



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes

January 8, 2018

6550 N. High Street
Worthington, Ohio
43085

CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

Worthington City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, January 8, 2018, 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, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers, David Robinson, Douglas K. Smith, and Bonnie D. Michael

Member(s) Absent:

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 John Bailot, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police Jerry Strait, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

There were thirty four visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Michael invited all to stand and join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

VISITOR COMMENTS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Oath of Office – Fire Chief John Bailot

Mr. Greeson shared that it is one of his favorite things to do and maybe one of his most important things, this is to give well deserving public servants new and greater opportunities to lead in our community. With that in mind it is his honor to administer the oath of office to John Bailot who has recently been promoted from Assistant Chief to Deputy Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief. He invited Chief Bailot and his wife to join

him at the podium. Chief Bailot invited the members of his team who were in attendance to stand with him.

Mr. Greeson administered the oath of office and congratulated Chief Bailot. He gave Mrs. Bailot the Chief badge and invited her to pin it on her husband.

Chief Bailot told Council that he is happy to be here and honored to be their Fire Chief. He told Mr. Greeson he is humbled. He thanked him for the opportunity and for his confidence in him to lead the Division of Fire/EMS into the next era. To fellow directors, he shared that he looks forward to being an active staff member, a member of the team and working alongside each of them. To the members of the Fire Division/EMS, he shared that they have a great future ahead and they will continue to reach the next level of the quality of service they provide their community. He is honored and grateful to be their fire chief and he looks forward to their journey together. Working with such devoted and highly skills professionals will make his job easier as they move forward. His hat is off to each of them for the great job they do. To his wife and his family, he thanks them for their support and for always being at his side. If technology works, they are live streaming back to their two daughters and his mother in St. Louis.

President Michael congratulated Chief Bailot. Council is honored to have him as its Chief.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

Policy Item(s)

Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Barter presented the December 2017 Financial Report - Highlights are as follows:

- Fund balances for all funds increased from \$23,225,624 on January 1, 2017 to \$26,697,378 as of December 31, 2017.
- The General Fund balance increased from \$11,628,193 as of January 1, 2017 to \$13,491,664 as of December 31, 2017.
- Expenditures across all funds are tracking at 89.47% of appropriations.
- General Fund expenditures are tracking at about 90.15% of appropriations.
- Year to date income tax collections are above 2016 income tax collections by \$1,374,227 or 5.52% as of December 31, 2017.

At Mr. Bartter's invitation, Mr. Robinson asked how and why the General Funds is 5% above last year and why are they above the estimate. Mr. Bartter replied that we attribute our income taxes being above estimates because of economic development that

has occurred such as the expansion of MedVet, the businesses that have gone into the 350 E. Wilson Bridge Rd. building and the success of Worthington Industries.

Mr. Bartter requested a motion to accept the December financial report.

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to accept the December 2017 Monthly Financial Reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Discussion Item(s)

2018 Grant Program for Community Groups

Mr. Greeson shared that most recently Council has separated the McConnell Arts Center, the Worthington Historical Society, and the Old Worthington Partnership from the other community groups and presented it separately as part of the budget process. An application process was established for considering smaller grants allocated for a variety of not-for-profits that serve different needs in our community. Staff would like to get the grant applications and materials distributed to those local community groups so they can apply for funding. Many of these groups have come to rely on these grants year after year to help fund some of their programmatic activities. We are asking members to review the priorities expressed and the criteria that has been established, outline any changes that may be desired so that we may communicate those effectively. Over the last several years we have had a sub-committee that included two council members, review these applications and make recommendations for funding to the City Council. If members would like to maintain the makeup of the group and appoint two council members we would like to know who those two would be and any comments you would have on the structure of the group we would welcome as well. He invited Ms. Stewart to review criteria in the document.

Ms. Stewart reported that application materials were included in agenda packets. Members can review the City's approach to the grant program last year and then determine if the program should be approached in the same manner this year. If yes, then more specifically, do you want the same priorities for funding as were noted in 2017? Additionally, is there any desire to change the form or the process (review and scoring)? Staff is seeking direction from City Council as to whether to proceed in a similar manner as in 2017 or whether to make changes to this program.

When asked by Ms. Michael if members want to continue to fund community groups, no one spoke out in opposition.

Mr. Smith reported that he served on the subcommittee last year. He thinks the process was fair and the matrix was also helpful. He believes each member of the committee used their own discretion to determine what values they applied based on the very subjective applications that were submitted. The only thing he would change is the request for the

applicants to submit their most recent financials including IRS filings, audit, etc. For those groups that have already submitted in recent years he thinks that might be a little more burdensome than we want to put on these groups. He suggested that if applications have been submitted within the last three years then that financial information would not be required. He would probably defer to our legal counsel on that as well.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked if members receive reports at the end of the year that includes the number of people who were actually served and whether all of the money has been spent. Ms. Stewart replied yes. She shared that interim reports were received from the groups in September at the beginning of our budget process. She plans to reach out to the groups that were funded in 2017 within the next couple of days for their year-end information.

In addressing Mr. Smith's suggestion, Ms. Stewart stated that the finance department usually requests the additional financial information. It is possible that it is a charter requirement or a codified ordinance requirement that financial reports need to be submitted by the groups but staff will check into that question.

When asked by Ms. Kowalczyk if they spend all of the money on an annual basis, Ms. Stewart replied yes. She shared that the funds requested in 2017 exceeded the amount of City funding that was available. As of September the groups were all in the process of utilizing those funds that were provided. She is not expecting any to be returned to the City but we will verify that they fully utilize those funds with this reporting. Ms. Michael noted that a number of the organizations were funded for less than the amount requested.

Mr. Myers shared that this exercise used to be very simple as Council just gave the people whatever they asked for the year before and it was the same groups over and over again. We re-evaluated that process and he wants to make certain we haven't made the process too cumbersome.

Mr. Smith reported the process as being pretty straight forward. The subcommittee met once. Before we met we individually gathered our thoughts and scored the information on a matrix. We then came together and added the numbers up and divvied out the money. Mr. Foust was also a member and could speak to that as well.

Mr. Foust reported that he has actually served on that subcommittee two years in a row. He doesn't think the process is too cumbersome at all. He thinks we have taken some modest steps to be a little more on point. To Ms. Kowalczyk's question about what is actually being accomplished here, he thinks the process is nice. He is comfortable where it is. He recommends that members pick up the process exactly where it was last year and do it again.

When asked by Ms. Michael if members wanted to continue with the same priorities, no changes were suggested.

Mr. Myers stated that he is comfortable with the established priorities.

When asked by Ms. Michael what members wanted to do about the subcommittee, Ms. Kowalczyk stated that she would be happy to serve on the committee. It seems like the make-up of the committee makes sense if it has worked in the past.

Mr. Myers suggested that Mr. Foust drop off the committee this year and another Council member rotate through on a two year basis. That way we have Mr. Smith as a senior person and a new person who may have some fresh ideas. Mr. Foust and others liked the suggestion.

When asked by Mr. Greeson if the remainder of the committee structure works for Council, members agreed that it did.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to appoint Mr. Smith and Ms. Kowalczyk to the Grant Funding Committee and the funding matter be referred to committee with a report back to Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Department Updates

Mr. Greeson shared that he would provide a sort of City Manager's Report and update on a variety of issues. He will also invite Department Directors to weigh in on a number of the items being highlighted.

Service and Engineering

Mr. Greeson reported that staff wants to forecast a number of items that will come before Council in the near future.

- Finalizing aesthetics on the Northeast Gateway project. That item will need Council feedback and approval as it will be part of the bid specifications for the construction of the work.

Mr. Whited reported on the following projects.

- North Street Sewer Project – currently underway.

Mr. Whited shared that the construction had gone relatively well until some construction issues with the trenches falling in and big rocks in the trenches slowed things down. The weather has also slowed things down on and off. The plan is to start up again tomorrow with the hope of the project being completed in six to eight weeks. Then the site will be cleaned up and the area rehabilitated. There will probably be some pavement that will occur in the spring when the weather clears. In general, we are progressing pretty well and should be out of there relatively soon.

- North District Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES)

Mr. Whited stated this study is underway with EMH&T who has installed monitoring devices in our sewers to evaluate the impact of flow at different periods of time. The precipitation and the melt and those sorts of things have been helpful in that regard as well as dry weather so we can see how the sewers react in different conditions. They will keep the monitors in there for a period of time and then take the information and calibrate a hydraulic computer model that will allow us to look at the system to see where surcharging occurs or could occur. We intend to mitigate those with our design in the future in the areas that need to be addressed. That will also include some monitoring on the west side in the industrial area as well to get an indication of how that sewer is responding.

- Kenyonbrook Phase II Sewer (begins north of the siphon at the cemetery over toward the west and just crosses under High St.)

Mr. Whited reported this is about 80% designed. Final review of preliminary plans has occurred and have been supplied to the designer. We anticipate receiving final plans from them shortly which may require a little bit more review but they should be completed by February. We will then come to Council with a request to take that out to bid. There will be some easement acquisition involved with that project. In-depth discussions have already occurred with the one primary landowner. That will forward into some design of the sewer further to the west up through Kenyonbrook, which will be a very complicated and intrusive project. Members will be updated once that goes for design as it will require some easements in areas where there currently are none as well as some re-routing of sewers that happen to be under homes. So we are going to try to fix that. It will be a very interested, useful project but somewhat complicated.

Mr. Greeson shared that one of the reasons that we wanted to highlight these is because two of the items, the Northeast Gateway aesthetics and bidding the Kenyonbrook Sewer design are going to be coming to council in the first quarter. Mr. Whited is also working on a number of our sustainability and energy efficiency efforts. We wanted to let you know that ABM, who is the consultant that Council selected for our energy conservation measure effort has been doing their work.

Ms. Dorothy asked if we have been keeping the neighborhoods up to date on the progress of this effort. Mr. Whited report that staff has been attempting to do that on Facebook. They have been answering calls as they come it. They haven't gone through and knocked on doors although they did do that at the beginning of the project.

Mr. Whited shared that ABM has gone through several buildings (Community Center and eleven other buildings) and is evaluating and benchmarking the use of energy in those buildings so that we can identify how much energy is being used and determine how much opportunity there is for savings. He and staff are meeting with them next week to go over their report and get an idea of what their guaranteed savings will be on the community center and what help they may be able to provide on other buildings. This effort is also being done in conjunction with some work through MORPC's energy project. This will

result not just in energy savings but also operational savings and in identifying opportunities to have continued savings over time in the arena of energy with lighting, HVAC and other power uses.

Police Division

Mr. Greeson reported that Drug Safe Worthington was successful in obtaining \$7,600 from the Franklin County Prosecutors office (drug forfeiture money) to help support the Worthington Care Speaker Series that is aimed at reducing alcohol and drug abuse, bullying and providing education to our community on those subjects. He thanked Chief Strait for making that request to the Prosecutors office and for organizing a media event. He added that the group will have a strategic planning conversation later this month to discuss how we move the Worthington Care Speaker Series forward with that funding and hopefully some other dollars that we will learn about soon.

Mr. Greeson commented that members are aware of some concerns about break-ins in neighborhoods recently. That has been a major focus of the police division and it is an effort that they are working on extensively. Chief Strait has provided information to groups and shared on Facebook. Staff would be glad to answer any questions members may have.

Ms. Michael thanked the Police Dept. for the great job they did in finding the 82 year old woman that night. Chief Strait also thanked the Division of Fire who came out and provided support as did the Columbus Division of Police with their helicopter and Franklin County Sheriff's Department who brought K-9s our way. It was a coordinated effort and many players deserve the thanks as well.

Parks and Recreation

Mr. Greeson understands that some members of Council had the opportunity to participate in our Bike and Pedestrian Board's retreat last weekend. He thanked members as well as the Vice Chair of that group, Mr. Bates for the time they spent doing bike and pedestrian planning for the City of Worthington. He noted that LimeBike was mentioned by staff a few meetings back which is a dockless bike sharing system. They will be presenting to the Bike and Pedestrian Board on January 22nd if anyone is interested in that topic. Mr. Greeson added that staff will begin working with MORPC before long on a complete streets policy.

Mr. Greeson invited Mr. Hurley to share capital and planning efforts for his department.

Going back to the Bike and Ped planning session, Mr. Hurley shared that it was created to set goals for the upcoming year. We will be planning to not only hear the LimeBike presentation at the January meeting but we also expect to begin our Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, which members heard about in their presentation last year. It will likely come to Council for both funding and for the consultant that would eventually get recommended. They will provide Council with an update on everything once established.

Projects Notes:

- Planning on Olentangy Parklands Restroom Facility – priority from Master Plan
- Convert tennis courts to pickleball courts in the Olentangy Parklands. There will be six new courts
- Godown Dog Park parking addition substantially complete, just punch list items remaining. Added 33 spaces to the existing 48. Total cost expected to come in around \$208,000. WOOF provided \$30,087, City of Columbus the rest.
- Community Center HVAC Project is underway with ABM working regularly in the facility to gather data and formulate a proposal.
- Community Center South End Roof project will kick off with K&W Roofing as soon as the weather allows.

McCord Park Master Planning

- Mr. Greeson distributed a memo providing a full update
- Staff working to encourage dialogue between all parties regarding the Community Garden
- Engaged POD Design, the consultant on the project, to request assistance drafting alternative park layouts.
- POD will also host some sessions with gardeners to help illustrate how the desired amenities interact in the tight space and to brainstorm solutions.
- Anticipate spending 3-4 weeks having those meetings and conversations before reassessing where we are and what the next steps will be.

Mr. Greeson shared that Council allocated funding in the capital improvements program for renovations at McCord Park. We are also consistent with the authorization members provided last year. A capital bill request was submitted to our legislators to help fund renovations of that park as well.

Ms. Michael recalls that being a \$1,000,000 request. Mr. Greeson agreed. Mr. Hurley added that there is a great deal of excitement among youth boosters and others. We are getting a lot of good feedback in general with the park getting some attention and an upgrade. The walking path and some of the other amenities are getting some good feedback so we are anxious to get the issues worked out and get that process moving.

Programming Notes

- Community Center will be providing an iceless ice rink like the one used at the holiday open house event on January 15 – MLK Jr. Day at the Community Center in the north parking lot. 11 am to 7 pm. Admission will be free thanks to a sponsorship by Blaze Pizza. The rink is provided by Super Games.
- FC Bank has agreed to sponsor our entire 2018 Summer Concert Series to \$15,000. It is the first time we have had a full series sponsor. Our typical individual concert sponsorship is \$1,500.

- Griswold Center has a soup program on Friday's at noon. A great way to check in on the Griswold and meet some of the users. Let Colleen Light or me know if you would like to attend or just stop by.

Mr. Robinson commented that if it is not already planned, he asked if it would be possible that one of the options that POD would illustrate include the retention of the community garden in its current footprint. Mr. Hurley replied that it is one of the options being looked at. We are looking at Plan "B"s if the garden were to stay then what is the best way to fit in the other desires of the Parks Commission and some of the ideas that they had. Then the flip side is if the garden were to have to move or change its shape or size a little bit, what would be the next best alternative on that site.

Mr. Robinson asked if a tennis court is converted to a pickleball court, is it either/or, or do you just repaint it so it can be used for both sports on the same court. Mr. Hurley explained that to make it a permanent pickleball court posts and nets need to be installed so it becomes only pickleball. Currently, we keep the tennis court nets up and that works if you have temporary pickleball because pickleball is much smaller and fits on one side of the net or the other. This will allow those users to quit dragging their nets and bags and equipment out there to set up every time they wish to play. The lines are there but they have to bring their own nets. This establishes full blown pickleball courts. Through an experiment last summer in programming and lessons and general play we think we have adequate tennis facilities for the rest of the community.

When asked by Mr. Robinson how many pickleball courts will be constructed, Mr. Hurley replied that two tennis courts equate to six pickleball courts, although it is tight.

Planning and Building

Mr. Greeson and Mr. Brown shared the following:

- Kemper House – Council introduced legislation and set the public hearing for January 16th for the rezoning of property at Proprietors and SR-161. If members have any questions in advance of that hearing, please let us know.
- Holiday Inn – They continues to work on storm water evaluation, traffic evaluation and some revisions to their architectural plan. Staff hopes to see those in the next couple of weeks.
- Wayfinding – Phase II is out for bid. The hope is to have installation begin in March and April. The work will include street signs in Old Worthington and the Gateway into Worthington at Indianola.

Ms. Michael shared that several business owners have mentioned a need for a directional sign on New England Ave. to the public parking lot at the Methodist Church. She wondered if one could be added to assist with that effort. Mr. Brown stated that staff could look at that as a future phase. He recalls when the consultants originally sat down three years ago one of the reasons for not having a sign was because it was an access drive that runs

across private property. At that time staff didn't want to direct traffic in that manner. Now that we will have a ten year easement there we will explore it as a future phase.

Mr. Robinson reported being a little confused and asked for clarification on the work being "out for bid". He would think for the wayfinding signs we would have committed ourselves to a specific aesthetic look and design signs that would be produced by a company. He asked if we are not already committed to a specific supplier. Mr. Brown explained projects that are under \$50,000 are not required to be sent out for bid. Once those projects exceed \$50,000, then we have to send it out for bid. Phase II is Old Worthington and the jurisdictional sign into Colonial Hills. Phase III and IV were increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for our parks. Since those would be over the \$50,000 threshold they will have to be sent out for bid. We hope the same company that we have built a relationship with will apply and be the best bid. The design is ready and the signs are ready to go. It is the actual construction and installation of the signs that depend on the threshold.

- RFP for the work management software is being worked on. This will allow for online application submittals. He hopes to be able to update members with more details in the future.

Mr. Brown added that Gene Oliver (IT Director) has been a great addition and has helped significantly.

Ms. Dorothy shared that she uses management software in the real world with many municipalities. Our staff is phenomenal with reviewing plans but it will be helpful for not only the consultants who are developing the plans but also for our staff to resolve issues more quickly.

Mr. Greeson commented that Mr. Robinson's question earlier about why our income tax is doing well and Mr. Bartter's answer was all related to business growth. With 75% of our budget coming from income tax, every office building becomes important. Staff is very interested in and excited about the Economic Development opportunities for the property located at 6740 N. High St. (Anthem Building). That property was acquired recently by Worthington 17 LLC and will be managed by Lawyers Development Corp. Both of those entities are wholly owned by Robert Meyers. Members have noticed that work to remove overgrown and dying landscape including all of the large trees that were visible along High Street has begun. That was the surest sign to us that they had closed on the property prior to the end of the year. Fortunately Mr. Brown and one of the City's arborist had worked with their arborist in advance and walked the entire site. Much of the vegetation had health and age issues and was at the end of its expected life span. Staff is expecting a robust planting plan to be submitted as part of the project. We are mostly excited about their anticipation of an extensive renovation of that building. It will be a significant investment to bring it up to class "A" standards. We have observed a number of commercial buildings that Lawyers Development Corp. has acquired in central Ohio since 2010 and we like what we see. Some examples include NiSource at 1600 Dublin Rd. in Marble Cliff, the LeVeque Tower, the former Columbia Gas headquarters at 200 Civic Center Dr. where Baker & Hostetler who provide services to us is located and Bicentennial

Plaza at 250 Civic Center Dr. They have a strong track record of not tearing down buildings but rather significantly renovating them to reposition them in the market place. He added that all of those buildings have large notable tenants in them. So we are excited about the potential to attract some really good businesses into our community in addition to Anthem and about some beautiful new vegetation in the front of that building. Stay tuned and when staff has more information we will provide it to you.

Mr. Greeson added that a project web page is to be created this week with our other development projects and as project plans come forward to Planning and Building, we will post them on that section.

When asked by Mr. Foust if the City had any update on the status of Anthem, Mr. Greeson replied not that he is prepared to mention at this point. Staff is in active conversations with them as well as Lawyers Development Corp.

Mr. Robinson commented that it sounds like great news as far as he can tell. His only question or critique would be whether there would be a way to put out a public statement earlier in the process as opposed to 10 days or two weeks after. Mr. Greeson replied yes. We wanted to work with them to do that and we certainly wanted to verify that they had actually closed on the property. He acknowledged that more, faster communications is always better than less.

Mr. Greeson shared that Mr. Bartter will distribute in the coming weeks an updated investment policy and a debt policy that his staff and some of our consultants have been working on. We would like Council's questions and feedback on those drafts and then we would schedule them for adoption. We believe that these are best practices and it is time to update our investment policy and to adopt a debt policy, particularly since we have a great deal of debt contemplated with our Capital Improvements Program. Updated policies will also position us well with our rating agencies.

Information Item(s)

Mr. Greeson shared the following items:

- 1) Community Relations Commission will host our annual MLK celebration on Monday, January 15th at 11:00 a.m.
- 2) Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Groundhog Day event – February 2nd beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Brookside Country Club. Jim Schimmer, Director of Planning and Economic Development for Franklin County will be the featured speaker.
- 3) Hope to wrap up a recommendation to Council on the creation of the mural task force next week.
- 4) Request an executive session to discuss pending litigation and appointment of City officials.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Smith shared that he saw the presentation by Mr. Gibbs from the Historical Society and he would recommend it.

Ms. Dorothy thanked the Bike and Ped Committee for being able to attend their planning session. She knows that many are excited about different things going on bike and ped. They did have a resident bring up a crossing at New England and High St. She sent out some information to members to see if we can improve that crosswalk just by changing the timing on the lights by a couple of seconds. But there are many things going on with Bike and Ped.

Ms. Michael shared that members are beginning to meet with the consultants for their retreat. She thinks they will have a fruitful event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and appointment of City officials. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Yes 7 Robinson, Foust, Smith, Myers, Kowalczyk, Dorothy, and Michael
No 0

Council recessed at 8:28 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to return to open session at 9:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
5th day of February, 2018.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President