighboring businesses = $113,750
(A case study of the Eastern Farmers’ Market in Pennsylvania)

Average market shopper will spend $18.65 at neighboring businesses = $2,121,437.50
(A case study of the Midwood Farmer’s Market in New Orleans)

69.78% of farmers market customers shop on a weekly or every-other-week basis
(A case study of Worthington Farmers Market shopping)

$3.2MM per year economic impact for neighboring businesses
(Average based on studies cited above)

Engagement: Art Festival Report

Managed successful event June 20 - 21
Engagement: Art Festival Report

23 = number of years
150 = number of spaces available
250 = number of applications on average each year
590 = number of hours to coordinate

Engagement: Art Festival Report

12,500 = average attendance
$1,500 = average sales per artist
$3,500 = average annual sponsorship
$7,000 = dollar increase in net proceeds

- 26 = number of participating businesses
- 200 = approximate number of registered brides
- 350 = estimated number of attendees

Engagement: Wedding Walk Participants

Wren House
Luxe Redux
Pure Cottage
La Leune Marlee
Leslie McFadden of HER Realtors
Cut Color Style
Denig Jewelers
The Worthington Inn
Frizzy Jacobs
Igloo Letterpress
La Chatelaine
La Petite Fleur

Flowers on High
Magic Cruises
Worthington Jewelers
Great American Photobooth
House Wine
The Candle Lab
Little Tree Studios
Ellis Nail Spa
Rivage Atlantique
Graeter’s Ice Cream
Pursuit
Engagement: Holiday Open House

- 171 = number of photos taken with Santa
- Long = lines for the carriage rides
- 2 = number of Santas used for Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Enhancements for 2015:
- “It’s a Wonderful Window” contest pairing 21 merchants with 21 charities
- 1 Santa for Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Engagement: Priorities

- New and creative ways for merchants to participate
- Create community volunteer opportunities
- Engaging other organizations in community
  - Big Green Head
  - Convention and Visitors Bureau
  - McConnell Arts Center
  - Parks and Recreation Department
  - Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce
  - Worthington Resource Pantry
**Sustainability**

There has been a lot of important issues that has come up in the community and we see this as a place for us to get smart on those topics and then leverage the expertise of our board to develop a position; the Showe Development was one of those; to craft a position, to thoroughly understand it and make that readily available.

This is a drawing of the importance of the beautification of our downtown area which we did in-house to collaborate with the City of what could that look like. We are certainly
grateful for the progress that has been made on those important corners of our community.

On a broader level, it’s important to note that we’re not just looking in our geographic batteries, we’re looking holistically; what can we see as best practices from the best communities in America. JoAnne’s leadership has brought us some insight in this area of programs that can help be more energy efficient and so we’re working with merchants; making those resources available to them, so that we can work toward a more sustainable community.

Let us now talk about our request for this evening.
Sustainability of Organization

- Benefitting from Main Street and Heritage Ohio guidelines
  - Operations
  - Design
  - Marketing
  - Business Enhancement
- Leveraging new Franklin County “Downtown Works” initiative
  - First program of its kind in Ohio
  - Hired Jeff Hartnell as full-time director
  - Covers half of our Heritage Ohio dues

Sustainability of Organization

- Benefitting from Main Street and Heritage Ohio guidelines
- Recommended funding structure
  - 33%: Events
  - 33%: Sponsorships and Donations
  - 33%: City Investment
Questions and Comments From City Council

Dr. Chosy asked what are the full year projections. Mr. Brown replied $50,000 for the course of the year; and just so you know how got to that number, of the 30 Main Street communities in Ohio, the average salary for full-time Executive Director is $40,000. We don’t believe that Worthington is average therefore we have increased the salary to attract the talent we believe we need. Ms. Michael asked what salary amount were looking at. Mr. Brown replied we had allocated $55,000, with them starting at $45,000
should we get the funding. Mr. Myers commented you just made a public record of what you’re willing to pay your candidates; so I would be careful when you start interviewing.

Ms. Dorothy commented the Farmer’s Market and the Art Show have been going on long before I have been living in Worthington, asked how long has this organization been a part of helping or establishing those events for Worthington. Mr. Brown replied with the Arts Festival 23 years; I’ll refer to Jamie for the Farmer’s Market. Jamie replied a rough estimate of somewhere between 1980 – 1985.

Ms. Michael commented what there was, was the Old Worthington Business Association and that’s what it was called; the Old Worthington Business Association or OWBA had some technical problems and some of the City staff and community members, we spent lots of time trying to get their not-for-profit status straightened out, getting everything lined up and then that morphed in getting a whole new Board of Directors, then that morphed into this Old Worthington Partners. Ms. Dorothy commented these productions have been mainly organized by this Old Worthington Business Association with some help from the City for quite a long time just with crowd control and what not, is that correct. Mr. Brown replied that is correct.

Ms. Dorothy went on to say that since I’ve been a member of the community, those are several events that I’ve attended even before I chose to move here; something that definitely got me interested in moving into this community and excited about living here once I moved in.

Mr. Myers stated I appreciate you all reaching out to me; I managed to meet with your board, JoAnn and with Jamie. Had you asked for this two years ago I’m not real certain I would have been receptive because I have seen this group change and really grow up in the last couple of years. I think for myself what I am looking for and I what I hope this money goes towards, I’m looking for a catalyst; I’m looking for that one organization that’s going to lead. We have some phenomenally engaged groups in this town and we need somebody out front; someone who can be the catalyst and leader for those groups; whether it’s the Convention and Visitors Bureau, whether it’s WARD or whoever it happens to be. I think you’re posed to do that, and I was very pleasantly surprised that the presentations that were given to me; again as I think I told you before, I’m the biggest tightwad up here and you have convinced me that I should give up some of my hard earned money for you guys.

Mr. Smith asked to Mr. Myers point, how would you define success with funding and any subsequent funding. Mr. Brown replied we need to see engagement continue to increase in some of the metrics that we’ve presented here and also identification of other ones, hopefully as we collaborate with other members in this community we can see their metrics increase, we can see more people outside of our community coming here, more stories being told about the good things that come into Worthington. Certainly some of it is tangible and there’s a decent portion that’s intangible; it’s that feeling that you know you’re going to see success when it happens and I think we feel good about bring that to life. Then bringing in a highly productive and engaging Executive Director that this
community knows and that is bringing energy to the vision of the community which certainly this group sets and we look to work with on.

Mr. Smith stated you mentioned in your presentation landlord outreach and things of that sort; asked would the Director have any deadlines to start programs for those type of landlord outreach and specifically historical preservation type programs and things like that. Mr. Brown replied Main Street outlines for us certain committees that they think is the appropriate structure and our design committee is one of those and has already started without an Executive Director full-time, Jamie has certainly helped in her role already trying to engage those landlords. It’s got to be a high priority.

Mr. Norstrom stated the Short North organization is actually made up of landlords not merchants. As my fellow council people and some of you in the audience know I’ve been an advocate of this organization for a number of years and when we first start talking about funding them, my mindset was let’s give them the money and let them work with it because they’ve got to get it going. Thank you for this presentation because you’ve made my job easier to convince my other fellow council members that we should be funding you even more than what you’ve got. You have come a long ways as Mr. Myers has indicated; I’m impressed. I’d also like as Mr. Smith said when you come back to us as part of the budget for next year, tell us what you’ve done; you got a short period, but tell us what you’re going to be doing, set those metrics as Mr. Smith indicated so that we can measure your performance, not necessarily expecting that you’re going to hit all of them, but if you do that would be great. You’re in a better position to tell us what success is for your organization. I have been in a number of cities that have a downtown Main Street organization, I’ve been very impressed by those cities in terms of merchants coordinating and working together. I fully support what you’re doing.

MOTION

Councilmember Norstrom made a motion to appropriate $12,500 for this organization for 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Myers.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson recommended that the motion authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement to distribute $12,500 to the Old Worthington Partnership. Mr. Norstrom replied that is how my motion now reads.

Mr. David Washington thanked everyone for their work to make Old Worthington a more vibrant fantastic place; my wife and I make our home in Old Worthington and we love it and think it’s priceless. Thank you for all your devoted work. My question is a group like Old Worthington Partnership if they are to receive public funds, does that affect at all their ability to engage in political advocacy or not.

Ms. Michael replied as a not-for-profit organization there’s a certain amount they can do issues, they can’t do political candidates; they have to follow the not-for-profit laws. Mr. Norstrom asked for a legal opinion from Mrs. Fox. Mrs. Fox commented that’s a
good question, but I don’t know the answers, so I would have to check into that and get back with you. However, I am aware that they are permitted as a non-profit to engage in a certain amount, but I don’t know what those limits are, but I am happy to check into this and get back with you.

Ms. Michael stated I have been quite a bit of time with this organization; I was part of the re-organization team and spent time with city staff and residents on reorganizing this organization and I regularly attend most of their meetings and so I too agree with Mr. Norstrom this is a group that has become very vibrant from where you once were.

Ms. Dorothy commented I think the events that the Old Worthington Partnership has put on and continues to put on and the collaboration is just absolutely phenomenal and makes Worthington a terrific place to live. I thank all of the volunteers and their time for these events; it takes so much time to organize events. There are so many awesome volunteers throughout the community who help out the various events, and they need the core group of people to tell them what to do, and that’s what brings the community together; that everyone has a shared cause and they can work to having these great events for our city. I really appreciate that. I understand that it takes a lot of time, money and effort and the one question I have for Mr. Greeson and Mrs. Roberts is where are we going to get this money from to give to them.

Mr. Greeson responded the $12,500 will come out of currently appropriated dollars in the Economic Development fund. Future requests will be subject to budget appropriations by the Council as part of the 2016 budget process.

Mr. Myers commented when I talk to most people in town and out of town about things like the Art Festival and the Farmer’s Market, they think we do it. I always hesitate, but I do correct them to let them know you do it.

Mr. Troper I would like to say thank you very much for the presentation and I am very excited to see that you’re potentially adding a CPA to the board because we like to look at the numbers too.

(2) Updates to Income Tax Code

Mr. Greeson stated HB5 mandated changes to our local tax code. We’re not going to ask Council to vote on anything tonight; we basically want to familiarize you with this complicated issue.

Mrs. Roberts stated this is a required enactment of our income tax ordinances if we wish to continue to collect income taxes, which we do because it’s over 70% of our revenues. Included in your council packets was a cover Ordinance and also the draft of the Ordinance itself, the Codified Ordinance language which both of these have been prepared in corporation with the Regional Income Tax Agency who we contract with to do our municipal income tax collections.
At your places this evening I placed a summary of the Income Tax Ordinance amendments and I just want to quickly highlight some of these and as I indicated our tax ordinance now must comply with the language in Chapter 718 of the Ohio Revised Code which is the code that allows us to levy income tax and this language also mandates that we allow a net loss carry forward for five (5) years which is new to the City; this will be a phased in loss carry forward provision with 50% allowable until about 2022 and additionally with that net loss carry forward provision is a temporary 13 member committee which will study and issue a report back to the legislators indicating the potential impacts, but I’m sure where they’ll go with that.

R.I.T.A. (Reginal Income Tax Agency) has gone through some calculations for all of its entities and while we don’t know true figures we imagine that when this net loss carry forward is fully instituted it will be a $400,000 loss in income taxes to the city. Dr. Chosy asked what do you mean by net loss carry forward. Mrs. Roberts replied net loss carry forward is for businesses, if you’re a business entity and for example this year our losses exceed our profits by $100,000 and then next year we have income over losses of $200,000 then we can use this year’s loss to offset next year’s income for a period of five (5) years. Mr. Norstrom commented we don’t tax on income, we tax on net profits. Mrs. Roberts remarked so it would be a loss carry forward on net profits. Mr. Norstrom asked but it’s only 50% for the first. Mrs. Roberts replied it’s a phased in loss provision, so beginning in 2017 continuing up to 50% to 2022 and then it will be 100%. Dr. Chosy asked what was the purpose then to help businesses. Mrs. Roberts explained overlying purpose for the whole amended substitute HB5 was to establish a uniform tax base across the entire state of Ohio.

Ms. Dorothy asked is that $400,000 to begin with or after 2022. Mrs. Roberts replied it won’t be realized initially, I think that will be a phased in loss of revenue. Mr. Norstrom asked in 2022 or before. Mrs. Roberts replied I believe before. Ms. Dorothy asked so we’ll start beginning of 2017 to have lost revenue. Mrs. Roberts replied that is correct. Ms. Dorothy commented additional revenue on top of other lost revenue that we’ll have over the last five (5) years because of state law changes. Mrs. Roberts replied that is correct.

Mr. Norstrom stated Ms. Dorothy raised a good point, when we get into the budget discussions I’d like to see a summary of what has been lost from the local fund, the inheritance tax and things like that and what is upcoming just so we have an understanding what the state legislature has done to us.

Mr. Greeson stated we’ve done this for other purposes lately and there’s three that are real easy to track; what we used to get (1) estate tax – gone, (2) tangible personal property tax – gone, and (3) we can track our reductions in Local Government fund. This is a little bit different because it’s corporate profits, it’s not a distribution of a specific collected tax that is passed through by the state.

Mrs. Roberts explained other changes we may or may not actually see any true revenue impact on are continued on the next page are (a) consolidated returns which just means
that we have many different business entities you can file one return instead of one for each company; (b) the occasional entrant exemption - previously to this house bill it was 12 days you could work in a city, if you weren’t going to be there full-time, you would be just like a sub-contractor moving in and out for 12 days that has been increased to 20 days. Ms. Michael asked does that have much of impact on us. Mrs. Roberts replied we won’t truly know that; sub-contractors are very difficult to track period, so I feel this will be a minimal impact, but I don’t know that for certain.

Mr. Norstrom stated I know Columbus has been fairly aggressive in tracking this kind of stuff, asked we don’t do that. Mrs. Roberts replied we don’t do that because Columbus collects their own income tax and so they have some greater control than what we do through our practices. (c) automatic extensions – if you file the federal extension you will automatically receive a municipal extension; the withholding schedule has changed somewhat and that depends on your withholding amounts and that will just cause a fluctuation in collections not any revenue reductions. (d) the minimal amounts have increased from $1.00 or $5.00 to $10.00 depending on your entity; if you owe less than $10.00 you don’t have to pay it. If you’re due a refund of less than $10.00 you won’t be given a refund. (e) the estimated payment minimum has increased to $200.00 annually and the due date now coincides with state statute and probably the most impactful thing for individual residents is that there will now be a mandated $25.00 late filing penalty fee per month. If you are required to file a return and you didn’t there will now be a mandated $25.00 late filing penalty fee.

Mrs. Fox stated one of the other provisions that we’re going to have to bring this legislation back to you is the Board of Tax Review, this income tax reform mandates the composition and the rules in essence of what our local board of tax review needs to look like. Ms. Michael asked is that going to be a new board to be created. Mrs. Fox replied we have a Board of Tax Appeals now, but one of the provisions in here is that the appointees can’t be employees, elected officials, or contractors with the City at any time during their term or in the five (5) years preceding; so what we need is look at the composition of our existing Board of Tax Appeals, I think we have one member who is a contractor with the City or who was and that would have been under the preceding five years; so we’re going to need to come back with a Resolution for you to consider making an appointment. It is a three member board; two members are appointed by the legislative authority which is you and then one is appointed by the City Manager. So we just wanted to make sure you were aware of that change as well, and we’re going to be bringing a Resolution back to you in the next couple of months. Mr. Norstrom asked the revised board has to be in place by the end of the year. Mrs. Fox replied we want it to be, we anticipate that there may be some activity with this board after this change, so I think we all would very much like to have that board in place before the end of the year. I’m not quite sure how we’re going to do it at this point, but maybe dissolve the current board and institute this new board according to this new code.

Then just mechanically I think we need to make sure that as we’re making these changes, it is also very important that we maintain our existing code for all filings that will be made prior to January 1, 2016, so currently the way this is structured we have a Chapter
17 that now contains two (2) parts. Part 1 is our existing Income Tax code and Part 3 deals with hotel, motel and license tax. There is currently no part 2. So the way we set this up is to create a Part 2 to Chapter 17; Part 1 is our existing and stays in effect for all tax filings through the end of this year 2015 which may happen after this year, so we have to keep it in place; then insert this new Ordinance as Part 2 and then we’ll have to renumber the chapters in Part 3. Dr. Chosy asked if one were to look at all of this, does it make sense, is it a positive move or does it make things more jumbled. Mrs. Fox replied we were talking about it, I think they were trying to simplify it for businesses, but we now have about a 20 page Income Tax Code and we’re looking at over 50 pages here.

Mr. Myers asked is anyone looking to challenge based on home rule. Commented this board, this is so blatant. Tax and Authority is within the home rule powers. Cities have not challenged the provision for how many years now; someone has got to step up, this is a mess. Ms. Michael commented we tried fighting it before it was going through the legislature; MORPC and even this Council took stance in opposition to these changes. Mr. Myers replied I know that, but all that and a quarter will get you a cup of coffee with this general assembly.

Ms. Dorothy commented I have a conference call with First Suburbs tomorrow at 1:30, I can give you guys numbers if you to call in. Mr. Norstrom commented the Ohio Municipal League is having their conference in October; we might want to go there and have some conversation. Ms. Michael replied that is not a bad thought.

Mrs. Roberts stated the information that is before you this evening is all in draft context, we’re still working with the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA) on finalizing our language and we hope to have this before you for introduction if not next week, definitely the first Council meeting in October for passage at the third meeting in October. Mrs. Fox recognized Scott Barter in the Finance Department who put a lot of work into this document, attending seminars through RITA and really staying on top of this who piece.

Information Items(s)

(3) Monthly Financial Reports

Mrs. Roberts stated included in your Council packets were both reports for July and August; both months finished out relatively favorable.

The year to date balances revenues did exceed expenses by $2,627,040 as of the end of August. All funds are tracking above estimates for revenue including the general fund.

The General Fund revenues also exceeded expenditures by almost $1 million dollars. General Fund expenditures tracked at 92.83% of anticipated expenditure levels, which is pretty much on target for this time of year.

Income tax collections are above year to date collections by $416,423 or 2.58% and above year to date estimates by $615,217 or 3.86%.
I also included in this report the last 2 pages in which I was trying to give you some pertinent and graphical information and I sat down here this evening I realized that the second graphs on each of these is not shown in a percentage; the left access is not shown in a percentage, so I will correct that and get that out to you at the next meeting. On page 9 I do want to indicate that income tax is a percentage of total general fund revenues; in 2001 was an all-time low of 57%; 2014 escalated into over 73%; property tax at the bottom of that page was a high in 2010 of nearly 12% and a low in 2005 of 5.9%. We’ve also had some property tax changes in mileage that I will also add as a footnote to the slide so that you have that for reference purposes.

The local government fund revenue on page 10 was at an all-time low in 2014 of 1.78% as a percentage of general fund revenues and in 2001 it was about 7.4%; and again as we talked about earlier this evening, personal property taxes essentially diminished in 1995, it was 1.68% of revenue and last year we received $58.00.

Mr. Norstrom commented I have two questions (1) on page 4 of the August 31st financials the Fines and Forfeitures are substantially down, asked do we any explanation for that. Mrs. Roberts replied I don’t know what the ticket counts right now off the top of my head. Mr. Greeson replied I think it’s reduced Mayor’s Court revenue. Mr. Norstrom asked is that because our Mayor is much nicer than our old Mayor or are tickets down. Chief Mosic replied there’s probably at least a 20% decrease in citations, OVIs are probably half of what they were during this period last year. As for the reasons I really don’t have an explanation. Mr. Norstrom asked is that the reason or we don’t have enough officers on the street. Chief Mosic replied there are a few officers who are aggressive on OVIs and then some who are trying to get a handle on thefts from our residential areas; so we’re hitting the residential areas much harder. When accidents were higher we were very aggressive in traffic enforcement, now that we’re seeing an increase in thefts mainly in the Wilson Hills area, we’re doing a lot more residential patrol after dusk and be visible in residential areas.

Mr. Norstrom commented as long as we’re talking to chiefs, EMS Transport is down 20% too. Chief Highley replied this is due to industry trend with changes in health care.

Mr. Norstrom commented to Mrs. Roberts in terms of other revenue, in July we were down $90,000, now we’re down only $60,000; asked what the components of that other revenue or what are the factors that are really influencing that. Mrs. Roberts replied I believe the largest component would be the Cable Franchise Fees and the cyclical nature of when they come in.

Mr. Norstrom stated I was looking at the July numbers earlier, but it appears that over the next five months now that our expenses are going to exceed our revenues by $1 million based on where we are projecting the general fund balance to be or where it is versus where we think the budget is going to be; asked does that sound right. Mrs. Roberts replied I don’t anticipate it will be that high; a lot of capital expenses paid in latter part of year. Mr. Norstrom asked can you indicate that the expenditures overall lower than usual. Mrs. Roberts replied it fluctuates. Mr. Norstrom asked I guess are we
underspending during the first eight (8) months of the year, which isn’t bad. Mrs. Roberts replied again I would tie a lot of that to the capital projects and I think it will flow through.

MOTION Councilmember Norstrom made a motion to accept the July and August Financial Reports. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dorothy.

The motion carried by a voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

Greeson – Note sent by Mrs. Stewart regarding private event after memorial service for Nancy Goorey at the home of Susie Goorey Petrak in Lewis Center; want to extend invitation to Council members. Ohio Municipal League, we had talked about getting more engaged with our municipal partners. The OML Conference is October 21st – 23rd in Downtown Columbus.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCOTT MYERS – I have only one comment, and only because this happens to me with some frequency; when I have constituents inquire of me for legal advice and I decline under Chapter 109 Council to State Boards Commissions and Elected Officials not the public in general; nor do I know their particular situation or the laws that particularly apply to them. Tonight there was a request (I consider it a request) of our Law Director to give legal advice to an individual citizen; I don’t believe that’s within the purview of a City Attorney; and I would respectfully request that you decline the invitation.

Mrs. Fox replied I will if that’s what Council chooses.

Mr. Norstrom commented I made the request based upon a question asked by an individual, so it was not an individual member requesting that of Council, it was me. Mr. Myers commented I don’t remember you making a request as to whether a non-profit organization could engage. Ms. Michael explained I was answering the question and Mr. Norstrom asked could we have the Law Director address it. Mr. Myers commented I understand why you would ask that or phrase it that way, but I don’t know if that’s necessarily in the purview of the City Law Director to opine on non-profit election law.

Mr. Greeson indicated it is actually the Old Worthington Partnership responsibility to know what they can do with the money they hold.

Mr. Norstrom shared the reason I requested it is basically since this organization has never received any money from the City, is getting money from the City going to change their ability to take any policy directive relative to issues in the City. Mr. Troper asked are we going to get this information and then pass it on to Mr. Robinson. Mr. Norstrom replied no; pass it on to Old Worthington Partnership. Mr.
Troper stated I agree with Mr. Myers our Law Director should not give legal advice to them, we are leaving ourselves completely exposed.

Mr. Greeson commented we’re going to construct a fairly simple agreement with them. My intent is they asked for money to help fund their Executive Director, we’re going to tie that to the use of the funds for the Executive Director because that’s the basis of the application. Ms. Michael stated they should be able do to whatever they are permitted to do under their not-for-profit status; we should not be getting into the day-to-day operations of businesses and organizations that come in front of us.

Ms. Michael stated that the general consensus of Council is that we do not have our Law Director follow-up on this.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Councilmember Troper made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Board and Commission appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dorothy.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

No 0

Council recessed at 8:40 P.M. from the Regular meeting session.

**MOTION** Councilmember Smith made a motion to return to open session at 8:54 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Troper.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Councilmember Troper made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

_/s/ Tanya Maria Word_________________
Temporary Clerk of Council

_APPROVED by the City Council, this 19th day of October, 2015._

_/s/ Bonnie D. Michael_________
Council President