

**City of Worthington and Sharon Township  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER – Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance:**

Worthington City Council met in Joint Session with Sharon Township Trustees on Monday, May 7, 2018, in the John P. Coleman Council Chambers of City Hall, 6550 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio. Worthington City Council President Michael called the meeting to order at or about 7:30 P.M.

*President Michael asked for a motion to appoint Robyn Stewart as Temporary Clerk of Council.*

**MOTION** Mr. Myers made a motion to appoint Robyn Stewart as Temporary Clerk of Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dorothy.

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

**City Council Members Present:** Rachael R. Dorothy, Douglas Foust, Beth Kowalczyk, Scott Myers, David Robinson, Douglas K. Smith, and Bonnie D. Michael

**Sharon Township Trustees Present:** Lindsay Duffey, Laura Kunze, John Oberle

**Member(s) Absent:** None

**Also present:** City Manager Matthew Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Barter, Director of Planning & Building Lee Brown, Director of Service & Engineering Dan Whited, Chief of Fire & EMS John Bailot, Director of Parks & Recreation Darren Hurley, Chief of Police Jerry Strait

There were approximately 50 visitors present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

**Resolution No. 29-2018** Levying Tax for the Maintenance of Union Cemetery dba Walnut Grove and Flint Cemetery for the Tax Collection Year 2019.

**Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.**

**MOTION** Ms. Duffey made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 29-2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Foust.

*Mr. Greeson explained this is an annual responsibility to re-authorize the tax for the union cemeteries shared by Sharon Township and the City of Worthington. The two entities share the responsibility for the cemeteries. It is customary for the Chair of the Cemetery Board of Trustees, Courtney Chapman, to address the group.*

*Courtney Chapman stated he is the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Cemeteries. They are requesting continuation of one half of one mill for maintenance and development of the two cemeteries for 2019. One year ago, they acquired the Gardener property which consisted of one 168-year-old home and two outbuildings. They purchased the property for office space and storage space for the equipment needed to operate the Flint Cemetery. This will eliminate the need to bring all of their equipment from the Walnut Grove Cemetery to work at the Flint Cemetery. He distributed a map of Flint Cemetery to show the location of the home. The home belonged to the people who originated the Cemetery. This family was credited with helping at least 200 slaves along the Underground Railroad. There is still a portion of the root cellar on the property that was near the creek. A tunnel connected the root cellar to the part of the property where the slaves were sheltered. The tunnel has since that time been filled in. The home needed some work so the first thing they did was stabilize the house. There are other steps they need to pursue. Eventually their office will be in that spot. Work will begin this week on one of the outbuildings so they can start using it for equipment storage. This is a great piece of historical property for this community. The Gardener family members were early brick makers in Worthington. Also, the property consists of some of the original farm plots associated with the city lots in Worthington.*

*Mr. Chapman reported the Cemetery Trustees have chosen to have a public meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss why they acquired the property and what they will do with it. This will be a multi-year project. Today, the cemetery is an active resource for the community with people walking, jogging, running, bicycling and walking their dog. There are also events. A local church has held a sunrise Easter morning service there for at least ten years. The Historical Society held a ghost tour there and Wreathes Across America will be hosted on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They have the annual Memorial Day services and also get a request about once a year to use the property as background for a film. Mr. Chapman recognized the representatives of the Cemeteries, Tom Kayati and Elaine Russell, who don't just maintain the property. They also help people who are grieving. He told a story about the ashes for a mother and son that were scattered at the scatter garden at Flint Cemetery. At the time of the mother's passing, her daughter arranged for the ashes of the mother's three-year-old son to be relocated from Greenlawn Cemetery and scattered at the same place.*

*President Michael thanked Mr. Chapman for all of the time he has put into the cemeteries, particularly the development of the Flint Road Cemetery. She noted the materials included in the agenda packet, including the financial information.*

**There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 29-2018 carried unanimously by a voice vote.**

## **OTHER**

*Mr. Oberle recognized Dave Bachelor who was in the room. He is one of the reasons he became a Trustee. Mr. Bachelor was on the Cemetery Board. He also recognized the help Mr. Chapman provides and he hopes everyone will turn out for the meeting in June. They were able to purchase the property below market value and he thinks the community will be proud of what they do with the property. He stated he supports the continuation of the levy.*

*Ms. Dorothy echoed all the comments made. She stated she appreciates the trust placed with the Cemetery Board in purchasing the property. The community gets a lot of recreational use of the Walnut Grove Cemetery and she thinks the Flint Cemetery provides the same opportunity in addition to the cemetery services. The Ozum Gardener property was an original cemetery plot and it is great to be able to incorporate it into the cemetery again.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.**

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

/s/ Robyn M. Stewart  
Temporary Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2018.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael  
President of Council