



Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 6, 2016 ~ 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
Scott Myers, President Pro-Tempore
Rachael Dorothy
Douglas C. Foust
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, June 6, 2016, 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 7:50 p.m.

Members Present: Rachael R. Dorothy, Douglas Foust, 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, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, Director of Public Service and Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, Interim Chief of Police Jerry Strait and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were four visitors present.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS – There were no visitor comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 18, 2016 – Regular Meeting
- May 2, 2016 – Joint Meeting
- May 2, 2016 – Regular Meeting
- May 9, 2016 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
- May 16, 2016 – Joint Meeting

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

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

Ordinance No. 15-2016

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 the

Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 629-16)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to remove Ordinance No. 15-2016 from the table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Hurley shared that the original bids were opened on April 29th for the tennis and basketball courts resurfacing project. Only one bid was received and it was more than 10% over our engineer's estimate so the ordinance was tabled. A new bid request was submitted and was opened on May 27th. Three bids were received with the low bid coming from Total Tennis, Inc. with a base bid of \$138,827.00. The bid did also include two alternates. Staff is recommending accepting one of the alternates to paint temporary pickleball courts. We have those currently at Wilson Hill and have seen quite a bit of use. So as we resurface and paint all of those courts we want to make sure we still have those in place. That alternate would allow us to use a contractor as opposed to allocating staff time to do that work. That will bring the total project cost to \$140,717.00, which is still within 10% of our engineer's estimate. We request a 10% contingency because mainly at the Indianola Park the tennis courts have been closed and more extensive work is required as part of this project to fix the problems that exist there. We wanted to have a little larger contingency than we would normally have for this type of project although he hopes that it will not be needed. That brings the total requested appropriation to \$154,789.00. This project includes all of our tennis courts and the basketball courts at Indianola and Linworth Parks. Scott Lathrop with Total Tennis, Inc. is with us this evening and available to address questions.

Ms. Dorothy asked the total number of tennis courts. Mr. Hurley replied there are four different locations that include a total of fifteen courts. Ms. Dorothy witnessed them being used often. She asked if it is known how many tennis courts we have per resident and if that is high/medium/low for comparable cities. Mr. Hurley replied that he doesn't know how many but he can get that information. They have done some benchmarking as part of the ICMA benchmarking each year and he knows that we benchmark very high for tennis courts. It is difficult to assess our usage of the courts because it is a very individual sport and much of the heavy usage comes when staff is not out in the parks. In looking at potential courts that could be transitioned to permanent pickleball courts because there is a great deal of demand for that and we think the trend will stick, staff learned from talking with residents around the courts that they are being used for tennis and not available to switch to pickleball permanently.

Ms. Michael shared a comment she received from a tennis court user saying that the color of the pickleball lines make it difficult to see the tennis court lines. She wants to make sure the paint color will be good for both pickleball and tennis. Mr. Hurley

reported that being a challenge. They put pickleball courts in the community center and it has not really phased people because they are used to differentiating between the lines. It is not normal for folks on tennis courts. He thinks part of it is just getting used to seeing them. The work for those was done in-house, after the fact and with not much experience so that is one reason they wanted to have it professionally done. We think they will look a little more seamless and like they are supposed to be there. All of the tennis courts will remain the color that they are.

MOTION Mr. Troper made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 15-2016 by inserting the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$154,789.00) in Section 1. and inserting the firm of Total Tennis, Inc. in Section 2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 15-2016 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Foust, Troper, Dorothy, Smith, Myers and Michael
No 0

Ordinance No. 15-2016 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 19-2016 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 the 2016 Street Improvement Program and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 630-16)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson shared that we annually appropriate funds from our Capital Improvement Program to do resurfacing and other repairs to our streets. Members previously authorized staff to bid the proposed street improvement program. He asked Mr. Whited to comment.

Mr. Whited reported that on May 27th the bid was opened for the project that was described at a previous council meeting. A total of four bids were received with the lowest being for \$812,951.00 from Columbus Asphalt Paving, which was within 10% of the Engineer's estimate of \$891,340.55. Staff found Columbus Asphalt Paving to be

responsible and a good quality bid so staff is recommending we award the bid to them with a 10% contingency taking the appropriation to \$895,000.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy when the work would begin, Mr. Whited replied that work should begin in July and be completed within 90 days.

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 19-2016 by inserting the sum of Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$895,000.00) in Section 1. and inserting the firm of Columbus Asphalt Paving, Inc. in Section 2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 19-2016 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Troper, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Foust and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 19-2016 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 23-2016 Amending the Position Description for Police Sergeant.

Introduced by Mr. Troper.

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson reported that Sgt. Mark Marshall recently retired so we have a vacant Police Sergeant position. As members know anytime we have a vacancy like this we often work to amend the job description and get it up to date with our current practices. He asked Chief Strait to comment.

Chief Strait shared that the job description was amended to remove the administrative sergeant's position because it is no longer used. Other minor changes were made as well because they were no longer applicable to the current position.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 24-2016

Amending the Staffing Chart of the City of Worthington to Provide for an Additional Police Officer Position in the Division of Police for a Six Month Period.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

Mr. Greeson shared that this request is something that has been done in the past when we have had vacancies that take a while to fill like a Sergeant's promotional process. It is an effort to ensure overtime is not used. We know that we are going to promote a Sergeant from the ranks and this allows us to go ahead and hire someone at the police officer level while we work that process.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 20-2016

Accepting the Application for Annexation of Land Located in Perry Township, Franklin County, Ohio to the City of Worthington (Linworth Road).

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

Ordinance No. 21-2016

Authorizing the Release of the Balance Due on the Promissory Note Issued to Swiminc., for the Purpose of Improving Swimming Pools and Related Facilities for the Benefit of the City of Worthington and Its Residents.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

Ordinance No. 22-2016

An Ordinance Enacted by the City of Worthington, Hereinafter Referred to as the City, in the Matter of the Stated Described Project (PID Number 101844, D06 Regional Pedestrian Signals)

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

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)

- Heischman Park – Motion to Proceed

Mr. Greeson shared that these are always some of the fun projects. Our Capital Improvement Plan this year included replacing the Heischman Park playground equipment. Some members participated in the public meeting where we had the neighborhood come and provide input on the various playground options. He asked Mr. Hurley to outline the proposal that we arrived at both with citizen input and with the input of the Parks and Recreation Commission.



Mr. Hurley reported that at the April 18th meeting City Council authorized \$95,000 in funding from the CIP for the replacement of the Heischman Park playground. Since then staff has gone through a process to determine a design that he will share. As outlined at the April 18th meeting staff worked with a vendor to develop three different options to present to the public. Invitations to a public meeting were mailed out to the neighbors as determined with the help of our GIS mapping system. A sign was posted at the playground to inform visitors and social media was also used. An open house was held on May 2nd at the community center and the three options were shared. Much feedback was received as over fifty people were in attendance, including many children. They also had all but one member of the Parks and Recreation Commission in attendance to not only be a presence but to also converse with the residents and receive feedback. Of the three options, one was pretty clearly the favored playground so in addition to narrowing

down between the three we also received some additional feedback. Monkey bars were added that were not part of the original image but were requested by those in attendance. We took the feedback and made some modifications to the preferred design and came back with what is before members this evening.

Mr. Hurley added that they also received some direct communications from four or five who were unable to attend the meeting.

They went back to the vendor and had them make the minor changes and brought that to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their May 17th meeting. They unanimously moved to recommend the design that is before Council this evening. It is below budget and will leave us a few thousand dollars to assist with some clean-up of vegetation around the park. We already have a quote from a contractor for some clean-up that many of the residents requested. It is a win-win in that we can improve the park and not just the playground. We are here to recommend this design and request a motion by Council to proceed.



Ms. Dorothy asked who the targeted audience is for the playground. Mr. Hurley replied that per his update on the Parks & Recreation Commission's park planning process, and because of its proximity to the two playgrounds at the Community Center complex several of the designed focused on younger children. It is for more pre-school age children. This design incorporated children up through elementary age. The playground is rated for 4 to 12 year olds. It was interesting that people gravitated to this option and there were several older kids at the meeting so it kind of reshaped our thinking a little bit to make it a little more universal.

Mr. Hurley shared that they continue to evaluate the locations of the playgrounds and parks to others in the vicinity and in the school district. This is about 2/3 of the cost of a typical playground project. Because this is a small park with easy access to the larger playgrounds at the Community Center it was an opportunity to go a little bit smaller but still provide the neighbors with a nice playground.

Mr. Troper asked if they could add an additional bench. Mr. Hurley shared that there are two benches along with two picnic tables. At the public meeting one of the options showed a couple of play toys in that corner. So we showed both and there was a great deal of feedback from parents that they wanted a place to socialize and gather and sit so they opted for picnic tables on that corner as opposed to benches. A couple of benches were positioned on the other side.

Mr. Troper asked how much it would cost to add another bench. Mr. Hurley asked where he would like it added. Mr. Troper replied between the other two benches. Mr. Hurley replied that they could take a look. Something else will have to go as they cost around \$500.00. They could probably make it happen.

Ms. Dorothy understands that some of the shrubbery will be removed. She walks by that and knows the shrubbery makes it a bit to get by. She asked if that is the side that will be more manicured. Mr. Hurley shared that along Worthington-Galena we have the guardrail and the walking path and a row of shrubbery. It is kind of out of hand like any shrubbery that has been around for many years in terms of being able to keep it trimmed down. The feedback from some of the neighbors indicated a desire for it to be more manicured but it is just kind of beyond that to be honest. In their talks with many of the immediate neighbors who attended the meeting, there was some consensus that they would like to see it removed and something more strategic, whether a row of trees or something else. Screening there is not a huge issue because it is just the park so they preferred something a little more open and something strategic and we think we can accomplish that. Ms. Dorothy liked the idea of having the more viable walking path.

Ms. Dorothy went on to share that she heard Ms. Michael make a comment several weeks ago of some residents concern about crosswalks to get to that park. She was hoping maybe the Engineering Dept. and the Parks Dept. were working together to hopefully get a better crosswalk to get residents over to that park. Mr. Hurley thinks the other perk would be that would give them an opportunity whether in one of the street programs or as a separate project to look at that path between the guardrail and the landscaping as it was very tight and sloped. They received some feedback from residents who would like for us to widen that or make it a little more accessible. A few residents that live across Worthington-Galena lamented that it would be nice to have a little more access to that side of the street including the community center and the parks so they put that on the Bike and Ped list as well.

Mr. Foust shared that in light of the ongoing discussions with Council and staff about the difficulty of getting input sometimes on issue, he asked if he could shed any light about

the process, how many people they reached out to and the method(s) they used to communicate. Mr. Hurley replied that they took the same approach as with the Indianola Park although those results were not quite as good, they used the GIS map and tried to inform those in that neighborhood. In this case, while he doesn't know the exact number, he knows the invitation went to pretty much everyone from Worthington-Galena and all the surrounding neighborhood up to the Community Center. We grabbed a hundred or more addresses and sent mailers. We received a great deal of feedback that the sign placed at the entrance to the park was seen by many. While they did not do anything intentional in inviting/targeting children, it was such a good experience that he thinks it will be something they will focus on more in the future to try to make it a little more interactive for families and children.

Ms. Michael thinks it was also shared in Ms. Brown's newsletter to the neighborhood. Mr. Hurley agreed. It was difficult because that neighborhood park is different than say Perry or one of the more community oriented parks so the approach might be a little bit different. They kind of threw a multi-faceted approach at it.

When asked by Mr. Foust how many people attended the presentation, Mr. Hurley replied that there were over fifty. That number also included Parks Commission members and Council members but for a Monday night we thought that was a pretty good turnout.

Ms. Dorothy asked when the project would start and be finished. Mr. Hurley replied that they will do this in July to coincide with National Parks month. Staff will remove the existing playground and we have let the vendor know that we expect the work to be done in July.

MOTION

Mr. Troper made a motion to proceed with the Heischman Park replacement project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

There being no additional comments, the motion carried by a voice vote.

When asked by Ms. Michael if he wanted to bring anything up about the pedestrian beacons, Mr. Greeson replied no because staff hasn't had an opportunity to fully evaluate that. He thinks Mr. Hurley was saying that it would be a comment. As we've done through various processes and received feedback like that we have referred it on to other groups. He thinks that is one that the Bike and Pedestrian Commission will evaluate. It is not unlike one that we have on the west part of Worthington where there is a neighborhood that is not at an intersection and they cross Linworth Road to go to Linworth Park. It has similar characteristics.

Mr. Hurley reported that when he shared that with them at their meeting later that month we framed the feedback for them. The Steering Commission had a recommendation to look at that entire corridor in terms of bike and pedestrian access so we said you can certainly attach that to future consideration of that larger scale project or you can single this out as something that could be done more in isolation. We are also starting to look

at Safe Routes to Schools so with a school in the vicinity it would also play into that. It will get looked at from a couple of different angles but if you are looking for a specific timeline or action, it is not queued up for that yet.

Ms. Michael asked if we are starting a process to work on Safe Routes to School with the school district. Mr. Hurley replied that the Bike and Pedestrian Board would like to have an informational meeting with a representative from Safe Routes to School and maybe someone from the schools and the city so we are trying to schedule that at some point this summer.

Mr. Greeson shared that as a follow up to the adoption of the Wilson Bridge Road zoning ordinance, one of the things that we have talked about is going ahead and working on the rezoning effort on the east side of Wilson Bridge Road. As part of that we think it is really important to reach out to the individual affected property owner in the planning area. Mr. Brown is going to be working on scheduling a meeting with those property owners hopefully in June or July.

Ms. Michael shared that there is a house for sale in that area. She is concerned that having that go to single family compared to what we have been looking at. She wants to make sure that they will not be able to sell it as a single family home. Mr. Brown stated that if it is an existing single family they would be able to sell it as a single family and the person could purchase it. The legislation goes into effect June 20th and with the July 4th holiday coming up it will probably be the second week of July that we would have a neighborhood meeting. He and Ms. Bitar have already met with some of the actual property owners that own multiple parcels to inform them of the neighborhood meeting. Once that is confirmed he will let them know when it is scheduled.

Ms. Michael asked if anyone has reached out to the property owner that has the home for sale now. She thinks it would be good to let them know this is what the City is planning. Mr. Brown replied that he didn't know there was a home for sale but he could reach out to them.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Smith shared that he is sending everyone an e-mail with an attachment of cellular 911, which is a mobile application. He had a conversation with one of their representatives so he included Chief Strait as well. Members could take a look at it and have a conversation about making our cell phone calls a little faster to the City's dispatch.

Ms. Dorothy shared that she attended the last Bike and Pedestrian Board meeting where we had a presentation from EMH&T to incorporate Bike and Ped members' comments on the plan and she understands that they are working to incorporate them. Mr. Greeson added that they are reviewing and incorporating and probably proposing some options.

Mr. Troper shared that his sister-in-law inquired as to whether golf carts are legal in Worthington so he is inquiring with Mr. Greeson and Ms. Fox as to whether they are legal. If not, then what do we need to do to legalize golf carts in Worthington. Ms. Fox shared that the state of Ohio law is currently in transition on that but it doesn't prevent us from enacting our own regulations. Generally speaking the golf carts need to be registered and licensed just like other vehicles and have certain safety features on them. She can get that list out but it is all according to the statute. Again, the law is in a state of transition but we would be happy to take a look at it and distribute those requirements to members if the Council is interested.

Ms. Michael understands from her conversation with Representative Duffey on Friday that the legislature is not going to be meeting again until November. She asked if this is something that would not be enacted until November since it is in transition. Ms. Fox replied that the section of code that regulates these types of vehicles has new legislation that has passed and is effective 1/1/17 so it appears to have already been passed. She will get the details out to everybody.

Mr. Troper asked if Council needs to do anything with the new legislation to make them legal in Worthington. Ms. Fox thinks it is a broad discussion to have because there are many impacts on whether or not the City wants to do it. She thinks if there are any specific additional restrictions that the City wants to put on that, they can but it is her understanding that the laws of the state are in effect for us just as they are for anybody else, even as the law stands today.

Mr. Greeson shared that staff wrote some memos on this a number of years ago and the law may have changed. As he articulated in his e-mail, we will resurrect that and distribute it to members.

Mr. Troper understands that Canal Winchester and Upper Arlington have written legislation to legalize it. Ms. Fox said she would take a look at it.

Ms. Michael mentioned:

- 1) The City hosted the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association meeting at the MAC last Friday. It was a good meeting and Representative Duffey spoke as did the Ohio Municipal League. They will be taking a more aggressive approach in trying to better represent cities in a legislative way and to try to ensure that state legislation enhances as opposed to harms the cities. She thinks it will be a fresh new start with them.*
- 2) Old Worthington Association had a meeting last week and Ms. Dorothy and Mr. Brown were in attendance. It is interesting that they are trying to bring up ideas of maybe tweaking the Architectural Review Board to have an opportunity to get state grants. It is out there and she knows that Mr. Brown is working on it.*
- 3) The Worthington Arts Festival is coming up June 17, 18, and 19th*
- 4) Picnic with the Partners is another event that is coming up soon*

Ms. Greeson introduced Kimball Perry who is our new Dispatch Reporter. Ms. Michael welcomed him.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
5th day of July, 2016.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President