

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 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, December 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.

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

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

Member(s) Absent:

Also present: Deputy Clerk of Council Tanya M. Word, 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 Mosaic, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were 11 visitors present.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION**RESOLUTION NO. 59-2015**

Expressing the Congratulations and Best Wishes of Worthington City Council to Richard Hunter for his Outstanding Service to the City of Worthington and the Worthington Community.

Introduced by Councilmember Myers

MOTION

Councilmember Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 59-2015. The motion was seconded by Chosy.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 59-2015 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Hunter thanked City Council for the opportunity to serve the City.

Councilmember Norstrom stated that the three of us who moved to adopt this Resolution all served with you at one point and time; and I know you were there 22 years, 20 years

ago I got appointed to ARB and at the time you were vice-Chair and you were semi-mentor along with several of the others because I had no idea what an Architectural Review Board did before I got appointed to it.

Councilmember Dorothy expressed when I was first appointed to BZA you were definitely a mentor to me; you brought such a depth of knowledge and history of the community to those meetings. Thank you so much for your service.

Councilmember Myers expressed not only have you been a board member, board chairman, thank you for being a friend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **November 2, 2015 – Regular Meeting**
- **November 9, 2015 – Committee of the Whole Meeting**
- **December 7, 2015 – Special Meeting**
- **December 7, 2015 – Joint Meeting**

MOTION Councilmember Troper made a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dorothy.

There being no additional comments, the motion carried unanimously by a voice vote to approve the minutes as amended.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

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

Ordinance No. 49-2015

Approving a grant as Part of the City's Economic Development Venture Program and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Economic Development Grant Agreement for the Same.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mrs. Stewart explained MedVet delivers specialty and emergency care to companion animals through eleven hospitals in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Alabama. MedVet located its headquarters and animal hospital in Worthington in 2002 and since that time has significantly grown and expanded its business and workforce. MedVet is one of the City's top employers.

MedVet has been serving the greater Columbus area and a five-state region for 25 years. Its Cancer Center is home to a team of oncology experts and is considered one of the most advanced in the world. MedVet has grown significantly and is still growing. They have 727

employees throughout the country with 262 fulltime in the Worthington headquarters. These numbers are up from 530 and 232 respectively one year ago.

MedVet is seeking to grow its headquarters operation to support the expansion of its operations. They have identified the building at 350 E. Wilson Bridge Road, which is adjacent to their Worthington location and current headquarters operation, to accommodate this expansion. However, they have also noted the expansion could occur at one of their other locations out of state, namely Indianapolis, Chicago, or New Orleans, which would involve not only the new jobs associated with the expansion but also existing headquarters jobs that are located in Worthington. Staff is recommending a Venture Grant to encourage the expansion in Worthington.

Under the Venture Grant agreement, MedVet will cause more than \$3million in total annual payroll to be paid to persons working in the renovated facility within two years of the start of the Project. This annual payroll will grow throughout the seven-year term of the Venture Grant to \$6.8 million by the end of the seventh year.

The proposed expansion by MedVet involving the purchase and renovation the property at 350 E. Wilson Bridge Road is recommended for a Venture Grant payable in four (4) installments. The first installment of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) is payable upon the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the property at 350 E. Wilson Bridge Road. The three subsequent installments, each equaling Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Three Dollars (\$33,333), are payable upon the subsequent completion of each of three 12-month periods following the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 49-2015. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 49-2015 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 50-2015

Approving the City Manager's Appointment of the Franklin County District Board of Health as the Provider of Plumbing Inspection Services in the City of Worthington.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson explained this is our annual renewal of the Franklin County District Board of Health Plumbing Inspection Services contract. Mr. Brown commented they have a great working relationship.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 50-2015. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 50-2015 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 51-2015

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2015 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations From the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of the 2016 New and Replacement Equipment Items and for Certain Projects as Identified in the 2016 Five-Year Capital Improvements Program and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Projects.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson explained annually you adopt the Capital Improvement Program and then we follow up with a version of this Ordinance; this is an Appropriation Ordinance where you're going ahead and appropriating the funds which allows us to spend them for a subset of the Capital Improvements Program. Many of the items in the Capital Improvement Program we have to come back and follow a competitive bidding process or we do not have things fully designed or what not; and they require subsequent actions or subsequent appropriations. The items listed in this Ordinance which I will read off in a moment are largely except for the new and replacement equipment items not subject to the competitive bidding because of their dollar amounts. The new and replacement equipment we use a variety of things including state term contracts in order to purchase those pieces of equipment.

So it would include the new and replacement equipment in the CIP which it would include \$50,000 that's related to building improvement projects which are mostly small maintenance items on various buildings. Traffic signal improvements for \$50,000, running track replacement for \$27,000 at the Community Center and the Urban Forestry at \$7500, that's an annual program. The building security system improvements, the second phase of the Perry Park Field improvement, improvements to the North Locker Room, shower stall at the Community Center, Community Wayfinding Signage and that's a general summary of it.

Mr. Myers asked do we have a timeline on the wayfinding signage. Mr. Brown replied the goal is to seeing something going in the ground around May (late spring, early summer).

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 51-2015. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 51-2015 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 52-2015

Amending, Adopting, and Ratifying the Amended and Restated Central Ohio Health Care Consortium Joint Self Insurance Agreement and Approving Participation by the City of Worthington in the Central Ohio Health Care Consortium for the Three-Year Period Beginning January 1, 2016.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson indicated we are participants in a self-insured consortium for health benefits that includes a number of other like local governments (city, villages, and townships), we enter into three year trust cycles where we participate in that self-insured consortium and this is the agreement that allows us to participate for the next three years. There are some modifications that are outlined by Ms. Trego that are mostly not substantive, there is some language related to development practices, allowing the board to meet by electronic or video conferencing when needed some changes from the previous trust cycle that allowed payments to be submitted to the Treasurer by the last day of the month rather than the 15th day.

It continues to be advantageous for us and our employees as well to participate in this consortium of which we helped to create many years ago and we recommend approval of the trust agreement.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 52-2015. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 52-2015 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 53-2015

An Ordinance Approving a Written Post-Issuance Compliance Policy in Connection with the Issuance of Tax-Preferred Obligations by the City.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mrs. Roberts explained as this Ordinance indicates this is a post-issuance compliance. It has been directed by our bond counsel Matt Stout as a matter of IRS disclosure and as part of our issuance of obligation and debt issuance that we should have this post-issuance compliance policy adopted formally by Council. As I read through his materials I called him and said this scares me a little bit, to which he replied you're doing all this anyway so you might as well put it in writing and solidify the policy. So it's at his guidance that we're seeking approval from Council.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 53-2015. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 53-2015 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 54-2015

Establishing Compensation for the Members of City Council and Declaring an Emergency.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mrs. Fox explained if passed this Ordinance and passed by Emergency will take effect prior to January 1. In that instance the three members of Council who begin their term on January 1, 2016 will be eligible for the increase. The remaining four members of Council are precluded from a raise during their term so this would not be effective for those remaining four Council members until January 1, 2018 if they're re-elected. The emergency measure puts this into effect prior to January 1, 2016 which according to the charter is necessary to prevent those newly elected and re-elected council members from receiving that increase during their term, so we left that amount blank so that Council could deliberate the amounts.

Ms. Michael commented as Council we have a few things to look at (1) if we're going to set a salary, what amount are people thinking would be appropriate. (2) we will address the emergency piece. Mrs. Roberts has suggested that we either have a monthly or an annual amount as opposed to per meeting a month.

Mr. Troper stated I would be in favor of recommending \$400.00 per month which equates to \$4,800.00 per year since we meet three times per month. Mr. Norstrom recommended \$600.00 per month which would equate to \$7,200.00 per year. We do more than just attend these meetings; most of us serve on at least 1 or 2 other boards related to activities here on Council.

Mr. Smith asked does that imply that we would be meeting 12 months per year. Mr. Norstrom replied it does not; we have met in August at times for emergency purposes. Mr. Smith asked when you're multiplying \$400.00 x 12 or \$600.00 x 12 you're including the 12th month which we're on recess. Mr. Norstrom replied paid vacation.

Ms. Dorothy stated it is an unfortunate situation that we're in right now that the Council has to amend this Ordinance for their own salary that doesn't get chance to get annually reviewed like the rest of the employees of the City of Worthington and so it has been over 20 years since Council has received a raise and I do think that the expectation is out there for us to be out in the community, attending events and being part of many different organizations. I do believe that most Council members do spend quite a bit more time than the time spent present in Council chambers on Monday evenings. I would like to see if there is any way we could also have it addressed that there is some increase that would get put in annually or any other time that is not just when a council reviews this charter.

Ms. Michael asked Mrs. Fox would that suggestion be something that would be a Charter Amendment. Mrs. Fox replied yes because the Charter prohibits the in-term salary increases it would have to be addressed by Charter Amendment. Ms. Michael commented a third option is should we ask the Charter Review Commission as part of our laundry list of things to look at, to look at how other councils have salary increases and their mechanism, to see if there is a better way to do things than what we currently have.

Mr. Myers suggested \$1850.00 per year, stay where we are, that's my position. There is no question that you cannot equate what we make to the time we put in; it would require considerably more money for that equation to work out. Having spent almost 30 years in government service, I understand the concept of gross underpayment, but I think for me, it's the timing; we've just been through a rather contentious election cycle, we've been told by a fairly significant part of our voters they're displeased with some of our decisions; I don't know that the timing to give ourselves a raise right now is right and I have always looked at this as a volunteer position, I didn't get into it for the money. I kind of look at it as one more sort of loss of innocence that we're not a volunteer organization anymore, we're actually paid for it. If we're really going to get paid what we're worth we would be more around \$20,000 or \$30,000 per year; we'll never really equate the amount of time we put in, so my opinion is it's working, I like it the way it is, I don't do it for the money; I don't think the timing is right. I would like to keep it where it is.

Mr. Smith stated to be fair and I lean towards Mr. Myers sentiment about its public service. The National Institute for Economic Research the cost of living increase from 1988 to present, a \$50.00 cost of living increase from 1988 to today would actually be \$100.00, so

literally, quite literally double what we're making right now. I think in fairness that would be fair.

Mr. Norstrom commented first of all if there were people who really objected to us they would be in the audience tonight. This was publicized, I have been on Council several times when this has been discussed and the same thing has been said "It's never a good time to raise salaries", and I understand Mr. Myers. When Mr. Duffey was here, Mr. Duffey made the point "that you didn't have to take it", and that was going to be Mike's position if we ever had increased salaries. However if you look at what fellow councils are being paid across this state, if you look at what Township trustees get paid and the responsibilities they have, we deserve to be paid, any council person. The fact of the matter is only three members of Council this will affect. Mr. Troper commented this will affect if it's passed by emergency. Mr. Norstrom replied the only reason why it's being passed by emergency is because I didn't introduce it early enough, I should have done this in November.

Mr. Troper commented I would disagree with Mr. Myers comment that we're giving ourselves raises; I think that the salary should be increased, but I'm against that the people who will get this will be the people who are elected and I'm against passing it by emergency so no one would get, it would just be people who are elected into the position in the future.

Ms. Dorothy stated it would potentially influence people who might want to run in the future. I do think that this position should be compensated because people who would be seeking this office would have other endeavors to pursue and they should be compensated for this time even though it is a public service and it might influence whether or not someone might run for this position.

Mr. Norstrom commented it's interesting I understand that argument and the argument that was made several years ago when this was discussed that clearly people were running for these positions and they are contested elections so it doesn't matter whether they get paid or not. Ms. Dorothy replied I think the election before was not contested. Mr. Smith indicated I have a point of inquiry directed to Mrs. Fox, we're talking about this where half the council gets applied the law that we're voting, asked is that consistent with other communities. Mrs. Fox replied some, yes well because it has to do with the in term, the terms are always staggered, so if everyone were on the same term of office it wouldn't be an issue, but because of the staggered. Mr. Smith commented what I'm trying to get at is, are there communities where the law would take immediate effect for everyone. Mrs. Fox replied communities are allowed to by charter or by Ordinance to pass their own laws about their compensation; our charter addresses it, so we have to follow our charter. There is a statewide constitution provision that prohibits legislators from getting salary increases during their term, but because of home rule local communities are able to pass their own laws in that regard.

Mr. Norstrom stated that the argument for doing it now is two-fold; one is there appear to be a majority of members of this Council that favor increasing, that wasn't the case five years ago. Secondly, someone is always going to be penalized, I understand Ms. Dorothy and Mr. Troper, your choices are let's penalize the people that just got elected and they

won't get a pay increase for four years only if they get elected. Current incumbents will not see anything for two years assuming they get re-elected. The reason I brought it up now is simply that, those folks should start getting it now, although Ms. Dorothy I understand the discussion of Charter, I don't think we should allow this to be increased on just a regular basis. I think it should be a discussion that Council members have. As we've seen tonight there are a variety of opinions and the good news is there is no one in the audience that has expressed an opinion at least at this point. Ms. Michael stated if anyone wishes to speak, please feel free to fill out a yellow speaker slip and come up to the mic.

Mr. Michael Bates, 6560 Evening Street, stated I don't begrudge some increase in compensation because I believe that you all do put a lot of effort in, although I'm a little concerned when I start hearing numbers like \$10,000 and \$13,000 annually get thrown around, that seems to be extreme to me because I'm closer to where Mr. Myers is that there's a component to this and that is service to the community. However, the point I really want to address which Mr. Norstrom started out but didn't complete his thought on it, and that is communication to the public. The only reason I knew this was on the agenda tonight and as you folks probably know I'm about as wired in as any citizen in this city was because another WARD member posted it on the WARD Facebook page that compensation was going to be discussed tonight and I was shocked because I went back and looked at previous agendas and sure enough it was buried in there; but my point for communications is I think that we really need to start thinking about how do we get these items to the public in enough time that there's really time to think about it and discuss it and have interactions with it as opposed to saying It was introduced on December 7th, the Public Hearing is December 14th in the expectation that it's going to be voted on

While I'm thinking about it, I had the same issue with the MedVet item also because it's the same thing, it was introduced on December 7th, and tonight it was passed and voted. Where was the public participation; sometimes it's a requirement I believe of you and staff to do outreach, not for the public to always be asking the question what's next. Ms. Michael asked what method would you suggest for improving our outreach. I know the compensation topic was on the front page of the Worthington paper, so that was another place it was announced. Mr. Bates remarked the problem with that is not everybody reads the paper, just like not everybody reads Facebook. A suggest that I have been noodling about for a while here and Mr. Greeson actually put this in my mind about a year ago and that is I think you should have "GO TO" people in different segments of the community that members of staff or members of Council can outreach to those "GO TO" people and say are you aware that this is going to go on the council agenda this month; and let those "GO TO" people whether they're part of the Colonial Hills group, part of the Worthington Estates group wherever they are, let them start acting as part of a communications chain out to more citizens, to neighbors, because in today's day and age not everybody reads the newspaper and I can't tell you how many complaints I hear from my own neighborhood about people who don't even get the physical paper delivered to them and if someone doesn't tell them to go online and read it, they don't even know that it's there. So the newspaper is no longer a reliable method of communication to citizens. I think you're just going to have to start becoming innovative in how you're going to do the outreach. We've talked about Facebook, we talked about website pages. I think human communication

where someone from staff reach out to these “GO TO” people in various parts of the community. Ms. Michael remarked let me suggest along those lines Mrs. Anne Brown sends out communication, and please know I’m joining with you on thought that maybe one of the things we do is use Anne Brown communications and maybe list “Here are the topics that are going to be discussed at the upcoming Council meeting...” and this is something that can easily be done and distributed out to all the groups because that is going to all the communities, it’s going to all the groups. Mr. Bates replied I think that would be a good way for it; anything that can foster communications with the people. Not to open up old wounds, but that was part of the reason with Issue 38 was the lack of communication very early on in the process and so that went array as it got closer to the election. I’ve had this conversation with Mr. Norstrom and we want to start helping get the community back together again and I think human communication is one of those mechanisms to help get the community back together again.

Ms. Michael replied this is a good point that you’re bringing up, this is something that we can do; one of the most effective mechanisms that we have for reaching out to people is what I call the Anne Brown list because that goes to all of the neighborhood organizations and it goes to all of the block watches and it goes to all the major community groups. What we never thought of doing before and it’s a good suggestion from you is that we put something an agenda item listing together of the items that will be on the upcoming agenda. Mr. Norstrom remarked this is not the issue being discussed. Ms. Michael replied it is the concern of the citizen. Mr. Norstrom commented it may be a concern of the citizen, but it has nothing to do with the issue before us. I do agree with Mr. Bates, and he brings a great suggestion, however, I feel it’s not what we should be discussing at this moment.

Mr. Myers replied I disagree because it goes to my point “the timing is lousy.” Mr. Norstrom asked what do you mean. Mr. Myers replied the timing currently, we’ve just been through an election where one of the principal objections that the citizens voiced was “they were not heard”, and so now we’re going to put an item on the agenda one week, pass it the next week as an emergency and it’s to give ourselves a raise; as hot button a topic as you could have in government. Mr. Norstrom commented I understand that, but it’s a hot button topic. As Mr. Bates has indicated, it was on the WARD Facebook page and there were a number of comments on that page concerning it. People were aware of it; maybe not as many people as you would like, but it was covered on the front page of the paper. I understand what Mr. Bates is saying about people not reading the paper; the paper also has a website. People who are concerned about this community know how to get information about it and the information is out there. There is never a good time, there are going to be people who will object to this and people who don’t object to this; but given the fact that information was in the public and no one is sitting in this room. Ms. Michael commented we have someone at the podium. Mr. Norstrom apologized and commented he did mean it an negative way towards him.

Mr. Bates commented no offense taken; but to the specific issue and my comment is I believe Council should delay the salary increase and I think they should delay it to give a little more public notification; again I’m personally not opposed to Council getting a raise, understanding what Mr. Smith said if you take interest rates over the last 20 years, fine, I get that, but I don’t think the timing is very good and I’m not talking about delaying

indefinitely; I'm talking about let's go ahead and do another public notification the first of the year and after doing the public notification and only I showed up again, then you have your answer. But at this point, I don't think there has been enough public outreach that this is even being considered.

Ms. Michael replied the downside of waiting a year is that if we wait til after the first of the year for this to go into effect then basically the people who just go elected would not be able to see any raise unless they get re-elected again in four years. Mr. Bates commented my understanding is that was the purpose of the emergency measure or language. Ms. Michael commented this is something that is part of the Worthington City Charter and once the charter is amended in some way to change that, that's the way it's working per the charter, it's not something that we can change by Ordinance. Mr. Bates remarked I'm sure there is a work around that if you wanted to do it, you could amend the Charter for this specific start cycle. Ms. Michael replied in 2016 there is going to be Charter Review Commission and the earliest the Charter could be amended is November 2016 and that's assuming that the Charter Commission comes up with things that the voters approve; the voters will have to approve the Charter Review materials by August of 2016.

Mr. Smith commented I like the idea of having Charter Review Commission review our salary compensation in the vain of including everyone at the same time; I don't like this half the council gets it and the other half doesn't, that doesn't make any sense to me. I think everyone should get once at the same time across the board.

Dr. Chosy commented you have to be careful that you don't allow Council to just raise it at will.

Mr. Troper commented he would be in favor of reconsidering this in January.

Mr. Myers replied it doesn't mean that Mr. Troper can't bring it up on his own in January.

MOTION Councilmember Norstrom made a motion to increase Council salaries to \$600.00 per month/\$7200.00 annually.

No second was received. Motion fails for lack of second.

Ordinance No. 54-2015 was thereupon declared duly failed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 60-2015 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Cleaning Contract for the Community Center.

Mr. Hurley asked that this Resolution be withdrawn, explained we opened bids for the custodial services of the Community Center this past Friday and simply had a new

company come in with a low bid, so we're just doing our diligence and need a little more time.

Ms. Michael asked when are you looking at bringing this back. Mr. Hurley replied the current contract doesn't expire until the end of January, so I anticipate the first meeting in January.

Dr. Chosy commented we've had some difficulty with cleaning people before, asked how in the world are you going to be sure that this isn't going to turn into that again. Mr. Hurley replied that's the reason why we want some extra time to do diligent. We'll check references and meet with them and hear their plan.

Mr. Norstrom stated this will be the second time in a row we've changed. Mr. Hurley replied three years ago when we bid the last time we had Capital Services, Inc. as our cleaning company and we did renew them two years in a row, but it will be the second consecutive bid process that we're doing.

Ordinance No. 55-2015

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2015 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of Design and Related Services for Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons at the High Street Intersections of Stafford Avenue, Village Green South and Short Street and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 626-16)

Introduced by Councilmember Dorothy.

Dr. Chosy asked when you say Village Green South is that where we have the crosswalk now. Mr. Greeson replied yes, so this would be Stafford and High and the two existing crosswalks, the one by the post office. Dr. Chosy asked what is a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. Mr. Watterson replied the current signals at Village Green Drive South and Short Street are flashing beacons and they do not change legality of the crosswalk, they just call attention to the motorists that there is a pedestrian in the crosswalk. The motorist has to yield to the pedestrian when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk on the side of the street that the vehicle is traveling. A Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon requires a full stop when it's activated like a traffic signal, if these are installed, when a pedestrian wishes to cross, they will press a button to activate the beacon, the beacon will flash yellow and then change to red and then the pedestrian will get a walk signal or a pedestrian signal to cross and the beacon goes back to yellow and then back to dark. So it requires a stop by the motorists. Dr. Chosy asked why is it called a Beacon. Mr. Watterson it's just what it's called. Dr. Chosy asked is it in the middle of the street overhead. Mr. Watterson replied it will be mounted; at Village Green South and Short Street there are two mast arms, one on each side, so there will be a PHB on each of those mast arms above the travel lane. Mr. Watterson commented it is

designed to be coordinated with the other High Street signals so it will allow the green progression for the motorists and so when the pedestrian presses the button they may not get it immediately, it will time that signal just like it would at a traditional traffic signal to allow the green progression on High Street.

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)

- **Monthly Financial Report**

Mrs. Roberts presented the following for the November Financial Report.

Fund balances for all accounts decreased from \$22,274,818 to \$21,555,452 for the month of November with expenditures exceeding revenues by \$719,365.

Year to date fund balances for all accounts increased from \$20,023,436 as of January 1, 2015 to \$21,555,452 with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$1,532,016.

Expenditures for all funds tracked at 915 of anticipated levels.

Year to date revenues for all funds are below 2014 revenues by \$757,090 (without the 2015 Refunding Bond) and above estimates by \$457,964.

The General Fund balance increased from \$11,354,315 to \$11,454,299 for the month of November with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$99,984.

The year to date General Fund balance increased from \$10,245,729 on January 1, 2015 to \$11,454,299 with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$1,208,570.

General Fund expenditures tracked at 91% of anticipated expenditure levels.

Total General Fund revenues are above estimates by \$655,450 or 2.88% but below 2014 collections by -\$133,644 or -0.57%.

November 2015 income tax collections are above year to date 2014 collections by \$207,450 or .96% and above year to date estimates by \$777,131 or 3.71%

Dr. Chosy commented you talked initially about expenditures exceeding the revenues and then we go down it's reversed and all rosy; asked for clarification.

Mrs. Roberts commented month to date (just for the month of November) expenditures exceeded revenues, but year-to-date revenues have exceeded expenditures.

MOTION Councilmember Myers made a motion to accept the November Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chosy.

The motion carried by a voice vote.

- **COTA Turnaround**

Mr. Brown explained over the past 40 years, the Columbus region has changed tremendously. COTA's bus network has kept up with this growth through incremental changes to their radial system centered on Downtown Columbus, but it was time for a review of their bus system to ensure they are best meeting the community's mobility needs, and allocating resources in the right manner. As such, the Transit System Redesign (TSR) was developed through a comprehensive review of the existing bus system.

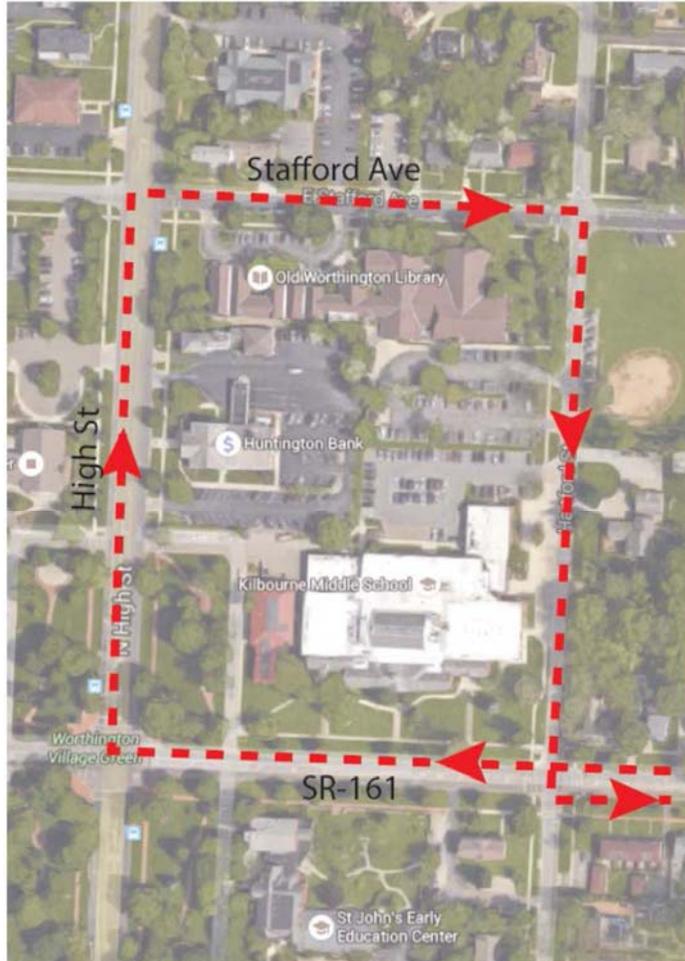
This modernization plan is aimed at crafting a system that better serves their customers and stakeholders, while remaining within COTA's current and projected funding limits.

As part of the TSR project, COTA is proposing a new line, #35 Dublin-Granville Crosstown. The line will connect the Worthington area with COTA's Easton Transit Center primarily via SR-161 seven days a week. This line will make connections to several routes, significantly increasing mobility options for Worthington area residents. The #35 is proposed to begin service in January 2017. With major implementation of the TSR scheduled to follow in May 2017, connections to the #35 include:

- 2 N. High St. Local (COTA's busiest route)
- 2L N. High St. Local – Polaris Parkway (new)
- 4 Indianola Local
- CMAX Cleveland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit
- 6 Cleveland Avenue Local, 8 Karl Local
- 7 Mt. Vernon Local
- 9 Brentnell Local
- 23 James/Stelzer Crosstown
- 24 Hamilton Crosstown
- 25 Brice Rd Crosstown
- 31 Hudson Crosstown
- 32 N. Broadway Crosstown
- 34 Morse Rd Crosstown

According to COTA, the eastern end of the line termini will be COTA's Easton Transit Center, what COTA is seeking is a termini/layover location for the #35 Dublin-Granville in Worthington. The attached maps show a loop using High, Stafford and Hartford, however, no location has been determined/approved for where the bus can pull off and layover before heading on its eastbound trip.

Having a location as close as possible to the High Street/Dublin-Granville Road area is essential to providing this service into Worthington and within budget. Extending the route further would result in significant additional capital and operating costs (via additional buses needed to maintain service frequency).

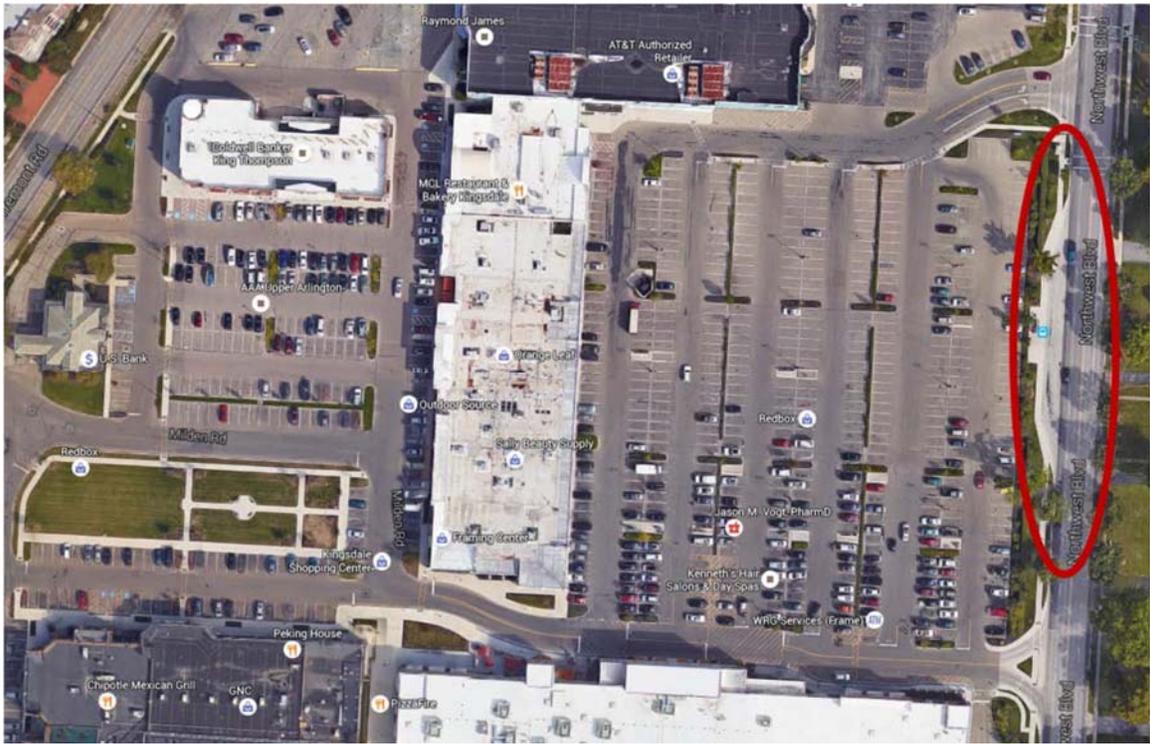


Proposed Turn-around Route

Line #35 connections with the #2 High Street and #2L High Street-Polaris locals in Worthington is important to the success of the #35 line and provides enhanced service options for Worthington area residents. COTA's preference is to have a layover location that is not contingent upon a lease with a private entity as they could terminate the lease at any time, causing major service disruptions to Worthington area bus riders. To help achieve this goal, Mike Bradley shared with City staff a proposed site on Stafford, which was followed by a graphic for a potential site on Hartford.

Examples of Existing COTA Locations:

Attached below are examples of pull-off locations on Northwest Blvd. in Upper Arlington (Kingsdale Shopping Center), Forest Dr. near US-62 in New Albany, and along Fishinger Blvd. near Mill Run in Columbus/Hilliard.



Kingsdale Shopping Center – Upper Arlington, Ohio



New Albany Park & Ride – Forest Drive & US-62 – New Albany, Ohio



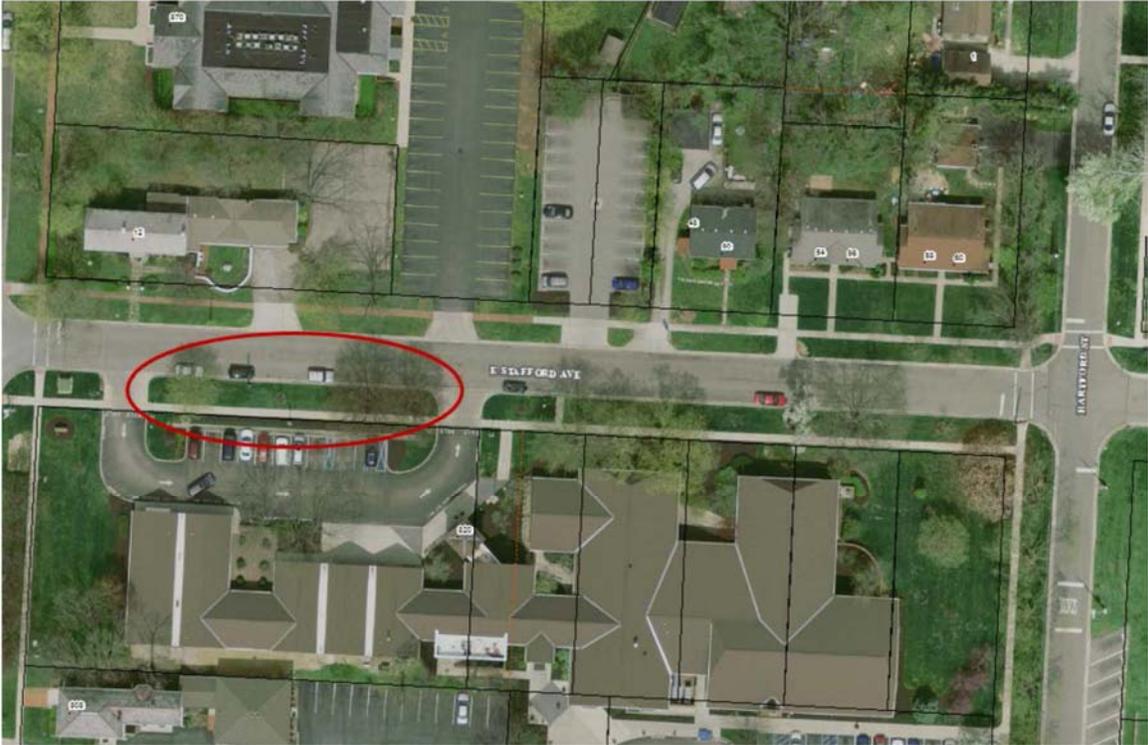
Mill Run – Fishing Road – Columbus/Hilliard, Ohio

COTA Proposed Worthington Locations:

COTA has proposed two possible locations in the City of Worthington for their turnaround location. The map below shows the two possible locations.



High St/Stafford Ave/Hartford St. – Worthington, Ohio



Stafford Avenue Location – Option #1A & Option #1B



Hartford Street Location – Option #2

Locations:

The Stafford Avenue (Option #1A) location would have on-street parking. In this option, we would lose approximately seven (7) on-street parking spaces.

The Stafford Avenue (Option #1B) location would have a dedicated pull off area. In this option, we would again lose approximately seven (7) on-street parking spaces, relocation of an existing utility pole and the removal of at least 3-4 street trees, however this option would allow for a better flow of traffic along Stafford Avenue.

The Hartford Street (Option #2) location would have a dedicated pull off area, similar to what is located to the south for the buses related to Kilbourne Middle School. In this option, there are no onstreet parking spots to lose, however there would the loss of at least 3 street trees. These street trees are located under existing power lines and have been topped several times over the years.

Discussion & Next Steps:

COTA has proposed two possible locations in the City of Worthington for their future turnaround location. The #35 Dublin-Granville Crosstown is planned for January 2017. If a potential site is agreed upon and requires construction of a pull-off, design and construction will be required to be completed by summer 2016. COTA would like to identify the site as soon as possible to keep their planning process moving.

COTA is also available to attend any future meetings to discuss their proposal.

City Staff would like to get your comments concerning the proposed locations, and ask for your guidance on how you would like to advise staff to proceed. One option would be to refer this item to the Municipal Planning Commission to have a formal public meeting and provide you with a recommendation.

Directly attached are maps from COTA.

Mr. Greeson added from a process standpoint regardless of whether you choose to handle it yourself or whether you choose to send it to MPC or somebody else, we've reached out to the libraries already; we can send Lee's memorandum and materials to the schools, the Old Worthington Association, the Old Worthington Partnership to Stafford Village and the stakeholders right in that area so that they're familiar with it and seek their input, but the real question I think is this is clearly not a Municipal Planning Commission function, so the question is do you want to handle it yourself or do you want to have it reviewed with a recommendation that comes to you.

Ms. Michael commented it would almost make sense to have a meeting at the library with COTA where people could almost envision where it would be and what the impact would be. Mr. Greeson responded that is a great suggestion, we'll reach out to them and see if we can make this happen.

Mr. Brown commented that the members of COTA and the team are willing to do any of the meetings to answer any questions or concerns. Ms. Michael commented we also may want to make sure that our Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board is aware of this meeting if they're going to be taking away sidewalk area. Ms. Dorothy replied you would not be losing sidewalk area, you would be losing parking spaces. Mr. Greeson commented if it's a pull-off, it would impact tree lawn, we would require that a sidewalk still be available.

Mr. Myers commented I am assuming eventually whether we do the public meeting or MPC you are going to want a Resolution of Council approving one option or another. Mr. Greeson replied yes, I'm not sure what form the legislation will take. Mr. Myers said but eventually Council will make a decision.

Mr. Norstrom asked has Council made decisions on where bus stops have been put in Worthington. Mr. Greeson replied I don't know the answer to that. Mr. Norstrom stated normally this type of thing does not rise to a Council level. Mr. Myers asked is COTA asking for us to do that. Mr. Greeson replied I think COTA defers to the local municipality for input. Dr. Chosy asked are these the only two choices here or are there some other options. Mr. Greeson replied I think there could be others, what they want to do is try to get back to a protective light so they turn right (North onto High) and then get back to the signal at 161 and Hartford. To Mr. Norstrom I will have to review our Code, many things in the right-of-way can be issued by activities that occur by permit, but you raised the question about whether or not this needs to be authorized by Council or can be authorized by staff and we can take a look at that. We certainly didn't want to do this without community discussion and your involvement. Mr. Norstrom commented the only reason this would probably rise is because we're talking about potential modifications to the streetscape. Bus stops in most communities are just a staff issue fighting between transit and local businesses; there are other alternatives, the loop could be bigger, you could run up to CVS and come across North Street; when you place a bus stop on something like this there is always alternatives. COTA rightfully so came in and wanted up there on the corner of Stafford because that's the most convenient for them; I think the library has indicated appropriately that that's not the best place for it. It could be on Hartford, you could also get innovative and turn it around on the Green, I'm not advocating that idea at this point. Part of it is, it's a difficult decision and it also depends on how much activity they're going to have at the bus stop, which of course they don't know at this point and time.

Mr. Smith asked did COTA indicate that they reached out to the schools. The bus pullover right there, can't they use that. Mr. Norstrom commented except for the school buses are using it, they could. Mr. Brown commented I believe with the frequency they were looking at (every 45 minutes between 6:00 – 1:00 a.m. timeframe) there would be a bus, so I think with the coordination with Kilbourne Middle School it may become a little problematic.

Ms. Dorothy stated I am excited about the proposed location in general, I think it can serve so many people in the community with the senior housing just north of this and the library being such a community hub for people to go already. I think the location is a good location and like Ms. Michaels, I thinking have the community meeting at the library is a great idea.

Ms. Michael asked after we have the community meeting, should it come back to Council and you were going to check if that's required and I'm asking Council is that preferred or is that something we want to weigh on. Mr. Myers replied I would like to see what the proposal is, if they want to remove the tree lawn and put in an off street, I would rather that come back to us. Ms. Michael suggested why don't we have it come back to us so this also gives the community a second chance that if someone missed the one meeting, they will have an opportunity to come to the second meeting and give their input. Mr. Greeson commented I believe we've also had the Arborists look at these trees.

- **Community Groups Funding Requests**

Mr. Greeson explained we distributed to you the request for funding, we included in the budget a lump sum instead of specific dollar amounts for each group. You discussed it in an earlier council and decided you want to do two things (1) refer the arts organizations to the McConnell Arts Center and (2) hear presentations from the groups at some point; so we're seeking direction as to how you want to accomplish that.

Ms. Michael indicated one piece of information that I asked for is a listing of the groups, the amount they asked for, and what is the total amount of funding that we have, we can have an idea (here's the total amount that's been requested and here is the total amount we have in the budget). Mr. Greeson commented we can provide that. What we really wanted to focus on tonight was the logistics of trying to figure out how we're going to accomplish reviewing all of this in a way that's to the best of our abilities sensitive to your schedule. So we could accomplish it by bringing them in a little bit at a time. Mr. Norstrom replied I think the process is partially determined by what the money impact is. I mean if we're within \$3000 or \$4000 that's different than being within \$20,000.

Mr. Myers commented Worthington Chorus and Worthington Theatre they would go to the MAC, so they are the table for us. Mr. Norstrom commented except the MAC budget was not increased. Mr. Myers replied that was my next question, how we make a corresponding increase to the MAC funding to reconcile us moving this to the MAC. Mr. Greeson replied you can either do it that way or you can have the MAC make a recommendation as to the allocation of those groups. Mr. Myers commented my original thinking on this was to remove this from us all together, give the MAC the money and let them give the money away, so that the arts groups did not come back to us. Mr. Norstrom replied I agree that was my understanding also.

Mr. Myers asked how much money do we give them. My original thought was that we give them a lump sum of \$10,000 and tell them go out there and spend this, do not only fund, but further promote community arts groups; that was always my thinking on how we were going to do this.

Dr. Chosy commented if it's just those two why even mess with the MAC, just leave them with the whole bunch. Mr. Myers replied because someday I hope it's more than two and I think the MAC is the best group to facilitate that or if we just have too that they're bigger than they are now, or better than they are now because the MAC would learn their

expertise. Ms. Michael commented if we're moving these over to the MAC, I think we need to move the funding to go with it. Dr. Chosy commented if you send an amount to the MAC, they'll just use all that up and maybe that's too much. Why don't you find out what they suggest and then send that amount. Mr. Myers remarked I agree with that suggestion; the two together equals \$4890.00. So why can't we prepare legislation to fund \$5,000 to the MAC and have them consider the recommendation of these two groups and with the \$110.00 that is leftover they can do outreach to find another group. Ms. Dorothy commented or they can divvy it up however they see fit. Mr. Myers replied with instructions that the money goes to these two organizations as you see fit and we go ahead and fund them at \$5000.00. Mr. Norstrom commented I think we send along the message also that we want them to continue to encourage other arts groups. The MAC has created a Worthington Orchestra which we didn't have before.

Mr. Myers suggested what we need to do sometime in early Fall is sit down with the MAC before budget and have a better blueprint for how we want to do this next year, so that we can implement at least what I think the majority of us were thinking was going to happen, we just didn't get it done this year.

Ms. Michael stated what I am hearing is that we allocate \$5,000 to the McConnell Arts Center and the Worthington Chorus and Worthington Theatre applications be forwarded to the McConnell Arts Center and we'll be getting a listing of the other groups with the amount requested from each group, and what the funding left would be. Mr. Greeson commented we can prepare that legislation and the answer to your other question is so in the budget we had a lump sum of \$110,748.00 and that's inclusive of the \$50,000 that you've already projected to grant to the Old Worthington Partnership, so if you back that out, there is \$60,748.00 available and there is \$72,179.00 in requests. Mr. Myers commented you have to back another \$5,000.00 of that out which would bring us down to \$55,748.00 and at \$67,179 in requests. Mr. Norstrom commented I might point out that CVB expected \$10,000 more in revenue this year than last and just decided to raise their expenses.

Ms. Dorothy commented I think some other groups decided to ask for more money too. Mr. Greeson commented you had Worthington-Linworth Kiwanis make a request of \$1500.00 and they are a new group, Worthington Special Olympics another new group made a request of \$1000.00, Family Mentor Foundation made a \$3500.00 request and they are also new. We can do a historical on the ones that we've funded in the past for you. But basically we have \$12,000 more requests than we have budgeted. Mr. Norstrom commented I might also add looking at this we've heard discussions in this room about drugs in Worthington, the idea partially with these groups would be to see how we can approach funding those groups and putting them around some core issues such as mental health and other things and look at it as a package rather than look at each individual group. Even the new requests as Mr. Greeson just pointed out are good requests, but do they fit in with what we want to have in the community or what we want to do with our money. I would like to add that \$12,000 is a relatively small part, we could fund them all and find the money to do that. So the question is what is the criteria for funding the groups.

Mr. Greeson commented we could put some additional information together and bring it back to you early in January.

Ms. Michael commented she was surprised there was no request from Worthington Food Pantry. Mr. Greeson said he check into this.

Ms. Michael asked what is the timeline for coming back on this. Mr. Greeson replied we are prepared to begin scheduling this, it sounds like we need to have an organizational discussion at a Council meeting to try and build a framework for how we're going to deal with these and get you the information that you need to frame that.

REPORTS OF STAFF

Mr. Hurley advised just a few quick updates from the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board. They did move at their last meeting to cancel their regular meeting of December 28th, that is the one downside of having a fourth Monday in December during the holidays. In lieu of that they have scheduled a special meeting to organize and establish goals for 2016 and that will be on Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 8:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. at the Griswold Center in the Thompson room.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHOSY – *thanked Parks and Recreation department for the very nice lighting.*

DOROTHY – *thanked Mr. Hurley and the Parks and Recreation Department for partnering with WalkWorthington and providing luminary walk program this past Sunday in Colonial Hills.*

NORSTROM – *I attended my first meeting of the partnership and we can report that it is one of the most successful holiday events that they've ever had; the skating rink was a very large success and the window contest which is still going on has generated a lot interest in the community; so they are very happy with the way that's going and I expect that those activities will carry on in the future.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Councilmember Smith made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Board and Commission appointments and Appointment of Personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Norstrom.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

No 0

Council recessed at 9:05 P.M. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Councilmember Smith made a motion to return to open session at 9:26 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Norstrom.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

/s/ Tanya Maria Word
Temporary Clerk of Council

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

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President