

City of Worthington
and
Sharon Township

Joint Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 2, 2016 ~ 7:30 P.M.

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

Worthington City Council

Bonnie D. Michael, President
Scott Myers, President Pro-Tem
Rachael Dorothy
Douglas C. Foust
David M. Norstrom
Douglas Smith
Michael C. Troper

Sharon Township Trustees

John H. Oberle, Chairman
Lindsay S. Duffey
Phillip W. Smith

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance:

Worthington City Council met in Joint Session on Monday, May 2, 2016, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of City Hall, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 P.M.

City Council Members Present: Rachael R. Dorothy, Douglas Foust, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, Michael C. Troper, and Bonnie D. Michael

Sharon Township Trustees Present: Lindsay Duffey, Phillip Smith, and John Oberle

Member(s) Absent:

Also present: Clerk of Council Kay Thress, City Manager Matthew Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, Director of Service and Engineering Daniel Whited, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were seven visitors present.

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

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Ms. Michael acknowledged there being a revised Resolution No. 19-2016 at members places this evening.

Resolution No. 19-2016

Levying Tax for the Maintenance of Union Cemetery dba Walnut Grove and Flint Road Cemetery for the Tax Collection Year 2017.

Introduced by Mr. Oberle.

Motion

A motion was made by Mr. Foust to adopt Resolution No. 19-2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Duffey.

Mr. Greeson welcomed the Sharon Township Trustees to the meeting. He shared that this meeting is an annual discussion that the joint body has regarding funding for the union cemeteries.

He reported the replacement resolution states in the first WHEREAS sentence that the City of Worthington is primarily within Sharon Township.

He believes Mr. Chapman has a few remarks to share and invited him to the podium. Mr. Chapman is Chair of the Cemetery Board of Trustees.

Mr. Chapman shared that they are here again to request a continuation of the 5/10th of 1 mill for 2017 for the continued development and maintenance of the Worthington and Sharon Township cemeteries. In the past they have shown a number of pictures to bring members up to date with work at the cemeteries. There are currently several projects occurring and they will share that information next year after they are completed.

Mr. Chapman commented that he believes cemeteries add value and quality of life to our community. He thinks cemeteries are for live people and as witnessed at the cemeteries. People use the cemetery for walking and it is a wonderful place because it is beautiful and quiet. The limited number of vehicles also help make it a pleasant experience. He shared several stories of individuals who have benefited from the tranquil setting of the cemeteries.

Mr. Chapman added that Worthington hosts one of the best and possibly the largest Memorial Day parade in the state of Ohio, which is something to be very proud of. The American Legion Post 239 has sponsored this parade for 96 years. Through many of those years and even still today, the parade is supposed to end up in the cemetery back by the circle of honor where Post 239 has arranged some very powerful speakers to share with us the meanings of Memorial Day. He isn't sure who the speaker is this year but within the last couple of years the Adjutant General of the Ohio National Guard talked to them after the ceremony and shared that this was the nicest ceremony that she had ever attended.

They are finding that fewer and fewer people attend the Memorial Service. He thinks that folks have forgotten what it is all about. One reason could be that the parade kind of ends at the entrance to Walnut Grove and people start to disappear at that point. During discussions of the issue Ms. Dorothy suggested possibly rerouting people into the cemetery for the service and they are working on that. The effort will also involve the City and the Police Dept. as well as the Service Dept. and the American Legion. It may not be ready this year but it will be for next.

He shared that Mr. Kayati has both cemeteries looking beautiful and perfect. It requires a lot of work and includes the installation of 1,500 flags. It is really a sight to see. The Board truly appreciates Mr. Kayati and his crew for making the place beautiful and setting up for the speaker on Memorial Day.

Mr. Chapman added that the day before Memorial Day Steffanie Hau Eisen will be hosting a walking tour of Walnut Grove. The tour will last about 1 ½ hours and tends to pick up all of the burial places of our ancestors, the folks who found our city. The tour will start at 1:00 p.m. It is a great walk and a great opportunity to tour the cemetery.

Mr. Chapman closed by reiterating that his purpose for being at tonight's meeting is to request the continuation of 5/10th of 1 mill for 2017.

Ms. Dorothy asked what 5/10th of 1 mill equates to for Sharon Township. Mr. Chapman replied that it equates to roughly \$320,000, which is about \$50,000 short of their operating expenses.

Ms. Dorothy stated that it is the joint responsibility which is why we are union cemeteries. It is the City of Worthington and Sharon Township's responsibility to take care of both Walnut Grove and Flint Road cemeteries and in doing that she understands that we are making significant improvements to the Flint Road location while maintaining our history in Walnut Grove and providing opportunities for recreation throughout. She wants to make sure that all Township and City residents know that we have this asset in our community that we are helping to take care of through the maintenance and improvements. She also wants to encourage everyone in the City and in the Township to use the benefits of these places.

Mr. Oberle agreed. He supports the funding as this is such an asset to our community. He thinks residents need to know that they receive a discount by paying the tax. He is proud to be a trustee and very proud to serve on the Cemetery Board. Mr. Chapman invokes a passion by everybody he works with. Members can see that Ms. Dorothy is already hooked. She has done a great job and is a great asset for Worthington. Their team of experts who serve on the advisory committee provide premiere advice and are free. The trustees are very supportive of the cemeteries and are proud to work with Council in that effort.

Ms. Michael thanked Mr. Chapman for all of his efforts and that of the advisory committee.

Mr. Chapman shared that the Advisory Committee meets at 7:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month and members are welcome to join them.

There being no additional comments, the motion carried unanimously and Resolution No. 19-2016 is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
6th day of June, 2016.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
President of Council