



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes

December 4, 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, December 4, 2017, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of the Louis J.R. Goorey Municipal Building, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 PM

ROLL CALL

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

Member(s) Absent: Michael C. Troper

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

There were approximately forty-four visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Michael reported that the Pledge of Allegiance would not be repeated since it was recited during the Joint Meeting of City Council and the Sharon Township Trustees.

VISITOR COMMENTS

No visitor comments

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Resolution No. 71-2017

Expressing the Congratulations and Best Wishes of Worthington City Council to the Thomas Worthington High School Field Hockey Team for Winning the 2017 State Championship.

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 71-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 71-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Vice Mayor Lorrimer asked how it can be that a small suburban community in central Ohio can win Ohio State High Schools state team championships three year in succession, 2015, 2016, and 2017 in the most challenging and competitive Olympic sport of field hockey. Our Thomas Worthington girls' field hockey team has accomplished that remarkable and seldom achieved team goal this year. Their team championship competitive record was most impressive and decisive. In twenty one competitions in 2017 against the top teams in the state and out of state, this championship team scored one hundred seventeen goals against only six goals scores against them throughout the entire season. Most of the opposing teams were held scoreless. Throughout the state championship tournament finals, Thomas Worthington scored thirty two goals against just one for their opponents. This level of dominance has to be disconcerting to athletes on other teams. But the members of this championship team has learned an important life lesson that sport teaches and that is that you get back from all aspects of life in direct proportion of what you put in. They learned that the personal commitment, that the harder they train and work the more success they have as individuals and as a team. How is this record of state championship victories possible? The team has developed a highly systematized training program, which begins for the next year in December of this year.

Mr. Lorrimer went on to explain the training process in greater detail, which includes some of the girls teaching the sport to kindergarten and elementary school youngsters.

Mr. Lorrimer then recognized each athlete and shared something about each that included such things as grade in school, scholar athlete, team captain, years on the team, number of goals, awards, etc.

Mr. Lorrimer commented about what a truly fantastic group of young ladies they are and with many of them being there for three years as champion is a remarkable achievement. When we have teams winning like that then we know we have coaching staffs that are also championship caliber.

Mr. Lorrimer briefly recognized the four assistant coaches and shared a little about each. He then shared that the lady that Council has had the opportunity to recognize before as she has been here in 2007, 2011, and now for the third time in a row, and she is Head Coach Terri Simonetti-Frost. As she came forward he commented that this has been a great and unusual record. She admirably wins in central Ohio the Coach of the Year Award. She is surely running out of space on her home wall for the plaques that we happily provide her with each year. We hope and expect that we will see her and her team again next year. He presented Coach Simonetti-Frost with a certified copy of the Council resolution and a framed copy of the newspaper article.

Coach Simonetti-Frost thanked City Council for recognizing them again. She can't say enough. She is not standing here tonight solo. She cannot thank her coaching staff enough. She added that they invented the field hockey world with headphones. Her coaches wear headphones and relay information to her. They tried to use them three years ago and was told they couldn't because it wasn't a rule. They got it to become a rule and haven't lost a state championship yet while wearing them. She thanked her coaches because they do a great deal of running up and down the stadium steps. Their parents do all of the stuff behind the scene so she can focus on the "x's" and "o's" of coaching the team. They do so much and she can't thank them enough. She thanked the administration for all of their support. Lastly, she thanked her team. It is not easy when you have a target on your back. They literally do anything she asks them to do because they want to continue the legacy. They see the little kindergarteners who want to be them. These girls use to be them as she started the "Weed Wacker" program fifteen years ago. Those kids just want to be these guys and these guys want to leave that legacy for them so they will do anything. They are also great kids in school and in the community. They are so smart and incredibly intelligent and so willing to give. She thanked Council again for recognizing her team.

Mr. Lorrimer shared that we are honored to have TWHS Principal Pete Scully and Superintendent of the Worthington Schools Trent Bowers join in this recognition ceremony.

President Michael acknowledged the parents and thanked them for all they do. She added her congratulations on behalf of City Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Michael reported that Council seldom uses the Consent Agenda. Because of numerous routine items, Consent will be used tonight. She provided the following instructions:

Notice to the Public: There will be no separate discussion of Consent Agenda items as they are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be adopted by one motion. If a member of the City Council, staff, or public requests discussion on a particular item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

To address City Council regarding an item on Consent Agenda, please submit a fully completed speaker's slip to the Clerk of Council prior to the beginning of the meeting.

The Consent Agenda is comprised of the following items:

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of Regular Meeting - November 6, 2017,
- Minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting - November 13, 2017
- Minutes of Regular Meeting - November 20, 2017

Ordinance No. 42-2017 To Continue the Allocation of the Six Percent (6%) Hotel/Motel Tax as it Relates to the Operation of the Worthington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Ordinance No. 43-2017 Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with the Village of Riverlea for the Provision of Police Protection.

Ordinance No. 44-2017 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract Between the City of Columbus Board of Health and the City of Worthington for Health Services.

Ordinance No. 45-2017 Approving the City Manager's Appointment of the Franklin County Board of Health as the Provider of Plumbing Inspection Services in the City of Worthington.

Resolution No. 72-2017 Approving the 2018-2022 Capital Improvements Program for the City of Worthington

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Resolution No. 73-2017 Establishing the Compensation Plan, Assigning Compensation Levels for Positions in the Classified Service, Adopting Class Specifications, Providing for Normal Work Weeks, and Repealing Resolution No. 58-2016.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Resolution No. 74-2017 Amending the Staffing Chart of the City of Worthington to Reflect the Positions Authorized in the 2018 Operating Budget.

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

Resolution No. 75-2017 Approving the City Manager's Appointment of Donald W. Schofield as Alternate Chief Building Official and Alternate Master Plans Examiner for the Division of Building Regulation.

Introduced by Mr. Norstrom.

Resolution No. 76-2017 Adjusting the Annual Budget by Providing for a Transfer of Previously Appropriated Funds.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

Resolution No. 77-2017

Appointing Nick Linkenhoker as a Member to the Worthington Community Relations Commission

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Resolution No. 78-2017

Re-appointing Members to Various City Boards and Commissions

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

When asked if anyone wished to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda, Mr. Greeson requested Resolution No. 72-2017 be removed as it was inadvertently included.

The motion to approve the Consent Agenda (As Amended) was moved by Mr. Foust and seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

The clerk called the roll on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Foust, Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, and Michael

No 0

The legislation and minutes were thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record books.

Resolution No. 72-2017

Approving the 2018-2022 Capital Improvements Program for the City of Worthington

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

MOTION

Ms. Dorothy made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 72-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

Mr. Greeson acknowledged Worthington being an older community and largely built out. As such, we focus on redevelopment and maintenance of existing infrastructure so the Five Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is reflective of that with many projects that invest in our existing infrastructure. The CIP document was distributed on October 9th and reviewed during separate public meetings. Members are adopting our five year plan but most importantly by this adoption and subsequent appropriation legislation you are authorizing staff to move forward with work on the projects and purchases included in the 2018 fiscal year. This is essentially our roadmap for capital investment in the coming year specifically and then our planning document for the next five years. He added that this document is reviewed annually and adjustments are made in the five year plan.

Mr. Greeson shared the following highlights of the plan:

- *2018 – 2019 expenditures are higher than typical as it is driven by investment in a number of large projects*
 - *Significant HVAC improvements to the community center*
 - *A waterline project on East Wilson Bridge Road*
 - *The Northeast Gateway reconstruction*
 - *Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation associated with that project*
 - *The Kenyonbrook sewer project*
 - *A shared path project*

Mr. Greeson added that much of this is bond funded. Bond proceeds and reimbursement of license tax dollars from previous expenditures on road projects give us the revenue to accomplish a large number of projects in both 2018 and 2019. The five year program also invests heavily in the City Council's expressed priorities. Members had a conversation in July prior to the budget development process in which you expressed a series of priorities. Staff tried to accommodate those within the cash flow of the five year CIP. Those priorities included funding for parts of the Parks Master Plan that was adopted last year, investing in bicycle and pedestrian planning and improvements, investing in Wilson Bridge Road, evaluating waterlines and planning for future improvements to the aging waterlines in our community. We hope that we accomplish many of those in this five year CIP. As a staff we are extremely excited about the opportunity to make these investments in our community that are in this proposed plan and we believe that each of these investments will make long lasting positive impacts on our community.

Mr. Greeson offered a special thanks to the directors that contributed greatly to this planning and most specifically Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart and Finance Director Scott Bartter who put a great deal of time into this document.

Ms. Dorothy asked where the additional funding for new trees can be found. Mr. Greeson replied that it was included in the operating budget in the Parks Maintenance function of the Parks Department.

John Rist, 285 Bryant Ave.

Mr. Rist commented that in going through the CIP document he noticed a statement that said that the City's goal is to maintain a projected CIP fund balance at the end of each year approximately equal to the amount of the projected expenditures of that year. In the projected balance for the CIP that does not include debt proceeds or bonded expenditures that is over \$28M. So he went back and looked further into the document and it said that in 2008 the City amended its ordinance to reduce the General Fund transfer to the CIP from 20% to 13.6%. That was reversed in 2014 back to 20%. He asked if the funds that were diverted from the CIP (2008 – 2014) were ever repaid. Mr. Greeson replied no.

Mr. Rist then commented that upon further review of the five year CIP, approximately \$1.5M was spent on the Community Center. He asked if any effort has been made to get private donations or naming rights to offset these general funds. Mr. Greeson replied that

the answer to naming rights is no. There is a sponsorship policy that requires Council involvement and approval. We do regularly seek both donations and sponsorships of events to help offset costs or more importantly to help enhance the quality of the programming. Ms. Michael added that members spent a great deal of time reviewing a draft policy for donations and program sponsorship and things like that. It was a very hotly discussed policy that may need revisited at some point in time. Naming rights were not included in that policy.

Mr. Rist went back to there being \$28M sitting there in a fund balance without any clear direction of where those dollars are to go. He suggested looking at a different ordinance that maybe caps it at 50% then you could put that money back into infrastructure or debt payments.

Mr. Myers stated that he is confused as to where the \$28M is coming from. Mr. Rist directed him to the very last page of the CIP (balance without bonds, about \$5M a year over five years). Mr. Myers explained that we maintain the \$5.3M so that we can pay the next year's capital improvement with cash on hand before we collect the cash from tax or bonds. It is essentially an accounting thing so we can pay now. He is not aware of ever having \$28M dollars. He added that it doesn't add up.

Mr. Greeson explained that it is a carryover balance. It does not accumulate to have \$28M at the end of that five year period. Ms. Michael added that all but \$5M is spent at the end of each year.

Ms. Dorothy shared that the policy is to have 25% in our fund balance at a minimum to make sure we can pay everything and we look good to be able to get great ratings for lower interest rates. She told Mr. Rist that he is correct in that we have not back funded the CIP for improvements from when we took it for general operating funds. That is something that we have not looked into.

Ms. Michael explained in a little greater detail the rationale for the carryover policy.

Mr. Myers commented that this conversation is trying to give an explanation to ten years' worth of Council's work. The money was transferred from the capital budget to the operating fund so we could keep the doors open. It is just that simple. Then we created a reserve fund within the operating budget. When that reserve fund hit a certain amount it triggered another action. Eventually we came out of the recession and we were able to put that money back. That money was spent literally to put salt on the ground and to keep the lights going or we would have been laying people off. That was a process that began ten years ago so for members and staff to try to explain everything this Council has done for the last ten years is really a little difficult.

Ms. Dorothy thinks the point is that we have greater than 25% in the carryover. The whole process is how we spend that money. We obviously have operating expenses and then what do we do with capital expenses or one time. We do have excess of that 25% that we absolutely have to have, which grows greater in total dollars because our budget is always

greater. We are not questioning how we got here but rather questioning that excess although it is not as much as people think because we need to have that 25%.

Mr. Greeson reported that last year Council transferred \$600,000 out of the fund balance in the operating fund to the CIC for economic development purposes because we could financially afford to do that to pursue some economic development objectives. But he thinks it is the perspective of staff that the 25% be a floor and not a ceiling. Each year we increase our dependence on income tax, he thinks we are approaching 75%. Those who have lived through the times that Mr. Myers described know that it is very important for us to have cash reserves to manage in an environment where we are dependent on a volatile revenue stream. So that has been our fiscal strategy and we recommend that we maintain that fiscal strategy view of 25% as a minimum but evaluate periodically whether we can afford to invest in strategic priorities out of the fund balance.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 72-2017 carried unanimously by a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

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

Ordinance No. 41-2017

Providing for the Adoption of the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2018 and Appropriating Sums for Current Operating Expenses.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

President Michael read the following budget totals into the records.

Total General Government	\$ 7,155,412
Total Division of Police	\$ 6,102,394
Total Department of Public Service and Engineering	\$ 2,679,805
Total Department of Parks & Recreation	\$ 4,893,144
Total Department of Planning & Building	\$ 777,207
Sub-Total General Fund	\$21,607,962
Total Division of Fire	\$ 6,786,355
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$28,394,317
Total Street Maintenance & Repair Fund	\$ 901,832
Total State Highway Fund	\$ 145,647
Total Water Distribution Fund	\$ 117,023
Total Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 80,523
Total Police Pension Fund	\$ 625,000

Law Enforcement Trust	\$ 12,500
MMVLT Fund	\$ 150,000
Education Supplies	\$ 3,500
Court Clerk Computer Supplies	\$ 93,700
Economic Development Efforts	\$ 463,000
Law Enforcement Continuing Education Fund	\$ 7,480
Total Revolving Funds	\$ 1,096,564
Special Parks Fund	\$ -0-
Capital Improvements Fund	\$ 1,592,511
General Bond Retirement Debt Service	\$ 1,092,013
O.B.B.S. Surcharge	\$ 7,500
Worthington Station Municipal Public Improvement TIF	\$ 130,000
Worthington Place (The Heights) TIF	\$ 189,000
933 High Street TIF	\$ 19,000

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to insert the follow totals into Ordinance No. 41-2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norstrom.

John Rist, 285 Bryant Ave.

Mr. Rist shared that as of the October financial report that the Finance Director shared with him income tax revenues are up 9.2%. By the end of the year it is estimated that you will be up almost another \$2,000,000. At the same time expenditures are 8.5% below forecast. Getting back to the 25% policy, it is estimated you will end this year with \$5.4M above that policy. He went through each year for the next five years above that 25% policy, that total \$24.5M over the six years including this year and the next five years. In the forecast for 2018-2022 the income tax revenue is at a total growing by \$1.7M. Total general fund revenue is growing by \$2.2M and expenditures in the general fund is forecasted at 10.9%. So you have \$24.5M forecasted above the 25% policy by the end of the five years. He suggested that you amend the ordinance to say that it is capped at 30% instead of 25% and any amount above the cap would be \$10.6M that you could transfer to the CIP over five years.

Mr. Norstrom agreed that members should take it under consideration.

Mr. Smith commented that if he remembers from a couple of years ago when we reverted back to the 25% ordinance that was a several month process doing some tracking on the numbers and that type of thing. If Mr. Rist is correct and projections go as planned, he asked if it would be reasonable to say that by mid-2018 members would have some indication if those numbers would be accurate. Mr. Bartter stated that the five year forecast is the document that Mr. Rist is referencing. We will have definitive numbers for

2017 by January 2018. He doesn't know what else members would want in addition to that to make the change to the general reserve carryover policy which was at 15% and is now at 25%. After we close out the year we will have final numbers for 2017.

Mr. Smith commented that thinking about tracking 2017 and 2018. He knows that occasionally staff provides updates as to how things are coming in versus going out. He remembers that being around summertime. Mr. Greeson reported that staff closes the year out and produces the financial trends document, which has a multitude of years. We could talk about this issue any time.

Mr. Myers shared that he is so glad that Dr. Chosy is not here to hear this discussion.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Foust, and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 46-2017

Establishing Compensation for Certain Unclassified Positions of the Municipal Service for the Period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and Adopting Class Specifications for Said Unclassified Positions.

President Michael shared that in the package was an amended ordinance. She asked for a motion to amend salaries as presented in that ordinance.

MOTION

Mr. Smith made a motion to insert the salaries as presented in Ordinance No. 46-2017 (As Amended). The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 46-2017 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 6 Norstrom, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Foust, and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 46-2017 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Ordinance No. 47-2017

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for Appropriations From the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of the 2018 New and Replacement Equipment Items and for Certain Projects as Identified in the 2018 Five-Year Capital Improvements Program and all Related Expenses and Determining to Proceed with said Projects.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

Mr. Greeson requested that the public hearing on Ordinance No. 47-2017 be set for the next meeting, December 11, 2017.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Information Item(s)

Mr. Greeson shared the following items:

- December 5th Open House – OSU Airport Master Plan. Ms. Stewart will attend on behalf of staff.

Mr. Norstrom shared that he is a member of the Community Outreach Committee. He encouraged anyone interested in filling his spot to let staff know.

- Family Mentor Foundation Report was received and copies were distributed at member's places.
- Letter to withdraw the appeal for the mural has been received. The Council will need to accept the withdrawal of the appeal that is set for public hearing next Monday, December 11th. Staff has to procedurally notify the neighbors that is occurring.
- Congratulations to Chief Scott Highley who announced his retirement as of January 1, 2018. Assistant Chief John Bailot will become the new Chief on January 2, 2018.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mrs. Thress reminded Council candidates that they need to file a copy of their Ohio Campaign Finance Report with her by December 15, 2017 or they will not be able to take office in January.

Mr. Smith reported that he sent an e-mailed with a survey link to members, which is due December 9th.

Ms. Dorothy shared that she attended the Holiday Open House event. She reported it being spectacular and thanked all staff members involved. Ms. Michael reported that she also attended the event. She would like to meet with Mr. Hurley to share some ideas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commissions and Employment & Discipline of Public Employees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Yes 6 Dorothy, Smith, Myers, Foust, Norstrom, and Michael

No 0

Council recessed at 8:31 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Mr. Norstrom made a motion to return to open session at 8:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
2nd day of January, 2018.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President