



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 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 Tuesday, September 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 7:30 p.m.

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

Member(s) Absent: Douglas Foust

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, Director of Public Service and Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Interim Chief of Police Jerry Strait and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were twenty-six visitors present.

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- Recognition of Worthington Pools Lifeguards

Ms. Michael shared that tonight we have a special opportunity as we have the recognition of two Worthington lifeguards. She turned the presentation over to City Manager, Matt Greeson.

Mr. Greeson commented that since his first government job was as a lifeguard, he is honored to turn the meeting over to Chief Highley to see these folks recognized. We certainly appreciate their service to our community.

Chief Highley shared that Dr. Douglas Rund, our medical director couldn't be here this evening so he and Lt. Mike Duncan will share the honors. He asked Lt. Duncan to read the scenario and then they will pass out some awards.

Lt. Duncan commented that on July 6th, two lifeguards at the Worthington Pool recognized that a small child was in severe distress. They rescued the child from the water and immediately began CPR. They continued lifesaving care until the arrival of Worthington EMS crews. EMS personnel continued treatment and transported the child to Nationwide Children's Hospital. Within 24 hours of arriving at Children's, the child was released to his parents care and has since made a full recovery. Without the actions of the two lifeguards the outcome of this incident would have been much more serious if

not tragic. For this reason, the Worthington Division of Fire and EMS and their Medical Director, Dr. Rund wish to recognize the two lifeguards.

As Chief Highley said, Dr. Rund was unfortunately called away and could not be here tonight. He really wanted to be. The following is what he would have shared:

“As medical director of the Worthington Division of Fire and EMS, I want to personally recognize the action of these two lifeguards, Ethan Stupka and Rory Finnegan. Although they are not employees of the Fire Division, their quick assessment of the emergency followed by the professional care they administered definitely contributed to the young child’s full recovery. Had they not acted when and how they did, this emergency would have had a much different outcome. It is quite probable that the child wouldn’t have recovered as well as he did. Therefore, it is my honor as Medical Director of the Division of Fire to present these Medical Director Civilian Accommodations to Ethan Stupka and Rory Finnegan.”

Chief Highley added that Dr. Rund reviews all of our incidents and he flagged this one pretty quickly when he saw the nature of the run and the outcome as something that someone made a major difference in what happened. Dr. Rund puts in a great deal of work with staff and actually has an office in our building. He spends about three days a week and trains with us and looks at incidents like this for our community. He started making some recognition to some folks around town and talking to our people when there is a good outcome. This is one of the best ones that we have had in a while.

Chief Highley read the Medical Director Civilian Accommodation and presented both Ethan Stupka and Rory Finnegan with a copy.

Chief Highley thanked them for their actions.

Ms. Michael shared that like Mr. Greeson her first job in government was also as a lifeguard. She thanked them for their actions.

Mr. Norstrom commented that at a very young age they have made a difference in somebody’s life. That is something that will stay with them forever.

Ethan’s mother shared that she is just so proud of these guys. It was a very big thing for him. He called her as soon as it happened. As a mother it was such a blessing and wonderful thing that they were able to do for these parents too. She is very proud.

Ms. Michael wished them the best. She encouraged them to keep their eyes opened and continue to help people and make the community a little bit better with everything that they do.

Lt. Duncan shared that the child and his parents were invited tonight and had planned to be here. In talking with the parents they were extremely grateful for what happened that day as they were not at the pool. The child was under the care of a daycare center. So to

get that phone call from the daycare center would have been extremely stressful and they were very happy with the outcome.

The two received a round of applause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Regular Meeting – June 20, 2016**
- **Regular Meeting – July 5, 2016**
- **Committee of the Whole Meeting – July 11, 2016**
- **Regular Meeting July 18, 2016**

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

The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no Visitor Comments

NEW LEGISLATION

Resolution No. 33-2016 Adjusting the Annual Budget by Providing for a Transfer of Previously Appropriated Funds.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 33-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

Mr. Greeson shared that periodically staff reviews expenses versus budget amounts and line items. We identify line items that have insufficient funds and others that may have excess funds and we recommend transfers. This is a fairly routine resolution at this point in the year. He and Ms. Roberts stand ready to address questions.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 33-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 34-2016 Authorizing the Use of a Portion of the Proceeds of Bonds or Bond Anticipation Notes of the City, in the Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$5,000,000 to be Issued for the Purpose of Financing the 2016 and 2017 Capital Improvement Program Projects Including Street and Utility System Improvements Identified as

Bonded Projects in the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program, to Reimburse the City's Capital Improvement Fund for Moneys Previously Advanced for Such Purpose.

Introduced by Mr. Troper.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 34-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Ms. Roberts commented that this is a reimbursement resolution and very similar to action that members took on April 21, 2014 with the passage of Resolution 11-2014. Periodically, when we are going through the CIP program we identify projects that we anticipate will be bonded at a future time and then we will repay the CIP fund back the cash that we have funded for these projects. Passage of this resolution allows us to continue in that manner. It allows us to move projects forward and then issue debt at a future time when we have several projects that we can bundle together. We can then issue one large debt issuance and hopefully reduce our debt issuance costs as well as capture a more attractive lower interest rate.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy about the current interest rate, Ms. Roberts reported that the rate is unknown until the bond is issued and goes through the issuance process. Interest rates are still relatively attractive. She thinks the longer term rates are currently between 3 ½% and 4%.

Mr. Norstrom knows our capital budget projections show some tightness in the outer years. He asked if there is any reason, because of the lower interest rates, that we do not want to put more projects into another bond package. Ms. Roberts shared that the topic has been discussed at the staff level and will be analyzed as we go through the current CIP process for the next budget cycle and which will be shared with Council in October.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 34-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 35-2016

A Resolution in Support of an Application for a Local Government Efficiency Program Grant.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 35-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

Mr. Greeson commented that some members may be familiar with LEAN and/or Six Sigma strategies. He explained that LEAN in particular is an effort employed often in manufacturing and more frequently now in government to improve processes. A LEAN

black belt certification is a desirable certification to have in any sector in this day and age. The State of Ohio has encouraged government participation in LEAN training programs. Last year several staff members attended a LEAN boot camp. Currently, Ryan Cooper from the Parks and Recreation Department is undergoing training for his LEAN black belt. We have an opportunity to apply for reimbursement for the cost of that training program to be largely reimbursed by the State of Ohio Local Government Innovation Fund. Staff is asking for Council's support of this resolution, which would allow us to submit a grant application in the amount of \$4,668.00 with a match of \$520.00. That would fund the training that Ryan is already attending.

When asked by Mr. Norstrom if there are any current black belts on staff, Mr. Greeson replied that David McCorkle received his LEAN black belt training while working for the State of Ohio.

Should the grant be obtained and training occur, Mr. Norstrom was curious as to how both black belts will work with city staff to improve our efficiencies and effectiveness. Mr. Greeson replied that there are two long term goals. One is to identify appropriate people in other departments to attend similar training, particularly while the State of Ohio is interested in funding that. We will then have them work on a couple of major processes that we identify annually.

Mr. Norstrom assumes the training is not specific to a department. Mr. Greeson agreed.

Ms. Dorothy stated that the reimbursement is for somebody already undergoing the training. Mr. Greeson agreed. This basically reimburses out of pocket expenses we would otherwise have for him.

Ms. Michael asked if members would be seeing this in some of the future budget goals, some of the streamlining of processes. Mr. Greeson commented that much of it will occur at the administrative level unless there is a larger process that might have policy changes that are required in order to affect them.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy if we anticipate applying for the same grant for different people, Mr. Greeson replied potentially. While the state is interested in funding this, we want to give our people opportunities. The challenge is to know the appropriate number of people to have trained for an organization of our size.

Mr. Norstrom shared that we shouldn't send people just because we have state money. We should look at what the tradeoff is for us.

Mr. Smith shared that he started going through this process through the state and he is at the third level now. He is a big fan. He thinks the city could benefit a great deal so he would encourage staff to even set aside some funds for 2017 for all levels of employees and not just strategic administration levels.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 35-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 36-2016

Authorizing the City Manager to Seek Financial Assistance from Federal Attributable Funds for the Project at Worthington Galena Road, Huntley Road and Wilson Bridge Road.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 36-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Greeson shared that this resolution as well as the next one relates to funding applications. He asked Ms. Stewart to provide an update.

Ms. Stewart shared that we originally applied for federal transportation funds for the project at Huntley/Worthington-Galena/Wilson Bridge Road in 2012 and learned in 2013 that we had funding. At that time the concept for the project to just address the congestion in that area would most likely either be a roundabout or a widening of the existing intersection. Since that time preliminary engineering has been done. Our consultant (EMH&T) has completed a feasibility study that was shared with Council earlier this year after some public meetings and other presentations. Since neither the roundabout nor the widening of the intersection addressed the vehicular congestion that occurs at that intersection, the recommendation was to split the intersection into two different intersections. Since that time we have launched into detail design. They have been meeting with the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board to integrate bicycle and pedestrian facilities where there are currently none. We have received some updated costs associated with that revised approach to the project. We needed to submit an update to MORPC for our federal funding this summer. That update has been submitted. They indicated that given the amount of the change in requested funding we needed to submit a full application for the additional funding. Our currently approved federal funding for this project is still in place but we are working through the process with MORPC to get approval for the additional funding for the revised approach to the project. This resolution expresses support for the currently recommended approach as has been previously identified and supported by the City Council.

Ms. Michael understands there to be some competition for the additional funding. Ms. Stewart agreed. She added that there are five projects that needed to go back through the full MORPC application process because of the amount of the requested increase in funds. There are also new applications for consideration by various communities.

Mr. Myers stated we will retain the current funding even though we are submitting a brand new complete application. Ms. Stewart replied yes. She added that we have a current commitment of federal funds of a little over \$6,000,000. We are asking for a

requested commitment of almost \$11,000,000 so it is the \$5,000,000 difference that we are under consideration for.

Mr. Myers is assuming that these funds are critical to this project going forward. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Greeson confirmed that they were. Mr. Myers added that without these funds staff will be coming back to Council with some other alternative. Ms. Stewart confirmed that we would have to re-evaluate the project if we do not receive the additional funds.

Ms. Dorothy asked if it is correct that the majority of the cost increase was going from one intersection with the roundabout to the two intersections that Council agreed to. Ms. Stewart believes that the change in approach to address the congestion is definitely driving much of the cost. There are a number of things that we received better information on after the feasibility study such as the cost of the pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the railroads. Our preliminary understanding wasn't at the level the engineers have been able to shed light on. The splitting of the two intersection and some right-of-way impact. She can't point to any one item that drove it but the change in approach has definitely made an impact.

Ms. Dorothy thinks at the Bike and Ped Committee there are meeting minutes that state that the bike and ped improvements are around \$700,000 additional. Ms. Stewart confirm that the bike and ped improvements were not the sole driver. Railroad crossings are expensive and we have two of them in this project.

Mr. Norstrom asked if this is a decision that will be made by MORPC or is it an FHWA decision. Mr. Greeson replied that it will be a decision made by the Attributable Funding Committee at MORPC and then ultimately by the Transportation Policy Commission. We will probably know by late October / early November what the recommendations of the Committee are and then it will go on to the full Commission in the early part of 2017.

There being no additional comments/questions, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 36-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 37-2016

Authorizing the City Manager to Seek Financial Assistance from Federal Attributable Funds for the Wilson Bridge Road Corridor Project.

Introduced by Mr. Troper.

MOTION

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 37-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

Mr. Greeson commented that staff presented a revised strategy for moving forward with both bicycle and pedestrian aesthetic improvements along the Wilson Bridge Road corridor. This primarily dealt with the gateway on US-23 into the community and then

the trail going east from High St. to the Community Center. Council authorized us to move forward with an approach that would be applying for federal funds for this. This is the requisite resolution to support that.

Ms. Dorothy asked when this needs to be submitted and when will we find out if we get the funds or not. Mr. Greeson replied that staff has already submitted the request because Council had the August recess. It included essentially all of the things Council had seen before. We worked with GPD, which is a sub-consultant that the City Council had picked some time ago for the Wilson Bridge Road plan. We will find out about it sometime in November. It will be scored by the MORPC staff and then will wind its way through the process to the full Commission in the February timeframe. He added that this is in a bicycle/pedestrian pot of money that will compete against other regional bikeway projects. The other project is in major widening of intersections projects.

There being no additional comments/questions, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 37-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Resolution No. 38-2016

Amending the Position Description for Police Chief.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

MOTION

Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 38-2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

Ms. Michael shared that the description at members' places this evening is the one for consideration as the one included with Council materials had a few typographical errors.

Mr. Greeson shared that he typed the job description as Ms. Trego was out of town. The first error is the date. The correct date for adoption of this description is tonight, September 6, 2016 and not September 19, 2016. The second error is found under the Minimum Requirements of the position. On page 3 it states that the applicant should have a minimum of eight years as a Lieutenant or above in a municipal police department. The correct minimum number of years should be three.

Mr. Norstrom asked what the amendment does. Mr. Greeson replied that the change modernizes the job description because the previous one was extremely outdated. He thinks the most significant changes include the requirement of a degree and the level of professional development. Staff reviewed numerous police chief job descriptions from throughout the region and included some of the terminology and language.

There being no additional comments/questions, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 38-2016 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 29-2016

Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor and Declaring an Emergency.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Ms. Roberts explained that the ordinance is just for introduction this evening. The reason for the emergency language is because this ordinance is required to be passed and effective by October 1st of each year as indicated in the Ohio Revised Code. She is requesting the public hearing on the 19th and pass it by emergency at that time.

Ordinance No. 30-2016

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 Community Center Shingle Roof Replacement Project and all Related Expenses, Determining to Proceed with said Project and Declaring an Emergency. (Project No. 631-16)

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Mr. Greeson shared that in our Five-Year Capital Improvements Program there is a number of building maintenance projects related to roofs, primarily because of the age of the buildings. The three primary buildings that have projects in the CIP are the older portion of the Community Center, the Fire Station and this building. As part of that process we asked one of our consultants to do a more in-depth evaluation with a more critical eye and strategize how to implement these roof replacement projects. He asked Mr. Whited to comment.

Mr. Whited shared that the roof issues have been a little difficult to handle so we engaged Mays Consulting to help prioritize what were the most important ones. It was easily revealed that the shingle project at the south end of the community center was the most important as we are currently in an emergency situation with tarps covering the roof. We have asked Mays to look at that and come up with a design cost and estimate of construction cost for the work. It is an emergency situation simply because of the fact that the roof is covered with a tarp and we are about to enter into the fall and winter seasons. We are asking by this first ordinance to allow Mays to continue with their design of that roof replacement. Once they complete the design it will go out to bid for a construction vendor to complete the work. We hope to have that done yet this year if at all possible, but we have to move very rapidly, hence the reason for the emergency.

Mr. Norstrom commented that a shingle roof last between 25 and 30 years. He asked if there is some other material that we can use that will last 40 years or more. Mr. Whited replied that there may be but integrated with our existing facilities, he is not sure it is the

appropriate approach but he will have Mays look at and evaluate that as part of the project.

Mr. Smith recalled that in the last few years members have been discussing solar, particularly for part of the community center. He knows that Mays did actually look at that at one time and agreed that it was a viable option. He asked if that is still an option. Mr. Whited replied not on this particular portion of the roof because it is actually sloped. There is another portion of the southern roof where it is an option. Mr. Hurley added that this part of the roof is actually over the pottery portion of the building. The solar project will be considered over the flat roof of the gymnasium.

Mr. Greeson hopes this won't come back to council because it is not a large roof. He hopes it will be under the \$50,000 threshold for bids and we will be able to procure construction through quotes. Mr. Whited agreed. He added that the requested funds does include a small contingency which takes the cost to \$64,500.

Ms. Dorothy asked how old the roof is. Mr. Hurley replied that that end of the community center was constructed in a couple of phases. There is a late 1970s era model and a mid-1980s. He believes this roof was constructed in the early 1980s.

Ms. Dorothy commented that it is a project that staff has been anticipating. Mr. Hurley agreed. It was initially included in the CIP as part of the south end roofing project as we were trying to buy some time on these shingles. But when we had a company come and take a look under the shingles there was some rotting and we did not feel comfortable waiting for the larger CIP project.

Ms. Dorothy recalled that for the roof repair over the pool, Mays observed the construction while the contractor was on site. We don't think this was caused by faulty construction but rather just end of life. Mr. Hurley replied that he wasn't prepared to comment on that.

Ms. Dorothy asked what scope of services we are having Mays do. All of his fees add up with all of these different projects. She was wondering if we are getting any discount or are we going to shop it around or are we just comfortable with him. She asked what the scope of services is for this emergency work. Mr. Whited replied that it is to evaluate what needs to be done to replace the rotted wood and shingles in that area, design an enhancement, and create plans and bid and build. Mr. Greeson added that this item and the next item are such that we've identified them as more immediate issues, this one by emergency and the next one not but still this fall. Staff is recommending that we move forward with Mays to design them. He thinks when we do the larger south end roof our consultant selection regulation will require us to compete the design services because of the size of the project.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion to pass Ordinance No. 30-2016 as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 30-2016 as an emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 30-2016 was thereupon declared duly passed as an emergency and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 31-2016

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 Design Costs of the Municipal Building Chimney Repair Project and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 632-16)

Introduced by Mr. Norstrom.

Ordinance No. 32-2016

Amending Ordinance No. 44-2015 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the General Fund and Accrued Acreage Fund Unappropriated Balances.

Introduced by Mr. Troper.

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)

- Permission to Bid – Wayfinding Project

Mr. Greeson shared that the wayfinding project is ready to go out for bid and staff needs Council's authorization to do that.

Mr. Brown reported that this project is finally moving forward after meeting with members in May to discuss some changes to the signage. We should see some results early next year. Fabrication will be done over the fall and winter, which will give staff time to go out and meet with individual property owners near where the signs will be

placed. The signs should be installed by spring. Additional signs will be phased in as part of the CIP over the next few years.

Mr. Whited shared that staff has prepared a bid package that is consistent with previous projects and are prepared to put this out for bid with Council's approval.

Mr. Myers asked if this is just for the fabrication or does it also include the installation. Mr. Brown replied that it includes fabrication and installation.

Mr. Myers commented that the Old Worthington and Historic District sign is the compromise that we reached with the Old Worthington Association and everyone is on board with it. Mr. Brown agreed that it is the sign that Council approved in May. Mr. Myers said he just wants to make sure that there hasn't been any other comments of a critical nature. Mr. Brown replied that he is not aware of any.

Ms. Dorothy asked if the materials that Council received were the bid package. Mr. Greeson replied that it does not include all of the boiler plate information.

Ms. Dorothy stated that the package will go out. We have a time period and we get bids back and then we haven't funded anything and staff will come back and discuss how the bids came back. Are we actually going to get this installed or how will this work. Mr. Whited replied that staff will prepare the bid package, obtain a contractor, and bring it back to Council for the appropriation.

Ms. Dorothy asked what would be the earliest timeline that the public would see the signs. Mr. Brown replied the earliest would probably be in April 2017.

Mr. Greeson commented that Council has already appropriated the funds.

Ms. Dorothy stated that members were told that we have very expensive taste so she didn't know what portion of the wayfinding signage would actually come about next year. Mr. Greeson replied that we will find out.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to authorize City Staff to bid the wayfinding project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Information Item(s)

- SR-161 Study

Mr. Greeson thanked President Michael for attending the first meeting of an advisory committee about the SR-161 study that is now underway. He shared that the meeting began with the creation and convening of a stakeholder advisory committee, which had a number of our residents and stakeholders along the SR-161 corridor engaged in it. That

was held last week. There will probably be a series of four or five meetings of that group leading into next spring. He will send members a memo that talks more about that process. He appreciates Ms. Michael being there.

Ms. Michael stated that she was really impressed with how many Worthington groups were represented. It felt good that we had good representation. She thinks that the consultants and everybody involved were willing to listen to what people had to say. Mr. Greeson agreed that it included a good cross-section of people throughout the corridor. He thinks it will be a good process.

- SR-161 Paving

Mr. Greeson shared that Council appropriated a local match for an urban re-paving project that will be completed by ODOT. City staff has been working with ODOT in recent weeks to plan the logistics of what is a challenging project in a heavily travelled corridor that has both local and non-local traffic. We believe the best approach is to perform nighttime paving. Regardless of when the work on that road is completed, it will create impacts. Our experience suggests that we need to try to limit the number of days that the project impacts the area because it is pretty congested. Nighttime work shortens the duration of the project. More of the roadway can be blocked and allows for more continuous work. They believe that the nighttime work will allow the project to be completed in half the time, so about three weeks or less. The contractor indicated that most residents will experience about two nights of work near their house as the project moves along the corridor. We and ODOT believes that this ensures a faster, more efficient, and safer project for the workers and more safety for the wide variety of users (bicyclist, pedestrians, etc.) during the daytime. Ms. Stewart will talk briefly about some of the communications efforts that are going to begin this week.

Ms. Stewart shared that she and a representative from our Service and Engineering Department attended a meeting this morning with ODOT and the contractor to get details so that we can begin communicating with residents and businesses in the area along SR-161. Our intent is to do mailers and door hangers for the properties along SR-161. Next week they will begin some day time work (between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm) to prepare the road for the overlay. The contractor plans to begin the nighttime work west of High St. to Olentangy River Road the week of September 18th. The contractor has been authorized to work between 8:00 pm and 5:00 am. They expect to mill and overlay each portion during the night. The week of the 25th they plan to work east of High St. There will be lights and noise associated with the work. They will be applying the finishing touches the first week of October (striping, loop detectors, etc.)

Mr. Whited added that this is an intrusive project but it will go much smoother, safer and quicker at night.

Mr. Greeson shared that members will see all of the normal communications effort as well as targeting the residents that are directly impacted.

Ms. Michael asked if social media and the neighborhood e-mail would be used. Ms. Stewart confirmed that she will be working with Anne Brown to get the information out in various forms.

- East Granville Road Park

Mr. Hurley, Parks Director, shared that many projects are being worked out in our parks. Tonight he would like to talk about one that is a little more community driven. There has been some success lately with little libraries at the East Granville Road Park. They are typically volunteer driven and people place books for others to look at while out in the park. This is a combination of Sustainable Worthington and an Eagle Scout. Shawn Daugherty from the Parks staff oversees many of these projects and oversaw this one. Eagle Scout Luke Bobay and his father did the patio area and set pavers that connects to the sidewalk that leads to the playground. Joanna Doles (Sustainable Worthington) husband, Allan Eiger constructed and installed (along with the scout) the library box. Books were donated by the Friends of the Worthington library and Wild Ones Columbus. It was a really neat project. He invited council members to check it out and thank Luke and Allan if they happen to bump into them around town.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Norstrom asked that the letter dated August 24th that members received from Michael Clevenger be added as part of these minutes (copy attached). Given some of the letters that Council members have received about us not sharing information and having discussions, he thinks Mr. Clevenger summed up very well that the information on how we make decisions is in the public domain.

Mr. Smith shared that he took the month of August to act as liaison between the National Church Residents group at Stafford Village and his neighborhood (the adjacent properties to the NCR property). He has been interfacing with two of them to try to get some dialog going about what that might look like in the future for both residents and the property owner. Those discussions have begun and we will start reaching out to the larger community, City Council and staff as months go on.

Ms. Dorothy thanked staff for keeping the city running smoothly without Council.

Ms. Michael welcomed everyone back. She added that there is a Blue Event being held at the MAC. Ms. Dorothy added that the Blue Event is a fundraiser and should be fun. There is a nominal fee to get in. All those in attendance can be a part of a mural there at the Center. She encouraged them to wear blue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

Mr. Myers made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Board and Commission appointments, economic development, and appointment of personnel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Yes **6** Troper, Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Michael

No **0**

Council recessed at 8:34 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

NOTE: Mr. Foust arrived at the meeting prior to the Executive Session.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to return to open session at 9:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to re-appoint the following individuals to the following Boards/Commissions:

- Board of Zoning Appeals – Donald Falcoski
- Parks & Recreation Commission – Dan Armitage, Peter Calmari, Laura Ball and Robert Wendling
- Personnel Appeals Board – Charles Warner and Daniel Srsic
- Volunteer Firefighters Dependents Board – Robert Chosy and Paul Feldman

The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

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

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress

Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
19th day of September, 2016.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael

Council President

August 24, 2016

To the leaders and members of the following groups:
Worthington Alliance for Responsible Development (WARD)
Old Worthington Association (OWA)
Citizens for Historic Worthington (CHW)
West Wilson Bridge Road Residents' Group (WWB)
Keep Worthington Beautiful (KWB)

Worthington Citizens:

I am aware of your request to the members of Worthington City Council for information and a dialogue regarding the property at 1033 N. High Street in Worthington. You indicated in an email that you wished to be "informed participants" in what you describe as a "critical public policy issue." You outlined five specific pieces of information you were seeking.

Also in your email to council you stated, "In Worthington, where an informed electorate has always been integral to shaping the direction of our city, we believe disregarding multiple requests to provide information is neither tenable nor acceptable." I included this statement because I believe in an informed electorate as well. But, I also believe it is one's responsibility to seek as much information on his or her own before criticizing others for not providing it.

So I share some information readily available that answers some of the questions you asked the city in your email.

1. The legal and financial options for a municipality to involve themselves in development projects are outlined in the Ohio Attorney General's *Ohio Economic Development Manual*. You can find this manual at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/economic-development>
2. You asked what would be the costs for the "purchase, development, and maintenance of a substantial public greenspace." First, let's assume that the county auditor's fair market value of \$6,861,800 for the 40.93 acres of land is indeed a fair price to pay. Purchasing 32 acres then would result in a price of \$5,314,704, or \$167,647 an acre.

My immediate reaction was "there is no way the city can afford this." But, rather than make an un-informed statement, I referred to the city's approved *2016-2020 Capital Improvements Program*. I quickly found that a purchase of this property alone would exceed the planned capital expenditures for each of the planned years. It would have to take precedence over expenditures for infrastructure: streets, sewers and parks; needed equipment: trucks, fire and police vehicles, etc.; and payments to retire previous bond issues.

In city manager's memo included in the 2016 city's operating budget, he said this:

Additional investment in the City's aging buildings and equipment is necessary and reflected in the five-year CIP. This includes, among other projects, re-roofing of the south portion of the Community Center, the Municipal Building and the Fire Station. It also includes significant energy efficiency and HVAC improvements at the Community Center. These particular improvements have significant costs, but are projected to create offsetting long-term savings. We also face the need to replace a variety of major equipment. The CIP includes, among others items, a bucket truck, street sweeper, two medic vehicles, and multiple dump trucks over five years. These major commitments to maintaining existing facilities, replacing aging equipment, and debt associated with planned or completed projects are characteristic of an older, built out community that has significant public facility commitments in proportion to its size and population. It also results in a constrained five-year CIP. Annual funding is allocated to support community priorities for wayfinding and bicycle and pedestrian improvements. However, I want to emphasize that few, if any, other new or additional projects will be able to be added given the volume of existing obligations.

Please draw your own conclusions from the review of the city's budget and capital improvement plan.

I have determined that purchasing the property is not in the best interest of the city; primarily because we do not have the revenue to support it, and the projects that are planned are necessary and demand priority. Also consider that by purchasing 32 acres, we are trading potentially income and property tax generating real estate for additional expense for the city. Because of this I didn't attempt to consider where one might find the costs of development and operation of a public space such as this.

3. Also, I didn't attempt to determine what information may be available to answer the last two questions you posed, nos. four and five in your email. I stopped after determining that the city doesn't have the resources to fund such an expensive project. Also, the questions have just too many variables to consider that I'm not sure how valuable the information would be even if developed.

Please consider the information I have presented and certainly consider what you are asking the city to provide you; information on a project that is, in my opinion, financially impossible and does not contribute to the long-term financial stability of Worthington.

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