



## **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, December 21, 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 21, 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.

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

**Member(s) Absent:** David Norstrom

**Also present:** Clerk of Council D. 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 Building and Planning Lee Brown, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were approximately thirty 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. 60-2015**

Expressing the Appreciation and Best Wishes of the Worthington City Council to Dr. Robert F. Chosy for his Outstanding Service as a Member of City Council and for his Service to the Community.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

**MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 60-2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 60-2015 carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

*Ms. Michael shared that she has really appreciated serving with Dr. Chosy on City Council for twenty years. He has served as the protector and champion of the Capital Improvement Program and for many years on the Cemetery Board that has accomplished great things. She has always admired his candor and will never forget when he mentioned that the downtown area was looking scuzzy. Dr. Chosy interjected that it was looking seedy. Ms. Michael agreed. She added that as a result of his comment, there was a significantly improvement made to the downtown area. Dr. Chosy also made sure that the Christmas tree program improved every year. We went from a tree that wasn't in very good shape to one that is in excellent shape. She shared an expression that she*

*has heard many times and that she feels reflects Dr. Chosy: To know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have success.*

*Ms. Michael added that Dr. Chosy has been successful in many ways. As an OB/GYN he made lives worth living. He has also made the quality of life for those in Worthington a whole lot better as a result of his service. She sees him as a very successful man.*

Ms. Michael invited Dr. Chosy to join her at the podium where she read Resolution No. 60-2015 in its entirety and presented him with a certified copy.

*Ms. Michael added that Dr. Chosy has been known as the Champion of the Capital Improvement Program. She presented him with a medal that had a "V" on the front and on the back was inscribed, "Dr. Chosy, Champion of the CIP, Worthington Ohio". She congratulated on his service and retirement.*

Mr. Myers joined Dr. Chosy at the podium.

*Mr. Myers shared that Dr. Chosy exemplifies three of the characteristics that he holds highest: commitment, integrity, and honesty. He commented that it has been a pleasure to serve with Dr. Chosy. Six years ago as a new council member it didn't take him very long to figure out where Dr. Chosy stood on some things. He was up front and to the point. Most importantly he would always ask that question that all the other members wanted to ask and wouldn't. That question was: "Would you please put that in words that a normal person could understand." Mr. Myers stated that he is a person that makes a living by baffling people with language. It is a true sign of an intelligent man that doesn't let that happen.*

*Mr. Myers stated that it is with great honor and humility that he presents to Dr. Chosy the retired nameplate of Robert F. Chosy, President Pro-Tem. He thanked him for his twenty five years of service. What Dr. Chosy did, he did as a gentleman. He has been an example for him to follow. Mr. Myers thanked him and wished him the best of luck.*

Mr. Myers presented Dr. Chosy with a shadowbox that displayed his nameplates.

*Mr. Greeson shared that he feels blessed to have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Chosy over the last eight years of his twenty years on Council. On behalf of the city staff we want to thank him for his support, his unquestionable integrity and as Mr. Myers mentioned, his innate compass. He always seemed to be able to ask the important questions that help us all arrive at what is fair and right as we do the public's business. Staff has benefitted from his incredible wit, candor and pursuit to improve Worthington. He has been unwavering in ensuring Worthington has provided quality services, that we build projects that improve the aesthetic quality of this community and that make this a great place to live and enhance the experience people have living here. He has made a huge impact on how we look. Worthington is a classy community in large part because Dr. Chosy is a classy man.*

*Mr. Greeson shared that we also want to thank Dr. Chosy's family, particularly Judy. Public service is a shared commitment. Many times when he called their house, he knew that he was taking time away from her. Staff is aware that our council members have organized family events and travel around city meetings. We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to doing that and serving the rest of your community. Judy, we are grateful for your graciousness and your support of him during his many years of service.*

*Mr. Greeson commented that instead of merely presenting Dr. Chosy with a card, staff decided that it would be most appropriate to commemorate the occasion by presenting him with a flag. Not one of those fancy city flags but one that was one his many ideas that he brought back from his travels and introduced in Worthington. It is an orange crossing flag that is used to help people cross High St. safely in Dr. Chosy's beloved downtown. It has been signed by many staff and we want to give this to you but also place it on the table this evening for others to sign. We hope that you cross safely and happily in your retirement.*

Ms. Michael acknowledged Julia Chosy, Dr. Chosy's daughter, who wanted to share a few words.

*Ms. Chosy commented that she is speaking today on behalf of all of Dr. Chosy's kids but the opinions and views expressed in this speech are solely hers. Her Dad has been commitment to serving the city of Worthington for over thirty years. He started on the Board of Zoning Appeals and then became a member of the Municipal Development Committee. He then decided to run for city council, which took a few tries. She is not the only family member that remembers long fall days spent pounding the pavement to solicit signatures or put brochures in people's doors. Finally he persevered and twenty years ago was elected to serve on the council of the city he so loves. So tonight she would like to present six reasons that Worthington has benefited from Bob Chosy.*

- 1) Endeavored to get the flagpole on the southwest quadrant of the Village Green replaced. The replacement is complete with new and improved lighting.
- 2) The City Christmas Tree – After thirty years of serving as the city's Christmas tree on the Village Green, the big blue spruce on the southwest quadrant was asking for retirement. Against every fiber of his being, Bob Chosy suggested a change to a smaller, fuller tree across the street, which was a big deal him.
- 3) Purchase of the Old Kilbourne Library
- 4) Downtown Worthington Streetscaping

*Ms. Chosy stated that she always knew it was ridiculously cute but didn't really know how cute it could be. Bob Chosy helped beautify the streets of downtown Worthington.*

- 5) No Commercial Sponsorship – Although we all understand the benefits that corporate sponsorship can bring, she stands with her Dad in that it should only be resorted to as a last ditch solution.

- 6) Pedestrian Safety – She is pretty sure that the pedestrian fatality rate in Worthington could vie for a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records and she believes we have the “Chosy” flag to thank for that.

*Ms. Chosy closed by stating that it is with sadness and gratitude that the city of Worthington thanks her Dad for his hard work and dedication. May his mark on the city continue to benefit future generations of Worthingtonians. We love you and are very proud of you.*

*Judy Chosy (wife of Dr. Chosy) shared that as many know, Bob loves Worthington. It has been a big honor for him to serve on the Worthington City Council. What you might not know about Bob is that on occasion he would get into his car and drive around the city to make sure that all was well. He checked to make sure that the traffic lights were lit, checked the Village Green to make sure that everything was looking good there and made sure that the Christmas Tree was lit. Then if he felt it was necessary he would come home and make a phone call to poor Bill Watterson.*

*While on vacation Bob would often stop off at little towns and cities along the way to see if there was something going on in those places that might be good things for Worthington. One example of course is the downtown Chosy flags that you already heard about tonight.*

*Mrs. Chosy mentioned that when she and he first met and were dating, Bob was involved in Community Theater and he was really good. Her favorite show of his was when he played the lead part of Richard in Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf. Maybe some of you have noticed some Bob drama.*

*Over the years Bob has received many phone calls from his constituents and as she listened to those long conversations on the phone, she realized how patient and concerned he was. He gave so much time to people. He would follow up on things and check with people. She was really proud, although somewhat annoyed at times.*

*Bob has enjoyed working on the Council with everyone and he is grateful for Matt. Bob is so impressed with Matt and the good job that he has done for the city. She shared that people have come up to her and asked her to never let Dr. Chosy leave the Council. Well she couldn’t do that. Bob is proud of being on Council but he thinks it would also be good not to be on the Council. He is thinking now about what he wants to do on Monday nights. She thanked everyone for making this a great evening for her and for Bob. They are so proud of what he has done and it means a lot for all of them. She thanked everyone in the audience for taking the time to be with them tonight.*

#### Council member comments

*Mr. Troper thanked Dr. Chosy for his many years of service to the City of Worthington. He especially appreciates his integrity and candor.*

*Ms. Dorothy said that she would like to echo what she has heard tonight. She shared that she had a great time serving with Dr. Chosy on Council. His questions were always very enlightening and it did help to hear things in words that any person could understand. She also campaigned with him once for re-election. She had a really good time going door to door and finding out what the people of Worthington wanted. She thanked him for his service.*

*Mr. Smith commented that there are a lot of nice words being thrown around tonight. After his first encounter with Dr. Chosy four years ago in this room, none of those words came to mind. Curmudgeon was more the word that came to his mind but after a second interaction he discovered that Dr. Chosy had some good things to say. After a few months of interactions he came to understand that they actually agreed on many items. He hopes that some of Dr. Chosy's ideas and ideology seeds have been planted in him and will continue on. He hopes to live up to those expectations. Dr. Chosy apologized for the original introduction.*

#### Other comments

*Representative Mike Duffey commented that with Dr. Chosy's departure from City Council, Ms. Michael is the only remaining member from when he served on Council in 2005. So many council meetings but he remembers the Kilbourne Building in particular. There was a time when we were acquiring the Kilbourne Building and they didn't know if they were going to get to a majority to acquire that building. An appraisal had been done on it and members knew that we were buying it for less than the market value (it was a joint package with the Arts Center). Members wanted it for different reasons. He wanted it for a restaurant of some kind. He thinks there was a thought that the Chamber may reside there. He remembers asking Dr. Chosy what he wanted it for. Dr. Chosy replied that he just wanted it. He didn't want anyone else to control it because it was located on the Village Green. He thought that was so symbolic of the way Dr. Chosy felt about things. He was so protective of downtown Worthington and he loves that about him because he just didn't want it to go the wrong way.*

*Mr. Duffey shared that he can't remember the way it was before Dr. Chosy lead the charge in the 1990s to make improvements. The sidewalks are very large and it is a wonderful downtown. It was a major capital improvement. In the years that he served on city council the CIP struggled. He praised all of Council but Dr. Chosy in particular for working to increase the CIP and working to increase all of the projects that are being worked at this time. The City has received an "AAA" bond rating, an economic development director has been hired full time, the Kilbourne Building will be occupied and there are a good number of projects already underway in Worthington as a result of Council and particularly Dr. Chosy's leadership.*

*Mr. Duffey presented an accommodation to Dr. Chosy on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives.*

*Mayor Scott Holmes shared that he had the distinct pleasure of traveling to Sayama, Japan in October 2014 on a very special celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the city*

of Sayama. He had the privilege and great fun accompanying Bob Chosy as one of the delegation. When you spend 72 hours almost non-stop with somebody and you fly probably 30 hours in an airplane sitting next to somebody you get to know them pretty well, pretty fast. He enjoyed hearing all of the accolades to Bob for all of the good work and all of the positive things he has done for the community. He would like to just say to Bob on a personal level that it has been a privilege to get to know him. He wanted to say to the audience that the city of Worthington could not have had a better representative in Sayama, Japan than Bob Chosy. Two takeaways from the trip:

- 1) One of their guides, who was probably twenty three years old, took an instant liking to Bob. That was just an observation of the kind of personal qualities that Bob has that this young man frankly held him in the highest esteem.
- 2) The other memory that sticks with him is that when they went to the dinner to celebrate the signing of the sister city agreement with Sayama, there were more than a few tears in the eyes of the people in the audiences when Bob stood up and eloquently held up the pen that he had used to sign the sister city agreement fifteen years prior. It was a touching moment. It was classy and he will never forget it.

Mr. Holmes thanked Dr. Chosy for all of his good service to the city. He enjoyed getting to know him.

#### Comments by Dr. Chosy

Dr. Chosy stated that he has nothing written down or anything. Many have already touched on the areas that were really important to him. It was really nice to be able to be in a position to influence those areas positively. He encouraged council to keep the CIP funds up. It was fun when he started on council because they had a lot of Capital Improvements Funds available and it was just a matter of deciding what to do with them. That was when he spotted the seediness of the downtown and decided that it needed fixed. It has been so long now that we are talking about repairing some of that initial effort.

He thanked Council members for everything. Dr. Chosy added that what Mr. Smith was referring to was when he won his first election there was something that he did during the election that he thought was probably not really the way that we do things, although he can't remember any particulars. Dr. Chosy shared that he said something to Mr. Smith and that was how they started. But again, they ended up voting for very similar things, particularly things associated with the city itself. He is just a good friend as are all council members. He really had a good time. It is really interesting because sometimes he would come to a meeting with his mind semi-made up about one of the items and he would listen to people and decide that he was wrong and would end up voting differently than what he thought originally. It is wide open. You can get information from every place. It was just fun to get things done. He is one that says what he thinks. There is no guessing his position. That way he doesn't have to remember what he made up. Staff has really been very helpful. It has been a good ride. He feels that he got many things accomplished partly because of council members and city staff. He really appreciates them. He thanked everyone for coming tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Mr. Myers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

    /s/ D. Kay Thress      
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.*

    /s/ Bonnie D. Michael      
Council President