



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes
October 9, 2017

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, October 9, 2017, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of the Louis J. R. Goorey Municipal Building, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Pro-Tem Myers called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 PM

Members Present: Rachael R. Dorothy, Douglas Foust, Scott Myers, David Norstrom, Douglas K. Smith, and Michael C. Troper (Bonnie D. Michael arrived at 7:38 p.m.)

Member(s) Absent:

Also present: City Manager Matthew Greeson, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Chief of Fire & EMS Scott Highley, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Director of Finance Scott Barter, Chief of Police Jerry Strait, and Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

There were four visitors present.

President Pro-Tem Myers invited those in attendance to stand and join in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

sustainable2050 - MORPC

Mr. Greeson reported it being his pleasure to introduce Christina O’Keeffe who is the Director of Energy & Air Quality at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). She is one of Central Ohio’s sustainability leaders and a joy to work with in his role as the MORPC Chair. Ms. O’Keeffe is here tonight to talk about sustainable2050. It is essentially the successor to Green Pact. She is also going to talk about the Regional Sustainability Agenda that has been adopted by MORPC.

Mr. Greeson announced that there are several reasons that staff placed this item on the agenda for discussion and invited Mrs. O’Keeffe to present tonight. One is that MORPC is reframing the Central Ohio Green Pact and launching sustainable2050. It is also asking each of its member jurisdictions to adopt a resolution. Staff plans to present that resolution that would endorse this effort to Council next week for adoption. Additionally, Council has made sustainability a priority, which as influenced many efforts in recent years. These things range from:

- An increase in curbside recycling capabilities (Instituted last year)
- Recently authorized staff to pursue energy conservation measures at the community center
- Becoming a part of the PACE district. Mr. Foust represents Council on the board of the Property Assessed Clean Energy District
- Partnering with our friends in Sustainable Worthington on a range of project.

Mr. Greeson added that there are more things that we have done that arguably fit in the framework of the now ten year old Green Pact as listed in your agenda item. More recently Council asked staff to begin thinking about a policy statement around sustainability. He believes MORPC's work provides a framework or starting point for what we may develop locally.

Lastly, after Ms. O'Keeffe's presentation he wants to use this opportunity to forecast a few things that staff wants to talk about on the sustainability front that will be coming to council later this year or things that we are doing internally to the City government operations. He invited Ms. O'Keeffe to come forward.

Mrs. O'Keeffe thanked Council for the opportunity to be here tonight to share some details about our sustainable2050 program, newly launched at MORPC as well as Council's consideration to become a sustainable2050 community. She will go through her presentation and address questions during and/or afterwards.



Formerly: GREEN PACT

- 2007: Creation of Green Pact
- Represented a multi-jurisdictional commitment to sustainability
- 10 general values
- Over 30 members



While sustainable2050 is a new program at MORPC, the concept of having communities work together on environmentally or economically sustainable principles is not. For more than 10 years MORPC has administered the Central Ohio Green Pact. It was successful to bring our local governments together to share information. Best practices were shared as were things that didn't work. If a community adopted a policy, for example on zero waste, they would share those successes and mistakes with each other. So it became stronger as a collective unit within the Central Ohio region.

When asked by Mr. Norstrom if there are any communities that have zero waste, Ms. O'Keeffe shared that the city of Bexley is implementing a zero waste policy.

Ms. O’Keeffe reported that the ten principles below were what MORPC asked communities ten years ago to sign on to. They had to agree to all of those principles.

Ten Principles of Green Pact

- Greener Public Fleets
- Growing a Strong, Green Economy
- Collaborating to Purchase Green Products
- Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies
- Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption
- Reducing Waste
- Educating and Engaging Our Communities
- Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection
- Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways
- Promoting Mass Transportation

About half of MORPC’s members were involved in the Green Pact. MORPC currently has more than sixty local governments in a fifteen county region of Central Ohio. The key asset that they heard from their members was the sharing of those best practices.

Ms. O’Keeffe reported that MORPC’s board adopted a new regional sustainability agenda in December. That was developed through the Sustainability Advisory Committee that focuses on one of the priorities that we have as an organization. The structure of the advisory board really makes up the expertise in different subject matters within the umbrella of sustainability as follows:

Sustainability Advisory

- Central Ohio Greenways Board
- Sustainable 2050
- Key Stakeholders
- Energy & Air Quality Working
- Water Resources Working Group

When the committee focused on what should be an agenda that could serve the region and all of our communities, they wanted to identify two key priorities. The first one is to be metric driven and the second is to integrate into existing efforts that we have within the region. A copy of that was shared within the meeting materials. Members will see five goals and twenty-three objectives. Within those objectives is a baseline. It is where we identify data that exists for a particular objective and then we work with the committee and outside stakeholder input to identify what should be that benchmark in four years. This is a guiding document for those in the region from 2017 – 2020.

The second key priority is the integration of this document within other regional MORPC plans in Central Ohio. Instead of re-inventing the wheel they really wanted to determine how to best serve their membership. One particular plan they looked at was their Metropolitan Transportation Plan. That is a long-range plan that identifies the type of projects of what our transportation system will look like in the future. As they look at federal funding that comes in

and administer that on behalf of our members, when a project comes in they evaluate it to determine how it can best serve the principles set forth.

The committee saw the five goals in the transportation plan and adopted those same goals.

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility

MORPC Members and Associate Members

Requirements

- Resolution of participation
- Designate a local champion
- Assign a representative
- Share data with MORPC

BENEFITS

- MORPC staff assistance
- Tools/resources to help implement sustainable practices
- Certification/tier ranking
- Increased recognition
- Formal networking and sharing of best-practices
- Reduced ticket price for Summit on Sustainability

Ms. O’Keeffe shared that one of the first tools they will be utilizing is a benchmarking tool. They will be working with local businesses that they identify within the Central Ohio Region called JTRAC. They are offering a software platform that automatically collects data in many cases, like gas, electric, and water utility data from City facilities. In other cases, the data can be entered manually, such as waste or fleet data. The idea is that the system will provide the analysis on a visual dashboard display that decision makers can look at in order to understand key information.

Because MORPC wants to brag about our members when it comes to sustainability through this program, they plan to increase the recognition of all the good things that our local governments are doing in Central Ohio.

Networking will stay in the program so that members can share best practices and do formal networking.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

MORPC will offer the following certifications:

- Bronze
- Silver

- Gold
- Platinum

Ms. O’Keeffe shared that these certifications are similar to other programs such as Bike-Friendly City or LEED. The idea is to highlight the inclusive nature of the program. Half of the membership was involved in Green Pact while the other half was not. We determined that the commitment for all ten principles was overwhelming for many of our communities to join into the program. The idea here is that even if a community is not doing much currently with sustainability, there are still things they can do to participate in this program. The more goals and objectives a community focuses on, the higher their tier will be. MORPC will look at the progressive achieved on those objectives annually and then re-certify at a higher tier if possible.

ANNUAL SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY

Ms. O’Keeffe shared that this year’s Summit on Sustainability event will be held on November 14th in downtown Columbus. The theme of this year’s event is entitled: Communities Taking Charge. The focus will be on showcasing all of the local sustainability efforts that are occurring in Central Ohio. There will be two plenaries and several breakouts. The lunch plenary will focus on launching the sustainable2050 initiative. They will also identify all of the communities that have signed on to the program at this point.

SUSTAINABLE2050 PILOT PERIOD

Goals

- Test processes for certification and tracking data
- Understand necessary tools and resources
- Estimate the costs and benefits to members and MORPC

Ms. O’Keeffe shared that from now through Spring 2018, the group will be working with five or six communities as their pilot communities. These communities will represent the geographic, political, and structural diversity of our region while allowing them to identify best practices on how to best assist our members in the future. They will test processes for certification and data-tracking, understand the tools and resources that are necessary for members to successfully work toward sustainability strategies and estimate the costs and benefits to members and MORPC, measured both financially and hourly. They plan to use the pilot period to fine tune the program and ensure that it best serves our members interests.

Mr. Greeson stated that staff is going to recommend that Council adopt a resolution because we believe that this effort is consistent with key performance areas that members adopted and goals that you have set for us as a City. Ms. O’Keeffe talked about the energy benchmarking, which he believes is called, Local Government Energy Assistance Program. Staff plans to be an early guinea pig for that program so that we can advance our monitoring energy efficiency efforts for our buildings. We believe we need to create an internal green team to help build a foundation for adopting and effectively implementing this program as well as build more Worthington specific goals as part of a sustainability policy. When Mrs. Dole worked with OSU students last year that was a key recommendation. We would ideally like a participant from each department that would help us stay on top of this since we don’t have a sustainability department.

Mr. Greeson shared that with Ms. O’Keeffe’s help, several staff members have already met with AEP about what they call their Energy Savers Program. He briefly explained the program and reported that a more in-depth conversation will be explored with Council in the spring.

At Council’s direction, staff has looked more carefully at HVAC and facilities energy efficiency efforts. Members will notice that course embedded in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Mr. Whited has been working with our consultant ABM, on more in-depth analysis of the energy in each of our buildings. There is also a major energy efficiency retro-fit at the community center. Members will see other efforts aimed at the sustainable2050 objectives in next year’s CIP like finalizing a bike and pedestrian master plan. Not reflected in this year’s budget but something that staff plans to explore in greater depth is the purchase of our energy. We are locked in at a fairly low rate through 2018 but through working with our energy brokers we plan to explore whether we want to purchase green energy or sustainable energy as part of that overall energy portfolio and their position to assist us in that analysis.

All of those are things that he wanted to forecast to members that he thinks would help us meet the objectives of sustainable2050 so he doesn’t want members to think we are not well on our way to doing some of these things.

With that, Mr. Greeson opened the floor up for questions.

Mr. Myers asked that the record reflect that Ms. Michael arrived at 7:38 p.m. He handed the gavel back to her.

Ms. Dorothy commented that currently we don’t have a sustainability policy but we have been working towards these goals that were outlined in the 2007 MORPC Green Pact. Mr. Greeson agreed that staff has regularly participated in the Green Pact networking opportunities. If one looks at the general principles of the Central Ohio Green Pact they will see that many of the things that we have done over the last ten years fit into those general principles. He sees this as a renewed and more advanced program that is better supported by MORPC and measureable in terms of its impact to the region.

Ms. Dorothy acknowledged that it is a goal of Council to be sustainable but we don’t have a full policy so this could help us get to an actual policy. Mr. Greeson commented that initially we will join the regional effort. Then we will use the information to build our own local policy. Ms. O’Keeffe acknowledged that as being correct. They would assist the City with its policy at the local level and help support that. She provided an example of how that support would work.

Mr. Myers asked Mr. Greeson if he would envision that we would have our own baseline unique to Worthington. Mr. Greeson replied that he doesn’t know if staff has thought all of the particulars through yet because there may be things they are able to capture on a regional scale that we will not be able to effectively measure at the City level. With the “dashboard” we will be able to measure our energy usage more accurately. We are in the process of evaluating every building in terms of if we instituted new HVAC improvements or LED what would be our energy savings and return on investments. We will have to build all of the metrics but we will be in a better position than we were ten years ago.

Mr. Myers understands there to be five goals and twenty three objectives. He believes some to be very uniquely regional while some could be very uniquely local. It seems to him that we could develop our own internal policy based on those five goals. While we may not have the same twenty three objectives, they would coincide with those. He asked if that is something we would be looking to do. Mr. Greeson acknowledged that it is. He doesn't think any of the objectives lack alignment with the city of Worthington but there may be ones where we could make more impact as compared to others. We will just have to have an honest conversation.

Mr. Myers shared that he wants to brag about that Platinum status so he wants to make sure that we have our benchmarks that we can then say look how much better we did. Mr. Greeson replied that we will have to dig into that as part of the program.

There being no objections to directing staff to prepare a resolution supporting and pledging to participate in this area, Ms. Michael directed staff to prepare the legislation.

Mr. Norstrom asked if recognition of these goals was already built into the budget that was distributed tonight. Mr. Greeson acknowledged there being some in some areas. Staff could maybe speak to that when we go through the budget process. While the budget is not organized in that fashion, there are many items in the CIP that clearly improve the sustainability of Worthington. It may be helpful as we go through the budget process to tie it back to this document. Mr. Norstrom added especially if we are looking at measurements and baseline.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Mr. Greeson thanked Ms. O'Keeffe for her information. He then shared the following information:

- *Drug Safe Worthington has scheduled its third event in its Worthington Cares Speaker Series. The date is October 23rd and the presentation that night will be Operation Street Smart. He and Chief Strait have both seen this presentation.*

Mr. Greeson shared that he has attended the first two events. The last event in particular was very informative in terms of understanding the impacts of alcohol, drugs, bullying, and mental health issues in our community. We are making a concerted effort with our faith community, our school community, with law enforcement and other community organizations to bring these educational opportunities to our citizens. He encouraged everyone to attend as many of these events as possible.

Chief Strait reported the first two events as being very inspirational, but if you are looking for information on illegal narcotics (titles, names, current trends) then he thinks those in attendance will get an awakening by hearing these individuals speak. He worked with them undercover years ago and they are very knowledgeable. They teach around the country and they really have a pulse on what is going on and current trends. He would highly recommend that anyone, especially those who have middle schoolers or high schoolers attend this event so they can be aware of what is going on around the community. It will be a good program.

Mr. Greeson encouraged members to help get the word out for this event through their social media apps (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) because we want to build attendance.

When asked by Ms. Michael if these programs are being publicized through the neighborhood network, Mr. Greeson replied yes. He added that it is also being pushed out by the schools but you can't do enough to get people's attention.

- Two documents were distributed this evening (5 Year Capital Improvement Program and the 2018 Proposed Operating Budget).

Mr. Norstrom understands that the Speaker Series needs \$9,000. Mr. Greeson shared that Drug Safe Worthington is fundraising to fund the Speaker Series and the cost associated with bringing speakers. Chief Strait added that one of the largest outreach programs cost \$9,000. That would bring an instructor into our middle schools. They would derive statistics from students and then present that information to the middle schoolers' parents. The intent is to show them what is happening in their middle schools and give them some real life information. It is a little expensive but he thinks it would be inspirational and educational for the parents to have an idea of what is going on. They are also looking at one for the high schoolers although it is more expensive.

When asked by Ms. Michael how this is being funded, Mr. Greeson replied that Drug Safe Worthington is fundraising for it. He thinks there are some opportunities to close that gap. We are a partner as we gave Drug Safe Worthington a community grant last year as did the Community Relations Commission as well through their focus on mental health this year.

Mr. Norstrom believes this is so important to this community that we can guarantee that the \$9,000 will be there if not otherwise raised.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion that the City will guarantee the availability of \$9,000 for the aforementioned effort. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troper.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Greeson interpreted the motion as to continue fundraising but we would stand in. He and Mr. Bartter will have to ascertain how we do that.

Chief Strait thanked Council on behalf of Drug Safe Worthington.

Mr. Greeson requested an Executive Session for the purposes of pending litigation, and Board and Commission appointments.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Myers shared that Thursday there will be a preliminary plan brought forth by the Holiday Inn to MPC/ARB. There is also a discussion about a mural.

Mr. Troper asked a question about demolitions. Mr. Myers asked Mr. Brown how many demolitions in the Review District he has encountered since he has been with the City. Mr. Brown replied that this will be the second one.

Ms. Dorothy shared that the last meeting of the school facilities commission should be October 25th. She added that there will also be a reception for our visitors from our Sister City, Sayama on October 19th.

Ms. Michael shared that she was in Bexley for the COMMA (Central Ohio Mayors & Managers Association) meeting. Bexley is trying a new pilot program to have zero waste. If anybody is interested staff can get more information. Mr. Greeson added that they are partnering with SWACO and the vendor that is at our Farmers Market. Mr. Norstrom reported being very interested in such a program. He thinks we should move in that direction. Ms. Michael shared that it was very well done. Maybe we could have a presentation after we get through the budget process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commissions and Pending Litigation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

Council recessed at 8:07 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Mr. Troper made a motion to return to open session at 8:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
6th day of November, 2017.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President