

City of Worthington
and
Sharon Township
Joint Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2017 ~ 7:30 P.M.

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

Worthington City Council

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

Sharon Township Trustees

John H. Oberle, Chairman
Lindsay S. Duffey
Phillip W. Smith

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance:

Worthington City Council met in Joint Session on Monday, May 1, 2017, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of City Hall, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 P.M.

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

Sharon Township Trustees Present: Lindsay Duffey, and John Oberle

Member(s) Absent: Phillip Smith

Also present: Clerk of Council Kay Thress, City Manager Matthew Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Finance Molly Roberts, Director of Planning and Building Lee Brown, and Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Hurley

There were seventeen visitors present.

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

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**Resolution No. 16-2017**

Levying Tax for the Maintenance of Union Cemetery dba Walnut Grove and Flint Road Cemetery for the Tax Collection Year 2018.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Motion

A motion was made by Ms. Duffey to adopt Resolution No. 16-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

Mr. Greeson welcomed City Council members and the Sharon Township Trustees to the annual meeting to consider imposing the tax used in the operations of our joint cemeteries, Walnut Grove and Flint Road. He invited Courtney Chapman, Chair of the Cemetery Board of Trustees forward to present their request of the continuation of the ½ of 1 mill for the year 2018 for the maintenance and development of the cemeteries.

Mr. Chapman shared that the big news is the desire to acquire the Odem Gardner home. More will be shared about that later. The Cemetery Trustees, several members of the advisory committee who are here, wish to thank City Council and the Township Trustees for the responsiveness and support and timeliness of the activities in order to acquire the Odem Gardner home. Everybody worked very hard but Ms. Fox and Mr. Oberle invested a great deal of time off the clock to help work out some interesting issues. There are not many Union cemeteries so there was not much history to go by. We are excited about this building for two reasons. One is that he sees it as their “Forever Office” when it is

finally finished. He thinks members grandchildren's children will be the ones who can go to that office a hundred years from now to do business as it will take some time to complete the work.

Mr. Chapman commented that the second reason is because of the historical part. He thinks this is a great thing for the City of Worthington and the Township. The survey plats for the cemetery have hidden in there 51 and 53, which happens to be the reference to the original farm plots from the Scioto Company. So the cemetery is now located there. The original part of the Flint Cemetery was the Gardener family cemetery that was established in 1823. The home just across the creek has been occupied by somebody in that family from the time that it was built until it just being sold. It is great history with the Gardner family.

A lady in the audience shared that Mr. Gardener made bricks from materials on his farm that were used to construct homes in Worthington.

Mr. Chapman shared that the Gardener family was very active in the Underground Railroad. It is reported that they supported some 200 people through that effort. So there are many historic things that help make this purchase so exciting.

Mr. Chapman briefly explained what constitutes a Union cemetery. He shared several stories about the compassion and challenges of cemetery staffers as they work with people who need to utilize a part of those cemeteries. He closed by expressing how much they appreciate all of the support that the City Council and Township Trustees provide.

Ms. Dorothy (Council's representative to the Cemetery Board) shared that the City and the Trustees are required to maintain the two cemeteries. The funds from this tax provides the funds needed to not only maintain the cemeteries but also to assist in the expansion of the Flint Cemetery. She reported there being many volunteers who assist with that maintenance and beautification effort on both of those properties.

Ms. Michael added her appreciation of the progress being made at the Flint Cemetery.

Mr. Oberle (Township Trustee to the Cemetery Board) echoed Ms. Dorothy's comments. He thanked Mr. Chapman for his leadership. There are great volunteers and a great staff who work well together but without a strong leader it doesn't happen. Mr. Chapman has a great ability to be a collaborator. Because of his process he makes difficult problems easier to work through. It is a privilege to serve with him.

There being no additional comments, the motion carried unanimously and Resolution No. 16-2017 is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

OTHER

- Ozem Gardner Property

Mr. Oberle shared that he appreciates their friends at Worthington and working with those on the Advisory Board on this property. They do not often get an opportunity to work together on something that will have a deep impact on the community. To save an old underground railroad and to do it in a cost effective manor while finding a property that will solve problems for the cemetery is wonderful. He believes everyone has done a great job. He thanked Ms. Fox for her assistance in dealing with very tough legal issues to ensure that they is done correctly. He shared that he has already signed the documents on behalf of the township. They will close on the property tomorrow. They have a side agreement between the City of Worthington, Sharon Township and the Cemetery Board that will go through the legal requirements in terms of who owns it, who has use, who has rights, who will maintain it and who will insure it. We think that this could be a model document that they may use at Walnut Grove or other locations as we look to formalize that process a little.

Mr. Oberle explained that before Members/Trustees is an agreement that will memorialize the purchase of this property. All three bodies: the Township, the Cemetery and Worthington have authorized this transaction to move forward but if Council agrees, we now need to pass this agreement by motion. We will close on the property tomorrow and move forward with what we believe will be a very exciting redevelopment.

Ms. Fox added that the copies of the agreement before members have some highlights that pertain to the City. The only obligation in the agreement on the part of the City is one she thinks the City has already anticipated us taking and that is Article IV that talks about the cooperation among the three parties to incorporate this property into the Union Cemetery as part of the Flint Road Cemetery property. She thinks Mr. Oberle is correct in that most of this agreement really pertains to the relationship between the Cemetery Board and the Township just to make sure that the Cemetery Board is going to maintain this property and allow for the Township to use property as it deems necessary. There is really nothing in this agreement from the City's standpoint that would elevate this to a Resolution or Ordinance. Doing this by motion will be sufficient to allow the signatures to happen on the part of the City. She understands that this morning the Township Trustees discussed having an agreement of this type and approved it as well. Mr. Oberle agreed. He announced that the Township passed a resolution at 7:30 a.m. this morning authorizing the agreement.

MOTION

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Mr. Oberle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress _____
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
15th day of May, 2017.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael _____
President of Council