



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2016 ~ 7:30 P.M.

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

City Council

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

D. Kay Thress, Clerk of Council

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, October 3, 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, Douglas Foust, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, Michael C. Troper and Bonnie D. Michael

Member(s) Absent:

Also present: Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress, City Manager Matthew Greeson, Director of Law Pamela Fox, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Public Service and Engineering Dan Whited, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police Jerry Strait and Chief of Fire Scott Highley

There were approximately thirty seven visitors present.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- **Swearing In – Police Chief**

President Michael shared that the first item on the agenda is the swearing in of our new police chief. She reported that Jerry Strait has been appointed to the position of Police Chief for the City of Worthington. He has 34 years of service as a law enforcement officer, serving the Worthington Division of Police since 1987. He began his career in Worthington as a patrol officer, and has subsequently served as detective, Sergeant and most recently as Lieutenant and Acting Chief. Chief Strait studied Criminology at The Ohio State University and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Franklin University. He also holds a Master's Degree in Human Service Management from Franklin University. Chief Strait completed the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Staff and Command and is a 2008 Leadership Worthington Graduate.

President Michael invited Chief Strait to join her at the podium where she administered the oath of office. Chief Strait's wife, Lee Ann fastened his Chief of Police eagle insignia on his uniform.

Chief Strait introduced many family members, friends, and staff who were in attendance to celebrate his promotion. He thanked all for their support.

- **Drug Safe Worthington**

Mr. Greeson introduced Dr. Sandy Byers and Nancy Zajano who are present to provide City Council with an update on Drug Safe Worthington. We appreciate their dedication and hard work for the benefit of our community.

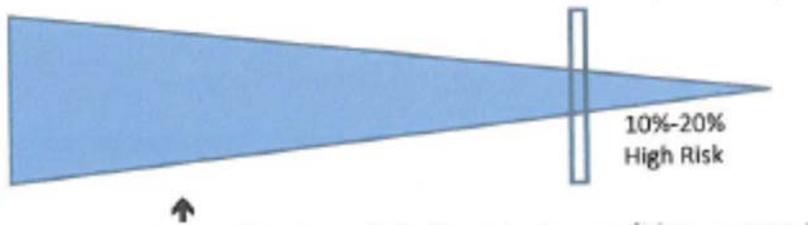
Dr. Byers shared that Chief Strait has been very involved with Drug Safe Worthington as had the previous Police Chief and Fire Chief Scott Highley. They appreciate that association greatly.

Dr. Sandy Byers, chair of Drug Safe Worthington and Dr. Nancy Zajano, secretary and an expert in evaluation will present tonight on behalf of Drug Safe Worthington. They are a volunteer, non-profit organization that began about four years ago at the request and invitation of City Mayor, Harvey Minton and Police Sgt. Shaun Dysert. The purpose of Drug Safe Worthington is prevention. Prevention is most effectively accomplished by changing the culture of the environment surrounding youth and adults. They want to support citizens in making the right choices about alcohol and other drugs so that our community is drug-safe.

Dr. Byers presented the following PowerPoint:

The Funnel of Prevention

- The brain is plastic; it is affected by culture and the environment and can be changed. (Dr. Theodore Parren, Cleveland)
- As much as 80% percent of the general population is in the part of the funnel where we can make changes and prevent problems.



This is the focus of the Drug Safe Worthington coalition – prevention.

Prevention recognizes that the brain is plastic or malleable. It can be changed by the environment and the culture that surrounds it. Attitudes and actions are influenced by the messages and role models that are all around us, both youth and adults. Up to 80% of the population is not at high risk for substance abuse and addiction but as a coalition, we want to prevent people from moving toward those high risk behaviors, especially our youth. Our primary reason for meeting with Council this evening is to share the findings from a survey of Worthington youth. This survey was a required part of a federal grant that Drug Safe Worthington applied for in March this past year. Dr. Zajano will provide highlights of the results. If time allows we would be happy to any questions members may have either tonight or at a later date.

Tonight's focus: Results from survey of Worthington youth

Dr. Zajano shared in order to design our prevention efforts they first had to determine what drugs our youth were using and what influences in the environment either prevented them from using or encouraged them to use. They had Worthington 8th and 10th graders complete a survey to ascertain the answers to the following questions (which are just an excerpt from the survey.)

How many are using alcohol and other drugs?

When do they start?

Where do they get it?

When do they use it?

What messages are they getting about it from the adults in their lives?

From their friends? From social and other media?

What factors contribute to using and not using?

Dr. Zajano asked members to consider the following facts from national research on drug use while reviewing the findings from the Worthington students:

- 1) A word about terminology, the term "alcohol and other drugs" is used to emphasize that alcohol is a mind-altering drug similar to cocaine, marijuana, or heroin. Often when we say "Drug Safe Worthington," people don't think we are talking about alcohol as well as marijuana or heroin. They dismiss alcohol as a drug.*
- 2) Alcohol is the primary gateway drug for youth, leading to them using other drugs later on.*
- 3) The earlier a child starts experimenting with drugs, the greater the risk for brain damage and addiction. That is because their brains are unformed and being formed when the influences of these drugs hit them.*
- 4) Because alcohol is seen as socially acceptable, parents are less likely to educate their kids about its dangers.*

Facts from National Research

Consider this context:

- The term "alcohol and other drugs" emphasizes that alcohol is a mind-altering drug just like cocaine, marijuana, or heroin.
- Alcohol is the primary gateway drug for youth, leading to using other drugs as they get older.
- The earlier a child starts experimenting with drugs, the greater the odds of brain damage and addiction.

- Because alcohol is seen as socially acceptable, parents are less likely to educate their kids about its dangers.

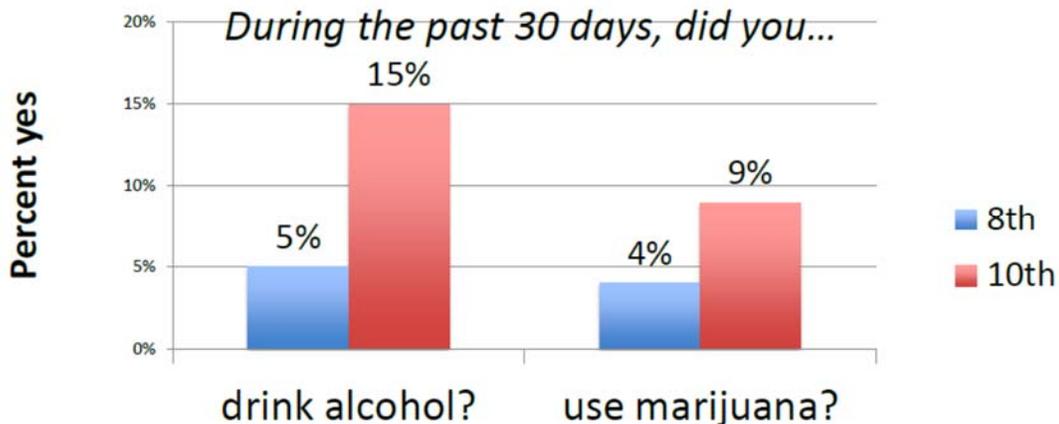
The survey was a joint effort of Drug Safe Worthington and our public schools. It was conducted almost a year ago in November 2015 to all the students in grades 8 and 10 and administered online through the use of their Chrome books. More than 85% (that is 1,286 of 1,508) of the students completed the survey.

Worthington Student Survey

- Collaboration between Drug Safe Worthington and Worthington Schools
- Conducted in November 2015 online
- Given to all students in grades 8 and 10
- More than 85% completed the survey (1,286 of 1,508 in these grades)

Survey Findings

- For Worthington students, the most-used addictive drugs are alcohol and marijuana.
- At least 15% of 10th graders are drinking alcohol and 9% are using marijuana.

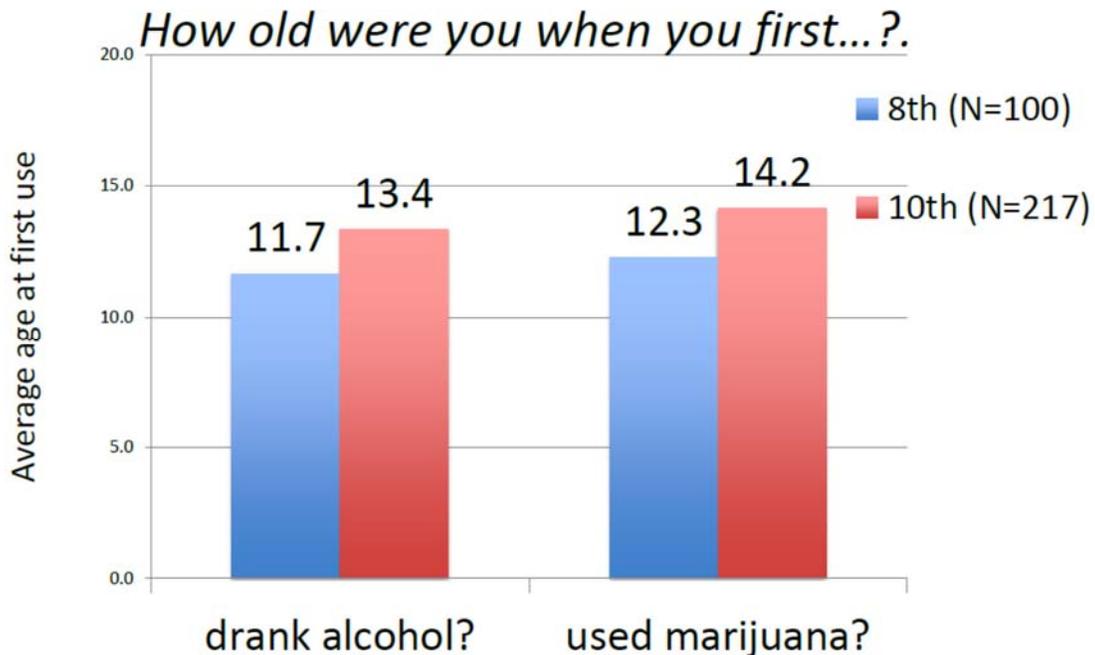


The average age of first use is 12-14 for alcohol and marijuana.

One of the requirements of the federal grant application was to identify the most commonly used drugs among our youth and target them in our action plan. Alcohol and marijuana are the most-used addictive drugs by Worthington youth in the 8th and 10th grades. At least 15% of the 10th graders are drinking alcohol and 9% are using marijuana.

Alcohol is the most common “gateway” drug to using other drugs. While heroin has been in the news a great deal lately, our survey revealed that it is not being used by our 8th and 10th graders. They are using alcohol and marijuana. Articles in the recent Dispatch series report that many heroin users often began using with alcohol and marijuana around age 12 or 13 before moving on to heroin in their early 20s. That is what we are trying to prevent. Since our focus is prevention, we want to hit those kids before they start on alcohol. As one member of our coalition stated: “If we give kids the tools to avoid alcohol and marijuana, they will have the tools to avoid heroin later on.” So that is our focus.

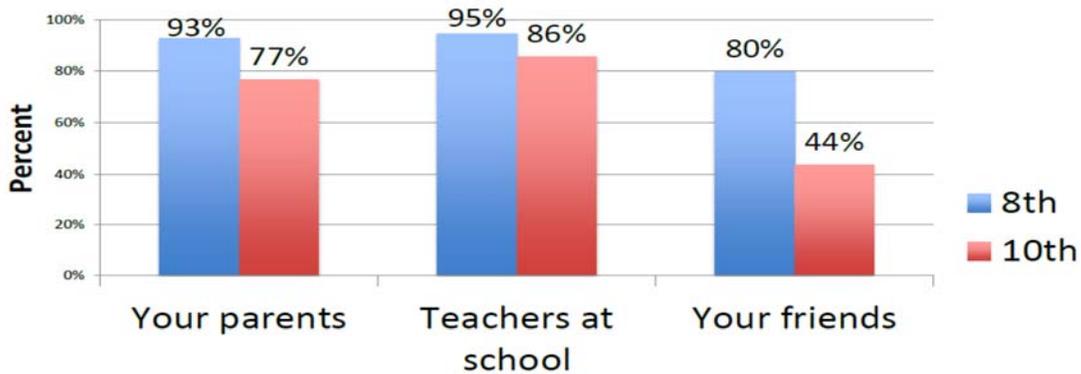
Mr. Norstrom asked if our statistics were in line with the national statistics for alcohol and marijuana use. Dr. Zajano believes that we are probably a little better off than many other communities but we still have 15% participating.



Parents’ statements against alcohol decrease as kids get older and older friends don’t discourage use.

As the national research tells us, the younger the child begins experimenting with drugs, the higher the chances for brain damage and addiction. That is what makes this slide so troubling. The AVERAGE age is around 12 for first use of alcohol and marijuana for Worthington 8th graders. That means that many are using younger than that, in the 5th or 6th grade. The 10th graders average age of 13 for alcohol and 14 for marijuana. This tells us that prevention efforts have to start in elementary school.

What message do you get about the use of alcohol from...?



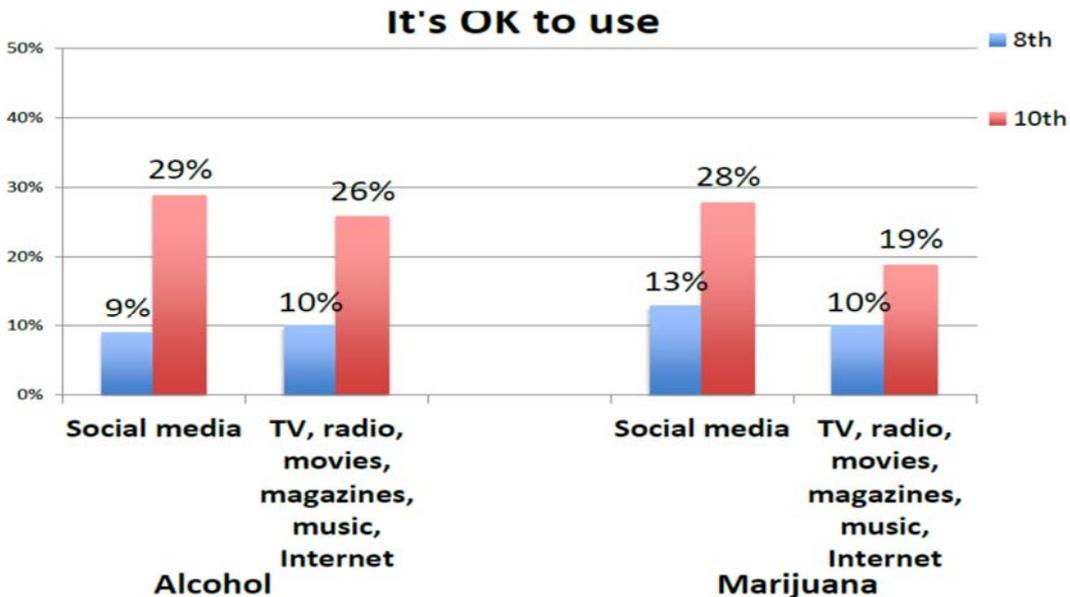
It's NOT OK to use

This slide shows that the vast majority of 8th graders reported that their parents and teachers are giving them a strong message against alcohol use. (The first two blue bars – 93% and 95%). However, parents start to drop off in that message in the 10th grade – down to 77% (first red bar). Our understanding of this is that parents are seeing alcohol as more socially acceptable for their 10th graders even though these 15-16 year old kids are far below the legal age of 21, and their brains are still not fully developed.

The last set of bars is about what message do kids get from their friends about alcohol? In the 8th grade, 80% report that their friends discourage drinking; but by the 10th grade only 44% report that their friends discourage drinking. As we know, peers have an enormous influence on the attitudes and environment surrounding adolescents. Getting kids to change their messages to each other is a key part of prevention work.

Social and other media often glamorize drugs:

What message do you get about the use of alcohol and marijuana from...?



Dr. Zajano shared that another influential part of the culture surrounding our youth is social and other media. This slide reverses the question. It reports the percentage of students who say that they get an “It’s ok to use” message from social media and TV, radio, movies, magazines, movies and the internet. Almost 30% of the 10th graders are getting the go-ahead from social media for using alcohol and marijuana. Think of all the beer ads during football games on TV and the fact that “tailgating” is almost always associated with alcohol. These are powerful forces in youth culture that have to be countered by prevention efforts.

More survey results.....

- Students most frequently obtain alcohol from their family and friends.
- Friends share marijuana, or kids buy it themselves.
- Kids use alcohol and marijuana most frequently on weekends.

Factors affecting drug use

- Students who have been bullied or bully others are more likely to use drugs.
- Having a trusted adult *in school* lessens the risk of 10th graders using alcohol and marijuana.
- Having a trusted adult *at home* lessens the risk of 10th graders using marijuana and cigarettes, *but not alcohol*.

Finally, we asked about the factors that influence whether or not kids use drugs. The survey asked some questions about the various adults and activities in their lives and then compared these answers for students who do and do not use. We found that bullying turned out to be a very important factor for BOTH the victims and the perpetrators as they were more likely to use alcohol and other drugs than those who had no experience with bullying. This gives us more direction for our prevention work. We must make sure that no child is either a victim or a perpetrator of bullying because it puts them at risk for alcohol and other drug use.

Another important factor is the presence of a trusted adult. We found that the trusted adults in schools were linked to less use of alcohol and marijuana. A trusted adult at home helped prevent the use of cigarettes and marijuana, but not alcohol. This may relate to that social acceptance of alcohol once again.

That concluded the summary of the survey results.

Dr. Byers shared the following additional information about Drug Safe Worthington's efforts.

Drug Safe Worthington Community Coalition



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Dr. Byers shared that this slide identifies the extent to which Drug Safe Worthington will be involved in every segment of this community. As our government leaders and policy makers, they respectfully ask that Council members intentionally consider the following questions in your decision making:

- 1. What messages are members giving children in the community about alcohol in terms of city actions and city sponsored events; in variances and ordinances?*
- 2. Is the availability and accessibility of alcohol prominent in our public spaces, in our stores and businesses?*
- 3. Would Council influence a prospective company to not offer alcohol within their cafeteria?*
- 4. Are drug-related crimes and emergency runs consuming more of the resources of our police and EMS?*
- 5. Are our citizens less safe because of city policies or decisions regarding alcohol?*

Drug Safe Worthington is aiming to mobilize the community to understand and to think about these questions, to be aware of what is going on and what the impact is on our youth.

Members' packets also contained a revised organizational structure for Drug Safe Worthington and a list of our distinguished and dedicated Coordinating Council members. The support that we have received is amazing and we are very grateful.

Dr. Byers shared that they learned three weeks ago that they did not receive the federal grant and are awaiting some written feed-back. The grant would have allowed us to have paid staff and to move more quickly with our action plans. We have action teams that are dealing with issues of excess and availability, education and awareness. She thinks the awareness piece is very important. We don't realize sometimes how our actions and our behaviors influence our culture. However, they know that Council and many others care deeply about our community's health and wellbeing. So even though they didn't get the grant, she knows they can move forward. She thinks with Council's help and support they can really promote a drug-safe environment. She noted that many of the community grants, like the one they applied for, say "Drug Free". Coming from a health background, she knows that there are some medications and drugs that we all need. They debated that title a long time but they want this community to be "Drug Safe" especially for our youth and they want to promote that. She thanked Council for their time.

Mr. Norstrom commented that the MAC recently held a meeting on drugs. It became pretty clear to him in that meeting that the place to focus is in the schools. He asked if that is true and are they working with the school district on this issue. Dr. Byers replied that they are and have been working very closely with the schools. Their cooperation with doing the survey was wonderful. They changed their mission statement this year to include Drug Safe Worthington. They are also working with the Columbus Health Department who may have also increased some of their support staff.

Dr. Zajano added that the schools have been very helpful but they are only one part of a child's life. What we've learned from the workshops and training sessions we've attended is that a coalition like Drug Safe Worthington really has to work on changing the environment that surrounds the child. Schools are a huge part of that but it is not the only part. That is why they are here tonight and why their circle has so many different organizations. They have to work with every part of the community to send a message to children that it is not okay for them to use.

The schools also know that they can't change the community or even have that much effect on the parents. That is where we will jump in and help.

Dr. Zajano shared that they asked the students about the coaches in their lives (the schools and the community coaches) and it was amazing that almost a quarter of the students responded that they received no message about alcohol or drug use from their coaches. So one of our action plans for the coming year is to get with the coaches.

The principals noted, after they saw some of these results, that teams often go to places for banquets and award ceremonies where alcohol is served and the adults drink. She asked if that is really the message we want to be sending. That kind of "ah ha" moment is exactly what we are hoping to do throughout the community.

Ms. Michael assumed that the majority of alcohol / marijuana use would be outside of the school building. Dr. Zajano agreed that the use is not during school hours or in the school buildings or even very much on school grounds. They gave students a floor plan of the school and a map of the school grounds and asked if they had observed a drug transaction, where on the map was it. The results came up as hot spots and that is where cameras were placed around the high schools. The majority of use is on the weekends, in students' homes or at a friend's home.

Mr. Troper was curious as to whether the 4% of 8th grade students who used marijuana (chart on slide 6) also made up part of the 5% who used alcohol. Do they have a percentage that incorporates both alcohol and marijuana? Dr. Zajano replied that they didn't do that analysis although they could. Mr. Troper said he was just curious as to whether it was the same people or different people.

Mr. Smith asked if they were willing to share some of the application that they submitted for the federal grant. Both Dr. Byers and Dr. Zajano replied yes.

Dr. Zajano added that tonight they just summarized the results of the use survey but the grant required a community assessment so they gathered information about the entire community and it is all in there. They would be glad to share it with Mr. Smith.

Ms. Dorothy commented that she is glad they are working with everyone throughout the community. The drill down shows that much of it has to do with bullying. That comes from a lot of stress that could also come from poverty and other stressors. We do have to model behaviors of drug safe Worthington. There are appropriate times where you can have a celebration and you are not drinking and driving and you are walking home after a couple of drinks. That is something that is nice here in the community, a very walkable community to make sure we are safe when we do have alcohol around. It can be a much bigger issue, the drugs that drill down into social problems. She is glad that they are reaching out to as many people in the community as possible.

Dr. Byers added that Drug Safe Worthington encompasses more than just the 43085 zip code. They encompass the entire school district so it means that they have a broader perspective. They have the influences and the kids with their smart phones, it is very easy for them to access and have that availability.

Dr. Zajano shared that they have been going to school often on this prevention field. In addition to children of poverty that have many stressors, sometime very wealthy children are considered very high risk too. They have the money to get the marijuana and as they get older the heroin. Many of them also feel the stressors related to performance pressures. Sometimes that gets to be too much for them and they look to alcohol and other drugs as a way to say, "I want to feel good for a little while. I'm not going to listen, pay attention or feel all of that." That leads to the sense that they feel better, they feel prettier, they feel smarter and more clever when they are drinking so they will do it again. They have learned that children in poverty have one set of stressors but children

of affluence have another set and they both can lead to drug abuse if they don't have the tools to resist.

Ms. Michael thanked the two for this excellent program and for all of their efforts in reaching out to so many.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Committee of the Whole - September 12, 2016**
- **Regular Meeting – September 19, 2016**

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

The motion to approve the minutes as presented carried unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no Visitor Comments

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

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

Ordinance No. 33-2016 Amending Ordinance No. 44-2015 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations from the Capital Improvement Fund Unappropriated Balance.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson shared that this legislation is for the purchase of a Fire Division medical vehicle cot. We will be receiving a Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) grant that will cover all but roughly \$14,000 of the expense of this piece of equipment.

Chief Highley commented that in 2015 there was a change in the federal standards for EMS vehicles for cot mounts. One of the weakest links in EMS vehicles was how the cots get secured in the vehicle. EMS vehicle cots historically have an issue with coming loose from its clamp during an impact. The new standards include a more positive securing track mount that actually locks the cot in place. The cot is also powered so personnel doesn't have to lift anymore. It works great doing hospital to hospital but presents a little more of a challenge maneuvering in a patient's house. Even with that it is still a better cot. The BWC made a grant available to purchase this equipment. Unfortunately it didn't mesh with the timeline for the Capital Improvements budget. We do have a new vehicle ordered. Initially we were going to wait until after the first of the year and

propose it in the 2017 budget and add it into the vehicle but if somebody else will pay for most of it, he thought it was worth discussing the topic with council at this time.

There being no additional comments, the Clerk called the roll on the passage of Ordinance No. 33-2016. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes	7	Foust, Troper, Norstrom, Dorothy, Myers and Michael
No	0	
Abstain	1	Smith

Ordinance No. 33-2016 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Policy Item(s)

- **Liquor Permit Request – Transfer – Taste of Vietnam LLC**

Mr. Greeson reported this being is a liquor permit request transfer from the previous owner of the restaurant located at 652 High St. that is now the Taste of Vietnam. Anytime there is a request for a transfer of ownership of a permit the City of Worthington has an opportunity to object to it. There is obviously standards by which we could object if we had some negative previous experience with the proprietor. In this case, they are transferring a D-5 and D-6 license. Members may recall that if there is no objection to the request, they need to not request a hearing before the Division of Liquor Control. Staff is not aware of any reason to request a hearing on the issuance of this liquor permit.

MOTION Mr. Smith made a motion to not request a hearing on the transfer liquor permit request by Taste of Vietnam LLC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

- **Liquor Permit Request – Stock Change – Fresh Thyme Farmers Market**

Mr. Greeson shared that this request is for a stock change, which means a portion of the ownership has shifted and as a result we have an opportunity to request a hearing. In this case it is the Fresh Thyme Market. The information we were provided gives no detail of the nature of the stock change. We are just informed that it has occurred and as a result part or all of the ownership of that permit has changed. They have C1, C2, D6, and D8 permits. Staff is not aware of any reasons under the laws that we would have to request a hearing before liquor control. Like the previous item, staff would recommend to not request a hearing on this request.

Mr. Norstrom finds it interesting based on the previous presentation that members have two liquor licenses for consideration this evening.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to not request a hearing on a stock change liquor permit request by Fresh Thyme Farmers Market. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

- **Consideration of Volunteer Recognition Program, presented by City Intern Mary Turner**

Ms. Michael shared that she is looking forward to this presentation as this is a topic that members have been talking about for a long time.

Mr. Greeson commented that the Council identified recognizing Board and Commission members and Volunteers as something that we should do a better job at. In the past couple of years this topic has come up a couple of times. We had the opportunity to have Mary Turner intern for us this summer. She is an Ohio State University student and has done an exceptional job helping to support City Hall as well as the Planning and Building Department. We wanted to give her an opportunity to present her research and her recommendations to Council on how we can do a better job at recognizing the people that serve our community.

Ms. Turner shared that she is a senior at Ohio State in their City and Regional Planning Program. One of the items she has worked on while interning with the City is a more formal recognition program for Board and Commission members and those who serve our City. She reviewed our current practice and looked to see how other communities recognize their volunteers to come up with ways for us to improve.

Background

- Prepared in response to an initiative identified during the 2014 City Council Retreat
- Question- How is service to the City recognized and how can recognition be expanded or strengthened?
- Outcome-Program ideas meant to increase opportunities for recognition of service to the City

Why Recognize Service?

- Example is created for the rest of the community
- Highlight and explain community issues
- Show that service is valued and appreciated
- Demonstrate how community members can be involved and make a difference

Program 1: Boards and Commissions

- Purpose of this program is to create a scheduled and uniform process for recognition of service to Boards and Commissions

The Need for a Program

- There's a GAP in recognition for Board and Commission members
- Few formal recognition processes – most Boards and Commissions only acknowledge thanks at retirement from serving
- Creating a program would ensure that no service goes unrecognized

Ms. Turner reported that she took an inventory of how all of the Boards and Commissions recognize members. She found that:

- *ARB, MPC, BZA – Usually present a resolution to recognize them when they leave and they have a cake. Those who serve for a longer period of time (around ten years) may also receive a Council resolution.*
- *The Arbor Advisory, Bike & Ped, and Parks and Recreation Commissions – There is no acknowledgement other than a verbal acknowledgement of their time and effort generally at reappointment and retirement.*
- *WIFA – Board members are named Emeritus members when they are no longer able to serve on the board.*
- *Community Relations Commission – Receive a resolution of appreciation by Council and an informal cake and punch at their last meeting.*

As you can see there is a gap in any formal recognition of service.

Suggested Program Layout

- **Annual Event-** all Boards and Commission members invited to an event to acknowledge their time spent serving
- **Recognition at the event-** recognize each outgoing member, each member serving a milestone number of years (5, 10, 15, etc.), and members who have demonstrated outstanding service

Providing Awards

- **Almost 80** Board and Commission members including Charter Review Commission- so recognition awards should be small such as a plaque or certificate
- Event should have light refreshments

Overview of Requirements

This program would require the City and Council to:

- Select a date for annual recognition event
- Track the services of each Board and Commission member to determine which members are eligible for recognition each year
- Solicit recommendations for special recognition of outstanding service
- Invite all Board and Commission members to the event and notify those who are scheduled to be recognized at the event
- Thank and provide awards to honorees at the event
- Provide refreshment at the event

Program 2: Citizen and Volunteer Recognition

- An annual celebration of volunteerism and “community champions” should be considered
- **Community-wide recognition of volunteers will increase the power of volunteerism**

Existing Recognition

- Many community organizations recognize service to their organization or the community
- Examples: Leadership Worthington, Chamber of Commerce, Worthington Noon Lions Club, Old Worthington Association, Worthington A.M. Rotary Club
- A City event would provide an opportunity for unity and/ or filling recognition **gaps**

Suggested Program Layout

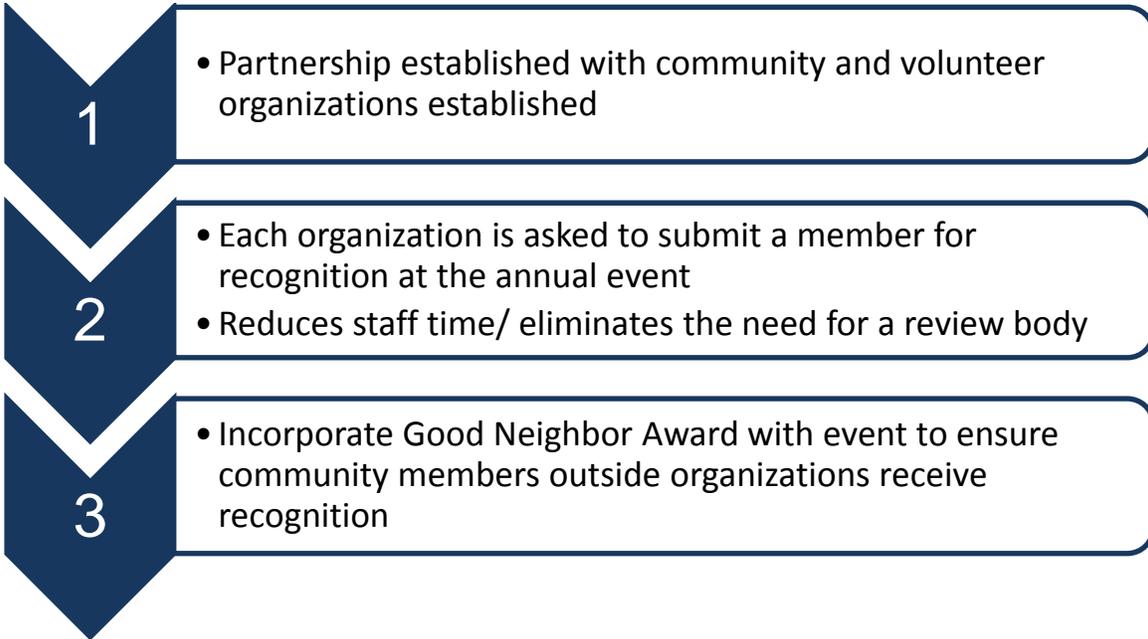
- **Annual Event-** allows for regular, continuous recognition process for volunteers
- **Selecting Volunteers for Recognition-** requires time by staff or a review body
- Two options suggested for selection process

Option 1: Nomination Form

- Community members could be chosen for recognition based on a nomination form
- Allows friends and neighbors to nominate community members whose contributions they believe to be worthy of recognition
- Would require time from a review body to review applications and determine which nominees are worthy

Ms. Turner shared that the nomination forms could be made available on the City's website or through other channels like hard copies available at City Hall.

Option 2: Partnership with other Community and Volunteer Organizations



Ms. Turner acknowledged this option would make it difficult however to recognize those who contribute to the community outside of the volunteer organizations that they are partnered with. She suggested that the Community Relations Commission present their Good Neighbor Award at the same annual event in order to ensure that individuals outside of these recognized organizations who make their neighborhoods and community a special place to live would be recognized as well.

Providing Awards

- Awards for community members being recognized should be provided at the annual event
- Certificate, plaque, light refreshments

Overview of Requirements

This program would require the City and Council to:

- Select a date for annual recognition event
- Either create a process for a review body to review nomination forms and select volunteers for recognition, or create a process for partnership with other organizations who would then identify members to be recognized at the annual event
- Invite community members who are to be recognized to the event

- The Good Neighbor Award winners should be included in this event
- Recognize honorees at the event and provide awards
- Provide refreshments at the event
- Make sure to promote the event and honorees throughout City communication vehicles to ensure an increase in the power of volunteerism

Ms. Michael asked if she had the opportunity to check with some of the other communities to see what they are doing. Ms. Turner shared that a number of different recognitions do occur. Some have different senior citizen's hall of fame events. There were a couple scholarship events for high school students. She shared that it is hard to exactly pinpoint specific recognition events for volunteers. Some of them receive awards during the annual city address and different Rotary Clubs would present and that sort of thing.

Ms. Michael understands that Dublin holds an annual event for their Board and Commission members. Ms. Turner commented that she didn't do too much on the Board and Commission member recognition.

Ms. Michael shared that Westerville does a Hometown Hero event for volunteers. Ms. Turner acknowledged there being a number of those types of events that are similar to our Good Neighbor Award. She thinks that event could be expanded a little bit.

Mr. Smith shared that where he grew up they had something like this where all of the different community organizations would be together and the city would host the event but each organization would give their own awards.

Ms. Dorothy really sees the need for Council to recognize our Board and Commission members. She appreciates all of the time Ms. Turner put into the research and suggestions of ways to recognize our members who keep our City going. Overall the City does have a lot of volunteers. She is a little concerned about taking on too much if we recognize everyone that volunteers for everything throughout the City but she appreciates all of the research and the suggestions.

Mr. Troper agreed with Ms. Dorothy in that we need to recognize our Board and Commission members but there are organizations that already recognize their volunteers.

Ms. Michael shared that many of the organizations identified in the presentation are scholarships. When you go beyond student scholarships, there really aren't that many additional.

Mr. Norstrom shared that several years ago while attending the National League of Cities one of the things that they emphasized was the use of volunteers to extend City services, especially back then when we weren't fully recovered from the recession years.

He thinks we should look at this program in the context of how we can make better use of volunteers to achieve certain goals.

Mr. Smith agreed knowing that several times a year he will get a call from an organization asking for a project to do and he will inevitably send them to Mr. Hurley. He thinks some of those come to fruition so it might be a good idea to better recognize our volunteers.

Ms. Michael shared that at one point in time she was invited by someone who served on a Commission in Dublin to attend an event as her guest. It was just really nice to see all of the Board and Commission members there sharing nice thoughts about everybody. She came back saying that we really don't celebrate the people who are putting in all of those hours and time. It kind of fits into what Ms. Turner shared. She asked members for direction.

Mr. Norstrom stated that he would refer the project to staff as part of the budget process. Mr. Greeson commented that staff intends to follow up on Ms. Turner's research and try to cost it to include the ability to carry her recommendation forward in the coming year and actually begin a process to do this.

Members thanked Ms. Turner for her presentation.

Discussion Item(s)

- **Refuge Contract**

Mr. Greeson reported that our refuge contract is set to expire at the end of this year so now is the time to start the process of talking with Council members about bidding the contract. He believes this is one of the City's most important services not only because it helps to keep our community safe and clean but also because it is one of the services that every household receives every week. Tonight staff wants to talk with members about the policy options that are part of considering any RFP for solid waste service. Mr. Rob Chandler will walk members through a presentation and some questions we have.

Mr. Chandler shared that there are three different policy items that staff needs direction from Council on. Throughout this presentation, as questions come up he may defer to Ms. Fox as she has been doing much of the heavy lifting in drafting the documents and getting them ready for bid. He wants to go over how things are currently structured, where we are in the state of solid waste here in Worthington and where we hope to head.

Solid Waste Collection and Recyclables Processing 2016

Recyclables Agreement

- Currently all recyclables go to Rumpke's MRF
 - Currently the only EPA licensed processor in Central Ohio

- Markets are down resulting in a cost for disposal and processing, currently \$20 per ton
- A market based formula is proposed capping cost at \$20 per ton. If markets become favorable, there could be the opportunity for profit sharing

Mr. Chandler shared that annually we have between 1,400 to 1,500 tons that go to the recycling center. Currently there is a cost associated with recycling because it costs Rumpke \$85.00 per ton to process our recyclables and they only receive \$65.00 for selling them on the open market. That is the standard across central Ohio.

- A signed agreement ensures our recyclables can always be processed and marketed

Mr. Chandler commented that normally we would go out to bid for the acceptance and processing of recyclables. However, since Rumpke Recycling is the only recycling processor in central Ohio we don't see the need to do a full bid. We would like Council to allow us to negotiate an agreement with Rumpke Recycling.

Mr. Myers commented that it doesn't seem like there is much to discuss since there is only one company that offers the service. Mr. Greeson agreed. He added that last time we sent it out for bid even though we knew we would only receive one response. Mr. Myers suggested that they go ahead and negotiate with Rumpke.

Mr. Norstrom assumes we have prices that other communities in central Ohio are currently paying. Ms. Fox shared that many of the communities are paying the gate price, which is \$20.00 a ton. We would like to sit down with Rumpke to at least explore the option of having that cost go down should the market improve for them but not pay any more than \$20.00. We talked about it and decided there really was no point in spending time or expense to do an RFP or bid document when Rumpke is the only option.

Mr. Norstrom asked if a formal action was needed. Ms. Fox replied that we are seeking Council's blessing to just seek this as a sole source supplier so that we can go ahead.

Ms. Dorothy wants to make sure that everyone is happy that we offer recycling as part of our trash pick-up. She wants to make certain that it is a service that we continue to provide. She thinks it is a good service and would be something she would like to see if we could expand. Unfortunately we have to pay for the service. It would be good if we could negotiate something if the markets change to get some money back. She thinks it is a service that we want to continue to provide to our residents. Mr. Chandler agreed.

Mr. Greeson shared that he doesn't think it would hurt to have a motion to direct staff to negotiate with Rumpke.

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to authorize staff to negotiate a recycling agreement with Rumpke Recycling. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Chandler commented that now we move on to the collection agreement. Typically every five years we go out to bid for our collection agreement for all three services, which is trash, recyclables and yard waste. He provided a brief overview and history lesson so that members will better understand where we are and where we hope to go.

Where We've Been

Curbside recycling began in 1991 by subscription with Johnson Disposal

- Residents would sign up and receive a green bin.
- Recyclables were collected by Johnson Disposal as a new contract specification
- Only 4 items were collected – Newspaper, Glass, Plastic, Metal Drink Cans
- 69% of all eligible households participated

Where We Are

- Single Stream Collection
 - All recyclables can go into the same container
 - The acceptable recyclables list has expanded to include most plastic bottles and jugs (#1-#7)
 - Residents automatically receive 2 – 18 gallons recycling bins
 - Many households now use multiple bins, marked trash cans, and some lease 65 gallon carts
 - 97% of Worthington Households actively participate

Mr. Chandler shared that our diversion rate, which includes our recyclables and our yard waste is over 51%. At last count, SWACO reported that being the highest diversion rate in the County. Our residents should be commended for their efforts.

Where Central Ohio is going

- 65 gallon curbside carts
 - Increased capacity in the same footprint facilitates increased recycling rates (up to 20% more)

When asked by Mr. Troper if residents are charged for an extra bin Mr. Chandler replied no.

Ms. Michael wondered why the haulers refused to pick up three brown paper bags that were full of paper and placed out with her other recyclable in front of her house. Mr. Chandler thought they may not have known it was paper. They might have mistaken it for yard waste. If you give him a call he will make sure it goes in the appropriate truck.

- A single container means efficiencies for the both the resident and the hauler (one trip to the curb)
- Integrated lids cut down on blowing recyclables on collection day
- It helps keep collection rates competitive by keeping more out of the landfill
- Bins would be replaced by the carts prior to the first collection of 2017
- A resident may request a smaller cart
- A resident may request a larger cart or a second cart
- Comparative bids show roughly \$1.00 - \$2.00 per household per month over the standard collection price per household per month (depends on how the cost is collected)

Mr. Chandler shared that the rolling recycling bins are beginning to become the norm in central Ohio. Currently Dublin, Reynoldsburg, Bexley, Grove City, and New Albany are actively participating in using these carts.

Mr. Norstrom asked if there are additional cost associated with the new bins. Mr. Chandler replied yes.

Mr. Troper commented that was his question. If they are efficient why don't they give them to us for free so they can make fewer runs? Who cares if it is efficient for them? If we are paying for it and he can get a free one and they are going to charge us for it. He asked what matters if it's efficient for them if there is no savings to the residents. Mr. Chandler replied that often times it is reflected in the per household per month rate. So we do see that efficiency. Obviously we don't have the bids yet but it is very likely that we will see that efficiency reflected in some of those bid numbers.

Mr. Troper commented that it is cheaper to rent the bins. Mr. Chandler agreed. Most of our communities have a cart rental rate around \$1.00 per household per month. Currently we have a few residents who are leasing these on their own and it is closer to \$2.00 per household because of the cost of the internal billing and the administration from the waste hauler.

Mr. Chandler commented that staff is asking Council to consider and what we are looking at doing with our bid is going with a status quo collection.

Collection Contract

- Status Quo Collection
 - All three services occurring on Friday
 - No limit to how much is collected

- Keeping current recycling bins
- Bidding options for Council Consideration
 - Hauler chooses day of collection vs City designating Friday collection
 - Alternate for recycling carts vs bins

Mr. Troper asked if we've ever considered choosing a day other than Friday for collection. Mr. Chandler replied no. Ms. Fox added that the last set of bid documents indicated that Friday was preferred but gave the haulers an opportunity to bid a different day. She is not aware that different days were bid although they had that opportunity.

When Ms. Michael asked if a different day will equate to a lower price, Ms. Fox replied we don't know. Much will depend on the capacity of the haulers around central Ohio.

Mr. Myers commented that staff has talked about recycling tonight. He asked if the bid would be for all waste hauling. Mr. Chandler acknowledged that it was. Mr. Myers stated that the options being presented, other than the day of collection all center around recycling. Mr. Chandler agreed.

When asked by Mr. Norstrom if mechanization is being considered, Mr. Chandler replied that staff has looked at that. Currently we are not at the time in the cycle to go to the public and see how open/receptive they would be to it. There are some challenges associated with that in that it would limit the amount that could go to the curb. It would have to be in a 96 gallon wheeler to be picked up. Additionally, most bulk items would require a special scheduled pick up. It would also mean that everything would need to be placed on the street with the wheels against the curb which would require some on-street parking restrictions in many of our neighborhoods.

Mr. Norstrom asked if mechanization is used anywhere in central Ohio. Mr. Chandler replied not full mechanization at this point aside from the city of Columbus. Mr. Norstrom asked if we know what their costs are compared to ours. Mr. Chandler replied that he is not certain. We are a little cheaper than many suburbs similar to us.

Mr. Greeson thinks we will have the option of absorbing the cost of leasing the bins or passing that on to the residents.

Mr. Myers said historically when we talked about whether we should pass refuse collection along as a fee like Upper Arlington has done, we made the decision then that is not the way we operate in Worthington. He feels the same way with this. To him, having to lease a recycle bin is essentially a fee that we are imposing on the residents. He asked Mr. Chandler if he envisions it being mandatory for residents to use the bins if the city absorbs the cost or could residents select either type. Mr. Chandler replied that it would in large part become mandatory. Each resident would receive the tote prior to start up on January 2017. These would show up in the yard and the current green bins would go away. That being said, depending upon the hauler, if somebody would call and insist on getting their green bin back or if they needed something big, a change could be made without any increase being charged.

Mr. Foust commented that there have been points in his life that the rolling tote could be filled within a short period of time. With two grown adults he thinks it would take them months to fill the larger tote. Ms. Michael stated that it doesn't have to be full to be emptied. Mr. Chandler agreed. That is a case where a smaller cart could be provided.

Mr. Greeson stated that staff wants Council to authorize staff to draft the RFP, which Council will then see and authorize us to issue with these options that are a little different from options that we have bid before. To speak to Mr. Myers comment, at 5,000ish households at a \$1.00 per household per month cost, it is potentially a \$60,000 budgetary impact unless there is an efficiency gained by the hauler and that we see in the price. So it is not an insignificant budget consideration. That is why we want to see it as an alternate. Obviously there is the choice of whether members want to pass that cost on to our customers or pay it directly. We would have those options once we receive the bid documents.

Ms. Michael commented that we are talking about leasing these bins. She asked if purchasing them is an option. Mr. Chandler reported that they can't be purchased directly from a hauler but we can get with some of the suppliers to make that happen. With the numbers he's run, he believes it would be very expensive. The cost per bin is roughly \$60.00 and we would need to order 5,300 at the start. Then staff would have to assemble them and deliver them to residents. The life cycle is somewhere between six and nine years and then they would need replaced. With the hauler providing them for \$1.00 to \$2.00 per household per month, when they get spent or broken they get replaced by the hauler because they own them.

Mr. Norstrom shared that if he understands the numbers right, if we were to pay \$1.00 for five years, it is the same as buying them but we don't have to deal with the replacement and all of that. Mr. Chandler agreed.

Mr. Myers said he is in favor of bidding this service with the options that were expressed tonight with the understanding that there will be a recommendation at the RFP and then when the bids are open where members can then discuss some of the policy implications of what some of this may do. Mr. Greeson replied that is exactly what staff wants Council to do.

MOTION

Mr. Myers made the motion as stated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

Mr. Norstrom offered an amendment. He stated that the motion limited the options to those only discussed tonight. He would like to give staff the opportunity to expand the options if possible. Mr. Myers and Mr. Foust approved the suggestion.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Norstrom commented about the zero waste displayed all over Ohio Stadium. He asked if there are municipalities that are working towards zero waste. Mr. Chandler

replied not in central Ohio. Because we are inland we have fewer opportunities for recyclable materials to actually go to market. There is no market in central Ohio for things like cups and plates and some of the clam shell food containers. Transportation cost to get them where they are marketed and sent overseas is just too prohibitive, which is why you don't see those opportunities here in central Ohio. Where you do see the zero waste opportunities is places like Ohio Stadium where everything that is bought and used is bought with the intention of recycling or composting.

Mr. Greeson asked Mr. Chandler to address food waste. Mr. Chandler shared that we currently do not have an opportunity with any of our haulers or with any of the processors in town to do a large scale curb side food waste recycling and composting program. That is something we continue to talk with EPA and the Solid Waste Authority about. We hope to see that instituted down the road but the opportunities that we have now are places like the drop off at the Farmer's Market, the drop off at Evening St. School and there are some subscription services available on-line. We work with Franklin Soil and Water to encourage backyard composting and help with the rain barrel program. Those things are available on the smaller scale.

Staff thanked Mr. Chandler for the information.

Mr. Greeson shared that members received several e-mail invitations that he would like to share. There are two businesses in the community that are hosting open houses at the same time on Friday. COhatch in Old Worthington is having a community unveiling Friday, October 7th with a 4:30 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. open house. Trivium Development and Tim Spencer extended an opportunity for members to attend an open house at 350 W. Wilson Bridge Rd. A hard hat tour of that project will occur on Friday, October 7th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Some of the folks from Central Ohio Urology Group, Wheels Up and Dr. McClatchey's office will all be tenants in the building. Staff will try to cover both of those bases on behalf of the city but great new businesses.

Mr. Greeson added that staff has distributed at member's places the 2017 – 2021 Proposed Capital Improvements Program. We will schedule our first presentation regarding that program next week. We also hope to distribute the Operating Budget at that time as well.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Norstrom noted there being a two-sided pamphlet at member's places regarding COTA. He plans to introduce a motion to support the COTA levy this year. Mr. Greeson shared that in the past Council has supported levies by a Resolution. He asked if members wanted staff to prepare one. Members agreed to the suggestion.

Ms. Dorothy thanked Mr. Whited and staff for acting quickly to repair the waterline break along Foster and Loveman Avenues. She noted that she did not see any CIP budget items for waterline repairs but it looks like we are getting our road repaired for

the waterline that created a big sink hole right there. It is very disconcerting with it not even winter yet to have all the waterline breaks that we've had recently. She again thanked Mr. Whited and his service team for getting that fixed.

OTHER

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to meet in Executive Session for the purpose of Economic Development assistance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Yes 7 Troper, Norstrom, Dorothy, Myers, Smith, Foust, and Michael

No 0

Council recessed at 9:06 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to return to open session and adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
17th day of October, 2016.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President