



Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12, 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
W. Scott Myers, President Pro-Tempore
Rachael Dorothy
Douglas C. Foust
David M. Norstrom
Douglas Smith
Michael C. Troper

Matthew H. Greeson, City Manager
D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, September 12, 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.

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

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

Member(s) Absent:

Also present: Deputy Clerk of Council Tanya M. Word, City Manager, Matt Greeson, Assistant City Manager, Robyn Stewart, Director of Law Pamela Fox, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Hurley, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Dan Whited, Service and Engineering Director, and Interim Police Chief Jerry Strait, and Chief of Fire Scott Highley.

There was 1 visitor present.

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**Information Items****(1) Community Group Funding**

Mr. Greeson stated we wanted to come before Council on one budget issue and that is how we approach funding for community groups; later in the agenda we're going to be talking about the budget process as a whole, but as you will recall last year we accepted applications from both community groups we had funded in the past as well as new ones; you appointed a committee which included two councilmembers Mr. Troper and Mr. Foust as council representatives.

The committee made recommendations regarding funding; they also provided feedback at the end of the process; they utilized a decision matrix that we came up with to evaluate some of the groups. Before we get started with the remainder of the budget process we wanted to touch on how we are going to handle this process this year; I'm going to ask Mrs. Stewart to walk us through that dialogue and provide some information and maybe raise some questions that will get you thinking and talking about it and hopefully at some point providing us direction.

Mrs. Stewart stated I left at your places this evening materials from the 2016 allocation for community groups, on the top of that is the memo from Anne Brown, she is the staff person who worked with the committee that made recommendations and this is the memo where she summarized the recommendations of the committee, but the final paragraph at the bottom of the page referenced the benefits of giving more information about priorities and how to balance the wide range of competing applications in the process to understand what City Council really wanted to do with the funding and the last sentence actually indicates that the process be reviewed before budget planning begins for next year so that a more informed matrix can be developed based on goals and priorities. That's the timing we're in now, typically in October and November we launch into budget and capital discussions and so we wanted to bring this forward in this Committee of the Whole meeting to at least get the process started. Obviously we had two council members who served on that committee, if you have any comments that you want to make about that experience and what the committee discussed, you are certainly welcome to do so.

Mr. Troper replied I think the key sentence there is "many of the sections left room for interpretation and the results were very subjective." I think that's what we found and other than if we say here's the direction we want to be heading, I guess it's going to kind of always be that way. I don't think that's necessarily bad, the group has ideas on what is working and what is not working. Mr. Foust replied I wonder if we couldn't approach this almost as a blank sheet of paper and take a few moments and ask yourselves why exactly are we doing this; it fits in the city's mission in some fashion and I'm not sure exactly where that is and so I think some definition around where are we expressing value, is around the arts, community integrity, or service to the homeless and a disadvantaged population. I think we need to get some priorities identified.

Ms. Michael explained a little history stating that when I first came on council there was virtually no funding for the arts; the arts council and the historical society were the two biggest entities that were receiving funding and then there were several little smaller groups (a lot of them were arts related); there was like an arts focus and an health focus and then Leadership Worthington; and so you kind of had those that felt like the city should provide something to help these groups who give so much back to the community. Then as time marched on we've had other groups that have come in and increased funding and at one point we cut back because of our financials. We didn't just say here are our goals for the funding, it was more of what are some of the community needs that the city should fund and it just started in that method and then with the creation of the McConnell Arts Center all of the arts funding has been moved over into that area and some of the other smaller groups like the Worthington Songsters and some of those groups, their funding has moved over to that area; so the focus has kind of changed and I think it makes sense to take a look at where we're going and what we want to do; this is where history is, but that doesn't mean we can't make changes in future directions.

Mr. Foust thanked Ms. Michael for that history and commented that helps bring into focus of how do you weigh sandwiches or people who are hungry against a singing group; those things are just so divergent and I think it became clear to me that there's

kind of an “arts” component, a “human services” component, and “who are we a city” component. It’s about how we market ourselves and it really ties in a way into economic growth.

Mr. Myers asked what about applying the matrix that Mrs. Stewart created, is that doable. Mr. Troper commented you can sit here and create a matrix, but again I think it’s pretty subjective...I think it’s us clearly defining what the priorities may be if that’s what we want to do or leave it to being subjective. Mr. Myers indicated with the matrix we’re trying to come up with some objectivity in what I understand is a very subjective analysis. I think Mr. Norstrom kind of hit on this last year when he talked about the heroin epidemic and is there a way that we can touch that issue with our giving; I was thinking about this last night, would it help if we discussed the idea of what are our priorities. I know when I go to write my checks for charitable contributions, I have certain causes that I think are important to me that I want to support; and to me there is kind of a category of those historical gifts like the historical society that are just so embedded that that’s one of those that are off the table to begin with, that’s going to get funded by council no matter what. Then I looked at it as sort of a hierarchy where the first would be satisfying basic necessities and that you would have things like LifeCare Alliance and the Resource Pantry that would be my top priority. My second priority would be health and wellness and that would be North Community Counseling and things of that nature. Then community improvement followed by recreation that would kind of be my hierarchy if I were going to be writing the checks out of my pocket those are the things I look at. Mr. Troper remarked I agree with things you’re saying in terms of hierarchy, I mean everyone is going to have their own differences, but then again you get into how much do you want to give to each one of those priorities, so it becomes this is where I see this, and this is where I see that; it becomes dollars and then it just becomes where everyone is getting down to that subjectivity again.

Mr. Myers commented I don’t know if we can eliminate the subjectivity and I don’t think we can eliminate that issue of the fact can we give everyone what they ask for...probably not, so we have to make some distributions. I think it would be helpful to have a discussion on just what our goals are; Mr. Foust said it: what are we trying to accomplish.

Mr. Norstrom commented I agree with what basically has been said; I don’t think there is anything that simply because we’ve given to a group for 20 years means that we need to continue to give to. Now as for the Worthington Historical Society, we just did a wayfinding plan that has the word historical embedded all over it, so historical is very important to this community so that means it’s important to us. As you have indicated Mr. Myers, I would suggest that we also have a sort of floating fund concept that for example, opioids are a major issue in the community, now is it being met by other areas or do they need additional funding to do what needs to be done, I don’t know the answer to that, but I think that is the way we should be approaching it; opioids I’m not sure was an issue five years ago, so that’s going to be changing and so I think we want to give ourselves the ability to have money that we can put somewhere to help us move forward in areas that maybe we’re not in now.

Ms. Michael commented I like what Mr. Myers brought up about life and health and wellness and I believe that opioids is one of those things that I believe could fall into one of those categories.

Mr. Smith remarked to Mr. Norstrom's point we have an epidemic something like pharmaceuticals or opioids, there's a term in the non-profit world called chasing the money and in this sense if we say a priority of ours is enable programs and promote programs within the community that deal with those types of things like pharmaceuticals or opioids or whatnot; half of these on the list will shift some of their programming to meet those needs. Mr. Norstrom replied and that's exactly what we would want to do.

Mr. Myers commented to Mr. Norstrom it sounds to me like you're almost suggesting that we have a reserve or do we want to actually structure our goals that year to include that goal. Mr. Norstrom commented as I said earlier, I think it's zero-based, so for example, we pick some goals that we agree to that's where we want to invest our money and that would be this year and potentially we're implying that that's not a single year, it's a multi-year commitment and then two or three years from now, let's say very optimistically that the opioid problem is very diminished and we want to focus on distracted driving.

Mr. Smith stated a question perhaps to ask the groups is what programs can you implement or enhance/augment with funds that we'll give you to meet our concerns in this case opioids. Mr. Myers commented it would almost be like a request for proposals when we send out our notifications to groups and what if we said something like our concentrations will be and list them and our priorities are basic necessities, health and wellness, community improvement and recreation with a special emphasis (this year) on opioid addiction. Mr. Norstrom remarked and we can even imply potentially multi-year funding for this area. Ms. Dorothy commented I was wondering about that, I thought we had talked about it last year. Mr. Norstrom replied we did; I think serving on a lot of non-profit boards, past and present they count on money coming in from certain sources and so if we do that now it's great, but we should also alert them that in two or three years that money may not be there for you. It's not quite what we did with the arts center, we provided the base money but they have gone out and earned more and are moving forward in that context.

Ms. Dorothy stated that I would also like to note that I agree with Mr. Norstrom about the Worthington Historical Society being more in a different category and almost essential to us a city and our identity having the historical society; I would want to try to have a separate pool or somehow differentiate them from other groups that are social services. One of the reasons I did want to bring up having additional people in this list to begin with was I was a big advocate to have other groups to submit proposals as opposed to just funding the same ones over and over again; I do want to hopefully identify other people that can help the city grow and support our community; I like the fact of giving money for a limited amount of time knowing that they'll have money for a couple of years or whatever the time period may be and knowing that they'll have to reapply.

Ms. Michael commented after we figure out what our priorities are, we need to figure out the timeline, do we implement it coming into this fall or do we do this going ahead in future years. Mr. Myers remarked that I have a philosophical issue with having the historical society compete for funding dollars with Community Counseling Center. Mr. Foust commented I think we need to decide if there's an arts component, an historical/identity component, and then the human side of it; to me there are three separate categories and maybe you can decide on the front end we're going to give 1/3, 1/3 an 1/3 or 25, 75 and 25 or whatever it is and then from there we try to stay within those parameters. Ms. Michael commented if I'm not mistaken what we decided a year ago was that arts funding would go to McConnell Arts Center and be done through McConnell Arts, so I think the arts component pretty much goes to the McConnell Arts Center unless we're reinventing something because that's what I thought we decided on a year ago.

Mr. Greeson replied I think the only question embedded in that is how much money, last year was \$5000. Mr. Myers commented we have historically in the budget had a request from the MAC for \$220,000, what I would like to see is that in their request and in their presentation that they ask for amount over and above that and tell us what they're going to do with it for community arts or whatever we want it to say. They make the distributions for us, we decide on what the total dollar amount is when we do that grant to the MAC and we take arts off our plate. I think I would maybe suggest that we do the same thing with the historical society and have them give their request directly to council. Mr. Greeson replied yes they're a little bit unique in the sense that they own and is the caretaker of historical physical assets. Mr. Myers commented I guess what I'm suggesting is I happen to like the committee idea that we came up with last year and I would like to continue that process; I think we need to give a little more direction and I would like to take the historical society and the arts funding through the MAC off their plate

Ms. Michael asked what is the consensus of council regarding the idea from Mr. Myers about taking the historical society and arts funding through the MAC off the committee plate and coming to council. Everyone was in favor.

Ms. Michael asked about health and life necessity. Mr. Smith commented I'm seeing all the health and life necessities groups and all of them would fall into that and all of these organizations might be interested in either shifting some funds around. Mr. Myers commented we're talking generalities, let's talk specifics. Mr. Norstrom commented the point is what is in the best interest of the city; if we go down through these, some of these are providing social services in lieu of us having staff or us doing anything with that and those are things that I would say from a policy perspective do we agree that we still want to have those social services.

Mr. Foust commented to Mr. Myers to answer your earlier question I think for me if it's putting clothes on children's backs or putting food in their stomachs or adults for that matter, that to me kind of tops the list. Mr. Myers replied it's the same way with me, basic necessities, things like LifeCare Alliance delivering Meals on Wheels to me that's critical

and important; and right below that comes mental health, i.e. community counseling, some of the other mental health groups that ask for funding, to me those would be the top two priorities. Mr. Norstrom asked that includes the Resource Pantry in terms of...Mr. Myers said yes that's the top one....that's putting food on the table.

Mr. Foust commented that opioids had now gained such attention that it may be there are other resources coming at that, that don't necessarily belong at the top of our list. Mr. Norstrom replied I fully agree with that statement; the question I would put to staff is given these priorities that we're discussing where is the need not being met.

Mr. Myers suggested when we go to market with our RFP to say if you think you can help us with the opioid crisis we're more than willing to hear from you and see if there are some creative ideas out there as an expression of this council's commitment to the issue; we may not get anybody. The general idea here is that we're going to be looking for specific emphasis and we pick a couple of topics that are very front of mind to us when we actually advertise for people to submit their requests. Mr. Norstrom commented I agree and I agree with Mr. Foust too because two years ago we didn't have a senate bill that was passed that provided a lot of money for opioid treatment, so the landscape may have changed and that's where I would look to staff to provide some input into this and where in Franklin County (i.e. our part of Franklin County) are there needs that aren't being met. Personally I have great respect for the Special Olympics, the Kiwanis, but I'm not sure that those from a priority in terms of what's best for the overall city may meet that criteria.

Mr. Greeson commented Dr. Byers at Drug Safe Worthington has indicated that at some point she wants to come and present to the City Council; they did not receive their federal grant and they have inquired as to what the process will be this fall.

Mr. Myers explained what I am proposing is the process stay the same; we appoint a committee to review the applications in accordance with the guidelines; what we're developing right now is our priorities to give to the committee right now. Mr. Troper asked how do you distribute your priorities among your dollars. Mr. Myers replied we are relying on your expertise; it is never going to be objective; it will never be as clear as we would like it to be.

Mr. Foust commented from the process standpoint, Mr. Myers raised the word fiduciary and in my day job one of the things I do is administer about 1/3 of \$1 million dollars per year in grant funds for wellness across 34 counties; we have a grant process which I would be happy to share with this group, we've fine tuned it the last couple of years; there is an application on the front end, we actually give half the money and at mid-year they get to come back and show a progress report of where they are and then they get the second half. Maybe that's getting a little complicated, but I'm all for anything in this process that tightens up the accountability of the reporting back of how many people did you serve and in what fashion.

Mr. Myers commented if we decide to adopt a multi-year funding approach it would sure seem like a lot of sense that at the end of every year they give their report to us. Mr. Norstrom shared I'm of two minds: I would rather give 100% to an organization to get something done rather than give 90% to all organizations and then the other side of that is though I'm not sure the amount we're going to give is going to make a whole lot of difference to any organization.

Mrs. Stewart asked can I make an attempt to summarize what I'm hearing and to see if it's consistent with what council is asking for: It sounds like there are two top priorities; the overall top priority are proposals that would address basic necessities involving the need for food, clothing and so forth; the next priority after that is community counseling, mental health issues; asked is that kind of where council is in terms of the overall priorities it would like to address through this program. Mr. Myers replied it fits my priorities. Ms. Michael commented I think those two are so close because sometimes the counseling is what's needed to keep people from falling into the category of being homeless and needing the food; sometimes the prevention part maybe helpful. I'm having a tough time dividing food, clothing and counseling; I almost put those three together because they are human services that are needed because if someone gets the counseling they may not end up homeless.

Mr. Norstrom commented I think what Mrs. Stewart has summarized is very close to our discussion. Ms. Dorothy replied I'd agree. Mr. Myers commented the only thing I would add is I think we are going to maybe every year when we have this discussion as I think opioids have come out as a special topic, I think it fits under the second priority, but I think we would certainly suggest or look for groups that can address this issue. Mr. Norstrom replied and again the caveat is that truly is the case now. Mr. Myers commented the committee is going to have to make that decision, that's a specific charge to that committee...is just a request for more money or is this truly a needed service and I think the very first thing we ask in the matrix is need for the initiative. Mr. Norstrom replied and then I think the other question we need to ask tonight or at least soon is are there other priorities that staff or us (council) see on the horizon that we may want to put money in to solve a problem before it becomes a problem.

Mr. Foust indicated one of the things I struggle with and perhaps Mr. Troper as well on the committee, the matrix didn't fit certain applications, but having carved things as we have, when you look at human services capacity, Mrs. Stewart I think this is dead on.

Mrs. Stewart commented within those priorities because you're probably going to get multiple applications that address those priorities, does the committee still utilize some of the components of this matrix to then try to prioritize within those categories. Mr. Myers replied I'm still dedicated to the matrix, I still think it works. Ms. Dorothy asked will we add another line for human services or mental health or food or clothing. Do we add that to the matrix. Mr. Myers replied I think that just becomes our priority. That could be one way the committee could justify how they're giving the money out.

Mr. Norstrom commented let's address an issue though for the committee to provide guidance given the discussion and I'm not sure Leadership Worthington fits in the discussion. Ms. Michael chimed in PCC. Mr. Norstrom asked isn't PCC a little different, aren't they us. Ms. Michael commented they're separate non for profit organization. Mr. Norstrom asked do they get more money from anybody else, I don't know that much about them. Ms. Michael replied yes. Mrs. Stewart replied I'm not sure of what other funding they get from other groups, but they are their own non for profit that has their own board. Mr. Norstrom replied I understand that, but I thought they were primarily dependent upon the city for their funding. Mr. Smith replied I think in recent years they've had private sponsors come up.

Mr. Myers commented I will add that in my original thought that there would be a third priority and that would be community improvement. Mr. Greeson asked what do you mean by that. Mr. Myers replied that would be things like PCC and Leadership Worthington, they improve the community generally and I don't have a good definition for what that means. Mrs. Stewart asked so do I understand that's lower than the other two priorities, but it still would be an area where funding would be provided. Mr. Greeson asked is there a preference projects vs. programs. One year projects or Two year projects as opposed to sustained programs; is there any feedback you would have in terms of what we want to focus on in that regard.

Mr. Smith replied I think the priorities that were identified can take of that question because a group like Leadership Worthington which would fall under our third priority wants to get up to first priority, they would take it upon themselves to make a project that would satisfy that first priority and identify how they're going to do that. Ms. Michael commented I think a lot of what we're talking about here this evening is more program oriented in the sense that the ongoing programming of the resource of putting food and clothing on the table or the body of a person and providing counseling, those aren't one time projects, those are ongoing programs....you don't suddenly create a pantry, and if you have counseling, one session doesn't do it.

Mr. Foust commented Mr. Smith back to your earlier statement about following the money, I'm not sure that I would want to set this up in such a way that we would entice a group to create a project to in fact chase the money. If we're talking about human services, I'd rather have it go to experts who do it on a regular basis. Mr. Smith commented it's hard to come up with a project for something like human services, but it's easy to come up with one time projects. i.e. let's say the Kiwanis come up with something like lunchboxes filled with food for kids for an after school program over the summer time. So if you're trying to go a different direction from what we're talking about then that's a different conversation. Ms. Michael commented I think another factor that needs to be discussed is how much are we serving Worthington residents, I'm not opposed to serving the Worthington area, but Worthington residents, this is city tax dollars being used; having some tie back. I know when the representative from Northwest Counseling Center comes in, they tell us how many City of Worthington kids they've served during the school year and what they've done; same with LifeCare Alliance they tell us how many Meals on Wheels to city residents. I would rather see the focus a little more on

helping Worthington even though I'm not opposed to something beyond; I would rather us focus on the city residents than the whole greater Worthington area. Mr. Myers replied that's the second element of our matrix is the population served. The project versus program which I think embodies your comments; if someone comes forward with a project that is so earth shattering we can't help but fund it, put them in the pot, put them in the pool, let them justify it. But I think the default position would be we want an organization behind that project that has some continuity; I think that's what we're trying to do here is keep organizations that have provided value to the city and continue to fund them; and if new ones come along which is what we talked about last year then we should open up the process to see if they can do it better.

Mr. Greeson commented you're interested in system capacity, but would entertain projects that make an impact. Mr. Myers replied sure; I thought the whole point of our discussion last year was we felt we had been doing the same thing every year for the same people; we didn't know if we were having an impact, we wanted to open it up and re-evaluate who we give our money to and what happens; and have more of an impact focus on how we hand out what's really a tiny bit of money. Mr. Foust commented and if that was the goal, I think we've taken a leap in 45 minutes of moving in the right direction. I would like to tighten the process.

Ms. Michael stated what might be good is if we had something since it's really not a huge amount of money that the groups are getting except for like the Historical Society, maybe coming up with some sort of annual report accountability, something fairly simple using your background that shows how the funding has helped them and their cause.

Ms. Michael summarized what I'm hearing is the Historical Society and Arts Related being two separate things that come to City Council; the committee priorities would be food and clothing, life necessities, counseling mental health and last would be community improvement. Mrs. Stewart asked what about any other groups whether they're a part of the process or not, for instance this year the Old Worthington Partnership was funded, they had come in a few months prior to us launching into this process, so they were handled separately from this process; asked do you want to continue to have them separate or do you want to have them inserted into this process. Mr. Smith asked were we determining them as an economic development program. Mr. Greeson replied I think you can view them as that. Ms. Michael commented we left it at a one-time funding to be discussed later. Mr. Smith asked with strings attached to show how they're economically...Mr. Greeson commented as you may recall they submitted quite a bit of information requesting the funding, like the MAC, although given the track record we have with the MAC, we can explore streamlining that a little bit, but we would have a grant application again from them that gave you information to make a decision unless you wanted to put them in this process.

Ms. Dorothy commented I don't think it should be with the human services, you could perhaps put it with the Historical Society. Ms. Michael commented so we're talking three, Historical Society, Old Worthington Partnership and MAC and then the committee has health, life necessity and community improvement.

Mrs. Stewart asked about the timing for this; do you have an interest in pursuing this this fall so you have more specific information before the budget is adopted or through the budget process you can adopted a lump sum amount to be allocated after the first of the year. Mr. Smith commented the first one sounds good. Mr. Myers asked how long was the committee piece, how much work was it to do this. Mr. Troper and Mr. Foust replied we met two or three times. Mr. Myers commented the problem is if the committee makes recommendation to council to fund in this manner to these groups that kind of sets whatever the budget is going to be. My question is do we want to have the amount first and then make the distribution or vice versa.

Mrs. Stewart asked some of these groups that are coming straight to you, do you want to hear from them as part of the budget process, we usually do for the MAC because of the amount of their operating grant; we could also ask the Historical Society and the Old Worthington Partnership to come in as part of this budget process and then for the committees to allocate an amount to be distributed after the first of the year. Mr. Myers replied I would like to hear from them [the MAC, the Historical Society, and Old Worthington Partnership] before the budget process or as part of the budget process.

Mr. Foust asked Mr. Myers, since this is my first run with the budget, if we hear all this information and we are moved, what is the elasticity of the amount of money we've got to work with here. Suppose we hear great ideas and we want to increase it by 50%, I'm guessing we don't have that flexibility right. Mr. Myers replied we have to make the decision where does it come from. We increased our funding for special groups last year as part of this process; it wasn't much. Mr. Greeson commented you added \$50,000 to allocate funds for the Old Worthington Partnership, but essentially it's been relatively flat for quite a while.

Ms. Michael commented part of what we have to weight is part of the money being used way versus money being used for economic development; there is some elasticity, but I would say there is not a lot elasticity because of some of our other priorities. Mr. Smith asked is this money coming from the bed tax. Mrs. Stewart replied it comes from the general fund. Mr. Greeson replied it can come from the bed tax. Mr. Norstrom commented I'm not sure that's quite right. Mrs. Fox explained that a portion of it has to go to the CVB or a group that conducts convention and visitor activities; the remainder goes into the general fund and can be used for general purposes.

Ms. Michael explained that the way our Ordinance has it 66% going to some convention function and the remaining balance goes into the general fund. Mr. Greeson replied that is correct. Mr. Norstrom commented just to give everyone an example, I think it's Grandview who did away with the CVB and put the money into an organization similar to the Partnership; and that passed legal mustard.

Mr. Smith stated for clarification sake based on my memory of hearing this five (5) years ago first time going through this and I think subsequent years because between then and now, the 66% of bed tax went to the CVB and the remaining percentage of that was earmarked in the general fund for community groups like this; am I wrong about that.

Mrs. Stewart replied that's never been my understanding of it. Ms. Dorothy replied that's not my understanding of it either. Ms. Michael and Mr. Norstrom commented it once was that way many many years ago. Mr. Smith commented the history is important, this is not an arbitrary number unless we make it an arbitrary number. Mr. Norstrom remarked it has been an arbitrary number for a long time.

Mr. Greeson explained there is a provision in the taxation code of our codified Ordinances and this is what I was thinking when I responded to Mr. Norstrom that talks about the bed tax and it says "revenues generated by the provisions of this chapter shall be disbursed from the general fund as follows, at the discretion of Council:

- (1) Worthington Convention and Visitors Bureau*
- (2) Cultural Arts*
- (3) Community Service Organizations*
- (4) Special Events*
- (5) Any other project or expenditure which would enhance the City's appeal to visitors and tourists.*

If you look at the aggregate funding of things that we do in this arena, so first it goes to the CVB and it's allocated by the statutory process, then if you go to #2 Cultural Arts, the amount we give to cultural arts far exceeds the remaining collection of the bed tax revenue, and if you go to #3 Community Service Organizations, so we put the bed tax revenue back in the general fund and essentially we far exceed those allocations of #2, #3, #4, and #5.

Ms. Michael so we come back to an important question, are we going to implement this program for this budget year; I'm assuming yes, but I want to get the confirmation from Council. Consensus replied yes. Mrs. Stewart asked are you wanting to have the committee's recommendations as well. I thought from the previous conversation that you were going to have the MAC and the Partnership and the Historical Society as part of the budget discussions this fall, but the committee work was going to occur after the beginning of 2017. Ms. Michael stated so what we will do is come up with a dollar figure for the committee to work with. Mr. Norstrom commented that's not what I heard. Mr. Troper replied I want to give a fixed number to the committee to work with. Mr. Foust stated if we're going to hear from the Old Worthington Partnership, the Historical Society and the MAC up front, then we can make some informed decisions based on those presentations.

Ms. Michael explained the question is: as we approve a budget for 2017 do we have a set figure that is being budgeted for the committee or like Mr. Norstrom is saying get the results from the committee and then come up with a number. If the committee is not determining what it's going to do until next year, I don't know how we get a number in for this year unless we're expediting things that much faster. Mr. Troper commented we have to give the committee a number is what I recommend. Mr. Norstrom stated respective of non-profit though, not having that number by December 31st which is where we've traditionally had that number puts them in a potential problem with their budgeting process; I think we should provide some guidance to them in our budget (i.e.

have a line item for the individual organizations) which would require the committee to meet this year.

Mrs. Stewart commented as I'm thinking about the timeline, if you're really wanting to communicate to people these priorities we want to fund, really think about programs and initiatives that will meet those priorities, if you do it after the first of the year it gives them more time to really think through and be thoughtful about that because we're in the middle of September and if you want to do it now, which we will work with whatever schedule you want to, but we'll need to bring back modified documents next week, we'll then need to get them out to all the groups, they'll need to return them back to us probably early to mid-October and the committee will have to meet in order to turn around recommendations to you in November in order to have time to get into the budgets. Mr. Norstrom replied I am very disappointed to hear that because we had this discussion last year about what we wanted to do, the meeting we're having tonight sounds like it should have happened in July. Mrs. Stewart commented we will certainly work with whatever schedule you want to. Mr. Smith added keep in mind many non-profits have fiscal operating year July 1 and in many cases or some cases, I don't know how many, but January 1 deadline might not even be an issue, so if we wanted to take time, set a budget for ourselves and the committee take their time, award these in the first quarter of next year, I don't think you would see many issues with that from the non-profit side. Mr. Myers commented that would be my preference. Mr. Troper commented I suggest we give the committee a number. Ms. Dorothy commented I suggest we give the committee a number as well. Mr. Foust replied I concur with Mr. Troper. Ms. Michael commented I think we have a consensus of council that we have a budget number for the committee. I want to make sure that we don't fall behind; I understand and appreciate Mr. Norstrom's frustration that this has fallen this much further behind, that if we can get ahead of it now, we'll be ahead of the game for next year.

Mr. Norstrom indicated we've got these general priorities, asked is there any specific priority like opioid or something that we have identified. Is there any priorities that Council would like to identify. Ms. Michael advised the other things we ask staff or police or fire departments may see some priorities or maybe there is something that comes through service department where they see some type of priorities that might be needed that maybe they suggest it to you and you can pass it on to us. Mr. Greeson replied yes that would be fine and the opioid addiction issue is one that I think regardless at this budget process it probably has its own forum. Mr. Norstrom chimed in I agree and from that perspective, again, given what happened since this discussion first started, I don't consider it as high priority as it would have been a couple of years ago. High priority I think for the city would be something like sustainability and I don't know where that issue is in terms of overall approach by the city, but in terms of something that I think would make a difference that's one option. I'm not informed enough at this time to make a decision on it.

(2) 2017 Budget Schedule & Council Discussion

Mr. Greeson explained that council has had some conversation about an expressed desire to change our approach to the budget presentation workshops; the time that you spend talking about the financial condition of the city. Your staff is deep into throws of both the CIP and the budget as we speak; by charter I'm required to submit a budget to you by the end of October, we'll obviously get that to you a lot earlier. There is a draft schedule before you; I'll just talk a little bit at how we arrived at this, and you'll note there's three (3) blank budget workshops, historically that was filled by department presentations, but what I think we've talked about at the retreat and at other forums is getting more policy or topic oriented and focusing on major issues and the budget as a policy document to address major issues as opposed to just doing it by department.

We are anticipating in early October distributing the CIP, on October 10th, we're proposing that we would do an early presentation regarding the CIP and distribute the Operating Budget at that time. I think the CIP presentation is particularly important this year because it's constrained, we're in that pinch point that we've been describing over the past few years where new debt is coming on and old debt hasn't fallen off and we need to kind of talk about the infrastructure needs of the city as well as debt projections. It can be October 10th or can be another date at council's choosing; the infrastructure of the community and our capital investments and our debt related to those warrants its own kind of night.

The other what I would call big driving discussion is the five-year forecast related to the general fund and we were suggesting that might fall on October 17th, this is where we talk about the cash flow of the city and year to year what fiscal condition we're projecting to be in and what our net balances are, and what our reserves are to approach unforeseen circumstances; so we think that is an important overarching presentation and discussion.

Then at the end there is an introduction of the budget Ordinance and what I would call the traditional required public hearing on December 5th; as a staff we always try to get the budget vote done around that time and that gives two meetings in December if there is any additional discussion that is needed. I would like to talk about the schedule and I would like to talk about the issues that are important to you that we can begin developing presentations; I'll throw out some ideas like:

The Parks staff and the Parks Commission have been working on the Parks Master Plan and we have significant infrastructure demands in the parks and bike ped area and other emerging demands particularly in the aquatics area that you've heard about. I can see structuring a discussion regarding those kind of recreational investments and some of those you can't squarely put into the recreational category, but those kind of quality of life improvements.

Opioids could be a topical area and how our budget addresses that and how our staff is working on that, how our community partners are working on that.

Ms. Michael commented one other thing that we need to address is with these different dates that we have, when we will be adding in these three groups that we just discussed, the Historical Society, Old Worthington Partnership, and the MAC which I'm sure is probably already scheduled. Do we want to do those in the same evening so that we're listening to those things together. Mr. Greeson asked do you want to hear them all in one evening. Everyone said yes. Mr. Greeson replied we work with them and get a schedule established for that. Mr. Myers commented I think some of the discussions we've had in the past about the budget presentation, we were trying to get away from the director's reports which seem to be the same every year; they read off the PowerPoint....this is how many officers Chief Strait has, this is what we did last year and this is what we're going to do this year and I think we were trying to get more towards okay give us your goals, give us your plans, give us your philosophies, more along that type of discussion; then how we get into the accountability side of the budget, justify what you've spent in the past so that we should give it to you in the future; I don't know how you work that in, you're a budget person, I'm not; that's what I remember from our discussions over the past couple of years.

Mr. Greeson remarked I took our last conversation regarding this to say let's pick some topical area(s) to drill down on. My question to council is what topical areas are most important to you. Ms. Michael replied look back over some of the retreat priorities; some of our top priorities from the retreat should be some of the areas that are drilled on. Mr. Greeson replied so Communications is one of those.

Ms. Michael said a short overview of what the departments have accomplished and their goals for the future.....not getting into all the staffing and all that, but things that maybe relate to our retreat goals....and even little brag points about what the department has accomplished that we may not hear about. It doesn't have to be real long.

Mr. Greeson commented we are also open to a schedule that doesn't look like this; it could be another weekday or a weekend. Mr. Norstrom stated that the budget process is the policy setting for the future, the basic question we need to have answered and we have answered on a continuing basis is that we're providing the basic services (Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation); basic services are getting done and their getting done well; so I look at the budget process as looking to say okay given where we are financially we're going to continue to do those basic services and well then there are some other things that we're going to do; I understand what Ms. Michael is saying relative to little highlights, but I'm not sure that's a budget process, that's something we should on an ongoing basis; if we haven't had that this year then including it in the budget makes sense; but I look at the budget process as I said it's a policy statement of what we're going to do next year and there's two answers there (1) we're going to do the same thing we've done in past years or (2) we're doing some things different or we've stopped doing some things because.

Mr. Myers commented but the budget as an expression of policy involves more of automatic versus discretionary spending and I don't know that our budget lends itself to that kind of dichotomy, but your policies would be expressed through discretionary

spending, for example: it takes \$500,000 per year to maintain our roads exactly as they are today, and in our budget we have \$700,000, what do we do with that other \$200,000; do we improve intersections, do we pave more streets, can there be that discussion at all. Mr. Norstrom replied the answer to your question is there must be that kind of discussion, and that's sort of the point that I'm making.

Mr. Greeson so let me confirm what I heard, we will have

- (a) Some level of department presentations with a focus more on the management discussion (no this line changed from X to Y), but more on what we accomplished in the prior year and what we're strategically trying to accomplish in the coming year(s); also talk about what would be ideal or improve the community over time.*
- (b) We want to focus on the retreat priorities and we want to come back and talk about goals; we will highlight where those priorities have dollars allocated to them in the budget; and how we're progressing on those priorities and where we're not for either time or budget.*

We may shrink the departmental presentations down to some of them pretty lean and focus on the bigger expenditure areas.

(3) Financial Report

Mr. Greeson asked Mrs. Roberts to provide an overview of the reports for months July and August and indicated that staff is requesting a motion from the City Council acknowledging the report.

Mrs. Roberts presented the following:

July:

Fund balances for all accounts increased from \$23,814,536 to \$23,438,929 for the month of July with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$375,607.

Year to date fund balances for all accounts increased from \$21,263,095 on January 1, 2016 to \$23,438,929 as of July 31, 2016 with expenditures exceeding revenue by \$2,175,835.

Expenditures for all funds tracked at 92.1% of anticipated expenditure levels.

Year to date revenues for all funds are above 2015 revenues by \$934,073 and above year to date estimates by \$611,369.

The General Fund balance decreased from \$11,633,470 to \$11,370,585 for the month of July with revenues exceeding revenues by \$262,884.

The year to date General Fund Balance increased from \$11,250,077 on January 1, 2016 to \$11,370,585 with expenditures exceeding expenditures by \$120,508. General Fund expenditures tracked at 92.76% of anticipated expenditure levels.

Total General Fund revenues area below estimates by \$-8,635 or -.06%.

July 2016 income tax collections are above year to date 2015 collections by \$373,585 or 2.62% and above estimates by \$178,628 or 1.24%.

August:

Fund balances for all accounts increased from \$23,438,929 to \$24,966,428 for the month of August with revenues exceeding expenditures by \$1,527,499, primarily attributed to the second half property tax received.

Year to date fund balances for all accounts increased from \$21,263,095 on January 1, 2016 to \$24,966,428 as of August 31, 2016 with expenditures exceeding revenue by \$3,703,333.

Expenditures for all funds tracked at 88.5% of anticipated expenditure levels. Year to date revenues for all funds are above 2015 revenues by \$1,021,248 and above year to date estimates by \$1,734,522.

The General Fund balance increased from \$11,370,585 to \$12,721,822 for the month of August with revenues exceeding revenues by \$1,351,237.

The year to date General Fund Balance increased from \$11,250,077 on January 1, 2016 to \$12,721,822 with expenditures exceeding expenditures by \$1,471,745.

General Fund expenditures tracked at 92.86% of anticipated expenditure levels.

Total General Fund revenues area below estimates by \$-222,785 or -1.18%.

August 2016 income tax collections are above year to date 2015 collections by \$580,492 or 3.51% and above estimates by \$355,368 or 2.12%.

MOTION Councilmember Norstrom made a motion to accept the June and August 2016 Monthly Financial Reports as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Mr. Greeson publically announced the promotion of Jerry Strait as the new Chief of the Worthington Division of Police. Chief Strait has served as Acting Chief since the

retirement of Chief Jim Mosaic in May 2016. We will schedule a more formal time when his family and colleagues will join us at a Council meeting for a formal swearing-in ceremony.

I passed out an Economic Development memo from David McCorkle, there are three things that I will touch on real quick; when you get an opportunity compliment David McCorkle, he worked really hard to help recruit PetPeople and their corporate headquarters to the old Liqui-Box building and we're pleased to announce that they signed a lease on Friday. We did negotiate a venture grant with them that was within the \$50,000 authority of the City Manager and the details of how that grant will work are outlined here.

This is a great opportunity because they are a growing company and that building has been vacant, but renovated and so they'll occupy approximately 22,000 square feet of flex office/warehouse space.

You may have read in the newspaper about an OhioHealth headquarters consolidation; they are going to be building a new big 240,000 square foot administrative headquarters building near their existing Riverside Methodist Hospital campus. The new headquarters will consolidate approximately 2,500 employees from across central Ohio, including 133 employees from Worthington. Most of the employees being relocated from Worthington are under the "OhioHealth Homecare" umbrella and are considered outpatient services. Many of these jobs are currently being housed in the offices located on E. Wilson Bridge Road. The location relocation is expected to occur in late 2018/early 2019.

UMCH Property Update

City staff received an application on Friday, September 9th from UMCH on behalf of OhioHealth to construct a 20,000 square foot building on their property. The application calls for a stand-alone Emergency Department on the first floor, and approximately six (6) primary care physician offices on the second floor.

Mr. Brown reiterated what Mr. Greeson stated that late Friday afternoon we finally received an application from UMCH to be on the September 22nd Municipal Planning and Architectural Review Board agenda; it will be a basic preliminary informational item. We will be posting everything to the website tomorrow, sending out the e-mail notification blast to those that had signed up for any type of UMCH notification. We will continue to work with them as we/they tweak things and plans change. If you're looking at the UMCH site today, if you're looking at the Conference Center, it's in the parking lot just to the north of the Conference Center is about the approximate location of where that building would be located.

Still working on the total number of jobs as Mr. Greeson just mentioned we do know that there are at least six (6) doctors on the second floor; eight (8) bays for the emergency department, but we'll get you a more accurate number as we go through the process. The one thing I should mention to you is the information you'll see related to this is very preliminary, kind of like what we did for the Holiday Inn site; we'll go through multiple

renditions and multiple changes related to architectural landscaping, screening, stormwater, traffic, lighting, everything that you can think of that happens during the review process; they really just wanted to get before the boards and commissions to have the comments that they hear related to architectural review, site plan layouts, etc.

Mr. Greeson announced there will be a ribbon cutting for Sew-to-Speak on Thursday, September 15th 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 at the Kilbourne Building.

There will be an OSU Airport Open House and Don Scott Trot: A 5K on the Runway, Saturday, September 17th. The pancake breakfast will be from 7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M., the cost of the breakfast is \$2.00.

There is also a Chamber of Commerce After-Hours event on Wednesday evening at First Financial Bank (Downtown Worthington) from 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Lastly Mr. Troper asked us to address Golf Carts. Mr. Troper commented I was wondering if we were bringing the issue back to Council at some point. Mr. Greeson replied that would be up to Council, we distributed information in the summer time. Ms. Dorothy commented I have a question that I didn't get answered about who would be testing the golf carts or making sure they are road worthy and I didn't get an answer for that. Mrs. Fox replied Worthington does not have a certified department to do that, but Franklin County does and there are other jurisdictions around central Ohio that are certified to do those inspections. Ms. Dorothy asked they would be state certified. Mrs. Fox replied they are certified by the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Greeson commented at this hour I think we are seeking direction as to if Council wants to agenda this item or not; and if you're not ready on the fly to do that, you can provide us direction next week. Mrs. Fox advised under the law that takes effect in January, the City has to take action in order to allow it on the city streets; the state allows it, but only in the municipalities that have expressly authorized it.

Mr. Foust asked if we don't have the ability to certify them as street legal here in Worthington then from a practical sense if I buy a cart, I need to put it on a truck and haul it someplace else because I can't drive it there to have it inspected. Mrs. Fox replied you can't drive it there anyway because it would have needed to be inspected before you can operate it.

Ms. Michael asked does someone come to your house and inspect it, or do you take it to the place. Mrs. Fox replied I think you take it to the department. Chief Strait replied you have to take it to them; they will set up the location and then they will have golf-cart inspections and you bring it on the trailer and they inspect it and then they give you a certificate, the certificate then goes to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It is a one-time inspection, but you have to pay your registration fee every year.

Councilmember Smith – I'm good with bringing it back.

Councilmember Norstrom – not interested in it.

Councilmember Troper – interested in bringing it back.

Councilmember Dorothy – yes, but after December 31, 2016.

Councilmember Myers – won't deny discussion.

Councilmember Foust – won't deny discussion.

Ms. Michael advised we have a majority saying to put it on after the first of the year.

Mrs. Fox commented as elected officials you are all required to attend the public records seminar at least one time during your term or you may designate somebody to go in your stead; there is a public records seminar coming up on September 23rd, Mrs. Thress, Melissa Cohen from my office and myself will be attending; so on next Monday evening we will be asking for a motion from Council to designate Kay Thress as your official designee to go the public records training.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCIL MEMBER BONNIE MICHAEL – *Ms. Michael commented that the 9-11 program held on yesterday was absolutely wonderful.*

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Councilmember Myers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Norstrom.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

/s/ Tanya Maria Word
Temporary Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
3rd day of October, 2016.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President