



## **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 17, 2017 ~ 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, April 17, 2017, 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 Finance Molly Roberts, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Fire Scott Highley and Chief of Police Jerry Strait

There were twenty three visitors present.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION****Resolution No. 13-2017**

To Congratulate Don Hyland on His Recognition as the Recipient of the 2016 Good Neighbor Award From the Worthington Community Relations Commission.

**Introduced by Mr. Foust.**

**MOTION**

Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

**The motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

*President Michael turned the meeting over to Jack Miner, Chair of the Community Relations Commission to make this presentation.*

*Mr. Miner shared that the Good Neighbor Award is a fun event for the Commission. They receive nominations from the community and always receive great stories. The winning application was great because everything in it referred to "Mr. John Deere". He invited this year's winner, Don Hyland and the person who nominated him, Frank McCarthy to join him at the podium. Mr. Miner read Resolution No. 13-2017 in its entirety and presented Mr. Hyland with a certified copy.*

*Mr. Hyland asked his wife to introduce their family, friends and neighbors who were in attendance.*

*Mr. Norstrom noted that Mr. Hyland is an example of the citizenry that makes Worthington what it is. He told Mr. Hyland that clearly with the support of his family and neighbors, he has made a difference. Council can only hope that we keep finding people like this every year.*

*Ms. Michael thanked Mr. Hyland for all that he does for the community. Council truly appreciates it.*

## **VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no visitor comments.

## **NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

### **Resolution No. 14-2017**

Approving the Walnut Grove and Flint Road Cemetery's Purchase of 1.6± Acres of Land Adjacent to the Flint Road Cemetery to be Used for Cemetery Purposes.

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

### **MOTION**

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

*Ms. Fox reported that within the last several months the Cemetery Board of Trustees became aware of the sale of some land that is adjacent to the Flint Road Cemetery. Originally the Flint Road Cemetery was the Ozem Gardner family cemetery. It has undergone a great deal of transformation in the last several years. They have numerous special places there and they are constantly looking for additional land to help the cemetery thrive and grow. The property is important for the Board because it would allow them to utilize the house structure for administrative purposes and the outbuildings on the 1.6+ acres could be used to store equipment. They would also have the benefit of running water and a bathroom facility, which they do not currently have. The land appraised for \$195,000. The Trustees made an offer of \$160,000 and the offer was accepted. They would like to purchase this property with the funds they have on hand. The Ohio Revised Code provides that property purchased in this fashion would need the approval of both the City and the Township because the tax dollars they receive are the result of a tax levy by both the City and the Township. Title to the land would be in the name of the Sharon Township Board of Trustees because that is how Flint Road Cemetery is titled. She understands that the board has conceptually approved of the purchase and believes action will be taken soon. Ms. Fox noted that she provided some information on the Ozem Gardner home as it is historical and very old. Mr. Gardner was part of the Anti-Slavery Society of Worthington and his home was used in the Underground Railroad.*

*Ms. Dorothy shared that she has only served on the Cemetery Board of Trustees for a little over a year. There is an Advisory Committee that helps with the plans of Flint Road Cemetery. Walnut Grove has most of the full burial spaces sold and Flint Road is becoming used more often. It has always been one of the plans/action items to purchase this property if it ever became available to help with offices, to have more land for burial and to help preserve the history of the cemetery and the underground railroad so this is a very important piece of property that the trustees would like to keep in the Union cemetery.*

*Tom Kayati, Superintendent, Road Department for Sharon Township added that this land was part of the original farmland purchased by the Scioto Company so it helps keep it tied to Worthington as well. The land will be useful and the timing of this purchase is pretty good because they were looking at putting up a temporary storage facility at the cemetery for equipment. With the purchase they will not have to do that.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Resolution No. 15-2017**

Approving a Telecommunications Agreement and Permit to Windstream KDL. *(Abbreviated Title)*

**Introduced by Mr. Foust.**

**MOTION**

Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

*Mr. Greeson reported this being a standard renewal of a telecommunications permit to operate and maintain a telecommunications system within the Worthington right-of-way. They currently has fiber optics in our right-of-way that runs through our community. Staff recommends its approval.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

**Ordinance No. 14-2017**

Authorizing an Amendment to the Economic Development Grant Agreement between the City of Worthington and Worthington Square Acquisition, LLC (The Heights at Worthington Place).

**Introduced by Mr. Myers.**

The Clerk was instructed to give notice of a public hearing on said ordinance(s) in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter unless otherwise directed.

## REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

### Policy Item(s)

- Ordinance No. 13-2017 – Rezoning (181 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.)

*Mr. Brown reported that this item was referred to the Municipal Planning Commission. They reviewed the item during their April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and recommend its approval. Staff requests that City Council set its public hearing for the May 1, 2017 Council meeting.*

**MOTION** Ms. Dorothy made a motion to set the public hearing on Ordinance No. 13-2017 for the Council meeting of May 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

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

### Information Item(s)

*Mr. Greeson asked Mr. Brown to comment on the Wayfinding project as it is beginning this week. Mr. Brown reported that the work is about a week behind because of the weather. The crew will be doing foundation work this week with the signs going up towards the end of the week and on into next week.*

*Ms. Dorothy commented that this is the first phase that is downtown and mostly for vehicles. Mr. Brown agreed.*

*When asked by Ms. Michael about the signs that are supposed to be attached to the end of the bridge work on US 23, Mr. Brown reported that staff has been working with Studio Graphique to design a plaque that would fit in those spaces and that will compliment what Council has approved to be installed throughout the City. Members will probably see the install on that over the next few months.*

*Mr. Norstrom and Ms. Dorothy shared their interest in having signage placed along the bike path that would direct people to Old/Historic Worthington. Mr. Brown assured Mr. Norstrom that there is signage recommended for that. He will probably ask members for additional funds during the budget process to assist in that effort. At Mr. Norstrom's insistence, Mr. Brown remarked that staff will try to get something in place, possibly this summer.*

*Mr. Greeson announced that a SR-161 Advisory Committee is having an additional meeting this week as they continue to talk about the variety of operations that are available in that corridor. They are heading towards a public meeting/open house later this spring. Ms. Stewart confirmed that no date has been set for the open house yet. The consultants are saying May or June but no specific date has been set. She has the sense that they are waiting until after the Advisory Committee meeting this week before they*

begin focusing on all of the details for the public meeting. They are using the Advisory Committee to kind of focus in on specific options to present.

Mr. Troper shared that he e-mailed Mr. Whited regarding the sidewalk in front of the Griswold Center as it appears to be off by more than an inch. He asked him to examine that to determine if it needs to be replaced. Mr. Greeson commented that staff will look at it and replace it if it is needed as part of the street project.

Ms. Michael asked if the ride along has been scheduled yet. Mr. Greeson replied that now that the weather has broken, staff will pick some dates for that effort. He knows that Mr. Whited is eager to present his ideas and approach on how to handle the street program this year.

Ms. Michael shared that the pedestrian beacons appear to be working well for pedestrians. She believes motorists are still a little confused. Ms. Dorothy agreed.

Mr. Greeson reported that officers are in the area and are taking the opportunity to educate everyone on how they operate. Chief Strait added that his officers have begun an educational process, which will run through July 1<sup>st</sup>. They had officers out on Easter providing information. Between now and mid-summer they will hopefully be passing out a great deal of pamphlets and even making some recommendations for the signage in an effort to clear up any confusion on the flashing lights.

When asked by Mr. Norstrom if the Partnership or Farmers Market have talked with him about assisting with the education, Chief Strait replied no. Mr. Norstrom shared that he talked with them about the issue and they seem more than willing to assist.

## REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Foust shared that a neighbor stopped this week and was lamenting about the rolling stops that are occurring throughout Worthington. The suggestion came to have signs that read: "Full stop free, rolling stop \$133.00" or whatever the going rate. They would be a very professionally done sign and placed strategically on just a handful of stop signs throughout the community. He thought it was worth mentioning and something to consider. \*correction made during approval on May 1, 2017

Mr. Norstrom commented that as he pointed out at the retreat, he would like for staff to add to an agenda when it looks like the meetings will be less than a half hour.

Mr. Smith shared that he heard back from a representative of Stafford Village and they have postponed because they had some other developments elsewhere that they were focusing on. They were going to continue outreach with that community once they get their bearings straight again. He kind of hinted at summer to begin the outreach again.

Mr. Smith added that as we approach Memorial Day there might be some interest to meet in a different location, possible Sharon Memorial Hall.

*Ms. Michael reported that at the last COMMA meeting members there was major concern about the state collection of income tax. They are worried about whether or not they will be able to stop the legislature from taking municipal funds and turning them into state funds.*

*Ms. Michael added that several law suits have been filed regarding the AT&T telecommunications bill in several part of the state. The telecommunications people have gotten a feeling that the cities are very displeased with legislation that allows for wireless boxes in the public right-of-way. She added that some of the COMMA members are talking with the communications providers in an effort to find a good solution to the issue. Everyone agrees that wireless is here to stay and a compromise needs to be reached.*

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** Mr. Foust made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss appointment of personnel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**No 0**

Council recessed at 7:55 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

**MOTION** Mr. Myers made a motion to return to open session at 8:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

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

## **NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Ordinance No. 15-2017** Amending Ordinance 46-2016 to Establish Compensation for the Unclassified Position of Administrative Assistant/Finance Manager.

**Introduced by Mr. Troper.**

The Clerk was instructed to give notice of a public hearing on said ordinance(s) in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter unless otherwise directed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** Mr. Foust made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

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

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned.

/s/ D. Kay Thress

Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2017.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael

Council President