



CITY OF WORTHINGTON
Worthington City Council Minutes

June 4, 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, June 4, 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 p.m.

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: 0

Also present: City Manager Matthew Greeson, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Director of Law Tom Lindsey, Director of Finance Scott Bartter, 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 approximately thirty visitors present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

- Fire Division Commendations

Mr. Greeson explained that this is a rare and special opportunity where the Division of Fire has the opportunity to present both a Civilian Life Saver Commendation and a Unit Citation and Medical Director Commendation.

Chief Bailot thanked Council for the opportunity to publicly thank several people who were responsible for saving a life. It is rare for an individual who has stopped breathing and has no heartbeat to survive with minimal impairment. There is only an 8% survival rate national for such events. He explained that he is going to tell a story about the

person whose life was saved, Mr. Randy Bates. When EMS crews arrived on the scene at the Blarney Stone Tavern, they found Mr. Bates on the floor in full cardiac arrest with two bystanders performing CPR. The EMS crew did a quick assessment and determined the bystanders had been performing crucial, high-quality CPR. The EMS crew then took over patient care and commenced in administering advanced life support measures. Chief Bailot recognized the two people, Mr. Ben King the owner of the Blarney Stone and Mr. Jeff McCuen who is the Treasurer for the Worthington School District, whose actions led to Mr. Bates cheating death.

Mr. Ben King and Mr. Jeff McCuen are presented the Worthington Division of Fire and EMS Civilian Lifesaver Commendation

Chief Bailot stated that after CPR was continued by Worthington Firefighter-Paramedics, they administered various drugs and procedures to stabilize Mr. Bates. He was then transported to Riverside Methodist Hospital, where he spent the next three weeks undergoing invasive treatments before he was discharged. Chief Bailot called forward the Worthington team that gave Mr. Bates successful advanced treatment to the podium to be recognized.

Captain Pat Mulligan, Firefighter-Paramedics Chris Dawson, Dave Mierzejewski, Ty Stewart, Ted Heineman, Mike Snyder, Clayton Miller, and Kevin McKelvey are presented the Worthington Division of Fire and EMS Unit Citation Award.

Dr. Rund explained that he spent most of his career at Ohio State and he loves being Medical Director of the Worthington Fire Department. He said that it is phenomenal what hospitals can do for patients undergoing cardiac arrest, but successful hospital treatment can only begin when a patient has been successfully resuscitated with CPR at the scene. He congratulated the Fire/EMS team for being exceptional and extended his personal thanks to Mr. King and Mr. McCuen for their actions. He also recognized and gave everyone's best wishes to Mr. Bates.

Chief Bailot introduced Mr. Bates and explained how this is the first time that he has had the opportunity to meet with the people who saved his life.

President Michael thanked everybody involved on behalf of the City Council and asked for them to be given a standing ovation for their wonderful work. She explained that one of the reasons people enjoy living in Worthington is the high level of service that the staff provides and this is an example of that service being given to the community.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – May 14, 2018
- Regular Meeting – May 21, 2018

MOTION

Mr. Robinson moved and Mr. Foust seconded a motion to approve the aforementioned meeting minutes as presented.

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. 26-2018

Approving the Final Plat for the Kemper House of Worthington and Authorizing Variances (The Griffin 105 Group, LLC)

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson said that this is one of a couple remaining ordinances relating to the Kemper House development. In the future there is a modest Tax Increment Financing (TIF) ordinance which is being finalized.

Mr. Brown explained that this ordinance authorizes a multitude of different things including subdividing and combining parcels, plating an access easement, indicating public right-of-way, and granting variances. He said that this follows a previous conversation from January where the southern portion was approved to be rezoned from light industrial to PUD to allow for a memory care facility on the site. He showed a slide that depicts the area that is the former Worthington Foods site, which began redevelopment in 2005 before lying vacant for a decade. The parcels highlighted in black are considered a single parcel of record by the City of Worthington, however according to Franklin County it is multiple parcels. Another photo shows a vacated alleyway over towards the railroad that would be done away with as a part of this plat. The proposal plats a new access easement that comes from the north, rather than running through the middle of the site which has made development difficult. There is a right-of-way dedication of approximately four feet along Proprietors Road. There is an existing highway easement along 161 – East Dublin-Granville Road that will be turned over to dedicated active right-of-way. He also explained that lot number two is a remnant that is only a third of an acre that does not have the required 200 feet of road frontage and is less than one acre in size; part of the approval tonight is to grant variances for this property. This proposal went to the Municipal Planning Commission for full review and approval on May 10th and was recommended for full approval to City Council.

MOTION

Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Myers seconded a motion to amend Ordinance 26-2018 by attaching the updated subdivider's agreement - Exhibit B.

The aforementioned motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 26-2018 (As Amended). The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 26-2018 (As Amended) was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

Ordinance No. 27-2018 Accepting Sanitary Sewer Improvements Constructed in a Public Easement Located Adjacent to the Greenwich Street Right-of-Way in the Replat of Lots 81 and 82 of Morris' Addition to the Town of Worthington.

The foregoing Ordinance Title was read.

Mr. Greeson said that this is regarding several houses that are going to be built on Greenwich. This is a procedure where once public improvements that are required under the Codified Ordinances are constructed; we are required to accept them. Mr. Tennant stated that this is a standard procedure and the sewer has been constructed and tested per standards.

There being no additional comments, the clerk called the roll on Ordinance No. 27-2018. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No 0

Ordinance No. 27-2018 was thereupon declared duly passed and is recorded in full in the appropriate record book.

NEW LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED

Resolution No. 35-2018 To Withdraw the Previously Filed Objection to the Renewal of the Liquor Permits for C & B Machinery Inc. DBA Monkeys Bar & Grill located at 6116 Huntley Road

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy.

MOTION Ms. Kowalczyk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 35-2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Greeson explained that Council may recall due to concerns about the activities at this location in recent years, you authorized the objection to the liquor permit at the Monkey Bar, which has since closed. Mr. Lindsey thanked Chief Strait and his staff for their preparation for the hearing regarding the rejection of the liquor permit. At the hearing, the attorney representing the permit holder approached the City's counsel working on this matter and discussed a possible resolution. A settlement agreement was reached where the Monkey Bar would be closed permanently and they would be permitted to put the permits into safekeeping with the Division of Liquor Control. That allowed them to save some value out of their investment, enabling them to sell or transfer those permits in the future. To do so requires the Division of Liquor Control's approval and the City is able to object to the transfer if it is to an establishment within Worthington. In order for the Division to finalize the case and terminate it, Council needs to pass the resolution withdrawing their objection.

There being no additional comments, the motion to adopt Resolution No. 35-2018 passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Ordinance No. 28-2018

Amending Ordinance No. 41-2017 (As Amended) to Adjust the Annual Budget by Providing for an Appropriation from the Law Enforcement Trust Unappropriated Balance.

Introduced by Mr. Foust.

Ordinance No. 29-2018

Authorizing the issuance of notes in the amount of not to exceed \$660,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of designing, engineering, constructing and reconstructing various sewer improvements, with related site improvements and all necessary appurtenances thereto; and approving related matters in connection with the issuance of the notes

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

Ordinance No. 30-2018

Authorizing the issuance of notes in the amount of not to exceed \$1,735,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of purchasing and installing energy conservation measures for the Community Center and Griswold Center; and approving related matters in connection with the issuance of the notes.

Introduced by Mr. Myers.

Ordinance No. 31-2018

Authorizing the issuance of notes in the amount of not to exceed \$1,065,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of replacing or improving the roofs of the Fire Station and the Community Center and all necessary appurtenances thereto; and approving related matters in connection with the issuance of the notes.

Introduced by Ms. Dorothy

Ordinance No. 32-2018

Authorizing the issuance of notes in the amount of not to exceed \$1,000,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of designing, replacing, constructing, and installing a waterline on East Wilson Bridge Road, with related site improvements and all necessary appurtenances thereto; and approving related matters in connection with the issuance of the notes.

Introduced by Ms. Kowalczyk.

Ordinance No. 33-2018

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 for Right-of-Way Acquisition for the NE Gateway Intersection Improvement Project and all Related Expenses with said Project. (Project No. 602-14)

Introduced by Mr. Robinson.

Ordinance No. 34-2018

To Authorize All Actions Necessary to Effectuate an Opt-Out Electric Service Aggregation Program Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4928.20; and Directing the Franklin County Board of Elections to Submit the Ballot Question to the Electors.

Introduced by Mr. Smith.

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)

- Permission to Bid: Fire Station Roof and Municipal Building Roof

Mr. Greeson explained that as part of the Capital Improvement Program we have been planning a roof replacement for both the Municipal Building and the Fire station. Mr. Tennant said that we had Mays Consulting evaluate both the Municipal Building and the Fire station. Both roofs are original to the buildings and have exhausted their useful life. The recommendation is to replace both roofs under one project with a single contractor doing the work. They will be asking for appropriations on June 18th and intend to go to bid on June 27th.

MOTION

Mr. Foust moved, Mr. Smith seconded a motion to authorize staff to bid the Fire Station Roof and Municipal Building Roof projects.

The aforementioned motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Information Item(s)

- Proposed School Resource Officer (SRO)

Mr. Greeson updated Council regarding ongoing discussions with Worthington Schools about the creation of a School Resource Officer (SRO) position at Thomas Worthington High School. He said that staff is not requesting a vote on this issue tonight; the goal is to introduce the subject, provide information, and solicit Council's questions. Some questions may be answered this evening; others may require additional research and/or coordination with our partners to address. Those answers to those questions would ideally be brought back as early as June 18th. As outlined in the agenda packet, implementation will require Council action approving an increase to the City's staffing chart as well as authorization for the City Manager to enter into contract with Worthington Schools. The School Board will also be discussing this issue at their June 11th meeting which should be available online for viewing afterwards. He explained that the City has a long standing and exceptional partnership with Worthington Schools and we believe that the SRO program builds on that partnership and is an extension of the City of Worthington's community oriented policing approach.

Chief Strait stated that there has been a historic outreach to the schools over the past thirty years with either a DARE program and/or part-time SROs in place. Officers have been heavily involved with the schools helping to found things such as Drug Safe Worthington, conducting bicycle Round-up Rodeos, and handling Franklin County Children Services referrals. The primary reason for the creation of a full-time SRO is safety, especially considering the national climate currently with an increased number of aggressors and incidents. It is important for there to be a full-time police presence protecting our children. With regards to outreach, in contrast to what is sometimes seen

in the news, he wanted to point out the officers who have worked in academic outreach at the schools that have made a difference. Oftentimes young adults come back to invite these officers to major life events letting them know that they have "Made It." He stated that the police in schools make a difference and it is not always seen. Community outreach is important, but ultimately it is about making campus safe, reducing crimes in schools, and fostering positive relationships with the students.

Ms. Kowalczyk said that she understands the existing relationship with the high school has been positive, but she questioned what a full-time SRO would do differently in contrast to what is already being done. Chief Strait said that somebody would be there full-time. The current part-time person has additional duties and is only there for a third of the time out of their schedule. Having somebody there for an immediate response is important. There is a ninety second window when there is an active aggressor incident and currently there is a good response time of two minute or less, but ninety seconds versus two minutes could be a lifetime for someone else. He hopes to have a full time curriculum with the school's help where the officer would be available as a mentor, a teacher, a counselor, a confidant, and as a recruiter. Ms. Kowalczyk asked if that did not already exist with the current program. Chief Strait responded that no, not on a full-time basis where that person is always available, with regular duties, and able to help teach things that are commonly missed with interactions on the law enforcement side and students.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked who originated this proposal, the City or the School Board. Chief Strait responded that the City was approached by the schools. The City has had a strong working relationship with them, so when they inquired about this we were happy to assist. Ms. Kowalczyk said that she was looking forward to hearing what the impetus was for this proposal because she has children in the Worthington schools, so she has questions about this proposal. She stated that she understands additional appropriations are not an issue for this current year, but she asked if there were going to be ongoing expenses in the future and how much would they be. Mr. Greeson replied that under the assumption the City would be sharing the cost with the school at a 50-50 split; it would breakdown to be roughly an \$81,000 expense annually. Currently that would be managed within the personnel allocation and since there are some current vacancies there would not be the need for an additional appropriation. However, in the upcoming fiscal year it would be an expense that would need to be managed within the budget process. The ongoing costs would inflate based upon the outcomes of the collective bargaining agreement.

Ms. Kowalczyk inquired about the current staffing situation within the Police Department and if the department is fully staffed. Chief Strait replied that the department is typically behind on staffing concerns. Having this position available in the schools would be great, and that individual would be available for use during the summertime. The current patrol support officer would be used the additional one-third of the time to do things such as middle-school outreach and to serve as a backup to the full-time SRO. Most of the communities in the area are already having this type of outreach. Ms. Kowalczyk asked if the City has the ultimate authority to decide who is put into this

position or if the school has any say on the matter. Chief Strait said under the current collective bargaining agreement, he would have the ability to make a selection. However, he would like to have a fair process, picking the person who would best represent the Division of Police, the City, and the School's needs. The person in this position is expected to go above and beyond working with young people and to have the warrior mentality to protect kids and staff, so it needs to be the right fit. Ms. Kowalczyk asked if there is an issue, will there be a review process about whether there is a problem with the officer selected. Chief Strait stated that the job postings are reviewed yearly for specialized positions. The full process has not been worked out with the schools, but what he expects from his Sergeants and the Detective Bureau is for them to sit down monthly to discuss reviews instead of waiting for an annual review. It would not be fair to our partners or our officers to wait if they are making mistakes. Normally there would be a one year term to make sure that they are functioning properly and he would have oversight. If they are not functioning properly, then they would go into whatever discipline process that might be amenable and then ask for their removal.

Ms. Dorothy asked if the draft School Resource Officer Program was being done in conjunction with the Worthington Schools. She also asked if there was any special training, or if this effort was being done alone. Chief Strait said that he reached out to our partners, speaking to his counterparts in other jurisdictions across Central Ohio. He has been able to look at their SRO manuals and provided them to Mr. Greeson and Mr. Lindsey. He has also reviewed their job descriptions, providing them to Ms. Trego for oversight and review. He stated he has also added quite a bit to the job description because he has different expectations of what is to be expected because this is Worthington. Mr. Greeson added that this is a first draft and it has been provided to Mr. Banks and Mr. Scully to review.

Ms. Dorothy inquired if we would be coordinating with the City of Columbus on any of their incidence reports since there are many Columbus children in the schools. Chief Strait said that the schools are looking at an SRO for the City of Columbus as well and there was a meeting between Worthington, Columbus, and the schools. Columbus currently has 18 SROs in their schools and he has gotten copies of their memorandum of understanding (MOU) and contracts. They have also discussed different process and oversight that Columbus provides including training with the Ohio School Resource Administration which Worthington already holds a spot in pending the Council and School Board's actions moving forward. Columbus has already volunteered to assist Worthington with training for a new SRO. President Michael asked if Worthington Police would be serving Thomas Worthington High School and Columbus Police serving Kilbourne High School, or if both would be serving Thomas. Chief Strait stated that our officer would be at Thomas, but we would collaborate with each other. Ms. Dorothy asked if there was any way to share information between the cities regarding issues such as domestic problems that a child may be bringing to school. Chief Strait stated that they would partner with each other and this would allow the schools to have a direct partnership when there are critical issues involving students and family than would otherwise exist without this network.

Mr. Myers asked if this would be a police officer under the chain of command of the Worthington Division of Police. Chief Strait said that is correct. Mr. Myers stated that he has most often seen officers get in trouble when there is a blurring of the line between school disciplinarian and police officer. Chief Strait said that as it currently exists with the part-time officer, there are instances within administrative hearings where there is an issue, they may be there for a short period of time, but if that administrative issue turns criminal, Mr. Scully has had no issue separating at that point. The SRO training for officers makes it very clear that the schools handle the administrative side and the police handle the criminal side. If an issue does go to an extreme or turn criminal, the officer will deal with it. If the schools find something illegal, they have an obligation to provide that to the police and it only takes from the manpower on the street if the part-time SRO is not there. From the extra training received, it will be made sure that there is a difference between an administrative hearing and a criminal hearing. Chief Strait stated that a lot of the time, more can be done at the administrative level than can be done criminally with delinquent juveniles. Mr. Myers stated there are certain federal privacy laws concerning academic records; he said that he does not see that addressed in the standard procedures. He asked if it has been looked into to see what information can be shared that a SRO learns from a student and what cannot be shared. Chief Strait stated that he has not looked into that particular issue. Unless it is a case under investigation, under public records only certain items can be released. If it is an administrative issue, there probably would not be a report. Mr. Myers asked if Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPATA) had developed a curriculum for SROs. Chief Strait said that they have and it is extensive with yearly updates not only on administrative oversight for the schools, but also administrative public records oversight as part of the curriculum.

Mr. Myers explained that he believes this conversation tonight, prompted by the schools, is a logical continuation of the discussion several weeks prior that was started due to concerns over the safety of our schools and students. He then asked whether there is any evidence that these programs are working and do good, such as input from other schools about their experiences with SROs. It would be helpful to know what the results have been and what the appropriate benchmarks are, so that we know that we are wisely spending our money. Chief Strait said that they worked with the Juvenile Victims Coordinator and she did research about SROs and whether there was an uptick in charges and juveniles going to the juvenile court system. During all of 2017, there was only one individual, who had a weapon, formally charged at school. The majority of the time when dealing with criminal or delinquency incidents, it results in paperwork being forwarded down and the individuals returned to the parents/guardians. Unless it is a very serious crime, typically we do not take people to CDR. Mr. Myers wondered what the principals in Columbus think has changed in their schools and what does success look like.

Ms. Kowalczyk said that in today's climate with so many mass shootings and whether a SRO could have prevented it, in many cases that answer is no. She asked when looking at safety for students in schools, she wanted to know if this would be effective. She responded to Mr. Myers' statement about this being the next logical step in our discussion, as a parent concerned about her children in the school system, she believes

her concern is more related to having an officer there full-time and there are studies nationally about kids being disciplined and arrested more often if there is a full-time officer at the school. She expects that she will hear some of that at the School Board meeting. Also there are concerns about children of color and when an officer is being placed in the school. They have a different perception of law enforcement than white children do and she is a bit concerned about the message the school board may unintentionally be sending when putting SROs in school. She does not know if this will improve or hurt the relationship. Ultimately that is more of a School Board policy issue and our concern is more over the prioritization of our spending.

President Michael stated that from the questions she is hearing, many of the Councilmembers want more information on what success looks like. Mr. Greeson responded that we have two of our knowledgeable partners here from Worthington Schools and he would like them to share their thoughts at some point after listening to this conversation.

Mr. Robinson said that given the significance of these issues and in light of the questions that Mr. Myers raised in terms of this succeeding, he would like to suggest that if Council moves forward with an affirmative vote on an ordinance, he would encourage a formal review at the one-year mark. This would come back before Council and have to be voted on for approval again rather than simply becoming part of the status quo without formal review.

Mr. Foust explained in his day-job he travels the state talking about the virtues of wellness. He likens this conversation to the frustrating parts of those discussions, primarily how you prove the absence of a negative. He asked that Council not set a standard in terms of proof of value so high and asking for things that may not be delivered. He compares the concept to what Chief Strait described in terms of presence in general. There is awareness and an impact that cannot be measured and we should set a standard for our expectations that is something that can be met. Mr. Myers stated that he did not disagree and that is why he asked the questions because he is not sure how you determine success in this scenario. He said that part of his questions whether we want guns in schools because that leads to arming teachers which he does not want. However, he knows that seeing police officers everyday can be very effective, like when he was growing up. That is how he envisions the SRO to operate.

Randy Banks – Assistant Superintendent Worthington Schools

Mr. Banks thanked Council for the opportunity to speak on this topic and he seconded the fact that the relationship between Worthington Schools and the City of Worthington is strong and only getting stronger. It is unfortunate that we are having this discussion tonight. There are over 1800 people who gather at Thomas Worthington every day; if you have that type of crowd in any other part of the city you would be interested in their behavior. When you add in the fact that 1750 of them are adolescents and oftentimes make poor choices, you can understand the direction we are headed in regards to safety and security. The difference today between today and times of past is that with the issues

of mental health, access to prescription and street drugs, and the access to unsecured weapons, the consequences are very permanent. This is not just a safety issue, but it is also a health issue and connecting us more closely with first responders is the right path at this time. Other districts in the area are having conversations about expanding their SRO programs, but in Worthington there is not an SRO program. They are now faced with the question of why we are the only district without a program and should one be implemented to keep our students safe. The advantage of being on the tail end of implementation is that we can take and borrow from all the other models and make it work for Worthington and it does get complicated when serving multiple jurisdictions. He said they are looking to head down this road together and they believe that this needs to be done in such a way that other districts want to model their programs after Worthington. He stated that while this is a safety issue, they are very proud of their students. They make good choices every day, but unfortunately sometimes good students make bad choices and those can be serious choices. They are aware of the concern that this may criminalize youthful behavior but that is not their intent and they are dedicated to avoiding that. They would like to periodically review data to make sure that officers in schools are not increasing the arrest rate. Youth make mistakes and they feel that school consequences are oftentimes much more direct and appropriate. The intent is so that Worthington is not standing alone and to provide shorter response times in case of an emergency. Having an officer in the building could do that.

Pete Scully – Principal, Thomas Worthington High School

Mr. Scully explained that he is a former chemistry teacher, so he often walks around with that mindset. When asked what success looks like for an SRO, it is not somebody who is stone faced, with their arms crossed, and at the doors with guns. It is somebody who is an adult that a kid can approach, an adult with a good relationship. If you pick the right person, they will blend in and become really comfortable with the student population, serving as a confidant that a kid can work with. That is really where the safety comes in from his perspective. A police officer who is approachable and has strong relationships can prevent many problems. His goal for an SRO is that they are so embedded, receiving so much information, and working so closely that they can prevent many issues. When he talks with schools districts where SROs work, that is what they have in place. The officers are beloved by students and they are excited to talk to them. They are keenly aware that they have an almost parental responsibility and there are times where the mission of the police is 180-degrees opposite of their mission as the parent in the school. As Chief Strait said, he is comfortable at times asking them to leave the room now because they are going to do an interview that will result in a suspension and it may be crime and he is not interested in them sitting in the room without a parent hearing it. If they are in a position where a crime may arise, it is their duty to stop the hearing and bring in a parent to make sure they are aware. From his perspective, an SRO could be a positive thing with the right person. They are interested in running a program that is an enhancement, not a replacement. The SRO would come in and look at things from a police and security perspective. Having that every day would really help a lot.

Mr. Greeson added that they 100% agree with and share a common philosophy with the schools. They want to build relationships with all students, create a safe environment, and be trusted adults in the school system.

Ms. Kowalczyk asked what is being done in regards to mental health and the opportunity to address student's problems, as a police officer is not a trained mental health counselor. Mr. Banks responded that the district currently employs three mental health specialists, who spend most of their time dealing with students who have special education plans and receive special education services. This summer they are in the process of hiring three additional mental health specialists that will deal with regular education students and he believes that one will be placed at Thomas Worthington, one will be at Kilbourne, and the third will float between multiple buildings. They are doubling the size of their mental health efforts as part of this same initiative dealing with student safety. It is a very effective and much needed program in addition to the relationships with the school guidance counselors. All three current mental health specialists come from Children's Hospital and they are very well connected with additional resources that students are allowed to have access to.

Mr. Myers commented that he and his wife have a friend who is a psychologist, and they have had the discussion about the idea of requiring a child before they enter the school district to have a depression questionnaire administered. This is similar to the requirements for having certain immunizations before entering school. It makes a lot of sense to do this as part of the intake of new students to help identify students quicker. Mr. Banks stated that the district has initiated a universal screener administered in eighth grade called "SOS" that is exactly what Mr. Myers talked about. That is currently only in eighth grade, but he imagines it would be expanded.

President Michael asked what direction needed to be given to staff on this topic. Mr. Greeson stated that staff has taken notes and will make sure to answer specific questions brought up tonight. He explained that goals are listed on page two of the SRO document, when talking about what success looks like and there are a number of goal statements that we need to spend time with our partners looking at and have a discussion about how to report on those goals at the end of year one. Mr. Smith asked if Council could also be given basic demographic information on Thomas Worthington students to help paint a better picture.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Smith shared that several months ago he asked that the City's Safety Committee look into the corner of Pingree and Clearview for a potential stop sign. A couple weeks ago he noticed several speed identifiers and he was not sure if that was looked at or connected in some way. Mr. Greeson replied there was not a specific update, but one would be provided next week.

Mr. Robinson stated that he makes his comments with great hesitation because the Community Garden has been discussed enough recently. However, he is compelled to

say something after receiving an email from Lynda Chambers who is the previous director of Parks and Recreation expressing her dismay about the last meeting and some of the public testimony that mischaracterized the origins of the Garden. He wanted to cite some background information into the origins of the park for the public record. The testimony from the 21st read, "The City Council has never done anything with the garden, they have had nothing to do with it...She [Lynda Chambers] wanted to avoid going to Council and the pushback that would potentially come from the neighbors." In fact in 2009 Ms. Chambers, at the recommendation of Mr. Greeson, asked that the Garden be an information item on the agenda at the September 8th, 2009 meeting, and Ms. Chambers then presented at that meeting about the Garden. Four of the Councilmembers responded in the minutes, all affirmatively. The Garden was brought before Council and it was done in due process and full eyes of the public.

Ms. Michael reported that she attended the Worthington Partnership merchants meeting and came away with a few interesting items. She mentioned the proposed ballot initiative on electric aggregation and they were asking if the businesses in downtown Worthington would be or could be included in that. She asked if when moving forward with public information it would be beneficial to include our businesses who may be interested in participating in electric aggregation. It could help some of them make good business decisions. There is also going to be another Partnership event called Craft Crawl and it would involve craft beer and crafts, similar to the chocolate walk. Other than that business owners appear to be quite happy with everything going on within the City. Mr. Robinson responded that in regards to the criteria about small businesses and electric aggregation, he spoke to Rich from Energy Alliances and he said that one of the chief criteria was that if the business uses less than 700,000 kilowatt hours per year they would qualify.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, Boards and Commissions, and pending litigation.

The clerk called the roll on Executive Session. The motion carried by the following vote

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

No 0

Council recessed at 8:56 p.m. from the Regular meeting session.

MOTION Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Robinson seconded a motion to return to open session at 9:08 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Mr. Foust moved, Mr. Myers seconded a motion to adjourn.

The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote.

President Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

/s/ D. Kay Thress _____
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
18th day of June, 2018.*

/s/ Bonnie D. Michael _____
Council President