



Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2015 ~ 6:30 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, November 16, 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 6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Rachael R. Dorothy, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, and Bonnie D. Michael (Robert F. Chosy arrived immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance.)

Member(s) Absent: Michael C. Troper

Also present: Clerk of Council Kay Thress, 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 Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police James Mosaic, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were three visitors present.

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

Policy Item

Mr. Greeson shared that the 2016 budget was distributed to City Council on October 12th and we have been going through a series of departmental presentations regarding the budget. Tonight will conclude those presentations with Divisions of Police and Fire & EMS. Staff anticipates that council will introduce legislation this evening and will hold the public hearing and potentially the adoption of the 2016 operating budget on December 7th. He invited Chief Mosaic to present.

Operating Budget Workshop and Public Hearing

2016 Proposed Operating Budget Division of Police

Chief Mosaic reported that his budget is relatively flat for the Division of Police.

Core Services

- The primary mission of the Worthington Division of Police is to instill confidence in the community that lives and property will be protected. This is accomplished through the prevention of crime, apprehension of offenders, recovery of property and safe movement of traffic.

Chief Mosaic showed a slide of the Organizational Chart for the Division.

Chief Mosaic shared that his organizational chart has been revised. The Operations Support Manager position that Ms. Weirick held until she left to go with the county has been fine-tuned that position. It will not be filled until mid-year, which will save a little bit of money.

2015 Accomplishments

- The Division continued the Milestone project which connected security cameras at the rec center and the police facility into one server. Several theft offenses were solved because of the camera system
- The Division continues to work in conjunction with the Worthington Board of Education to train our educators in A.L.I.C.E Alert Lockdown Inform Counter and Evade (Active Shooter Training) completing the four middle schools in the district
- The Division completed its citizens academy and various community events.
- Increased our alumni association to 44 dues paying members
- Started our policy revision program to reduce risk exposure

Mr. Norstrom asked for more information about the policy revision program. Chief Mosaic replied that staff has contracted with a subscription company called Lexipol and they vet policies. They have produced a best practices manual through the state of Ohio. It mirrors the CALEA (Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act) standards. They provide us with policies and we fine tune them to meet our needs. They are already vetted by their legal professionals and it enables us to follow best practice standards without having the man power that we were investing in trying to update the policies.

Mr. Norstrom commented that “rick exposure” means that hopefully we won’t have front page news about Worthington police handling a potential suspect in an inappropriate manner. Chief Mosaic agreed. He added that our use of force, our pursuit policies, those high risk/low frequency events, we like to make sure that we are following best practices and are up to date on those policies.

- Continue to upgrade equipment
- Developed female self-defense class

2016 Objectives

- Prepare for retirements by ensuring staff are ready for the transition, procedures, training and equipment reviews necessary for the transition.

Chief Mosaic shared that he is aware of at least two officers retiring but there are a number who are eligible.

- Prepare to find a new Operations Support Manager to fill the existing vacancy
- Upgrade the out dated division of police access control system ensuring capabilities to expand it to other city government facilities.

Ms. Michael asked for additional information on the access control system. Chief Mosaic explained that it limits who comes and goes in the police building, specifically the secured areas of the building.

- Continue the commitment towards the city security & safety Milestone project connecting new security cameras to the Fire Department and the Griswold Senior Center.

Funding & Expenditure Summary

Police Department				
	Actual	Approved	Budget	Forecast
Category	2013	2014	2015	2016
Personal Services	\$3,672,516	\$3,920,407	\$3,907,619	\$ 4,016,147
Additional Personal Services	234,660	260,090	1,300,734	1,379,263
Supplies and Materials	40,397	35,100	35,100	35,700
Capital Equipment	2,000	1,000	3,500	2,500
Contractual Services	188,112	206,500	297,350	307,850
	-	-	-	-
Total	\$4,137,685	\$4,423,097	\$5,544,303	\$ 5,741,460

- Budget increase 3.6% over 2015 budgeted

Chief Mosaic explained that much of the increase is for personnel.

- Training line item increase anticipating at least 2 new officers
- Overtime line item increase due to anticipated retirements
- Not filling 1 vacancy until mid 2016

Management Discussion

- In 2016 we will continue the services of a risk management resource for law enforcement agencies. This service will allow for a complete revision of our policy and procedures with an eye on future accreditation through the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
- We constantly evaluate equipment and technology to enhance our service to the community and provide employees with resources that are necessary to adhere to best practices within the public safety field.

- It is important that we are meeting the expectations of our internal and external customers. In order to gauge our performance, we will develop a means to generate feedback on the level of service that we provide.

Ms. Dorothy asked if the department is considering the purchase and use of body cameras for the officers. Chief Mosaic shared that there is ongoing discussions regarding police body cameras. It is not so much the cameras themselves but rather how to manage the volumes of data that is generated and how to handle the public records requests. They are observing other agencies and observing how technology is evolving for the back end portion. He is concerned about the manpower that it will take to manage the volume of video that will be generated by putting a camera on every officer. He doesn't want to roll them out until they have a plan in place to handle that.

- The Division of Police will continue to foster positive community relations while protecting the interests of the community, residents and area businesses. The Division of Police is sworn to protect all citizens in the Worthington Community. The Division focuses on the following core services:
- Uniform Patrol Operations assigned to general police services that consist of prevention of crimes while providing overall safety to the community.
- Criminal Investigative Unit responsible for progressive investigations including arrests and adjudication.
- Community Service Officer who provides coordination with the schools and community groups in crime prevention education.
- Communications Center which serves as the central reception area for all 911 calls and dispatching services for police and fire safety services.

Mr. Norstrom shared that he and the Chief have talked some since Ohio made the news about heroin. He asked the Chief to share a little bit about what the department is doing regarding this issue. Chief Mosaic shared that in 2011 staff noticed a spike in heroin overdoses in the community. They began formulating a plan to help address the problem. They helped develop the Drug Safe Worthington program. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Healthy Resource Center and Food Pantry as well as on the Steering Committee for Drug Safe Worthington as he felt it was important to actively be involved in those two groups in an effort to help educate our community on the problems that we are seeing with the heroin epidemic. That grass roots effort has been very effective in providing resources because right now parents who have addicted children are struggling to find resources in the community to combat this problem. He added that enforcement alone will not solve the problem. It has to be combined with treatment. Staff arrests the same people over and over again. Without the treatment aspects or providing the resources we can't win the battle.

Chief Mosaic added that from an enforcement level, we found that being a small agency, we do not have the resources to combat this problem so we joined the Franklin County Drug Task Force and assigned an officer full time to the task force. If we are having a

problem in Worthington, they provide manpower and technical assistance that a small agency can't do alone. They target now only the street level dealers but they interrupt the supply coming into the area. He thinks to date there has been over \$3,000,000 worth of heroin seizure in the first half of 2015. He knows that the trends are that heroin use will continue to increase as will meth amphetamines. The drug cartels are giving away free meth with your purchase of heroin just to get people addicted. He thinks by combining education, grassroots efforts, and our relationships with other agencies we can have an impact. He added that the county is also forming a second task force that will use their investigative resources to go after the seller of the drugs if there is a drug overdose in our community and a person dies. Ms. Michael commented that it is a shame that someone has to die for that to happen. Chief Mosaic agreed.

Mr. Norstrom thinks another question is whether there is something else that we should be doing on the care side. Chief Mosaic replied that we are fortunate that Syntero (formerly Dublin Counseling) just opened another treatment resource for addicted teens and adults. He doesn't know how we continue to gather support that we need more treatment options out there in the community. When you look for agencies that will treat juveniles, which is where much of the problem is starting, they are few and far between. We have worked with the Attorney General's office and other community groups to try to provide resources and get information to these parents but he thinks due to lack of funding and the demand is so great that these treatment options are limited.

Mr. Greeson shared that two of the special groups that we fund work in the drug, alcohol and mental health fields. The one that the Chief just referenced, Syntero and the North Community Counseling, which also works with our Mayor's Court, particularly in alcohol related issues. Healthy Worthington, which has under its umbrella Drug Safe Worthington so he thinks they will hear a little bit about all of that as we go through the special group process. Likewise he thinks Superintendent Bowers shared a very well done blog post on the heels of the 60 Minutes episode where he talked about what the schools are doing in terms of mental health counseling and a dedicated person that works on things like Drug Safe Worthington to help curtail this activity.

Chief Mosaic shared that he forgot to mention the drug drop box that was installed at the Police Department several years ago. Since October 2013 they have collected 900 pounds of prescription drugs and other things out of the homes where many of these kids are experimenting with drugs that they find in the medicine cabinets. He just mentioned at a panel presentation that morning that we need more police departments to get those boxes as there are grant funds available and it is a tremendous asset to the community to get those drugs out of the home and safely disposed of.

Ms. Michael shared that as much as the department has shared that information she still hears from people who don't know where to dispose of their unused medicines. We have to continuously get the word out that the police department has this disposal mechanism available. Chief Mosaic stated that he will continue to do that on their social media networks because he thinks that is really beneficial. He added that they still struggle to

reach the older community that does not use computers that frequently so he will look for avenues to reach them as well.

Mr. Norstrom asked if the numbers have dropped since 2011. Chief Masic replied that within the corporation limits of Worthington we have not seen the drug positions that we have in the past. He thinks Chief Highley might have a gage on how many uses of Narcan his people are seeing because many times the drug overdose will come into the radio room as merely an ill person. So when the medics respond he believes they are encountering situations where they are seeing a drug use. If there is no paraphernalia or obvious signs officers may sometimes miss the problem.

2016 Proposed Operating Budget Division of Fire and EMS

Chief Highley reported that his 2016 is pretty straight forward. The proposed operating budget for the Division of Fire and EMS is as follows:

Core Services

- Emergency Response to Fire and Medical Emergencies in Worthington, Sharon Township, Riverlea and Contracted Areas of Perry Township.
- Inspect all businesses, schools, places of assembly, hotels and other regulated facilities within the community
- Provide safety and preparedness training to the community
- Investigate the cause and origin of all fires.
- Provide training and development programs for the Division Personnel.
- Serve as the entry team for the Northwest Area Strike Team's Hazardous Materials Response Team.
- Provide emergency management planning for the City.

Chief Highley showed a slide of the Organizational Chart for the Division.

Chief Highley shared that later in the meeting council will be asked to approve a revised job description for the Assistant Chief's position. There will be some other changes in this chart in 2016 with retirements although the structure will be the same.

2016 Objectives

- Conduct an assessment process to permanently fill the position of Assistant Chief.
- Continue to work with our Medical Director Dr. Douglas Rund, to improve and expand medical care to the community.

Chief Highley shared that Dr. Rund retired from OSU last year and has moved his office into the fire station. It is kind of neat because other than the city of Columbus we are the only ones in the area that actually has a medical director onsite.

- Hold a Firefighter hiring process to maintain a valid eligibility list.

Chief Highley commented that the department will be losing a minimum of two people in 2016 so we will be conducting an eligibility list in order to fill those slots in a minimal amount of time.

- Review Division safety policies.
- Explore opportunities to improve the Division’s Medical Monitoring Program.
- Revise the Division’s promotional and development programs.

2015 Accomplishments

- Continued to provide timely, efficient and quality responses to all requests for service from residents.
- Expanded training relationships with Columbus State Community College, The Ohio State University and the City of Columbus Division of Fire.
- Lieutenant Mark Lundy transitioned into a leadership role with the NAS-T Hazardous Materials Team. Lt. Lundy is now leading our departmental efforts in Haz-Mat as well as coordinating activities for the team.
- A committee from the Division’s line staff completed the design process for the purchase of a replacement engine rescue vehicle for the Division.

Ms. Michael asked if the situation with one of the fire trucks was ever resolved. Chief Highley replied that the issue with the ladder has been repaired and everyone is quite happy with the outcome of those repairs.

- Replaced the Division’s fire records management system with a new software package. The previous software was no longer supported by the manufacturer. The vendor that provides our emergency medical service system was selected to allow for easier operations and a single package to for all functions of the operation
- Transitioned to a new medical billing provider Medicount Management based in Cincinnati.
- Allan Woo was selected for the role of Assistant Chief on an interim basis.
- Conducted training for new lieutenants for command operations.

Funding and Expenditure Summary

Fire Department				
Category	Actual 2014	Approved 2015	Budget 2016	Forecast 2017
Personal Services	\$3,538,074	\$3,814,750	\$3,765,943	\$ 3,841,909

Additional Personal Services	1,715,769	1,877,222	1,938,719	2,020,702
Supplies and Materials	119,584	130,000	136,000	137,000
Capital Equipment	29,818	33,000	32,500	31,000
Contractual Services	350,069	427,500	412,500	431,000
	-	-	-	-
Total	\$5,753,314	\$6,282,472	\$6,285,662	\$ 6,461,611

Chief Highley shared that the budget summary is fairly straight forward. The majority of their increase is in the personnel area where they had a new contract implemented in 2016 and those numbers are pretty much the result of that new contract.

Management Discussion

- 2016 will begin a three year cycle that will see a minimum of two retirements per year, turning over at least 7 positions during that time. Hiring and development will be a major priority for the organization. Our current eligibility list expires in June and we do not have a valid promotional list at this time. As openings occur we need to be prepared with qualified individuals to fill those openings to prevent overtime and to maintain continuity of operations.

Mr. Norstrom noted that about 50% of the department will be changed in three years. Chief Highley agreed.

When asked by Dr. Chosy if that is just coincidental Chief Highley replied yes. Much of what has happened is based on the retirement change with the institution of the Drop Program, which compacted many retirements. Before people just retired after 25 to 33 years. With the addition of the Drop people have an eight year window to end their career and it just started stacking retirements. It is something that faces just about every department out there.

Mr. Norstrom asked if his department has noticed any impact on what is going on in terms of the drug issue. Chief Highley replied that they have had an increase in the amount of heroin issues. Their use of Narcan has increased by about 15%. He can't answer the particulars off the top of his head but it has not been as significant in Worthington as it has been in the overall response area that the department covers.

Mr. Norstrom asked if that is something that staff can track next year. Chief Highley replied that they can try. They will have to create a report to do that but it is something that they can work on.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Sarah Gold, 6741 Hayhurst St.

Ms. Gold shared that she has spent 38 years living in Worthington with no thought to city council. She became inspired by a relative who is 90 and serves very high up in the New Hampshire government who encouraged her to attend council meetings. Ms. Gold understands that members work very hard and she appreciates their efforts. She has only been looking at issues for about three weeks and the more she looks at issues the more she understands the complexity of the puzzle pieces. She thinks she has an opinion but then there will be another piece that pops up. She might say things that don't make sense to members because she is not as educated on the issues as they are but she wanted to share some things.

Ms. Gold commented that she worked in financial services and she believes that debt is something to be afraid of because debt is hard to get rid of. She knows that council is dealing with state government financial cutbacks as are the schools so the question becomes how do city services get paid? Do we borrow money or do we do something else. That is what she would like to talk about.

Ms. Gold shared that she is of the opinion that the reason we have very low interest rates is because we are in a very slow economy. If the interest rates started going up then we would say inflation is going up as is growth. She feels that there is potential for another recession in the next couple of years. If our revenue doesn't go up because businesses aren't making much money and residents aren't making much money then we don't want to have a lot of debt that we have to pay on all the time. She has heard a lot of concern about the costs of the sewer system. The cost of the debt is more important than the cost of the sewer system. Debt services are over a million dollars in each of the next five years and that doesn't take into consideration anything else that might come up. That is a concern because there may be things that are unknown at this time. Things are going to happen and people with debt get in trouble because they don't have the money.

Ms. Gold shared that she is also concerned with the use of TIFs. She has done a lot of reading on this topic and understands that she is not an expert but she has read many cases where towns and cities have got into trouble because of the economy going down. She understands that TIFs are connected to real estate taxes. She knows that the city gets the money back later on. She thinks Mr. Norstrom mentioned that cost value of money is something that you get back in ten years or thirty years but it is not the same as what has been spent so you only get back a portion of the money. So the city is giving money away by lowering what could have been spent for something else because council decided it had to have this building so much, like the doctor's building although that is a different kind of TIF. She thinks some TIF money went into the shopping center and the apartment building, which has already been sold to another person. Those people put in \$2,000,000 in banks financing and TIF money and they have already sold it, made a profit and moved on. She doesn't think that TIFs are really the way to go. She shared that the state has a wonderful website that just came out this month.

Ms. Gold stated that she sees Worthington as a small community that has buildings and schools and community buildings of a certain size. If we go with the growth direction we will have more people earning more money and more businesses. If that is done extensively we will need more schools, additions to the community center, a crowded High St. so she is of the opinion that that is not the way to go. She thinks we were meant to be a small community and that we have barriers around us that keeps us small. High St. is a major problem. She is a little concerned about the Huntley/Wilson Bridge/Worthington-Galena Rd. project. In three years it turns into an elephant and the money that will be spent on it is significant. She wondered if that could be staged out slower because of the other expenditures like the sewers. She questioned whether the budgeting strategy could be changed to be more conservative, which is what she is advocating for but she is just a citizen.

Ms. Gold thinks that if the state government continues on the path that it is on now, they would really like to do away with state income tax. She shared that self-employed people do not have to pay any state income tax up to \$2M. That is a lot. She added that the information was confirmed by two different individuals.

Ms. Michael commented that she pays state income tax and is self-employed. Ms. Gold suggested she look into it. She added that there are some stipulations to qualify.

Ms. Gold shared that the goal for Governor Kasich is to do away with state income tax and increase sales tax. She added that inheritance taxes have already been taken away so that means if council had to increase city tax, people should be amenable to a 1% increase. She would rather residents pay a little more in city taxes than load the city with debt. She thinks the two could merge together as members make a case and as people start understanding that as the state cuts income tax, they are cutting what they are giving you. She doesn't think Worthington has to compare with Dublin or Upper Arlington and she doesn't think the neighbors want that. She thinks that many of the parks and the schools are really kind of plain. She would like to see nice signs but not fancy ones. She would like to see moderation in choices and doing a lot of TIFs and aggressively trying to grow the city would not be her choice. There are some things that can be done to make the city better that don't cost a great deal of money. Traffic lights that are synchronized would make it better and doesn't cost a lot of money. That is not a lot of expense compared to the numerous trees and expensive things included in the CIP. She used to love driving off of I-270 and seeing all of the flowers along the fence. She doesn't think there is a need for a brick fence, which was one of the proposals. She thinks there is a need for a nice sign though. Council can do what it wants because you were elected but she is just saying moderation could be a good thing and Worthington is Worthington. She didn't move here because she wanted to be Upper Arlington or Dublin or Westerville or someplace else. All of those places have room to grown. They are not all locked in like Worthington. She thanked council for the opportunity to comment.

At Ms. Michael's invitation Mr. Norstrom shared that the city has an "AAA" bond rating. Ms. Gold replied that debt is still debt. Mr. Norstrom said he understands that. He

asked if she understands that the revenue sources have been identified for paying down the debt. He recently attended a National League of Cities conference and debt is a useful financial tool. He understands how you can get yourself in trouble but we are not using debt for operations. Ms. Gold stated that she understands that. But she doesn't understand why members don't take more of the operating funds and put it in the CIP so there won't be a problem. You say we have a surplus. Mr. Norstrom shared that the reason we do that is because some of these long term investments that are being made now will benefit future generations. Ms. Gold thinks they will hurt present generations.

Mr. Norstrom replied not if we finance them over years by bonds. That means that a thirty year bond, people who don't even live in Worthington today will be paying for the investments that were made in the sewers. Whether the sewers or the Community Center the point is that you use debt and spread it out over a long period of time so not just the current generation is paying for the asset that is being built. Ms. Gold replied that you are leaving debt to your children. Mr. Norstrom agreed. But at the same time we have identified the revenue sources to pay that deb so we don't have to pay for our children.

Ms. Gold stated that was another thing that she thought about. She wished there were some younger members on council because most of us are close to retirement and most of the savings occurs after our children get out of college and suddenly we have more money than we need. So you don't think that having people pay taxes in the future is something to think about. She is thinking about the little kids on her street. She is not thinking about herself. It is not a big deal for her to pay debt. When she was first interviewed in the financial services field she was asked where she thought the richest people live. She replied probably Dublin or Upper Arlington. She was told no, they live in Clintonville. Worthington is like Clintonville. We are the people who by and large save more than we need to save. People who live here are not big spenders. She got embarrassed when she got a nice car because it is probably the nicest car on her street. But people aren't materialistic.

Ms. Michael commented that if you ask any one of those young family if they agree with the city having a recreation center that is being paid off over time you will probably have almost every one agree that they don't mind all of us continuing to have tax dollars being used to ensure that we have this excellent community center for everyone to enjoy. The things that are being serviced by debt are pretty much facilities and equipment that people would support because they want to have that in their community.

Ms. Gold thinks going forward council will be using it for things like Huntley Road and some of those things. It is kind of like making a choice, like the signs and you say you want some good signage. She is just advocating for something that doesn't try to compete with Upper Arlington. She attended the meeting where the people talked about wayfinding signs and she wondered if that is really where we have to spend our money. Do we have to make it so pretty and do that with debt because obviously the CIP then used more money from the basic things. She remembers the one time with Dr. Chosy on the board and council reduced the CIP to 17% because you didn't need it. Dr. Chosy commented that she misunderstood.

Ms. Gold remembers at one of the meetings he commented that there was no debt in the CIP when he first joined council. Dr. Chosy agreed. He added that the CIP received 20%. Ms. Gold continued that at one time we didn't even need 20% so the CIP took less. Dr. Chosy explained that the drop to 17% occurred when the economy went bad.

Ms. Michael explained that the only time we contributed less than 20% was when we took the time to set up a rainy day fund. Ms. Gold thought that was a good thing. Ms. Michael added that it took several years of funneling money from the CIP in order to fund that. Ms. Gold asked if the rainy day has to always remain the same. Could council not shift it?

Mr. Myers commented that it is gone. We have moved away from that and funded the CIP fully. Ms. Gold replied that the CIP isn't fully funded because it has debt included in it. There is a deficit every year in the CIP now. Mr. Myers explained that we have two years out with a projected small deficit in the CIP. He thinks Mr. Norstrom addressed that it would be financial irresponsible for us if we did not incur some debt much like you when you bought your house. You incurred the greatest debt you will ever incur in your life, he assumes that she mortgaged her house. He asked if that was correct to which Ms. Gold replied yes but they paid it off as quickly as possible. Mr. Myers reported that the city is doing the same thing. We are using a mortgage to buy a house and that is a smart way to use your money.

Ms. Gold asked how many houses is the city going to own. That is her question. Mr. Myers replied just the ones that we have to have. Ms. Gold stated that is the answer she would like to hear. Just the ones that we need and not any bigger than is needed.

Mr. Myers shared that the vast majority of our debt has gone to the purchase and renovation of the police station, which he thinks everyone will agree that we have to have. Ms. Gold interjected that she is not saying that we can't have any debt. What she is saying is that we don't need to be too glamorous, which is what she saw the other day when she attended a meeting.

Mr. Myers commented that members understand her concern, which is why they have the debt discussion every time the CIP comes up. He shares her concern in that all council members run households. They all have certain debt on cars and houses so they know about that. Ms. Gold interjected that she has no debt. Mr. Norstrom shared that he has debt on his cars. He thanked her for her comments although they do not necessarily share her same opinion on finances.

Ms. Gold asked that council not try to make Worthington the prettiest place and wrap up our debt. Mr. Norstrom stated that is one he disagrees completely with her on but he understands as he has been in Worthington not quite thirty years.

Ms. Michael thinks her message of moderation came across very clear. Council tries very hard to be careful. The city will continue to work with the state funding issue because it does impact us and the way we have to makes adjustments.

Ms. Gold commented that maybe this project will have to be put off a year. Ms. Michael shared that there have been a number of projects that have been postponed. Ms. Gold applauds council for that. It is the kind of thinking that she appreciates. Her neighbors told her that they were glad she was going to come and talk to council. You said you want to hear from citizens so here I am.

Ms. Michael invited her back again. Dr. Chosy thanked her for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **October 12, 2015 – Committee of the Whole Meeting**

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

There being no additions or corrections, the motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously by a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

President Michael declared public hearings and voting on legislation previously introduced to be in order.

Ordinance No. 43-2015 Amending Ordinance No. 40-2014 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of the Community Wayfinding Signage Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 619-15)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson commented that this is a public hearing on the ordinance that appropriates funds that council set aside in the 2015 Capital Improvements Program for the Wayfinding Signage Project. There is a related matter on the agenda that basically accepts the Wayfinding plan and authorizes staff to move forward finalizing design of the project with Studio Graphique and then beginning to spend the appropriated money to implement the project. This ordinance merely appropriates the funds.

Mr. Greeson explained that an amendment is needed to the ordinance. The original ordinance has a blank space in Section 2. to include a specific vendor. There will be multiple vendors that actually accomplish the project so that section is not needed.

MOTION Dr. Chosy made a motion to remove Section 2 and renumber the remaining ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Norstrom asked what the \$120,000 will pay for. Mr. Greeson replied that when combined with the appropriation in the CIP for the upcoming year, it will accomplish the design of the program and accomplish signs in Old Worthington.

Mr. Norstrom asked if it will pay for entrance signs to the city. Mr. Greeson replied that he doesn't know the answer to that.

Mr. Myers remembers that the total budget was somewhere around \$350,000. Mr. Greeson agreed. He added that we have actually worked with the consultant to modify that some and in talking with Mr. Brown today he thinks we can accomplish the whole program for around \$325,000, which also includes the design costs..

Ms. Dorothy understands that we have some sign making capability in-house. She asked if there is anything staff can do to assist or will this all be from contractors. Mr. Watterson thinks some of the street signs will be made in-house.

Dr. Chosy commented that he attended most of the meetings and was skeptical about it. He had to remind them that less was more. He thinks they listened well and really zoned in as what they came up with is quite good.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 43-2015 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Chosy, Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 43-2015 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 49-2015 Adjusting the Annual Budget by Providing for a Transfer of Previously Appropriated Funds.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 49-2015. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

Mr. Greeson commented that this is a transfer of funds between accounts and is not an increase in the overall budget. Mrs. Roberts added that the transfers come at the request of department directors and they are all present and can address specific questions.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 49-2015 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 50-2015 Amending the Position Description for Assistant Fire Chief

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION Dr. Chosy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 50-2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson shared that during Chief Highley's budget presentation he talked about the Assistant Fire Chief's position, which was previously held by Guy Kantak who retired after over thirty four years of service. The position is currently being staffed by Chief Al Woo. Staff is in the process of preparing this job for recruitment and filling it and as customary the job description is updated in preparation of that process.

Chief Highley added that the design on this change, to some point is the fact that this person should be prepared to take his place in a foreseeable time in the future so we would like for them to have the educational and professional background to do so.

Mr. Myers asked if that is what has changed from the 2013 changes council made. Chief Highley replied primarily. There were also a couple of changes in the educational section and some clarifications. In the past we required a bachelor's degree. This adds that a master's degree would be preferred. There are also two professional development series added to the job description that would be ideal for the candidate to have.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 50-2015 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 51-2015 Authorizing the Award of Re-emergent Corridor Assistance Program Funds to Help Improve Facility Exterior Facade and Streetscape Along Certain of the City's Commercial Corridors (7046 Worthington-Galena Road).

Introduced by Mr. Norstrom.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 51-2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Mrs. Stewart provided the following information.

ReCAP Application Review Session

Worthington City Council

November 16, 2015

A Recap of ReCAP

Re-Emergent Corridor Assistance Program (ReCAP)

- Funding to **building owners** or **commercial tenants** to improve their facades & surrounding streetscapes
- 2015 focus on **commercial corridor: Huntley, Proprietors & Schrock Roads**
 - Commercial properties must be located within ReCAP Program Area
- Commercial building *exterior enhancements, prospective* in nature
 - Exterior front façade
 - Side building elevations if on corner lot
- Paid on a **match basis, \$1:\$1** with private funds

Eligibility

- Building owners and tenants (w/property owner's approval)
- Building in ReCAP Program Area
- Applicant in full compliance with all income and real estate tax obligations
- All project work must abide by MPC approvals & building permit processes
- ***NO Interior Improvements***

2014-2015 ReCAP Awards



A Recap of ReCAP – cont.

- 50 – 50 Grant-Loan Financing
 - Partially fund well-designed exteriors
 - Maximum award = lesser of 50% of the lowest contractor’s bid for work under the project or \$25,000
 - Cash paid up-front, **50-50 loan-grant**
 - Up to \$12,500 one-time grant
 - Up to \$12,500 loaned at 0%, 3-year term
- Applications reviewed by City staff and recommended by CIC
- Approved by City Council

The location for this applicant’s property is 7046 Worthington-Galena Road.



7046 Worthington-Galena Road

Existing Condition

100-002461-00 05/01/2010

Mrs. Stewart shared that part of the proposal for this project is to seal and paint the building. They were anxious to make sure that the building was sealed before winter weather hit so they have gone ahead with that work with the hope that they can get reimbursed if this application is approved this evening. The program guideline indicates that applicants should wait for approval but it is not a requirement. In this case, winter weather was coming and they thought it was important to get the building sealed because they are having issues with water penetration into the building.

They worked with the Neighborhood Design Center for proposals and the following is an illustration of what was submitted with their application.

Proposed Improvements

Scope of Work

- Proposed Improvements:
 - Widen windows and install new door
 - Paint entire exterior
 - Outdoor break area: awning & landscaping
 - Landscaping in parking lot
- Timeline: Sept. 30, 2016 completion
- Total estimated costs:
 - \$40,075.75 plus parking lot landscaping, which is subject to final approval by CIC subcommittee
- Recommended ReCAP assistance: Up to \$25,000 with funding for the parking lot landscaping subject to approval of the plan by the CIC subcommittee

Mrs. Stewart shared that they initially submitted a proposal that was reviewed by the Community Improvement Corporation in September that included the outdoor break area but did not include landscaping in the parking lot. They then submitted a modified request that was reviewed by the CIC earlier this month and it involves some parking lot landscaping. They have experienced quite a bit of cut-through traffic in their parking lot and they have temporarily installed a chain to prevent that from occurring but it is not very aesthetically appealing so they have been working on a long term solution. They had proposed some landscaping that they thought would reduce the cut through traffic but improve the aesthetics of the property at the same time. We still need to do some work with them because we need to ensure that the fire department has adequate access in and around the building. Their landscaping is still being modified but must still receive final approval from a sub-committee that was designated by the CIC before the funding for the landscaping could be provided. But rather than hold up the entire project, particularly because they are anxious to get some of the work done if they can before winter the CIC has recommended approval up to the maximum of the \$25,000 within the program provided that the landscaping plan meets the approval of the CIC subcommittee.

Mr. Norstrom commented that the request is for a 1:1 match. The number that was listed on the screen is a total cost of \$40,000. Mrs. Stewart clarified that the number doesn't include the landscaping cost because it hasn't been finalized. Their original proposal was going to cost about another \$7,000 for the landscaping but since it didn't meet the fire code requirements, we will continue to work with them over the next several months and recognizing that it can't be installed before spring anyway. So we don't have the actual cost of the landscaping yet so that is where the CIC said up to the maximum of \$25,000, which would be only if they are at a total cost of \$50,000. Mr. Norstrom agreed.

Ms. Michael explained the program to a Linworth student and a Thomas Worthington student who were in attendance.

Ms. Dorothy asked if staff has been tracking the vacancy and rental rates in the area. Mrs. Stewart commented that she left the third quarter economic development report at members places this evening. The vacancy rates for the three primary employment corridors are listed. The rates are not tracked based on the entire ReCAP area, which is Proprietors, and Huntley with the connecting portions of Worthington-Galena and Schrock but there are numbers in the report for the Huntley Road corridor.

Mr. Greeson added that Huntley is showing a 3 1/2% vacancy, which is virtually full occupancy. Ms. Dorothy asked what the rate was when we started this pilot project. Mr. Greeson replied that the highest vacancy in the Huntley area were lower. We were over 5% in 2014. Probably the highest was in 2011 when it was closer to 13%. The challenge with Huntley Road is rent rates. What we are also trying to accomplish is that as properties improve we should see corresponding decreases in vacancy but also in rent rates improving because it is a low rent rate area.

Ms. Dorothy stated that is information that staff is definitely tracking. Mr. Greeson agreed. He added that there is some other rent rate information in the remainder of the report. Mrs. Stewart clarified that the report shows rent rates across Worthington but we can delve into the data and see what we can pull for this particular corridor. Ms. Michael thinks that would be good to help track the impact of the program.

Mr. Myers thinks that was one of the charges that council gave to Mr. Harris when he was here. He asked about this applicant. Mrs. Stewart replied that she doesn't know anything about the applicant. Mr. Harris did most of the work on this application before he left.

Mr. Myers wanted clarification on the mechanics of how this is going to work. This is not actually an appropriation but rather an award. Mrs. Stewart replied that the money is already appropriated in this year's budget within the economic development fund for the program. Mr. Myers stated that we are going to award an amount. His concern is that there is no sum certain and that members are going to delegate that final decision to another entity. He wanted to make sure that everybody was okay with that. Mr. Norstrom and Ms. Michael confirmed that they are okay with that process.

There being no additional questions or comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 51-2015 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 52-2015

Approving an Agreement and Permit for Columbia Gas of Ohio Inc., an Ohio Corporation, to Operate and Maintain a Natural Gas Distribution System Within the City of Worthington Pursuant to and Subject to the Provisions of Chapter 949 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION Dr. Chosy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 52-2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson shared that this is a routine renewal of a right-of-way agreement with Columbia Gas.

There being no questions or comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 52-2015 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 44-2015 Providing for the Adoption of the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2016 and Appropriating Sums for Current Operating Expenses.

Introduced by Mr. Norstrom.

Ordinance No. 45-2015 Establishing Compensation for Certain Exempt Positions of the Municipal Service For the Period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, and Adopting Class Specifications for Said Exempt Positions.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Ordinance No. 46-2015 To Continue the Allocation of the Six Percent (6%) Hotel/Motel Tax as it Relates to the Operation of the Worthington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Ordinance No. 47-2015 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with the Village of Riverlea for the Provision of Police Protection.

Introduced by Dr. Chosy.

Ordinance No. 48-2015 Authorizing the Issuance of Notes in the Amount of Not to Exceed \$1,560,000 in Anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds for the Purpose of (I) Acquiring a Ladder Truck with Related Equipment, (II) Replacing, Constructing, and Installing a Waterline for the Davis Estates Subdivision, with Related Site Improvements and all Necessary Appurtenances Thereto; and (III) Improving and Replacing Windows in the Community Center Including all Appurtenances Relating Thereto, and Retiring Notes

Previously Issued for Such Purpose; and Approving Related Matters.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

The Clerk was instructed to give notice of a public hearing on said ordinance(s) in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter unless otherwise directed.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Policy Item(s)

- **Accept Proposed Wayfinding Plan**

Mr. Greeson shared Mr. Brown was unable to be here tonight and he is the one who primarily worked with the steering committee on this plan. Members will recall that the city entered into a relationship with MKSK and a sub-consultant, Studio Graphique to pursue a priority that was established by council, which was to come up with a city-wide wayfinding and signage program.

Mr. Greeson explained “wayfinding” in greater detailed for the benefit of the students.

Mr. Greeson shared that the final recommended plan went before the Municipal Planning Commission/Architectural Review Board. The recommended plan was presented to City Council on November 2nd. Council has appropriated \$120,000 by its actions earlier this evening and has planned an incremental implementation of the plan over the next five years in the CIP. We are not talking about those particular funds this evening but if council adopts the CIP at the next meeting there would be another \$50,000 added to the funds that members have already identified to begin implementation of this plan. Staff recommends that council adopts a motion that accepts the proposed wayfinding plan and in doing so you are directing staff to move forward with implementation with resources we have available.

Mr. Myers commented that Mr. Greeson indicated that he thought the refinements to the total budget on this would be somewhere around \$325,000 and between what has already been appropriated and what we may appropriate in the capital budget that will be about \$175,000. So that is a little better than half of what we are going to need to do this project. He asked if that sounds right. Mr. Greeson agreed.

Mrs. Stewart noted that the proposed capital improvements plan included \$50,000 for each of the next four years.

Mr. Myers stated that is what he is wondering. If we have appropriated \$120,000 and then we appropriate the \$50,000, as he remembers the discussions with the steering committee the phase was to first target Old Worthington and then possibly around Old Worthington to significant locations like the Rec Center. He is just wondering if we are

not a little further along on this than maybe we think we are. Mr. Greeson agreed. He shared that these are cost that do not include the design costs. The downtown phase (Project A) is estimated at \$106,215. So the \$120,000 will likely cover the downtown area. He may have mistakenly added the \$50,000 to that. Project B would include the primary gateway and jurisdictional signs as well as some trail blazers and some street name identification. That is estimated at \$94,000. Project C (city parks) is estimated at \$64,000. And Project D (a variety of things) is estimated at about \$20,000. The total of bricks and mortar is about \$285,000. He believes the total design expenses that take it up around \$322,000 is about \$37,000.

Mr. Myers commented that the appropriation that was made earlier this evening will take care of Old Worthington. Mr. Greeson added that the appropriation from the CIP will take care of Project B, the gateway signs. Mr. Myers thought he said that the projected budget for that was about \$80,000 and we are only going to appropriate \$50,000 in the Capital budget. So we will be short of finishing that project by next year. He asked for an idea of where we will be. He doesn't want to put it off because we are \$30,000 short in our appropriation and wait an entire year before going to phase B. Mr. Greeson agreed to provide the information.

MOTION Dr. Chosy made a motion to accept the proposed Wayfinding Plan as presented to City Council on November 2, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Other Items

Mr. Greeson shared that the state capital bill process is underway. We have the opportunity to pursue state funding for city projects through our state representative and state senator. As members may recall from previous awards, those dollars have to be spent fairly quickly so projects need to be "shovel ready". Staff has been evaluating our capital improvements plan to determine if any such projects would fit. He recently met with Rep. Duffey and shared information about several projects that he thought were potential eligible and ready. Rep. Duffey was going to discuss the projects with some house budget staff members. The three projects he identified were:

- 1) Wayfinding program – It would be to seek funding for the entire program, which would free up dollars in the CIP in the out years and accomplish the program more quickly. He thinks that would help in many ways. The request would be somewhere around the \$322,000.*
- 2) Request from Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board (due to be presented to City Council in December) – Recommended improvements to the Short Street, Village Green Drive, and Stafford Ave. crossings of High St. In particularly looking at bicycle and pedestrian hybrid beacons. The total costs is around \$165,000 (\$55,000 per crossing)*

- 3) *Signalization of Old West Wilson Bridge Road and West Wilson Bridge Road and improving that intersection with better signal coordination, addressing congestion and supporting the businesses that are trying to get out of the corporate hill area during peak hours. The estimated cost of that intersection is \$380,000.*

Mr. Greeson would like council's permission to continue pursuing this discussion with our elected representatives and have the authority to submit a project that has the most feasibility of success in their criteria. In the past they have sometimes discouraged transportation projects because those can sometimes be funded out of a different state pot that would make the wayfinding more attractive however, if they are open to considering more transportation related intersection improvements certainly the intersection at Old West Wilson Bridge and Wilson Bridge is one of the highest priorities in the corridors conversation.

Ms. Michael asked if he needed a motion. Mr. Greeson agreed. He added that it is a little bit of a moving target because the deadline is November 23rd and council doesn't meet again before then and that is the challenge.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion that authorizes Mr. Greeson to continue to pursue funding operations through the state of Ohio based on a priority that he establishes would have the greatest chance of success. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson shared the following information:

- 1) *Tomorrow night the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a reception to recognize public officials, which they do annually. It will be held at The Heights and begin at 5:30 p.m. He will let members know the exact building the reception will be held in.*
- 2) *On Wednesday night in Council Chambers, at 6:30 p.m. staff will be hosting the residents of Crandall Drive. Mr. Watterson, Mrs. Fox and he will be endeavoring to answer any and all questions residents may have about sidewalks.*
- 3) *Mr. Greeson recognized Don Phillips, Chief Building Official. He is a member and incoming president of the Central Ohio Code Officials Association. Additionally, last week he was recognized for outstanding contributions to that association and was a recipient of the President's Award from that association.*
- 4) *Council will be recognizing the Thomas Worthington state champion field hockey team on December 7th. We are really proud of them and are excited to recognize them for that accomplishment.*
- 5) *Last week we held a public open house on the Huntley/Wilson Bridge/Worthington-Galena intersection (Northeast Gateway Project). The open house materials are on the website and include pictures of the preferred alternative*

intersections. He believes we are in the official public comment period that is required by the federal process.

Ms. Michael asked if people can comment on the city's website or go to a different website. Mr. Greeson believes they can do it through the city's website and we will forward the information on to the consultants, EMH&T.

Ms. Michael explained the project to the students.

Ms. Dorothy asked what happens to the public comments. Mr. Watterson replied that they are incorporated into a recommendation for the federal planning. Ms. Dorothy asked if they are individually responded to or do we just have a collection of people's comments. Mr. Watterson replied that council will be using them to select the preferred alternative intersection.

Mr. Greeson commented that ultimately it will come to city council for a selection of a preferred alternative.

- 6) Chief Mosaic shared that he received a telephone call from Dom Tiberi indicating that Mr. McConnell from Worthington Industries had made a donation to Maria's Message for two driving simulators with the stipulation that they go to the Worthington Police Department for placement at both of our high schools. Staff anticipates delivery within the next week and are working with the Assistant Superintendent on how to best utilize this very generous donation. These driving simulators cost \$15,000 each.*

At Ms. Michael's request, Chief Mosaic explained how the simulators work. He added that they will be working with the schools to identify the best locations so we can get the best benefit. Once in place we plan to do an event so that Mr. McConnell will receive the recognition and our gratitude for this generous contribution.

- 7) December 3rd, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Urban Land Institute of Columbus and MORPC will be hosting an event called, What Trends Will Influence Land Use in 2016. It is a land use trends event and educational opportunity.*
- 8) December 4th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Annual Economic Development 411, half day economic development summit for the central Ohio region, which is aimed at helping elected and appointed officials and business leaders in the Columbus region gain a greater understanding of economic development.*

Mr. Greeson added that those educational opportunities are available to members and staff will send out some information if anyone is interested in attending.

Mr. Greeson requested an Executive Session to discuss board and commission appointments as well as employee compensation and evaluation.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Smith asked if the Third Quarter Report would be available to view on the I-pads. Mrs. Stewart replied that we should be able to move towards that but since all city council members do not have their I-pads yet it has not been sent out electronically.

OTHER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At Ms. Michael's request, Mrs. Fox explained Executive Session in greater detail for the benefit of the students.

MOTION Dr. Chosy made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Board and Commission appointments and employee compensation and evaluations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Yes	6	Norstrom, Dorothy, Myers, Chosy, Smith, Michael
No	0	

Council recessed at 8:12 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to return to open session at 9:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to appoint Mr. Norstrom to represent the City of Worthington on the Old Worthington Partnership Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Chosy.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
4th day of January, 2016.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President