



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes
February 5, 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, February 5, 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, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Fire & EMS John Bailot, Chief of Police Jerry Strait, Clerk of Council D. Kay Thress

There were seven visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

Michael Bates, 6560 Evening St.

Mr. Bates read the attached narrative (Attachment A) on behalf of The Worthington Alliance for Responsible Development (WARD).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Neighborhood Bridges

Ms. Kowalczyk welcomed Mr. Banister and thanked him for coming to share his Neighborhood Bridges efforts with City Council.

Rick Banister shared that he is the CEO and chief believer in Neighborhood Bridges. He is a forty-four year resident of Westerville who has been very involved in the schools and City initiatives. Much of what he has learned in life is by being a parent of four daughters, three of which are grown and college graduates and then Riley who is an eighth grader. All are products of the Westerville school system. As their girls were going through the schools, he and his wife started to observe the tremendous diversity and the incredible number of needs that exists in the Westerville school community. Through those observations he came up with this idea a few years ago. Usually in a community, especially one like Worthington or Westerville or Dublin, if we put our hand out and ask for a little help, people will come forward to help. They want to help but often times they just want and need to know how. So he developed the idea of Neighborhood Bridges. It is a 501(c)3 organization that is headquartered in Westerville and is just over a year old. Their mission is to:

Providing a gateway for kindness...



Truths driving neighborhood bridges

1. There are real, unmet needs in most suburban communities
2. There is an ample supply of kindness and resources to help fill those needs

Mr. Banister shared that people around central Ohio are proving that there is an ample supply of kindness and resources to help those in need. He added that people in poverty in suburban America is the fastest growing sector of poverty in the United State. As of last year when this testimony was given, there are more people living in suburban America under the poverty level than there are in urban centers. It is dramatic. So this is kind of the underpinnings of Neighborhood Bridges.

Their organization is all about involving the community. They put all key stakeholders, resources, businesses, and families on a bridge and then take advantage of what everybody does well. It is about efficiency and kindness.

Where is neighborhood bridges

So how are we doing? By broadening into other communities we can knit ourselves together to form what he calls the Circle of Kindness. Worthington is the most recent addition that now totals 347,438 residents.

| <u>Current</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Westerville City Schools | 101,878 |
| Gahanna Jefferson Schools | 48,278 |
| Grove City | 48,210 |
| Dublin City Schools | 84,463 |
| Worthington Schools | 64,609 |
| Total population served | 347,438 |



Mr. Banister added that this effort targets suburban areas in central Ohio and those areas in need because that is where they can make a difference with seniors, kids and in families. Since their launch, they have provided direct support to over 2,000 children and families. The lion share of that support is in Westerville since expansion only began during the fourth quarter of 2017. He is convinced that this year's Neighborhood Bridges will provide direct support of kindness to 10,000 children and families in our suburban communities. He believes in letting each community develop its own model because they know the needs and the key stakeholders. He reported that Ray Lees is the Worthington Area Director and is working hand in hand with him. He is excited about the team that Mr. Lees has put together and asked him to comment.

Mr. Lees introduced himself as being a resident of Worthington for many years with eight children in the school district. Since he and his family have benefitted from the kindness of others in this community so he felt compelled to get involved with this organization. He shared the following information:

Worthington Bridges

Ray Lees, Area Director

Steering Committee

- Nikki Hudson, Member, Worthington City Schools Board of Education
- Jennifer Fralic, Worthington Resource Pantry
- Lynn Nadler, Keller Williams LaBuda Advantage Team
- Rich Hagopian, Smoky Row Brethren Church
- Jerry Strait, Chief of Police, City of Worthington
- Stephanie Fry, Partners for Community and Character

- Rebecca Billingslea, Partners for Community and Character
- Lesley Cross, Owner, Bridges Counseling of Worthington
- Beth Kowalczyk, Member, Worthington City Council
- Natalie Fei, Counselor, Worthingway Middle School, Worthington City Schools
- Barton Hacker, Leadership Worthington
- Kathy McClintock, Leadership Worthington
- Janet Blocher, Worthington Resource Pantry
- Kari Vernon, Executive Director, Family Mentor Foundation

How does Worthington Bridges work?

- Engage the community (526 followers on Facebook)
- Identify needs through advocates
- Protect the privacy of those receiving kindness
- Foster ANY neighborly act
 - clothing - food - beds/furniture - household items - supplies - activity fees - scholarships - professional services - volunteers to support other service organizations - tutoring - reading assistance - snow removal - lawn care
- We will BRIDGE needs to existing organizations who are well suited to provide assistance
- An advocate enters a need
- Director posts the request
- Subscribers offer kindness
- Director delivers item(s) to advocate

Mr. Lee stated that he is here tonight to ask for Council's help in the following manners:

How you can help?

- Subscribe to our website (worthingtonbridges.org)
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram
- Donate
- Share with others

Mr. Lees ended his presentation with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. – Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

Ms. Kowalczyk expressed her appreciation to Mr. Lees for engaging in this endeavor. She is excited about the collecting and sharing of data that includes demographics and types of needs in the community.

Ms. Michael thought it was wonderful how the group collected graduation gowns for students to borrow so they could attend their graduation. Mr. Banister reported that sixty students were able to utilize that service.

In response to Chief Strait's question about partnerships that have been established, Mr. Banister reported that they have already brought several corporate partners on board. Status Solutions LLC is a software development company in Westerville. Their CEO heard him talk about this project and they have come on as a sponsor. Not only are they developing new technology to make the process for our communities more efficient but they have also pledged between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in cash to support Neighborhood Bridges over the next five years.

Two Men and a Truck are another corporate sponsor. They are headquartered in Westerville and after hearing about our cause, thought it was wonderful enough to donate two full days a month to us for pick-up and delivery of goods. They donated over \$12,000 in services in 2017. That number could double in 2018. The community of Worthington will benefit from this as will other communities. He likes seeing area directors supporting and assisting each other.

Mr. Greeson shared that this item was added to the agenda to not only get exposure but also because we talked about having some city locations as drop off sites.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – January 8, 2018
- Regular Meeting – January 16, 2018

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk moved to approve the aforementioned meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

The motion to approve the minutes as presented 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. 03-2018

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvement Fund Unappropriated Balance in the Amount of \$86,000.00 to Provide for Funds for the Payment of Lease Obligations.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson reported that the Capital Improvements Program typically includes a number of projects and capital equipment purchases. Some we pay cash for, some we issue debt and more recently we will lease certain types of equipment when it makes sense to do so. This legislation appropriates money to pay for the leased items.

When asked by Ms. Dorothy what equipment is being leased, Mr. Whited reported it being a street sweeper and a loader. While the street sweeper is used often, the loader is needed for loading salt and things like repairing catch basins and relocating fire hydrants. It is not an everyday item but when we need it, we need it.

When asked by Mr. Foust about the life of the previous street sweeper, Mr. Bartter reported that it was kept for about ten years. He thinks the idea with this sweeper is that we will lease it for five years, at which time we will own it. While it will still have some value, the plan is to turn it in and lease a new one. That way we will constantly be under warranty for the maintenance.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 03-2018. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 7 Robinson, Kowalczyk, Foust, Dorothy, Smith, Myers, and Michael

No 0

Ordinance No. 03-2018 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Ordinance No. 04-2018

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of the Fleet Garage Floor Drain System and Lift and to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 672-18)

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Ordinance No. 05-2018

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Capital Improvements Fund Unappropriated Balance to Pay the Cost of the Fuel Dispensing System & Tank Farm Replacement and to Proceed with said Project. (Project No. 673-18)

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

Ordinance No. 06-2018

To Amend Part Seventeen – Title Two of the Codified Ordinances of the City Regarding Municipal Income Tax and to Reserve the Right to Challenge the Constitutionality of the Provisions of H.B. 49 that Purport to Mandate Certain Amendments.

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

President Michael shared that the public hearing for this item will be February 20th. She asked if there was any problem with that date because of the court case by numerous municipalities that are challenging H.B. 49. Mr. Lindsay replied no although it will depend on what we hear from the court.

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)

- Liquor Permit – SRI Ganesh LLC (TREX)

Mr. Greeson reported this being the notice from Liquor Control on a TREX. Members may recall a previous conversation where as part of the process members have an opportunity to object. Since Council approved this as an economic development effort, we have no reason to object.

When asked by Ms. Michael is there was any reason to request a hearing on this permit request, Chief Strait replied no.

MOTION Mr. Robinson made a motion to not request a hearing for a TREX liquor permit related to SRI Ganesh LLC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kowalczyk.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

Information Item(s)

Mr. Greeson shared the following administrative items:

- 1) A copy of the City’s Quarterly Report - 4th Quarter 2017 was distributed at members’ places. He shared that the normal economic development data is not included in this report because the business that formerly prepared it went out of the business and staff are currently shopping for a new provider.

- 2) Staff has received six proposals for video recording and streaming providers for City Council meetings. He asked if any members of Council were interested in participating in the selection process.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Robinson expressed an interest and will be included in the selection group.

- 3) The printed 2018 Approved Budget was distributed at members' places.
- 4) There will be a Special Meeting of Council next Monday, February 12th at 6:15 for interviews of MPC candidates.
- 5) Council Retreat begins this Friday, Feb. 9th at 5:30 at the WEC (Worthington Education Center). Ms. Stewart is collecting information that members may wish to discuss.
- 6) He will miss next Monday's Council meeting as he is traveling to a conference in Washington D.C. with MORPC. This is one of his last duties as chair. He will try to represent Worthington well, establish relationships and serve the entire MORPC region as well.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Lindsey shared that the State of Ohio Liquor Commission was set to hear our request on February 12th to not reissue a permit to the Monkey Bar. Counsel for the permit holder has requested a continuance. As we have no objection, a new date will be issued. Per the process, the Monkey Bar will continue to operate as normal until that hearing.

In response to a question from Mr. Foust, Mr. Lindsey stated that there will be a hearing and then the hearing officer will make a recommendation. Should the need arise, there is a subsequent ability to appeal to the entire Commission following that hearing.

Mr. Robinson shared that he would like to make a few reactive comments to Michael Bates' earlier presentation on behalf of WARD. Because Mr. Bates is soft spoken, it can be easy to not fully consider the importance of what he and his group have done and the opportunity it affords Council. He knows that during our campaigns all on Council have said that we want to and that we do listen to the residents and the public. He hopes that members view WARD's proposal and position paper regarding UMCH as an opportunity to begin more concerted and focused dialog with the residents regarding this critical issue as we will be embarking on discussions with another developer in just two weeks. He will be reaching out to members to talk about the possibility of a more formal way to engage the public because he thinks it will ultimately make more likely the very things that we want and less likely the things that we do not want.

Ms. Michael thinks that falls in line with the motion that Mr. Foust had introduced and Mr. Myers had worked on about a strategic community wide dialog about the needs for the entire community, which is one of our big challenges for our retreat.

Mr. Smith shared that he has put a blue folder at each Council member's place with an introduction letter. The folder is mainly an introduction of one of the many consultants that are out there for electric aggregation, which he brought up years ago. He asked that members take a moment to look through the document and view the information that he handed out. He is sure members will have some discussion in the future regarding the topic.

Mr. Smith added that his daughter Felicity is in the audience tonight to learn about government.

Mr. Myers commented that while train noise has been a topic throughout the years, he would like the issue to be added to a future agenda. He shared that he was approached by a resident about the topic and he promised to bring the issue up again. She has binders of information and it might be nice to invite her to speak to Council.

Ms. Michael stated that if we have any information regarding changes in federal funding in that area it would be great. Mr. Myers shared that she seemed to indicate to him that she was aware of options that were not as extreme as what we leaned toward before in the Quiet Zones and things like that.

Ms. Dorothy shared that there were entire neighborhoods where train noise was their #1 priority. It would be a great issue to discuss. She would support that discussion wholeheartedly.

Ms. Dorothy also shared that the WIFA dinner was wonderful and the speaker was great. She added that WIFA memberships have increased.

Ms. Kowalczyk shared that she is now a member of WIFA and also attended the dinner. She was very impressed and had a great deal of fun.

Ms. Kowalczyk added that she had the opportunity to attend the Drug Safe Worthington meeting last week. She was very impressed with the turn out. The room was packed and she intends to continue to be involved.

Going back to the train noise issue, Mr. Greeson shared that at a previous Northeast Gateway conversation it was asked if we could evaluate the crossing in conjunction with that project, because we are working on the rail crossing at Wilson Bridge. Staff has had some conversations with EMH&T about how to educate ourselves about that because he thinks the federal laws have changed since the last time the City did a large scale evaluation of that issue and we do not have expertise in that area. He believes a fuller evaluation would cost in the range of \$25,000 if EMH&T performed the evaluation since they have a rail division and are capable of doing that. He outlined that process for members in the event members were interested in pursuing it.

Mr. Myers commented that it sounds like a reasonable idea to him. He realizes that \$25,000 is a lot of money but would support spending the money. He would like

additional information on what we will get for our money. Mr. Greeson thinks staff can prepare that in relatively short order. That amount of money, given the potential quality of life impacts is small. What he would caution is that we have no idea on the magnitude of cost for actually implementing the changes. Mr. Myers stated that he understands that but it would be a good faith effort to at least explore what our possibilities might be. He would certainly support it if it was good value for the \$25,000.

Ms. Michael asked for a scope of work. Mr. Greeson believes that it is the best approach because ultimately we will have to get a technical analysis of what it takes to meet the new requirements. In the past the cost has been significant and significant enough that we did not plan for it. If we are going to move forward, he would recommend moving in that fashion described.

Mr. Robinson requested that background information on trains and quiet zones be included in Mr. Greeson's report. Ms. Kowalczyk agreed.

Regarding the issue of video streaming, Mr. Foust requested a review of key factors when determining possible vendors. Mr. Greeson agreed to bring staff's recommendation for approval because it is something that needs to be executed well. Mr. Foust thinks it is important sometimes as council members to understand the things that are appropriate for Council to be involved in and those things that we just need to trust staff with.

Ms. Michael reported that the Managers/Mayors organization heard a wonderful presentation by 2020. One of the interesting things was that Columbus is on the list for Amazon. We were not one of the top cities but even if it was selected we wouldn't have the workforce to be able to fill the need. But there will be pieces that come off and we are looking towards capturing some of those pieces in the Columbus area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Foust made a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss Board and Commission appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Yes 7 Kowalczyk, Dorothy, Myers, Robinson, Foust, Smith, and Michael

No 0

Council recessed at 8:19 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Mr. Myers made a motion to return to open session at 8:27 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION Ms. Dorothy made a motion to appoint Ms. Kowalczyk to represent the City of Worthington with Worthington Neighborhood Bridges. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Mr. Smith 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 8:28 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress
Clerk of Council

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

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael
Council President

Attachment "A"

City Council
February 5, 2018

The Worthington Alliance for Responsible Development (WARD)

As you know WARD has been involved in the discussions of the UMCH property with the city, the property owner and prospective developers for over 5 years and on multiple occasions has been asked, what are the residents looking for on that site? To answer that question WARD authored a White Paper that was emailed to city council and city staff last week and posted on various social media. I am not going to read the White Paper tonight but suffice to say that it details what we, WARD, believe is responsible development. The paper includes support for commercial development along High Street, empty nester/patio home development for residents who want to stay in Worthington after selling their "family home" and a significant set aside of green space. These three objectives meet the desires reported by citizens in multiple surveys conducted over the last 3 to 5 years. Council and staff have stated many times and have provided study data that Worthington has adequate greenspace however many in the city believe there is still an opportunity for more open areas and amenities. To date, WARD has received a positive feedback on social media as well as from one on one contact with other Worthington residents and voicing the common theme of maintaining the character of the city and on going concerns about development. With Worthington being surrounded by communities that are allowing unfettered development Worthington doesn't need to do anything to see the character of the city deteriorate so it is even more incumbent on us to protect Worthington and continue to be disciplined in encouraging the right kind of development and redevelopment. Of course we all want development that enhances the city financially and improves the quality of life for its residents.

Thank you,